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Looking down on the town of St. George's and Port Louis Marina, with S/Y *Timoneer* moored alongside. PHOTO/JOHN CAMPBELL

## Captain's visit to Grenada his best in 37 years of visits

**By Capt. John Campbell**

Port Louis is a new full-service marina that has emerged from the ruins of the old GYS, in the lagoon of St. George's.

Even when GYS was in its heyday in the 1970s, it always seemed to have a ramshackle, tumble-down air. As the years passed, the wooden docks began to disintegrate, to the point that last time I was at GYS, one had to leap across gaps in the wooden decking to get ashore.

One of the good things that Hurricane Ivan did was to remove the remnants of GYS. British entrepreneur Peter de Savary saw his chance and was soon building a brand-spanking new marina and holiday development.

Camper and Nicholson's have taken over the marina, leaving de Savary to concentrate on the land developments.

The marina already has berths for about a dozen big boats, with electricity and water all working. During summer, the marina plans to build docks for smaller vessels, eventually more or less filling the lagoon.

The entrance to the lagoon and the area leading to the large berths have all been dredged to at least 15 feet. S/Y *Timoneer* draws 13 feet and we never came close to touching. The largest vessel to enter the marina so far is S/Y *Maltese Falcon* at 290 feet, and she managed to get in with her draft of almost 20 feet.

In theory, vessels over 200 GRT need to take a pilot in and out. Any really large yachts should do this; the marina can organize that for you. In our experience, if you are not too much over 200 tons, a blind eye will be turned, but it is best to discuss this with the marina.

Perhaps the best asset that the

marina has is its staff. We found everybody eager to please in every way. They all seemed truly pleased to see us, and I hope that they manage to retain this spirit as they get busier.

The dock staff is ably led by Junior Cuffie, and he can be reached by phone on (473) 435-7432, or on his mobile (473) 415-0820. His e-mail address is junior.cuffie@cnportlouismarina.com. There is also a fax number in the office (473) 435-7431. The marina monitors channel 14 on the VHF.

The rates at the moment are 90 centsUS per square meter, that is length times beam in meters by 90 cents. This rate is well comparable to marinas farther north that offer much less in terms of facilities and welcome.

Perhaps the most useful contact in Grenada is Henry. His main business is organizing safari tours of the island, which he has been doing since I first met him in the 1970s.

However, because of an encyclopaedic knowledge of his country, his can-do attitude and willingness to help, there seems to be little in Grenada that Henry cannot accomplish.

Amongst his many services, he is an accredited customs broker, so he can not only help you to ease imported stuff through customs, but he can take care of clearing you in or out of the country, often from ports that are not actual ports of entry. His fees are most reasonable.

Henry can be reached by phone on (473) 444-5313 or (473) 407-0522. He has a fax at (473) 444-4460 and e-mail at safari@spiceisle.com.

Unlike most of the Caribbean island capitals, St. George's is a pleasant place. It is really two towns rolled into

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An islander strolls along the Carenage in St. George's. For more and colorful photos of Grenada, visit Capt. Campbell's Web site at <http://john-lana.com/timoneer>.  
PHOTOS/JOHN CAMPBELL

## Favorite place, best views still the same in St. George's

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one, separated by a steep hill that is surmounted by Fort George. The half near to Port Louis is built around the Carenage, the sheltered harbour where the old sailing ships were careened, or pulled over to repair the bottom. It is very picturesque.

My favorite place is the Nutmeg Bar and restaurant. I first went there in 1972, and it has not changed in the slightest. They still make what are arguably the best Lime Squashes in the Caribbean, if not in the entire known universe. The views across the Carenage are some of the best in the Caribbean.

My other favorite place is the market. This is in the northern half of the town, near to the cruise ship dock. You can get from one half to the other by walking over the hill, or you can take your life in your hands and walk through the narrow tunnel behind the library. Luckily the traffic is just one way through the tunnel, but if a big truck passes, be prepared to squeeze against the wall.

The market itself is a riot of colors and smells. The smells are mostly nice; pretty much every kind of spice known to man is to be found on sale in the market. You will also find a fantastic array of fruits and vegetables. Good for shopping and great for photographs.

There are a couple of good big supermarkets to be found, as well as a branch of Budget Marine and Island Waterworld to take care of boat stuff.

The south coast is getting new facilities on what seems almost a daily basis. A new marina is being built in Prickly

Bay, and Spice Island Boatyard seems as busy as ever. To the east, more docks and waterfront developments are being built, but we will have to explore those on our next visit.

We have found Grenada to be the most friendly and welcoming of all the islands we visited this year. The officer in the customs/immigration office could not have been nicer or more helpful. Even the paperwork is easier here than elsewhere farther north.

The crew and I all gave Grenada a gold star for effort, facilities and, above all, friendliness.

*Capt. John Campbell has been a yacht captain for more than 20 years and a sailor all his life. He is currently in command of the 45m M/Y Timoneer. Comments on this story are welcome at [editorial@the-triton.com](mailto:editorial@the-triton.com).*



Most of the sailing cargo vessels have disappeared, but a few remain.



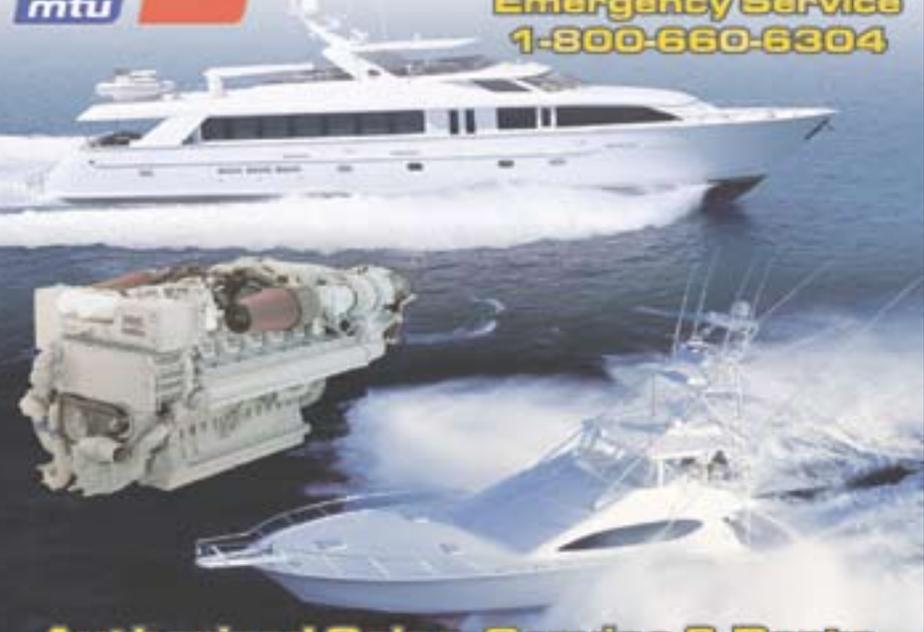
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