

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2011

## Ooh-la-la at the Grand Case Beach Club



Inviting beach at Grand Case Beach Club (photo credit: GCBC)

Pleasure is barefoot and time stands still. Such is the mantra at the Grand Case Beach Club in French St. Martin. With a new user-friendly website and honeymoon packages to beat the band, the seaside hotel is a seashell away from the village of Grand Case celebrated for its many fine restaurants and galleries. An array of resort amenities include an on-site restaurant, postcard-perfect beach, water sports, pool, boutique with an artisanal array of jewelry, clothing and souvenirs, Cybex gym, hilltop massage gazebo where Gina excels at après-sun rubdowns and a boardwalk that stands guard over the ocean and is ideal for wedding and anniversary parties.



Margarita Wight stocks fabulous gifts in her Ti Case Boutique (credit: M. Reffes)



photos credit: GCBC



photos credit: GCBC



Gina excels at an après-sun rubdown (photo credit: M. Reffes)

Room rates include a divine continental breakfast of pastries fresh from the oven, non-motorized water sports equipment and a bottle of vino on arrival. For those who enjoy tennis, a grass court is lit for night play with loaner rackets available to those who did not pack their own. "Our clientele is not the all-inclusive crowd," says Stephen Wright, general manager, "they come here not only for the comfort and appeal of the property but also for the proximity to Grand Case. In fact, our guests do quite a bit of pre-trip research about the restaurants and bars they want to try in the Village."

wooing the romance crowd, the "Honeymoon Magic" package includes a one day car rental, en suite floral bouquet, picnic basket pour deux, beach bag and vouchers for casino play on the Dutch side of the island where gambling is legal. Three and seven night rates are available through December 22. The popular Fifth Night Free offer continues through December 18 with Thanksgiving weekend a blackout period.



### ABOUT ME



Melanie Reffes,  
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Melanie is a travel journalist based in Montreal and specializing in sunnier climes. Her Caribbean coverage has appeared in newspapers and magazines including Shermans Travel Guides, Montreal Gazette, AOL Travel Guides, Miami Herald and Canadian Traveller. She is a contributing writer for many island-based magazines including Experience St. Maarten, Experience Bermuda, Nights St. Maarten, Nights Aruba, Nights Curacao, Destination St. Maarten and Destination St. Kitts/Nevis. She is the humble recipient of several Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) writer awards and JTB Writer of the Year award 2008. Melanie is a long-time member of SATW. When she's not racing to catch flights, she can be found in her backyard garden growing the hottest scotch bonnet peppers this side of Negril. Contact me at [melanierreffes@jaxfax.com](mailto:melanierreffes@jaxfax.com)



A three-year improvement plan is in the works which will include kitchen and floor remodeling and upgrades to the lobby and patios. Although guests come from all over the world, the northeast USA remains the constant source of arrivals. "85% of our business comes from North America," adds Stephen Wright, GM, "with the tri-state arrivals our biggest group." The property extends a warm welcome to travel agents who want to experience the Club along with a 10 percent commission offered for confirmed bookings.

Optimistic about the upcoming high season, GM Stephen Wright adds "we've hit a booking stride of late but we're still concerned about the economy and watch the trends cautiously. Despite the shorter booking windows, the holiday season in December is looking very good for us."



With hurricane season continuing through November, GCBC offers gratis nights should an evacuation be ordered. If an official hurricane warning is issued, the hotel will waive the cancellation penalty and, at the guest's option, either refund the full deposit or change the reservation. Wholesalers selling the property include Expedia, MLT Vacations and Liberty. Click or call: [www.grandcasebeachclub.com](http://www.grandcasebeachclub.com) or toll free (800) 340-3016.