

DESTINATION GUIDE: ST. MARTIN

Flavors and experiences that will rejuvenate you...



St Martin, one of the major travel hubs in the Caribbean, is more than an intermediary destination between nearby islands. Conveniently located and accessible for day trips to the surrounding islands, St Martin fascinatingly blends French and Dutch cultures. Marigot, the capital of the French side with a distinct French culture, offers local craft markets, varied restaurants, and a busy waterfront, and the restaurant row in Grand Case provides a variety of beachfront dining choices. In contrast, the Dutch side is better known for its nightlife, casinos, and duty-free shopping. There are 37 beaches to choose from, each with its own distinctive attractions, but with the same gorgeous sea. St Martin is one of our most popular Caribbean destinations.

What WIMCO Can Do For You

From our headquarters in the US, we are in constant communication with our team members and associates in St. Martin, ensuring that we have the kind of local knowledge, insights and contacts required to create a memorable vacation for you. Once you book a villa or hotel with us, WIMCO's Concierge Services team jumps into action - booking your international and local flights, setting up airport arrivals service and rental cars, pre-stocking your villa with groceries or arranging private chef service, making restaurant reservations, recommending local sights and activities and so much more. You are in good hands.

About the Villas

Our team frequently notes that the villas on St Martin are some of the best designed in the Caribbean. The villas sit on an average of 2.5 acres of land, with many designed in a U-shape, enabling astonishing views from both the kitchen and living rooms as well as the pool. The residences there tend to have bigger footprints than on most other islands, and are appealing to families and groups for the space and privacy. With a number of splendid villas located directly on the sunny beach (Baie Rouge and Baie Longue are favorites), staying at a villa can be akin to having a resort all to yourself.

As always, you'll be met by your friendly concierge at the airport, who will remain at your disposal during your luxury vacation experience to arrange restaurant reservations, water sports, and anything else you can think of. From start to finish, your attentive concierge will take care of you to ensure the most relaxing and fulfilling vacation.





Restaurants & Bars

The spicy sweetness of steamed fish. Prawns and shellfish flavored with a few roucou seeds, and to finish it off, a Guavaberry punch while savoring the last rays of light on a beautiful day. Seated at a bistro table by the sea or in a cozy top-rated restaurant, the gastronomic capital of the Caribbean extends an invitation you can't refuse! Here are some of our favorite spots.

SIMPSON BAY

AVANTIKA

Located in the heart of Simpson Bay, AVANTIKA restaurant brings the exotic tastes of Thailand to Sint Maarten. AVANTIKA combines the freshest Thai cuisine in an understated chic dining environment. With extensive culinary experience, the chefs bring Thai food to the island the way it was meant to be—Fresh. Authentic. Traditional. Complementing your dining experience is an extensive wine list with wines from around the world, as well as a full cocktail bar. Open for lunch and dinner, with air-conditioned indoor and outdoor seating options.



BAMBOO

Bamboo recently relocated to the Shops At Puerto De Sol. While maintaining old favorites like the Angry Dragon Roll, the Kuta Roll, and the Maui Wowi Roll remain, they have added exciting new favorites like Miso Glazed Short Rib Lettuce wraps with Rice Paper, Mango, and Fresh Mint, Bamboo Tacos with Chorizo and ground beef and Lime Crema, Salmon Crackers with Honey Cream Cheese and Aji Amarillo. Don't miss the new cocktail lounge adjacent to Bamboo. Bar Bamboo features sophisticated cocktails, craft beer and light snacks starting at 6 pm.

CUPECOY

ALTRO

Altro is a modern Italian-inspired bistro with Mediterranean flavors located in the Plaza de Porto Cupecoy. Chef/owner Christian Moreau is creative, accommodating and master of his kitchen. Pasta dishes are a speciality and he is adept at melding flavors and textures. The pastas and risottos are outstanding and filled with flavor. Special requests welcomed, well known for its attentive service.



MARIO BISTROT

In 2015, Mario's Bistro moved from their long-time location in Sandy Ground on the French side of Saint-Martin to a chic location in Porto Cupecoy on the Dutch side. The same blend of Asian, French and Caribbean cuisine that Chef Mario was so well-known and loved for is still served at their new location. Try the exceptional sashimi wahoo appetizer to start followed by a tempting beef carpaccio or their delicious bouillabaisse with fresh fish and seafood. Tender lamb shank is another favorite. The extensive wine cellar at Mario Bistrot has a wine to complement any item on the menu and then some. With impeccable service and an exceptional menu, Mario Bistrot is not to be missed. Parking is plentiful.

MARIGOT

LA TERRASSE

Experience traditional and inventive French cuisine with a panoramic view of Marigot Bay and the harbor. Open from Monday to Friday for lunch, and from Wednesday to Sunday for dinner with live music.



TROPICANA

Parisian Bistro offering classic and creative French cuisine, open for lunch and dinner. The restaurant is on Marina Royale in Marigot overlooking the marina. Le Tropicana provides gutsy, rootsy cooking tempered with a light, modern touch. Excellent reputation for many years. Vegetarian-friendly and vegan options, too!

GRAND CASE

THE LOLO'S

Casual, open air, BBQ eateries run by locals. Must be explored at least once during your visit to the island. Setting is by the beach with picnic tables around the BBQ grills with fresh fish, lobsters, shrimps, ribs, chicken, etc. Very moderately priced for great food in a very casual, laid back atmosphere. Dine by the sea or the lively streets of Grand Case.



SPIGA

Modern Italian cuisine, open for dinner only. Spiga opened its doors in November 2002 and has gained a reputation as one of the finer Italian restaurants on the island. Discover a restored Creole home offering creative cuisine.



Things to Do

The island of St Martin may only be 15 miles long, yet it has a diverse range of activities and things to do. This is partly because half of the island belongs to France (Marigot, Grand Case and Terres Basses) and the other half belongs to the Netherlands (Orient Beach, Simpson Bay and Phillipsburg). From fine dining to sailing, to tennis and golf, there is plenty to fill up your days. Your WIMCO Villa Specialist can recommend things to do in St Martin, and then make the reservations for you.

DINING IN GRAND CASE

Nestled between verdant hills and a stretch of crescent shaped beach, Grand Case is one of the prettier towns on the island, located at the northern tip. As you approach this town, a sign claim "The Gourmet Capital of St. Martin", and it's certainly true, with over twenty restaurants lining the main street, Boulevard de Grand Case. Choose from French, Italian, and Vietnamese fare, with both elegant and casual options.



SAILING

For those looking for some on-the-water competition, try the St. Maarten 12-Meter Challenge. Run out of Phillipsburg, this exciting racing program provides team competition in a friendly setting. These boats were built for America's Cup races in the '80s, but are still in racing tune and fun to sail. The Heineken Regatta is an annual event that attracts grand-prix sailors from around the world. Professional and amateurs alike look forward to this regatta in early March, which has become one of the top regattas in the Caribbean.



SCUBA & SNORKELING

With water temperature generally in the 80s and visibility about 60 feet, underwater viewing is pristine for both scuba and snorkeling. Numerous dive sites - shipwrecks and coral reefs - can be found around the island. There are several diving operations available for certified scuba divers as well as for those who want to learn. For snorkelers, Dawn Beach is considered to be one of the best places, with a reef just offshore, as well as the western end of Maho Bay. On the French side, Creole Rock at Grand Case is very popular, while Orient Bay is a designated underwater marine reserve. Take a ferry from French Cul de Sac to Ilet Pinel, a favorite destination of snorkelers.



GOLF & TENNIS

Mullet Bay has an 18-hole championship course, the only course on the island. Several of the holes are along Simpson Bay Lagoon, and the back nine are considered quite challenging. When it's time for tennis, nearly every hotel has at least one court, and some of those are lighted for night play. If you need to improve some strokes, the island's tennis pro offers clinics and lessons at several properties.

SHOPPING

St. Martin is one of the best Caribbean islands for duty-free shopping, both for the number of shops and the quality and prices, which can be up to 50% less than the U.S. and Canada. Marigot is a pleasant town for shopping: look here for French perfume, Swiss watches, European fashions, and cameras and electronics. The main shopping area in Philipsburg is along Front Streets.

The Beaches

ANSE MARCEL

Anse Marcel is a pleasant, upscale beach for couples and families. It is located in a tropical quiet bay, protected from the swell. The Marina Port de Lonvilliers is located at the northern side and includes a tiny handful of boutiques, shops, and a restaurant.



BAIE ROUGE BEACH

One of the most intimate and quiet beaches. A perfect place to spend a lazy afternoon, with calm waters making it great for swimming. The Eastern end, near the entrance area, is more popular, and people still wear clothes, but the more you go west, the less you will see other visitors, and clothing becomes optional! There is a beach bar and restaurant, lounge chairs and snorkeling gear for rental.



CUPECOY BEACH

This beach is unique in that once you arrive, you are enclosed by rock formations and sandstone cliffs that sit behind you. If you get to the beach early enough you may find yourself relaxing in a cave all to yourself.

DAWN BEACH

Dawn Beach has sugar white powdery sand, facing the east side of St. Martin. Early risers may enjoy spectacular views of the sunrise with St. Barths in the distance. Snorkeling at the coral reef is a bit off the shore, so You'll first have to swim to get to the best spots. The road that leads over is a little bumpy, but the drive is well worth it. Perfect for beach strolling or a picnic lunch; there is also a beach restaurant.



ORIENT BEACH

Orient Beach is probably the most famous beach in the entire Caribbean. The two mile long stretch is protected from the Atlantic waves by a reef. Great for snorkeling! The beach is reputed as much for its natural beauty and setting as it is for being the island's foremost swimsuit optional beach. There are many bars and restaurants dotting the beach as well as Club Orient, the island's only naturist resort.



St. Martin



Getting There

The island of St Martin is privileged with excellent air service to Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM). You can find direct flights to St Martin from Atlanta., Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, New York, Newark, Toronto, Montreal, Paris and Amsterdam.

Leave it up to WIMCO's experienced trip specialists to help you to book all of your accommodations and deliver you safely to your destination. We will work with you to help you to get the most of what St Martin has to offer.