

A photograph taken from the deck of a sailboat during sunset. The sun is a bright yellow orb on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and the dark blue, choppy sea. A large, white sail is visible in the upper right, and the boat's deck with a metal railing runs along the bottom right. The text 'SAILING MARTINIQUE TO ST MARTIN' is overlaid in large, bold, black letters on the left side of the image.

# SAILING MARTINIQUE TO ST MARTIN

ANNA ERIKSSON ON S/Y VISTA

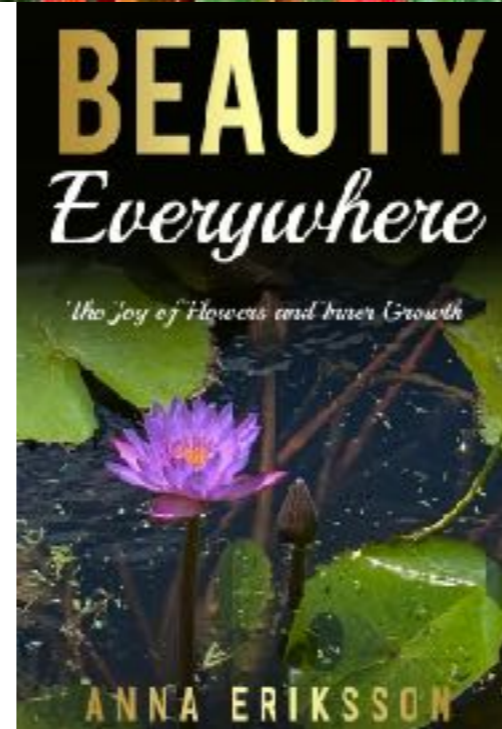
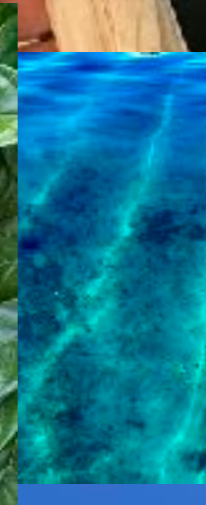
# LE MARIN

## MARTINIQUE

We arrived at Le Marin in Martinique at the end of March 2024. We had a long list of checks and upgrades on the Vista for the Amel people to work on. Maintenance is always necessary and after more than four years we did things like changing the membrane on the water boiler, and we bought a new stove and washing machine. In addition, all engines, machinery and sails received a review.

Here we also celebrated a completed circumnavigation, 27 years together and my birthday. I published my latest book: *Beauty Everywhere - The Joy of Flowers and Inner Growth*.

As a finale, when we were just ready to move on, we got dengue fever. It comes from mosquitoes and causes a high fever for a week, then great fatigue for maybe a month. We had to stay another two weeks to sleep and rest before we even dared to think about moving again. Arthur lost ten kilos, and we had to work on eating to get more energy.



# 1 MAY

## LEAVING THE PORT

After a month we always feel a little rusty, and this time also weak. So we took it very carefully. Sten and another guy helped with the lines in the stern, and the staff from the marina released the lines at the bow. They were heavily green with grass - with the help of another rope they made the grass disappear. All went well and at Diamond, a small island nearby, we set sail for St Martin. On this first day, we received two new surprises. First, we noticed that our spray hood needed both stitching and a new zipper. And secondly, more seriously, the generator did not charge the batteries. The generator is fairly new, so it's strange. We should have checked, but since we didn't it will be something to deal with in St Martin.

This main jetty, we call the Amel pontoon, is twice the size of the others. The first half of it is dominated by Dream Yacht Charter - catamarans that take up to 12 people per trip. Every Saturday new groups came. A special rhythm that we got used to. The outer part is for Amel boats that are here for service.



# 2 MAY

## A LITTLE WIND AND THUNDER

It felt good to be at sea again. We finally got some breeze, after 30° in the marina. The first night Vista had a fantastic downwind sail at 15 knots. We didn't sleep much, it took some time to adjust.

Both the sunrise and sunset were beautiful – as usual. During the day we got less and less wind, the sail flapped, and we didn't dare to run the engine because of the generator problem. We waited and kept an eye on the sails, and finally, late in the afternoon, the wind filled the sails again. Everything became calm.

After dinner, Arthur rests for a short while, before we start our night shifts: Arthur takes the first shift from 20:00 to 22:30. Then we have 3 hours each, and I have 2.5 hours when the sun rises. That night, Arthur woke me up early because of the thunder. I slept soundly but got up immediately. There was constant lightning on our port side. We furled the sail as the wind increased.



# 3 MAY

## A NEW DAY

The thunder continued until early morning. At sunrise, the sky was clear again. We passed the islands of St. Eustatius and Saba. We are close now and will reach St Martin by daylight. This morning's weather report is still warning of lightning, but we think that's over for this time. I think the first picture is so illustrative of life. I have learned to zoom out and see more of the big picture during this journey across the seas. Depending on where we focus and set the boundaries, this could have been a dark image or a light one, or as in reality, both.

We dropped anchor in Marigot Bay, the French side of St Martin, in the afternoon. Far out, always far out - overlooking the horizon - and lightning another night.





Marigot Bay, St Martin