

N° 511 - March 31, 2026

# WWEEKLY

An American flag graphic is positioned behind the 'W' of the 'WEEKLY' part of the main title. The flag is waving and features the stars and stripes of the United States flag.

Local News  
in English

**FREE**

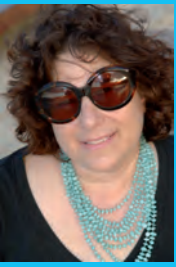
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A photograph of a woman with long, wavy, dark hair, wearing a dark, sleeveless top. She has her eyes closed and a serene expression, looking upwards. The background is a solid, warm brown color.

## Jazz, pop, and soul on the program for the Jazz Festival

It's that time of year again, when the island of Saint Barth swings to the sound of music at the annual Book & Jazz Festival organized by the association Saint B'Art.

**P.04**



## Buckets, Books, And Bands!

March was a busy month, with the apex of activity centered around the St Barth Bucket. The winner of the Bucket Trophy this year, the 218' ketch Hetairos, is the only yacht to have won that title three times – 2019, 2022, and 2026 – with captain Graham Newton at the helm for this trifecta.

March is not going out as a lamb, but with the roar of the Book & Jazz Festival, which runs through April 11, adding a musical note to the goings on around town. The program is very ambitious and the success of this event is a feather in the cap of Christian Hardelay and the Saint B' Art Association, which toils tirelessly throughout the year on various literary and artistic events.

Right in the middle of the festival is Easter Sunday, April 5, the culmination of a Holy Week at the island's churches. So since April 5 is the first Sunday of the month it would have been the week for the Saint Barth Market in the main street of Gustavia. But not to compete with Easter, the market has been moved back to Sunday, March 29, complete with a New Orleans-style parade by the jazz fest folks.

These events give us a chance to stop thinking about such issues as traffic, parking, construction noise, and the proliferation of sargassum seaweed, and simply enjoy the better things the island has to offer!

*Ellen Lampert Gréaux*

## CTTSB: A Dockside Visitor Center



*Mélissa Apadoo, Lumina Choisy, and Sandrine Magras are the receptionists at the CTTSB information desk located across from the Gustavia ferry terminal.*

The St Barth Territorial Tourism Committee has opened a visitor center for travelers arriving in Saint Barthélemy by the Gustavia ferry terminal. The small structure, built between the terminal exit and the entrance to the waterfront parking lot, was set up to provide a place where arrivals can obtain all the information they need to ensure their stay goes smoothly. The target audience is those arriving on the island for a day or two, coming from Saint Martin or on cruise ships. To welcome them, there are three hostesses or tourist concierges: Sandrine Magras, Mélissa Apadoo, and Lumina Choisy. “Our role is to offer visitors customized itineraries,”

explains Mélissa. “For tours, transportation, places to visit, and so on. To ensure we support them throughout their stay.” Since opening on Monday, March 9, about fifty tourists have walked through the welcome center's doors every day. “We've had a lot of cruise passengers, but also people arriving by ferry or on yachts,” says Mélissa. “Many come back to tell us what they enjoyed during their visit – and what they didn't like as much.”

*The CTTSB visitor center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 6pm; and on weekends from 8am to 12 noon, when cruise ships are in port.*

### MASTHEAD

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# LE JOURNAL IN ENGLISH DE SAINT-BARTH

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## AND ALL THAT JAZZ!

It's that time of year again, when the island of Saint Barth swings to the sound of music at the annual Book & Jazz Festival organized by the association Saint B'Art. Created in 2018, this festival is now a top cultural event with nine concerts in various locations around the island between March 28 and April 11.



**S**chedule highlights include the festival opening night at L'Esprit in Saline with Kimberose – the stage name of Kimberly Rose Kitson-Mills, a French singer-songwriter whose father was English and mother from Ghana, giving her a unique cultural perspective. Born in 1991, she is the lead singer of the homonymous band Kimberose, formed in 2015, with its pop-soul sound. Kimberose will also perform at Manapany on March 30 and Tropical Hotel on March 31.

Next up is Thomas Kahn, a festival favorite, in ateliers, a master class including the Bitin Brass Band, and a jam session at Le Grain de Sel in Saline on April 1, at Eddy's in Gustavia on April 2, Le Guanahani in Grand Cul-de-Sac on April 3, and Le Select in Gustavia on April 6. This French singer-composer-guitarist's blend of pop, soul, and blues led him to be dubbed the "little prince of contemporary soul" by Rolling Stone magazine.

Last but not least is JP Bimeni & Blackbelts live at Le Barthélemy in Grand Cul-de-Sac on April 9, at

the Saint Barth Yacht Club in Public on April 10, and the closing night concert at Arawak in Gustavia on April 11. Burundian-born, JP Bimeni astonishes with a voice that recalls Otis Redding in his prime, while resonating with the soul of Africa. A refugee who's been living in London since the early 2000s, Bimeni's songs of love and loss, hope and fear deliver with a conviction that comes from the extraordinary experiences life has thrown at him.

"In a tumultuous and uncertain world, we need to escape and find moments of inner peace that live music can bring us," notes Christian Hardelay, president of the association Saint B'Art. "May every note of jazz or soul you listen to be a balm for the soul, a moment of beauty, and bring you the strength and inspiration you need to face the challenges ahead."

In addition to the concerts, the festival organizes a New Orleans-style street parade in Gustavia on Sunday, March 29 in conjunction with the Saint Barth Market. Music by the Bitin Brass Band and festival musicians as well as costumes

### Jazz Festival schedule Saint-B'Art

**Tuesday, March 31**  
7:30pm - Live concert  
by Kimberose  
at Tropical, Saint-Jean

**Wednesday, April 1st**  
8:00pm - Jam session with  
all the musicians  
at Grain de Sel, Saline

**Thursday, April 2**  
7:30pm - Live concert  
by Thomas Kahn  
at Eddy's Restaurant, Gustavia

**Friday, April 3**  
7:30pm - Live concert  
by Thomas Kahn  
at Guanahani, Grand Cul de Sac

**Monday, April 6**  
7:30pm - Live concert  
by Thomas Kahn  
at Sélect, Gustavia

**Thursday, April 9**  
7:30pm - Live concert  
by JP Bimeni & Blackbelts  
at Barthélemy Hotel,  
Grand Cul de Sac

**Friday, April 10**  
7:30pm Live concert  
by JP Bimeni & Blackbelts at  
the St Barth Yacht Club, Public

**Saturday, April 11**  
7:30pm – Closing live concert  
by JP Bimeni & Blackbelts  
at the Arawak, Gustavia

inspired  
by the jazz traditions of the Big  
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*Ellen Lampert Gréaux*

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## Kimberose, “pure emotion,” kicks off the jazz festival

**K**imberose kicked off the music portion of the Book and Jazz Festival on Saturday evening, March 28 at L’Esprit. For her first visit to the Caribbean, the artist has put together a special set for the Saint Barthélemy audience. An interview with the musician who, throughout her albums, instinctively blends the musical styles – past and present – that inspire her daily.

*You explain that you tend to make music instinctively, which is often considered the very essence of jazz. What can the audience at the Saint Barthélemy festival expect?*

First of all, we’ve put together a special set for this festival. We’ve chosen songs from my three albums and mixed them together. This is the first time I’ve ever done it this way. So I’d say they can expect to discover a good part of my world! At least, the one I’ve presented so far. The concert will be a sort of fusion of my albums. Besides, as I always say, music is pure emotion. It can be melancholy, joy, upbeat songs, others less so, but always something emotionally charged. That’s what I hope!

*Jazz, soul, pop—your musical influences shine through in your albums. What can you tell us about them?*

My influences are quite broad. I grew up in a family where we listened to very different kinds of music. From classical to soul, R&B, pop, and African music on my mother’s side, so I was raised on a wide variety of sounds. Then, as I grew up, I developed a passion for soul and jazz, but I remain very open-minded. What I love most about making music is not overthinking the style but



rather going with my instincts. Doing what I feel like doing in the moment! And when it comes to writing, they’re always true stories, inspired by real life—things that have happened to people around me or to me.

*On your new album, you’ve included five tracks in French, which is a first. What inspired you to do that?*

It happened in stages. I already had a song in French on my previous album “Out” (“L’envie de valser,” with Sofiane Pamart), and that opened this door for me. Then, I was invited by Grand Corps Malade to do a song (“Nos plus belles années”) with him on his album, and that kept nurturing this little seed in my mind – that it would be fun and exciting to sing in French. For me, it was uncharted territory. Like a challenge. French is a difficult language to write and set to music. But I think it was the right time for me.

*Which artists speak to you or, why not, get you excited in 2026?*

There are so many... First off, I’m sticking to my classics! I still listen to Billie Holiday, Nina Simone

– those great singers who gave me chills and made me want to sing. Right now, I’m also listening a lot to Michael Kiwanuka, an incredible soul and blues artist, and James Blake, an Englishman who’s created his own style... There are so many others, I could spend the whole afternoon on this (Laughs)! I also love the voice of Amie Blu, an English singer who’s on the rise... I’m listening to a lot of soul right now, and folk too... Jeff Buckley – he’s a goldmine. I also discovered a band – it’s a bit embarrassing to admit... Fleetwood Mac! They’re old, and I didn’t know them. I stumbled upon the song “The Chain,” which is incredible. I’ve been listening to it on repeat; I just can’t get enough of it. Music is a bottomless well, and thank goodness for that. Every now and then, we get a real eye-opener!

*How are you feeling ahead of this premiere in the Caribbean?*

I’m really curious to discover the island of Saint Barthélemy, which I’ve never been to. A friend of mine goes there often and always talks about it with stars in his eyes, so I can’t wait!



## Villa Blue Dragon For Sale Exclusively by St Barth Sotheby's International Realty

Blue Dragon, a fabulous place to spend the day at Gouverneur. From its exquisite light to open spaces and ocean views, the villa provides a special retreat where every moment slips seamlessly into the next.

### Wake Up Facing The Sea

The day begins in one of the seven bedrooms, each one facing the horizon, with unobstructed sea views from a private terrace. The morning light reveals the pure lines of the villa and the curated use of beautiful wood. The spaces are open and well-ventilated, designed to allow breezes to circulate for a natural adaptation to the climate.

### A Morning At Gouverneur

In the early hours, the neighborhood of Gouverneur can be explored on foot. The cool morning air is perfect for walking through nature, before heading to the beach, just a few minutes away. The clear water, the soft light, and the walk back to the villa prolong the sensation of simplicity and a direct connection to the environment.

### Spaces Designed For Living

As conceived by architects Philippe Stouvenot and Nicolas Lossent from the firm, Lotus Architectes, the house comprises



*Villa Blue Dragon offered for sale exclusively by St. Barth Sotheby's.*

several levels. Each is designed as an independent living area with an outdoor living room and kitchenette. This concept allows the family and guests to maintain their privacy, while sharing common spaces such as the kitchen, reception rooms, and terraces overlooking the sea.

### Between Pool and Garden

At lunchtime, the main swimming pool facing the sea becomes the central meeting point, with its large deck and dining area. At the highest point on the property, the principal suite provides a totally independent space with its own pool and additional privacy. The landscaped garden below offers shady spots with benches perfect for reading or relaxing.

### From Daylight To Sunset

The day lazies along, between swimming and relaxing. A large fitness room has an ocean view of

one of the most beautiful spots on the island. Rooftop terraces are ideal to watch rainbow colors dance across the sky at sunset. Dinner takes place in one of the open spaces, before ending the evening around the billiard table.

### A House Open To All Lifestyles

At bedtime, everyone retreats to their personal space. With seven bedrooms, multiple levels, and great sea views, Blue Dragon adapts to many different rhythms of life. It can be a calm refuge, or a shared experience, ideal for entertaining and enjoying Saint Barth to the fullest.

**For Sale | Villa Blue Dragon -  
Gouverneur, St. Barth.**

**Price upon request.**

**Contact us today for more  
information and to arrange  
your private showing.**

*Joyce Conroy-Aktouche*

*Translation : Ellen Lampert Gréaux*



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## Hetairos Wins The Saint Barth Bucket

**T**hirty-three superyachts (out of 41 entries – the others are social) raced in the 2026 edition of the Saint Barth Bucket Regatta. The victory went to Hetairos, the only three time winner of the Bucket Trophy.

The Bucket regatta began on Thursday, March 12, with two races for the two Maxi 100s (Galatea and V) and an optional race for the rest of the superyacht fleet. Twenty-four of the 33 racing vessels present in Saint Barth participated in the optional pursuit race. The two 100' rivals split the wins on Thursday. Galatea won the opening race, and in the second race of the day, the two boats engaged in a “luffing” duel at the first windward mark before V overtook Galatea and claimed the victory.

The following day, Friday, March 13, trade winds of 16 to 17 knots provided the 33 superyachts with a spectacular first day of racing. Anticipating wind shifts proved crucial for the nine classes competing in the various variations of the classic “Around the Island” race, sailed counterclockwise.

On Saturday, March 14, stronger winds – reaching 18 to 20 knots north of the island – presented new challenges for the competing crews. The “Wrong Way Around” race, sailed clockwise around the island, led the fleet along rocky outcrops, offering both opportunities and pitfalls. This replaced the usual Saturday “wiggly” course.

After two days of intense racing, the leaders included Hetairos, moving up from third to first place in “Les Gazelles des Mers”



*Hetairos ©Ed Gudenas*

category and winning the Bucket Trophy for the third time; the only yacht in the Bucket to have that distinction. Freya finished 32 seconds ahead of Hummingbird in “Les Petites Dames (90 feet)” category. And in “Les Grandes Dames” category, Perseus 3 demonstrated impressive speed, catching up to Roseheartly.

### **Sunday’s Race Cancelled**

The much-anticipated offshore race on Sunday could not take place, as winds were blowing so strongly that organizers were forced to cancel final day of racing. “It was disappointing not to be able to race the final race, but it was the easiest decision I’ve made in my 18-year career,” said Peter Craig, event director.

“Wind speeds were around 25 knots, with gusts reaching between 30 and 35 knots. Sea conditions were steadily deteriorating at the key turning marks, and the situation wasn’t going to improve until late afternoon.”

Reserved for a yacht that not only triumphs on the course but also embodies the timeless spirit of the regatta, the 2026 Bucket Trophy was awarded to Hetairos.

The other class winners are V, Freya, Onyx, Geist, Whisper, M5, Perseus 3, and Adix. They competed in the 100’ class, Les Petites Dames, L’Esprit-1, Les Élégantes, Les Mademoiselles, L’Esprit-2, Les Grandes Dames, and Les Goélettes classes, respectively.

# Yann Rinaldo Elevated To Master Sommelier

For the past 20 years, Yann Rinaldo has been evolving in the universe of fine wine. Working at the Cave du Port Franc in Public, he probably never imagined he would reach such a high level of excellence and recognition. But on Sunday, November 25 at the Abbaye de Collonges–Paul Bocuse, a legendary restaurant in Collonges-au-Mont-d’Or, France, Yann Rinaldo achieved the rank of master sommelier at the board meeting of the Union de la Sommellerie Française. The honor was bestowed by its national president Fabrice Sommier.

## “Bringing This Expertise To The Caribbean”

To obtain the status of a master sommelier, Yann Rinaldo had to submit to thorough examination by the Union de la Sommellerie Française before passing before the council of elders and then the council of masters. Almost a rite of initiation, which led him to becoming the first master sommelier in Saint Barthélemy. “It’s important for me to be recognized and able to bring this expertise to the Caribbean, which is often overlooked when it comes to the universe of wines,” he explains. As the head of the local



*Fabrice Sommier, president of the Union de la Sommellerie Française, presented Yann Rinaldo (left) with his master sommelier diploma on November 24 in France.*

union (which comprises Saint Martin) for the past four years, Yann Rinaldo has tried to influence the professionals and wine enthusiasts on the island. But he is not alone. On Monday, October 25, at the Abbaye de Collonges, the independence of the Union de la Sommellerie de Saint Martin was accepted by a unanimous vote. Stéphane Emorine, president for the sommeliers in Saint Martin, was also elevated to the rank of master sommelier

For Yann Rinaldo, the goal is to continue encouraging young talents from Saint Barth to strive for excellence in their training, while he continues to elevate his own career.



## St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Gustavia

### Easter Sunday Mass at 9.30am

- Sung Family Eucharist Service
- with La Chorale de Bons Choeurs
- Drinks & Egg hunt afterwards



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