



n°1
2021



The Friendly Island welcomes you

THE LETTER FROM THE TOURIST OFFICE
OF SAINT-MARTIN

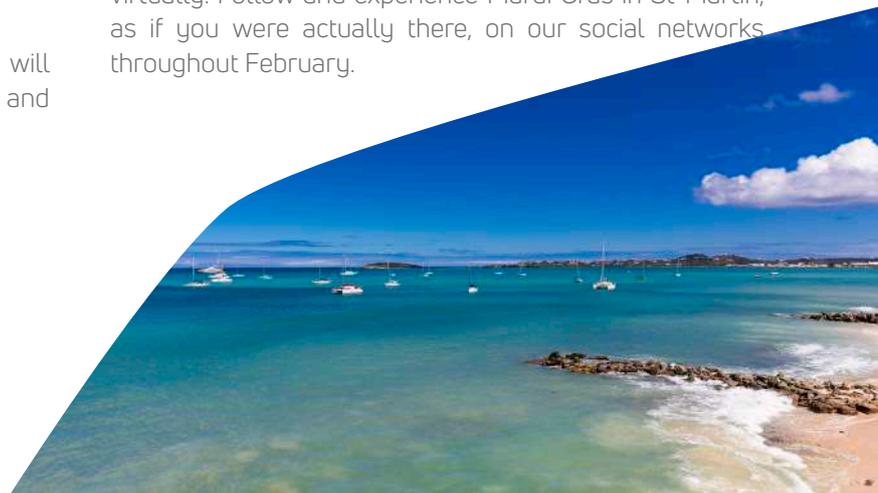
We are beginning the first chapter of 2021 with the first edition of our newsletter. Every month, you're in for some local surprises, good deals and a whole host of useful information, to make sure you have your dream vacation on St-Martin. Come here for a well-deserved relaxing getaway...

The Friendly Island welcomes you with open arms, despite the circumstances. This little slice of heaven in the French Caribbean, where the sun is king, relaxation is queen and hospitality is the top-priority. People come to St-Martin for the breath-taking landscapes, wide range of activities on the water and on dry land, renowned food and drink, and legendary nightlife. A little 93km² island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. A unique island divided into two territories, one French, Saint-Martin, and the other Dutch, Sint Maarten, and where over 120 different nationalities live side-by-side.

This year the theme is romance: all year long, there will be some special deals, around the theme of love and

traveling as a couple. To begin the month of February, the month of love, in style, there are some special Saint Valentine's *"Falling in Love with St-Martin"* deals, and other surprises on the theme of romance, to be found on our social networks. In 2021, Celebrate Saint Valentine's in St-Martin.

February is also the month of Mardi Gras, an unmissable event on the Friendly Island. This year, in light of the current circumstances, Mardi Gras will have to take place virtually. Follow and experience Mardi Gras in St-Martin, as if you were actually there, on our social networks throughout February.



THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

The 2021 "virtual" Carnival



"The Carnival of St-Martin is one of the highlights of the year and is much-awaited by people of all ages. The colorful festivities are highly symbolic for the local people", said Gaelle Arndell, president of the "Festivités Carnavalesques de Saint-Martin" association.

But this year, the sanitary measures mean that it is not possible to celebrate one of the most popular events in the Caribbean. To make sure nobody misses out on the

festivities, the "Festivités Carnavalesques de Saint-Martin" committee decided to organize a virtual Mardi Gras, to keep the celebrations going but from the comfort of your own home. Come and experience something unique with an entirely virtual 2021 Mardi Gras. Follow the St-Martin Tourist Office - Vie Locale et Carnaval de Saint-Martin Facebook pages to discover the parades, interviews and so much more besides!



In 2021, Love is lived in St. Martin

What could be better than celebrating love in a picture-perfect place such as St-Martin? For Valentine's Day, the Friendly Island is donning red, and pulling out all the stops for lovers. Boat trips, candlelit dinners, picnics at sunset or shopping as a couple... There are so many ideas for some quality time with your loved one.



Our hotel establishments are also offering some special deals, to celebrate this special occasion. (See below)

The calendar of events

- “Lobster & Champagne Party” and live music every Thursday evening at Temps des Cerises (Grand-Case)
- Reggae concert every Friday evening at Blue Martini (Grand-Case)
- Breakfast with musical entertainment every Saturday morning at Rainbow (Grand-Case)
- Karaoke evening every Saturday at Yellow Sub (Orient Bay)
- Creole brunch with musical entertainment every Sunday morning at 978 Sanctorum (Rimbaud)
- Live music every evening over the weekend at Cosy Corner (Orient Bay)



VALENTINE'S DAY DEALS

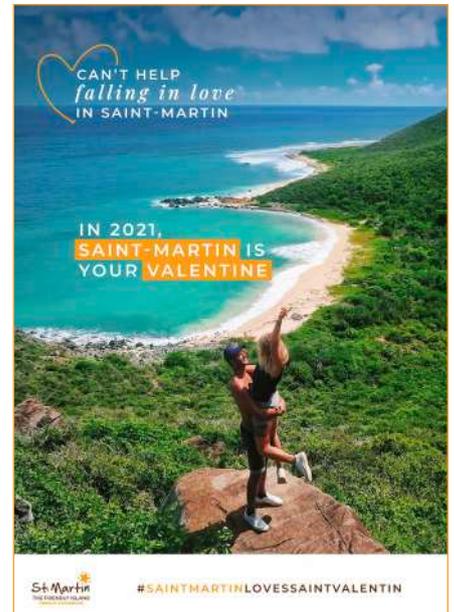
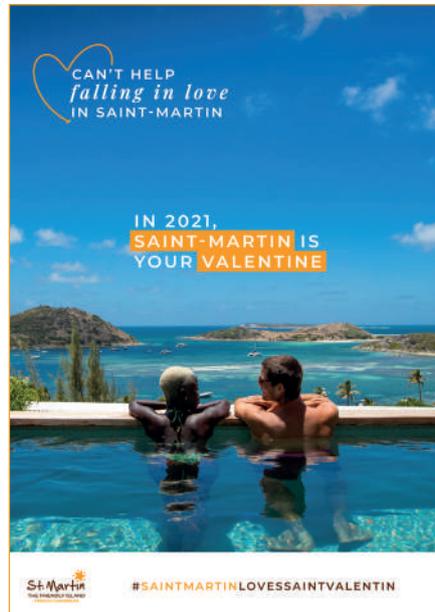
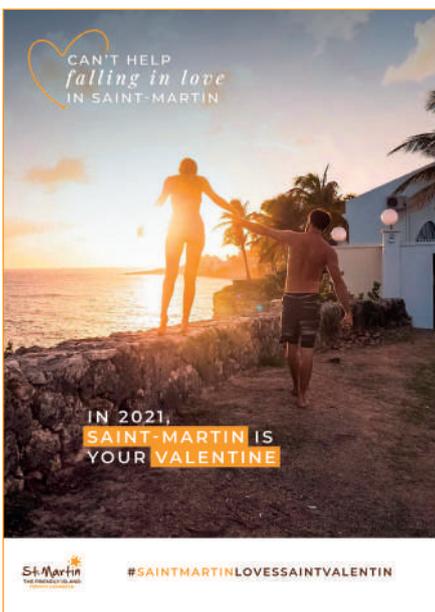
Discounted rates for the year of romance

To promote our destination around the world, the Tourist Office has decided to highlight the theme of romance this year. In these strange times, our visitors have told us of their need to spend some quality time as a couple, in a different place that is both picture-perfect and a far cry from their daily routine. With its intimate beaches, varied food and drink and some charming hotels, visitors to St-Martin are guaranteed a gourmet and timeless experience.

With that in mind, for the whole month of February, the Tourist Office has launched the advertising campaign "Can't Help Falling in Love with St-Martin | In 2021, celebrate Saint

Valentine's Day in St-Martin". Thanks to the participation of several hotels on the French side of the island, visitors can take advantage of very attractive prices and deals for vacations booked between February 1st and March 31st 2021 (for a stay between February 1st 2021 and March 31st 2022).

The Tourist Office has provided the online booking website www.st-martin-foryou.com, to put future visitors in direct contact with accommodation services. To make sure this campaign is as successful as it can be in light of the current health crisis, these deals will only target people who are able to travel to our destination at the moment.



A dream night in paradise

The most beautiful hotels in Saint-Martin welcome lovers for a stay in paradise in a sumptuous setting. Promotions not to be missed under any circumstances.



Full details of the offer : <http://st-martin-foryou.com>

The Tourist Office has also published a new promotional video. The musical theme of this video is an ode to Love, inspired by the song "Can't help falling in love", performed for the first time by Elvis Presley in 1961. Local filmmaker Théo Demanez was entrusted with creating the video. His modern yet elegant video is a beautiful account of several happy couples, and their stay

here. You'll be inspired by the idyllic landscapes, moments of local life, activities, gastronomy, in a 2:30 format, particularly well-adapted to social networks. This promotional video will continue to be published throughout the world, all year long, to follow the romance.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4G8kBmI7Us>



NEW ON THE ISLAND

The Rainbow is new and improved



The renowned beach bar-restaurant of Grand-Case opened its doors once again last December, after several weeks of renovation work. It was already a popular haunt for tourists and locals alike, but this place is now even better, thanks to the addition of a superb rooftop terrace. Wooden furniture, bar covered in bark, ethnic and cozy decoration and hanging swing-chairs. A little taste of paradise with a breath-taking view of Grand-Case bay.

Breath-taking sunsets

With the new team of passionate bartenders, chefs and pastry chefs, the Rainbow is guaranteed to be a hit with its customers' taste buds. Breakfast is served every day up on the rooftop terrace. On Saturday mornings, enjoy your meal accompanied by various acoustic duos. At the end of the day, admire the sunset and just lose yourself to the rhythm of the live music or electro sounds at the "Rooftop Sessions". Tapas, sushi and cocktails are served until 8pm. Throughout the day, the red sun loungers are always available, so you can enjoy a day on the beach, bask in the sun, and just relax and unwind.



Orient Beach Hotel

the latest addition to Orient Bay

In December 2020, a new hotel opened on the beach in Orient Bay. Destroyed by storm Irma, then bought by new owners and restored with good taste, the Orient Beach Hotel now has 35 spacious rooms, 515 square feet each, with luxurious and cozy decoration. The rooms are spread over three floors, and each have a small kitchen, air-conditioning, free HD Wi-Fi and a flatscreen smart TV. 10 adjoining rooms will make life easier for families or groups of friends. Each room has a spacious balcony and overlooks the sea. The higher your room, the more spectacular the view of the bay.



Feet in the sand

Getting to the beach and restaurants couldn't be easier: there's a small path that will get you to the fine sandy beach in a flash. Bask in the sun on the deck chairs owned by the beach restaurants, free to access (KKÔ Beach, Bikini Beach, Kontiki, Wai Plage, Coco Beach). In the evening, there is a lit-up path that leads directly to Orient Bay village, in less than 5 minutes on foot, for some unique culinary experiences and festive evenings. Come and discover some French, Caribbean and world cuisine at one of the many well-known restaurants in the village.



A TASTE OF LOCAL LIFE



Where find fresh fish?

If there's one thing we particularly appreciate when staying on the island, it's cooking locally-caught fresh fish or seafood. There are around twenty fishermen on St-Martin.

Every Wednesday and Saturday morning, the freshly caught fish is sold at the fish market, on the seafront in Marigot, next to the fruit, vegetable and spices stalls. On the way to Orient Bay in Mont-Vernon, the Cabane du Pêcheur also sells fish and seafood several times a week. Max is a passionate offshore fisherman who uses crates to catch red snapper and practices long-line fishing, and then sells the catch from his long nights out at sea, on the side of the road.

Local fish also features on the menus of countless restaurants, which sometimes offer fresh lobster that is kept in crates or aquariums. On Pinel island or on the Boulevard de Grand-Case, there are always some great places to taste mahi-mahi, red snapper, tuna and lobster.



A QUICK GETAWAY

In February, in the middle of the dry season, the trade winds, the prevailing winds in the Caribbean, cool down the warm tropical air. This is the ideal period for kitesurfing and any other sports with a sail, and it is also the first chance to catch a glimpse of humpback whales. Between December and April, they come to mate and calve in our warm waters before heading back to the North Atlantic, treating us to an incredible show while they're here. There are

many charter companies organizing day trips out on motorboats or sailing boats, to see these impressive marine mammals. You might see a fin gracefully gliding through the water, or even a magnificent jump... but you'll have to be patient during your day trip on the water, and the reward will definitely be worth it, for a magical moment guaranteed for people of all ages.

The spectacular whales





TREAT YOURSELF!

Adèle & Gabrielle, exceptional French pastries



Alain, his wife Adèle and his sister-in-law Gabrielle, three passionate, self-taught pastry chefs decided to come together and create a top-quality business on the friendly island, despite the current health crisis. *"We wanted to give St-Martin's reputation a boost, and bring something fresh and new to the island"*, explained Alain. And we decided to do this with *"an exceptional product"*: original creations *"with carefully thought-out flavors and textures... Our pastries have to taste as good as they look"*. At Adèle & Gabrielle's, everything is homemade. The two pastry chefs only use top-quality ingredients: local and seasonal fruit, natural flavors, no artificial colorings or additives... And pastries *"with 30% less sugar"*. *"We want to offer delicious pastries, that are not too sweet. And above all, we want to see smiles on people's faces when eating them"*, says Alain. Adèle & Gabrielle is first and foremost about a concept, *"a world"*. The risk they took seems to be paying off, when we see that this little Parisian-style establishment is always busy ever since it opened in Nettle Bay.



The Paris-Brest

RECIPE FOR ONE
OF THE CLASSICS



1. To make the cream, begin by bringing the milk to a boil. Whisk the egg yolks with the sugar until they whiten, then add the cornflour. Pour this mixture over the boiling milk and whisk in gently. Thicken over a medium heat, stirring until it boils. Leave to cool.
2. Beat the butter until creamy. Add the cream already made, and the hazelnut powder, all the while whisking the mixture to let in the air.
3. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Cover the oven tray with baking paper. For the dough, bring the water and milk to a boil with the butter, sugar and a pinch of salt. Add the flour and cornflour all at once. Mix in vigorously until the dough no longer sticks to the sides of the pan. Take off the heat, whisk in the eggs one by one. Stop whisking when the dough is smooth and creamy.
4. Using a piping bag, make a 20 cm circle with the dough, onto a baking tray. Make a second circle over the top, then a third. Decorate with almonds.
5. Put in the oven for 30 minutes, until golden brown. Leave to cool in the oven, switched off with the door open. Cut the crown in two.
6. Spread the cream onto the lower half, put the top half back on and sprinkle with icing sugar.

Adèle & Gabrielle's top tip

How to make a light version of the Paris-Brest?

"The Paris-Brest is a classic in the world of French pastries, and everyone loves it but it is often quite heavy due to the butter cream. To make a light and airy cream, I recommend whipping it a second time after cooling, before piping. The secret is also to use a little less sugar. It still needs to be tasty but when it's made with less sugar, the flavor of the cream will be more prominent. As for the dough, to make sure it is crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, it has to be whipped and then eaten the same day."

Ingédients

For the dough :

8 tbsp milk and water

1/4 cup butter

2 tsp sugar

1/4 cup + 1 tbsp flour

2 eggs

2 tbsp + 2 tsp cornflour

2 tbsp + 2 tsp flaked almonds

Salt

Icing sugar

For the cream :

3/4 cup + 1 tbsp milk

3 egg yolks

1/2 cup + 1 tbsp softened butter

2 tbsp + 2 tsp cornflour

1/4 cup + 1 tbsp sugar

1/2 cup + 1 tbsp hazelnut powder



The currency of St-Martin... Or rather, the currencies of St-Martin



The official currencies are the euro on the French side, and the guilder (NAF) on the Dutch side, but American dollars are accepted all over the island and are frequently used. Euros are also accepted in most shops on the Dutch side. The current exchange rate is often applied, but some shops and restaurants apply the rate of 1:1. So be aware of this when paying your bill.

Most bank cards are accepted on the island, however checks are often refused. There are a few bureau de change and banks on the island, but on the French side, there are not many banks where you can withdraw dollars.



Did you know?

St-Martin is the smallest territory in the world to be divided into two different nations.

The island was discovered on November 11th 1493 by Christopher Columbus, and was given the name of the patron saint for that day. During the 16th century, privateers and freebooters from all over Europe came to the island, for its protected mooring and abundant salt reserves. On March 23rd 1648, the French and the Dutch signed the Treaty of Concordia, and the same name was given to the mountain upon which the agreement was signed. That's how two nations came to share the island: the French occupy the north (21 square miles) and the Dutch occupy the south (13 square miles). There is no physical border separating the two sides, and people and goods can circulate freely across the whole island. According to legend, a beer-drinking Dutchman and a wine-drinking Frenchman, ran across the island to establish the border between the two nations. Every year, a race is organized around the island, to mark St-Martin's Day, on November 11th.

Saint Martin



St. Martin 
THE FRIENDLY ISLAND
FRENCH CARIBBEAN

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