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# TRAVEL MARKETS Vol.12-7 INSIDER

Covering the Americas & the Caribbean. [parsnip5@aol.com](mailto:parsnip5@aol.com)

## Sudden death of Chris Cooper, Caribbean luxury goods specialist, shocks industry throughout region

With much sadness we report the shocking news that Chris Cooper, most recently with Starboard Cruise Services, passed away on Sunday after suffering a massive heart attack.

In a career that spanned 20 years and included senior executive positions with the two leading luxury retailers in the Caribbean, Chris is best known for his tenure with Colombian Emeralds, where he was CFO and then COO working with CEI founder Steve Crane for many years.

From CEI, Chris went to Little Switzerland, where he served as President and CEO and boosted the company's finances to such an extent it became the object of a bidding war before being acquired by the NXP Group.

In September, Cooper joined Starboard as Senior Vice President, Merchandising and Planning. According to both suppliers and a Starboard spokesperson, Chris has a significant impact on the company and the way it does business during the

short time he was there.

Quoting long time friend Philippe Alluard, president and CEO of LVMH Watch & Jewelry:

"Besides being a top notch professional, Chris was a very likable individual, passionate about car racing, an avid motor cycle rider, and a great family man ..... We will all cherish the memory of his dry British humor and sense of understatement, as well as his child-like enthusiasm .... Chris, we all miss you."

On a personal note, Chris was a loyal reader and friend, often contributing news and information about trends and developments in the region. News of his passing poured into our office from dozens of colleagues - both suppliers and other operators, all of whom were deeply shocked.

*Insider* adds our deepest sympathies to those of the industry for Chris' family on this occasion of their terrible loss.

According to a Starboard communiqué, Chris' family will be holding a private funeral service, although they will hold a celebra-



Chris Cooper,  
 Photo courtesy of LVMH Watch & Jewelry Latin America & Caribbean

tion of his life at a later time. We will inform our readers when we have more information.

If anyone wishes to send a condolence to the family, the address is:

103 Cameron Court,  
 Weston FL 33326

### PEOPLE



Kees Van Miltenburg

*Travel Markets Insider* also learned this week of the death of **Kees Van Miltenburg**, the general merchandising manager of the former **Greyhound Leisure Services, Inc.**, the predecessor of today's Starboard Cruise Services, Inc.

Mr. Van Miltenburg passed away last September in Palm Springs, California. He had retired from GLSI in the mid-1990s.

A 30-year veteran of the travel and duty free industry, Van Miltenburg also worked at DFS Group and W.H.Smith over the course of his career.

## ROSINA ZAMBON BOTTEGA: FOUNDER OF DISTILLERIA BOTTEGA

Distilleria Bottega, producer of one of the duty free industry's most distinctive brands, with great sorrow reports the death of its founder, Rosina Zambon Bottega, on December 12. She was 68.

Known to most as Rosy, Rosina Zambon Bottega is described as an all-round entrepreneur, gifted with an out-of-the-ordinary spirit of initiative and great managerial skills. Together with a partner, Rosy and her husband, Aldo Bottega, took over Distilleria Sartor in 1967, and founded Distilleria Bottega ten years later.

In 1983, after the premature death of her husband, Rosina, "with courage and hard work," continued the business with her 19-year-old son Sandro. Soon after, her younger children Barbara and Stefano also became an integral part of what at the time was a small, family-run firm.

All of them together, over the years, have contributed to the firm's constant and progressive growth, transforming Distilleria Bottega into a sturdy business of outstanding quality and innovation, says the company statement.

"She had a master distiller's sensitivity and felt at ease among the alembics, fascinated by

*Continued on page 2.*



Rosina Zambon Bottega, founder of Distilleria Bottega, awarding famous Italian goalkeeper, Dino Zoff, with the Premio Bottega. Sandro Bottega is at the far left.

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## Marie Brulé named VP/MD for Global TR at Smashbox

US beauty-brand Smashbox announces that, effective immediately, Marie-Clothilde Brulé has been named Vice President/Managing Director for Asia Pacific and Global Travel Retail, reporting directly to John Labonty.

“For the past year, operating as a consultant, Marie-Clothilde has done an exceptional job in building our international travel retail business, successfully opening a number of travel retail businesses and new markets,” commented the company in its announcement.

Among the new travel retail customers and markets that Brulé opened recently for Smashbox are Princess Cruises, an expansion of the business with Starboard Cruises, Caribbean duty free, Mexico duty free, Duty Free Americas (Latin America, USA airports and Macau), Nordic duty free, and Korea duty free. Additionally, Brulé assisted the company in the opening of Taiwan, China, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Brulé brings extensive experience in the prestige categories to her new position at Smashbox. She has worked for LVMH and Cosmopolitan Cosmetics throughout Asia Pacific. More recently, she co-founded travel retail consultancy Beauty 2 Market. She has worked on a multitude of brands including Urban Decay, Hard Candy, Betsey Johnson Fragrances, Orlane Paris, Dermanew, Fusion Beauty, Oilily handbags and fragrances, Burt’s Bees and Lilly Pulitzer Fragrances.



Marie-Clothilde Brulé

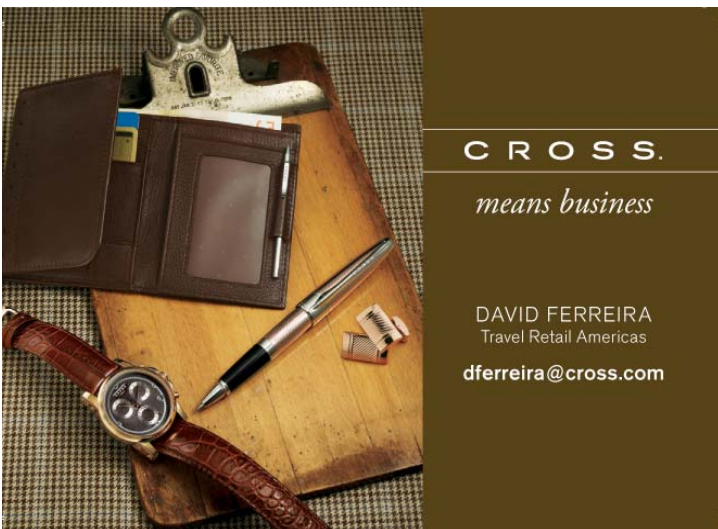
## Rosina Bottega, *continued from page 1*

the alchemic magic of the distillation process. Her taste for quality and beauty underlay the great many new distillates and innovative bottle packaging solutions that she created,” continues the statement.

With the Alexander and Bottega brands, Rosina Zambon Bottega helped introduce grappa to various personalities in the world of show business. With a view to promoting the company, she came up with the “Premio Bottega,” a prize awarded periodically to a great name in Italian art, cinema, literature, culture or sport thought to represent the talent, creativity and intelligence of the country more than any other.

From a quiet beginning, over time the award became a consolidated event, said the company. “The first year the prize was in homage to Aldo Bottega, the founder of the distillery and man who made distilling an art. The subsequent awards carried the prestigious names of Carlo Bo, Leone Piccioni, Bernardo Bertolucci, Ettore Scola, Alberto Sordi and Dino Zoff.”

Insider adds its condolences to those of the industry on the passing of such an iconic personality and matriarch.



## New Superdefense™ SPF 25 Age Defense Moisturizer



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## FDDA Convention 2009

### New FDDA Board announced

Canada's Frontier Duty Free Association (FDDA) announced its new board of directors at its annual convention in Vancouver, B.C. earlier this week.

The new Board members are:

Peter Brain, Blue Water Bridge Duty Free  
 Jim Pearce, Peace Bridge Duty Free  
 Len DaSilva, West Coast Duty Free  
 Justin Guay, Importations Guay  
 Peter Raju, Peace Arch Duty Free  
 Rob Prince, DFS Ventures  
 Paul Dickenson, Huntingdon Duty Free



Some 200 operators and suppliers attended the 2009 Frontier Duty Free Association Convention, which concluded with its Gala Dinner and Awards ceremony on Wednesday night. Here are a few scenes from Sunday's Opening Cocktail Party. *Photos by Michael Pasternak.* Above: Kevin Smith and Geoff Justice of Beam Global Travel Retail with The Patron Spirits Company COO John McDonnell. Right: Peace Bridge DF's Chuck Loewen, DFS Ventures' Michael Resch and FDDA Exec Director Laurie Karson.

Top row: West Coast DF's Gary Holowaychuk and Megan Knight with Belvedere's Torben V. Anderson. Above: Duty Free Americas' Dan Slefinger and Beam's Geoff Justice.

### THE FRAGRANCE FOUNDATION

has announced a change of

**Date and Location for the**

**2009 FiFi Awards:**

**NEW DATE: WEDNESDAY MAY 27TH, 2009**

**NEW LOCATION: THE ARMORY**

**@ 25th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City**

Award Ceremony & Party from 6 p.m.

For more information, please call 212- 725-2755



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