



STINAPA
BONAIRE
NATIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION



STINAPA INFORMATION

FLOATING IN THE SEA WITHOUT A CARE

Douwe Dooper is a familiar name for everyone who loves good food. This chef-owner of Mona Lisa restaurant was born in the province of Friesland (Netherlands) at his parents' farm in Blauwhuis, a small speck on the map between Bolsward and Sneek. "It just doesn't get any more rural than that! I was raised in the true Frisian tradition taking part in Fjerleppen (a unique Frisian sport: jumping over ditches with a long pole, on wooden clogs of course), and the race to find the first lapwing egg of spring, soccer in the pastures. I had a wonderful youth there and came to Bonaire after reading an ad to become a chef at the Beefeater restaurant. I worked there for one year and then moved to the Mona Lisa. When the owner passed away my colleague Hans became my business partner when we took over. I have married my Morela since and we have a nice family now". Has much changed here over the years? "It kind of did, do it? A lot was built, but I think it still is the same island. The people are still as laid back and I hope the newcomers will learn that too." How does the nature here compare to the countryside of Langelille? " Well back there the river dominated everything and kept it green, and here it's bit of a desert. But the sea is also part of nature here and we have to take good care of it. No big trawling nets here! It will soon come to a standstill if we allow that. Unfortunately the youth does not care too much about nature. How long do you want to stay in Bonaire?" You know, I used to think that we had to go to Holland when the kids reached the age to do advanced studies, but then when you're floating in the sea and a pelican passes overhead, the palm trees sway in the breeze you ask yourself where in the world it could possibly be nicer?" Do you have a lot of interaction with nature through your work? "Oh yes! Especially with the supply of fresh fish. I keep being surprised that the fishermen can still supply the fast-growing number of restaurants. And also my herb-garden of course. That was always my dream. Usually it goes pretty good for a while, until the neighbor's dog digs everything up again "he laughs. "And next to the local trees that were already there I've planted some banana and some lemon trees." What would you do if you were in charge for one day? "I get very upset about those flying plastic shopping bags, so I would give a lot of educational information. Hopefully people would then be more careful with their trash like empty beer bottles. I would definitely target the schools. I think I could fill a day's worth!"

Written by Marcel Nahr.

For more information or comments: STINAPA, telephone 717 - 8444, info@stinapa.org

NOS TA BIBA DI NATURESA



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru