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1ST MARTINIQUE SURF PRO PUTS CARIBBEAN AT CENTER OF THE SURFING WORLD

World Surf League Qualification Series (QS) event highlights Martinique's dynamic watersports options



Credit Christophe Mastelli

NEW YORK, NY –April 8th, 2015 – The eyes of the surfing world will be trained on Martinique this spring as *The Isle of Flowers* hosts the first Martinique Surf Pro, April 21-26, 2015. The only World Surf League (WSL) Qualification Series event to be held in the Caribbean in 2015, Martinique Surf Pro will be contested along the shores of Basse-Pointe, a “secret” surf spot cherished among locals and visitors “in-the-know” for its consistent, powerful and especially long waves that break right over an exposed reef break.

Organized by Martinique Surfing (www.martinique-surfing.com) in partnership with the WSL, Martinique Surf Pro will attract 100 world-class surfers from the United States, Europe, Brazil, Japan and the Caribbean. These elite athletes will compete to gain valuable experience and earn WSL Qualifying Series points toward advancing to the WSL Championship Tour.

“Martinique has been among the best-kept secrets in Caribbean surfing for some time now, “ said Muriel Wiltord, Director Americas for the Martinique Promotion Bureau. “Such a high-profile event as this cements the island’s position as a prime surfing destination. As one the top watersports competitions being held in the Caribbean in 2015, Martinique Surf Pro also shines a spotlight on the wide range of additional watersports options that Martinique has to offer.”

The best surfing conditions in Martinique can be enjoyed between November and May along the island’s northern and northeastern Atlantic shores, where Basse-Pointe is located. The island counts 14 recommended surfing spot from North to South. Throughout the entire year, though, the waters around Martinique remain active with a wealth of watersports activities, among them:

- Scuba Diving
- Snorkeling
- Stand-Up Paddleboarding
- Kiteboarding
- Flyboarding
- Kayaking
- Sailing
- Power Boating
- Jet Ski
- Sportfishing
- Fly Fishing
- Water Skiing

“If a particular activity is fun and can be enjoyed out on the water, chances are you’ll find it in Martinique,” said Wiltord. “We’re looking forward to showcasing our waters to Martinique Surf Pro competitors and surfing fans, and welcoming an increasing number of surfing and watersports enthusiasts for years to come.”

For more information on the first Martinique Surf Pro, visit www.martinique-surfing.com.

For more information on travel to Martinique, please visit www.us.martinique.org. For the latest, up-to-date Martinique Promotion Bureau press kit, journalists are encouraged to visit www.martiniquepresskit.com.

About Martinique (www.us.martinique.org)

The Caribbean Island with French Flair, The Isle of Flowers, The Rum Capital of the World, The Isle of the Famed Poet (Aimé Césaire) – Martinique ranks among the most alluring and enchanting destinations in the world. As an overseas region of France, Martinique boasts modern and reliable infrastructure – roads, water and power utilities, hospitals, and telecommunications services all on par with any other part of the European Union. At the same time, Martinique’s beautifully unspoiled beaches, volcanic peaks, rainforests, 80+ miles of hiking trails, waterfalls, streams, and other natural wonders are the equal of neighboring Dominica to the north and St. Lucia to the south, so visitors here truly get the best of both worlds. The currency is the Euro, the flag is Le Tricolour, and the official language is French, but Martinique’s character, cuisine, musical heritage, art, culture, common language, and identity are of a distinctly Afro-Caribbean inclination known as Creole Martiniquais. It is this special combination of modern world conveniences, pristine nature, and rich heritage that has earned for Martinique several notable distinctions in recent years, including being named as a “Must-Visit” destination for 2015 by *Caribbean Journal*, “Best Caribbean Destination” by About.com, and “Top Caribbean Island for Delectable Dining” by *Caribbean Travel + Life*. The Bay of Fort-de-France, which fronts Martinique’s charming capital city, was also recently inducted into *The Club of The Most Beautiful Bays in the World*.

Martinique’s storied history further stirs travel passions. Napoleon’s bride, Empress Josephine, was born and raised in Martinique, while the majestic Mt. Pelée volcano and St. Pierre, *The Pompeii of the Caribbean*, are found here.

A special place, to be sure, with so much to offer – *Martinique c’est magnifique!*

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