

The Caribbean Artisan Network presents

THE CARIBBEAN ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

March 7-12, 2008 – British Virgin Islands

The Caribbean Artisan Network and the British Virgin Islands Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association, BVICCHA, will be hosting, what has become the biggest Artisan Festival of its kind in the region. This unusual cultural event brings together artisans from through out the Caribbean to display, sell and demonstrate their crafts at a variety of locations in the beautiful British Virgin Islands.

The Caribbean Artisan Network is a five year old regional organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Caribbean Arts and crafts (www.caribbeanartisan.net). By creating links between artisans, the network functions to strengthen the production of traditional and innovative Caribbean Crafts, through educational workshops, marketing initiatives and skill preservation efforts.

The Artisan Network is dedicated to increasing the commercial viability of Craft as an income generator and as a crucial aspect of maintaining Caribbean cultural identity.



For the fifth year in a row, artisans from through out the Caribbean will converge on the BVI for this increasingly popular festival. Last year 12 different countries participated, bringing over fifty of the most skilled artisans in the region to the BVI. What has attracted them is a mix between unique access to the BVI's vibrant market place and the priceless networking opportunities that are created by interaction with other crafts producers. All the participants come away with a strong feeling of fellowship, after having spent five days exchanging ideas, skills and techniques between them selves and the public. The BVI community benefits directly on many levels. Schools throughout the territory were exposed to ancient and innovative craft practices from the top artisans in the Caribbean. Shop owners and hotel buyers are able to access the best of the Caribbean's craft products and discuss trading arrangements directly with the visiting artisans.



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The beautiful beach village of Trellis Bay on Beef Island has proved to be the ideal base location for the Caribbean Arts and Crafts Festival. A thriving local arts community with art studios, a pottery, outdoor sculpture and cafe's along a shady beachfront. Trellis Bay is also one of the BVI's most popular yacht anchorages and a major transit point for resort guests, charter guests and ferry passengers heading to the airport within a 2 minute walk from the bay.

The special feature of this event is the Festival's movement around the BVI. After the first 3 days in Trellis Bay, the artisans will move to Virgin Gorda and the last day will be in Road Town.

This year the festival village in Trellis Bay will be again expanding the program to include day and night time entertainment. The village will come alive with a vibrant mix of musical entertainment; the stage will be

humming with the best local and regional musicians. Fungi, Zouk, Steel pan, Reggae and Salsa sounds will energize the artisans and entertain the crowds. Artisans and musicians together hold the keys to our cultural identity and the Arts and Craft festival opens a window on the masters of Caribbean cultural creativity.



Schools from throughout the territory are being invited to take this opportunity to learn from the region's top artisans, watch demonstrations and take part in the workshops that are being offered. Following on the success of last year's BVI Schools Arts and Craft competition, the Festival is inviting all schools and youth groups in the BVI to submit Art work and Craft products to this year's competition. The submissions will be shown in the Festival Art gallery and prizes given to the winners.

For further information on this year's Caribbean Arts and Crafts Festival please contact:

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Tentative Schedule

This year the festival will be held over the holiday weekend from Saturday to Wednesday. The weekend festival will be held at Trellis Bay both day and night, with musical entertainment. Tuesday will be held in Virgin Gorda and Wednesday in Road Town, returning to Trellis Bay for the last evening.

Please visit the website on the schedule or contact us closer to the dates for updates.

- 7th Friday Set up at Trellis Bay and Evening Opening Ceremony/Cocktail Reception
- 8th Saturday Trellis Bay - Booths open from 9am
Evening Entertainment TBA
- 9th Sunday Trellis Bay - Booths open from 9am
Evening Entertainment TBA
- 10th Monday Trellis Bay - Booths open from 9am
Evening Entertainment TBA
- 11th Tuesday 8:00am Transport of Artisans from Trellis Bay to Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour
Booths set up and open from 10:00am to 4:00pm
5:00pm Transport from Virgin Gorda to Trellis Bay
- 12th Wednes 8:00am Transport to Road Town, Tortola
Booths set up and open from 10:00am to 4pm
5:00pm Transport to Trellis Bay