

# ST BARTHS

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## TRAVEL GUIDE





A woman in a white dress is shown from the waist down, holding a glass. The background is a beach scene with a woman in a white dress and a man in a white shirt. The text is overlaid on the image.

Dear Traveler,

Embarking on our St. Barths guide feels like continuing a cherished legacy—a tapestry woven with three decades of the Ledyard’s exploration, love, and culinary delights.

This captivating island holds a special place in our hearts, a sentiment that has grown over the years. For my husband, Michael, St. Barths isn't just a destination; it's a tapestry of memories that were woven into the fabric of his childhood—yearly visits with family, the enchanting backdrop to his sister's wedding a decade ago, and most recently, our choice for a blissful honeymoon, complete with an island ceremony and our own celebration of love.

In the 30 plus years of culinary exploration captured in my Father-in-Law's Whitehackle Guide to St Barths, he observed the ebb and flow in the island's gastronomic landscape.

Now, with a renewed perspective from a young couple's lens, we present this refreshed guide, an ode to the ever-evolving beauty of St. Barths. Our focus extends beyond the well-established gems to embrace the new wave of restaurants and accommodations that have blossomed, enhancing the island experience for a new generation of visitors.

The goal is to provide you, the traveler, with an insider's glimpse into the present-day magic of St. Barths—a seamless fusion of tradition and innovation.

In these pages, you'll discover the secrets we've uncovered—the finest restaurants that tantalize the taste buds, beautiful villas that effortlessly become a home away from home, and encounters with genuine locals who embody the elegant simplicity of the French lifestyle.

And let's not forget the pièce de résistance—the stunning beaches that make St. Barths truly the happiest place on earth.

May it be a testament to the enduring allure of St. Barths, celebrating both its storied past and promising future.

*Bon Appétit and Bon Voyage!*

*EmmaKate Ledyard*  
*Editor-in-Chief*





# First things first...

## How do I get to St Barths?

Navigating your journey to St. Barths is an essential chapter in your adventure.

The primary inter-island transportation hub is Windward Island Airways International N.V. (Winair). While a past collaboration with US Airways streamlined the process, recent changes mean that bags can no longer be checked through from the mainland to St. Barths.

Prepare for the SXM immigration process, where you'll claim and re-check your bags at the Winair ticket counter. While VIP services offer some relief, they no longer handle bag rechecks independently. Our advice: minimize checked bags whenever possible. For seamless travel, reconfirm your Winair return flights a few days before departure.

Secure your Winair tickets through a travel agent, select VIP services, or book directly online. Our preferred choice, St. Barth Services, often unlocks flights not readily available elsewhere.

### *Option #1*

Fly to SBH via  
St Marteen (SXM)

BOOK WINAIR FLIGHTS SEPERATELY

## USA- SXM - SBH



## Option #2



# USA- SJU- SBH

BOOK TRADEWINDS FLIGHTS SEPERATELY

When traveling from the USA, you also have the option of flying into Puerto Rico and utilize Tradewinds for the final leg of the journey to SBH.

Offering "Premium Scheduled" flights between San Juan, St. Thomas, and St. Barths on Cessna Grand Caravan and Pilatus PC12 turboprops, these flights clock in at approximately 1 hr. 20 min (1 hr. from St. Thomas or in the Pilatus).

While the cost ranges from \$499 to \$667 each way, the convenience of weekday flights, absence of baggage charges, and the availability of reasonably priced connecting flights from the US to San Juan make Tradewind a compelling choice. An added bonus—bypassing St. Maarten's intricacies can be considered priceless.

## Other Options:

### St. Barths Commuter:

Book online at [www.stbarthcommuter.com](http://www.stbarthcommuter.com) or call directly at 011 590 590 27 54 54. With generally two daily flights from SXM (Princess Juliana Airport, St. Maarten) to SBH and more from the local Grand Case airport (French side of St. Martin) to SBH, they provide a cost-effective alternative to Winair. Charter flights are also available at 900€ (Low Season) and 1,000€ (High Season) each way for up to 7 passengers, owned by Bruno Magras, President of La Collectivité de Saint Barthélemy.

### Ferries:

A last-resort option if flights are unavailable late in St. Maarten, ferries traverse the notorious channel. Beware of rough seas; if prone to motion sickness, it's advised to avoid this mode of arrival.





*Our Favorite*  
**ST BARTHS  
RESTURANTS**





# Restaurants

## A Few of our Favorites for a Quick Bite

### Burger Palace – Gustavia

Satisfy your fast-food cravings at the only Burger Palace in St. Barth. With an impressive burger selection, it's the go-to spot for a quick bite. Prefer staying in? No worries – they deliver.

### JoJo Burger – Lorient

Uncover the best-kept secret for a delectable burger at JoJo Burger in Lorient. A no-frills gem, JoJo attracts surfers from Lorient Beach, creating a laid-back haven for burger enthusiasts.

### La Crêperie – Gustavia

Catering to all ages, La Crêperie in Gustavia is your destination for a playful dining experience. From savory crepes to sweet delights, salads to sandwiches, this spot is a cherished St. Barth institution.

### Le Select – Gustavia

For the quintessential cheeseburger in paradise, head to Le Select in the heart of Gustavia. Embrace the casual vibe with white plastic chairs, serving lunch and dinner but closed on Sundays.



# Restaurants

## A Few of our Favorites for a Beachfront Lunch

Le Toiny Beach Club – at the Hotel Le Toiny

Indulge in a beachside lunch at St. Barth's best surfing spot. Meet at the hotel entrance, where staff will guide you to the sandy haven. In the evening, relish panoramic ocean views at Le Toiny Hotel's restaurant. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

La Langouste – Flamands Beach (Hotel Baie des Anges)

Experience French cuisine with a Creole touch at La Langouste. From sole meuniere to fresh lobster, the menu caters to diverse palates. Open for lunch and dinner, except on Tuesdays. Budget friendly and the perfect lunch on days spent at Flamands.

Pearl Beach – St Jean

Formerly Tom Beach, now Pearl Beach, this beachfront gem offers easy lunches and a vibrant atmosphere. Whether for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, it's a go-to spot, closed only on Monday nights.

Nikki Beach – St Jean

Nikki Beach brings the party to St. Jean with an excellent menu featuring sushi and classic French dishes. The star is the lively atmosphere, making it a lunch-only destination. Open daily.

Gypsea – St Jean

A lively beach club with a fantastic DJ, young staff, and fabulous food. Gypsea presents a cuisine of rustic simplicity, featuring roasted, smoked, grilled, and braised delights. Lunch only, open daily.

Shellona – Gustavia

Formerly Do Brazil, Shellona stands as the new beach house restaurant on Shell Beach, offering Mediterranean fare and special cocktails. With one of the best sunset views, it's a lunch-only spot open daily.



# Restaurants

## A Few of our Favorites for a Romantic Dinner

### Bonito – Gustavia

Enjoy unparalleled harbor views and Venezuelan-inspired ceviches and tartares at Bonito. Our favorite restaurant on the planet! A dinner-only haven with its doors wide open every day.

### Bagatelle (Waterfront) – Gustavia

From the renowned locations in NYC & LA, Bagatelle's waterfront setting in Gustavia offers a mix of DJs, surprises, and exceptional pizza for a dinner-only experience. Closed on Sundays.

### Sky Bar – Gustavia

Elevate your romantic evening at Sky Bar, an elegant yet laid-back spot. Delight in fresh tapas, sushi, and cocktails while soaking in panoramic views of Gustavia harbor. Open daily for dinner.

### Zion – St Jean

A hidden gem behind a tropical garden, Zion is the secret retreat for food lovers and St. Barth insiders. With a mysterious door and lush surroundings, indulge in a creative and tasty cuisine during dinner. Closed on Sundays and Mondays.

### Le Tamarin – Saline

Immerse yourself in an exquisite tropical ambiance at Le Tamarin. Suited for vegetarians and meat lovers alike, this dinner-only spot creates a perfect setting for a romantic evening.



# Breakfast Gems

## Choisy – Lorient

Dive into the delights of Choisy in Lorient, a wonderful bakery offering croissants and baguettes that tend to disappear quickly. Alongside pre-made sandwiches, tarts, and pastries, savor a cup of coffee. Arriving early is the key!

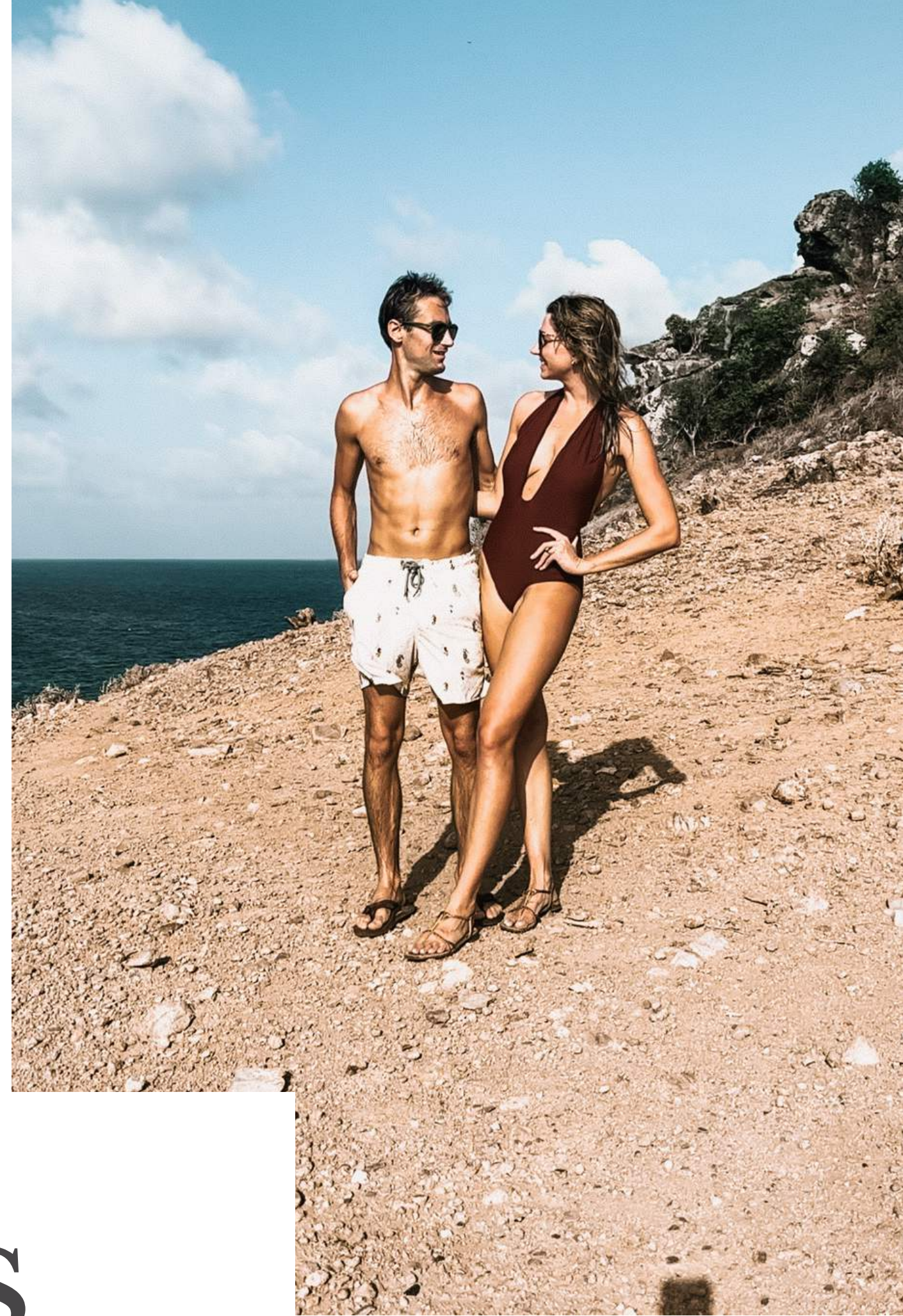
## La Petite Colombe – Colombier

For a taste of tradition, La Petite Colombe Bakery in Colombier is your go-to spot. Perfect for those residing in the area, it sets the tone for a delightful morning.

## La Petite Colombe – Lorient

The same freshness and bakery excellence await you at La Petite Colombe in Lorient. Indulge in their wonderful offerings, mirroring the quality of the Colombier location.





*Our take on the best*  
**ST BARTHS  
BEACHES**



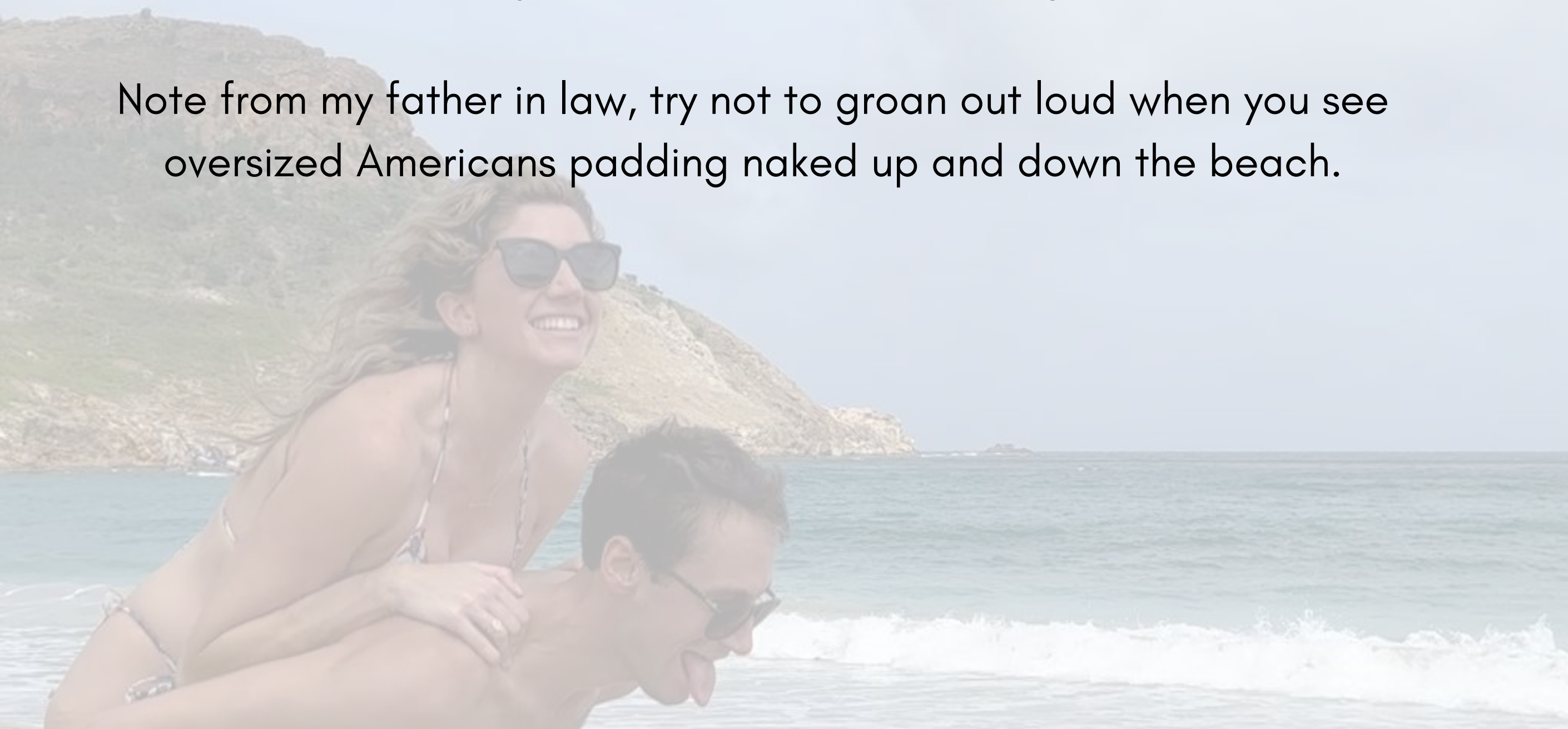


# No. 1 Saline

Throughout generations, Grand Saline retains its position as the Ledyard family favorite of the St Barths beaches!

Prepare for the sun's embrace (and back plenty of sunscreen!) as shade is a rare commodity on this scorching beach. Every step of the hilly commute to the beach itself is worth it, as you encounter almost half a mile of pristine white sand and a crystal-clear ocean.

Note from my father in law, try not to groan out loud when you see oversized Americans padding naked up and down the beach.





# No. 2 Colombier

Nestled at the western edge of the island, Colombier unfolds a narrative steeped in the legacy of David Rockefeller, who held sway over this expansive coastal haven from the 1950s until his passing in 2017. During Rockefeller's ownership, Colombier claimed the title of the island's largest single parcel of land.

The Rockefeller family's commitment to preserving the island's natural beauty is evident in the "Green Zone," an area off-limits to development.

Once accessible only by sea or a twenty-minute hike, Colombier offers an adventurous route with the promise of hidden wonders. However, we recommend checking to see the number of sailboats when flying over the island for a better idea of the beach crowd.





# No. 3 Gouverneur

Gouverneur, our third-favorite beach, unveils a serene retreat with its own distinct charm. The waters boast a steeper drop-off, inviting you to immerse yourself in their bigger, cooler embrace.

Gouverneur takes the crown for convenience, allowing you to park mere yards away from its tranquil shores. As you revel in the ease of access, explore the excellent snorkeling opportunities near the rocky cliff at the eastern end.





# No. 4 Flamands

Nestled on the north shore of the island, Flamands is our favorite beach to end the day on since the sunlights remains the longest here. Known for its robust yet challenging body-surfing waves, this beach is a haven for experienced ocean swimmers.

Keep in mind that Flamands can become a bit windy, especially with prevailing winds from the North. Yet, it serves as an excellent alternative when the winds shift, rendering Saline or Gouverneur less comfortable.





# No. 5 Shell Beach

Before the 2002 hurricane, Shell Beach was a mosaic of shells, a textured carpet beneath the sun-kissed sky. Today, a harmonious blend of sand and shells graces the shore, offering a far more inviting experience for your bare feet.

Despite its proximity to bustling Gustavia, Shell Beach maintains a pristine allure with Shellona standing as the sole structure on its sandy expanse.





