



In an effort to connect you with the real St. Pete, Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club encourages you to *Vacation Like a Local.*

### **KRISTIN BRETT**

Kristin and her husband, David (a St. Petersburg native) have lived in northeast St. Petersburg for over 30 years, where they raised their two children. Kristin is Executive Director of the Heart Gallery of Pinellas & Pasco, an organization that helps foster children find adoptive families. Prior to this position, Kristin worked in sales, communication and marketing, including several years at the St. Petersburg Times as Marketing Services Director. She has served on numerous community organizations including the City's Centennial Committee, United Way, the Tampa Bay Advertising Federation and Florida Public Relations Association.

- Where is the best place for...
  - Coffee? Kahwa for Tea, the Hooker Tea company on Beach Drive
  - Affordable lunch? Burgers – El Cap on Fourth Street; salad – Stone Soup Café on 16th
  - Dinner with a view? Columbia at the Pier
  - Dessert? Cupcake on Central
  - Local artwork? Florida Craftsmen Gallery – local and statewide
  - Live music? Northeast Tavern or Chattaway's (for very local, laid back music)
  - Margaritas? Red Mesa Cantina downtown St. Pete
  - Watching sports? World of Beer on Fourth Street
  - Solo dining? Bowled on Fourth Street
  - Family-friendly dinner? Chattaway's – they are dog-friendly too!
  - Romantic dinner? Fred's at The Vinoy
  - Ice cream? Paciugo's
- What is your favorite museum and favorite piece of artwork at that museum? Dali
- Best local beach? Fort De Soto
- Best place to feel like you're in old-world, classic Florida? Natural spot – Weedon's Island; commercial spot - Beaks Old Florida on Central
- Best photo-worthy spot? Weedon's Island
- Best hole-in-the-wall? Beak's Old Florida; El Cap on Fourth Street
- Best way to explore your adventurous side? Paddle boarding in Vinoy basin.
- Where would you go for an "only in St. Pete" moment? Boating out to Egmont Key
- Best boutique for women's goods? Marian's or The Drop on Fourth
- What is the one thing you recommend visitors must do before leaving the St. Pete area? Spend time on the water
- What is your favorite memory or story from Renaissance Vinoy's past (true, fabled or personal)? When we first moved to St. Petersburg in the mid-seventies, The Vinoy was boarded up and completely overgrown. One day, I snuck down with my camera and got as close as I could. I took a photo of a broken window, overgrown with weeds. It's still one of my favorites and such a contrast with the beautiful Vinoy of today.



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**D.T. MINICH**

D. T. Minich is Executive Director of Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, which is the official Destination Management Organization (DMO) of Pinellas County, the most heavily visited tourist destination on Florida’s Gulf Coast. A member of the board of the U.S. Travel Association and the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, Minich is also an active member of the state tourism marketing organization, Visit Florida, and serves on the Board of Trustees of St. Pete’s Dali Museum.

D.T. holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Kentucky and a Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME) designation from the International Association of Convention & Visitor Bureaus.

- Where is the best place for...
  - Coffee? (No chains please.) Kahwa Coffee (two locations downtown)
  - Affordable lunch? A Cheese burger and fries at El Cap on Fourth or Chattaways on 22<sup>nd</sup> S.
  - Dinner with a view? Outside at Cassis overlooking the park and water.
  - Local vibe? A concert at Jannus Landing.
  - Dessert? The key lime pie is amazing at the Museum of Fine Arts Cafe
  - Local artwork? Gallery hopping on Central Avenue.
  - Live music? Weekends in the lower level of Ceviche
  - Margaritas? Red Mesa Cantina
  - Watching sports? A Rays game, in person
  - Fresh seafood? Sea Critters Café on St Pete Beach
  - Solo dining? Any of the outdoor places on Beach Drive where you can people watch.
  - Family-friendly dinner? The Hanger, kids love watching the planes and helicopters take off and land.
  - Romantic dinner? Café Ponte on Ulmerton.
  - Ice cream? Paciugo Gelato on Beach.
- Best local beach? Pass-a-Grille Beach
- What is your favorite museum and favorite piece of artwork at that museum? It’s a toss-up between the Dali “The Hallucinogenic Toreador” and the Chihuly Collections Red Chandelier.
- Best place to feel like you’re in old-world, classic Florida? (Other than the Renaissance Vinoy.) I tell people to visit Gulfport; it reminds me of Key West 20 years ago before it became really commercialized with the cruise boats.
- Best photo-worthy spot? The top of the Pier.
- Best hole-in-the-wall? The Garden on Central is great.
- Best souvenir from St. Pete? A custom Ray’s jersey with your name on it.
- Best way to explore your adventurous side? Kayaking at Fort De Soto or Weedon Island
- Where would you go for an “only in St. Pete” moment? Pack a picnic basket and rent an electric boat from the Pier and cruise around the bay enjoying the amazing views.
- Best boutique for women’s, men’s, kids, and home goods? “Being” is a great home store on 4<sup>th</sup> St N. The gift shops at The Dali and Museum of Fine Arts are also great places to buy really unique gifts. Savory Spice is also a cool place.
- What is the one thing you recommend visitors must do before leaving the St. Pete area? Visit one of our award winning beaches!
- What is your favorite memory or story from Renaissance Vinoy’s past (true, fabled or personal)? Clinton is amazing, how he remembers guest names etc. I also tell everyone they must visit the museum at the far end of the lobby.



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**ERIC CARLSON**

Eric is originally from Westport, CT. He returned to the Tampa Bay area in 1978. His background includes the hospitality and travel industries. He has been in the transportation business since 1993. He currently is employed as the Transportation Director of the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership as the administrator of the St. Petersburg Trolley. Since participating in the launching of the system in 1996, well over 1 million passengers have boarded the system, enjoying the many destinations that downtown St. Petersburg has to offer.

- Where is the best place for...
  - Coffee? Starbucks at BayWalk
  - Affordable lunch? Fortunato's
  - Dinner with a view? Columbia at The Pier
  - Local vibe? Beach Drive
  - Local artwork? Florida Craftsmen
  - Watching sports? Ferg's
  - Fresh seafood? 400 Beach Seafood & Taphouse
  
- What is your favorite museum and favorite piece of artwork at that museum? Salvador Dali - Matador
  
- Best local beach? Pass-a-Grille
  
- Best place to feel like you're in old-world, classic Florida? Old Northeast/Southeast
  
- What is the one thing you recommend visitors must do before leaving the St. Pete area? Ride the Downtown Looper Trolley



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### MARY ANNA MURPHY

Mary Anna Murphy migrated to St. Petersburg on her honeymoon in 1981. She started the Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association in 1989, serves on the board of Florida Craftsmen, a state-wide fine crafts organization, and is chair of the city's Public Arts Commission. Mary Anna has watched St. Petersburg grow from a town known as "the newly-weds and the nearly-deads" in the 1980s to the vibrant city it is today. She has authored and designed a number of historic museum exhibits about St. Petersburg and Florida, including the historic exhibit at the Renaissance Vinoy Hotel. She appreciates the rich environmental diversity in St. Petersburg and surrounding waters; and enjoys tropical gardening, sailing, and raising her four chickens in their large yard.

- Where is the best place for...
  - Coffee? Kawah
  - Affordable lunch? Chattaway's, Ricky P's; Lonni's Sandwiches; Pipio's
  - Dinner with a view? Porch of the Yacht Club, Columbia
  - Local vibe? First Friday, Get Downtown, Saturday Morning Market,
  - Dessert? Paciugo, Schocolad,
  - Local artwork? City's Public Arts Collection, Florida Craftsmen Gallery
  - Live music? Tavern at Bayboro on Friday nights
  - Margaritas? Red Mesa Cantina
  - Watching sports? Ferg's
  - Fresh seafood? Mastry's to take and make, Fish Tales
  - Solo dining? Acropolis
  - Family-friendly dinner? Chattaway's
  - Romantic dinner? Cassis, Bella Brava, Marchand's
- Best local beach? Lassing Park, North Shore Beach
- What is your favorite museum and favorite piece of artwork at that museum? Museum of Fine Arts, Georgia O'Keeffe Red Poppies and the Steuben Collection
- Best place to feel like you're in old-world, classic Florida? Chattaway's, Beak's Old Florida, St. Pete Yacht Club, Open Air Post Office, Snell Arcade, Thrill Hill, Driftwood neighborhood
- Best photo-worthy spot? Top of the pier looking at St. Pete
- Best hole-in-the-wall? Sunset Grille
- Best souvenir from St. Pete? Something from Florida Craftsmen, handcrafted by Florida Artists, a sunburn
- Best way to explore your adventurous side? Barhopping downtown till they close, kayak Weedon Island, paddleboard North Shore Park, Bike through the Old Northeast and Roser Park, Trolley down Central Avenue – stopping to shop at antique stores, coffee, desserts and lunch at Craftsmen House Gallery
- Where would you go for an “only in St. Pete” moment? Have a drink on the veranda of The Vinoy
- Best boutique for women's and home goods? Marion's and Florida Craftsmen
- What is the one thing you recommend visitors must do before leaving the St. Pete area? Walk along the waterfront from The Vinoy to the Dali, then back on Beach Drive; Walk up Central Avenue to 9<sup>th</sup> then back; have a drink on the veranda of the Vinoy; read a little bit of the history of St. Petersburg to understand its history and devotion to the waterfront parks
- What is your favorite memory or story from Renaissance Vinoy's past? I was able to go up in the tower at The Vinoy to photograph the condos on Beach Drive as they were being constructed.



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### **STEVE WESTPHAL**

Steve Westphal is a long-time Pinellas county resident who is truly enjoying the best of both worlds. From humble beginnings at a renowned beach restaurant, Steve became a successful restaurateur. Though he still owns The Pub on Indian Shores, Steve and partner Chef Tyson Grant saw an opportunity to create an American steakhouse on Beach Drive. Parkshore Grill opened in 2006 to immediate acclaim and is still one of St. Petersburg's most popular restaurants.

Though often working on-site, Steve also enjoys boating, surfing and SCUBA diving.

- Where is the best place for...
  - Coffee? Kahwa on 2<sup>nd</sup> St S
  - Affordable lunch? MFA cafe
  - Dinner with a view? Anywhere along Beach Drive – my favorite is Parkshore
  - Local vibe? Jannus Landing and all along Central, Push
  - Dessert? Dominic's homemade Lemoncello at Gratzzi's
  - Local artwork? Salt Creek Gallery – wonderful and affordable
  - Live music? Buster Cooper at the Garden, Red Mesa Cantina
  - Margaritas? Love the margaritas at Red Mesa Cantina
  - Watching sports? No where else but Ferg's
  - Solo dining? Anywhere with a good glass of wine!
  - Romantic dinner? Marchand's in one of the window tables
  - Ice cream? Gelato on Beach Drive
- Best local beach? Pass a Grille
- What is your favorite museum and favorite piece of artwork at that museum? MFA – Georgia O'Keefe, Monet
- Best place to feel like you're in old-world, classic Florida? (Other than the Renaissance Vinoy.) Don Cesar!
- Best photo-worthy spot? By the outside Chihuly sculptures on Beach Drive
- Best hole-in-the-wall? Chattaway's
- Best souvenir from St. Pete? Wonderful memories of exploring this remarkable town.
- Best way to explore your adventurous side? Kayak at Weedon Island or Fort DeSoto, take a Segway tour of the town
- Where would you go for an "only in St. Pete" moment? Have happy hour in one of the rocking chairs on the Vinoy's porch!
- Best boutique for women's, men's, kids, and home goods?
- What is the one thing you recommend visitors must do before leaving the St. Pete area? Have happy hour in one of the rocking chairs on the Vinoy's porch! Anytime anyone visits I always recommend that



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### **TIMOTHY RAMSBERGER**

Born and raised in St. Pete, Timothy Ramsberger is an active community member. He serves on the Board of Directors of several local organizations including the Tampa Bay Sports Commission, St. Petersburg Sports Alliance and the All Children's Hospital Foundation. Ramsberger is also responsible for producing and promoting the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg each year. In his spare time, he enjoys being near the water whether its surfing, sailing or just enjoying the view from St. Pete's magnificent beaches.

- Where is the best place for...
  - Coffee? Kahwa Coffee
  - Affordable lunch? Lucky Dill Deli
  - Dinner with a view? Parkshore Grille/Hangar Restaurant
  - Local vibe? Jannus Live (soon it may be SPIN St. Pete)
  - Dessert? Cassis
  - Local artwork? Museum of Fine Arts or Morean
  - Live music? Jannus Live
  - Margaritas? VIP (Treasure Island)
  - Watching sports? Courtside Grille
  - Fresh seafood? Salt Rock Grille or Middle Ground Grille
  - Solo dining? Bella Brava
  - Family-friendly dinner? Parkshore Grille
  - Romantic dinner? Marchand's at The Vinoy
  - Ice cream? Boardwalk at John's Pass
- Best local beach? Tie: Ft. De Soto and Treasure Island (alcohol permitted)
- What is your favorite museum and favorite piece of artwork at that museum? Chihuly Exhibit
- Best place to feel like you're in old-world, classic Florida? Billy Moorings (Terra Verde)
- Best photo-worthy spot? The Pier (downtown) or Ft. DeSoto (beaches)
- Best hole-in-the-wall? VIP Mexican Restaurant (Treasure Island)
- Best souvenir from St. Pete? Sunset photos
- Best way to explore your adventurous side? Kayak or Paddleboard
- Where would you go for an "only in St. Pete" moment? Drinks on the front porch of the Vinoy.
- What is the one thing you recommend visitors must do before leaving the St. Pete area? Watch a sunrise from a balcony of the Vinoy or a sunset from one of our beaches.
- What is your favorite memory or story from Renaissance Vinoy's past? I have many, but if I had to pick just one..... I was married in the west garden on September 4, 2010.