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— Giorgio Armani

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## OUR STYLE ISSUE

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“  
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 superyacht marina and village  
 ”

# CHRISTOPHE HARBOUR MARINA BRINGING THE SUPERYACHTS TO ST. KITTS

In the heart of the popular cruising grounds of the Eastern Caribbean, a distinct new luxury community is emerging. Combining barefoot sophistication with world-class facilities and service to match, Christophe Harbour is helping to put St. Kitts on the superyacht map!





The Caribbean season has long been inked into the superyacht calendar. From joining the barefoot elite in the BVIs to soaking in the French glamour of St. Barths or mixing beach and bar time in Antigua, there are plenty of yachting hotspots on the Caribbean map that need no introduction. But alongside these enduring favourites, sister Caribbean islands have been earning their stripes as discreet yachting retreats of their own. St. Kitts is one such island. Here, on the southeastern peninsula, you'll find Christophe Harbour, a superyacht marina and private island community like no other in the Eastern Caribbean.

Nestled within 2,500 acres of rolling Kittitian land, Christophe Harbour is a carefully crafted community that includes a world-class superyacht marina and village, elegant turnkey homes, home sites and fractional villas, and a comprehensive list of exclusive amenities, such as the private Pavilion beach club, SALT Plage beach bar, and the Caribbean's only Park Hyatt.

This sophisticated community is the brainchild of superyacht owner Charles 'Buddy' Darby III, an experienced resort developer from South Carolina with a passion for land and sea. "I visited St. Kitts for the first time over a decade ago and knew immediately that it was something special," he says. "St. Kitts has a real physicality: Rainforests, pristine beaches, crystal clear sea, a volcano, wonderful cuisine, and Kittitians are the warmest, welcoming people. The island is still very authentic." He acquired the land and what has followed is a lesson in carefully creating the ultimate luxury hideaway.

The beating heart of the development is undoubtedly the superyacht marina. Every aspect of it has been designed with the owner, guest, and crew experience in mind — from privacy, protected entry and safe inner harbour to high speed in-berth fuelling, fixed concrete piers and alongside berths, and super-fast wifi. The marina is managed by experienced superyacht captains who intimately understand what owners and their crew need, as well as the level of service expected. The Marina at Christophe Harbour currently offers 23 state-of-the-art berths for yachts between 45m and 67m and is also able to accommodate significantly larger vessels



OPPOSITE PAGE (T-B) MORNING SUN-RISING OVER A CUSTOM BUILT VILLA IN THE CHRISTOPHE HARBOUR LUXURY ENCLAVE; ENTRANCE TO THE MEMBERS ONLY CLUB HOUSE PHOTO BY PATRICK O'BRIEN; SAIL RACING PORTRAIT AT CHRISTOPHE HARBOUR; LÜRSSEN'S LIMITLESS YACHT. (THIS PAGE) CHARLES P 'BUDDY' DARBY III, CEO CHRISTOPHE HARBOUR.

in the harbour. All who enter the marina are welcomed by the beautiful new Customs House, an architectural masterpiece, which houses customs offices for yachting guests, marina services, a fitness centre, and crew lounge.

A keen yachtsman, Darby always envisioned St. Kitts incorporated into the Caribbean sailing calendar alongside events like the St. Barths Bucket and the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta. Indeed, it has much to offer sailors. "At more than 25 nautical miles, St. Kitts and Nevis boasts one of the longest, leeward sailable full wind, flat water stretches in the eastern Caribbean," says Darby. Christophe Harbour has already played host to the Caribbean Crewfest event three consecutive years as well as several exclusive Rendezvous events with Pendennis Shipyard and a prominent United States yacht club, as well as the most recent Christophe Harbour — Gustavia Yacht Club Cup, a friendly regatta aimed at solidifying the relationship between the St. Barths and St. Kitts sailing communities. The most exciting nautical event to date will take place next year, when the marina will welcome a magnificent fleet of yachts from Lanzarote for the end of the legendary Panerai Transat Classique.

For yachties, St. Kitts and its sister island Nevis really are in the heart of the Caribbean cruising grounds — around 40nm from St. Barths, 48nm from Antigua, and 44nm from St. Maarten — making Christophe Harbour a true gateway to the Caribbean. Private air charters or an afternoon sail to surrounding islands make diving in Saba, lunch in Anguilla, and shopping in St. Barths convenient excursions. With a kickstart by Christophe Harbour, the country is attracting record yachting traffic. In fact, 2017 marked the fifth consecutive year of increased

superyacht visits to St. Kitts and Nevis. And the government is determined to ensure that this growth continues and the yachting industry thrives via a strategic yachting plan. The implementation plan will develop the effectiveness of the island's entry procedures, provide work and income for the local community, and ensure that its offerings and infrastructure are competitive as well as sustainable, both economically and environmentally.

As you can see, when it comes to yachting and St. Kitts, this really is only the beginning. JP•SUM18

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