



The Buccaneer, Historic Hotel in St. Croix, Helps Get Things Back to Normal With Annual Coral Reef Swim

Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (November 9, 2017) – St. Croix is getting back to business following September hurricanes, and more than 100 entrants competed in the **22nd Annual St. Croix Coral Reef Swim** on November 5. Participants enjoyed the clear turquoise waters and abundant sea life along the routes of the five-, two-, and one-mile distances that end at [The Buccaneer](#)'s palm-lined beach.

The Buccaneer is the oldest family-run resort in the Caribbean. Its owner, Elizabeth Armstrong, established the Coral Reef Swim in 1995 with fellow swimmer Kim Sanford as a fundraiser for The Nature Conservancy, with the goal of preserving and restoring coral reefs.

Alex Kostich of Los Angeles claimed his 18th victory in the five-mile distance, which sent swimmers from Buck Island national monument to The Buccaneer. He completed the race in one hour and fifty minutes. “This year, it was very special to me to return to participate with the great group of people this swim attracts,” Kostich said. “The recent hurricanes have presented a myriad of challenges for the island, and I was so pleased – but not surprised – that the resilient team running this event was able to recover quickly and produce yet another fabulous race.”

Veteran swimmer Debbie Dawson, from Baltimore, was the first woman's finisher with a time of 2:03. The Two-Mile event was won by Justin Chiles from Vienna, VA (47:19) and Marina Falcon from Arlington, VA (49:50). The One-Mile swim winners were Bryan Guarnier from Boston (26:21) and Margaret O'Shaughnessy from Austin, TX (27:34). Swimmers ranged in ages from 11 to 74.

Sponsors for this year race included The Buccaneer, Virgin Islands Department of Tourism, Big Beard's Adventure Tours, Caribbean Sea Adventures, Teroro II, Kite St Croix/Paddlesurf St Croix, Bellows International, Coca-Cola, Cruzan Rum, St Croix Yacht Club, ib Designs and Stamina Sports.

Next year's race will be held November 11, 2018, and it's never too early to sign up. The race is open to everyone. For this year's results and images, or for details about next year's race, please visit www.swimrace.com.

For more information about The Buccaneer, please visit www.TheBuccaneer.com.

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