



## **FACT SHEET**

### **LA SAMANNA**

*St. Martin, French West Indies*

#### **HOTEL DESCRIPTION:**

La Samanna is a world-class luxury resort in St. Martin, French West Indies, owned by Orient-Express Hotels, Trains & Cruises. Cloaked in lush foliage and colorful splashes of flowers, the resort is residential in nature, appealing to a discriminating, international clientele seeking seclusion, relaxation, fine dining and attentive personalized service. The resort is legendary for its extensive wine cellar and cuisine with provisions flown in from France daily. Equally renowned is the resort's Elysées Spa with its indoor/outdoor tropical garden treatment rooms and Pilates studio. With 81 suites, located on 55 acres of breathtaking beachfront, La Samanna evokes a French spirit with a Caribbean soul.

Inspired while touring the Greek islands, the original owners had a Caribbean architect design the hotel based on the whitewashed sunny houses nestled on the shores of the Mediterranean. Interiors throughout the resort feature Caribbean wicker, bamboo and hardwood furniture accented with light and translucent colors reminiscent of the Caribbean sky and sea. Designs reflect the island's rich Creole culture with French influences. Spirited natural textures with luscious cotton prints in a variety of patterns and colors of deep blues, reds and golds have been used to complement furniture that is dark mahogany and teak, offset with touches of bamboo.

#### **LOCATION:**

Ideally situated on 55 acres of pristine, beachfront property just 15 minutes from Marigot, the capital of French St. Martin in the French West Indies, La Samanna is a short drive from the fabulous restaurants of Grand Case. The resort's crescent-shaped beach on Baie Longue is recognized as one of the finest and most secluded in the world. No other hotels share Baie Longue, which provides guests at La Samanna the utmost in privacy and tranquility.

The 37 square mile island of Saint Martin/Sint Maarten is one island with two nations. The 21 square-mile northern half where La Samanna is located is French, and the 16 square mile southern half is Dutch. For visitors this means a true multi-cultural experience where numerous languages are spoken, the cuisine is amazing and the hospitality refined.

#### **GUEST ROOMS:**

The epitome of graceful Mediterranean architecture, La Samanna offers 81 air-conditioned guestrooms, suites and villas, each featuring an extraordinary ocean view. Accommodations include traditional guestrooms, one- two- and three-bedroom suites, and three-bedroom villas, all complete with living rooms, dining areas and private terraces or balconies that open onto the beach. All suites feature television, VCR, CD player, bathrobes, hairdryers, L'Occitane bath amenities, and fresh flowers. Two and three-bedroom villas feature petite kitchens allowing guests to stock the fridge with everything from Cristal to Caviar. Deluxe suites feature furniture by the acclaimed designer Michael Jouannet.

Guest Room/Description	2007 Published Rates*
Ocean View Guest Room (25) - intimate and well-appointed rooms feature ample terraces or balconies with breathtaking views of the Caribbean Sea	\$475 - \$950
Deluxe Ocean View One-Bedroom Suite (16) with living room and patio with breathtaking ocean views.	\$1050 - \$1750
Deluxe Ocean View One-Bedroom Terrace Suite (4) with living room, kitchen area and access to a private rooftop solarium fitted with luxury lounge furniture and spectacular ocean views.	\$1150 - \$1850
Deluxe Oceanview One-bedroom Terrace Suite with Plunge Pool (4) - Each spacious suite with bedroom, living room, terrace and petite kitchen, also features a rooftop terrace with plunge pool, bistro table and chairs for dining, chaise lounges, shaded gazebo lounge, outdoor showers and the sweeping views of the ocean and beach.	\$1350 - \$2050
Premium Beachfront One-Bedroom Suite (10) – located steps from the beach, with living room, kitchen area and terrace or patio.	\$1250 - \$2000
Premium Beachfront One Bedroom Terrace Suite (8) with separate living room, kitchen area and access to a private rooftop solarium with outdoor shower and luxury lounge furniture located directly on the beach.	\$1350 - \$2100
Two-Bedroom Suite (8) consisting of living room, two bathrooms, terrace or patio, located directly on the beach.	\$1850 - \$3200
Premium Three-Bedroom Villas (6 – combined 2 bdrm with 1bdrm) – These two-story villas feature a living room, kitchen, three bathrooms and outdoor dining area, located directly on the beach with private patio and terrace.	\$3100 - \$5200
Baie Rouge Suite – (1) One-bedroom suite on the second floor in the main building with private outdoor entrance has living room and open-air octagonal terrace offering the most magnificent view of the pool and Caribbean Sea at the hotel.	\$1250 - \$2000
Baie Orient Suite (1) One-bedroom suite on the first floor of the main building with separate living room and a private terrace facing the gardens. The bedroom faces the ocean with a magnificent view on Baie Longue beach with a covered terrace.	\$1250 - \$2000
Terrace Suite (1) - Multi-terraced two-bedroom suite in main building offering phenomenal panoramic views of the ocean, pool and lagoon.	\$2050 - \$3400
Baie Longue Suite (1) – This three-bedroom penthouse suite situated on the top floor of the main building offers complete privacy and one of the most inspiring ocean views in the world.	\$2600 - \$4700
Baie Royale Suite (The Honeymoon Suite) (1)- This suite offers a kitchen, living room, bedroom, large bathroom with separate shower and tub, 2 small terraces and 1 large terrace with a soaking pool, outdoor shower, covered cabana lit at night with a double chaise lounge bed, and loveseat. Everything in this suite faces the ocean.	\$1600 - \$2700

Rates include: Buffet breakfast in the restaurant, non-motorized water sports, tennis courts & equipment usage, complimentary tennis workshops, Pilates classes and yoga classes. Holiday periods are the highest from December 22 to January 1, peak season is January 2 to April 2 and low season is April 3 to December 19, offering the best rates. Promotional and package rates may be lower than published rates.

## **DINING:**

### **The Restaurant:**

La Samanna's main restaurant offers open-air dining with stunning beach and ocean views that allow one to peer down and see fish swimming in the bay. Chef Daniel Echasseriau's world-class cuisine combines fresh, lively island flavors with classical French techniques. On Monday nights the hotel offers Caribbean lobster barbecued beach side. The wine cellar boasts one of the most extensive collections in the entire Caribbean. The restaurant is open for breakfast and dinner daily.

### **The Champagne Bar**

La Samanna's Bar provides a cozy spot for cocktails before or after dinner. Plush upholstery is set off by a multi-hued Indian Wedding Tent that hangs from the ceiling, providing exotic ceiling art. Long time bartender Orlando Philgene mixes up his signature drink, the Baie Longue Blue, and provides rum tastings for the aficionado of Caribbean spirits. Oversized silver coolers of iced champagne and hot and cold canapes are offered during evening service. Open daily from 10 a.m. until midnight or until the last guest turns in.

### **The Grill**

Located adjacent to the main pool, this casual and beautifully decorated dining spot is open for lunch daily, and dinner three times weekly. The Grill has a canopy and misters to keep you cool while you enjoy the gorgeous ocean views, as well as fabulous Gazpacho, sandwiches, and salads such as the locally caught Mahi-Mahi, grilled on Romaine lettuce with herbed French bread crostini or a classical Caesar topped with Cajun tiger shrimp.

### **The Beach Bar**

Located on the beach, this al fresco lunch bar allows guests to keep their feet in the sand while enjoying snacks, salads and cocktails as well as providing beach beverage/lunch service to the beach chaises. The Beach Bar also features Lobster Barbecues on Monday nights.

## **ELYSÉES SPA:**

La Samanna's full-service spa, Elysées, provides nine treatment rooms, five of which are indoor/outdoor offering the utmost in privacy and liberty while enjoying pampering spa services amidst warm tropical breezes and the song of sugar birds. European-trained professionals offer a wide range of stress-relievers such as body treatments, Swedish or deep tissue massages, Shiatsu, reflexology, body scrubs and moisturizing sessions as well as cryogenic and hot seaweed wraps and facials, to cite several options. Also offered are manicures, pedicures, waxing, face and eye care, and hair styling. The Spa uses St. Barts and Physiadermie products.

## **SPORTS FACILITIES:**

- Fitness Pavilion with aerobic and weight training equipment (Open 7am – 7pm featuring treadmills, Stairmasters, recumbent bikes, elliptical cross trainer, individual station Cybex weights circuit, dumbbells). Personal training sessions available.
- Pilates studio with private instruction and complimentary session on Fridays at 9 am.
- Three championship tennis courts, all lit for nighttime play; two courts have high quality, Omnicourt cushioned surfaces; on-site Tennis Pro Stephane Szeberenyi offers weekly tennis clinics and private lessons (complimentary tennis clinics Tuesdays & Thursdays at 9 a.m.)
- Yoga (complimentary yoga sessions Monday & Wednesday at 9 a.m.)
- Two Freshwater swimming pools – one cliff side, the other adjacent to the beach bar.
- Snorkeling, Scuba, water-skiing, kayak, Wave Runner equipment and instruction available for a fee
- Deep sea fishing
- Sailboat rentals and clinics

### **BOUTIQUE:**

The Boutique at La Samanna carries a wide variety of sundries, jewelry, gifts and clothing including Helen Kaminski hats, Manuel Canovas, and La Perla.

### **GUEST SERVICES:**

A dedicated staff is committed to the anticipation and fulfillment of guests' needs, including:

- 24-hour room service
- Pool and beach beverage services
- Laundry/dry cleaning
- Multi-lingual staff
- Full-time concierge staff for dinner reservations, rental cars and customized sight-seeing tours, including:
  - Guided shopping tour
  - Island tours
- Nightly turn-down service
- Airport greeting – VIP FastTrack service upon request which includes expedited baggage handling and customs
- Welcome amenity
- Library in room
- Daily *New York Times* and selection of international newspaper facsimiles
- La Samanna Rum upon departure
- VHS Library for in-room use
- La Samanna III: a 38-ft center console Italian design motor boat complete with captain and open bar, available for charter for half- and full-day trips

### **MEETINGS FACILITIES:**

La Samanna caters to small, exclusive group meetings. Conferences and receptions are conducted in the Rendezvous Pavilion, a discreet, stand-alone structure situated away from La Samanna's main resort area. Providing easy access to executives wishing to meet in a self-contained facility, the Pavilion features state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment, kitchen, lounge area and terrace.

Surrounded by lush gardens and overlooking Baie Longue, the space offers flexibility for all needs. Three 400+ square foot rooms with 10 foot ceilings can accommodate private meetings; an indoor reception space measures 420 square feet. Rooms can accommodate 60 people in classroom style, 100 in theatre seating or 45 in a U-shaped pattern. Covered and open terraces also grace the building and offer al fresco dining or soirees.

### **ACCESS:**

The Julianna International Airport, just a 10-minute ride away, offers convenient access from several North and South American gateways, as well as major European markets. The Princess Juliana International Airport is served with daily direct flights from Charlotte, New York, Newark, Miami, Philadelphia and San Juan.

### **TRAVELING CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Voltage is 220 AC, 60 cycles. Appliances made in the U.S. and Canada require French plug converters and transformers. Most rooms feature standard 110 voltage sockets.
- Language: The official language of St. Martin is French, and Dutch on Saint Maarten, however, English is widely spoken.
- Legal tender on the French side is Euro and on the Dutch side is Netherlands Antilles florin (NAF), but U.S. currency is widely accepted. Most major credit cards are accepted and bank machines are available on the island.
- U.S. and Canadian citizens entering via the Dutch side (Juliana Airport) need a valid passport. U.S. residents and Canadians who are not citizens must have a green card or multiple re-entry stamps. A return or onward ticket is also needed.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LA SAMANNA CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF EXTENSIVE RENOVATION

*Features include a new infinity pool, beach bar, wedding pavilion plus new chef and menus*

**ST. MARTIN, FRENCH WEST INDIES (July 31, 2007)** – La Samanna, an Orient-Express hideaway in St. Martin, French West Indies, announced recently it has completed a multi-million dollar refurbishment of its 55-acre luxury beach-front property. The most recent enhancements include the addition of an infinity edge pool that sits by the new beach bar and deck, an expanded fitness center, a wedding ceremony location with sea views, changes on the façade, and a business center for internet access and office services. La Samanna is also pleased to welcome award-winning Chef Daniel Echasseriau to the celebrated Caribbean enclave.

The most noticeable recent enhancement at La Samanna is a new infinity-edge pool, located in the center of the resort facing the clear waters of our stunning beach, Baie Longue. This is the second resort pool and is complemented with a new beach bar and deck that provides a perfect setting for lingering over drinks at sunset or enjoying a meal right on the ocean. Once a week, guests can also take in a movie under the stars. The new beach deck also features canopies for shade with a cool misting system, providing comfort during lunch under the midday sun. A beach attendant service offers complimentary chilled water, fruit kebabs and sorbets to refresh your palate, and cold towels during the midday sun. The new freshwater pool joins a complement of beachside amenities, including private cabanas equipped with iPods and butler-style service, along with an array of water sports for the active and adventurous including sailboats, kayaks, water skiing and wake boarding, snorkeling and diving trips. The property also sports a fleet of luxury yachts and cruisers designed for idyllic explorations through the unspoiled Caribbean waters.

La Samanna's fitness center has been doubled in space, featuring a dedicated area for cardio equipment, and a new wing for free weights and weight training equipment. The infrastructure is complemented with a Pilates and yoga studio.

Also new is the addition of a private beachside facility designed exclusively for wedding clientele. Weddings have always been a signature of La Samanna, with its plethora of idyllic backdrops in a natural, harmonious setting that blends sun and sea with art and nature. The resort offers several wedding packages designed by professional and highly accomplished event planners who work in partnership with couples to create an intimate and joyous event.

The façade of La Samanna now features a new look, and has been warmed up by highlighting the architectural features with new colors that give the building a colonial feel, with rich, dark wood-colored and sand-colored columns. Rooms and suites in the main building feature lower balcony walls with stunning iron work railings to allow for more enjoyment of the unparalleled Caribbean views. La Samanna has also renovated its entire collection of 81 rooms, suites and villas with a design sensibility faithful to its legacy, spirit and tradition.

La Samanna's food offerings include a new steak house and fish house once a week in The Grill, and creative concepts in the main restaurant. The hotel is also proud to announce the addition of a new Executive Chef: Chef Daniel Echasseriau has an illustrious background, having worked in some of the finest culinary establishments in the world, from England to Barbados to The Gambia. Winner of the 2006 "Taste of the Caribbean" Gold Medal in Miami, French born Chef Daniel Echasseriau brings a love of the Islands and the discipline of his French training together to create unforgettable dining with a St. Martin influence.

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Overlooking Baie Longue, a crescent-shaped, pristine white sand beach, La Samanna is St. Martin's most luxurious resort. The only hotel in the area, the resort offers a pristine private island feel, yet is a short drive to the exclusive shores of Marigot and the gourmet restaurants of Grand Case. Part of the famed Orient-Express Hotels, Trains & Cruises collection, the resort is legendary for its extensive wine cellar, and cuisine from provisions flown in from France daily. Equally renowned is the resorts Elysées Spa, with its indoor/outdoor tropical garden treatment rooms and Pilates studio. With 81 rooms located on 55-acres of breathtaking beachfront, La Samanna evokes a French spirit with a Caribbean soul and has been recognized as "One of the World's Best" by *Conde Nast Traveler* and *Travel+ Leisure* magazines, as one of the "Top 10 places to go on a honeymoon in the world" by the *New York Times* and as the "Most Romantic Destination" by *Bride's Magazine*. Additional Information is available at [www.lasamanna.com](http://www.lasamanna.com) or call 1.800.854.2252



## **SAINT MARTIN**

### *Destination Overview*

According to recent archeological findings, Saint Martin/Sint Maarten was first inhabited by Archaic Amerindians between 1800 and 1500 B.C., the Huecoid Indians between 400 and 550 B.C., the Salaloid Indians from 200 B.C. until 450 A.D., and the Tainos in 800 A.D.

Christopher Columbus is said to have “discovered” the island in November 1493 on his second voyage to the New World and named it in honor of Bishop St Martin of Tours. However, some historians now think the island Columbus chanced upon that day was the more southerly Nevis and that he never actually sighted St. Martin/St. Maarten. Regardless, every year on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of Saint Martin of Tours, island residents celebrate St. Martin/St. Maarten Day.

The colonization of the island by two nations didn’t happen until 1631, with the Dutch settling at Little Bay and the French in the Orleans area. The French constructed the fort at Marigot and the Dutch Fort Amsterdam at Little Bay. For over 300 years, France and the Netherlands have shared this tiny Caribbean island. In fact, St. Martin/St. Maarten is the smallest island in the world to be divided between two sovereign powers.

But the French and Dutch were not the only people to influence the emerging culture of the island. Beginning in 1648, as plantations sprang up across St. Martin/St. Maarten, the island began to import slaves from Africa. Thankfully, the French banned slavery in 1848 and the Dutch in 1863, but the influence of Africans on the culture remains strong today.

This delightful mix of French, Dutch and African people make St. Martin/St. Maarten unique and unlike any other place on earth, a "Melting Pot" in the true sense of the term. Today more than 100 different nationalities reside on these 37 square miles and over a dozen languages are spoken including French, Dutch, English, German, Papiamento, Creole, Italian, Hindi, Chinese and Afrikaans.

Some believe the military airfield built by the United States during the Allied occupation in 1943 set the stage for the island’s growth as a tourist destination. Today, that airfield is the Princess Juliana International Airport, the region's largest. The population of the Island has grown to approximately 41,000 on the Dutch side and 36,000 on the French side.

Visitors coming to St. Martin can enjoy the best of the Caribbean and the blend of cultures. The French side is renowned for secluded beaches, fantastic duty free shopping, (featuring the latest in French fashions) restaurants and cafés that entice with the smell of fresh croissants mixed with the spicy aromas of West Indian cooking. On the Dutch side, the Casinos and dinner and night clubs mix to provide lively evening entertainment options.

*Saint Martin / 2*

Average temperatures are between 80 to 85 degrees year-round making it an ideal location to lounge on the beach with a good book, enjoy a plethora of water activities (from fishing to scuba diving) or head to the center of the island for horseback riding or hiking. Caribbean nights can be spent watching a sunset in quiet solitude or dancing to the beat of local steel bands.

Whatever your whim, guests of La Samanna are perfectly positioned to hide away in the hotel's luxe surroundings or explore the many island offerings. The concierge can arrange for a private driver, tour guide or luxury car rental.

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## TANTALIZING TIDBITS OF LA SAMANNA

When a resort is a favorite amongst celebrities and socialites and has been around for over 30 years, it often has a few good tales to tell. The following are a few anecdotes and tidbits that may be of interest:

- To refresh them on arrival, guests are greeted with a cold towel scented with Ylang-Ylang, and a tropical fruit punch made with fresh squeezed juices.
- The cellar at La Samanna has over 10,000 bottles of wine representing over 410 varietals, including 146 different references of Bordeaux. The inventory represents a sales value of over \$1.5M. The most expensive bottle of wine in the cellar (or 'cave' as it is called) is the 1998 Romanee-Conti, which sells for \$4,000.
- The cellar's private label wine – Hospice de Beaune La Samanna – is considered one of the best in the region.
- Long considered to be the most extensive wine cellar in the Caribbean, this underground oasis of wine features heirloom cobblestone floors from France (dating back over 200 years), arched portals, and wrought iron accents. The cellar is reached via a back-of-the-house alfresco entry that is illuminated with torches. The cellar can be booked for private tastings and dining for 2 to 8 people. The tastings are led by the sommelier and can be customized to the client's interests. With the extensive Bordeaux selection, however, many opt for this.
- Monday nights, the hotel offers Caribbean lobster barbecued beach side. Caribbean lobster is different from the Maine lobster in that they do not have claws. Harvested daily by local fishermen, the lobsters are dropped off by boat in the morning providing a scrumptiously fresh feast.
- La Samanna is the muse of Roland Richardson, one of the Caribbean's foremost painters, whose reputation has grown in the past few decades as "the Father of Caribbean Impressionism." Born to a family with French St. Martin heritage dating back to the 1700's, Mr. Richardson has busily recorded his culture for over forty years with his paintbrush and palette. Guests will often encounter him with easel propped and brush in hand painting "en plein air", working in the field, always from a living subject. His annual private in-room and public exhibits at La Samanna portray over 100 masterful works in oil, watercolor, pastel, charcoal and hand-pulled etchings.
- The French Caribbean islands are considered by many to have invented dark rum. Originally, all rums were clear or white, but during the World War II, a Caribbean distillery (the St. James Distillery) stored their excess rum in wood barrels rather than flooding the market with their product. A year and half later, when they retrieved the rum, they noticed that it had taken on a distinct light brown color and developed a rather mellow flavor ... thus "dark rum" was invented. All guests of La Samanna receive a small bottle of the St. James rum as a parting gift the night before departure.
- La Samanna's location in the French West Indies means it falls under the French government. The French influence carries over to many areas of the property, including the latest advances in spa treatments from Paris, amazing French cuisine and even 220 electrical voltage. In addition, the hotel adheres to French labor laws, which legislate a reduced work week (currently 37.5 hours), 16 holidays and five weeks of vacation.

- Bathroom amenities at the resort are L'Occitane. Considered one of the finest lines, L'Occitane is produced in France. Guests are treated to L'Occitane's milk soap and shampoo and conditioners enriched with sweet almond oil from their "Angelica Line." According to the legend on the box, the Archangel Raphael revealed through a dream to a tenth century monk the useful properties of "angelica" and this is how the herb got its name.
- The new villas at La Samanna were designed by Vision Design of Dallas. Vision Design President Dan Nelson recalls: "When I started work on the project, I had memories of two movies— *Indochine* and *The Year of Living Dangerously*. Both seemed to depict the stylish French-Asian Colonial ambiance that I felt Orient-Express was looking for ... floral prints, light carved wood furnishings with touches of bamboo are the result."
- The Elysées Spa was designed by the Architectural Construction Group in St. Martin with Resorts Landscapes out of Florida designing the spa's gardens. Taking their inspiration from the calm Zen-like atmosphere of the Far East they created a spa of soothing wood and cream-colored stones surrounding a green garden of tropical plants offset by touches of hibiscus and bamboo. Airy and serene, a waterfall set amidst this setting provides a further calming effect.
- Opened in 2000, Elysées Spa features five open-air treatment rooms where guests can enjoy their body scrubs and "shirodhara" Ayurvedic drop oil massages in the balmy open air beneath a shady pergola. Elysées Spa is fittingly named after the abode for the "blessed" in Greek mythology.
- Elysées Spa is very popular among guests, with many indulging in numerous treatments while at the resort. One reason for the resounding success of Elysées is its highly proficient and professional staff. All of them have been trained in France and every one of them goes back to France once a year for continued education courses.
- La Samanna has a full time staff of gardeners, several of whom have been with the resort since its inception. Their caring approach to the landscape has created a botanical garden setting. Royal palms and red ixora line the driveway, bougainvillea flanks the entrance, orchids and bromeliads add colorful accents while jade vine, mandvillia, passion vine and petrea provide a vibrant contrast to the cool, white stucco building walls. Gently lit pathways are lined with flowers and plants like jasmine, ylang-ylang and frangipani that subtly scent the air in the evening. In total La Samanna features more than 30 species of trees and 100 varieties of plants and shrubs.
- The resort is also known for its wide variety of palm trees, including coconut palms (which the kitchen staff regularly harvest for fresh coconut juice), Bismark Palm from Madagascar, The Gray Goddess (or Mexican Blue Palm), Fishtail Palms from the Philippines, Fern Palms from Africa, Butterfly Palms, Royal Palms, Date Palms from the Canary Islands, Senegal Date Palms, Old Man Palms from Cuba (located near the entrance, this palm's trunk has dried grassy thin leaves that look like a beard) and the wide fan shaped Travelers Palm from Madagascar (water collected in the hollow base of the leaves of this palm used to provide a source of water for travelers).
- Some of the palms on property are considered very rare and are quite valuable because of their size and the fact that they only grow a few inches a year.
- The blooms from the Ylang-Ylang tree located in front of Villa H, release an amazing scent every winter. It's no wonder since Ylang-Ylang is an essential ingredient in the perfume Chanel No. 5.
- La Samanna has 160 employees during high season, representing a 2:1 staff to guest ratio. More than 23 on-property staff have been with the hotel since its opening in 1973.

- Snow in St. Martin? Well almost, every October and November guests are treated to a display of fluttering white as hundreds of snow-white butterflies dance in the trees and shrubs.
- Built in 1973, the original owners James and Nicole Frankel named the property after their three beloved children – Samantha, Anouk and Nathalie – combining the letters of their names and adding the French prefix, “La.” Thus, La Samanna was born.
- La Samanna was built in 13 months and opened on December 7, 1973. The hotel was designed by legendary architect Happy Ward, who has designed a number of Caribbean estates. As the original hotel had no air conditioning, each villa was designed and situated to take advantage of breezes from several different directions thus providing “natural air-conditioning.”
- Hollowed out coconuts, fashioned into bird feeders, can be seen in various locations around the property. For many years, these feeders were a regular stop for sugarbirds. These delightful little creatures were abundant at the resort; tragically, the last two hurricanes severely affected the population. Although the population of sugarbirds is reduced, guests can still delight in the tiny yellow-breasted bird at La Samanna. The staff, who have been at the resort for years, insist the birds will return to their normal levels, assuredly remarking, “it’s the way of the islands.”
- The hotel carries more than 250 videos representing every Academy Award winning film and a wide selection of new releases. Each guest suite has its own video player and videos can be borrowed free of charge.
- A common link among guests of La Samanna is a love of reading. Over the years, thousands of “just-read” books have been donated to the property after being consumed during languid hours on the beach and poolside. The abundance in quantity and variety has allowed the hotel to start an unofficial exchange library. Each room has a selection of books available for guests to enjoy during their stay, plus if they don’t quite finish they are welcome to take one as long as they leave one.
- The fact that La Samanna is the only hotel on Baie Longue means guests have a lot of beach to themselves. Ample space is given between a coupling of lounges with a refreshment table and umbrella. To further ensure guest’s comfort, throughout the day they are treated to iced bottles of water, fruit kebabs and fresh sorbet that seems to appear almost magically.
- Set along walkways and thoughtfully placed at the entry to the private villas are giant clamshells approximately two feet in diameter that were acquired when the hotel first opened. Filled with fresh water daily, they provide a refreshing spot to bathe the feet after a walk on the beach.
- It is not unusual for guests of the hotel to travel with an executive assistant or for those with children to bring a nanny. The record of personal staff accompanying a guest to La Samanna would have to be a royal prince who traveled with a staff of ten, including: butler, assistant, private chef, personal dressers and ladies maid, to name a few.
- La Samanna has the only Pilates studio in the Caribbean. Pilates Master Eugenia Richardson completed over 1000 hours of training in New York and Pennsylvania and is a certified AFA fitness instructor with more than 20 years of experience. Today, she offers hotel guests introduction and advanced private classes.
- The signature drink of the resort, the Baie Longue Blue, was created by Orlando Philgene, who has been a bartender with the resort for over 25 years. A master mixer, his delectable creation blends white and dark rum, pineapple juice, coconut cream and just a drop of curaçao.

- Waterskiing has been offered at the resort since 1973. The first boat, like the current one, was a Boston Whaler. Although the wood skis have been replaced with high performance fiberglass skis and wake boards, the playground has stayed the same. The waters in front of the hotel often provide a glass like surface that is irresistible to both beginner and experienced skiers.
- The original owner, James Frankel, owned a Cigarette boat that he occasionally made available to guests. One day while he was sitting enjoying lunch in the restaurant Mr. Frankel caught site of a huge ocean swell and watched it crash his beloved boat onto the shore leaving it in pieces and beyond repair. His reaction to all of this....to open champagne for everyone...as his companion put it... “There was nothing else to do!!”
- Hurricanes are a fact of life in the Caribbean, and La Samanna has not always been spared. Fortunately, the beach at La Samanna is amazingly resilient, after each hurricane the sand has disappeared only to come back naturally. The fact that no dredging has ever been done on Baie Longue is often credited for the natural flow of the sand and the clear beauty of the water.
- La Samanna III is a 38-foot cruising boat built by IDEA in Italy. It was limited in production to only 15 boats. Sunset cruises are available for groups up to eight or individuals can rent the yacht for a more romantic escape.
- St. Martin is half-French and half-Dutch, but there are no customs formalities between the two halves. The boundary is marked simply by two “welcome” signs on each side of an obelisk that serves as the Border Monument. One says “Bienvenue en Partie Francaise” and one says “Welcome to Dutch Sint Maarten, N.A.” The French “half” is currently a sub-prefecture of Guadeloupe. A town council is elected by the people and headed by a mayor; a sub-prefect is appointed by the French Government.
- As the only hotel overlooking the exquisite Baie Longue on St. Martin, La Samanna feels like a private island in the Caribbean. The beach seems to stretch on forever and is the perfect playground and natural gym. In addition to a full service fitness facility, yoga, and Pilates studio, for the extreme athlete, the resort’s fitness director can arrange for triathlon training with a local club that takes guests through the beautiful countryside and into the ocean. For a workout that seems too fun to be good for you, the hotel also offers wake boarding and water skiing proving a great work out to the arms, legs and stomach.
- La Samanna’s beach is called Baie Longue (Long Bay). The total beach is approximately one mile long with the hotel located on about one-third of the beach and a high rock formation/cliff approximately 30 feet in height creating a border at southeast end of the property. The cliff provides an amazing lookout point and a sheer face that dips into the ocean creating a favored spot for sea life and snorkeling.
- At the Elysées Spa guests can indulge in treatments in open-air rooms using the St. Barth line of essential oils and products made in the Caribbean. A body scrub followed by an outdoor show has been described as “absolutely liberating.”
- Soothing spa treatments that are also tasty? Elysées Spa uses the St. Barth line that is made in the Caribbean using a variety of tropical fruits and oils including mango, papaya and coconut. The result is a line that not only soothes the skin, but tastes good, should it touch your lips.
- Some recent celebrity guests of La Samanna, include: Danny Devito and Ms. Rhea Pearlman, Kevin Kline and Ms. Phoebe Cates, author Daniel Yergin, designer Elie Tahari, and director of “Signs” and “The Sixth Sense,” M. Night Shyamalan.

- Five oversized private beach cabanas with cabana wood flooring bring beach relaxation to a new level of pleasure at La Samanna. Each is equipped with thick cushioned chaise lounges festooned with an abundance of pillows, iPod minis with a selection of music, champagne, L'Occitane Provence toiletries, and the services of a cabana attendant to ensure cold water, fresh towels and lunch is served at exactly the right moment. In addition to providing butler service, the attendant can also arrange for spa treatments (from manicures to massage) in the privacy of the cabana.

Providing the indulgent privacy that comes with the cover of darkness, La Samanna's Midnight Cabana combines the plush offerings of the beach cabanas with additional amenities, including private beach front dining, stargazing through a telescope, and fluffy throws to wrap up in while you listen to the rhythmic sound of the waves.

- Once a week, La Samanna offer its guests a movie under the stars presented at the Beach Bar. A classic film is shown while tapas and brochette are served.

# # #

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## **THE ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY OF LA SAMANNA**

### *Memories of a Mediterranean Villa*

Perched on the edge of a seaside cliff stands La Samanna, St. Martin's most luxurious hotel. A secluded, elegant edifice, La Samanna's architectural design has become the standard by which all other hotels in the Caribbean are measured.

The original owners of the land on which La Samanna was built, James and Nicole Frankel, yearned to build a romantic retreat for themselves. While touring Greece, the couple found the architectural inspiration they sought. But it was not the grandeur of the ancient monuments that had captured their imagination; rather, it was the whitewashed sunny houses nestled on the shores of the Mediterranean.

Upon returning home, they purchased 55 acres of beachfront property and decided to recreate the cheerful, simple lines of these warm seaside homes in St. Martin. Renowned architect Happy Ward, of the Barbados firm Robertson Ward, was commissioned to create an intimate residence that would evoke the archetypal Mediterranean villa. As the plans started to take shape, Ward and the couple realized that this romantic hideaway could be transformed into something truly unique - a hotel that felt like a home. Frankel decided to name it after his three beloved children – Samantha, Anouk and Nathalie – combining the letters of their names and adding the French prefix, “La.” Thus, La Samanna was born.

Construction began in 1971 and was completed in 1973. When it was finished, Ward knew that he had created something special. And he was right: La Samanna's design and use of columns and arches would eventually influence hotel architecture throughout the Caribbean.

James Frankel, with no training as an hotelier, was suddenly in the hospitality business. A strong-willed, decisive man, he did not believe in formal hotel school. Frankel already knew how to treat people - as if they were guests in his own home. He believed his resort would succeed by word of mouth. And it did. La Samanna became a leading Caribbean resort.

When celebrities discovered this secluded sanctuary, they returned again and again, year after year. Presidents and international tycoons, too, found the resort to be an ideal escape from both bitter weather and the curious public. La Samanna became, Frankel would say with a grin, camping for the rich.

And what a campground! This place of peace and serenity has become an island within an island. The staff is warm and welcoming. Bright, airy and spacious, the rooms are elegant yet casual. Outside, exotic tropical blooms add splashes of color to luxuriant foliage.

In 1996, Orient-Express Hotels, Trains & Cruises acquired La Samanna and over the next few years spent millions of dollars enhancing the property while maintaining the essence of La Samanna and the dream of Mr. Frankel. Improvements included a complete refurbishment of all guest rooms including new tiles, windows, furniture and soft goods, as well as a remodeling of the bathrooms to include a soaker tub, double headed shower and hand painted Caribbean tiles.

## *La Samanna's Architecture / 2*

A luxury meeting pavilion (The Rendezvous Pavilion) was added as well as an art gallery, boutique, Pilates studio, and water sports pavilion. New equipment was purchased for the fitness center and the pool was beautified. To complete the offerings a new spa was built and opened in 1999. The Elyseés Spa offers a full range of treatments using French and Caribbean products.

Overlooking Baie Longue (Long Bay), the longest and most beautiful beach on the island, La Samanna is the essence of understated elegance. True to its Mediterranean forebears, La Samanna feels like a villa, and bears the personal imprint of its creators. Broad arches, Arabesque lines, and angular windows echo the front entrance to the Alhambra, Spain's greatest building. Inside, thick walls with rounded edges and austere columns support ornamental vaults that are splashed with tropical sunlight.

A breathtaking view of the turquoise Caribbean Sea from the reception area sets the tone for the villa. Eschewing the grand, intimidating foyers of old-world hotels, La Samanna's reception area is built on a human scale that is decidedly cozy. Whitewashed walls, hardwood floors, handmade wicker chairs and native prints in warm blue, coral, and green are the decor. Bamboo and mahogany woods complete the interior of this 81-room private hideaway.

La Samanna was built to be a harmonious blend of art and nature. Sun and sea air are invited into the over-sized rooms, while tiny sugarbirds flutter throughout the compound. Lush tropical foliage abounds, punctuated by the colorful splashes of flowerbeds.

The guestrooms are luxurious yet radiate domesticity. Indigenous prints, Mexican tile, soft tropical colors, and terra cotta are all used to create an atmosphere that feels more like a friend's home. The pool and Grill both offer spectacular views of the beach and Caribbean Sea, while the bar is an eclectic mix -- an Indian wedding tent covers the ceiling, while a life-sized wooden rhino and lion watch over the guests.

The hotel itself feels informal, private and elegant. Amenities include pool and sea swimming, tennis courts, a fitness pavilion, spa, and a dining terrace that boasts the most spectacular view on the island.

Palm trees and dense foliage surround the villa, while a catwalk leads down to the pristine white sands and turquoise waters of Baie Longue. Altogether, the hotel is a rare and successful example of the virtue of simplicity.

Many of the resort's public areas, including its signature swimming pool and main building overlooking Baie Longue, have been refurbished, and a new infinity edge pool has been added at the center of the resort, directly by the beach. This second resort pool is complemented with a new beach bar and deck that serves as our new beach restaurant for lunch and dinner. Many suites and guestrooms feature fresh new looks, from exquisite, light fabrics and cool draperies to tasteful contemporary furnishings, complemented by updated powder rooms. The result is a selection of unrivalled accommodation set amidst one of the world's most idyllic beachfront locations.

Whether planning a romantic respite, intimate wedding, family gathering or corporate retreat, La Samanna has become the hotel of choice for many. Outside of its whitewashed walls lies the tropical paradise of St. Martin, an island jewel set in the ocean crown of the Caribbean Sea.

# # #

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## **SERVICES AND AMENITIES AT LA SAMANNA: UNPARALLELED SOLICITUDE**

A moment in time filled with sun and sea, peace and pleasure -- a stay at La Samanna is one of life's most precious experiences. While the peerless beauty of St. Martin may leave the deepest impression on the new visitor, the La Samanna experience is also the result of a staff completely dedicated to satisfying the desire and whim of each guest, as well as the generous complimentary amenities provided by the hotel.

To ensure that guests feel that they are visiting the home of a close friend, once inside La Samanna's elegantly understated reception area, a polite host bearing tropical refreshments welcomes them. While visitors swiftly register, the host quickly arranges all desired services.

During the day, guests enjoy numerous hotel amenities, including use of sailboats, kayaks, water skiing equipment and snorkeling gear, and can participate in complimentary tennis clinics, Pilates and yoga classes. Those who do not want to leave the comfort of La Samanna's beach or pools (either cliff side or beach front) can enjoy complimentary water, fruit kebabs sorbet and cold towels, courtesy of The Beachfront Bar and its staff.

La Samanna also offers guests private Cabanas for rent on the beach complete with iPods and butler-style service. Designed to provide unobstructed views and maximum airflow, the deck is made from environmentally friendly epi wood. The 9 foot long half moon beds with billowing white pillows and matching teak chaise lounges complete the package. Daily, three-day, and weekly Cabana packages are available.

La Samanna's full-service spa, Elyseés, offers seven treatment rooms, including five indoor/outdoor treatment rooms that provide the utmost in privacy as guests indulge in spa treatments while awash in warm tropical breezes and the song of sugar birds. European-trained professionals offer a wide range of stress-relievers such as body treatments, Swedish or deep tissue massages, Shiatsu, reflexology, body scrubs and moisturizing sessions as well as seaweed wraps and facials, to cite several options. Also offered are manicures, pedicures, waxing, face/eye care and hair styling.

Guests can experience the adventures of scuba diving in St. Martin's unspoiled Caribbean waters. One or two tank dives, nighttime dives, and wreck and reef barrier dives can be arranged through the resort (2 person minimum). Individual introductory classes are also offered, featuring theory, a pool dive and a sea dive. If snorkeling is preferred, a half-day snorkel trip is offered.

La Samanna III Great Escape is the newest addition to the hotel's fleet. The 38-ft. twin outboard is ideal for cruising waters around St. Martin in comfort and style. La Samanna III and her Captain can be hired for private excursions upon request, subject to availability.

For the adventurous, the resort also offers guided tours by wave runner, including tours of Simpson Bay Lagoon (the largest protected lagoon in the Caribbean) or discovering new beaches for a picnic lunch. Reservations are required.

*La Samanna Amenities / 2*

Dinner at La Samanna is an event to savor for a lifetime. In addition to the gourmet cuisine the restaurant features, the island's most extensive wine list complements the meal. In-room dining is also available through La Samanna's 24-hour room service.

The La Samanna wine cellar is said to be the most extensive in the Caribbean. The cellar's private label wine – Hospice de Beaune La Samanna – is considered one of the best in the region. The cellar at La Samanna has over 10,000 bottles of wine representing over 410 varietals, including 146 different references of Bordeaux. The inventory represents a sales value of over \$1.5M. The most expensive bottle of wine in the cellar (or 'cave' as it is called) is the 1998 Romanee-Conti, which sells for \$4,000 U.S.

Unparalleled service. Unmatched amenities. A stay at La Samanna is the experience of being pampered -- so much so that it may spoil one for a lifetime.

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**LA SAMANNA INTRODUCES COUPLES TO FINE ART OF MASSAGE;  
'MASSAGE POUR DEUX'**

*Introduces Guests to New World of Sybaritic Delight*

The benefits of massage are well-documented: improved circulation, strengthened immune systems, tension release and pure pleasure. And for couples, it's doubly beneficial to be able to provide loving, therapeutic massage for your significant other.

But for those guests who don't know where to start – or when a knead becomes torture or a flex turns ticklish -- La Samanna has the answer: *Massage Pour Deux* is a new condensed course in which trained massage therapists teach couples how to administer massage on one another.

Courses are conducted in the privacy of our indoor-outdoor garden treatment rooms at the resort's famed Elysées Spa. Instruction includes a fun, interactive introduction to how massage works and some special techniques used in various types of massages.

After the introductory session, couples are free to practice their craft on their own. Armed with complimentary kits of custom-designed aromatherapy oils, sugar scrubs concocted with special Island-inspired botanicals, take-home spa robes and a massage manual (think of it as Cliffs Notes for sybarites). Spa therapists will offer guests three levels of progressive massage training that start with an overview of muscular structure and sensitivity and energy focus points, moving forward to hand placement, creating ambiance with lighting, temperature, and aromatherapy right through to the advance level which includes soft touch massage.

Individual one and a half hour sessions are priced at \$230 or guests can enroll for three progressive sessions for the price of \$600. Prices are per couple, plus tax and gratuity. Custom packages can be built that include accommodation, *Massage Pour Deux* classes and other activities by calling the hotels reservation line at 1-800-854-2252.

In addition to the couples massage course, guests are welcome to experience all that Elysées has to offer: five indoor/outdoor treatment rooms that provide the utmost in privacy as guests are awash in warm tropical breezes and the song of sugar birds. European-trained professionals offer a wide range of stress-relievers such as body treatments, cryotherapy, Swedish or deep tissue massages, Shiatsu, reflexology, body scrubs and moisturizing sessions as well as cryogenic and hot seaweed wraps and facials, to cite several options. Also offered are manicures, pedicures, waxing, face/eye care and hair styling.

*Massage Pour Deux / 2*

During the day, guests of La Samanna enjoy hotel amenities that include the use of sailboats, kayaks, water-skiing equipment and snorkeling gear, and can participate in tennis clinics, yoga classes or Pilates. Private charters are available to shuttle guests to the resort's 13 nearby beaches and islands. Those who do not want to leave the comfort of La Samanna's pool or beach can enjoy complimentary water, fruit kebabs, sorbet and cold towels, courtesy of the Beach Bar staff.

Overlooking Baie Longue, a crescent-shaped, pristine white sand beach, La Samanna is St. Martin's most luxurious resort. The only hotel in the area, the resort offers a pristine private island feel yet is a short drive to the exclusive shops of Marigot and the gourmet restaurants of Grand Case. With 81 suites, located on 55 acres of breathtaking beachfront, La Samanna evokes a French spirit with a Caribbean soul. Additional information is available at [www.lasamanna.com](http://www.lasamanna.com), or call 1-800-854-2252.

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*Winter 2006/2007*

## **LA SAMANNA PACKAGES & ST. MARTIN EVENTS CALENDAR**

### *CUSTOM PACKAGES*

In addition to a variety of seasonal and year round packages, Luxury Sales Managers are available to personalize a unique experience for individual leisure travelers. Offering more than reservations, these travel professionals are experts in the art of luxury. Adventure, romance, history, golf, gardens, art, culinary, antiques, eco-adventure ... whatever the interest luxury sales managers can take care of the details while providing personal service that redefines customer service. Call 1-800-854-2252 for more information.

<b>Winter (December, January, February)</b>
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#### **Christmas**

Ten restful nights, eleven sun filled days, ten amazing spa treatments. This holiday season indulge in a ten-night holiday celebration that will please even the hardest to buy for individual. As has been the tradition for the last 31 years, stays at La Samanna over Christmas and Hanukkah are booked well in advance. Accommodations range from a traditional ocean view room to the 1950 square foot Baie Longue suite. With an entire floor dedicated to the comfort of its guests, the Baie Longue suite features three bedrooms each with its own private ocean view terrace and bathroom, a living room, a wet bar, and a dining room which seats eight. Book early to ensure availability.

**December: *Pan in Paradise*.** Folkloric Steel Pan Concert

**Dec. 31: *Réveillon de la Saint Sylvestre*** (New Year's Eve celebration). Noisemakers, balloons, late-night dining and dancing at hotels and restaurants

**Jan. 4: *La Fête des Rois (Epiphany)*** Old French custom of serving a cake called *galette des rois* is carried out in most homes. Feasting and dancing

#### **Passion in Paradise (in honor of Valentines Day)**

For a passionate Valentine's celebration in a seductive atmosphere, stay at La Samanna. A special bottle of champagne and fresh flowers will greet you into your spacious one bedroom suite. Enjoy the most romantic dinner in our signature restaurant. Sail into the sunset at the end of the perfect day. Melt away any worries with a unique couples' massage therapy at our Elysées Spa - bathrobes are yours to keep. Included in this package is also a one day Mercedes car rental to explore the St. Martin sites. The package includes: round trip airport transfers, bottle of Champagne on arrival, daily breakfast buffet in our La Samanna restaurant, one romantic dinner for two in our La Samanna signature restaurant, sunset cruise for two, 45 min. couples' massage therapy at our Elysées Spa, two La Samanna bathrobes, one-day luxury car rental to explore the island, and government taxes.

**Spring (March, April, May)**

**Carnival (March in Marigot, April in Philipsburg)**

Parades, festivals and steel drum music take center stage during Carnival celebrations in Marigot in March and Philipsburg in April. *Carnival*, with its parades, costumes and dancing is celebrated as a pre-Lenten festival on the French side, culminating on Ash Wednesday each year. On the Dutch side, *Carnival* is held after Easter, offering visitors a second opportunity to enjoy the usual island-style merrymaking.

**Heineken Regatta (early March)**

This annual race features more than 250 boats raced in one of the most technically advanced regattas in the Caribbean, plus guests of La Samanna can typically catch glimpse of the racers as they sail past the resort. For more information visit [www.heinekenregatta.com](http://www.heinekenregatta.com)

**Mother's Day – Mom's Ultimate Shopping Adventure**

Send Mom on the ultimate duty free shopping adventure here in the Caribbean's boutique heaven - French St. Martin. Cartier, Bulgari, Hermes and Longchamp are only a few of the must-have provisions mom will carry home, thanks to her loved ones' holiday thoughtfulness. And after a tough day of shopping the boutiques of this upscale French town, Mom can head straight to La Samanna's chic spa for a full body treatment and massage. Mom will also be offered a potion of the spa's special skin preparation treatments designed to make the most of her sun-kissed look after time on the beach. This three-night stay includes an ocean-view one bedroom suite accommodation, spa treatment for Mom, personal shopping trip, ground transfers, champagne, fruit and flowers, one dinner for two and a one-day Mercedes car rental, and breakfast.

**Summer (June, July, August)**

**Escape to La Samanna**

After your short direct flight into St. Martin, you will find yourself in an oasis of white sand, clear water, and perfect 82 degree weather. Enjoy a couples' massage therapy session, a one day luxury car rental for touring in style, and a three-course dinner for two at the resort's extraordinary restaurant where an opulent dining room offers dramatic, open-air dining with panoramic beach and ocean views – the perfect accompaniment to the robust and sophisticated French cuisine. Available from April 16 to August 31, 2007 and November 1 to December 19, 2007, these 3 night packages start at \$1535.

**The Endless Escape. ..Take A Month Off**

Imagine endless days spent lingering at the beach, luxuriating at the hands of a massage master, and dining on provisions so fresh, they would put a Parisian chef to shame. This is precisely the life that can be lived at La Samanna, where guests are now invited to *Take a Month Off*. This 31-day package includes a two-bedroom suite on the beach for 30 nights. The suite at over 1100 square feet features a separate living room, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, private outdoor terrace and fully equipped kitchen, which may be stocked to each guest's liking (for additional charge). Also included is a dinner for four each week at The Restaurant, where chef's exquisite Mediterranean influences commingle with the flavors of the Caribbean. The package also includes a massage each week for two guests, the use of a Mercedes for four days, as well as the services of a private shopper. This experienced "guide to all things good" is fully informed about the delights available in the luxury boutiques of nearby Marigot and the most sought-after delicacies from the weekly farmer's market. Valid from April 16 - August 31 and November 1 - December 19, 2007 and priced at \$21,680.

**June 7-12: Bill Fish Tournament.** An invitational fished under IGFA rules (Angler's Fee: \$500) organized by Blue Marlin Association. Contact P. Casaubon 06 90 61 81 61.

**July 14: Bastille Day.** French National Holiday, celebrated on both side of the island. Fireworks, parades, sports contests.

**July 21: Schœlcher Day.** This holiday honors Victor Schœlcher, the French parliamentarian who led the campaign against slavery. Racers on Grand Case use beautiful Anguillan sailing boats; mini-marathon; island-wide bike race ending up in Grand Case.

#### Fall (September, October, November)

**Nov. 1: Toussaint (All Saints Day).** Public holiday. All cemetery tombstones illuminated with candles

**Nov. 11: St. Maarten Day.** Parades mark a joint ceremony by French and Dutch officials at the Border Monument obelisk commemorating long-standing peaceful coexistence of both countries. The annual 20-mile "Around the Island" race is based on historic folk tale about how the island's two-nation border was established. Also "St. Martin's Day," denotes start of "season."

#### Year-Round & Theme Packages

##### Honeymoon Escape

For the ultimate honeymoon experience, start your new life together in the seductive atmosphere of La Samanna. A special bottle of champagne and fresh flowers will greet you into your spacious one bedroom suite. Enjoy the most romantic dinner in our signature restaurant. Sail into the sunset on the perfect day. Relieve yourself of wedding stress with a unique couples' massage therapy at our Elysées Spa... bathrobes are yours to keep. Included in this package is also a one day Mercedes car rental to explore the St. Martin sites. The package includes: round trip airport transfers, bottle of Champagne on arrival, daily breakfast buffet in our La Samanna restaurant, one romantic dinner for two in our signature restaurant, sunset cruise for two , 45min. couples' massage therapy at our Elysées Spa, two La Samanna bathrobes , one day Mercedes car rental to explore the island, and government taxes. Available April 16 to December 19, 2007, the 7-night package starts at \$4,790 for one bedroom suite.

##### Pure Romance

Anyone can find love under the sun with our "Pure Romance" package. This package includes: round trip VIP airport transfers, a bottle of Champagne on arrival, 30 minute couples' massage therapy at our Elysées Spa, daily breakfast buffet in our La Samanna restaurant. Available April 16 to December 19, 2007, the 3-night package starts at \$1,325.

##### Energy Pack

Our signature power breakfast will get you ready for the day. Rejuvenate and learn new training techniques with a fitness session and a Pilates class. Finish your stay with a relaxing couples' massage therapy at our Elysées Spa. This package includes: round trip airport transfers, power breakfast in our La Samanna restaurant, two Pilates or yoga sessions, couples massage therapy session, and two fitness-training sessions. This 3-night package starts at \$1,700 per couple. Available April 16 to December 19, 2007.

**Partners in Paradise**

In partnership with Carlisle Bay on Antigua, Cap Juluca on Anguilla and Isle de France on St. Barts, La Samanna is proud to announce this 6-night package at the Caribbean's most beautiful properties. Stay a combination of 3 night minimum stay at La Samanna AND 3 nights at one or more of the following properties: Cap Juluca, Carlyle Bay OR Isle de France, and receive special rates and enjoy deluxe ocean view accommodations with daily buffet breakfast and a 30-minute massage for two. Rates at La Samanna, Cap Juluca and Isle de France are \$595 per night for a Deluxe Ocean View One Bedroom Suite. Carlisle Bay is US \$530 per night. Tax and service charges on all included food and beverages are not included. Available May 1 through November 2, 2007.

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## FAMOUS PEOPLE SERVED BY LA SAMANNA

*The Many Musicians, Politicians, Actors, Actresses and other Celebrities  
Who Have Frequented La Samanna*

David Arquette	Jeremy Irons
Jon Robin Baitz	Kevin Kline
Harry Belafonte	John F. Kennedy, Jr.
Christie Brinkley	Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis
Robert Olen Butler	Kevin Kline
Phoebe Cates	Ivan Lendl
Jacques Chirac (pre-Presidential)	Susanna Moore
Johnnie Cochran	Eddie Murphy
Courtney Cox	President Richard M. Nixon
Cindy Crawford	Ozzie Osbourne
Billy Crystal	Sydney Poitier
Puff Daddy	Robert Redford
Mr. & Mrs. Robert DeNiro	Diana Ross
Mr. & Mrs Danny Devito	Paulie Shore
Edie Falco	M. Night Shyamalan
Jodie Foster	Kiefer Sutherland
Sir Davis Frost	Barbara Taylor Bradford
Jeff Gordon (Nascar Racer)	Donald Trump
Dolce & Gabbana	Paul Watkins
Linda Evans	Oprah Winfrey
Harrison Ford	Michael Winner
Richard Gere	Kurt Vonnegut
Daryl Hannah	Yanni
Peter Hedges	
Whitney Houston	

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## EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHY

### BERNARD SARME

*General Manager*

*La Samanna*

Bernard Sarme joined La Samanna in the fall of 2003 after a three-year assignment as General Manager at Orient-Express sister property, the renowned Bora Bora Lagoon Resort & Spa in French Polynesia. It was there that he transformed the resort, taking it through several million dollars worth of renovations as well as adding numerous services and amenities for guests. During Mr. Sarme's tenure, Bora Bora Lagoon Resort was recognized for excellence in several publications including *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Modern Bride*, *Brides* and for "Best Service" in *Travel + Leisure* magazine.

He was asked to return to St. Martin, where he had lived and worked in the industry for several years, to take the General Manager's position at La Samanna. Immediately upon arrival he began to work his magic by expanding the gardens and introducing numerous guest experience enhancements.

In addition to positions with Orient-Express Hotels, Trains & Cruises, Mr. Sarme's extensive experience includes 10 years as project director and managing director of the Caravanserai Beach Resort on Sint Maarten and as the General Manager of the Sonesta Beach Resort in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Overlooking Baie Longue, a crescent-shaped, pristine white sand beach, La Samanna is St. Martin's most luxurious resort. The only hotel in the area, the resort offers a pristine private island feel yet is a short drive to the exclusive shops of Marigot and the gourmet restaurants of Grand Case. The resort is legendary for its extensive wine cellar and cuisine with provisions flown in from France daily. Equally renowned is the resort's Elysées Spa with its indoor/outdoor tropical garden treatment rooms and Pilates studio. With 81 suites, located on 55 acres of breathtaking beachfront, La Samanna evokes a French spirit with a Caribbean soul and has been recognized as one of the "The World's Best" by *Condé Nast Traveler* and *Travel + Leisure* magazines; as one of the "Top 10 best places to go on a honeymoon in the world," by the *New York Times*; and as the "Most Romantic Destination" by *Brides* magazine. Additional information is available at [www.lasamanna.com](http://www.lasamanna.com) or call 1-800-854-2252.

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## EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHY

### DANIEL ECHASSERIAU

*Executive Chef*

*La Samanna*

Winner of the 2006 “Taste of the Caribbean” Gold Medal in Miami, French born Chef Daniel Echasseriau brings a love of the Islands and the discipline of his French training together to create unforgettable dining with a St. Martin influence.

Born in Saint Nazaire (Loire Atlantic) in 1973, Chef Daniel’s love of cooking was instilled by his mother, whom he shadowed in the kitchen while she prepared family meals, and by his father, who insisted on quality and he would join on almost daily searches for the best purveyors of truffles, cheese and pâté.

In the European tradition he began his training early, entering the Professional Culinary School of St Anne in St Nazaire at age 15, where he obtained his certificates in cooking and hotel management. Chef Daniel went on to spend two years as Sous Chef for Master Chef Hans Schweitzer at Midsummer House, a two-Rossette restaurant in Cambridge, England, before moving to the Caribbean where he spent the next seven years honing his skills and discovering the exotic flavors of Barbados with Chef de Cuisine positions at Royal Westmoreland Hotel and La Maison Restaurant, followed by an Executive Sous Chef position at the Fairmont Royal Pavilion and Glitter Bay Hotel.

Chef Daniel left his beloved islands in March of 2002 to make his debut as the Executive Chef at The Coconut Residence (Gambia, West Africa), a 5-star luxury hotel that catered to diplomats and dignitaries including his Excellency Yaya Jammeh, President of The Gambia. During Daniel’s tenure the Coconut Residence received best hotel and restaurant honors from The Gambia Hotel Tourism Authority.

By 2004, the islands were beckoning him once again and he returned to the French West Indies, this time to St. Lucia as Executive Chef at The Body Holiday, LeSport where he remained until joining La Samanna in November of 2006. Most recently, Daniel was invited as a guest chef to the Grand Collection Event held at Orient-Express sister hotel, Grand Hotel Europe in St. Petersburg. There, he joined Grand Hotel Europe’s Executive Chef Dominique Ferchaud and his team in preparing delectable cuisine for local St. Petersburg residents and guests.

At La Samanna he focuses on introducing guests to the gourmet flavors of the Caribbean, drawing on the islands bounty of sweet potatoes, okra, yam, dasheens, breadnuts, love apples, plantains, green bananas and a variety of West Indies spices to create flavorful combinations and a destination dining experience. A hobby herb gardener, guests will also savor the judicious and sometimes surprising use of his morning’s harvest of basil, coriander, thyme, rosemary and chives.

Married with one child, Daniel is fluent in French and English.

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## AWARD WINNING HISTORY OF LA SAMANNA

### **TRAVEL + LEISURE WORLD'S BEST AWARDS**

*"The 500 Ultimate Guide – The Greatest Hotels in the World" 2004 – 2006*

*"World's Best Award" 2001 - 2006*

*"Top 10 Hotels for Service in Caribbean, Bermuda, and the Bahamas" 2004, 2005*

*Travel + Leisure* magazine readers have consecutively selected La Samanna as one of the World's Best Hotels. The hotel has also been honored for best service, and in the magazine's coveted Ultimate Guide. Selected hotels were judged on how they reshape guests travel experience with personalization and extra attention. *Travel + Leisure* is a leading source of information on travel, hotels, resorts, dining and entertainment. The content is geared toward the sophisticated traveler with a circulation of over 1 million. *Travel + Leisure* is the authority, setting trends, and motivating readers and is a leading source of information on travel, hotels, resorts, dining and entertainment.

### **WINE SPECTATOR**

**"Award of Excellence" 2006**

To receive *Wine Spectator's* "Award of Excellence," the restaurant's wine lists must provide vintages and appellations for all selections -- including wines by-the-glass. Spelling is also taken into consideration, as is the overall presentation and appearance of the list. With this award, *Wine Spectator* is looking to recognize a commitment to a fine wine list, with a sufficient selection of better producers along with a thematic match to the menu in both price and style. Award of Excellence lists typically offer at least 80 selections.

### **MODERN BRIDE**

**World's Best Honeymoon Destinations - 2005**

*Modern Bride* reaches 94% of the bridal market. Leading travel agents are consulted for an annual honeymoon survey and pick the top spots in a number of different categories and they are revealed in their "Honeymoon and Destinations" issue. St. Martin was named as one of the best places to honeymoon with La Samanna as the "luxury resort" beckoning.

### **ZAGAT'S TOP INTERNATIONAL HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS SURVEY 2003-2006**

In the 2006 survey, *Zagat's* said of La Samanna, "Sumptuous" dining in a "beautiful restaurant overlooking the water" is but one attraction at this "posh", "exclusive" "boutique" resort "nestled between verdant hills"; there's also a "great pool overlooking" a "perfect Beach", "gorgeous" quarters, "outstanding service" and an old-school "exclusivity" that's not gone unnoticed by celebrities over the years. The results of this survey is created from the shared experiences of nearly 12,000 people and are based on roughly 365,000 nights at hotels per year. On average, to be included in the survey one or more surveyors per night, every night, all year long. Considered the candid, no punches-pulled guide to where to stay and eat, *Zagat Surveys* have been called "a necessity second only to a valid credit card" by the *New York Times*. *Zagat* rates room, service, dining and public/spaces/facilities.

### **LUXURY LINK**

**"World's Best Hotels" 2006**

La Samanna has been designated as one of only 50 properties throughout the world to receive this prestigious new honor. *Luxury Link's* methodology of selection is based on their editors' determination of service, facilities, location, uniqueness of property, and overall levels of luxury evaluated in conjunction with the opinions of their

*La Samanna Awards / 2*

users. Founded in 1997, Luxury Link is the world's premier online luxury travel resource. Showcasing more than 1000 extraordinary hotels and resorts, cruises, tours and villas in more than 60 countries, Luxury Link provides unparalleled access to exclusive offers and insider tips for the sophisticated traveler.

**WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS**

**“St. Martin’s Leading Spa Resort” 2004, 2005, 2006**

**“St. Martin’s Leading Hotel” 2004, 2005, 2006**

**“St. Martin’s Leading Resort” 2006**

La Samanna has been honored with three awards in 2006: St. Martin’s Leading Hotel, St. Martin’s Leading Resort and St. Martin’s Leading Spa Resort. World Travel Awards Fever hits the travel industry community around the world, building to the crescendo of the annual Awards Presentation, when tens of thousands of travel professionals cast their favorites on the web and glue themselves to official World Travel Awards web site to learn who will receive the highest accolade every year. Voting is cast by travel agents in over 200 countries around the world.

**AAA FOUR DIAMOND AWARD**

**2001-2006**

The Four Diamond Award is AAA's second-highest award level, behind the Five Diamond Award. AAA bases hotel ratings on the quality of the surroundings, service and food. AAA inspectors conducted unannounced checks of each hotel and restaurant that received the award. Travelers rely on Diamond ratings in the AAA TourBooks to guide them in choosing an establishment. Four Diamond properties offer luxurious accommodations as well as above-average staff and housekeeping, and other quality amenities. AAA's Diamond rating program is the only hotel and restaurant review system in the nation that uses specially trained, full-time field representatives. Inspections of Four- and Five-Diamond hotels include at least two unannounced overnight visits each year. Inspectors review and rate exterior grounds, public areas, guestroom decor and ambience, bathrooms, housekeeping and maintenance. Once the inspection process is complete, the properties that meet all requirements are awarded a rating of one to five Diamonds.

**DEPARTURES FAVORITE PLACES READERS’ SURVEY**

**“Number One Favorite Places”**

La Samanna was honored as number one in its Atlantic/Caribbean category receiving an impressive 91.56 rating from *Departures*’ readers. Of La Samanna they said, “The top-to-toe renovation done five years ago on this 31-year-old resort in French St. Martin has paid huge dividends for its owners, Orient Express. Modeled on the white building and architecture of the Mediterranean, it offers 81 truly spacious rooms and suites with Mexican tile, wicker furniture, and terraces: Most important, they all face the sea. Sailing, windsurfing, and waterskiing on the Caribbean are complimentary for guests; luxe French Phytomer beautifying treatments and wines from one of the few notable lists in the islands are irresistible extras.” “When it comes to travel, there’s no one as sophisticated, knowledgeable and – dare we say – picky as the 655,000 *Departures* readers” explained Eliza Scott Harris, *Departures Magazine*. The annual “Readers’ Survey” developed by the editors of *Departures* in association with American Express was completed by more than 50,000 readers. It covered three broad categories: hotels, airlines, and cruise lines. *Departures Magazine* is written for American Express Platinum Cardholders as a luxury lifestyle magazine.

**CARIBBEAN TRAVEL & LIFE MAGAZINE**

**“Beachfront Bliss – Ultimate Beach Issue”**

**“10 Sexiest Beaches”**

*Caribbean Travel & Life* magazine’s selected La Samanna for having one the top 10 sexiest Beaches and has also ranked it “Best of the Caribbean”, with “The Best Small Luxury Resort” title. In competition with other Caribbean destinations, St. Marten/St. Martin was awarded with honors as the favorite all-around destination.

With circulation of over 150,000 Caribbean Travel & Life is written for the upscale traveler interested in vacationing in the Caribbean. Contents include shopping, dining and lodging ideas, cover the arts and entertainment in the area, and offer suggestions on sights and locations to visit.

**GOURMET**

***“The World’s Best Hotel Dining Rooms”***

Hotels today draw crowds with hot chefs and up-to-the-minute cuisine and the surroundings, from grand to groovy, are still rather special. In the Haute Caribbean, serious food with a sea view is hard to resist. Here’s proof that fine dining isn’t limited to big cities . . . The Restaurant, La Samanna – “St. Tropez in the Caribbean – a romantic alfresco terrace on a bluff overlooking the gorgeous inlet of Baie-Longue.”

**1,000 PLACES TO SEE BEFORE YOU DIE**

In the book, *1,000 Places To See Before You Die, a Traveler’s Life List*, author Patricia Schultz says of La Samanna, “La Samanna offers service, food, and ambience so special that most guests never venture beyond the tony, sybaritic enclave’s 55 impeccably groomed beachfront acres.”

**CELEBRATED LIVING MAGAZINE**

*Celebrated Living Magazine* recognized La Samanna with second place in their Top 10 Caribbean and Atlantic Islands. The magazine written for American Airlines Premium Class passengers has a circulation of more than 130,000 and features celebrity profiles, hotels, trips, travel style, restaurants, nightspots, home furnishings, gadgets, golf resorts and products, spas, shopping and events.

**WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE**

***“Best Resorts in the World for Wine”***

La Samanna is one of eight resorts to be profiled as “Best Resorts in the World for Wine”. Today, the company they started has published more than 300 million catalogs, and has been a pioneer not only in bringing wine-service products to a broad market but in providing widespread consumer access to wine preservation, wine storage, and electronic commerce.

**BRIDE’S**

***“Top 100 Caribbean Honeymoon Destinations”***

***“Top Romantic Destinations”***

*Bride’s* rated La Samanna the Best Beds award for a honeymoon destination in the Caribbean. La Samanna was also rated as one of the most romantic destinations in the Caribbean. In the article, La Samanna was described as “...it looks like a Moorish palace perched on a cliff above St. Martin’s Baie Longue, but even the sultans never had digs this luxurious.”

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