



The judges panel at the professional couples finals of the World Salsa Open Final in Puerto Rico. St. Maarten judge Paula Daal-Doño is second from right.

St. Maarten makes history at World Salsa Open Final

PHILIPSBURG--History was made at the World Salsa Open Final in Puerto Rico last weekend, when St. Maarten representative Paula Daal-Doño was selected to be one of the judges for the main event: the finals for professional couples.

"This was the first time St. Maarten was represented at this international competition. The fact that St. Maarten was on the judges' list for the main event means a big impact was made during the week of the competition. I have been going to Puerto Rico since 1999. You hardly see new faces judging the finals. It's very hard to qualify for this position based on the high standards the organizers set," said Daal-Doño.

"It was an honour to be sitting next to five other judges which are world famous salsa stars. They came from

Italy, Panama, USA and two from Puerto Rico," Daal-Doño explained.

A total of 10 salsa professionals, who are certified and tested judges, were asked by the Salsa Open organization to judge in this year's competition.

The competition consisted of nine categories, which all counted three elimination rounds. Judges for the finals in the different categories were selected based on their performance during the entire competition.

"No one knows beforehand who judges which competition; not even the judges. The president of the competition informs the judges right before the start of the competition. Then the announcer presents the judges and the countries they represent to the audience.

"The finals were watched online by an estimated 600,000 people, so this has

been a great promotion for St. Maarten. Its name is becoming more known to Salsa lovers worldwide," Daal said.

The competition in Puerto Rico had 354 competitors, most of whom were winners of national competitions while the rest were from countries that do not have an accredited "Salsa Open" competition.

More than 4,000 people attended the event. Some of the countries and island territories represented include: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, The Canary Islands, Colombia, Guadeloupe, Chile, Romania, Spain, France, French Guiana, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Puerto Rico, India, Uruguay and Venezuela.

"I really want to thank the honourable minister Patricia Lourens-Philip for her support and giving me the opportunity to represent St. Maarten at this year's competition," Daal concluded.

A replay of the competition it is available online at www.salseroboricua.net.

VACANCY

Gapelmar Import & Export N.V.
is looking for:

Food Processor Worker