



My Beautiful Belize

V I S I T O R G U I D E

| MARCH 2016 | VOL. 04 #03 | FREE |

La Capitana Pontoon Boat: exploring the Macal River, one waterfall at a time

* Treehouse lodging at
Martz Farms

* Plan your Easter
weekend fun!

* Did we say weekend?
That means #brunch!

* Taking Advantage of
the WINDY
months ahead!



From the Editor *Tamara Sniffin*



A large majority of adventures in Belize involve traveling by boat. Although you may think this is because we spend so much time playing in the Caribbean Sea, you'd be surprised how much we travel our rivers as well. With more than 35 major and minor tributaries, some of Belize's most beautiful landscapes are only accessible through these water passageways.

Such is the case when, in this month's

issue of My Beautiful Belize, we explore the Macal River on the La Capitana pontoon boat. Not only is it a grand way to spend the day, floating on the lazy river, but having the opportunity to explore some of Belize's hidden waterfalls is a rare and exciting treat.

And, just as the river can lead us to new destinations, so does the March wind. This is the time of year when we get out our kites and water toys that are propelled by the mighty wind. Yes, the wind isn't just a welcome breeze, it's a serious playmate.

While on the mainland we also get to know the super nice folks at Martz Farm Treehouses and Cabañas. Their rustic way of life is something to admire, and we leave from there, hoping to simplify our lives as well.

With Easter celebrated this month, we also feel that it is our duty to tell you about the festivities on La Isla Bonita. From all night parties to beach bashes, there's something for everyone during the four-day holiday. You will certainly work up an appetite during all this fun, so why not tame the hunger beast at the fabulous Sunday brunch at Caprice Restaurant on the beach? Nothing is better than breakfast on the beach!

March is a wonderful time of year to visit our Belizean home, and we are certain that whatever way you choose to spend your time you will make life-long memories to be cherished. Welcome friend, welcome to My Beautiful Belize.



For advertising and story opportunities, email us at:

hello@mybeautifulbelize.com

Be sure to visit our website for detailed stories and many more beautiful photos: www.mybeautifulbelize.com

Published by *The San Pedro Sun LTD.*

Weh Di Go Ahn March on La Isla Bonita

Monday, March 7th – Ice Cooler Boat Fete at Radisson Fort George Marina from 10AM

Saturday, March 12th

Belize Yoga Retreat: 7 Chakras in 7 days at Robert's Grove Inn, Placencia from 2PM

* Kiteboarding and Yoga Camp in Caye Caulker (tickets at www.kite-sisters.com)



Bar, Placencia at 5PM

* Flaming Heart Ball at Topsy Tuna Seaside and Sports

Saturday, March 26th – Island Invasion Easter Madness Volume 6 at Fido's Courtyard, San Pedro Town from 10PM



* San Pedro Lions Pancake Brunch (left) with the Easter Bunny at Lions Den, San Pedro Town from 9PM to noon

* Easter Fest at Caprice Bar and Grill, San Pedro Town from noon

* Hopkins International Paranda Music Fest at Palmeto Grove Cultural and Fishing Lodge, Hopkins Village from 7AM

* Caye Caulker Easter Fest at KOKO King Restaurant and Lounge, Caye Caulker Village at 9PM

* Monkey Bay River Side Easter Bash at Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, La Democracia Village from 9AM

Sunday, March 27th – Easter Sunday (English) Mass, 10AM, San Pedro Roman Catholic Church. Spanish Mass, 7PM.

* Luna Loca Easter Beach Bash at Luna Loca Bar and Grill, San Pedro Town from 10AM

* Foam Beach Party at Caprice Bar and Grill, San Pedro Town from noon



* Verge of Umbra Album Release Party at Thirsty Thursday Restaurant and Bar, Belize City from 8PM

Monday, March 14th – The San Pedro Sun turns 25!

Tuesday, March 15th – Saga's Restaurant Chef Cook-Off at Luna Loca, San Pedro Town from 6PM

Saturday, March 19th – Children's Yoga Basic Training at Om Shanti Yoga and Reiki Center, Belize City from 12Noon

Saturday, March 19th – Dia de San Jose Festival at San Jose Palmar Village, Orange Walk District from 3PM

Friday, March 25th – Stations of the Cross 3PM, San Pedro Roman Catholic Church.

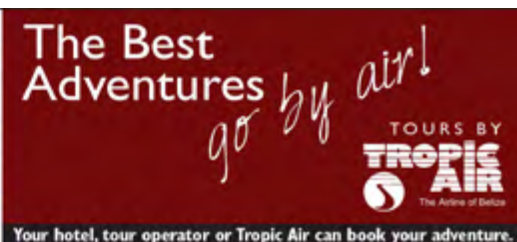
SuDoku Time! Answers on Page 5

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WHERE DO YOU READ MY BEAUTIFUL BELIZE?

Bill Sniffin thoroughly enjoyed sharing stories of Belize to his newfound friends in **Las Vegas** while celebrating his big 7-0! Happy Birthday Bill!

Email your pictures to:
hello@mybeautifulbelize.com
Photos in unique places and locations are welcome!



La Capitana Pontoon Boat

Exploring the Macal River, one waterfall at a time

By Tamara Sniffin



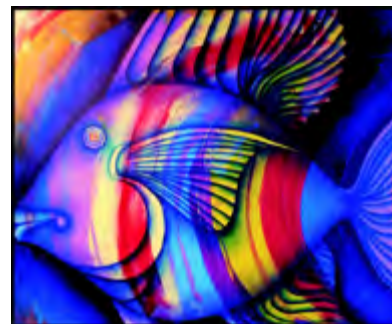
What do you do when you live on Ambergris Caye and want to take a local vacation? We needed a change in scenery from the white sandy beaches and coconut trees. After all, just how much sailing, snorkeling and languishing in the Caribbean waters can you take? So, we decided to head to the mountains of mainland Belize to hang out in the jungle with the monkeys and the toucans! Ironically, what was the first thing we wanted to do when we got there? Why get

on a boat and play in the water of course! But this river experience promised to be far different from the standard island fare.

While staying at Martz Farm Treehouses and Cabanas Ltd in the Cayo District, we were excited to learn that one of the many adventures they had to offer is their signature La Capitana Pontoon Boat tour on the nearby Macal River. Years ago, we had kayaked the same stretch of river before the Vaca Dam was completed in

2010, and we were eager to see how the area had changed. Now, this section of the river has transformed into a lazy tributary, perfect for a pontoon boat tour. What better way to weave through the lush jungle landscape and dramatic cliffs that border the river while exploring waterfalls and playing in the cool mountain water? We couldn't get our swimsuits on fast enough!

Continued on Page 4




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La Capitana Pontoon Boat

Continued from Page 3



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La Capitana pontoon boat is a Martz Farm family affair, with boat captain/brother Lazarus at the helm. Other family members help crew the vessel and they are just the nicest people you'd ever want to meet. You feel like you are stepping into a part of their home when they

welcome you onto the rustic boat, and as other guests from nearby lodges join us for the day, we soon fall into a comfortable family repartee. We are a group of 20, speaking a variety of languages, ranging in age from 10ish to 80ish with most

Continued on Page 5

**ISLAND
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Ambergris Caye, Belize

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La Capitana Pontoon Boat

Continued from Page 4



of us being families with young to adult aged children. Many are visiting Belize for their second and third time, and it's easy to make conversation with these like-minded travelers.

We are invited to sit on the edge of the pontoon and dangle our feet in the cool water while meandering up the river. After taking a look from the top of the Vaca Dam which has turned this waterway into a lake, we stop at the first waterfall where it's time to explore! A limestone caldron holds the first pool of water that we scamper up to get a closer look at the cascading fall. While some opt to climb higher to see the terrace of falls and pools above, others (like me) are happy to stay and linger in the refreshing mountain pool. Surrounded by a jungle canopy, and serenaded by the rush of falling water, the spell is cast; I could stay here all day and soak away every worry in the world.

Our day progresses when we return to the boat, and we slowly tour the river, feet trailing in the water while we scour the terrain for monkeys, birds, iguanas or who knows what else. Some of us plunge into the water to be towed in trailing inner tubes from behind the boat. Next stop is the Rio On waterfall, where some of our brave passengers scale the falls and plunge into the roaring water below. It's breathtaking to watch - which is what I did from the comforts of the boat; I can't imagine being so daring! It is here that we enjoy our packed-lunch and feed our bread crumbs to the little fish who have gathered around us to beg.

Our final adventure of the day finds us taking a short hike through the jungle to the impressive Rio Frio. By far the highest of the falls we have seen, a large pool gathers at the foot of this plunge, and here we play in the yes, FRIO water and marvel at

Continued on Page 6

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Mile One, North of the Bridge
PH: 602-5284

Sudoku Answers Puzzle on Page 2

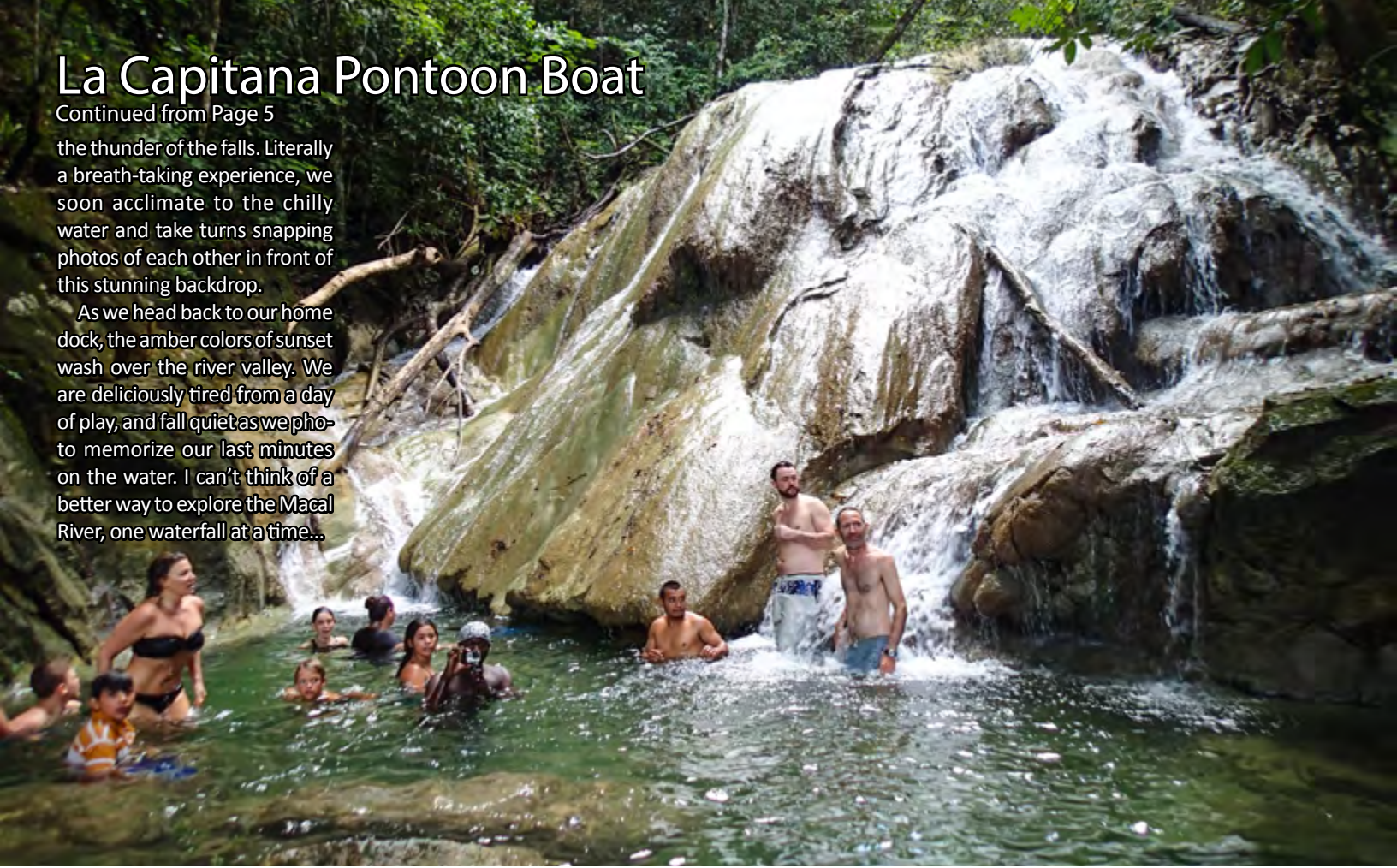
2	6	1	3	9	5	8	4	7
4	8	5	1	7	6	3	2	9
3	9	7	8	2	4	1	5	6
9	1	2	5	6	8	7	3	4
7	5	4	2	3	1	9	6	8
8	3	6	9	4	7	5	1	2
5	7	8	4	1	2	6	9	3
1	4	3	6	8	9	2	7	5
6	2	9	7	5	3	4	8	1

La Capitana Pontoon Boat

Continued from Page 5

the thunder of the falls. Literally a breath-taking experience, we soon acclimate to the chilly water and take turns snapping photos of each other in front of this stunning backdrop.

As we head back to our home dock, the amber colors of sunset wash over the river valley. We are deliciously tired from a day of play, and fall quiet as we photo to memorize our last minutes on the water. I can't think of a better way to explore the Macal River, one waterfall at a time...



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RAIN RESTAURANT - 2 Miles North at Grand Caribe. World cuisine, two dining atmospheres: indoor semi-formal and outdoor rooftop casual dining. Serving from 7AM - LATE! Happy Hour: 1-3PM, Mon-Sun. 226-4000 or email reservations@rainbelize.com.



PIRATE'S TREASURE - A unique dining experience with their Chef's Table. Watch as Chef Mar prepares a fresh 3-course Belizean meal over a coconut-husk fire while you enjoy refreshing cocktails and island vibes. Regular Menu always available without reservations. Noon to 11PM. 668-2156.



THE TRUCK STOP: Belize's first shipping container food park. Come try the different exciting options from our food trucks, play backyard games, or cool off with a sundae from our ice cream shop. Pig roast & cornhole tournament every Sunday!

STELLA'S SMILE is a lagoon-front boutique wine cafe just one mile north of the bridge. Not the traditional "beach bar", Stella's offers

EAT

a distinctive portfolio of wines and authentic cuisine in a relaxed setting. Call 602-5284 or visit www.stellasmile.com.

O RESTAURANT - Central American cuisine with Caribbean flair, at Las Terrazas Resort. Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner. Casual chic, or dine alfresco next to the infinity pool. 226-4249.

JOHN'S ESCAPE!!! Run away and get served lunch and dinner daily. Pizzas, Nachos, Burgers, Quesadillas, Burritos, Fajitas, Ceviche, Chicken Wings (to die for!) and much more!! Happy Hour 2pm-5pm; closed on Tuesday.

MAMBO RESTAURANT - Enjoy a unique dining experience at this award-winning restaurant at Matachica Resort. Romantic atmosphere with island ambience, offering locally inspired flavors and meals that will excite even the most seasoned palate. Complimentary transportation with reservations - call 226-5010/226-5011.



PORTOFINO RESTAURANT - Enjoy our Euro-Caribbean inspired menu and spectacular Caribbean views. Also offering a full VEGETARIAN Menu. For Reservations & Free Transportation, please call 226-5096 or 678-5096.

STAY

EL SECRETO is a barefoot luxury resort comfortably secluded just miles north of San Pedro. Dine at the most beautiful setting on the island and discover the secret flavors of Miss Miguela's kitchen! Offering a variety of International food with a Belizean touch. Call 236-5111.

TRANSPORTATION

CRYSTAL AUTO RENTALS - 2 BZ locations: Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport and 5 Miles Northern Highway. Free shuttle service to and from our Belize City office to anywhere in Belize City. Tel: 011-501-223-1600 Fax: 011-501-223-1900 (direct dialing from U.S.A.) Toll Free in Belize: 0-800-777-7777 Email: reservations@crystal-belize.com or visit our website at <http://crystal-belize.com>

COASTAL XPRESS WATER TAXI - Scheduled ferry service & water taxi for Ambergris Caye. Phone 226-3007.

GET TRANSFERS - Executive transfer and tour services anywhere in Belize: Chetumal, Cancun, Quintana Roo & even Merida and Guatemala. Phone: 422-2485 (Fx: 422-3511) or email: info@gettransfers.com.

RAINBOW TAXI - Caye Caulker golf cart; guided island tours; reliable service. 226-0123. Minerva: 661-6254 or Champ 602-8136.

IMPORTANT #s

Police - 206-2022 / **Fire** - 206-2372

South Police Sub-Station - 610-4911

Emergency - 911

Crimestoppers - 800 922-TIPS

Dr. Otto Rodriguez San Pedro Polyclinic II - 226-2536.

Emergency: 660-2871

US Embassy - 822-4011

Canadian Consulate - 223-1060

British High Commissioner - 822-2146

PLAY



MARBUCKS COFFEE HOUSE - Specialty Coffee Drinks - both hot & cold; fresh fruit smoothies and baked goods. Join us for Thursday Wine Fun, 4PM-7PM and our delicious Sunday brunch (with mimosas!). Located just off the main road across from the Palapa Bar. Like us on Facebook and keep up with the fun!



COCO LOCOS BEACH BAR: 1st Beach Bar North of Bridge. Swim up Bar. Monday 4PM Cribbage Tournament and BBQ. Trivia Tuesdays 7PM. Daily Happy Hour 4 - 6. Bocce ball, Giant Jenga. Pizza & Pulled Pork Sandwiches. Open Every day 12 noon - 10PM. Like us on facebook.com/cocolocosbz.



FELIZ BAR & GRILL: THE Sports Bar across the bridge, with four 43" flat screen TVs, delicious thin crust pizza, wings and burgers. Play corn hole, catch the game, and try our Wednesday dart challenge! 1PM-11PM, closed on Tuesdays. At the Cloisters.



THE DIVE BAR: Snorkel/dive with us at SeaStar Belize and then unwind over great drinks, great food and a great time at The Dive Bar. Enjoy beachfront views and complementary water toys, just 1/2 mile North of the bridge. 226-3365/625-3364

SHOP



MATA GRANDE GROCERY - The biggest little grocery store in San Pedro, located 4.5 miles North it's a must see! Stop by for breakfast or lunch at Aurora's Grill (local food). Open Mon-Sat 8AM-5PM; Sun 10AM-5PM. Order online at www.matagrandegrocery.com or call us at 226-4290....we DELIVER!



EATS & TREATS



HURRICANE'S CEVICHE BAR & GRILL: The ceviche house! Fine outdoor dining and delicious tropical drinks. Full lunch and dinner menu, seafood specials and pastas.

Restaurant open 10am - 9:30pm. Bar open until 10pm Monday to Saturday, closed on Sundays. We also run Tanisha Eco-Tours – and the best Lamanai Tour in Belize! Call 226-2314.



JAMBEL'S JERK PIT: Specializing in Jamaican-Belizean Cuisine. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner: 7AM – 9PM Daily. Wednesdays: 6-9PM - ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFETT with Live Reggae Music! Saturday Nights – Live

Music! Swing by for that IRIE DINING EXPERIENCE! 226-3515. Located off the Beach at the Sun Breeze Suites. Like us on Facebook.

MELT CAFÉ AND BEACH BAR: Across from the Wet Willy's Dock on the Boca Del Rio Beachfront. Open 7 days a week, 7am-midnight, serving Breakfast and Lunch until 10pm. Large Breakfast selection includes our Famous Huevos Rancheros, Lunch includes Artisan Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and more. Full bar, HD TV's and free WiFi.



FIDO'S COURTYARD: Fun every day, starting with breakfast and a fabulous view under the island's largest palapa. Enjoy refreshing cocktails, lunches and dinners, with a side of live music. Island life doesn't get any better than this! Located in the heart of town on Barrier Reef Drive.

THE NOOK: A restaurant and cocktail BArtique, offering fun fusion cocktails and tasty nibbles and main dishes. Happy Hour and a Half from 5PM - 6:30PM at the funky and relaxed lounge on the beach, by Coastal Express.

TRANSPORTATION



DC ISLAND SCOOTER: We are located on Barrier Reef Dr (Front Street), right across from the Thomas Hotel and Island Movie. We offer scooter rentals by the hour, day, and week. There are no restrictions on where the scooter can go (except the water). Stop by, ride the breeze and explore Isla Bonita. 652-0307.

Tourist Information

AA Meetings: Tel: 627-1585. English Meetings: 'Boca Del Rio': Mon - Sat: 6PM - 7PM (#5 Boca Del Rio Dr). 'Clean & Serene': Tues & Fri, noon, Catholic Church Parish Hall. UltraMar Group (Spanish): T/W/F/Sun: 7:30PM, San Pablo Church. **Belize Tourism Board** - 227-2419. **Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA)** - 227-5717. **Belize Hotel Association** - 223-0669, bha@btl.net **San Pedro Tourist Guide Association** 226-2391.

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BELIZE CHOCOLATE COMPANY: The first ever chocolate boutique in Belize, makes bean to bar chocolate on Ambergris Caye, together with delicious truffles, tasty hot and cold chocolate drinks and unique chocolate gifts. Located on Front Street. Call 226 3015.

GRANIEL'S DREAMLAND: Exotic Hard Woods and Mahogany Products made locally on the island. Gift Items, indoor and outdoor furniture, carvings, and custom-made orders. Worldwide Shipping. Free Delivery to Hotel, Airport or Boat within town limits. 226-2938, Pescador Drive. granielsdreamland2@yahoo.com, www.granielsdreamlandbelize.com Facebook: Graniels Dreamland



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670-5272.

BELIZEAN ARTS GALLERY - Largest collection of paintings in Belize. Featuring contemporary, native and realistic works by leading and on the rise artists. Gold and silver artisan jewelry, ceramics, fabrics and more. Open daily 9am to 10pm. Deep inside Fido's Courtyard. 226-3019.

MOHO CHOCOLATE COMPANY: From bean to bar: handmade chocolate with Organic Maya Cacao. Milk & dark chocolate, truffles, skin care products and souvenirs. Black Coral Drive. 625-1980.

OASIS SPA – Relax, Refresh, Renew with our variety of treatments, including pre-natal massages, deep tissue, aromatherapy and more. On the pier at Fido's Courtyard. 226-4252, oasisppabelize@gmail.com.

ISLAND DREAM TOURS: Specializing in Sunset Dinner Cruises (Gourmet, Buffet) Booze Cruise and Private Charters – you design your own dream on-the-water tour! Cruise includes wine, fresh fruits and hand-crafted cocktails! Join the Fun!! 615-9656! Like us on facebook.com/islanddreamtours



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LUNA LOCA - Coolest place to party on the beach in

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WAHOO'S LOUNGE - We are home to the WORLD FAMOUS CHICKEN DROP! Thurs-

day nights starting at 6PM. Drink specials, games and an amazing view of the reef. Located on the beach at the Spindrift Hotel. 226-2002.

LOLA'S PUB - The best stocked bar on the island! Martinis, Single Malt, Bourbon, Pickleback Shots,

Tequila Shot Chillers. KARAOKE FREE ZONE. Across from Belize Bank on Front Street. 206-2120. **WANT RUM? GOT IT!**



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PALAPA BAR AND GRILL – On the Wet Willy's Dock. Daily 10am – 9pm. Relax on the inner-tubes and have your bucket of ice cold beers lowered to you. Outdoor seating, awesome smoked food, cheeseburgers, seafood and tropical drinks and an astonishing view!

REAL ESTATE

BELIZE SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY is a full-service firm offering sales,

vacation rentals, and property management in Belize (Ambergris Caye & Placencia Peninsula). We are service oriented and will ensure that our clients' needs are met and exceeded. Belizesir.com

VILLA AT LAS TERRAZAS: Two (2) bedroom, three (3) bathroom villa for sale. Call 621-6889 / reefrpm@gmail.com.



South of San Pedro Town



EATS & TREATS



BLACK ORCHID RESTAURANT & LOUNGE: Come visit us; just a quick Golf Cart Ride 2 1/2 miles South of Town after the Croc Pond Lagoon and well before the Marco Gonzalez Maya Site. Open Tuesday through Saturday; Happy Hour: 3PM-5PM, Dinner: 5:30-9PM. www.blackorchidrestaurant.com. Reservations Recommended (501) 206-2441.

THE COCONUT CAFÉ: Life's better when it's made from scratch! The Coconut Cafe offers breakfast all day, as well as pizzas, paninis and burritos/wraps. We make all of our own breads, pies and cinnamon rolls from scratch. Open daily from 7-3, closed Wednesdays. Located just south of town, on Coconut Drive, across from Road Kill Bar. 226-4311.



HIDDEN TREASURE RESTAURANT: Serving Latin American & Caribbean cuisine in an enchanting atmosphere. Serving dinner only from 5:00pm - 9:00pm, closed on Tuesdays, located in the Escalante neighborhood. Live music on Thursdays! Free shuttle service to customers in town. Contact us 226-4111/4236, www.hiddentreasurebelize.com



ISLAND TIME BEACH BAR: South eastern corner of Royal Caribbean Resort; offers a fun time to all. Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner. Local & International Cuisine. Hours Mon - Sun: 7:00 am - 9:00 pm. Visa, Mastercard and Cash accepted. Parking Provided. 629 2551

THE PALMILLA RESTAURANT AT VICTORIA HOUSE: A casual experience with a unique mix of island seafood and continental cuisine. Relaxed and informal yet romantic. Admiral Nelson Bar is the place to be casual and relax in your swimsuit, enjoying breakfast, lunch and dinner with magnificent views. Reservations recommended: 226-2067.



CASA PICASSO RESTAURANT: Tapas dining in an artful setting. Global flavors from local ingredients...martinis, wines, cocktails. Vegetarian & gluten-free options. Open Tuesday-Saturday at 5:30pm. Last reservations 9:00pm. 226-4443 or reservations@casapicassobelize.com. Located south of town past Caribefia Gas Station & Belikin Distributor. Check out our specials & weekly "Tasting Thursday" menu at facebook.com/CasaPicassoBelize & casapicassobelize.com.



EL DIVINO CARIBBEAN STEAKHOUSE & MARTINI BAR: Banana Beach's signature restaurant, featuring indoor and outdoor dining and sports lounge. Large selection of cocktails and wines. Serving USDA meats, wood fired pizza, fresh seafood, pastas and more. Locals LOVE our ceviche! Daily dinner and drink specials, Happy Hour from 3-7pm 226-2444.

PARTY PARTY!

CRAZY CANUCKS BEACH BAR: Beach bar located at Exotic Caye Beach Resort. Open daily 11am-midnight. Bar food and daily drink specials. Mondays: Live reggae @8pm Tuesdays: Live Music & Hermit Crab Racing @6:30pm Thursdays: Paint n Splash @2pm Fridays: Trivia @7pm Karaoke @8:30pm Sundays: Live music/horseshoes @3pm Follow us on Facebook. Phone: 670-8001



AVERAGE JOE'S: World Famous Wings with 26 different flavors to choose from! Fully stocked bar and cold beer. Join our Karaoke Party Sundays 8pm. Free Pool table. Open 4-midnight. Closed Mondays. Located next to south gas station. 601-2969 Facebook: Average Joes.

UNIQUE OFFERINGS



CAYE COFFEE ROASTING COMPANY: Local fresh roasted coffee manufactured in San Pedro Town. Available throughout Ambergris Caye and countrywide. M-F: 8:30-4:30, Sat: 8:30-noon. ONLINE WEB STORE, NOW OPEN!!! For more information visit <http://www.cayecoffee.bz>.

CHANGES IN LATITUDES: Welcome to the best Bed & Breakfast getaway in San Pedro: just 150 feet from the Caribbean Sea and a 10-minute stroll from town. Fresh complementary Daiquiri from Island Daiquiri Bar. We are sure to provide the change of pace you've been longing for. Rejuvenate your senses and your soul - Come stay with us. (501) 226-2986.



REAL ESTATE

MAHOGANY BAY: The new heart of the Caribbean and the base camp for your Belize adventure! Hotel, residences, village; starting at 184,900USD. Email info@mahoganybayvillage.com for more information.

LA SIRENE RESORT AND SPA: Located on the southern tip of Ambergris Caye and now under construction, La Sirene which is expected to be a luxury resort and spa offering utmost security and exclusivity. La Sirene is where the island ends and your new life begins! For more information visit www.lasirene.bz

Playing in the wind

By Janelle Cowo



© conchcreative.com

March through May are commonly known as the windiest months in the Jewel. As Belizeans say 'bye' to the rainy season and 'hello' to the dry season, breezes are a welcome blessing. Like with any natural phenomenon, you can't control the wind, but we can sure find ways to enjoy it! From kite flying to kite surfing, the wind can provide countless hours of fun activities under the sun. Here are just a few:

Kite flying - Growing up in mainland Belize, March meant time to build and fly some kites! Using basic materials such as coconut leaf stems, paper or plastic and some thread, we made kites of all shapes and sizes worthy of the skies.



Sailing - Imagine sailing across the azure waters of the Caribbean. Yup that's possible! There are a variety of options, from a leisure cruise on a catamaran or maneuvering around in optimist dingy. In fact, checkout The San Pedro Racers at Caribbean Villas for sailing lessons!

Parasailing - Glide through the air wearing an open parachute while being towed by a boat. It's truly a spectacular experience seeing Ambergris Caye and the Belize Barrier Reef from up high.

Kitesurfing - If you love extreme water sports, this is definitely for you! Hop on a surf board and strap on the gear and let the wind carry you away to an adrenaline pumping ride. It's not for everyone, but those who have mastered kitesurfing sure take advantage of the windy months in Belize.

Perhaps you just want to relax on the beach and enjoying the wind in your face. Whichever way you enjoy the wind, take advantage of it here on La Isla Bonita!

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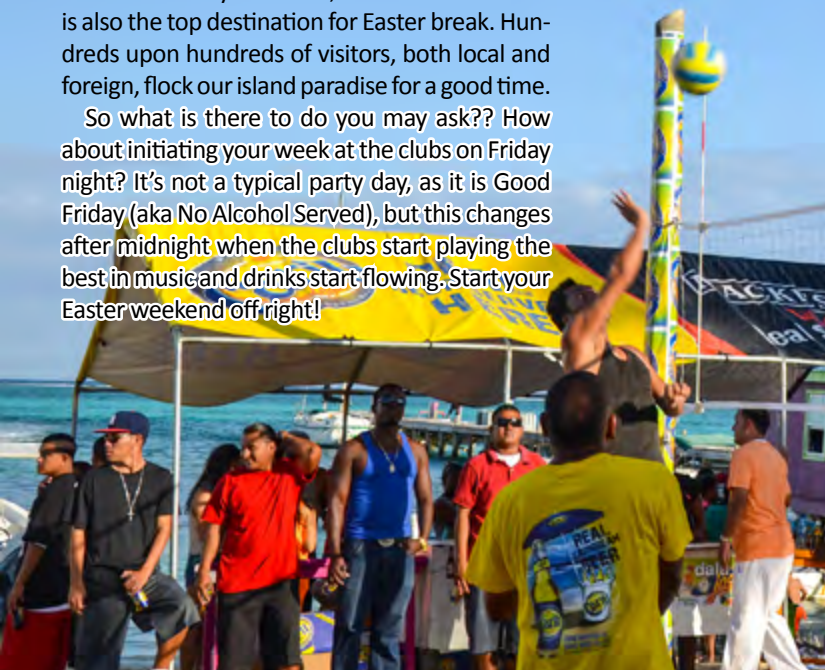
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Easter is a party on La Isla Bonita *By Janelle Cowo*

If there was ever an equation for Easter break it would be S+S+S=P=FUN! And clearly partying is my go to activity for this long awaited four-day holiday. From beach festivities to hitting the club after hours, Easter is a time to let loose and party like a rock star!

Ambergris Caye is already well known for its festive vibes all year round, so without a doubt it is also the top destination for Easter break. Hundreds upon hundreds of visitors, both local and foreign, flock our island paradise for a good time.

So what is there to do you may ask?? How about initiating your week at the clubs on Friday night? It's not a typical party day, as it is Good Friday (aka No Alcohol Served), but this changes after midnight when the clubs start playing the best in music and drinks start flowing. Start your Easter weekend off right!



Saturday means time to hit the beach. Beach parties across the island beckons the young at heart ready to have a great time. Caprice Bar and Grill has once again partnered up with Carib Beer to bring you EASTERFEST 2016. This year's party promises to be bigger and better, featuring three international and local deejays including DeeJay Capone and DJ Karlo. The party goes on from midday to midnight.

Close off your Saturday at Fido's Courtyard with Island Invasion's Easter Madness Volume 6. Island Invasion is one of the most an-

ticipated parties and this year's instalment will be epic. Dance the night away under the largest palapa in San Pedro to the tunes of DJ Biggz, Evolution Sounds, Dj Jago, Dj Odessey, Fyah Statah and Lady X.

But don't call it quits yet, because the party continues bright and early on Sunday with two of the biggest beach parties in the country. Lunca Loca will be hosting their annual Easter Beach Bash from 10AM. Join them for a day of beach volleyball, a fun variety of music and cold drinks. To top it all off, Caprice Bar and Grill will



also be hosting an Easter Sunday Foam Party from noon to midnight. Now that sounds like a rager!

After all this partying, you can just take Monday to unwind and reminisce on all the great Easter celebrations!

Easter 2016 will be from Friday, March 25th to Monday, March 28th.



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Brunching at Caprice!

By Mary Gonzalez



For so many people, Sundays equate to family, fun and relaxation. To me, Sundays are sacred (#blessed). It is a day to slow down, and preferably a day when someone else does the cooking. Naturally, the choices usually range in the barbeque region, or some variation of

Belizean lunch. But when one takes Sunday as seriously as I do, waking up close to mid-day often means we're still in the mood for breakfast, and a hearty one at that. Thankfully, Caprice Bar and Grill has begun offering Sunday brunch specials.

As if their fabulous Happy Hour(s) from 3-6PM on weekdays wasn't enough, they draw us in on the weekend too: that banner featuring a luscious image of Eggs Benedict has teased and tempted us for weeks from our office across the street. Enough was enough, it was time for Tamara and me to venture to their scenic deck and drink in the gorgeous views – and their crisp mimosas.

From their fabulous menus to the delectable items up for choosing, we were in foodie heaven. How could one choose between classics like Bananas Foster French Toast, chocolate chip pancakes, omelets, biscuits and gravy...or...oooooh...Eggs Benedict, and Chicken and Waffles? Oh my! Our decision was made – Bennies and chicken and waffles, plus Apple Spice Crepes for dessert.

Patricia brought over hot coffee, which we sipped while enjoying the beautiful beach scene before us. Once we'd met the caffeine levels required for proper function, we proceeded to order a mimosa each, as we waited for breakfast to arrive. Crisp and refreshing, the mimosas went down a treat, and just in time, our meals arrived to make us even happier.

Creamy and indulgent, the Eggs Benedict were as fabulous as we'd hoped. Chicken and waffles were a delight – crispy fried chicken and warm buttery waffles drizzled in syrup just seemed made for each other. With a dollop of whipped cream, each bite of crepe and spiced apple slice provided the perfect sweet finale to a wonderful morning. I could certainly get used to this kind of fabulous Sunday treat!

Sunday Brunch at Caprice runs from 10AM – 2PM, on Barrier Reef Drive at the Holiday Hotel. You can call 226-2014 to make your reservation. We highly recommend brunching on the deck for both delicious food and views!



Martz Farm Treehouses and Cabañas

Little House in the Jungle

By Tamara Sniffin



I'm undoubtedly dating myself when I refer to the Laura Ingalls Wilder children's novels (later TV series) Little House on the Prairie. The series is a recollection of childhood memories regarding a pioneer family in the 1870's making a home in the untamed American Midwest. During our two-night stay at Martz Farm Treehouses and Cabanas located in the mountainous terrain near Benque Viejo del Carmen in the Cayo District, I couldn't resist noticing the charming similarities.

Upon our arrival we are greeted like family by owners Miriam and Jose Martinez, along with their lovely daughter and two younger brothers. This is obviously a working farm where these jungle settlers have been

pioneering their rustic home for well over a decade. Miriam, who is originally from Germany, is quick to get us settled in to our rooms and we enjoy a view of the property from our second floor veranda. As I gaze around the compound I think, here we have Ma, Pa, the three kids, busy chickens in the yard, lazy dogs under the shade of massive trees and beautiful horses grazing nearby. But this picturesque setting is hardly on a prairie, especially not when there are monkeys and toucans in the trees!

Continued on Page 15

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Martz Farm Treehouses and Cabañas

Continued from Page 14

Martz Farms offers a few different accommodations, from newly finished garden rooms that are great for families and groups, to a private cabin and one super cool treehouse. The treehouse is located right next to a small, gurgling water fall, and the tree top abode is straight out of Swiss family Robinson. Hmmm, I'm really seeing the adventurous family theme trending here!

While staying at Martz Farms you have a variety of activities to choose from. Explore nearby Maya sites, discover mountain caves or play on the Macal River. How about horseback riding? The Martinez family are avid horse people, and they pride themselves on their herd and equipment. With Jose at the lead, explore the jungle, caves, un-restored Maya sites and mountain-top views all on horseback!



The most endearing part of this working farm is the family and their cozy kitchen, where we gather to take our meals around a large, solid table. Working under the warm glow of candle light (our guest rooms are the only ones on the property who have power) Miriam keeps conversation with us while cooking, and the kids wander in to join the chatter as well. You'd think we'd been friends for years, so inviting is the setting. We share hearty meals, effortlessly created by the ever-adept Mama and visit into the evening around the family table, learning about the amazing life this family has crafted. Jose, a burly Belizean with a head full of unruly curls, graying beard and a mischievous twinkle in his eye surprises us by reciting his poetry. We are captivated by his enchanting prose as he passionately repeats from memory his many poems about life, love, challenges and the jungle that has been home all of his life. There is a serenity here that is immune the craziness of the outside world, and this family functions effortlessly within it.

For guests staying at Martz Farms you will leave hopeful that you can take some of that serenity back home with you and inspired by the simplicity of life. Now the trick is preserving that spell once you return to the real world.

Coming Home

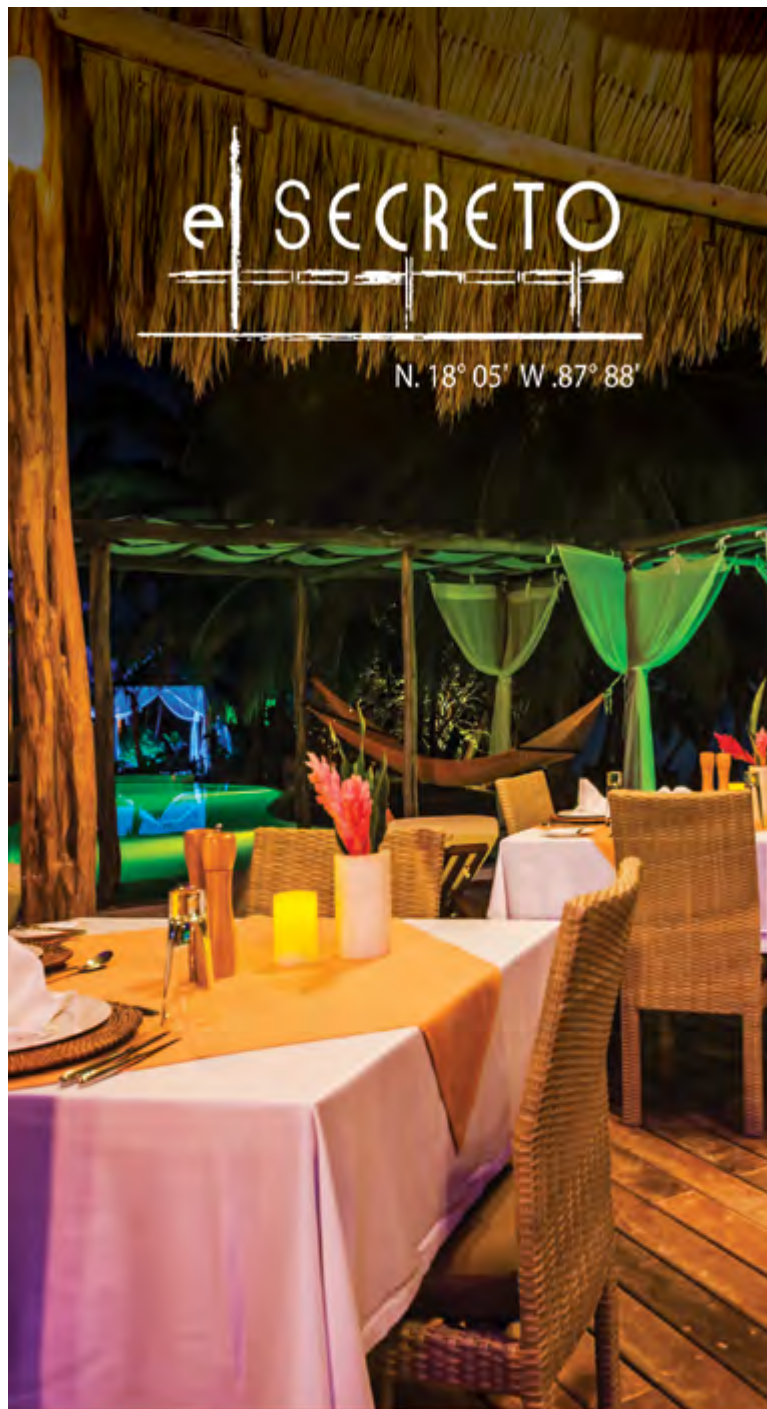
When I see the jungle,
I feel like I am just about to come home
For where I was, I could not hear
the crickets, the owl,
the water and breeze.
Oh it is nice to be back in Belize.
Where I live back in the jungle
with crickets and birds in the trees,
feeding and singing along with the breeze,
oh it is lovely here in Belize.
For where I was, the trees get looted,
the water is polluted,
oh and the air, no it's not fair, for it is barely there.
This is where I was.

Now that I am here, everything is clear.

Now I can see this is where I want to be.

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