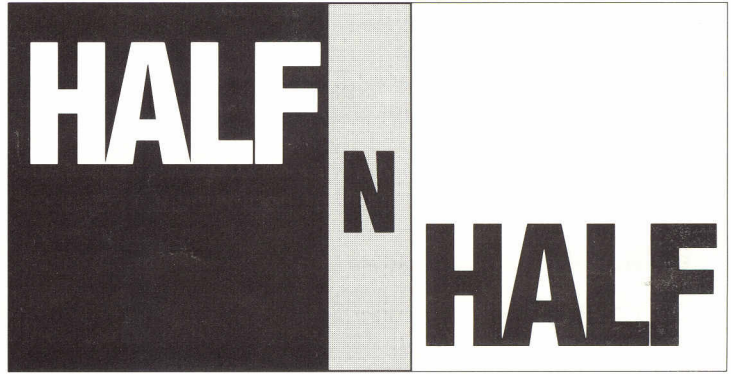
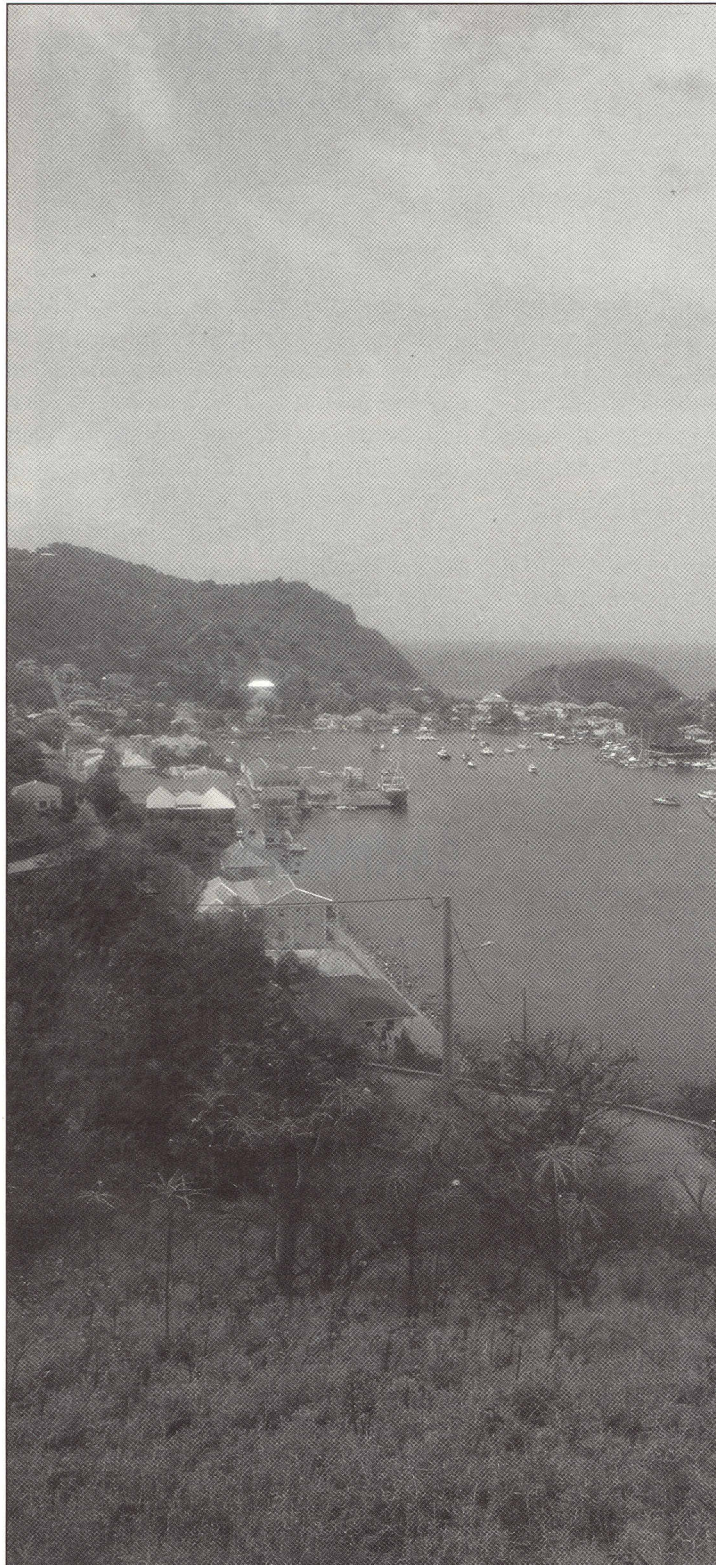


# BYS

# Newsline

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Bahamas • Leeward/Windward Islands • Virgin Islands



## Where, other than the Caribbean, could you find an island of only 37 square miles that is half Dutch and Half French? Welcommen, Bienvenue, St. Maarten/St. Martin.

What is the smallest piece of land in the world over which two European nations hold sovereignty? The answer, of course, is St. Maarten/St. Martin held jointly by Holland and France. Perhaps more interesting is that this state of affairs has existed since 1816 in conditions of peace, harmony and friendship.

According to local legend, a Frenchman and a Dutchman—both suitably fueled by alcohol—stood back to back and then set off in opposite directions to walk the island. Their starting point was Oyster Pond and they finally met at Cupecoy Bay, thus setting the boundary of the French and Dutch possessions.

A brief look at the map on page two suggests that the Frenchman was a faster walker than his Dutch friend. Indeed of the 37 sq. miles of land the French “half” is 22 sq. miles.

The Dutch capital, Philipsburg, is a charming little town just three streets wide and is bedecked with flowers. Its alleyways and courtyards add to the Dutch feel of the place. The town fronts on Great Bay and down the way is Bahamas Yachting Services where full service chartering has been available since they constructed offices at Bobby’s Marina in 1980.

While there are good hotels, nightclubs and casinos, the most exciting way to visit these islands is by sailing. Safe anchorages abound on both the Dutch and French sides and you can sample the English delights of nearby Anguilla or the French/Swedish mixture of St. Barts. In most cases, shopping, casinos and restaurants can all be sampled from your yacht more conveniently than from ashore.

*(continued on page 2)*



**Charter Starter**  
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*Chart courtesy of St Maarten/St Martin Area Cruising Guide*

**HALF 'N' HALF** (continued from page 1)

If you plan a day's shopping spree it's probably best to avoid the days when the cruise ships arrive. Opt instead for a visit to Marigot, the French capital, just nine miles away or enjoy a pleasant sail around the northwest coast of the island. (See "So You're in St. Maarten".)

Although French and Dutch are the official languages in the respective sections, English is generally spoken everywhere. You will hear local French Patois and you may hear, but almost certainly not understand, Papiamentu, a Portmanteau language that blends Dutch, Portu-

guese, Spanish, and English, plus the odd African word or two. The language of sailors is, however, universal.

Saba, a verdant five square mile volcanic peak west of St. Maarten, juts from the Caribbean like a frolicsome dolphin and endlessly beckons from the time you arrive on the island.

The ultimate experience is aboard a BYS Custom 52 foot ketch with all of the amenities not normally found aboard charter yachts. Four separate air conditioned staterooms with four private heads offer unheard of comfort, with-

out sacrificing living space in either the galley or main salon. After a day of sailing, snorkeling or touring, relax in the main salon with its video tape deck and stereo, shower and blow dry your hair (with regular 110 volt household current) or simply watch the sun go down from the shaded comfort of the huge cockpit.

St. Maarten/St. Martin reflect the culture of history's great sailing powers and BYS offers modern voyagers the opportunity to follow in the explorers' footsteps.