

Aruba's iguanas: A protected species

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:

ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.



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Marvel announces 'Black Panther III' at Comic-Con

San Diego, United States

(AFP)—Superhero movie fans will officially return to the world of Wakanda in "Black Panther III," the newest entry in the Marvel film franchise, the studio announced at Comic-Con on Saturday.

British actor David Jonsson will play the lead role in the film, due out on December 15, 2028.

Known for his performances in the HBO television series "Industry" and the 2025 film "The Long Walk," Jonsson steps into the Marvel Cinematic Universe as the son of T'Challa, the original Black Panther superhero played by actor Chadwick Boseman.

Boseman, who rocketed to fame in 2018's "Black Panther," died in 2020 at the age of 43 as a result of colon



Blade and Black Panther cosplayers from Marvel attend the 2026 Comic-Con International: San Diego on July 25, 2026 in San Diego, California.

cancer.

Black Panther three-quel Marvel announced the with Jonsson appearing in

front of thousands of fans at Comic-Con's famous Hall H. "Thank you to this amazing family that I have the honor and the privilege and the blessing to join," Jonsson told the crowd.

"I actually don't want to say too much because I want to let this screen do the talk," he said.

Oscar-winning filmmaker Ryan Coogler, who directed the first two "Black Panther" films, will return to helm the third.

"Today is extra special," Coogler said, joining Jonsson and Marvel executive producer Kevin Feige on stage. Coogler told the audience "Black Panther III" will follow T'Challa's son as he comes of age and follows in his father's superhero-sized footsteps. The first "Black Panther" film grossed \$1.3 billion when it was released in 2018, starring Boseman alongside a cast including Michael B. Jordan -- who won this year's Best Actor Oscar -- Angela Bassett, Lupita Nyong'o, Forest Whitaker, Danai Gurira, and Letitia Wright, many of whom reprised their appearances in "Black Panther 2."

- 'Ghost Rider' rides again -

Another bombshell reveal was the welcome of Ryan Gosling to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, where he will take on the role of Johnny Blaze in "Ghost Rider," slated to hit theaters in 2028.

"Is this really happening?" Gosling said onstage along-

side Feige.

Marvel Studios returned to Hall H after skipping last year's event, less than five months before the release of its highly anticipated "Avengers: Domsday."

The studio brought to the stage Anthony and Joe Russo, the directors of the film, as well as several of its stars including Robert Downey Jr., who will play the villain Victor Von Doom.

The latest superhero film will pick up where 2019's "Endgame" left off, bringing together heroes and villains from X-Men, the Avengers, Black Panther and the Fantastic Four to duke it out once more.

Capes and masks of the nefarious Victor Von Doom were handed out before Marvel's presentation, transforming the audience into a green army.

Some fans had waited several nights to get into the venue to hear from their favorite studio.

"We're all here for the same reason we love it, we love the feeling we get when we come to Hall H," Wally, a man from neighboring Orange County who slept outside the venue for two nights, told AFP.

"It was worth it, it was better than expected... I'm speechless," he said after the presentation.

- Apple TV's debut -

Earlier in the day, Apple TV made its debut in the coveted Hall H, offering a first look at its upcoming action comedy "Matchbox: The Movie."

The streaming platform unveiled some footage from the flick, which stars John Cena, Jessica Biel, Sam Richardson, Teyonah Parris and Arturo Castro.

The film is inspired by the famous toy cars, which Biel said she grew up playing with her brother.

"It's like being a kid again," she said.

Apple TV also offered an early look at its science-fiction production "Neuromancer," based on William Gibson's 1984 novel, and "Mayday," a comedy set during the Cold War starring Ryan Reynolds and Kenneth Branagh. □

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Lucas Museum to display unseen 'Star Wars' pieces, curator says

San Diego, United States

(AFP)—The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art -- founded by legendary "Star Wars" creator George Lucas and his wife -- will see previously undisplayed items from the hit sci-fi series after it opens later this year, its curator told AFP.

"We are the home of the Lucas Archives, the Lucas-film production materials," Ryan Linkof said. "So we'll have an exhibition on 'Star Wars' that includes some really special pieces that have never been exhibited before."

More than 1,300 objects will be displayed across 33 galleries covering over 9,200 square meters in the futuristically designed building that will open its doors on September 22.

The museum, spearheaded by the filmmaker and his wife, business executive Mellody Hobson, promises to house some of the objects, artifacts and works Lucas has collected over decades.

The collection includes illustrations by Norman Rockwell, Jessie Willcox Smith and N.C. Wyeth; works by Frida Kahlo, Jacob Law-



Star Wars Mandalorian displays during 2026 Comic-Con International: San Diego Preview Night at San Diego Convention Center on July 22, 2026 in San Diego, California.

rence, Charles White and Robert Colescott; and pieces by cartoonists including Winsor McCay, Jack Kirby and Frank Frazetta.

"This is a kind of art that doesn't often have an institutional home -- not a lot of art museums collect or exhibit it," Linkof said. "It will be

a series of exhibitions organized around material that is really quite rare."

But the crown jewel, at least for some fans, will be production materials from Lucasfilm.

Linkof said the "incredibly ambitious project," which Lucas has worked on for

decades, had faced a series of challenges, including those stemming from the pandemic.

But for the curator, it represents something of a culmination of the acclaimed filmmaker's career.

"Mellody has said before that ... everyone gets two

songs. He had his first song that was Star Wars, and the second song is the museum," Linkoff said. "And it really is an offering for the world that will really last."

Lucas, 82, remains actively involved in the project, the curator said.

"As far as I can tell, he's very happy with it," he said.

Last year, Lucas visited Comic-Con's famous Hall H -- the pop culture convention's most important venue -- for the first time, specifically to discuss his museum. Linkof spoke with AFP on the sidelines of the convention in San Diego this year, before leading a panel about the institution featuring stars including Keke Palmer and DC Comics President Jim Lee.

"I think that if you go to this museum, you will see art that you will recognize and have seen your entire life, through commercials, through comics books, but you will see it in a different way that will hopefully enlighten and inspire you," Lee said.

"This is amazing art, we have it all around us, how lucky are we?" □

Trump orders disclaimer signs outside museum of American history

Washington, United States

(AFP)—US President Donald Trump issued an executive order Friday to install signage that warns visitors of inaccurate historical information inside The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington.

The highly unusual move marks the 80-year-old Republican's latest battle in his ideological war on American cultural institutions and monuments, some of which he has renamed for himself and renovated to his liking despite legal challenges.

The order calls on federal officials to "install temporary signage" on public walkways outside the building to "notify visitors that the Museum exhibits should be renovated" to reflect "accurate information regarding America's history." It comes days after Anthea Hartig, historian and director of the National Museum of American History, testi-

fied before a US House subcommittee and faced harsh criticism from Republican lawmakers. She highlighted how the museum's displays include "the desk on which Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence... Abraham Lincoln's top hat from the night he was assassinated, the Greensboro lunch counter, the gowns of the first ladies" and more. In Tuesday's hearing, Republican congressman Tim Burchett said he felt the Smithsonian has "become infected by a woke ideology" to highlight American oppression.

Democrat Melanie Stansbury denounced that view, criticizing the Trump administration's broad crackdown on cultural and academic centers.

"This administration has launched an unprecedented effort to interfere in how American history is told, re-

searched, interpreted, presented, and taught -- not just in the Smithsonian, but in our schools, in our institutes of higher education, and through and across the federal government," Stansbury said.

- 'White, male and Christian' -
The president's order cites a 162-page White House report from March, that accuses the Smithsonian of failing to highlight the "constructive role of Christian belief."

"White, male, and Christian Americans are regularly denigrated as the alleged embodiment of oppressive power structures," the report said.

Hartig told lawmakers that while the White House report is under review, "we unwaveringly attest that it does not fairly or accurately characterize the full body of work at the museum."

The Smithsonian Institution,



United States President Donald J Trump on Friday July 24 2026 ordered federal officials to install signs outside the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History that correct what he says is "inaccurate" information presented by the institution about American history.

founded nearly two centuries ago, is a Washington mainstay whose 21 museums are largely dedicated to US history and culture, as well as art.

Trump fired the director of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery Kim Sajet in May 2025, calling her "a highly partisan person."

Last August he slammed the

Smithsonian for being "out of control" and highlighting the horrors of slavery while showing "nothing about success." Among other efforts to renovate or rewrite history, Trump also imposed a forceful overhaul of Washington's storied Kennedy Center, putting his name on the building, before a court order forced the removal of his name in June. □

S. Korean chipmakers to supply US tech firms in \$950 bn deals

Seoul, South Korea

(AFP)—South Korean memory chip giants Samsung Electronics and SK hynix will supply US tech companies, including Nvidia, in agreements worth \$950 billion, a presidential adviser said on Saturday.

The announcement was made as President Lee Jae Myung visited San Francisco for talks with the heads of major US technology companies, including OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Nvidia's Jensen Huang, Anthropic's Dario Amodei and Broadcom's Hock Tan.

The two South Korean chip giants and US tech companies agreed to "pursue cooperation" in the sector, presidential chief of staff for policy Kim Yong-beom told reporters in San Francisco while accompanying Lee. South Korea is home to the world's leading memory chipmakers, Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, whose advanced memory chips are essential to the rapidly evolving artificial intelligence industry and have



The logo of Samsung is seen at the Samsung Electronics Seocho building in Seoul on July 7, 2026.

fuelled optimism about the country's economic outlook.

The announcement includes SK hynix's planned five-year cooperation agreement to supply \$750 billion worth of memory chips to companies including Nvidia, Kim said.

It also includes a \$200 bil-

lion memorandum of understanding between Samsung Electronics and Broadcom covering the supply of advanced memory chips and foundry services for AI chip production over the next five years, he said.

South Korea has pledged to triple spending on AI this year, aiming to join the

United States and China as one of the world's top powers in the sector.

SK hynix and Samsung Electronics are among the world's three leading advanced memory chipmakers, along with US-based Micron.

Such chips, called high-bandwidth memory (HBM),

are used in AI processors alongside powerful silicon known as GPUs to generate chatbot responses or realistic images.

The AI boom has also fuelled worker demands over pay packages, with Samsung averting a major strike in May by agreeing a deal on bonuses with its largest union.

Samsung and Broadcom plan to "pursue a strategic collaboration for the supply of industry-leading memory solutions, including HBM, supporting Broadcom's next-generation AI accelerators", Samsung said in a statement.

SK hynix and Nvidia also aim to "accelerate large-scale AI infrastructure development", the South Korean firm said.

The two firms "will co-develop and optimize next-generation AI memory solutions, including HBM, to meet evolving infrastructure demands ranging from large language model training to physical AI", it said in a statement. □

As wildfires grip France and Spain, what are the risks from the smoke?



Firefighters battle a forest fire in Saint-Jean-d'Illac, some 30km from Bordeaux, on July 26, 2026 as a wildfire has been ravaging the forest north of the Arcachon Basin (Gironde).

Paris, France

(AFP)—What dangers does smoke from wildfires pose? Who is most at risk? Here are some answers to health questions often asked, especially now with the fires in France and Spain.

What is in the smoke?

Fires burning vegetation generate gas and particles in the air that are dangerous for our systems, notes Anses, France's health safety agency. Fine particles especially

are particularly bad, because they can penetrate deeply into the lungs. Carbon monoxide is one of the major pollutants released by such fires, the agency says, which listed other chemical substances also, such as carbon dioxide, volatile organic compounds including acrolein, formaldehyde and benzene. As well as these, other pollutants can be mixed in if vehicles or buildings are consumed by flames.

Who is most at risk?

Individuals closest to a fire can display symptoms of respiratory irritation. But effects will go on to be felt more widely in a population if a wind carries the smoke, over the following hours or several days later, French pulmonologist Bruno Crestani told AFP.

Especially at risk are "vulnerable persons -- those who are old, or who have a respiratory disease, or infants, or asthmatics -- because this (smoke) can unbalance a situation that was previously under control, said Crestani, who heads France's Respiratory Health Foundation. The impact is "not only respiratory", he pointed out. "These particles can enter the circulatory system" and possibly trigger diabetes, a stroke or a heart attack, he said. Because these particles are so fine and light, they can end up being carried long distances, to affect people well away from the fire zone.

In September 2025, the World Meteorological Organization stressed that wildfires can send a toxic mix of pollutants thousands of kilometres. It noted that, in 2024, smoke from wildfires in Canada even caused air pollution as far away as Europe.

What specific risks for firefighters?

Anses underlined effects on firefighters, not only as they battled blazes, but also indirectly, as they monitor extinguished areas, carry out investigations and clearing, and also when back in the fire station with contaminated equipment and vehicles. Other factors could increase their vulnerability, such as smoke inhalation, heat stress, dehydration, strenuous work, sleep deprivation, accumulated fatigue and accidents, the agency said.

How deadly is it?

In December 2025, in its annual report on climate-change risks to health, the

medical journal The Lancet estimated that "exposure to wildfire smoke led to an estimated 154,000 deaths" the previous year, worldwide, attributed to fine particulate matter. For France, the charity Oxfam estimated that there were 2,800 early deaths yearly from air pollution caused by wildfires. Crestani stressed that the long-term effects needed to be taken into account for the entire population, and not only for vulnerable persons.

How to protect yourself?

French Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu has promised to send 1.5 million FFP2 masks to the Gironde region where an unprecedented wildfire was blazing, to help protect the population there. Anses recommends such masks for anyone likely to have trouble when exposed to smoke. And if they experienced breathing problems or other symptoms, they should seek medical help, it says. □

WorldPride gets a royal welcome amid warnings for LGBTQ community

Amsterdam, Netherlands

(AFP)—Maxima of the Netherlands smiled as she confronted rival queens at the launch of one of the world's biggest LGBTQ events in Amsterdam. The Dutch monarch formally opened WorldPride 2026 in front of drag queens and other LGBTQ activists in the city on Saturday, amidst warnings over the backlash the community has faced in some countries.

"Your majesty, today you are not alone," Amsterdam mayor Femke Halsema told the ceremony. "You are here in the company of queens from all backgrounds. Welcome to the queens!"

Maxima and Halsema stood on a stage where placards declared "Gay Rights = Human Rights" and "Stronger Together". Until August 8, the city will host 300 events that mix the joyous pomp of pride gatherings held around the world with the activism that many LGBTQ leaders say is still needed.

A pride march was held to mark the opening of the festival while drag queen Lady Heineken officiated at the renewal of vows by couples



Participants march through the streets of Amsterdam during a WorldPride event, bringing together supporters of LGBTQ+ rights and equality, on July 25, 2026

on a ferry.

- "Protest and celebration" -

"It's often said we must choose between protest and celebration. I don't buy that. A soulless celebration is nothing. A protest without joy is far less powerful," Halsema said in a passionate opening address.

The mayor also highlighted

countries like Uganda where homosexuality is criminalised and other countries where transgenders have faced attacks as she called for vigilance to protect rights acquired by the LGBTQ community.

Halsema urged people to "look at ourselves, because yes, tolerance is on

the wane. The queer community is becoming more visible, more joyful, present everywhere. But there is also a backlash," she declared. Patrick Simones, a 58-year-old train driver wearing a hat adorned with rainbow feathers and going by the drag queen sobriquet "Miss Spunt", said the situation for LGBTQ people has deteriorated in

the Netherlands.

"People are being bashed, trashed and cursed," he told AFP, urging the nation to support Gay Pride so that it could become "a great gay land again".

"We cannot forget that there are still places where you still cannot be yourself," said Vicente Rios Rios, a 57-year-old Mexican attending the march.

- 'Drag in Amsterdam' -

A "Drag in Amsterdam" exhibition at the city archives is marking WorldPride by offering a retrospective of the history and impact of drag culture in the Dutch capital. "During the 1980s and 1990s, at the height of the AIDS epidemic, the drag community played a truly vital role in raising public awareness of safer sex practices and also organised numerous charity shows to raise funds for specific hospitals," said Kadja Bijlmakers, 30, the exhibition's curator.

"As a city council, we want to show that we stand alongside the queer community and fully support it," she concluded. □

Spanish wildfires intrude on holidaying foreign visitors

Madrid, Spain

(AFP)—Being indoors as much as possible was not the plan when Chicago attorney Thomas Fawkes, 49, arrived on holiday in Madrid with his wife and son. But devastating wildfires ravaging a huge area just 50 kilometres (31 miles) to the north of Spain's capital gave him little choice.

"We arrived in Madrid three days ago. We took the train in from Barcelona and we actually got stopped for about an hour and a half due to the wildfires -- you could really tell when you were outside that the wildfires were nearby," Fawkes told AFP.

- "Warmer and warmer" -

Retired New Zealand-based couple Pilar and Douglas, spending four months travelling across Europe, explained: "We come to Europe every year, we've noticed it getting warmer and warmer and so the fires are a product of that."



Residents carry containers of water to put out the embers as a fire started in an industrial area of San Martin de Valdeiglesias, about 70km west of Madrid, on July 26, 2026

"I carry a mask," said Pilar, 69, whose mother was Spanish.

"We could see the fire very close to the airport. Very black smoke and we're just hoping that this doesn't continue because it's really close to Madrid now," added Pilar, who declined to give her last name.

"I could smell it inside the hotel," she remarked of the smoke.

"We were never worried that the fire would actually

get into Madrid itself but it's more effect it has on the air quality," adds Douglas, 71. The pair were to fly up to Bilbao in the Basque country on Monday but that brings them within range of wildfires which are ravaging tens of thousands of hectares across the border outside the southwestern French city of Bordeaux.

The European Forest Fire Information System puts the extent of Spain's own damage thus far this summer at

almost 130,000 hectares. As Pilar mulls a potential change of plan her husband says next year they might move their annual trip to the spring or autumn.

- "Kind of nervous" -

"We're just kind of nervous," said Letisha Lucas, a 33-year-old Canadian correctional programme officer, visiting Madrid with a friend, Lindsay.

"It's kind of shocking and (we're) just a little bit of

being anxious of what are we coming into," Lucas explained after arriving in Spain early Saturday.

Coming from Ontario, which has recently suffered large scale forest fires, she smiled wanly in commenting she thought she had left such matters behind at least for the length of her holiday, "only to learn that there were fires here."

"It's sad just to see how our world is changing," she concluded.

Raquel Cano, owner of Madrid's Casa Parrondo restaurant, said he feared the fires would deal a blow to tourism.

"It smells of burning. It affects tourism, it affects everything — the world is falling apart all around us," said Cano.

"A fire is devastating. People who want to come will come anyway. But it's not the same seeing the green hills as seeing them completely desolate and black." □

Bodies of five climbers found on Russia's highest peak



This photograph taken on June 3, 2022, through a cable car glass shows Russian military cadets climbing Mount Elbrus as part of their mountain trainings near Terskol, Russia's Kabardino-Balkarian Republic.

Moscow, Russia

(AFP)—Russia on Sunday said it had found the bodies of five foreign climbers -- believed to be Bosnian -- on Mount Elbrus, authorities and state media said.

Earlier, authorities said that out of a group of seven climbing Russia's highest mountain, they had recovered two bodies and were searching for three more.

"According to investigators,

on July 24, a group of seven climbers -- foreign nationals -- was climbing Mount Elbrus. The following evening, due to rapidly deteriorating weather conditions, the group strayed from the route," the local prosecutor's office said. It said one of the alpinists went down and told authorities that "two members of the group had fallen ill at an altitude of 5,100 meters and died." □

Ancient monastery in Thailand added to UNESCO heritage list

Bangkok, Thailand

(AFP)—A centuries-old monastery in southern Thailand is the country's latest cultural landmark to be inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, which will aid in the site's conservation, the government said Sunday.

Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan in Nakhon Si Thammarat province is Thailand's ninth World Heritage site, but its first in the nation's southern region, the Thai foreign ministry said in a statement.

"Its inscription will further strengthen cooperation at both the national and local levels in the conservation, protection and sustainable management of the World Heritage Site," the ministry said.

Officials and monks marked the recognition by UNESCO



Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan temple in Nakhon Si Thammarat province of Thailand on July 2, 2019.

at the monastery on Saturday by chanting blessings and banging a gong, local media reported.

Also known as the Phra Mahathat monastery, the site has "served as a major regional Buddhist centre since its founding in the 8th century", according to UNESCO,

the United Nations' cultural agency.

The temple property includes towering grey stupas, a massive reclining Buddha statue, and rows of standing and seated gilded Buddha monuments, as well as various ornate representations of guardian deities. □

French firefighters face 'pyrocumulonimbus' for first time

Paris, France

(AFP)—The gigantic wildfire ravaging southwest France has created an extremely dangerous "pyrocumulonimbus" -- a phenomenon never before seen in the country -- the spokesman for the country's National Firefighters Federation of France (FNSPF) told AFP.

Such a formation, also called a cumulonimbus flammagenitus cloud, can be seen during volcanic eruptions -- or, as in this case, when a wildfire roasts the air near the ground, causing it to rise quickly.

The rising air cools and becomes a cloud, or fire cloud: a turbulent mass that can generate its own winds that worsen fires. If it becomes very large it can even generate lightning.

Hitherto, they have only really been seen in wildfire-prone Australia and North America. NASA calls them the "fire-breathing dragon of clouds".

What causes them?

FNSPF spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Eric Brocardi: "The rise in ground temperature at the heart of the blaze is so extreme that the intense heat surges upward



A firefighter battles a forest fire in Saint-Jean-d'Illac, some 30km from Bordeaux, on July 26, 2026 as a wildfire has been ravaging the forest north of the Arcachon Basin (Gironde).

in a column, meeting cooler air masses at the top. This contact creates a pyrocumulonimbus -- or fire cloud -- though unfortunately one devoid of moisture. This smoke cloud generates its own weather system, causing anything in its path to spontaneously combust.

"Lightning forms within the cloud, striking the embers on the ground and further fuelling the fire ... It produces a low, rumbling sound.

"While this type of fire occurs regularly in Canada and Australia, it is unprecedented in

France."

Can it be brought under control?

"We are dealing with a so-called 'convective' fire that creates its own winds -- winds that constantly shift direction, unlike a standard fire that spreads in a conical pattern. The result is that it spreads in every direction and develops multiple fire fronts, making the situation completely unpredictable.

"We don't know how the blaze will spread; the fire front is constantly shifting.

We cannot fight it directly. It's a David-versus-Goliath scenario: the idea is that, at some point, we'll find a weak spot and strike there.

"Salvation will come either from the sky -- in the form of rain, though it would need to pour heavily for three days -- or by finding a way to steer the fire toward a place where it will die out on its own. The sea, for example."

Do the firefighters have any hope?

"We have reached a point

of 'operational impossibility' that requires us to accept the need for strategic retreat -- to understand and acknowledge a natural force beyond our control.

"It calls for ... knowing what can be done and, above all, what cannot. The situation on the ground is defensive rather than offensive; it is a war-like scenario where we are under constant bombardment and must get everyone to safety.

"We realise we are facing a situation where we are powerless. Yet, that powerlessness leaves no room for despair. It is certain that all the efforts being made will yield results. It is out of the question for the firefighters to feel that their work on the ground is in vain.

"Every single action -- defending critical sites, rescuing animals -- breathes new life into their efforts, driven by their fierce determination. There is a support force ready to relieve them.

"However, not all firefighters from across France can simply converge here, because the risk exists everywhere. We have to hold the line."

(Interviewed by AFP journalist Juliette Collen) □

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Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

Many years ago, Cha* Tiger did not live in the mondi*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks,

thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense."

"I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you

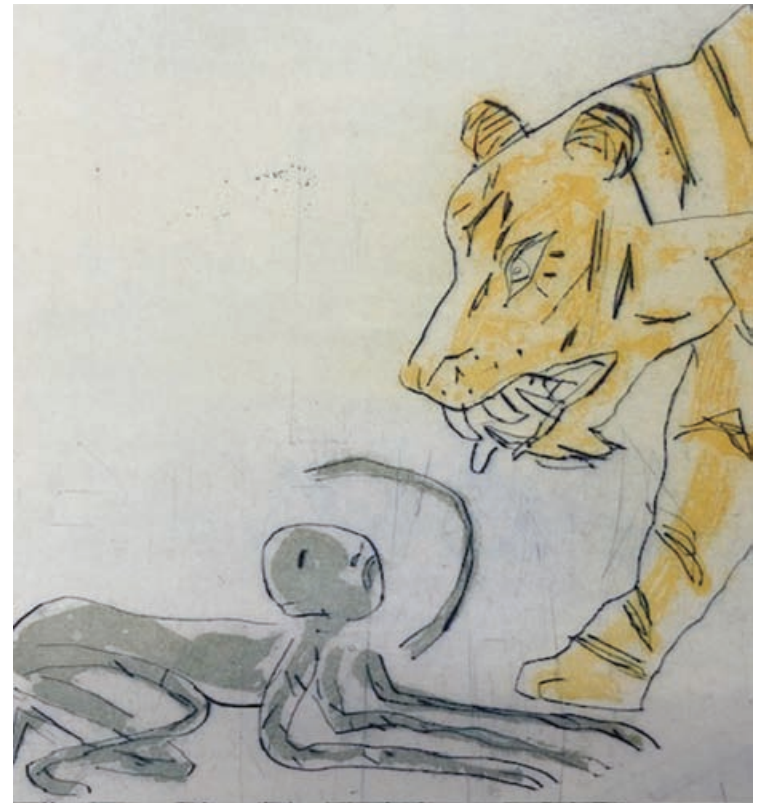
weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine



little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch.

Eventually they made it out the mondi to where ev-

everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife.

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.





infini
by Usha Case

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A quick snack for the road Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of wheat flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 0.5 cup of melted butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around ¼ inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Phoenix Beach Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors

Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Laurie Zumpano from Furlong, Pennsylvania, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Divi Phoenix Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's weather out of the hurricane loop.
- Aruba's food.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's shopping.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



2,000,000

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Phoenix Beach Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say “Masha Danki” to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors

Mr. Raymond and Mrs. Donna Koster from Piscataway, New Jersey, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Divi Phoenix Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beauty.
- Aruba's sand.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the “One Happy Island”. □

Aruba's underwater wonderland

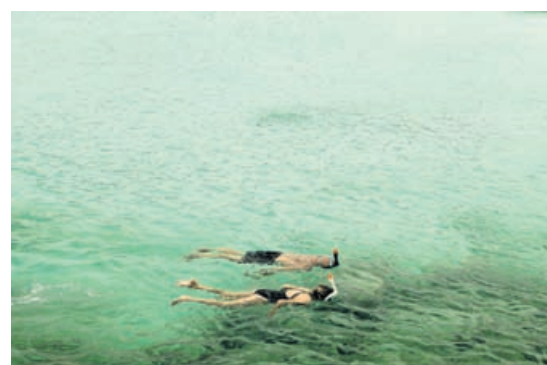
(Oranjestad)—Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots you can explore. So take your snorkeling gear and visit some of these top places for underwater exploration.

Tres Trapi

‘Tres Trapi’ means three steps in Papiamentu. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by a tiny stairway carved into the rocky coastline. Tres Trapi is a small beach, located on the north-western side of the island, an approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you walk right into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While you're snorkeling, you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean Sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animals, keep your distance and just enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken WWII ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive



spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach is a lagoon with crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Further in the lagoon, you'll find a lot of people snorkeling. This is an excellent spot to go under water exploring—but do take care not to go too far out; outside the lagoon the waves can be pretty rough! In the lagoon there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. The main entrance to reach the beach is through a small bridge that takes you through the mangrove trees. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, accompanied with wooden stairs built to allow easy access to the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you'll find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is snorkel heaven. □

Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba



ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered.

However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko



The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4-5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega *Phyllodactylus Julieni* is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Cododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus arubensis*, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The



Cododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

Striped anole

The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay. □

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



Adriaan Lacle: One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century



(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Lacle may ring a bell to locals as one of the main roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Lacle was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was

the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his hay day he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen

manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Currently, renovations are taking place to restore the Lacle house. It can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Lacle and Maria Veneranda Lacle, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion functions as the townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian



and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

Source: De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba) by Evert Bongers.

Know more about the Town Hall Eloy Arends building

The Monuments bureau shares some essential facts about the Town Hall known as the Eloy Arends building. The aim is to educate the community about the mansion's construction, history, and preservation.

The Doctor Eloy Arends building is located at the Wilhelminastraat 8 and was the home of the Arends family. It was the first building that the Monuments bureau, and the Government of Aruba, restored in 1997. Mr. Medardo 'Dada' Picus, was the architect of this Aruban-Caribbean building. The building sits on a 1,545 m² plot of land and is a typical Aruban mansion. It is an open home with false walls that allow the connection of the rooms with each other.



The entrance has large doors and columns supporting the floor of the upper balcony. In between the columns, there are decoration details made out of wood. The elaborately detailed embellishment is known as gingerbread trim and the triangular decora-

tive wall surface over the columns is called the tympanum.

The top of the doors and windows have stained glass.

The building is not built on ground level but at approx-

imately 1.5 meters above ground level. This mansion elevation created storage below the wooden floors and allowed proper ventilation. The building has lots of windows which allow plenty of light inside, as well as good ventilation.

It has dormer windows and crowns on the outside part of the roof and different decorations on the edges of the walls and facade.

This is a stunning building full of beautiful details that resemble its beauty and transform into a history of love. Aruban tradition for "well-to-do" families dictates that before a man gets married, he has to present his future wife with a newly built and fully furnished house. It was

certainly the case with this building.

Due to the engagement between Eloy Arends and Monica Lacle (daughter of Adriaan Lacle, who is mainly known for the boulevard that bears his name), the construction of the mansion began in 1922 and was completed in 1925 when the couple got married.

The Office of the Civil Registry is located in the adjacent building, whereas the mansion hall is used exclusively for civil wedding ceremonies.

The Monuments bureau will continue to contribute and educate the community about the history of our monuments with significant value for Aruba. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please

do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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CROSSWORD

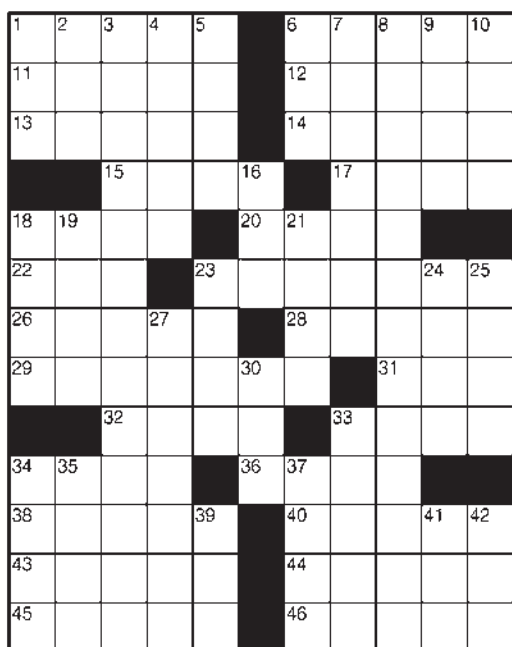
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 45 Thus
1 Moses of the track
6 Story with a point
11 Long attack
12 Close, as a port
13 Elite Navy group
14 Thou
15 Learning method
17 Metal sources
18 To boot
20 Spiders' creations
22 Pay stub line
23 Sailing event
26 Western resort lake
28 Different
29 Genus sub-division
31 Avenue tree
32 Euro division
33 With skill
34 Rooney of "Carol"
36 Cain's brother
38 Unaccompanied
40 Japanese port
43 Namely
44 Half of humanity

DOWN

- 1 Snaky shape
2 Spotted cube
3 Rules
4 Snow house
5 High home
6 Mid-eastern fruit
7 Circus star
8 Is responsible
9 Script bit
10 Goals
16 Lamb's mother
18 Hill builders
19 Spring
21 They may clash
23 Horse halter
24 Spill the beans
25 Base group
27 Maritime
30 Seventh letter
33 Man of morals
34 School subject
35 Balm ingredient
37 Gift toppers
39 Simone's season
41 Film-maker
42 What's more



3-31

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-31

CRYPTOQUOTE

GEBCQYX OC'DD UMTQ MP, PNC

KYMTAEO VETTCVPMET, PNC

DESCKG, PNC QKCYBCKG YTQ

BC. — JCKBMP PNC UKEL

Cryptoquote: WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE GET THIS BIG WALKING CARPET OUT OF MY WAY? — PRINCESS LEIA, "STAR WARS"

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sun-

days, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
JULY	
21 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
22 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
26 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
28 TUE	CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
29 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

						4	2	8
	5	7				6	3	
8	4	3	6					9
	2		7			9		5
9	6		1					3
		5		6	4	1		
5	3		2		6		9	
	9			3		2		
1	8		4	9			5	6

Difficulty: ★

7/27

Answer to previous puzzle

9	2	1	3	7	6	8	4	5
5	7	4	9	8	2	3	1	6
8	6	3	5	4	1	9	7	2
3	9	6	2	1	7	5	8	4
7	8	5	4	3	9	6	2	1
1	4	2	6	5	8	7	3	9
4	5	8	1	9	3	2	6	7
6	1	7	8	2	5	4	9	3
2	3	9	7	6	4	1	5	8

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/26

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Vienna's venerable vineyard taverns forced to move with the times

Vienna, Austria

(AFP)—Hospitality veteran Clemens Keller insists that Vienna's storied "heuriger" winemakers' taverns -- which face a hangover-inducing brew of real estate speculation, spiralling costs and climate change -- cannot rely on their illustrious past. "Whoever does not move with the times will disappear in time," the 42-year-old managing director told AFP. He was speaking from the shaded courtyard garden of his Mayer am Pfarrplatz heuriger, down the steps from the room where Beethoven stayed while composing part of the Ninth Symphony. Vienna's heurigers range from a few tables set up in the open air to grander affairs resembling restaurants. For centuries, they have dished up wine from the surrounding vineyards to wash down typically hearty central European fare. Just as they did in Beethoven's time, euphoric revellers still spill out onto the paths of the otherwise sleepy outskirts in the vine-lined Viennese hillsides after a few carafes of white- or red-wine spritzers.

But despite their beloved place in Viennese life -- the tradition gained UNESCO world heritage status in 2019 -- their ranks have dwindled from 512 taverns in 1956 to fewer than 100 in 2015. "I think this decline is very regrettable," Tariq Lenny Bas, who grew up among the grapevines of western Austria, told AFP. He was at Mayer am Nussberg, a Keller-run heuriger perched on a hill overlooking the capital, as part of a team-bonding trip with his social media firm. "And the trend continues," said cultural anthropologist Peter Hoerz. "Inclusion on the UNESCO list is a warning sign -- after all, whatever is listed there is invariably at risk of extinction!"

- 'Adapt or fail' -

While adamant that the tradition would survive, Keller pointed to a "succession problem", with younger generations unwilling to take over a tough family business. For Jutta Ambrositsch, a pi-



Guests enjoy the view over vineyards at Mayer am Nussberg Heuriger, a wine-tavern or garden-bar selling typical Austrian fare and wine from the establishment's own vineyards, in the hillsides of Vienna's outskirts, Austria on July 16, 2026.

oneering figure among the new wave of Viennese winemakers, "the major problem is insensitive and careless real estate development in the 'heurigen areas'".

Hoerz agreed that Vienna's picturesque winemaking suburbs have become victims of their own success, with their popularity pushing up land prices.

"If a winemaker receives a multi-million-euro offer for their buildings and facilities today, the temptation to give up the business is immense," he added. He argued that the state should shield them from developers. Anastasia Rentifi, whose PhD research at the University of West Attica in Athens is dedicated to the traditional taverns, also listed "rising operating costs, increasing

economic pressure, labour shortages, (and) growing bureaucracy" as commonly cited reasons for packing it in.

On top of that, Vienna's heurigers are seeing their grapes buffeted by ever-more extreme weather, which scientists have long blamed on climate change. The recent June heatwave was Austria's longest-ever for the month. "Adapt or fail" is Ambrositsch's stark conclusion, which has led her to plant different varieties more resistant to the heat, and to change how she treats the soil.

Keller, for his part, has stepped up irrigation work on his land.

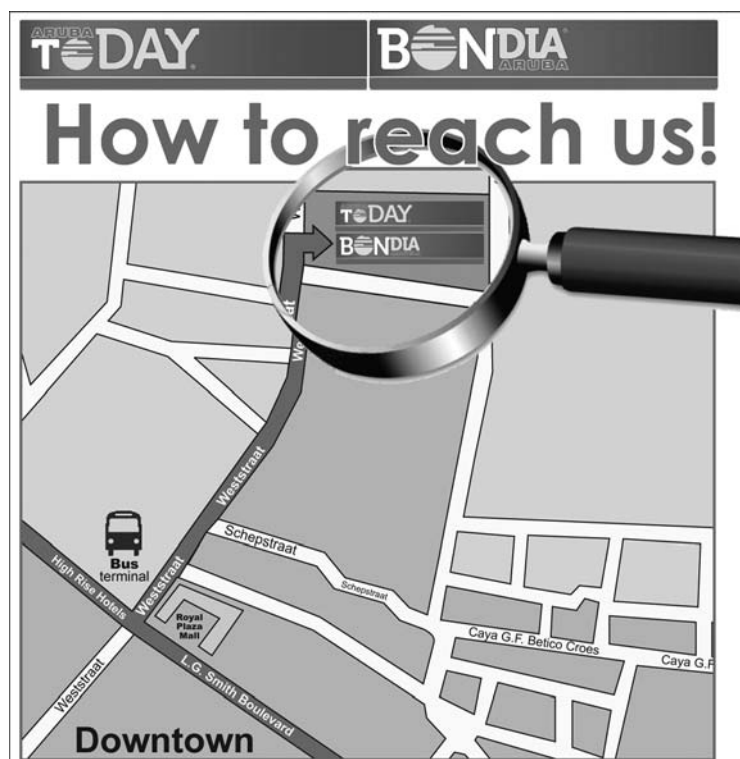
- The heuriger 'reimagined' -
For Ambrositsch and Keller, the key to survival lies in

navigating those challenges while refreshing the age-old formula. Ambrositsch, for example, is proud that her heuriger brings together "19-year-old hipsters and 91-year-old widows" at the same table.

Novelties at Mayer am Nussberg that would have bamboozled Keller's ancestors include vegan food, alcohol-free wine -- of which Keller offers four sorts -- and self-service order touchscreens.

"I think my grandmother would have given me a proper telling-off if she'd been told she had to reserve online at the heuriger!" he joked.

But for Hoerz -- who argues that "the heuriger in its 'traditional' form died out by the mid-1990s at the latest" -- change has come at the price of "diversity". The simpler and cheaper wine-gardens are being edged out by "California-style" heurigers and "Oktoberfest" antics, he argued. □



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Verstappen grumbles as he roars to second in 'undriveable' car

Budapest, Hungary

(AFP)—Max Verstappen continued to complain about his car and put pressure on his Red Bull team on Sunday despite securing his second consecutive podium finish and a third in four races.

The four-time champion came in second behind McLaren's world champion Lando Norris in the Hungarian Grand Prix while grumbling about his car's gearbox and aerodynamic performance.

He had earlier described the car as "undriveable" a comment repeated by team-mate Isack Hadjar who finished sixth.

"I didn't expect to be on the podium today, but we worked hard for it," said Verstappen. "The start was decent, you know, to get through turns one and two, and then after the first stop to get back ahead of Lewis, under braking into Turn One.

"Then, I was just trying to



(LtoR) Second placed Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen, winner McLaren's British driver Lando Norris, a member of his team and third placed Mercedes' Italian driver Kimi Antonelli celebrate on the podium after the Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix at the Hungaroring racetrack in Mogyorod near Budapest, Hungary, on July 26, 2026.

survive on the compounds, trying to make the right calls with the strategy as well. So, yes, I've very happy, considering everything, to be second here."

He added that his lunge to pass Lewis Hamilton – the move of the race – was his chance to regain the position he had lost when Ferrari pitted the Briton to cre-

ate an undercut.

"I saw that opportunity as my only one and so I just went for it. We were good on the brakes so that

helped! But, it was all under control."

He was enigmatic about the quality of his car on Sunday after criticising it severely on Saturday when, after spinning in qualifying, he said it was "a big problem."

"The weekend in general has been difficult, but when instead of the tyres degrading your car is degrading, then you have a big problem."

"The car just kept getting worse and worse, lap after lap. So the more laps I did, it was just more and more difficult. We have to fix it because the car is undriveable like this."

The team had abandoned an experimental 'Macarena' rear wing at the Belgian Grand Prix a week earlier when Verstappen described it as "super-dangerous" after crashes in Austria and Britain.

His descriptions of the car during Sunday's race were laced with profanities. □

Scotland's Ward wins Commonwealth gymnastics title, Ramsay-Peaty bounces back in the pool

Glasgow, United Kingdom

(AFP)—Reuben Ward struck gold for hosts Scotland in the men's gymnastics all-around final at the Commonwealth Games on Sunday as Adam Ramsay-Peaty bounced back from his 100m breaststroke defeat in the 50m heats.

Ward was devastated as Scotland narrowly missed out on the podium in the team final on Friday, but more than made amends to win his nation's first medal in the men's all-around event at a Commonwealth Games.

The 21-year-old held off a charge from Canada's Felix Dolci to secure gold by just 0.200 of a point with Australia's Jesse Moore in third.

"I knew I could do it, but to actually do it. When the score came through, it is just jubilation and joy," said Ward. "Incredible! I'm so lucky to be in this position. I would've have been in this position without my family and my team-mates. It is like climbing a mountain."



England's Adam Ramsay-Peaty reacts after the Men's 50m Breaststroke Semi-Final during the swimming event at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre in Glasgow, on day three of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, on July 26, 2026.

Dolci, who was part of Canada's team gold, twice fell off the pommel horse on his opening apparatus before roaring back with five near flawless displays to nearly snatch victory.

England's highly-fancied Luke Whitehouse suffered a disappointing afternoon

to finish seventh.

Just hours after his bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke, Ramsay-Peaty was back in the pool as he aims to make amends in the 50m. The three-time Olympic champion broke down in tears after missing out on gold at a fourth different

Commonwealth Games on Saturday night.

Ramsay-Peaty even questioned whether he will continue at the 100m distance with the shorter, more explosive 50m more suited to his strengths.

But the Englishman was only fifth fastest in qualifying for

the semi-finals later on Sunday, again finishing behind Sam Williamson of Australia who stormed to gold in the 100m.

Australia's Olympic champion Cameron McEvoy also goes in the men's 50m free-style final in the highlight of the evening swim session.

In the biggest clash of the netball pool stages Australia produced a dominant 66-47 win over England.

The defending champions eased into a 35-24 half-time lead but England will take some solace from a battling final quarter which they edged 12-10 to minimise the damage.

England, who face Malawi in their next match on Monday, had started their competition in emphatic fashion with an 84-35 thrashing of Northern Ireland.

They are likely to need to beat South Africa in their last group game on Thursday to stand any chance of reaching the semi-finals and keeping their medal hopes alive. □

'Incredibly proud' Pogacar wins record-equalling fifth Tour de France

Paris, France

(AFP)—Tadej Pogacar ticked off a "big goal" as he claimed his record-equalling fifth Tour de France title as Mathieu van der Poel won a sensational 21st and final stage around Paris on Sunday.

Two-time world champion Pogacar joined Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain as the most successful riders in Tour history.

"I'm really incredibly proud to be a fifth time winner of the biggest race in the world," Pogacar told France Televisions.

"It was a big goal to get five and, I'm not going to lie, it's one goal achieved."

Pogacar had all but secured his historic title during the previous two mountain stages that finished on the iconic Alpe d'Huez climb. The 27-year-old Slovenian won five stages and had been in yellow since his victory in the Pyrenean sixth stage.

He now has 26 stage victories in total, putting him fourth in the all-time list behind only Mark Cavendish (35), Merckx (34) and Hinault (28).

He also surpassed both Indurain and Chris Froome for total days spent in yellow with 70, and trails now only Hinault (75) and Merckx (96). He is the youngest rider to have won five Tours, more than a year younger than Merckx was in achieving the same feat, and is the first person to finish on the podium seven years running. He is also the only rider to have been on the podium in nine consecutive Grand Tours.

And the Slovenian played his part in a stunning final stage, which was shortened to 88.7km due to wildfires raging in the southwest.

Van der Poel and Pogacar escaped together on the final climb up Montmartre with 10km to ride and then fought to the finish with a chasing group of sprinters closing in.

As Pogacar's strength sapped inside the last 700 metres, and with the chasers just seconds behind, Van der Poel struck out alone.

The cobbled classics special-

ist held on to win by half a bike length in a photo finish from his Alpecin Premier Tech teammate Jasper Philipsen, with Mads Pedersen in third. "(For) a year I was thinking about this, and I was sick last year and had to watch this stage on television," said Van der Poel.

"I was already thinking about this moment, and the way it went, it's a dream.

"It was super hard to be up there with the best rider in the world, all my respect for Tadej."

- Historic Tour -

It was Van der Poel's second stage victory in the 113th edition of the Tour and his fourth in total.

Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel finished second overall, almost six and a half minutes back, with Mexican

Isaac Del Toro in third.

Richard Carapaz of Ecuador triumphed in the polkadot King of the Mountains jersey category, and Del Toro finished in the best young rider's white jersey.

Carapaz, who won two mountain stages, was also voted as the Tour's most combative rider.

French great Julian Alaphilippe, a two-time world champion, announced that he had competed in his final Tour.

The 34-year-old famously held the coveted yellow jersey for 14 days in 2019 before losing it two days before reaching Paris.

It was a historic Tour in many ways.

It was only the third time in 113 editions after 1926 and 1999 that no Frenchman has won a stage.



UAE Team Emirates - XRG's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar celebrates on the podium with the overall leader's yellow jersey after the 21st stage of the 113th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 88,7 km starting and finishing in Paris, on July 26, 2026.

But even more remarkable is that it is the first time in 302 Grand Tours -- including the Giro d'Italia and Vuelta a Espana -- that no rider from either France, Italy or Spain has won a stage.

By contrast riders from Slovenia, Mexico, Ecuador and Denmark won stages -- showing just how much cycling has expanded beyond its traditional western European founding base. □



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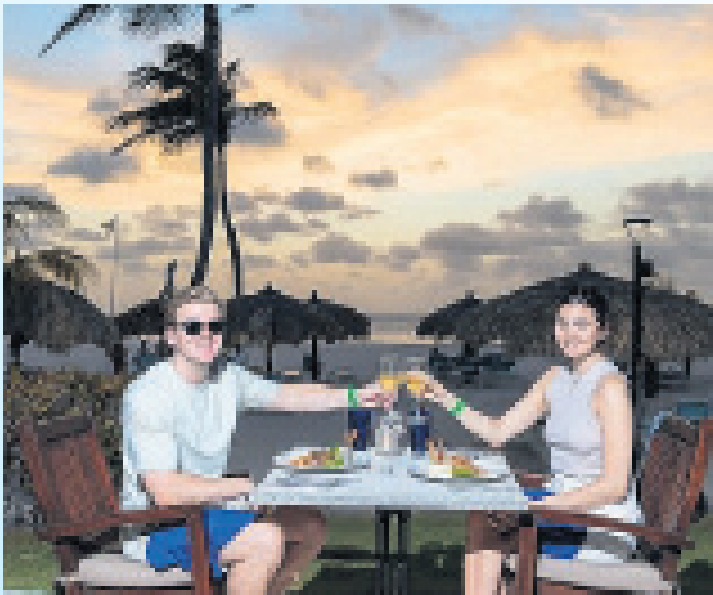


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Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort; Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



(Palm Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

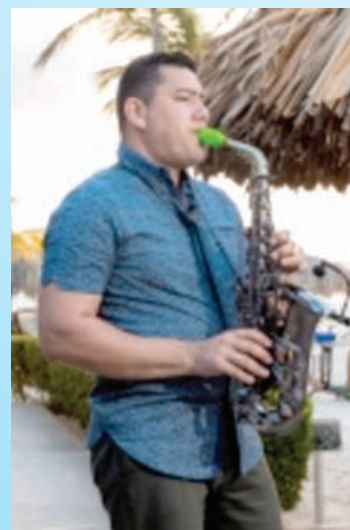
Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic



apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com