

PREPARED FOR

The Cerulean

theceruleanstcroix.com · DEV preview: cerulean-stcroix.pages.dev

Website Image Licensing & Copyright Compliance Audit

PREPARED BY

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DATE

September 2026

SCOPE

432 image assets · 126 pages (DEV)

STANDARD

CC 2.0–4.0 · render-the-credit



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Self-hosting is airtight. Attribution is not.

The site owns and hosts every image and carries no exposure to the photographer behind the recent Pixsy claim — but a licensed-photo credit gap and a set of unlicensed scraped photos both need clearing before launch.

ACTION NEEDED

Not launch-ready as it stands. Zero images are hotlinked and the enforcement-photographer scan is clean, yet **57 licensed photos are shown without the credit their licence requires**, and **51 scraped commercial photos carry no licence at all**.

432 IMAGE ASSETS REVIEWED	0 EXTERNAL HOTLINKS	57 CC PHOTOS SHOWN UNCREDITED	51 PHOTOS WITH NO LICENCE
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YOUR THREE QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

NOT YET

Are all the images legal?

No, on two counts. 51 photos scraped from businesses' own websites are self-hosted with **no licence on record** (commercial photos are all-rights-reserved by default), and 57 Creative-Commons photos are used in **breach of their licence** because the required credit isn't shown where they appear.

PARTLY

Do we follow the CC 2.0 & 4.0 rules?

On article pages, yes — every credit renders correctly. On hub pages, cross-link thumbnails and the global menu, no. **11 of the uncredited photos are CC BY 2.0** — the same licence, with no cure window, as the photo in the Pixsy / Ermert claim.

HALF

Is there double protection?

Provenance is recorded at rest for every CC photo (`credits.json`), so the first layer holds. The second layer — the credit rendered on the page — is missing for those 57. The 51 scraped photos have **neither** layer.

SCOPE & METHOD

What we checked, and against what.

Every image the DEV build actually ships — 432 unique files across 126 pages — enumerated three independent ways and matched to its licence.

We collected every image reference in the built site (`img` , `srcset` , `source` , video and poster, Open Graph, icons, inline styles, CSS backgrounds and JSON-LD), cross-checked the set with the site's own image audit and a raw off-domain host scan, then mapped each file to its licence and author from the project's credit records. We measured against Creative Commons 2.0–4.0 licence terms and the rule that **every third-party CC image must render its credit on the page that displays it**. We also scanned every author field for the photographer behind the recent claim.

THE TWO LAYERS OF "DOUBLE PROTECTION"

Layer 1 — provenance recorded: the licence, author and source URL are stored when the image is downloaded.

Layer 2 — credit rendered: a visible, linked credit appears on every page the image is shown. A CC image needs both. Recorded-but-not-rendered still breaches the licence — and it is exactly how the Pixsy image slipped through elsewhere in the portfolio.

LICENCE BUCKET	FILES	ATTRIBUTION	STATUS
Public Domain / CC0 (Wikimedia)	73	Not required	Compliant
CC BY (2.0–4.0)	68	Required	20 shown uncredited
CC BY-SA (2.0–4.0)	88	Required + share-alike	37 shown uncredited
GFDL	2	Required	Credited
CC-derived guide- hero cutouts	6	Required	Credited
Own — property / brand / AI art / cutouts	139	—	Compliant
Own — hero video (Veo)	2	—	Compliant
Airline logos (trademark)	3	Trademark	Noted
Scraped — restaurant photos	31	Unknown	No licence — high risk
Scraped — directory photos	20	Unknown	No licence — high risk

Good: the provenance record (`credits.json`) is not served publicly. Of 158 attribution-required Wikimedia photos in use, 101 are credited everywhere; 57 are the gap.

EXPOSURE 1 — LICENCE BREACH (ATTRIBUTION)

Licensed, but shown without the credit.

57 distinct CC photos appear on at least one page with no rendered credit — 1,021 uncredited placements in total. It is structural, living in two shared components, not scattered mistakes.

ALL 126 PAGES

The dining mega-menu shows 7 CC photos, uncredited, site-wide.

The global navigation dropdown renders seven food and drink photos as thumbnails on **every page**. About 854 of the 1,021 uncredited placements come from this one component.

PHOTO	LICENCE	AUTHOR
farmers-market-1.jpg	CC BY-SA 2.0	Connie Ma
island-food-1.jpg	CC BY-SA 4.0	Dqfn13
island-food-2.jpg	CC BY-SA 4.0	GeoTrinity
island-food-5.jpg	CC BY-SA 4.0	Grueslayer
roti-1.jpg	CC BY 3.0	AFRICAN TIGRESS
rum-3.jpg	CC BY-SA 3.0	Achim Schleuning
rum-distilleries-1.jpg	CC BY-SA 4.0	CaptJayRuffins

FIX — ONE CHANGE

Add the credit line to the shared nav partial once; it then renders on all 126 pages. Or swap the menu thumbnails for owned property / AI imagery, which removes the obligation entirely.

HUB & THUMBNAIL PAGES

50 more CC photos on listing pages carry no credit.

Hub and index pages and cross-link thumbnails display CC photos without the credit line the article pages use — worst on [guides/index](#) (46 photos, 0 credits), [directory/index](#) (18/0), [journal/index](#) (17/0) and the homepage (12/0).

FIX

Render the credit component wherever a CC photo appears — extend it to the hub grid and the thumbnail / card template, not just the article body.

EXPOSURE 1 — HIGHEST-RISK SUBSET

Eleven of them are the Pixsy licence.

CC BY 2.0 has no cure window: once an image is used without credit, adding it later does not undo the breach. These 11 CC BY 2.0 photos are shown uncredited and should be fixed or replaced first.

CC BY 2.0 PHOTO (UNCREDITED)	AUTHOR OF RECORD
birds-1.jpg	Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren
christiansted-13.jpg	Prayitno (Flickr)
christiansted-14.jpg	Prayitno (Flickr)
christiansted-16.jpg	Prayitno (Flickr)
christiansted-28.jpg	Prayitno (Flickr)
fishing-10.jpg	Sean Linehan, NOAA NGS
frederiksted-22.jpg	Prayitno (Flickr)
frederiksted-29.jpg	Prayitno (Flickr)
frederiksted-pier-6.jpg	Prayitno (Flickr)
golf-courses-2.jpg	evan p. cordes (Flickr)
rainbow-beach-1.jpg	Prayitno (Flickr)

ALL 57 UNCREDITED PHOTOS, BY LICENCE

LICENCE	PHOTOS	OBLIGATION
CC BY 2.0	11	Attribution — no cure window (highest risk)
CC BY 3.0	9	Attribution
CC BY-SA 2.0	4	Attribution + share-alike
CC BY-SA 3.0	14	Attribution + share-alike
CC BY-SA 4.0	19	Attribution + share-alike
Total distinct photos	57	1,021 uncredited placements

The complete file-by-file list of all 57 photos, with every page each one appears on, is in the machine-readable appendix `_image-legal-audit.md` delivered with this report.

EXPOSURE 2 — NO LICENCE (HIGHEST LEGAL RISK)

Thirty-one restaurant photos, no licence.

Each was downloaded from the restaurant's own website or CDN and self-hosted on the directory's Restaurants page. Commercial photos are all-rights-reserved by default, and a claim direct from the owner is stronger than a CC-attribution claim — so this is the highest-risk set. All 31 appear on [directory/restaurants/](#).

IMAGE FILE	SCRAPED FROM	IMAGE FILE	SCRAPED FROM
1756-grotto.jpg	1756grotto.com	ital-in-paradise.jpg	website-editor.net
ama-at-cane-bay.jpg	squarespace-cdn	maria-s-cantina.jpg	wsimg.com
b-and-b-kitchen.jpg	wsimg.com	off-the-wall.jpg	wsimg.com
beach-side-cafe.jpg	tripadvisor.com	rhythms-at-rainbow-beach.jpg	wixstatic.com
beauregard-s-sushi.jpg	thebuccaneer.com	rum-runners.jpg	rumrunnersstcroix
brew-stx.jpg	brewstx.com	sea-terrace.jpg	grapetreebayhotel
bungalows-on-the-bay.jpg	cdn-website.com	sharkey-s-bait-stand.jpg	s4shops.com
caroline-s.jpg	squarespace-cdn	shupe-s-on-the-boardwalk.jpg	shupesboardwalk
ciba-matta.jpg	cibamatta.com	st-croix-cellar.jpg	stcroixcellars.com
deep-end-bar-and-grill.jpg	wsimg.com	the-fred.jpg	eatwithfred.com
duggan-s-reef.jpg	wixstatic.com	the-landing-beach-bar.jpg	thelandingbeachbar
east-end-bar.jpg	grapetreebayhotel	the-mermaid.jpg	thebuccaneer.com
eden-s-vegan-eatery.jpg	wixstatic.com	the-terrace-at-the-buccaneer.jpg	thebuccaneer
far-east-steakhouse.jpg	grapetreebayhotel	umami-sushi.jpg	squarespace-cdn
galangal.jpg	squarespace.com	z-cafe.jpg	squarespace-cdn
in-the-mix-cakery-and-desserts.jpg	wixstatic		

EXPOSURE 2 — NO LICENCE (CONTINUED)

Twenty directory photos, same problem.

Scraped from each business's website and self-hosted on the directory category pages, with no licence or author recorded. (Two more — [en-wikipedia-org.jpg](#) , [sleepwithfred-com.jpg](#) — sit on disk, unused.)

IMAGE FILE	CATEGORY PAGE
bigbeards-com.jpg	boat- charters
bluesaltdivers-com.jpg	scuba- diving
budgetstcroix-com.jpg	car- rentals
captaincookchartersvi-com.jpg	fishing
captainmorganvisitorcenter-com.jpg	rum- distilleries
carambola-golf.jpg	golf
caribbeanseaadventures-com.jpg	boat- charters, fishing
cruzanrum-com.jpg	rum- distilleries
dominoclubstx-com.jpg	bars- nightlife
downsouthstx-com.jpg	fishing
lyricsails-com.jpg	boat- charters
olympicstcroix-com.jpg	car- rentals
premierpropertiesusvi-com.jpg	catering- private- chefs
reefgolfstcroixusvi-com.jpg	golf
seasidemarketstx-com.jpg	catering, groceries
seathrukayaksvi-com.jpg	watersports
spastx-com.jpg	spas- wellness
sweetbottomdive-com.jpg	scuba- diving
thebuccaneer-com.jpg	golf
wfmpueblo-com.jpg	groceries- provisioning

FIX — BOTH SCRAPED SETS

Replace scraped commercial photos with owned property photography, licensed CC0 / public-domain imagery, or original AI art (as already done for the restaurants hero) — or obtain written permission from each business. Never ship an all-rights-reserved photo taken from a third party's site.

VERIFIED COMPLIANT

What is already right.

The foundations are sound. These need no action — and several are the exact things that go wrong on other sites.

- **Self-hosting — 0 external hotlinks** across `img`, `srcset`, `source`, `video`, `poster`, Open Graph, icons, inline styles, CSS and JSON-LD. The 665 Commons / Flickr URLs in the HTML are all attribution *links*, not image sources.
- **No phantom files** — every one of the 432 referenced images exists on disk (0 broken references).
- **Enforcement scan clean** — 0 hits for the photographer in the current Pixsy claim (dronepicr / Ermert). The only "falco" matches are "Dassault Falcon" jets.
- **Article-page attribution works** — all 205 rendered credits match the provenance record exactly, as linked title / author / licence.
- **Map data credited** — the island map credits geoBoundaries (CC BY 4.0); Natural Earth is public domain.
- **Own work confirmed** — the Veo hero video, the AI restaurant painting, homepage cutouts and all property / brand imagery are original; airline logos are trademark, noted separately.
- **Provenance record not exposed** — `credits.json` is not served publicly.

SECONDARY NOTES (NOT COPYRIGHT)

Worth a pass, but not licence breaches: 12 photos flagged "kill" in the record are still in use (all verified *still credited*); 6 photos carry a Commons title naming another place — `birds-1` (San Diego), `birds-6` (Mexico), `coral-5/6` (Florida), `pate-3` / `rum-4` (Jamaica) — an accuracy nit, not a licence issue; and 8 meaningful images are missing alt text.

Scanner note: the automated pre-launch scanner reports an "external hotlink" critical that is a **false positive** — its check matches the required attribution links, not image sources. Manually confirmed: zero off-domain image sources.

REMEDIATION

Clearing it before launch.

Ordered by risk. The site is DEV / noindex today, so none of this is live yet — but it should be cleared before the domain cutover flips it public.

PRIORITY 1 Replace or license the 51 scraped photos.

Highest legal risk. Swap for owned, CC0/PD, or original AI imagery, or get written permission from each business. Removes an all-rights-reserved claim entirely.

PRIORITY 2 Fix the 11 CC BY 2.0 photos first.

No cure window. Either render their credit everywhere they appear, or replace them with owned / CC0 imagery.

PRIORITY 3 Render credits in the two shared templates.

Add the credit to the nav partial (clears ~854 placements at once) and to the hub grid and thumbnail / card template (the remaining 46 CC photos). This restores the second layer of protection site-wide.

PRIORITY 4 Housekeeping.

Add alt text to the 8 flagged images; optionally correct the 6 wrong-location photos.

BEYOND IMAGES — FLAGGED FOR A SEPARATE PASS

Outside this audit's image scope, the pre-launch legal scan also surfaced: Google Fonts loaded from Google's servers on every page (a GDPR item — self-host the fonts), no Accessibility Statement or Terms of Use page, a privacy policy without a data-retention clause, analytics without a default-deny consent mode, one unlabeled contact-form control, minor heading / skip-link accessibility gaps, "guarantee" and superlative wording on 14 guide pages, and Review / AggregateRating structured data on the home and villa pages. A dedicated compliance pass is recommended before go-live.

Bottom line

Nothing is hotlinked and there is no exposure to the photographer in the current claim — the hard parts are right. Close the credit gap in two shared templates and replace the 51 scraped photos, and the site clears its image-licensing risk for launch.