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Martinique & Guadeloupe Alive!



Synopsis

These are the French islands - chic, sophisticated and spectacularly beautiful. Martinique is known as 'the Paris of the Antilles', with haute cuisine and haute couture, not to mention Mont Pelee, the volcano that destroyed the capital city of Saint-Pierre in 1902. Guadeloupe offers incredible variety, from the jagged coast of the wild Atlantic to pristine coves on the Caribbean side, sunny beaches and tropical rainforests. Alive Guides tell you what's hot and what's not, with plenty of suggestions for daytime activity and nighttime fun. Each guide offers hundreds of restaurant and hotel profiles in all price ranges, including the very best places to stay and eat, adventure, nights in the city or budget accommodation. Beyond where to stay and eat, Alive Guides focus on the things that make each destination unique - hiking in the rain forests of St Lucia or diving off the coast of Bonaire. 'Sunup to sundown' sections cover a huge variety of activities and organized excursions, including a thorough listing of the best beaches. Suggested road trips and walking tours are accompanied by town and regional maps. 'After dark' sections give the lowdown on hot nightclubs, romantic bars, high-class casinos, movies and theatre. An A-Z reference at the end provides a comprehensive list of useful contacts, including ATM and bank locations, doctors and medical facilities, tourism offices, religious services and websites.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Up-to-the-minute Alive Guides cover every aspect of travel in each exciting destination - places rarely covered by other guidebooks! Alive Guides focus on hotels and restaurants, with descriptions based on repeat visits by well-traveled authors. Establishments are rated with the unique Alive rating

system, so you can find one to suit your taste and pocketbook. Particular attention is given to shopping in the exotic regions, with details on local artists, cut-price designer clothing and the best values on duty-free goods. Tips on what to do from sunup to sundown include tours, sightseeing, sunning, watersports and the best beaches. Piano bars, jazz clubs, places to meet people and even gay clubs are listed for nightlife. Transportation to, from, and around the area is also covered. Maps and indexes.

I bought this book because it was recently published, but the quality was terrible. The book reads more like something from the tourist office than an objective guide and so it's hard to tell what things are really like. I get the impression that the author does not really know the islands very well. I only went to Martinique, so I have only read half the book. But here are some things that surprised me: There is no mention of the hot springs on the trail near Precheur, even though these are a splendidly unusual attraction. The maps in the book are woefully feeble. A map with all the beaches and major attractions on it would be a great help to anyone planning a vacation. The book says that award-winning French chef Paul Bocuse presides in the kitchen of the Novotel Carayou in Trois-Ilets. Yet at the hotel they have never heard of the great man. I would expect an extraordinary claim such as this to be checked before publication. If you're going to the French Caribbean, buy a different guide.

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