

**The Buccaneer, Legendary Hotel in St. Croix,**

**Reports Results for the Island’s 25th Coral Reef Swim**

Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands *(November 10, 2021)* – [The Buccaneer Beach and Golf Resort, Trademark Collection by Wyndham](https://www.thebuccaneer.com/), the oldest family-run resort in the Caribbean, proudly hosted the return of its Annual Coral Reef Swim at Mermaid Beach on November 7.

Marking its 25th race this year, The Coral Reef Swim was founded by the resort’s owner Elizabeth Armstrong, and her friend Kim Rice Sanford in 1996. Armstrong, along with five of the swimmers from the first Coral Reef Swim, competed in this milestone 25th anniversary event. Those swimmers included Todd Newman (who swam the five-mile-race, as did Elizabeth Armstrong) and former St. Croix Dolphins Swim Team members Scott Hensley, Gilbert Matthew Laban and his brother Josh Laban, and Kieran Locke (who all competed in – and dominated – the one-mile race: see results below!). According to race director Suzanne Rychlik, the conditions for the races were nearly perfect, with calm seas and clear skies.

The field consisted of 159 swimmers representing 24 U.S. states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Quebec. Swimmers ranged in ages from 12 to 84, with 51-year-old Los Angeles resident Alex Kostich taking the top spot in the five-mile race with a time of 1:47:49. A veteran racer, this year’s win marks 19 five-mile Coral Reef Swims wins for Kostich. Coming in second place was 14-year-old Kaeden Gleason of St. Croix (1:50:31) and clinching a third-place finish was Ricardo Valdivia from South Miami, Fla. (1:52:08).

The top three two-mile winners were 13-year-old Daryan Maynard of St. Croix (49:57), 34-year-old Marina Falcone of St. Petersburg, Fla. (50:00), and 14-year-old Eddie Soltis of Millersville, Md. (50:34).

The top three one-mile winners were St. Croix’s Kevin Hensley, 36 years old (25:47), 38- year-old Scott Hensley (26:08), and Kieran Locke, 37, from Miami, Fla. (26:10).

Sponsors of the 25th Coral Reef Swim included The Buccaneer, AeroMD, Caribbean Sea Adventures, Big Beard’s Adventure Tours, Teroro II, Captain Heinz, Cruzan Rum, CocaCola, and the St. Croix Yacht Club. The Coral Reef Swim extends a special thank you to the safety boats and volunteers in the water, as well as to the JFL Hospital EMS team, National Park Service, DPNR, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The 26th Coral Reef Swim is being planned for November 2022. The minimum age to participate is 11 for the one-mile, 12 for the two-mile, and 13 for the five-mile. Accommodations are available at The Buccaneer. For this year’s results and images, or for details about next year’s race, please visit [www.swimrace.com](http://www.swimrace.com).

For more information about The Buccaneer, please visit [www.TheBuccaneer.com](http://www.TheBuccaneer.com).

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