



## In search of the yachts... from Dennis Conner's North Cove

**February 6, 2009**

Le Grand Blue is pictured above. She is photographed off Basil's Beach Bar in Mustique. She is too large to fit inside Dennis Conner's North Cove but this is more a story about the difference between the winter cold of New York City and the warmth of Basil and the Caribbean. Read on...

Location, location, location. One of the golden rules of life. When you live in a city like San Diego, you've got it good. The life of Reilly. Perfect weather, every day. Or if you live on a mega yacht, you can fly away to the Caribbean each winter. But when you are in charge of Dennis Conner's North Cove in New York City, you are stuck here in the winter with the cold, the ice and the snow.



Such was the case last week as temperatures really hit the bottom and the Hudson River began icing up. I wish there was something nice I could say about the weather but there is not. No use in pretending. We just have to wait until spring when the flowers bloom again and the skies clear. That's when a cooling sea breeze comes to New York Harbor and we have some of the best weather in the world.

Until then, we need to go off in search of the yachts. Why? Well, we are in the business of encouraging mega yachts to

come visit New York City. And the best way to encourage people to come is to go see them, shake their hands and extend a friendly New York City invitation.

Which is how we come to world-famous Basil Charles of Basil's Beach Bar in Mustique.

Last week was the annual Blues Festival on Mustique. Maybe you have heard about it. Well, Wednesday evening is always the biggest night so we sailed over from Bequia and caught some of the great action. It did not disappoint.

And parked in front of Basil's was Le Grand Blue. What a beautiful sight! She commanded the ocean and made us dream of the summer when great yachts would again visit New York City.

By the end of the evening, we had the pleasure of being introduced to Basil himself. A great honor. And although Basil has already been made a "Officer of the British Empire" by Queen Elizabeth, we hope he will also accept our nomination as International Ambassador for Dennis Conner's North Cove.

Afterall, Basil is a big sailor, having grown up sailing. Last year, he completed a trans-Atlantic sail onboard Maximus. So Basil, if you are out there, please say hello to all the great mega yachts which stop by Mustique this winter and encourage them to come visit Dennis Conner's North Cove in New York City during the summer. And if you ever wish to open Basil's Beach Bar in New York, we will make it happen for you. By the way, if you stop by New York City this summer, we will also take you sailing by the Statue of Liberty.



*Photo: Basil Charles (center), Chairman & CEO of Basil's Enterprises on the island of Mustique, says hello to 12 Meter Captain Michel Maeder (left) and North Cove Commodore Michael Fortenbaugh.*

And to all of our other yachting friends out there in warm places, don't worry about us at North Cove. we've got extra layers of clothes and some long underwear lying around. We'll survive, somehow. But when the flowers bloom, we will be back in perfect form, ready to catch your lines and give you a big greeting as you come visit the Big Apple. Thanks and see you soon.

- your friends at Dennis Conner's North Cove