

# Vacations Of A Lifetime

## Martinique: Harnessing The Trade Winds Of The Caribbean

(NAPSA)—If you're looking for a vacation to remember, you may want to sail one of the most beautiful and storied bays of the Caribbean. Martinique's capital, Fort-de-France, has long been a favored port of call with yachtsmen and sailors. Over the years, as Martinique's popularity in the yachting and sailing world has grown, marinas have opened in other parts of the island, too.

Today, travelers can set sail from Pointe du Bout across from the capital, from Le Robert and Le François on the Atlantic, from Sainte-Anne down south, and, most notably, from Le Marin, also in the south, whose "Port de Plaisance" is now the island's largest and best-equipped marina.



**Cruising in Fort-de-France Bay.**

With some 45,000 visitors annually, Martinique has now become a top sailing destination. The number of sailing and yachting events has multiplied and attract an ever-growing number of visitors. The most popular include:

- Yole Boat Race—A five-day event celebrating the traditional Caribbean sailing boats used by the island's fishermen.

- Transat des Passionnés—A Europe to Caribbean race.



**Sailing off shore Martinique.**

- June Regattas—A four-day sailing festival attracting crews



**Le Marin Yacht Harbor.**

Photos courtesy of Martinique Promotion Bureau/CMT USA

throughout the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe.

Whether for bareboat rentals or crewed charter, many yachting companies based in Martinique offer various options. The charter

companies include Moorings, Stardust and Petit Breton. For more technical information on sailing, vacationers can consult a comprehensive yachting manual of services and information called "Annuaire Nautique de la Martinique," available in English and French, which can help visitors to the island enjoy their sail through the blue waters of the Caribbean.

### Martinique At A Glance

- The French island of Martinique lies in the heart of the Caribbean Archipelago and is one of the many islands that make up the group known as "The Breezy Islands."
- The 426-square-mile island has the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Caribbean Sea to its west. It's 1,400 miles from Miami and has a mean temperature of 79°.
- Martinique is home to a number of natural attractions, including the two peaks of Carbet and Mont Pelée—a dormant volcano spanning 4,586 vertical feet. The island is also home to a tropical rain forest, the majestic Lamentin Plain, and the beautiful Les Salines Beach.
- Visitors to Martinique shop for indigenous art, as well as fine clothing and wares. The island also has a number of fine restaurants and luxury hotels. The island's events and street festivals provide a taste of its culture and hospitality.

For more information, visit [www.martinique.org](http://www.martinique.org).