

Caribbean island an ideal spot

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spend Friday night at the street party on Gros Islet, a village of small traditional timbered houses north of Castries.

People start gathering about 9 p.m. and soon the local bluffs are all there, dancing on the street to the heavy thump of music. You'll find British tourists carrying beer out of the tiny Cocspur Bar.

You will find Veronice and her daughter Delphine selling their hand-made, two-headed cloth dolls on the street. Street vendors sell chicken, conk and shrimp on a stick, fragrant barbecue smoke filling the Friday night streets.

St. Lucia is embroiled around the edges with first-class resorts, but it is still a relatively undeveloped island. If a Hollywood director designed a Caribbean market, he would design it like the Saturday market in Castries: Street and plaza full of people, umbrellas to shade them from the hot sun, old women leaning over piles of bananas and baskets, children run-

ning between heaps of colorful fruits.

There are thin old ladies in red scarf hats, fat ladies laughing their great booming laughs as they talk together over produce spread on the street. All will smile at you until you bring the camera up and then they will turn away in anger.

St. Lucia was for centuries run by the plantocracy, plantation owners with names like Chastanet, Barnard and Deveaux, who grew cotton on huge spreads of land like those at Cap Estate at the northern tip of the island. Their descendants are found today in hotel management, banks and as powers behind the throne of island politics.

When I climbed out of the swimming pool at Windjammer Landing and shook the stars out of my eyes I shared good food and wine with the Canadian owners of the resort and asked Allen Chastenet for an insider's guide to the island. Allen was born and raised here and attended school in eastern Canada

before returning as part of the hotel business.

A lot of island life is centered around the various resorts, but there are many things you would not experience without an insider like Allen to guide you. I asked him to tell me where he goes off the beaten path.

"A husband and wife run the Bon Appetit on a hill above Castries. It seats about 20 people and you get a good meal for two for \$35. Go to Jimmie's at Vigie Cove for fish and green figs, the local specialty. Green figs are really bananas, usually fried.

"There are great views of the sea from the Charthouse in Rodney Bay. The service is slow at the Mortar and Pesto but the Caribbean food is terrific. They also serve good creole food at the Harmony Apartel in Castries."

For more information about St. Lucia, contact your travel agent or call the St. Lucia Tourist Board in New York, (800) 456-5984.

Anne Frank Museum expands

(AP) — The Anne Frank Museum, which includes the cramped attic in which her family hid from the Nazis, will expand to accommodate surging popularity among tourists.

"The space we have now is literally too small for all the visitors," Marie Josee Rijnders, coordinator of the expansion project, said.

The museum is made up of two canal houses that have become the nation's most visited historic landmark. The young Jewish girl's writings during her time in hiding, "The Diary of Anne Frank," gained her worldwide fame after her death in a Nazi concentration camp.

Officials say a new building will be constructed next to the museum at a cost of \$3.2 million and will quadruple the exhibition area.

The expansion is expected to take at least six years to complete.

Officials expect about 60,000 visitors this year, 40,000 more than last year.

An average of almost 2,000 visitors a day jam into the museum to see the cramped attic where the Frank family lived for two years before being captured in 1944 and sent

to concentration camps.

Known to readers of Anne Frank's diary as the "annex," the apartment is entered through a door hidden behind a bookcase.

"Anne Frank's house is the most popular historical landmark in the Netherlands," said Amsterdam tourist bureau spokesman Herman ter Balk. "It's no wonder they're in dire need of more room."

Before the Nazis invaded the Netherlands in 1940, the building on the Prince's Canal housed the spice business of Anne Frank's father, Otto. The house next door was taken over by the private museum foundation to add exhibit space.

The hiding place is the museum's focal point. The rest of the complex is devoted to exhibitions dealing with the ordeal of the Frank family and other Dutch Jews, as well as exhibits detailing other forms of racism.

"The museum shouldn't just refer to the past," Ms. Rijnders said. "Our aim is to combat present day forms of discrimination, anti-Semitism and racism."

Plans to add to the museum had initially drawn protests from neighbors and the National Monument

Preservation Service, but they were withdrawn when the foundation running the museum limited the expansion to a separate, new building.

The foundation had initially sought to rebuild a house next door into a viewing gallery from which visitors could look out onto the apartment where the Frank family hid. But opponents said the redesign would ruin the authenticity of the hideaway.

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