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Tourism Commissioner Joseph Boschulte Reflects on 2020, Invites Partnership for Year Ahead

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V.I. Dept. of Tourism Commissioner Joseph Boschulte By. THE V.I. DEPT. OF TOURISM

V.I. Dept. of Tourism Commissioner Joseph Boschulte has extended a message of both gratitude and optimism to the territory's Tourism Ambassadors and partners around the world, as he recapped the various challenges the islands faced in 2020.

In a recently issued release from D.O.T., thanking members of the diaspora for their engagement and participation in promoting the destination, Mr. Boschulte highlighted one of the territory's most recent honors — being named [Destination of the Year by Caribbean Journal](#), a leading digital travel news publication focusing on the region.

In addition to recognizing the territory's longstanding popularity, as well as an early-2020 campaign to spotlight the island of St. Croix, the Caribbean Journal team doffed its cap to the

territory's swift and agile response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the implementation of its region-leading travel portal.

Beyond the year's successes, Mr. Boschulte acknowledged the challenges the Territory faced in 2020, while also looking ahead to the new year, according to the release.

"Without a doubt, 2020 has been a turbulent year, and many of us have experienced anxiety and suffered loss. But it has also been a time when we have come together as never before to care for one another, to celebrate the values and people we cherish, to bear one another's burdens, and to find solutions to overcome our challenges," recalled the commissioner.

He also extended an invitation to the territory's partners and ambassadors, many of whom reside in the mainland United States, to share their thoughts and ideas on how best to build on the Territory's successes and strengthen activities or initiatives that need improvement.

The U.S. Virgin Islands is currently in the "Safer-at-Home" phase of the territory's pandemic response, during which businesses are open, but residents and visitors are urged to engage in activities with health and safety as a top priority, and to limit exposure to others, especially groups.