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## WLBL and Baron Foods lead Manufacturers Quality Awards



**WLBL overall winners of SMA Quality Awards 2012**

Two companies based in the south of the island have dominated the first-ever St. Lucia Manufacturers Association Quality Awards held on Saturday at Sandals Halcyon. The Windward and Leeward Brewery Ltd walked away with five Diamond awards plus the President's Award for the company scoring the most points in the programme. Baron Foods Ltd secured four Diamonds and One Platinum in addition to the Minister's Award for Innovation.

St. Lucia Distillers, Caribbean Awning and Harris paints secured three Diamond awards each. The Gold awards were shared between Du Boulay's Bottling Company, Poyotte's Joinery, Natmed Ltd, Forest Springs, Paradise Waters and Top Stone Fabrication.

Du Boulay's Bottling Company Ltd won 2 Gold, 2 Platinum and 1 Diamond awards.

- WLBL and Baron Foods lead Manufacturers Quality Awards
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## Manufacturing excellence celebrated

It was a night to celebrate quality and excellence in manufacturing through what is being described as an equal opportunity awards programme, putting small and large companies on a level playing field. The first-ever St. Lucia Manufacturers Association Quality Awards was designed not just to recognise excellence in product and service but through a third party audit focus on distinction in the processes involved in production and management.

The awards were delivered in Gold, Platinum and Diamond across five categories – **Implementation of Standards and Best Practices, Product and Customer Service Quality, Social Responsibility, Leadership and Human Resource Development**. There were also top prizes for the **Minister's Award for Innovation** and the **President's Award** for the company with the top score. Sixteen manufacturers participated in the awards programme.

The Diamond Sponsor of the event was the East Caribbean Financial Holdings St. Lucia, parent company of Bank of Saint Lucia. The next SMA Quality Awards will be held in 2014.

## » Headlines

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**2012 St. Lucia Manufacturers Association Quality Award WINNERS**

<u>HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES</u>
<b>GOLD</b> Duboulay's Bottling Company Windward Islands Packaging Company - WINERA	<b>GOLD</b> Poyotte's Joinery Natmed Ltd Forest Springs Top Stone Fabrication
<b>PLATINUM</b> Baron Foods Ltd Caribbean Awning Ltd Harris Paints Ltd	<b>PLATINUM</b> North American Assemblies Paradise Springs Ltd
<b>DIAMOND</b> St. Lucia Distillers Ltd Windward and Leeward Brewery	<b>DIAMOND</b> Du Boulay's Bottling Company Ltd Caribbean Awning Ltd WINERA Baron Foods Ltd Harris Paints Ltd Windward and Leeward Brewery Ltd
<u>PRODUCT AND CUSTOMER SERVICE QUALITY</u>	<u>SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY</u>
<b>GOLD</b> Natmed Ltd	<b>GOLD</b> Caribbean Awning Ltd Paradise Springs Ltd
<b>PLATINUM</b> Du Boulay's Bottling Company	<b>PLATINUM</b> Du Boulay's Bottling Company Harris Paints Ltd North American Assemblies
<b>DIAMOND</b> Baron Foods Ltd Harris Paints Ltd Windward and Leeward Brewery Caribbean Awning Ltd	<b>DIAMOND</b> Baron Foods Ltd Windward and Leeward Brewery Ltd Saint Lucia Distillers Ltd
<u>LEADERSHIP</u>	<u>MINISTER'S AWARD FOR INNOVATION</u>
<b>GOLD</b> Du Boulay's Bottling Company Ltd Windward Islands Packaging Company - WINERA Paradise Springs	Baron Foods Ltd
<b>DIAMOND</b> Baron Foods Ltd Saint Lucia Distillers Ltd Caribbean Awning Ltd Harris Paints Ltd Windward and Leeward Brewery	<b>PRESIDENT'S AWARD</b> Windward and Leeward Brewery Ltd



Ronald Ramjattan receiving Minister's Award for Innovation



Baron Foods receiving Platinum award for Human Resource Development



St. Lucia Distillers accept Diamond award



Forest Springs receive Gold award for Implementation of Standards and Best Practices



Natmed receives gold award for Product and Customer Service Quality



President Paula Calderon presents Presidents Award to WLBL



Team behind the SMA Quality Awards 2012 I-r Dr. Mkabi Walcott, Dr. Alison Plummer, Pres. Paula Calderon, Renee Demyers



WINERA collects Diamond award for Implementation of Standards and Best Practices



Du Boulay's Bottling Company crew with awards



Staff of Harris Paints pose with awards



## First Citizens St. Vincent relocated



Prime Minister Gonsalves at opening of relocated branch of First Citizens branch in St. Vincent

First Citizens Investment Services has officially relocated its branch in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The new office is now at Sprott Bros Plaza in Kingstown. The company commenced operations in St. Vincent in 2009. From humble beginnings in 2000 First Citizens Investment Services is now recognised as a leading innovator in the wider Caribbean financial marketplace.

The feature speaker at the event was Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Mr. Larry Howai, CEO of First Citizens and Mr. Jason Julien, General Manager of First Citizens were also in attendance.

## Almond Resorts too big to fail

As Trinidad conglomerate Neal & Massy continues its search for an Almond Resorts buyer, the Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association (BHTA) is warning of serious consequences if the three Barbadian hotels are allowed to fail.

The Almond Group accounts for more than 600 hotel rooms, hundreds of workers and is an important segment of the market for airline charters.

Stressing that Almond represented an entity that was “too big to fail”, president of the BHTA, Colin Jordan, said Almond was “the kind of product needed by the country”.

Almond, an all-inclusive group, became a Neal & Massy subsidiary after its parent company, Barbados Shipping & Trading (BS&T) was taken over by the Trinidadian conglomerate in 2008.

However, the hotel group has been hit by four years of persistent losses, with Neal & Massy and another investor – Goddard Enterprises Limited (GEL) – forced to write off nearly \$50 million in losses between them.

Neal & Massy sold Almond Morgan Bay in St Lucia last December but Almond Casuarina Beach in Christ Church, Almond Beach Village in St Peter and Almond Beach Club in St James, remain for sale or an investment partner.

Source Nation News

## Confidence in Government of St. Lucia Bonds

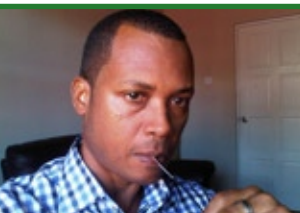


**First Citizens**  
Investment Services

The government of St. Lucia floated the first tranche of a \$70m bond issue and the response is being described as overwhelming and this is being interpreted in some quarters as confidence in government of St. Lucia bonds. Not too long ago there was speculation about declining confidence in government bonds when one OECS government default on interest payments.

But when First Citizens Investment Services the lead broker and arranger went to market with 70 million EC dollar bond issue for the government of St. Lucia, it found that it was oversubscribed by 4.8 million dollars. The first tranche of \$50 million at 7.1 percent was issued on Friday March 2nd. The second tranche is slated for the 16th of March and it's for 20 million dollars for 10 years at 7.5 percent.

Priscilla Charles, Business Development Officer at First Citizens says the company is pleased with this strong response from investors and is excitedly looking forward to March 16<sup>th</sup> for the second bond issue.



**CTV News nightly at 8:00**  
with **Kirby Allain**

**LIME ch 44 ; Karib Cable ch 54**







## Junior pan champs win kudos from LIME



**LIME Diamond Steel 2012 Junior Panorama Champions**

The Caribbean's leading communications provider has joined steel band fans throughout Saint Lucia in extending warm congratulations to the winners of the 2012 Junior Panorama competition – LIME Diamond Steel.

The band cruised to victory after capturing the hearts of the judges and fans with two scintillating tunes, namely Ting Dook, a captivating rendition of the popular hit by Invader, arranged by Errol Fontenelle and Miguel Joseph, and the warm-up piece, Danza

Kuduro, arranged by James Lewis. The crowd clearly enjoyed the performance put on by LIME Diamond Steel's 35 players.

Laborie Steel Orchestra placed second in the competition and Harmonites Steel Orchestra came in third.

LIME VP Country Operations, Chris Williams says "This success could not have been achieved without the discipline and dedication of this young group of pannists and the support and guidance of committed stalwarts like their leader, the great Gregory 'Shining' Emmanuel. As a longstanding sponsor, LIME is very proud to be associated with Shining, and his committed team including the likes of Julian and Krista Calderon, among others, who have done a great deal for this country in terms of keeping the art form alive."

## St. Lucia nominated for Romantic Readers' Choice Award

Saint Lucia has been nominated to qualify as a finalist in About.com's Romantic Readers' Choice Awards 2012 for Most Romantic Caribbean Island. The voting period began February 22 and extends until March 21, 2012. One vote a day per email or login is permitted.

Winners will be announced on Honey/Romantic Travel from About.com on March 30. There is no prize for winning, except for a graphic WINNER badge that can be displayed proudly and the recognition of being chosen as the very BEST by About.com readers.

For voting details visit <http://honeymoons.about.com/od/romantic-readers-choice-awards//bl-carib-romantic.htm>

## U.S. supports Caribbean Small Business Development Centers Project

In a ceremony at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador Carmen Lomellin, U.S. Permanent Representative to the regional body, announced U.S. support for the launch of the "Caribbean Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)" expansion project, an initiative to promote the development of competitive, productive, and innovative small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Western Hemisphere.

The project will create a network of sustainable and successful small business assistance networks in Saint Lucia, Dominica, Belize, Jamaica, and Barbados. The newly created network of Caribbean small business development centers will eventually be linked with similar existing programs located throughout the United States, Mexico, Colombia, and Central America to share best practices, and to promote cooperation and support productivity and sustainable economic growth.

Ambassador Lomellin announced a U.S. grant of \$960,000 to fund the launch of the initiative, underscoring that SMEs are "the engine of growth in the Americas" and that "equipping SMESs with the tools they need to gain access to and compete in the global marketplace is a priority throughout the region."

The SBDC expansion project will be implemented in partnership with the OAS, the Caribbean Export Development Agency, and the U.S. Association of Small Business Development Centers network at the University of Texas, San Antonio. The University of Texas has worked extensively to provide the U.S. small business sector greater access to SBDC partners and to expand markets and trade opportunities throughout the Americas.

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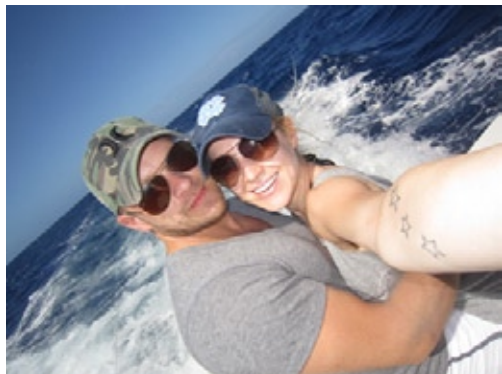
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## Small-town country girl turns island girl



Kellie Pickler and husband in St. Lucia

Though Kellie Pickler's first album paints her a "Small Town Girl," she may very well be an island girl at heart. The country star talked with Fox411 and dished out her romantic anniversary getaway of Saint Lucia. The three-time CMT Music Award winning singer is married to songwriter Kyle Jacobs and recently celebrated their one-year anniversary in our lovely Caribbean island of St. Lucia.

Pickler who stayed at Ladera's quintessential resort, with its unique three-wall concept and an open portal overlooking the tropical terrain which it is nestled in, simply could not stop commenting

on the beauty of the resort and the island. She describes herself and her husband as adventurous persons, who took full advantage and experienced zip-lining, Gros Piton climbing, and deep sea-fishing, although she only caught a sunburn, but Pickler was truly euphoric to have experienced such activities and recommended them as her top three activities for everyone to indulge in.

Pickler commented on her interaction with our islanders and said "Everyone greets you with a smile. It's so wild to be somewhere so beautiful and you know the people there aren't caught up in the hustle and bustle and all the stuff in the world that's crazy and not important... Just good people all around." Pickler, who embraced the Saint Lucian culture and friendliness, ended her interview by saying, "I mean, I feel like I brought so much of St. Lucia home with me. And, I love it, I can't wait to go back."

## T&T Chamber calls for end to strike at TCL



The T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce has called for an end to the strike action outside the Trinidad Cement Ltd and for the company and the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) to return to the bargaining table. The strike started on Tuesday. In a statement issued Friday, the chamber said: Our position continues to be one which does not support, in any way, the threatened or real shut down of any commercial activity in this country, as any such industrial action can only cause damage to the

country's already fragile economy. The union is demanding 16 per cent. The company's offer is six-and-a-half per cent.

"This fragility has particularly been evidenced by the flailing local construction sector over the past few years. The chamber had hoped that there would have been a revitalisation of this sector, as one of the means for stimulating our economic growth. However, the current strike action by the employees of TCL will only serve to stymie such efforts."

"Reports from the Tobago Division of the chamber already indicate that some construction sites have had to shut down owed to this shortage, leaving workers temporarily unemployed and threatening investor confidence. "We therefore call on the OWTU to end the current strike action immediately. We also call on the management of TCL, along with the union, to return to the negotiating table and settle the current industrial dispute through all other channels provided by the Industrial Relations Act. "Failing this, the dispute should be referred to the Industrial Court for appropriate determination in the interest of the peace and stability of the construction sector and growth of the national economy."

Source Trinidad Guardian

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If you have missed the nightly **CTV News** which airs at 8:00, then visit the **Calabash TV YouTube page** [www.youtube.com/calabashtv](http://www.youtube.com/calabashtv) for reports and special features. **The Calabash TV website** is under construction but this copy of the **Caribbean Business Report** can be accessed at [www.calabashtvstlucia.com](http://www.calabashtvstlucia.com)



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