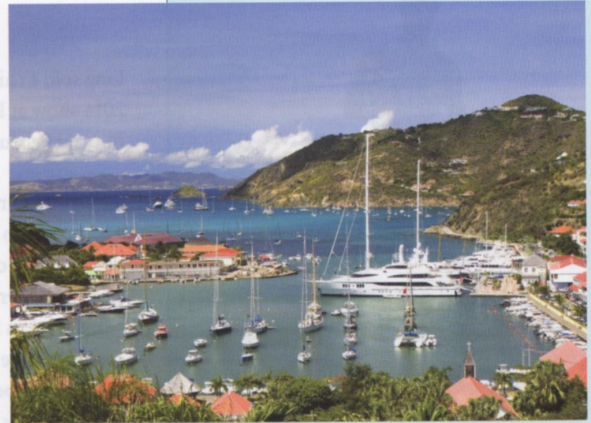


Artist Dave Stevenson first traveled to the West Indian island of St. Barthélemy in 1998, and it's no secret what keeps him coming back to chic and sunny St. Barth year after year: He's nuts about the out of doors. Whether he's swimming off Flamands Beach or windsurfing off Grand Cul de Sac, while he's in St. Barth, Stevenson is never at a loss for al fresco workout options. "There are a lot of islands in the Caribbean," Stevenson says. "Every time I go back to St. Barth it's always shocking how beautiful it is. I'm out there swimming and I'll see sea rays and sea turtles."

by CHRISTOPHER HANN



MAKING *Art* IN ST. BARTH

In his down time, Stevenson likes to lay low, and St. Barth appeals to that side of him as well. Within a week of arriving on the island for the first time fifteen years ago, he was being invited to dinner parties in private homes. "I love the casual, cool vibe," Stevenson says. "I have made a lot of friends over the years. I grew up on the water, by the beach on Long Island. So I think I was always drawn to the water. When I go back to St. Barth, everyone says, 'Welcome home.'"

Stevenson has always been the type to keep moving. He went to college in Virginia and lived in Montana and northern California before settling in New York City in the spring of 2001. Today he splits his time between an apartment/design studio in Inwood, a verdant pocket in northernmost Manhattan, and a larger living/work space in the Catskills. For four to six weeks every winter the 46-year-old sculptor and jewelry maker leaves behind the city's icy temperatures and howling winds and returns to the white-sand beaches and turquoise waters of St. Barth. "I feel at home there," Stevenson says.

Columbus discovered St. Barth on his second

voyage to the new world, in 1493, and named the island for his younger brother. Over the ensuing 500 years St. Barth would be ruled by France, Sweden, and France again. Today, a mere 8,900 people reside year-round on St. Barth's eight square miles of dry, rocky, sometimes rugged terrain, where they enjoy a stubbornly pleasant year-round climate (average temperatures fluctuate from 80 degrees in the winter to 86 degrees in the summer). Ever since David Rockefeller built a home on St. Barth in the 1950s, the tiny island has evolved into a sun-splashed playground for the international jet set, favored by the likes of Paul McCartney, Jay Z and Beyonce, and Paul Allen, the billionaire co-founder of Microsoft whose New Year's Eve parties aboard his 416-foot yacht have become the stuff of island legend.

Stevenson is represented in St. Barth by Les Artisans Gallery in downtown Gustavia, the capital, named for King Gustav III of Sweden. The gallery has shown Stevenson's sculpture and jewelry since 2001, and every winter since 2007 husband-and-wife owners Albert Yaphet and Jo-Anne Quetel have sponsored a month-



Riptide, sterling silver

