



**For Immediate Release**

**Press contact:**

Muriel Wiltord

Tel: (212) 838-6887

Fax: (212) 838-7855

Email: [muriel.wiltord@franceguide.com](mailto:muriel.wiltord@franceguide.com)

**MARTINIQUE, THE MOST WINDWARD OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS**  
**A French Caribbean sailing paradise**

Martinique's capital, Fort-de-France, one of the safest, most beautiful bays in the Caribbean, 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 – at **Pointe du Bout** across from the capital, in Le **Robert** and **Le François** on the Atlantic, in **Sainte-Anne** down south, and, most notably, in **Le Marin**, also in the south, whose “*Port de Plaisance*” is now the island's largest and best-equipped marina.

With some 45,000 visitors and more than 15 million euros revenue, Martinique has now become a top sailing destination. The number of sailing and yachting events have multiplied and attract an ever growing number of visitors. The main ones are the following:

- **Yole boat race**, a five-day event celebrating the traditional Caribbean sailing boats used by the island's fishermen (August)
- **Nautical week of Schoelcher** (February)
- **Transat des Passionnés** (biannual), a Europe to Caribbean race. The 8<sup>th</sup> edition took place in 2005. The next one will take place in 2007.
- **Transquadra** (every 3 years), another Europe to Caribbean race for soloists and doubles partners.
- **Transcaraïbe des Passionnés** (March), is a race which departs Marin and finishes in Cuba
- **June Regattas**, a four-day sailing festival attracting crews throughout the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe (June)
- **Fishing Tournament** (October)

The cities of Marin and Schoelcher even received the French label “*Station Voile*” given by the FFV (French Sailing Federation.). The quality of the infrastructure accounts for the increase of that sector. The harbor of Le Marin, is a natural hurricane hotel. The charter fleets are huge there. Catamarans outnumber monohulls. It is equipped with 620 berths for boats up to 180 ft long and 70

mooring spots. Its goal: becoming the navigation hub of the South Caribbean. The Port de Plaisance of Marin already has a strong reputation of professionalism and hospitality in the sailing world. It is the place for anyone who wants to discover and cruise the South of the Caribbean, and of course Martinique.

### **Chartering made easy**

Martinique is a perfect destination to either start a vacation or to simply enjoy a one week sail around the island. You can indeed spend a whole week cruising the coasts of Martinique, from Sainte-Anne, the southernmost village to Saint-Pierre, famous for the 1902 volcanic eruption of Mount Pelée, sail near HMS Diamond Rock and explore the many wonders the island has along her shores.

Whether for bareboat rentals or crewed charter, many yachting companies based in Martinique offer various options, among them Moorings, Stardust, Advanced Yacht Services and Petit Breton to name a few (for a complete list of yacht charters and sailboat rentals, please contact the Martinique Promotion Bureau).

For a more technical point of view on the matter of sailing, there is a comprehensive yachting manual, the **Annuaire Nautique de la Martinique**, which costs 15 euros (English version available, see [marine-news.com](http://marine-news.com)).

For further information, contact the Martinique Promotion Bureau, 444 Madison Ave., NY 10022, Tel: (212) 838 68 87, Fax: (212) 838-7855. On the Internet: [www.martinique.org](http://www.martinique.org). By email: [martiniquepress@franceguide.com](mailto:martiniquepress@franceguide.com)

###