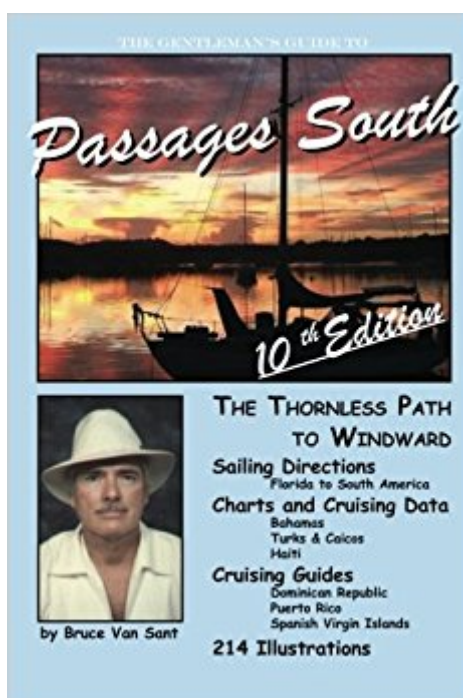


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# The Gentleman's Guide To Passages South: The Thornless Path To Windward



## Synopsis

This is the Tenth and last Edition of the popular directions for sailing south to the Bahamas and the Caribbean. For more than twenty years Van Sant repeatedly surveyed nearly 200 anchorages between Florida and South America. He racked up well over 80,000 sea miles doing it, mostly single-handed. Why? You'll find some interesting answers in his book of stories, Margarita Cat, but essentially, he did it because he liked doing it. Sailing up and down the chain of islands so much and so often, he got to looking for shorter and easier ways to navigate between each link in the chain, and he kept refining detailed nav plans for every leg. He has systematically taken the thorns out of the route they used to call the Thorny Path. For example, he exploits the calming effects on wind and sea which result from land cooling on each side of an inter-island passage. Applying his many methods, both sail and power can make safe, comfortable and pleasant progress even against normally impenetrable trade winds and seas. Passages South offers an illustrated manual of instruction for specific passages and harbors down islands as well as a cruising guide for the Greater Antilles islands of Hispaniola and Puerto Rico. It has sailed aboard tens of thousands of boats passaging between the Americas. It should sail with you too.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Orphaned by World War II, Van Sant worked his way through childhood at dozens of crazy jobs. He learned to sail early by borrowing sailing skiffs from beach lifeguards. After university he got a sailboat with a plan that, when the sailboats got big enough, he'd get out of the rat race and go sailing to simpler places for a simpler life. After a decade in aerospace IT he spent four decades of

cruising, working as a consultant systems engineer and writing and speaking in countries of Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, picking up six languages along the way. Returning to the Americas in 1979 he settled into cruising the myriad islands between Florida and South America. Having long ago "copped out" or "gone Galt", Van Sant got used to living freely, without every step insured or hobbled by cat's cradles of regulations, government programs, monthly bills and nettling bosses. He lived without ever-present signs of "NO smoking", "NO fishinig", "No swimming, loitering, littering, entry, passing, parking in the park ã -ã • NO!". If you want to escape, he can tell you how. You can read some of his and others' adventures in world cruising in his book MARGARITA CAT. Van Sant has, alas, sold his last boat and lives ashore with his wife Rosa in their home, Kembali ke Tanah, high over the sea in the Dominican Republic. See KEMBALI at [www.ThornlessPath.com](http://www.ThornlessPath.com).

This has been in constant use. We read it then reread. We left the US coast for Bahamas headed to Dominican Republic and beyond. Currently we are in the Dominican Republic. This book is valuable for learning how and when to make passages. Great illustrations and charts. Very good examples of what not to do and why. Very good tips on what to expect. If you cannot understand his weather explanations....stay home!!! I have really enjoyed the personality and passion of the author in his writings. What a refreshing change from the boring monotoned so-called guide books. Every author should write in their own style with their own opinions and flare. If one is writing of their personal experiences who is so smug as to say the author should not include his own opinions? I suspect those who claim he is egotistical are those who ignored his advice and failed. Also, they have no sense of humor.

Great book! We are new sailors on our way home in our "new to us" Leopard Catamaran that we purchased in St. Martin. We have since made it all the way to Tampa as we continue to make our way home to the Florida Panhandle. We have traveled about 1500 nautical miles so far. By using many of the techniques mentioned in this book, we have had a safe, slightly uneventful ( always need room for some adventure) and beautiful sail. We have seen plenty of beautiful locations along the way but our favorites have been The Dominican Republic and The Exumas. We are blessed to live the life we live. Thank you for all great advice Bruce and for putting it in such a practical way that even us newbies can understand. We will continue to keep your book at the top of our helm station. Maybe we will get lucky and run into you in Luperon on our way back through the Caribbean next season. Much love and many thanks! The crew of S/V Limitless.

This was just a new copy to replace my old one that was completely worn out from having been read so many times. This is the bible for sailing or motoring a cruising vessel to the Caribbean. I

When I first started reading this, I couldn't wait to pick it up again and continue reading it. That was about the 1st 40 pages.....After that it got considerably confusing because the topics aren't together...e.g., weather info/prediction resides in more than one area of the book. Did pick up a definite caveat though....don't depend on anyone but yourself for ANYTHING (navigation, weather, boat repairs) Still the best I've read though as far as detailed info about the Bahamas and routes to take

The author reads as pretentious and arrogant but his methods and information are excellent. Study the book, particularly weather and weather around islands, and apply as needed.

Very informative read. Deals in island wx phenomena as well as routing through Bahamas, Turks & Caicos, and the DR. Style of writing is direct and wry. Many good general tips for making the most of the trip. I'm taking my first trip down to the Carib via my own boat and see this book as a very good resource which will be re-read at least once more along the way.

If you are going to sail in the Bahamas and the Caribbean and you leave without this book, go home. A must book for those who want to travel the thorny path by boat. Your passage south will be a better experience if you study and do what is suggested in this book.

Got the last edition. Updates are going to be missed from here on out. There is tons of info that will remain relevant for years to come, but be wary of shallow depths and shifting sands that will no doubt change over time.

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