

THE CULT SHOP

# sea memory

This eclectic St Barths emporium showcases objets and home furnishings with Caribbean colour and flair

“Our *cabinet de curiosités* includes unusual items that are unlike anything you’ll find elsewhere on the island,” says Sea Memory owner Edouard Lacour (pictured right) of the mix of nautical and marine-inspired pieces that dot his family’s St Barths emporium. “Shagreen humidors that are customisable by colour and trim [€1,500-€2,500] and rare tourmaline and labradorite geodes [€200-€4,500] are just a couple of my favourites.”

The Lacours cater to a discerning clientele – many of whom dock in nearby Gustavia harbour – at their

traditionally designed, charming French West Indies shop with its peaked red roof and vibrant blue façade. Since opening the boutique in 1997, Edouard and his parents Claire and Pierre have carved out a niche as purveyors of handmade leather goods, furnishings hewn from wenge, rosewood and macassar, and home accessories in horn and mother-of-pearl. The vibe is that of an elegant chic-yet-inviting beach house “where crystals, paintings, and picture frames are all arranged as you’d find them at home rather than by department,” says Lacour. Customers include Hollywood luminaries, who flock here for chic pieces with Caribbean flair.

The light-filled 65sq m space shows off the natural curiosities to dazzling effect. Chunks of blue agate (from €1,000) set atop glass and silver pedestals, as well as rare corals (€800-€4,000) in deep red and indigo hues and taxidermy crustacean exoskeletons (example pictured left, €6,500), “provide colourful juxtapositions to the shop’s more understated pieces,” says Lacour. “Our clients – some of whom are furnishing minimalist boats or homes – come to us for contrasting materials and exuberant pieces.”

Model boats (€560-€2,000) are a Sea Memory specialty, with handmade, miniature Rivas in mahogany and fibreglass by French maquette maker Kiade among the most popular, while paintings by contemporary French artist



La Roche Lafitte (€500-€2,000) illustrate Caribbean life, their shells, sailboats and assorted sea creatures adding to the eclectic ambience.

The brilliant colours of the island also pervade the inventory: there are treasure boxes (from €90) in hues of lime, orange and lilac, as well as sculpted horn *objets d’art* (€180). Other favourites are competition-size bespoke backgammon sets (€3,600) in various skins, and champagne sets (€450-€1,500) containing weighty pewter goblets and buckets that are easily maintained in the salt air. Sea Memory’s signature Pacific stingray pieces include simple bracelets (€90-€1,500) and clutches (€350-

€690) that make portable holiday mementoes, while bigger items such as armchairs (€12,000) with lacquer touches by Italian artisan Giorgio Guerra and an elegant art deco bar cabinet (€21,000) can be shipped internationally.

For those who can pull themselves away from St Barths’ pristine beaches, Sea Memory pays tribute to the wonders of the ocean. “I hope visitors will find things to remind them of their time on the island but which will also add unexpected touches to their interiors for many years to come.” **CHRISTINA OHLY EVANS**  
26 Rue du Roi Oscar II, Gustavia 97133 Saint Barthélemy (+590590-297 224; [www.seamemorysbh.com](http://www.seamemorysbh.com)).



FOR GOODNESS’ SAKE

## Moor like it

Yacht charter company The Moorings has partnered with Pack for a Purpose, a global initiative encouraging travellers to use their extra luggage space to deliver much-needed supplies to local schools, medical clinics and community projects near their holiday destination.

The Moorings’ flagship base in the British Virgin Islands will be the first of the company’s global locations to participate. It has collaborated with Family Support Network, which aims to improve families’ prospects through education. Charter clients can visit the Pack for a Purpose website to find a list of the inexpensive items needed, such as paper and pens, puzzles and games, socks, multivitamins and toiletries.

“Pack for a Purpose makes it so easy for customers like ours to make a difference,” says Shannan Brennan, head of global marketing for The Moorings. “We look forward to supporting the community that’s given us so much.” [www.themoorings.com](http://www.themoorings.com). [www.packforapurpose.org](http://www.packforapurpose.org).



Artisan Speak cotton Tanga tote, \$350. [www.artisanspeak.com](http://www.artisanspeak.com)

“These bags, made from old dhow sails, are handpainted by local fishermen and other community members in Lamu, Kenya. I wanted to sell beautiful pieces that relate to my work in the travel industry, while ensuring local people can make a living from their craft.”

Martina Reznik, founder of Artisan Speak

## Go with the row

Non-profit Sail4Cancer is readying its oars for a fundraising event that pitches runners against rowers in a race from London’s Tower Bridge to Brighton Marina on England’s south coast.

Competitors on land will cover about 60 miles, with a few surprise diversions thrown in to keep the race lovely, while those travelling by boat will cover between 120 and 180 nautical miles. Places are available on both teams, and the aim is to raise about £20,000 through sponsorship and donations.

All funds will go direct to the charity, which was set up by a team of sailing enthusiasts to provide daytrips and short boating breaks for families affected by cancer. It currently reaches around 350 people each year and supports research into the positive effects of sport in cancer recovery. August 29. 0845-408 1849; [www.sail4cancer.org](http://www.sail4cancer.org). **SIBÉAL POUNDER**