

JALAPENO SURVIVES HURRICAN IRMA

Update on the Virgin Islands

Thank you to everyone who has checked-in with us after Irma. Jalapeno is afloat in her slip, and preliminary reports are that she has some cosmetic damage to one side. Some other boats in our marina were sunk or have major damage, so I may be one of the lucky ones. Our villa is standing with all roofs attached, but the property is a disaster and the neighbors roof is in our pool.



We have been trying to get to St. Thomas to assess the damage first hand, but the airport has not yet re-opened to commercial traffic, only emergency personnel. We have been re-booked for next week. If Jalapeno is fully operational aside from some cosmetic damage, I will apply a band-aid, maybe spray paint Irma on the side, and wear it as a badge of honor for this season.

Most of the charter fleets, especially catamarans, were damaged or destroyed. They may bring some boats from other locations, but many charters will likely be canceled. As such, we may have all the cruising areas including the BVI largely to ourselves.

I anticipate that much of the foliage on the islands will be green again by December, and the beach bars & restaurants will be operating in a "rustic" mode reminiscent of the Virgin Islands back in the good old days. The Spanish Virgins were spared the destruction of the hurricane force winds as the eye of Irma moved further offshore to the north a bit after passing St. Thomas.



What About the Grenadines Trip?

Last year's trip was so good we do want to do it again this spring, April to June. The plan may change to a one way set of charters down the island chain (skipping the St. Martin area) followed by some charters in the Grenadines. Then we will take Jalapeno to Trinidad to have repairs made over the summer, bringing her back to the Virgin Islands next fall. Repair facilities and personnel in the Virgin Islands are likely to be overwhelmed.

If you think you might want to do any part of this trip, email ray@jalapenocharters.com so I can keep you posted as the details come together.

I have also added some reviews from last season to the web site. One might be yours. Take a look in [guest comments](#).

Captain Ray
Jalapeno Charters