



ALL AT SEA

SOUTH FLORIDA

Inside: Coral Restoration Flourishing

EXUMA Hot Spots
Horizon Yacht USA **TURNS 30**
TRINI vs. Barbados Rum
Rock the **OCEAN**

SOUTH FLORIDA NEWS



NORTHROP & JOHNSON'S KEVIN MERRIGAN, IYBA SALES BROKER OF THE YEAR, SHARES TRENDS INSIGHTS

The yacht market is continuing to heat up, according to Kevin Merrigan, broker for Fort Lauderdale, Florida-headquartered Northrop & Johnson, who shares what he sees as trends for the coming year in yacht sales in the South Florida market.

"In yachts over 80-foot last year, the market experienced a slight dip. This was excellent for buyers as they picked off the best condition yachts at the best price point. Under 80-foot, the market has seen a steady growth of sales. Any wise buyer will move quickly on a well maintained, well priced yacht so they can quit shopping and start cruising. A wise seller will ensure that their yacht is in excellent condition, all the sales paperwork is ready to go, and price the yacht at market level," says Merrigan.

Merrigan, a 27-year industry veteran, certainly knows what he's talking about. He was named Broker of the year for 2016

by the International Yacht Brokers Association (IYBA, formerly the Florida Yacht Brokers Association), the largest association of yacht brokers worldwide with more than 1,200 members. The Broker of the Year award is presented to a sales broker in recognition for his or her outstanding dedication and contribution to IYBA and the entire yachting industry. www.northropandjohnson.com

50-CENTS A FOOT DOCKAGE AT BAHAMAS' EMERALD BAY MARINA

A gimmick? No. Emerald Bay Marina, located on Great Exuma, in the Bahamas, has Bellingham floating docks that are just missing some standard amenities such as water and electricity. The catch? There's a minimum stay of at least three nights, 40-foot minimum charge and no reservations; it's first-come, first-serve on these docks. This price compares quite favorably with mooring fees of equal cost with few or no amenities. Plus, At Emerald Bay Marina, all dockage clients are entitled

to the use of all facilities, which include free laundry, showers, toilets, gymnasium, garbage collection, docking assistance, pool room, crew lounge, free DVD's, kid's playground and free shuttle services.

"Very popular for all our clients is our free Happier Hour on Monday night with copious quantities of Rum Punch and tasty finger food," invites Dale Westin, manager at the Sandals Marina at Emerald Bay. www.marinaemeraldbay.com



NAUTICAL STRUCTURES MAKES REPAIRS EASIER

Need to fix hydraulic lifting and boarding equipment? Nautical Structures, a 30-year-old company specializing in innovative boarding and tender-handling systems for the luxury and blue-water maritime markets as well as unique engineered-to-order services for specialized hydraulic systems, has opened a service center at the Lauderdale Marine Center (LMC) in Fort Lauderdale as a tenant partner.

"The yachting community, our OEM partners and their clients as well as all end users of hydraulic lifting and boarding equip-

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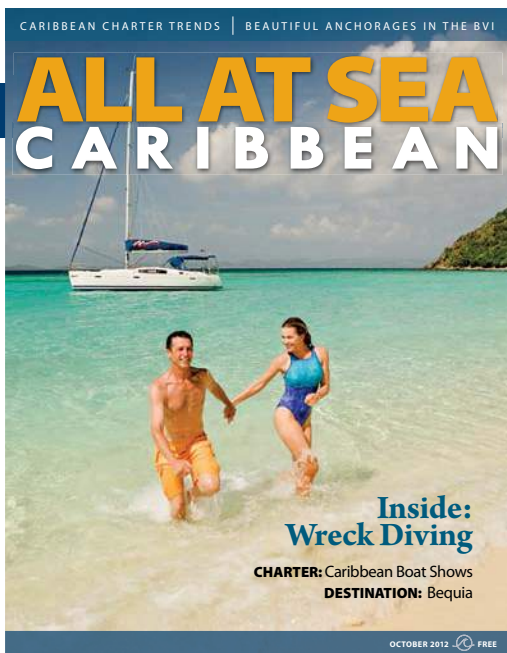
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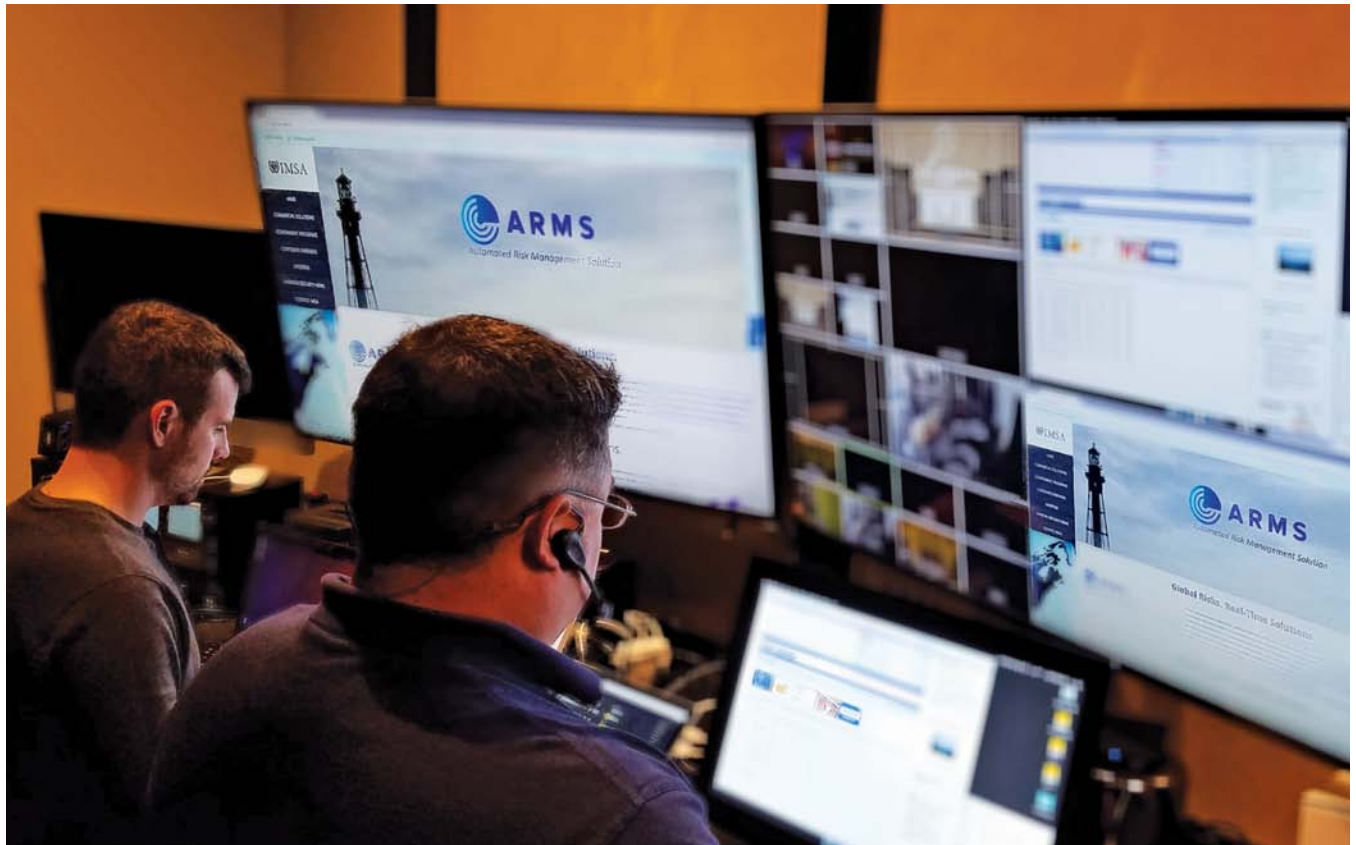
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ment can now receive service direct from the manufacturer," says Colin Kiley, president of Nautical Structures. "We will service and support our product and customers worldwide. Look for news of our opening a service center in Barcelona in the very near future."

The LMC operation will be managed by director of service, Jim Olejar.

Largo, Florida-headquartered Nautical Structures' 94,000 square-foot sales, engineering and manufacturing facility is located 22 miles west of Tampa. The company has service centers in Fort Lauderdale, the Netherlands, and the Mediterranean. www.nautical-structures.com

"During emergency situations vessel crews need to concentrate on the emergency and not worry about the myriad of calls and notifications that need to be made," said Corey Ranslem, chief executive officer in a release. "Our G-I2C will handle the communications, notifications and logistics for the vessel based on their specific protocols and the immediate emergency."

The operations center is staffed 24/7 to provide vessels with one number to call for assistance during a variety of emergency situations. The Offshore Emergency Support service is part of the ARMS (Automated Risk Management Solution) software platform that IMSA will launch globally worldwide later this year. imsa.global

WHO YOU GONNA CALL? INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY ASSOCIATES

There's oftentimes little or no experienced shore side support for crews when emergencies happen underway. Now, Miami-Florida based International Maritime Security Associates, INC (IMSA) is providing vessels worldwide with Offshore Emergency Support as part of its Global Intelligence, Information and Communications Center (G-I2C).

ALL AT SEA SOUTH FLORIDA

COVER SHOT:
Photo by [johnandersonphoto](#)



Resort-style marina featuring 117 slips for vessels up to 180 feet. Daily and contracted rates available. Enjoy private pool & spa, tennis courts, two 18-hole golf courses, and Bourbon Steak, a Michael Mina Restaurant at Turnberry Isle Miami Resort, as well as shopping at nearby Aventura Mall. Private charters and sports fishing adventures may also be arranged.



*Turnberry Isle Marina
Yacht Club*

**N 25° 57.450' W 080° 07.660'
MONITOR CHANNEL 68**

HOT SPOTS IN THE EXUMA LAND & SEA PARK

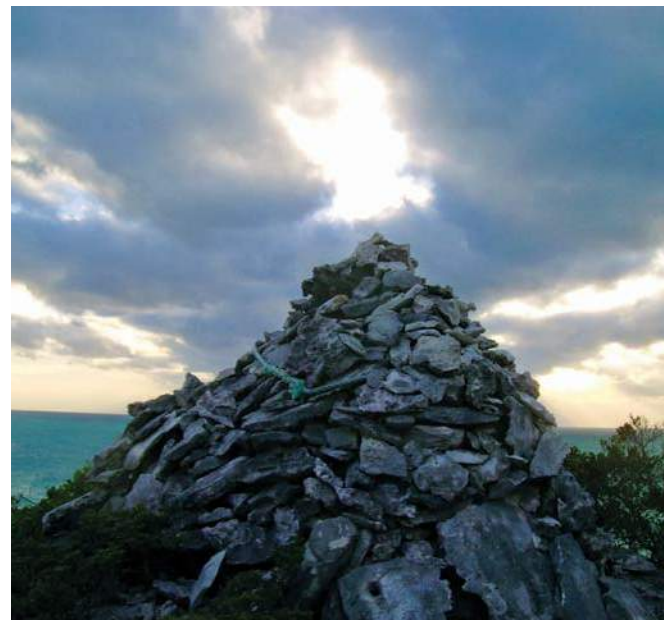
BY: CAPT SHANE MCCLELLAN



Over the next couple of issues we will explore the most popular part of the Bahamas from a cruising standpoint and we are going to start at the Exuma Land & Sea Park.

The park is towards the northern part of the Exumas Island chain and was established in 1958 to provide a safe haven and replenishment area for the wildlife native to the Bahamas and to educate the public in saving this beautiful environment for future generations. The taking of fish, conch, lobsters, or shells is not allowed inside the park and this has helped the entire chain's seafood population immensely!

The first island we are going to visit is Shroud Cay, which is the northernmost island in the park. This island is pretty much a swamp in the middle and offers some great kayaking opportunities through several salt water tidal creeks. One of them took me all the way across the island to an amazing shallow bay. When I climbed over a sand dune, I was at the beach. Kayaking through this island is so quiet and peaceful you will love the time you spend here.



The next island down is Hawksbill Cay. This island was settled in 1785 by the Russell family, who were loyalist to the British crown escaping the newly formed America. The ruins include 10 houses and outbuildings. Unfortunately the rocky ground did not provide long term success for the family. Around the island, you will also find a nice beach to relax on, small caves or natural wells, fresh water swampy areas, and a pile of rocks used as a navigational aid in the past.

Now we are arriving at Warderick Wells Cay, which is the park headquarters. The anchorage is a deep tidal creek circling a very shallow sand flat where you pick up a mooring ball. At the headquarters, you can rent DVDs, get wifi, and see some displays like an impressive sperm whale. The most famous thing here is the top of Boo Boo Hill, where boaters have been placing driftwood with their boat name on it for decades. This is to remember a shipwreck here in the late 1800's. The survivors gathered here to remember their lost shipmates. Sometimes you can hear the cries of the deceased... or it could be the nearby blow holes.

This island has an extensive hiking trail system and along it you will find several different ruins. At the southern tip is a natural fresh water well and Pirates Lair, where actual pirates would camp in the past. It provided the needed fresh water and some R&R off the boat. In that aspect it is not much different than cruising today. At dusk watch for the hutia to come out. These rodents are the only native mammals to the Bahamas and were reintroduced to this island, since apparently their numbers dropped so much due to them being quite tasty.

A lot of the next islands are private, so our final stop is Rocky Dundas at the very southern end of the park. It is basically a



BOAT SHOWS

CHARLESTON, SC

APRIL 28-30

Charleston In-Water Boat Show

www.CharlestonInWaterBoatShow.com
864-250-9713

JACKSONVILLE, FL

APRIL 21 – 23

Southeast US Boat Show

southeastusboatshow.com
904-759-2758

MIAMI BEACH, FL

APRIL 28 – 30

South Florida Boat Show

southflaboatshow.com
info@professionalshowmanagement.com
954-946-6164

SARASOTA, FL

APRIL 21 – 23

Suncoast Boat Show

www.showmanagement.com/suncoast_boat_show/event/
954-764-7642

VERO BEACH, FL

APRIL 1 – 2

Marine and Wildlife Art Festival and Craft Show

www.MarineWildlifeArtFestivalCraftShow.com
info@marinewildlifeartfestivalcraftshow.com
954-205-7813

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

ABACO, BAHAMAS

APRIL 19 – 22

Abaco Diamond Series - White Marlin Roundup

www.skipstournaments.com
skip@skipstournaments.com
(954) 531-7985

MAY 3 – 6

Custom Shoot-Out

www.skipstournaments.com
Skip@customshootout.com
954-531-7985

MAY 17 – 20

Abaco Diamond Series - The Shootout

www.skipstournaments.com
skip@skipstournaments.com
(954) 531-7985

MAY 31 – JUNE 3

Abaco Beach Blue Marlin Invitational

www.skipstournaments.com
skip@skipstournaments.com
954-531-7985

ISLAMORADA, FL

APRIL 21 – 23

Redbone Sunrise/Sunset Celebrity Tarpon Tourney

www.redbone.org/tourn_sched.html
susan@redbone.org
305-664-2002

APRIL 28 – 30

Islamorada Spring Classic

www.islamoradaclassic.com/
islamoradafishingclassics@aol.com
305-522-4868

MAY 7 – 10

Jim Bokor's Islamorada All-Tackle Bonefish & Redfish Shootout

fishnfever@bellsouth.net
305-587-1460

KEY LARGO, FL


MAY 8 – 11

Jimmy Johnson's National Billfish Championship

www.jimmyjohnsonbillfishchampionship.com
info@questforthering.com
305-255-3500

Continued on page SF9

huge limestone rock which has had two caves carved into it by the sea. You have to swim in. Once inside, admire the amazing rock formations including one that looks like aliens.

Come back over the next issues as we visit the upper and lower Exumas. 

Visit www.svGuidingLight.com to read more from Captain Shane about the Bahamas, Caribbean, life aboard, world traveling, and more. You might also want to check out his travel video series.

CORAL RESTORATION FLOURISHING IN THE FLORIDA KEYS AND BEYOND

BY JILL ZIMA BORSKI



Just like mighty forests can be re-planted after too much timber harvesting or natural disasters, the underwater coral reef can be re-planted with corals. When 98 percent of the staghorn and elkhorn coral -- branching corals that are fast-growing -- in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean were gone, avid divers and scientists knew something had to be done. These corals protect coastal areas and provide habitat for fish and invertebrates.

Ken Nedimyer, founder of the Coral Restoration Foundation, was living in Islamorada in the Florida Keys and operating a live rock farm when he developed a way to restore the reefs. As a diver, he had noticed the deterioration of the Keys' coral reefs. He founded the nonprofit ocean conservation organization in 2007 which works to restore coral reefs, educate about oceans importance, and uses science to further research and monitoring. Staff has grown from one person to 14. Celebrat-

ing a decade of progress this year, the Coral Restoration Foundation has created innovative nursery and restoration techniques that now are implemented worldwide.

But decades ago, underwater habitat was dying. Due to multiple stressors in the late 1970s and early 1980s, previously dominant reef-building corals throughout the Florida Keys and the Caribbean declined dramatically, leaving the remaining corals scattered and facing extinction. Through propagation techniques, developed and improved upon through the years, tens of thousands of corals are grown and maintained in multiple offshore coral tree nurseries before being strategically planted on the reefs. "The idea of creating tree structures, developed in 2010, has been a game-changer," Nedimyer said, adding that many reef restorers now use this system.

With the help of students, volunteers, scientists and donors,



corals are successfully raised until they are "reef-ready;" then, they are planted onto the reef and monitored. "Our innovative techniques are [measurable] and they are making a difference for our oceans," said Nedimyer, who was named a CNN Hero in 2012 and the Disney Worldwide Conservation Hero in 2014.

He has hope because of the program's success. In 2003, the first staghorn corals were planted at a Keys reef named the Wellwood. Those six corals have branched into several thousand coral colonies. In 2009, there was cause for more celebration. The nursery-raised corals spawned, making scientific history. This year, the organization expects to plant 5,000 to 6,000 corals and next year, 10,000.

The group's latest projects involve working with two types of brain corals, which feed on small drifting animals and receive nutrients provided by algae which live within their tissues, and

Continued from page SF7

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

KEY WEST, FL

APRIL 25 – 30

The Final Sail

www.bluewatermovements.com/final_sail/

MARATHON, FL

MAY 5 – 7

Marathon Offshore
Bull and Cow Dolphin
Tournament

marathonoffshoretournament.com/
bigtimetackle@comcast.net
305-481-0495

MIAMI BEACH, FL

MAY 4 – 6

Miami Sportfish Tournament

miamisportfish.com

305-598-2525

POMPANO BEACH, FL

MAY 11 – 14

Saltwater Shootout

www.bluewatermovements.com/saltwater_shootout/
info@bluewatermovements.com

STUART, FLORIDA

MAY 20

Stuart Sailfish Club's Annual
Members Fishing Tournament

www.stuartsailfishclub.com

NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET

VERO BEACH, FL

APRIL 1 – 2

Indian River Nautical
Flea Market

FLNauticalFleaMarket.com
info@FLnauticalfleamarket.com
954-205-7813

SAILING REGATTAS

CHARLESTON, SC

APRIL 20 – 23

Charleston Race Week

www.CharlestonRaceWeek.com
843-259-2672

MIAMI, FL

MAY 27 – 28

CGSC Goombay Regatta

www.cgsc.org

three types of star corals, which are found in most reef environments and are the predominant coral at depths of 40–100 feet.

In the coming months, fundraising and coral planting events are scheduled. On April 1, the fifth annual "Raise the Reef" at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo is featuring a reception with speakers followed by a sustainably-sourced dinner, cocktails, music and auctions benefiting the Coral Restoration Foundation. As Nedimyer said, grants help the foundation's efforts but are targeted to certain projects. This event helps with operating costs.

In early June is the foundation's annual Coralpalooza, held in observance of World Oceans Day. It is a coral planting extravaganza. Last year, more than 1,600 corals were planted in a day. Participants attended a presentation and received hands-on training. Then, they went on dive boats for a day of reef restoration and monitoring.

The foundation's visitor center in Key Largo recently was updated. It is open six days a week, staffed by volunteers. A 500-gallon tank appeals to youngsters and adults alike, while information on the wall tells the story of the Coral Restoration Foundation from inception to the present.

To follow the progress of the foundation, visit www.coralrestoration.org.



HORIZON YACHT USA TURNS 30

BY CAROL M. BAREUTHER



A change in the industries' dealership opportunities due to restricted financing led Horizon Yacht, headquartered in Kachsiung, Taiwan, to invest in a presence in the U.S.A.. That was 30 years ago. Today, the move, which provides owners with a local shipyard contact and avenue for sales support, new build project management and service to new and existing owners, has proven a good one for the North Palm Beach, Florida-headquartered Horizon Yacht USA.

"Taiwanese boats were considered to be somewhat of a price point purchase and that was a hurdle Horizon overcame by not compromising the build quality nor the services provided," says Elise Moffitt, marketing and public relations coordinator for Horizon Yacht USA. "Clients are now more interested in building what best suits their lifestyle, and Horizon has the flexibility to listen to our clients' needs and work with them to create their dream yacht."

One of Horizon Yacht USA's proudest accomplishments, says

Moffitt, is the creation of its Owner Rendezvous. This year, in celebration of the company's pearl anniversary, the rendezvous is going to be an especially big event for owners, guests and the entire global Horizon team. Dates are April 27 to 30 at the Abaco Beach Resort, in Marsh Harbor, Bahamas. Companywide, Horizon Yachts is the 10th largest yacht builder in the world, with 22 projects ranging from 79 to 135 feet, according to the 2017 Showboats International Global Order Book.

Looking ahead, Moffitt says, "we debuted two new yachts at this winter's boat shows: a new Horizon RP120 superyacht at the Yachts Miami Beach Show and a Horizon E98 at the Palm Beach International Boat Show. Later this summer, we will be receiving two new inventory yachts – a RP110 superyacht and FD85 motoryacht, which will be the first one in the U.S. We also have just unveiled a new model, the Horizon FD87 Skyline, which is our most recent addition to the FD series; hull one has just started to be built and is destined for first-time U.S. owners. As always, we will continue to grow and improve to better serve our clients, so there are busy times ahead!"

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CONCERT WITH A CAUSE: ROCK THE OCEAN'S TORTUGA MUSIC FESTIVAL

BY CAROL M. BAREUTHER



What's better than live bands on the beach with headliners like country music star Kenny Chesney? A concert with a cause! This is an apt description for Rock the Ocean's Tortuga Music Festival. Set for April 7 to 9 on the surfside sands of the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park at 1100 Seabreeze Boulevard, this three-day festival hosted by the nonprofit Rock the Ocean Foundation supports scientific research, ocean conservation and marine educational initiatives.

THE CONCERT

"The event evolved from a solely conservation based event to a music festival with a conservation heart while we were in

the conceptual phase," explains AJ Niland, chief experience officer for New Orleans, Louisiana-headquartered promoter, HUKA Entertainment. "The theory was we could reach more people with our conservation message. Festivals tend to attract a much larger audience. It would give the message a greater platform. It would also be an amazing music festival. The combination of the beach, the music talent, the fans and the cause is a great recipe."

When the event became a festival, it needed a name and a brand.

"Given the nature of the ocean causes of the Rock the Ocean



Foundation, and the fact the area around the site is host to many sea turtle mothers who come to lay eggs, we thought we should honor the turtles and thought the name Tortuga was fitting. Sea turtles are an issue near and dear to us and we take a great deal of extra care during the festival on this front," Niland adds.

This year's fifth annual Tortuga Music Festival includes country music stars Luke Bryan and Chris Stapleton as headliners along with Chesney. There will also be more than two dozen of the hottest artists in country, rock and roots music including Nelly, Daya, Darius Rucker, G Love & Special Sauce, Ashley McBryde, the Quaker Hills Night Hawks and many more. The

cool new addition of a turntable stage will keep the music going with little if any interruption.

THE CAUSE

One of the highlights of this concert with a cause is the Conservation Village. This is an area with over twenty exhibits set up on the festival grounds, all within earshot of the music. Here, there are several interactive and educational experiences. In past years, these have included a live touch tank, a submarine, a turtle ambulance and displays on shark tagging and tracking, sea turtle rescue simulation, a life-size fishing simulator and lionfish capture. There have even been chefs showing how to prepare sustainable seafood choices. These



activities center on the Rock the Ocean Foundations give core conservation issues: sharks, turtles, coral reefs, overfishing and marine pollution.

“We view our most important work to be awareness,” explains Chris Stacey, head of the Nashville, Tennessee-based Rock the Ocean Foundation. “Via the Tortuga Music Festival, we have a big platform to educate tons of people. It’s a fantastic environment for ‘edutainment’. I look at it kind of like watching television. You tune in for your favorite show (or, in this case, artist). But, inevitably you also pay attention to the commercials during that show. In this case, the conservation messaging gets the same benefit as the TV commercials. You may not tune in specifically for them but you certainly are aware by the end of the show. This is important because we’ve found that most core fans have absolutely no idea how bad are the conditions of the world’s oceans.”

Festival ticket sales benefit Conservation Village partners and several other worthy marine causes. These have included the Florida Fishing Academy, which funds scholarships for low-income public school students to get out on local waterways; the Sea Turtle Oversight Protection program, which helps pay for infrared body cameras for the organization’s volunteers



during overnight turtle monitoring patrols; and the Bimini Sharklab, which uses the monies to purchase acoustic tags to better understand the movement and behavior of this fish.

To date, over \$300,000 has been given back to conservation partners as a direct result of the Festival’s ticket sales and donations.

The Rock the Ocean Tortuga Music Festival hours are 1-10 p.m. on April 7 and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on April 8 and 9. Tickets are \$99 for 1-day and \$229 for all 3 days. For more information, visit: www.tortugamusicfestival.com or rocktheocean.com



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PLANTATION TRINIDAD VS. BARBADOS

RUM BY CLINT AND TERRY BORAM

In January 2016, we selected a rum from Plantation's Old Reserve Collection, in which each rum hails from a different Caribbean Island. We "traveled" to the island of Barbados, where the sugar cane produced a rum layered with hints of tropical fruit. This month we decided to explore Trinidad, often known as the southernmost island in the Caribbean although it lies on the continental shelf of South America, seven miles north of Venezuela. Does the hot and humid climate with the defined rainy and dry seasons produce a better rum? It's Barbados vs. Trinidad.

Plantation Trinidad 2001 is distilled using a column still and a short fermentation period at the Angostura Distillery, known for their fine rums and bitters. The rum is aged in bourbon casks for a minimum of nine years before being sent to France where it is finished in Cognac casks.

Plantation Barbados was aged in bourbon and sherry casks providing an extra layer to the rum, and aged for seven years instead of nine. Let's see what difference the climate, casks and time aged makes on this artisan rum.

HE SAID

The nose is not powerful, but well balanced with some charred wood, a little vanilla, citrus and aniseed. It is very smooth on the palate, opening up the different notes from the nose. The charred oak is more prominent with vanilla, berry and some floral. There is also a slight coffee note as the rum begins to move from palate to throat. This is a full-bodied rum with a nice oak finish which, for me, lingers most. I like the complexity of wood, sweet and spice from start to finish.

SHE SAID

I love the golden color with inviting lacing on the glass. The orange and honey notes hit me even before I put the glass to



my nose. There's nothing on the nose which leads me to believe there is any spice or heat on the palate. BAMM!!! There's a burst of cinnamon as soon as it hits my palate. The sweet notes I anticipated are overpowered by the cinnamon. I tried another sip searching for the sweet note but, for me, there was none. Yet after the burst there is magically a calm to the finish. This rum lingers with me in almost a warming kind of way.

OVERALL

We are all over the place with this rum. Clint wanted to give a 4.5 while Terry only a 3.0, but that simply comes down to what we like in a rum. Trinidad is definitely spicier, smokier and woodier than the Barbados. Does that make it better than the fruitier, less complex Barbados?

Clint thinks so yet Terry is on the fence. We'll give the edge to Trinidad since

Clint did find some complexity.

3.75 OF 5



SIPPING RUM SCALE

- 1 – An expensive mixer
- 2 – A quick celebratory shot
- 3 – Wouldn't be embarrassed to share with friends
- 4 – Are my friends worthy of a sip
- 5 – Special moments rum

ABOUT CLINT AND TERRY: *We have sampled many a dram over our 33 years of marriage and quite often we don't fully agree. Could be the difference is male/female taste buds. Or, somebody is just wrong.*