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marina  
of the  
month

Words - Bonnie Schultz

# Harbour Village Marina

A hurricane-free place to dock in the ABCs

► **WHY GO** If you're seeking a quiet spot with great diving nearby, Harbour Village Marina in Bonaire fits the bill. Less than 100 miles off the western coast of Venezuela, Bonaire is the "B" in the ABC islands, located between Aruba and Curaçao in the southern Caribbean Sea.



It has one of the Caribbean's most pristine coral reef environments with more than 300 species of tropical fish and is also home to flocks of flamingos and feral donkeys. Looking for seclusion? You've found it in Bonaire. With a total area of 114 square miles, the island is significantly less

developed than its neighbors. And since the ABC islands lie outside of the hurricane belt, Harbour Village Marina is a safe bet for dockage.

► **WHO KNEW?** Tropical gardens and a white-sand beach surround Harbour Village Beach Club, the "best-kept secret" in the Dutch Caribbean. The luxury resort offers one of the island's nicest areas for scuba diving, snorkeling and windsurfing with an on-site PADI five-star instructor development dive center. It recently announced a partnership with explorer Fabien Cousteau to help raise awareness for ocean conservation efforts.

The full-service marina has 60 slips for yachts from 35 feet to 150 feet, with one superyacht dock for a vessel up to 240 feet. The maximum draft is 16 feet. Mooring at the marina entitles yacht owners to temporary beach club membership, which includes access to the resort's pool, private beach and restaurant. Water and electricity are part of the amenities, with fuel and ice available for purchase. Security is also offered upon request.

► **PAY TO STAY** Rates are between \$.75 and \$2.20 per foot per day, and weekly or monthly rates can be arranged. Reservations must be made in advance, but be aware – the office is closed on Sundays and holidays.

► **FROM THE BEGINNING** A South American family who discovered the beauty of Bonaire during a sailing excursion opened Harbour Village Beach Club around 30 years ago. They still own the upscale resort today. Recently renovated, it offers 38 Dutch Caribbean-style suites, an open-air, oceanside restaurant, a spa and the dive center.

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**WHEN TO GO:**

With average temperatures around 82 degrees, very little rainfall and a mild breeze, Bonaire is a year-round destination.

## AND WHILE YOU'RE THERE...

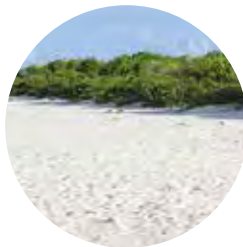
**SHOP TIL YOU DROP**

► The colorful main street (called Kaya Grandi) in the capital of Kralendijk is lined with shops full of locally handcrafted products and island souvenirs, as well as restaurants offering an abundance of seafood delicacies – or stop by one of the many bars for a refreshing frozen cocktail.



**QUIET TIME**

► Klein Bonaire is a 1,500-acre uninhabited island located about a half-mile off the coast. The small area is under the protection of the Bonaire National Marine Park. Visitors enjoy scuba diving or snorkeling the surrounding coral reef, but don't stay too long – there are no sanitation facilities.



**LOOKOUT POINT**

► Get amazing panoramic views of Bonaire from the top of Seru Largu (meaning "large hill"). A monument on the site was built in 2000 to honor the Virgin Mary. On New Year's Eve, the area is filled with people who want to see the fireworks display from this breathtaking vantage point.

