

Erika's

Yacht Agents

Clifton Harbour, Union Island

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

VHF 68

+1 784-533-2847

(mobile/Whatsapp, 24 hours)

+1 784 485-8335

(office)

SuperYacht Briefing | Captain, Purser, Chef

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

(2017/2018)

Welcome to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines!

Erika's is pleased to be your Agent in the area and we are eager to help you in any way we can.

This purpose of this briefing note is to give you some ideas about what your guests can do in these islands, and to give you and your crew some ideas about how we can help you as your agents in these waters — we are remote, the islands are small, but we can get things – sometimes we will need some notice, sometimes one of our planes will need to be dispatched, and sometimes we will need to work with your provisioning suppliers to get things here, get them cleared through customs and then get them to you. Use us: We know the area; We know the procedures; and We know what we are doing. We can make sure your time in these islands is as perfect as it can be. If you can give us notice everything will be easier - we know it is not always possible, but if you can, it is appreciated!

This briefing note is broken into three sections – some thoughts for the Captain, some ideas for the Purser and Chief Stewardess, and our notes for the Chef. We suggest you review our “What's On in the Grenadines” note too — it is updated twice monthly in the season. Of course, any queries you have that aren't covered here, or that aren't clear, or ... call us, write us, radio us, we'll answer.

A BIT ABOUT ERIKA'S

Our company was founded in 1999. We are based on Union Island, the southernmost island in the Grenadines. Our offices are at Bougainvillea Complex, Clifton Harbour. Although we are based on Union, we can assist you anywhere in the country, we have people standing-by in Mustique, Bequia, Canouan, Mayreau, and, of course, on Saint Vincent itself.

Erika's has an extensive network of local contacts, within the country and in the region — and we can use small planes that extend our reach and capability; if we cannot get something in this country, we may be able to get it in Martinique, Barbados or even Saint Martin.

NOTE:

A word about imports: Generally the import of tropical fruit and/or vegetables is prohibited. No imports of bananas, limes, avocados, mangoes (as examples) are permitted under any circumstances (although if these items accompany the yacht into the country, they are allowed). Most other foodstuffs can be imported, but will need permits and inspections, and this can take time. Items like spare parts and replacement parts can be imported free of duty, but these items need to be addressed in % Erika's and marked FOR YACHT IN TRANSIT. Contact us — We know the rules, we'll help you, but advance notice is really helpful!

Our initial service for you is clearance. We have good relationships with Customs and Immigration department officers in every island. Use our contacts and knowledge - and spare yourself and your crew the tedium of filling in forms and waiting in what can be long queues. We'll clear you in - and out - and take that opportunity to let you know what special events are going on in the area.

Beyond clearances we assist you in provisioning, in finding things that you might need - lost bags at airports, a few dozen quail eggs, adult diapers, prescription drugs, goat milk, steel pan bands – we've done them all in the past few months. Engine room need

spare parts? Guests want a rare wine? Kitesurfing lessons? Leave it to us. In case of spare engine parts, send them in care of us, we'll find you; in the case of anything else - give us some time, give us a budget, let's see what we can do.

Our office is open 08h30-17h30 daily, except Sunday, during the season. Need help before or after those hours? Fear not. We are flexible and responsive. Just email, or phone, we'll get back to you as soon as we can, regardless of the hour.

A BIT ABOUT SAINT VINCENT

Saint Vincent, 'the mainland', as we Grenadines islanders refer to it, is the centre of the country's government and the site of its main airport in Argyll - on the windward side of the island).

The beaches in Saint Vincent, unlike the Grenadines, are black sand (with one exception, the (currently closed) resort in Buccament Bay has imported white sand from Guyana).

The capital, Kingstown, has a busy harbour, and a Cruise Ship dock and shopping complex. There are some interesting gardens, a volcano to climb, waterfalls to visit – more of which in our "things to do" section below – but **the main attraction of the country for outside visitors *isn't* Saint Vincent, it's the Grenadines Islands. The Islands are where the charm, the beauty and the real soul of the Caribbean live.**

NOTE:

Some of our clients have expressed interest in stopping at some of the more remote areas along Saint Vincent's North West and North Coasts. *We would advise caution in those waters.* The crime rate is high, the police presence slight, and the possible risk to your vessel and/or your crew and passengers is real. We have briefing notes for these areas, which we'd be pleased to share if your guests insist on visiting!

A WORD ABOUT BOAT-BOYS

A bane, a delight, a scourge, a useful, colourful, entrepreneurial service — wherever you stand on the subject, boat boys are going to be around, like locusts!

How to deal with them? Be firm. If your policy is no boat boys, stick to it. If you do choose to deal with them, know what you are buying, what you are paying, what currency is being discussed. Obvious policies, but your crew might be distracted, intimidated - swindled! (These guys are good!). If any question, contact Erika's, we know who to trust, who the cheats are, and who has the best products (or supply chains).

In every harbour the whole continuum of boat boys will be present - the good, the less good, the sort-of-crooked, the really crooked and the outright thieves. Again, if in doubt, call Erika's for help.

NOTE:

One boat boy in the Tobago Cays/Mayreau/Union area to **AVOID** is Mr. Everywhere (aka Mr. Wonderful, Dolphin, Mr. BestPrice). His specialities include watered diesel, tender theft, the world's most expensive lobster, underage/under-sized lobster, out-of-season lobster, aged strawberries ... you get the idea. He spends nearly as much time in court and in jail as he spends on the water ... but he's out now. He has a front man, George, aka Bucky, who drives a white boat with light blue checkered foredeck. This pair will try anything to part you from your money. Beware. Note that Erika's does not send water taxis to collect money. Anything you might buy from us will be billed to you from our office.

When we send a local boat to you, you'll know who it is and the boat's name – beware of imitations!

THINGS TO DO - ISLAND BY ISLAND

Here are a few of the highlights in SVG. We are not like Saint Martin or St. Barths, with designer shops or casinos. This is the Caribbean as it used to be: Simpler, gentler — real. People generally enjoy the beauty of the islands, the snorkelling, the diving, the kiteboarding, the white sand beaches and the wonderful climate.

We can make reservations at any of the restaurants and spas, and we can arrange tours or tour leaders as needed in any of the islands. Contact us too, to arrange beach BBQs, tennis, golf (in Canouan) organize entertainment such as a steel pan group on a beach, or on board — or when off-duty, between guests, take the crew limbo dancing — we'll arrange it!

St. Vincent:

The Botanical Gardens and Montreal Gardens

Fort Charlotte and other historical sites

Soufriere - an active volcano

Waterfalls and hikes

Sport fishing expeditions

SCUBA diving

Taxi/Bus tours of the island

Kingstown is quaint and worth a half day visit to the markets and shops

Lots of opportunity for walking, both rigorous hikes and regular walking

Biking - Not recommended; narrow roads, heavy traffic.

FOOD:

- *French Verandah* Restaurant at Mariners Hotel
- *Basil's Bar* at Cobblestone Inn, Bay Street, Kingstown
- *Café Soleil* at Blue Lagoon Marina, south coast

Check our WHAT'S ON GRENADINES newsletter, published bi-monthly in the season, for what-to-do ideas and local events worthy of note for you and your guests.

Bequia:

Bequia Maritime Museum

Model Boatbuilding - a local tradition

Firefly Plantation - a working plantation, tour available

Old Hegg Turtle Sanctuary

Private tours by van

Lots of white sand beaches for swimming

SCUBA diving

FOOD:

- *Frangipani Hotel Bar* at the sea front in Port Elizabeth, a favourite watering hole for everyone
- *Bequia Beach Hotel & Spa in Friendship Bay* superb dining, lovely environment and yacht friendly – they have constructed a new dock, about 300m from the hotel, (a walk along the waterfront to the hotel) depth at the end of the dock 4 - 4.5m at low tide in sand.

Mustique:

Horseback riding

Taxi tour to see the island, which is private, perfectly manicured and exclusive

Wonderful white sand beaches for swimming

Tennis by arrangement - pro available (8 courts)

Ask us to rent some Mules, such that your guests can explore on their own ...

Cotton House Spa

FOOD:

- *Basil's Bar*, frequented by movie stars and vagabonds alike (undergoing a re-build at present, scheduled to re-open fully spring 2018 - but a pop-up bar is available in the interim).

- *Cotton House* - Verandah Restaurant, the gold standard of the Mustique experience.
- *FireFly*, intimate setting, first class cuisine and ambiance

Canouan:

18 hole golf course and spa at Pink Sands Resort (now managed by Mandarin Oriental), which is the island’s central industry and primary employer. Golf and tennis must be arranged ahead of time, as the resort is trying to keep it exclusively for hotel and villa residents. Erika’s can arrange bookings for yacht owners and guests.

Jet port for private jets into and out of the heart of the Grenadines (up to G5 - a 5,900 ft runway)

FOOD:

- *Tamarind Beach Hotel*
- *Pink Sands Resort*
- *Glossy Bay Marina*

*Check our **WHAT’S ON GRENADINES** newsletter, published bi-monthly in the season, for what-to-do ideas and local events worthy of note for you and your guests.*

NOTE:

The main superyacht anchorage for Canouan is in Charlestown Bay, on the west side - it is known for its swells and guest distress. If you need to anchor in Canouan, try for the north side of the bay, as close to the land as is safe - there are areas with depths of 4-5m - and the rolling should be less. An alternative, for yachts of up to 300’, is the new **Glossy Bay Marina**, on the island’s South Coast.

Mayreau:

Tiny, about 250 people live there. Delightful R. C. Church at the top of the hill

Saltwhistle Bay - beach bar and restaurant **is** open this season (check with us), and there is a fabulous beach

Walking/hiking, ... quite steep ... but direct your guests up to the RC Church at the top, fabulous view of the Tobago Cays!

Charming, traditional village life represented here

FOOD:

- While there are no 'international standard' restaurants on Mayreau, some of the local establishments are quite fun –
 - *Robert Righteous and De Youth*
 - *Dennis' Hideaway*

Tobago Cays Marine Park:

Paradise for those wanting to commune with the sea, sky and sand.

Protected marine park, fabulous diving and snorkelling, nothing built on the tiny islands

Swim with the turtles - protected underwater species proliferate in this park

Erika's can arrange for access to one of the islands in the Cays and we can outfit it with marquees, chairs and can provide barbecued lobster, fish etc. Give us a few days' notice and we can arrange it!

FOOD:

- There are no restaurants in the park, but Erika's can arrange for beach barbecues, lobster, local fish... 12 hours notice (but call, we might be able to do it ...).
- **NOTE:**
The Tobago Cays Marine Park charges superyachts a cruising fee for entering and staying in the park -- no worries, Erika's will handle it for you.

Union Island:

The authentic Caribbean, friendly people. No buildings with elevators, no escalators, two buildings with air conditioning (!)

Beautiful white sand beaches

SCUBA diving – the centre for Tobago Cays diving.

Happy Island, a unique bar built from conch shells in Clifton Harbour

Kite boarding – 2 internationally known kite boarding schools, very popular with yacht guests and owners – we can arrange lessons at Union or Frigate Rock – or can arrange for instructors to come to you wherever you are in the Southern Grenadines.

Chatham Bay on the west coast — is ideal for a quiet anchorage with a 1.5 km beach; fancy a beach BBQ? Let Erika's arrange something for you!

Petit St. Vincent:

Private resort, but can be superyacht friendly in certain areas - let Erika's coordinate your visit

BBQ, bar and restaurant on the beach open to yacht guests

Nice gift shop

Tennis court - but usually reserved for resort guests.

Spa - a lovely open air spa - sort of a Robinson Crusoe motif.

and just off the Petit St. Vincent shore, the sand bar island, **Morpion** – a great place for a picnic in the off-season. In-season it tends to receive a lot of visitors from charter yachts.

Further south in the Grenadines are **Petite Martinique** and **Carriacou**, but those are in Grenada and out of our territory (although as you might imagine we have connections there too -- there is a very busy water corridor between the countries, especially after sunset!). For Grenadian matters though, we'd refer you to Claire Spronk at the Port Louis Marina.

CAPTAIN

Welcome to the waters of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and thank you for choosing Erika's to be your agent while you are in our country.

The principal means of entry for your owners and guests will probably be the island of Canouan — which has a private jet port and relatively easy access to docks where you can collect them and their luggage to effect embarkation and debarkation. Erika's can help you with local logistics, there is a dock in Charlestown Bay that can be used to collect guests. Or use the facilities of the new Glossy Bay Marina which is adjacent to the airport – it has berthing facilities for yachts up to 300', and offers tender access for larger yachts needing airport access.

For owners, guests (or crew) coming on commercial aircraft, the usual gateway airports to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are the regional airports of Barbados (BGI), Grenada (GND) or Saint Lucia (UVF). From those points local flights must be arranged to get to our islands – there are scheduled flights to Saint Vincent, Mustique, Bequia, Canouan and Union from Barbados and St. Lucia daily, from Grenada less frequently. Erika's is a local travel agent, we can help you coordinate - and we have our own aircraft too, that can be chartered for guest movement. Canouan has a 5,900 ft runway, ideal for private aircraft (up to G5). Many owners and guests find this very convenient - Erika's can arrange for meeting/greetings and transfers to your ship.

If you are looking for dockage (for whatever reason), it is possible to make reservations for the cruise ship dock in Kingstown (cruise schedules permitting), the **Glossy Bay Marina** in Canouan is an option for vessels of up to 300' and we have also made arrangements for use of the main wharf in Clifton, Union Island (ferry schedules permitting). There are no guarantees, but if you need it, we can try. BTW: The Union

island main dock is not suitable for vessels >175'. Yes, Erika's can arrange for land-side security as required.

If you need cash — your agents can transfer funds to Erika's Marine Services and we can obtain the funds for you.

Have any packages sent to M/Y or S/Y your name here, % Erika's Marine Services, Clifton, Union Island, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Mark the package YACHT IN TRANSIT. Please use UPS or Federal Express. If you wish to see the package in the same two week period as it's sent - **DO NOT USE DHL** to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Any other queries, questions, information needed? Call Erika's — that's what we are here for!

EXECUTIVE CHEF

Welcome to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines!

Erika's Marine Services has been asked to be your yacht's agent while you are in our local waters. We are here to help you!

You are going to need supplies — we can help! But note, we are a small island in a chain of small islands — we are a long way from Manhattan, London or Nice: Fauchon, Fortnums and Zabars have no outlets nearby! The more notice you can give us, the better chance there is of meeting your requirements. Last year, with less than a day's notice, we brought 7 dozen quail eggs from Martinique, with more notice, who knows what sort of eggs we could find!

We know that the unexpected happens, that you too are caught off-guard by 'last minute' guest demands. No worries, we'll share the burden – we know where to go to get what.

We suggest, where possible, try to offer foods that we can get here — strawberries, raspberries, blueberries are not local foods in the Caribbean. These are exotic imported delights - that means expensive, yes, but it also means hard to find, and hard

— || —

to find 'fresh'. We do have mangoes, papayas, guavas, passion fruit, soursop, pineapples, watermelons – at least we do have those depending on the season. We also have breadfruit, callaloo, dasheen, christophene, avocados, squashes, sweet potatoes/yams, pigeon peas, a variety of greens, tomatoes. We have oranges, lemons, limes here - but our lemons aren't the beautiful yellow things you are used to - indeed, it is often hard to tell the difference between a local lemon and an orange - they are both green!

"Erika's Guide to Caribbean Food and Drink", written in 2012 and reprinted in 2014 as a guide for chefs (and others) to locally grown food is still available as a PDF. We think it is very useful and hope you will agree.

Most meats available locally are US-sourced, frozen and flown-in weekly. The fish, however, is mostly locally caught and beautiful. Marlin, Red Snapper, Barracuda, Kingfish, Mahi-Mahi (known as dophin-fish locally) and others are usually available. Lobsters (the caribbean rock-lobster) is widely available too -in season (Lobster season begins 01 October and ends at the end of April yearly). Erika's can arrange anything you need -- but the more notice you give us the better. And extra care is needed around major holidays (the fishermen might not be out the next day, or two) and in times of heavy weather.

If you need help with preparation tips for any of these tropical delicacies, give Erika's a call -- we have ideas and can help you plan your menu to take advantage of local produce.

When you need to place a large order with your provisioners we have some suggestions to make the procedure of landing the goods and getting them to your ship as smooth as possible:

- Importation of Avocados, Mangos (and other tropical fruit) is prohibited. No exceptions.
- Licenses, permits and special inspections are required for import of meats, vegetables, fruits, plants – we can arrange for these inspections, but the

government requires advance notice. We have seen pallets of goods sitting in the sun for an extended period, spoiling, while customs agents sit waiting for the proper licenses to be completed and approved. Things get especially problematic around holidays and weekends. Erika's can help smooth the process, but get us involved - we communicate regularly with many of the world's foremost provisioning companies.

- There are few direct flights to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, most provisioning shipments require transshipment – we need to coordinate with the customs agents and the freight forwarders to make certain that delays are avoided. However, Amerijet flies into St. Vincent every Tuesday from Miami (and to Grenada on Mondays and Thursdays), US-based suppliers are used to working with this schedule and are also familiar with the Customs department's requirements for paperwork.

Provisioning can be done while you are in our waters – it just takes a bit more work. We are here to help. Call us, let's talk! We have sources of fresh lettuces and herbs!

For your other day-to-day needs, boat boys can be a source of fresh produce — see our general note on boat boys above. We can help too with less exotic needs – again, call us, we'll either shop your list or will help you to find the right place to go. It's our pleasure.

CHIEF STEWARD(ESS)/PURSER

Welcome to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines!

Erika's is pleased to be your ship's agent while you are in our waters. Our job is to make your job as painless as possible - at least those parts of the job we can do from here (not on the ship!).

We know the area, we know where to get things, and how to get them – whether that is ten dozen boxes of tropical flowers to fill the ship with the colours and smells of the Caribbean or if it is to chase lost luggage, supply Christmas trees for onboard

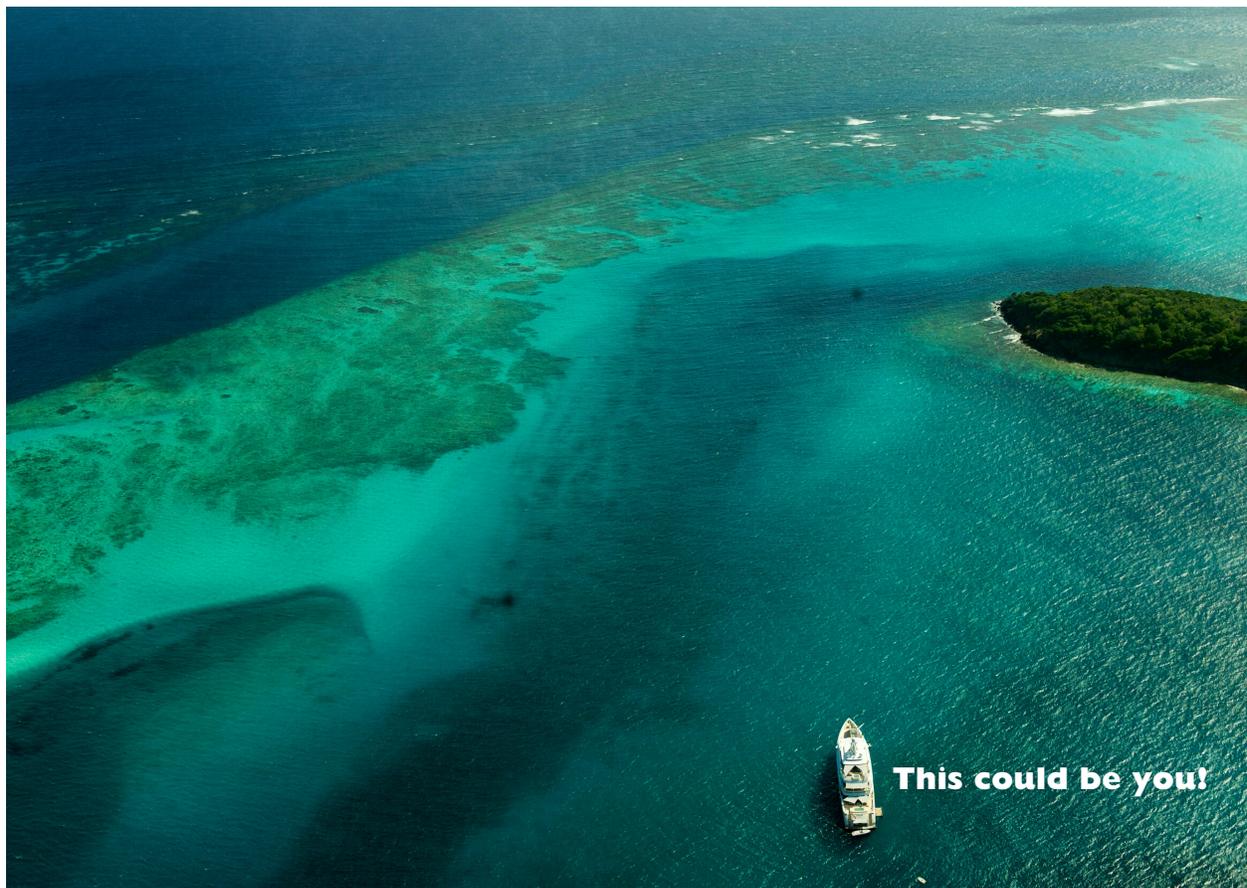
celebrations, or to find a box of pull-up Depends™ for a distressed guest (on New Year's Day). That's our job. We are happy to help. As in everything else, the more notice we can get the easier the task - but we know that you often don't get a lot of notice either!

If your guests/owners express the need for flowers from non-tropical zones, that can be done too - but we need to apply for licenses, inspection certificates and inspectors – and given that few planes fly direct to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines from the US or Europe, we may need to arrange transshipment and interim customs inspection at the trans-ship point. However, Amerijet flies into St. Vincent every Tuesday from Miami, so US suppliers are used to working with this schedule and also familiar with the Customs department's requirements for paperwork. Let us help you – if we can we will.

Erika's Yacht Agents

CONTACTS:

	Heather Grant	Chille Alexander
	<i>Managing Director</i>	<i>Office Manager</i>
Tel.	+1 784 485-8335	+1 784 485-8335
Cell/ Whatsapp	+1 784 533-2847	+1 784 532-9306
Fax	+1 784 485-8336	+1 784 485-8336
email	vip@erikamarine.com	chille@erikamarine.com



This could be you!

*Tobago Cays Marine Park
Closest port: Union Island, SVG*

— 15 —