



MAY 2014 ISSUE I

## ***Greetings,***

*Thank You for being a part of SunSplash 2015! We're excited to be travelling to this breathtaking retreat nestled in the tropical Dutch Caribbean. Curacao is a unique destination in many ways. You will discover the Caribbean's exotic treasure, with its crystal-turquoise waters, distinctive cultural heritage, and colonial architecture. The coral reefs feature spectacular marine life and dive sites.*

*Escape with us to paradise at **The Santa Barbara Beach and Golf Resort**, a beautiful tropical setting with uncompromising service, gourmet dining, set upon a white sand beach with the seclusion of a private plantation of its own. The Santa Barbara Beach and Golf Resort is definitely 'one of the best kept secrets of the Caribbean.'*

*From now until January, you can expect periodic updates about this incredible adventure as well as travel departure details and special excursion information. Please feel free to contact Mary Joy Morgan at GLP Worldwide Expeditions at 905-258-7778 ext. 241 and by email at [mjmorgan@qlpworldwide.com](mailto:mjmorgan@qlpworldwide.com).*

*We strongly believe that maintaining great relationships is the key to successful business, and we thank you for your loyalty.*

*I will be counting down the days until January to when we can relax in this exclusive hideaway!*

*Sincerely,*

*Jeff VandeSande, President*

*Bestbuy Distributors Ltd.*



# General Information:

**Capital City:** Willemstad

**Currency:** The Netherlands-Antillean Guilder

\*Visitors are advised to bring US dollars. Also, major credit cards are widely accepted.

\* Dollars and Guilders available at most ATM's.

**Geographic Location:** Southern part of the Caribbean Sea. Curacao is located between the islands of Aruba and Bonaire, 35 Miles north of Venezuela.

**Government:** Constitutional Monarchy  
The Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Population:** 150,000

**Official Language:** Dutch, Papiamentu (Creole), English and Spanish

**Religion:** Predominantly Catholic, also Jewish, Protestant and Muslim.

**Climate:** Curacao has a tropical savannah climate with an average temperature of 27 degrees. The dry season is between January to September followed by a rainy season from October to December.

**Time Zone:** Atlantic Standard Time

**Daylight:** Varies only slightly throughout the year with sun rising at about 6:20 am and setting at about 6:30 pm .

**Electric Current:** 127/120 Volts AC. Same as North America, with standard 2-prong plugs.



## Curacao: Did you know?

- The name Curacao comes from the Portuguese word for heart, as it was known to be a center for trade.
- The island is only 38 miles long and 8 miles wide.
- Pronunciation is "Cure a sow".
- The capital city and only city in Curacao is Willemstad, a UNESCO world heritage site.
- Apart from the array of Caribbean fish, there are over 60 species of coral around Curacao.
- Yuana , which is stewed iguana, is a popular dish said to taste like chicken.







## The Old Quarry Golf Course – Santa Barbara Resort

### AN UNFORGETTABLE SETTING

*Rated as one of Golfweek's Best Courses in the Caribbean & Mexico*

Designed by Pete Dye and opened in April 2010, Old Quarry Golf Course takes on the shape of the naturally contoured site overlooking the Caribbean Sea and the sheltered bay known as Spanish Water. Measuring 6,920 yards from the championship tees, the golf course is complemented by an 8,000 square-foot clubhouse featuring a fully stocked golf shop, locker rooms, restaurant and lounge. Named after the Plantation's 19th Century limestone quarry, Pete Dye's championship seaside layout was designed to fit seamlessly into the island's hills and valleys.

A challenge to players of all skill levels, the course meanders between the stunning blue Caribbean Sea, the slopes and hills of Tafelberg Mountain. The combination of the rugged terrain, the mountain, the Caribbean Sea and the Spanish Waters Bay creates an unforgettable setting for the Santa Barbara Beach and Golf Resort and Dye's signature course.



**\* Golf packages and pricing will be featured in the next newsletter.**

# Tafelberg Tennis Oasis - Featuring Clay Tennis Courts

Enjoy longer rallies and less stress on your body!

The tennis center is the only facility in the Caribbean region that features four Hydro Grid clay tennis courts. The clay courts are kept in optimal playing condition by an underground irrigation system and are much easier on your joints and create longer rallies because they are much slower than hard courts. All courts have lights for night play.

Led by tennis professional, Karl Vukobrat with the Peter Burwah International tennis management company, the center offers private lessons, group lessons, junior programs, player matching service and court rentals. Lessons can be provided in English, French or Spanish.

The tennis center is open 8am to 8pm, Sunday through Saturday. The full-service pro shop can provide items you may need during your stay including clothes, shoes, rackets, drinks and more!



**Round Robin**– Ladies semi-beginner Wednesday 8:00am-9:00am, advanced 9:00 am-10:00am  
Saturday 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Social Mixer.

**Racket Rental:** \$10 per room (Maximum 4 guests), also available for retail purchase (Wilson).

**Tennis Balls:** \$7 for 3 new balls or \$5 for hopper with tennis balls or 7 used tennis balls for free.

## Experience



## Carnival



society members. Eventually, the working class celebrations took to the street and this now elaborate form of Carnival is what is celebrated today.

Today Carnival is a national festival combining all forms of Cultural expression that Curacao has to offer. We are fortunate to experience some of the Carnival festivities as it runs from January until mid February (before the season of lent). In Curacao's biggest celebration you may see beauty pageants, Tumba (Curacao's native music) calypso music competitions, private and public parties, street parades, and dancing.

Originally, ancient Carnival began as the practice of "Carne Levale" which meant giving up meat for lent in celebration of the Catholic faith. It wasn't until the 19th century when the Masquerade parties began. When Carnival was first celebrated in Curacao it was mainly an event celebrated by the wealthy plantation owners and members of high society. These individuals would dress up in costume and wear wigs and masks. The slaves however, would hold their own private carnivals in their backyards with their own costume and folklore as an imitation of the high



## What to look forward to in the next issue...

- Important dates and deadlines for you to be aware of
- Contest announcement and details
- Details about the luxurious Atabei Spa treatments including pricing and amenities
- Excursions throughout the island
- Golf packages and pricing
- Marina/diving/snorkeling on property





# Memories from Costa Rica!

