



#### **COMING TO A MARINA NEAR YOU - SUNTEX ACQUIRES LOGGERHEAD**

Suntex Marina Investors have expanded their scope of ownership and operations to South Florida by acquiring eleven Loggerhead Marina properties, which are located from Daytona Beach to Miami as well as on the state's west coast. This move makes the Dallas, TX-headquartered Suntex the largest marina operator in Florida, with a combined total of 2,300 slips.

"South Florida has one of the highest concentrations of marinas in the country. What that means is that boaters have a choice," says Mitchell E. Jones, principal of Suntex. "Every marina in the Suntex family holds its staff to a higher standard with the intention of giving our members the best experience possible. By adding these 11 new locations to our portfolio, yachtsmen in South Florida don't have to go too far to find the best service out there. Every Loggerhead property participates in the Responsible Boating Initiative and we will apply those same practices to all of our Suntex locations."

As part of the purchase, Suntex has also committed to maintain a philanthropic partnership with Loggerhead Marinelife Center. A 'from rescue to release' non-profit facility focused on ocean and sea turtle conservation, the facility houses a variety of exhibits, other coastal creatures, and a working sea turtle hospital. Providing outreach programs and educational experiences for children, Loggerhead Marinelife Center hosts more than 300,000 guests annually, free of charge. Suntex is now one of the largest corporate donors to Loggerhead Marinelife Center.

"The donation to the Loggerhead Marinelife Center is something all of the staff at Suntex feel very strongly about. As a non-profit and free facility, they rely completely on donations. To do the vital work that they do, they need more room, equipment and classroom space. An expansion of the facility is in the planning stage, and these funds gets them closer to their goals," says Jones. www.suntex.com



#### **BLUEWATER CREW TRAINING USA OFFERS SAFE BOATING EDUCATION** FOR RECREATIONAL **BOATERS**

Education on safety at sea isn't just for employed yacht crews. It's a life-saving topic

for recreational boaters too. That's why Bluewater Crew Training USA has used its expertise in teaching professionals to develop its newest curriculum for pleasure boaters. Aptly titled, Safe Boating, this five-day interactive educational platform provides a real-world lifesaving approach to boater safety.

"First is the need for preparation," says Kevin Petrovsky, Bluewater's chief academic officer, about some of the most commonly needed boating safety skills the course addresses. "Making sure that the boat is equipped with proper safety and communication equipment, that all passengers are familiar with their use and emergency procedures, and that the boater has filed a float plan with a relative or friend before going out. The second area is situational awareness while on the water. This course provides the students with two full days on the water, putting classroom theory into practice by preparing a boat and passengers, piloting a boat in congested areas, applying the rules of the road, interpreting markers and buoys, and actually donning and using safety and survival equipment in the water."

Bluewater's Safe Boating course is open to anyone ages 13

and older from beginner to experienced boaters and prepared individuals to take the NASBLA/Florida Safe Boating Exam, a requirement to obtain a Boating Education Identification Card. This course will be offered at Bluewater's training facility in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on June 12-17; June 26-July 1; July 10-15; July 21-August 5; and, August 7-12. Enrollment is \$795.00. bluewatersafeboating.com

#### LADIES FISH-OFF SET FOR JUNE 1-4, 2017

Over 200 lady anglers are expected to compete in the 32nd Annual Ladies Fish-Off, where weigh-in will take place between 3-5 pm on Saturday June 3 at the Sands Harbor Resort & Marina in Pompano Beach, Florida.

"The other local tournaments are open to men and woman and with a few exceptions the men usually grab the rod first," says organizer Mike Leach. "In our event, the boys are welcome to be on the boat and help, but they can't touch the rod. Some of our anglers have told me that this is the only time in the year where they get to do the catching instead of the cheerleading. A few of our anglers are seasoned pros, but most are not, and seeing the smiles at weigh-in on the faces of someone who probably just caught the biggest fish of their life is better than catching it yourself. In addition, from a personal standpoint, I cannot tell you how great it is to present checks to our outstanding charities, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida and the Billfish Foundation in amounts









totaling over \$430,000.00 each year and over \$600,000.00 in the last 31 years."

Festivities include a kickoff party, registration, captains meeting and silent auction on June 1, followed by an Awards Brunch on June 4. www.ladiesfishoff.com

#### SKIP A STRAW, SAVE A SEA TURTLE

Leatherback, Loggerheads, Hawksbill, Green and the rarest and most endangered Kemp's Ridley are sea turtle species that swim off Florida. Now, Sailors for the Sea, the Newport, Rhode Islandheadquartered ocean conservation organization, has launched a campaign to encourage regattas, restaurants and bars to make straws in drinks request only rather than automatic.

"It's estimated that Americans use 500 million plastic straws every day, and they are consistently in the top 10 list of litter found on beaches worldwide," explains Hilary Kotoun, the organization's social impact director. "Worse, they are known to be a severe threat to marine life, including sea turtles, which are known to frequent South Florida beaches and waterways. By removing straws from the top of the bar or from server's pockets and only providing them when requested, 99 percent of straw use can be eliminated. We are asking boaters to start by asking their yacht club and marina bars to join the movement."

One example of this happened in January at the Sailing World Cup Miami. Race organizers distributed more than 2000 stainless steel straws to sailors, encouraging them to make the switch to reusable straws. For more information, visit sailorsforthesea.org

### **ALL AT SEA** SOUTH FLORIDA

#### **COVER SHOT:**

Suntex commits to maintain a philanthropic partnership with Loggerhead Marinelife Center.

Image courtesy of ALL AT SEA













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.



N 25° 57.450′ W 080° 07.660′ MONITOR CHANNEL 68



e are going to start our last issue in the Exumas at Black Point on Great Guana Cay and continue working south as I hit on the highlights.

This sleepy little town of 200 does not seem like it has much to offer, but that is deceiving and it all starts at Lorraine's Café because of her hospitality, internet, and the unbelievable coconut bread! Don't miss the Garden Of Eden, where a gentleman has turned his front yard into a gallery for his driftwood artwork, and if the winds are up and the tide is high on the opposite end of town there is an impressive blowhole.

The next island is Big and Little Farmers and it is worth noting the absolute best time to visit is for the 5F, otherwise known as the First Friday in February Farmer's Festival. This is a local festival where booths are set up, the high school marching band plays, and everyone enjoys a huge BBQ. But the main event is a two-day regatta of traditional Bahamian sloops starting from anchored positions.

On the way to Farmer's Cay make sure you stop at Oven Rock to check out a cool cave on land. If you don't know exactly where it is you will not find it, so the coordinates for the trailhead are N23 58.929/W76 19.759 and the cave is at N23 59.037/W76 19.646. Once here you will be amazed as you climb down into the large open cavern and find water. In fact, half the cave is underwater.

Lee Stocking Island is next and it used to be a cool stop since you could tour the research center. Unfortunately, this world renowned coral and reef research facility ran out of funding and has recently shut down.

Our last stop in the Exumas is the cruisers' mecca of Georgetown on Great Exuma Island. This huge harbor was a favorite haunt of pirate Captain Kidd and holds upwards of 400 cruisers each winter. The cruisers anchor on the far side of the harbor using Stocking Island for protection and have formed a small community. Each morning starts with the cruiser net on the VHF radio and then there are scheduled activities going on throughout the day. Including beach volleyball throughout the day and poker once a week. There is even a beach bar and a sit-down restaurant.

Across the harbor on the main island is George Town itself. This wonderful little town has plenty to offer once you dinghy under the bridge into Victoria Lake. Besides getting your provisions and boat parts you may want to shop at the Stray Market, see the beautiful, old Anglican church, and





have lunch at a converted plantation cook house called the Peace & Plenty Hotel.

Plus, you can rent a car and tour the rest of the island. My two favorite sites were the tomb of Alexander McKay and family, an early 1800's landowner, and Stuart Manor with the old jail

#### **BOAT SHOWS**

#### **WEST PALM BEACH, FL**

**JUNE 23 – 25** West Palm Beach Summer Boat Show SouthFlaBoatShow.com 954-946-6164

#### FISHING TOURNAMENTS

#### **BERMUDA**

**JULY 3 – 7** Bermuda Billfish Blast www.bermudabillfishblast.com

**JULY 8 - 10** Bermuda Release Cup www.bermudatriplecrown.com

Bermuda Big Game Classic www.bermudabiggame classic.com

**JULY 19 – 23** Sea Horse Anglers Club Billfish Tournament www.bermudatriplecrown.com 407-571-4680

#### **BILOXI, MS**

JUNE 5 – 11 The Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic www.mgcbc.com 228-432-0454

#### CARRABELLE, FL

JUNE 10 C-Quarters Youth Fishing Tournament

www.c-quartersmarina.com info@c-quartersmarina.com (850) 697 8400

#### CHARLESTON, SC

JUNE 21 - 24 Carolina Billfish Classic Carolina Billfish Classic cont.

FishCBC.com dm@FishCBC.com (843) 345-0369

**JULY 5 - 8** MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

www.megadock tournament.com mhutaff@megadock.us (843) 278-4920

#### **CUBA**

**JUNE 5 – 13** Gamefish Grande www.bahamasbillfish.com 954-562-0503

#### **DESTIN, FL**

**JUNE 21 - 25 Emerald Coast Blue** Marlin Classic www.fishecbc.com

#### HOMESTEAD, FL

**JUNE 15 – 17** Ed Glenn Memorial Dolphin Days Fishing Tournament www.Dolphindays.org Leah@imageworkscorp.com 305-667-0399

#### ISLAMORADA, FL

**JUNE 23 - 24** University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame Celebrity **Dolphin Tournament** www.canesfish.com leah@canesfish.com 305-667-0399

#### JACKSONVILLE, FL

**JULY 17 - 22** 33rd Annual Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament www.kingfishtournament.com

Continued on page SF9

and memorial to Pompey who led a slave revolt that helped ease the harshness of slavery and eventually ended it locally.

As great as the Exumas are don't get stuck here, because there is so much more to see in the Bahamas! As you will see in upcoming issues.

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.

### FLORIDA KEYS MUNICIPAL FEATURE BOUNTIFUL AMENITIES

BY JILL ZIMA BORSKI



unicipal marinas in the Florida Keys boast plentiful amenities and prime locations. Two are like country clubs in terms of their offerings. Special events with live music and arts and crafts often are held on the adjacent community park grounds, or within walking distance in the case of Key West. While the incorporated cities did not set out to own marinas, the properties they purchased for parks contained marinas and suddenly, local governments were in the marina business.

Islamorada, Village of Islands, incorporated Dec. 31, 1997 and set out to find a location for a park, and perhaps, a village hall. Acreage on the Florida Bay known as Plantation Yacht Harbor was for sale. It had hotel rooms, a marina, tennis courts, pool, a bar and restaurant. Negotiations ensued and the village acquired the land in 1998 for around \$9 million with a loan from the state. Amenities such as the motel, restaurant and bar were demolished, but many more were added.

Today, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, splash pad for toddlers, four diving boards and a slide help cool off boaters and residents alike at the Ron Levy Aquatic Center within Islamorada Founders Park. A net by the beach enables golfers to keep their swings in shipshape. Another net enables beach volleyball; a basketball court calls to dunkers, and groomed fields encourage baseball, lacrosse and soccer players to practice regularly. A new pickleball court and tennis courts provided in 2003 beckon as well. A boat ramp, dog park, marina bathrooms and barbecue area for boaters near the marina office aim to keep everyone in good spirits. A Village Hall was erected near the highway in the park as well.

Frequent events at the park and the amphitheater feature music and art booths while easy-listening community bands play monthly during the winter season.

Marathon incorporated in 1999. Its Boot Key Harbor City Ma-

rina's mooring field consists of 226 permanently-attached, engineered mooring systems that securely hold vessels up to 60 feet in length. Vessels wishing to dock in the marina canal must contact the marina office since space is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis; there are no reservations. Generally, the marina is full during the busy winter season and friendly communal celebrations spring up for holidays.

The adjacent Community Park hosts numerous festivals including an annual Celtic Festival in January and a hugely popular seafood festival in mid-March which features music, games and seafood galore. A skate park, four tennis courts and tennis wall, a combination hockey/basketball court (three courts), two little league fields and two soccer fields can keep visitors active. There is also a skate park, shuffleboard and bocce ball courts, batting cage, concession stand, amphitheater, picnic areas and restrooms. The park is handicappedaccessible. See http://www.ci.marathon.fl.us/government/ departments/marina-and-ports.

Continuing southwest in the chain of islands that comprise the Keys, the final municipal marina is Key West's City Marina at Garrison Bight. It offers 245 slips and is on the north side of the island, but within biking and walking distance to local attractions. It is home to the Historic Charter Boat Row and its maximum vessel length is 70 feet. Slips are available for liveaboard, recreational and transient customers who wish to stay long- or short-term. The marina offers 24-hour security, power (30 & 50 amp), wi-fi, water and trash removal; bath, shower and laundry facilities; pump-out service and trailer storage. See www.citymarinakeywest.com.

City Marina has received nine five-star (highest rating) reviews,



Continued from page SF7

#### **FISHING TOURNAMENTS**

**KEY WEST. FL** JULY 19 - 22

Key West Marlin Tournament

www.keywestmarlin.com scott@keywest marlin.com 305-292-2710

#### PENSACOLA, FL

**JUNE 28 – JULY 2** Pensacola International Billfish Tournament www.pbgfc.com/

#### POMPANO BEACH, FL

**JUNE 2 – 5** Ladies Fish-Off www.ladiesfishoff.com ladiesfishoff@gmail.com 954-448-4687

JUNE 3 Extreme Kayak Fishing Summer Slam www.extremekayak fishing.com

**JUNE 8 – 11** Mercury/SeaVee Pompano Beach Saltwater Slam

www.bluewatermovements. com/saltwater\_slam/ info@bluewatermovements.com 954.725.4010

#### **PROVIDENCIALES TURKS AND CAICOS**

**JUNE 29 – JULY 3** The Caicos Classic Release Tournament caicosclassic.tc info@CaicosClassic.tc 649-231-0278

#### SAILING REGATTAS

#### FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

MAY 19 - 21 Snipe North American Championship www.lyc.org

**MAY 20** 

Fort Lauderdale Hospice Regatta www.hpbcf.org/events/

#### MIAMI, FL

**JULY 15** 

CGSC Sr Commodore's Cup www.cgsc.org

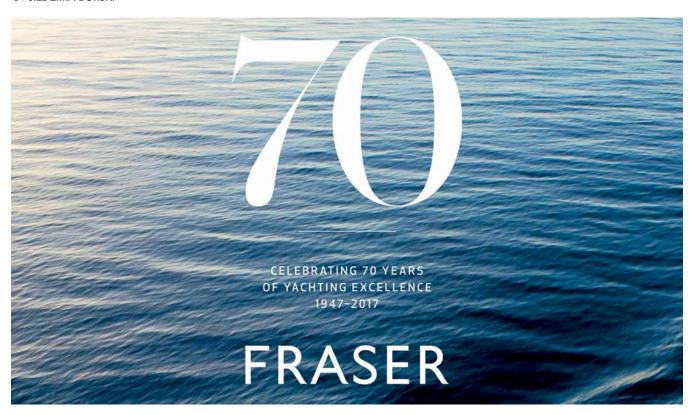
stating, for example, "Absolutely the best marina in Key West. I have my boat dry racked here and would not think of going anywhere else... Outstanding team and customer service."

Jill Zima Borski is an Islamorada-based writer and artist and her website is www.jill-zima-borski.com.



### FRASER YACHTS CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY

BY JILL ZIMA BORSKI



hat started from one man's passion for sailing and selling is now a leading global superyacht brokerage. Fraser Yachts, founded by namesake David Fraser in Newport Beach, California, in 1947, celebrates not only its Platinum anniversary this year, but also the accolade of being the brokerage that closed more deals than any other for the seventh year in a row. What's more, the company also welcomed several substantial new additions to its new construction and yacht management fleet last year and continued to book a record breaking number of superyacht charters.

"Our greatest source of pride is our people who comprise our unmatched team of industry experts, says Mike Busacca, chief operating officer for Fraser Yacht's U.S. headquarters in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. "Our success for nearly 70 years and our professionalism, ethics and discretion, are why an increasing number of owners choose Fraser time and time again."

Fraser Yachts' 70th anniversary celebrations started in

January with the launch of its new Charter Portfolio. Completely redesigned for this celebratory issue, the beautiful coffee table-style book features 100 of the best superyachts for charter around the globe and the most exquisite destinations to visit. Also in January, Fraser rolled out its updated brand image. The new branding, a simplified logo in opulent pastel colors, reflects the luxury services that the company offers.

As part of its initiatives for the future, Fraser Yachts has partnered with the Plastic Oceans Foundation, a global network of independent not-for-profits and charitable organizations dedicated to educating people on how to change their daily habits in order to protect the oceans from plastic waste.

"We are proud of our heritage and the experience and knowledge that this milestone represents and look forward to combining this with innovative ways to provide a better service to our clients," says Busacca.

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here's nothing worse than loading friends and family aboard for a great day on the water, only for problems with your vessel to keep everyone shore bound. Routine in-water maintenance is one remedy, yet industry experts say that the longer you wait between haulouts translates to a greater chance for problems. So, what do you need to know about hauling out? ALL AT SEA asked professionals at three well-known South Florida facilities.

#### 1. TIME IT RIGHT

When there isn't the threat of a hurricane, the ideal time to haul depends on the yacht's last haul-out date, according to Tom Glass, vice president at Roscioli Yachting Center, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, which can haul and launch vessels up to 360 tons. "Typically haul-outs should be done annually to work on issues like bottom painting, through-hull fittings and other maintenance. So, if you hauled last June, you'll want to plan to a haul-out for this June."

Hurricane season in Florida spans from June 1st to November 30. Some insurance policies require that a vessel be hauled in the event of a named storm. In this case, there are two options timing-wise. One is long term storage, generally hauling the boat by June 1st and then launching in November. The second choice is to have a hurricane plan to haul just in the event of a storm. Some boatyards that haul for hurricanes do







so on a first-come first-serve basis, while others such as the River Forest Yachting Centers, offer hurricane membership programs. Membership in these programs generally range in cost from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending on boat size.

"Boat owners need to review these options and decide what type of program works best for their needs and resources," says Tracy Campbell, director of sales and marketing at River Forest, with locations in Stuart and LaBelle, Florida, and the capability to haul vessels from 20' to 90' and up to 82 tons. "For example, there are several questions to consider. These include: Do they live in Florida full time? If not, do they have someone willing to move the boat for them if they are not avail-

able? Does their marina require them to leave in the event of a wind storm? How long will it take them to prep their boat for a storm? Is there a lock involved to get to the destination, as in our case, and at what wind speed does the lock close?"

#### 2. PREP AHEAD

Arrive early and have the vessel all ready for servicing or storage.

"Remove all loose items such as lines, eisenglass, canvas, outriggers and antennas, and prepare the boat for not having power. For example, empty the refrigerator and freezer," recommends Dominick LaCombe, president of American Custom Yachts, in Stuart, Florida. "Plus, be patient always, es-







pecially in the threat of a storm. Haul-outs cannot be rushed, and rest assured our team is working as fast as possible in the threat of a storm. That's why it's important to arrive to the yard prepared to be hauled."

Have strap/lift points clearly marked, adds River Forest's Campbell. "In addition, dry out any damp areas. Decide whether a dehumidifier and/or fan will be used and if this will be monitored. Add some fuel stabilizer. Decide whether fresh water tanks will be drained or chlorine added or water maker pickled. Will batteries be disconnected? Specifically, what servicing will need to be done during the storage period?"

#### 3. KNOW THE EQUIPMENT

Forklifts generally lift up to about a 40' cabin style boat or perhaps longer for go-fast type boats. Anything larger usually requires a Travelift.

"Forklifts generally require less manpower and allow for

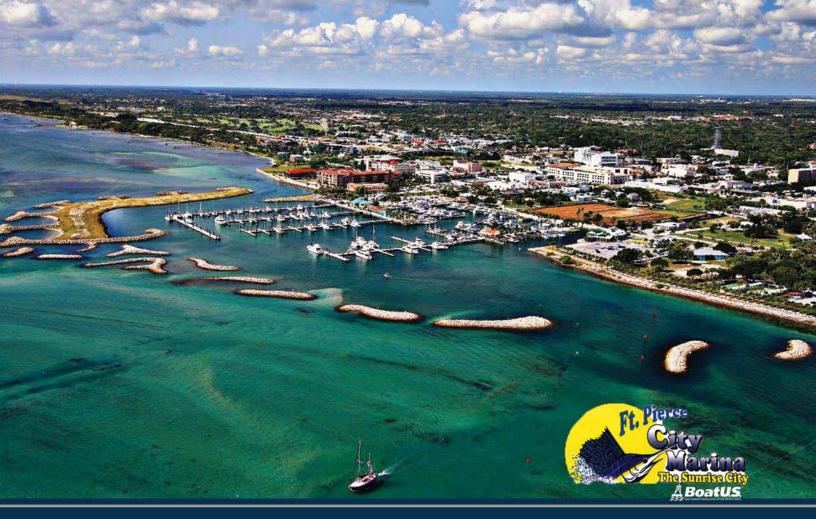
stacking boats vertically. Travelifts take longer and require more people to haul a boat, but they allow the boat to be lowered closer to the ground than a forklift (which is better for high winds)," tells LaCombe of American Custom Yachts, which own 35-ton, 75-ton and 150-ton marine travelifts.

#### **4. BUDGET IN ADVANCE**

The cost of a haul varies. For example, one factor is the size of the vessel and the size of lift that's needed. Most yards, though, have published prices. In any event, it's a cost boat owners should budget and plan for on an annual basis.

"Our haul-out price is \$20 per foot for vessels 51' to 80', \$23 per foot for those 81' to 100' and \$25 per foot for yachts 101' to 155'. So, for a 100-foot vessel, that means \$2300," says Roscioli's Glass.

The above example is the cost just for the haul. Storage and servicing are extra.



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### VILLA RICA – OLÉ MEXICO

#### RUM BY CLINT AND TERRY BORAM

ince we began our rum tasting adventure we have reviewed over 30 rums from around the United States and the Caribbean Islands. Not once have we ventured into Mexico. Maybe it's because Mexico is better known for its tequilas. Villa Rica Single Barrel stood out among the sipping rums because of its tall, long-necked bottle showcasing its deep, rich chocolate mahogany color. Immediately we were lured by the label stating, "Ultra Premium 23 years" front and center on the bottle. Wow, a 23-year old rum from Mexico for only \$30.00? Hummmm, inquiring minds want to know.

Licores Veracruz distillery was founded in the late nineteenth century in Veracruz, Mexico. In 1950 the Villanueva Barragán family moved the operation to Cordoba where they maintain op-

erations today. The rum is distilled using yeast to ferment molasses and sugarcane juice, then is placed in continuous column and pot stills. It's the aging process that is fuzzy.

The distiller's website states the rum is aged "since 1984... in a humid subtropical environment at 800 meters above sea level, in old European white oak barrels." Okay let's break this down. From 1984 to 2017 is 33 years not 23. Confusing, right? Sounds to us and to several other rum reviewers that the solera method of aging is employed making the oldest rum in the progression of the barrels 23 years of age. A huge distinction. Be that as it may, each bottle of Villa Rica has a handwritten note indicating bottle and barrel number. Ours is Bottle 83/240 and Barrel VR 58.

#### **HE SAID**

The nose has a subtle molasses and apricot note with a defined oak undertone. There is also a slight alcohol burn which doesn't go away after the rum breathes. On the palate, Villa Rica is smooth with the oak taking over the sweetness of the molasses and apricot. There is a slight nutmeg on the finish which lingers nicely. The flavors blend together sip after sip



providing a good balance. The oak notes reminds me of a good single malt

#### **SHE SAID**

The rich color provides a nice lacing on the glass. The nose is sweet with vanilla, caramel and very ripe raisins. On the palate, the lacing did not disappoint with a rich texture consistent with a fine sipping rum, but it loses the sweet notes. There is a sharpness to the palate that tickles my sinuses. The finish gives me a warming sensation then quickly dissipates. I'm missing the sweetness anticipated in the nose and there is no complexity.

#### **OVERALL**

Once again, we are on opposite ends of the spectrum. Clint enjoys this rum from start to finish while Terry gave the remaining part of her snifter to Clint to finish. There are enough positives to keep this in the sipping rum family, however Terry would enjoy it in a Cuba Libre.

**OVERALL: 3 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.