

*** Summer Fun Edition*** #1002 --- July 20, 2015 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

Weekly Tourist-Oriented News & Comments about SXM

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Part of www.everythingstmaarten.com

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Important Note:

You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have over 240,000 readers around the world...

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



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Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, and Android Users

This format has been further narrowed so it is now easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download a PDF of recent editions here:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

Just enter your email address at the top, and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, just click the confirming link and you're in.

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

(Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents); this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News*, published every Monday all year long (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). You're receiving this because you subscribed or are a JMB Website Supporters member.

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

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35 new stories this week

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else, worldwide, at no charge, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 230+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 2/27/2016 3/12/2016 Week 9,10 Villas at Simpsonbay Villas at Simpson Bay 5th floor unit 510 A- Sleep up to 4 guests in this ultra deluxe 1 bedroom with king size bed - 1 bath unit with double sink and hair dryer, full complete kitchen, 2 pull down single wall beds, large screen TV with DVD player and CD player, high speed internet access, in-room safe, private balcony and a superb ocean view (On the Water!!) Ideal for a family with children ! Resort has loads of amenities ! Timeshare tax (approximately \$50) not included. Week 9- \$1700 ; Week 10- \$1600 Tavia @ (716) 310-4504 tavia@xsm-time.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/19/2016 3/26/2016 Week 12 Flamingo Beach Resort Studio apt, unit no. 7136 on the beach recently updated , full kitchen, full size refrigerator & freezer, dishwasher, oven, stove, TV, & usual amenities. May sleep 4, has pocket pull out door, with pull out couch & own devitrify access to 2 beaches, covered parking under facility. Walking distance to many restaurants \$3000 plus closing costs. Call Larry @215-850-1408 Or email lheller148@comcast.net \$3,000

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

This Week's Stories

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"Like" Our Facebook "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Group Page:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook SXM Timesharing Group People for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection in St. Maarten

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format (New):

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive:list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

www.linkedin.com

Get a growing list of 210+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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Section Four: For Members Only (Revised 12/31/14)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website

Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

Section Five: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)
(Revised 12/31/14)

How To Get a ***GROWING LIST of 230+*** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a total of a growing list of 200+ additional major travel benefits, including reduced-cost access to

Not a member yet? See http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 200+ benefits... and more coming soon.

Contact Us:

[Revised 2/24/15]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at support@jmbcommunications.com

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not be able to respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members (including *Low Airfare Bulletins*) read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. Unfavorable Conditions Across Tropics May Become Favorable In The Next 10 Days...

Current conditions in the tropical Atlantic are unfavorable for tropical development but within 10 days those conditions could change, possibly making development more likely, says meteorologist Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather Services, our go-to source for tropical weather info.

If you are ever in the path of a hurricane, we urge you to join Crown to get the latest info. You'll find them at www.crownweather.com.

Should a storm threaten SXM, we will send a Bulletin to our JMB Website Supporters members upon receiving the news.

2. Homegrown Storms a Danger To The US Coast This Hurricane Season

Crown Weather meteorologist Rob Lightbown has said repeatedly that this year's hurricane season is likely to feature homegrown storms — meaning storms that develop close to the US East or Gulf Coast as opposed to storms that develop far at sea. Readers living on either the East or Gulf Coast should pay special attention to storms forming nearby — they could become significant. He has also said that storm "Danny" could form off the US Gulf or East Coast within the next week. More about Crown Weather is in story #1.

3. Got Fall Reservations on US Airways? Call Them

US Airways, now merged with American Airlines, will cease all operations using its name this fall. If you have reservations involving US Airways, especially in the October timeframe, it behooves you to contact the airline directly to ensure that you know the airline and flight number and terminal from which you'll be flying in October. The flight number and terminal may both change from what you were told when you made your reservation. See the next story.

4. US Airways' Last Flight Scheduled For Oct. 16

US Airways final flight will be a 9:55 PM departure out of Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix bound for Denver on the night of October 16. After that there will be no more airline flights code-named Cactus and US Airways will fade into history.

We'll talk a bit more about US Airways after that occurs.

5. Fly Travel Go

If you're looking for simplicity when you buy airfares, please choose our own www.flytravelgo.com. Our site is exceptionally easy to use and gives you very low fares -- and all its profits are driven right back into making www.everythingsxm.com better for our members. Please do give it a try -- it has many loyal clients.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

6. Summit Resort Receives "Hall of Fame" Honor From TripAdvisor

Summit Resort Hotel, long one of our favorite small SXM hotels, has just received the rare "Hall of Fame" honor from TripAdvisor.

The company wrote: "Congratulations to The Summit Hotel, five-time winner of the Certificate of Excellence. On behalf of all of us at TripAdvisor, I'm very pleased to welcome The Summit Hotel to the Certificate of Excellence Hall of Fame. This unique accolade is granted only to those businesses that have won the Certificate of Excellence for five years in a row.

"As you know, the Certificate of Excellence can be earned only by receiving consistently great reviews on the world's largest travel site."

Our own 2015 Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence was presented early this year General Manager Ms. Patricia Evans, who does an extraordinary job there. To learn more about Summit, see www.thesummitresort.com. Summit offers generous discounts to JMB Website Supporters members. See the "secret website" for details. If you're still not a member, see the beginning of Section 3 -- our membership sale ends this Saturday, June 25.

7. Where Caravanserai / Alegria Stands Now

A few weeks ago, a shoe dropped in the Caravanserai debacle/saga. It was in the form of a full-page ad in local newspapers that was critical — highly critical — of the entire situation. One could easily infer from reading the ad that more is coming, sooner rather than later. Our guess — and it is only a guess — is that the other shoe will drop next month.

There is more to this than angry timeshare owners who acquired very good lawyers. As we noted previously, the airport is not happy with the tall parking garage the new owners propose for part of their property that is close to the airport runway. Environmentalists and others also staunchly oppose plans for a megayacht pier in the ocean, not in a sheltered inland area.

The Caravanserai story is far from over, and as always we'll keep on watching this for you.

Spread the word about *SXM Weekly News* -- share us with your friends today. There should be a link elsewhere in this email which enables you to forward this to friends.

8. Sapphire Resort Looking Much Better

In the middle of last winter, RCI suddenly pulled the rug out from under Sapphire Resort, responding to numerous complaints from timeshare owners about Sapphire's overall condition. As a result of the move by RCI, no one could trade into the resort and timeshare owners there could not trade out.

RCI had said that it would revisit the Resort in May and make a decision about whether and when to reinstate normal RCI privileges. As far as we can tell, that still has not happened.

However, we do know that Sapphire — from everything we can tell — will soon be rebranded, although we don't have details. The resort had been branded a Wyndham before, and Wyndham actually owns RCI.

There is one piece of very good news here: all of the recent reports we've received from timeshare owners who've stayed at Sapphire in recent weeks are positive, saying the Resort is clean, responsive, that maintenance issues are being taken care of, etc.

This story of course also is not over. We'll keep you posted.

9. New Hotel Construction...

When we return to the island this fall, we'll especially be watching for new hotel construction. Over the next year, as we wrote previously, there will be a lot happening. Construction is likely at Caravanserai/Alegria, along the waterfront near Philipsburg in the harbor complex, and elsewhere. There have also been long-standing plans for a hotel eventually in the Indigo Bay area and another hotel at Princess Juliana airport.

We'll be looking for the latest details when we arrive so you'll see them long before next high season.

10. Converting Timeshare Weeks To Points: Is It Really a Good Idea?

If you're thinking about converting your timeshare weeks to points, we have some guidance for you.

First, whatever offers you get from your timeshare resort, get them in writing on company letterhead and make sure they are signed by a responsible official. Representations made in conversation are worthless.

Second, before you pull the trigger, seek out advice from others who have already gone ahead or decided against doing so. Some people are saying that they were worse off after converting to points — but that may not apply to you in your situation.

Do your homework; it's a big decision.

11. Timeshare Week Sales & Rentals Are Both Surging

Based upon anecdotal evidence – notably the heavy activity on the timeshare rental and sales pages on www.everythingstmaarten.com — it appears that the 2015-16 rental and sales season is running far ahead of previous years in terms of volume and early commitment.

We're seeing more transactions take place earlier regarding both timeshare rentals and sales than we have ever seen. Although this is only anecdotal evidence, our sense is that it is indicative of a significantly busier season on St. Maarten than last winter, which was busy itself.

If you intend to rent a timeshare or buy one, do it now for best selection. You'll find hundreds available on the timeshare rental and sales page on our site, www.everythingstmaarten.com.

12. Baker's Suites Becomes a Standout Among Small Resorts

Although by St. Maarten standards it is a very small resort — less than a dozen rooms, Baker's Suites has become a standout among small St. Maarten resorts and its units are in heavy demand.

There are multiple reasons for this.

First, it is new from the ground up — entirely new.

Second, it was designed and built with top-notch customer amenities designed in, not added as an afterthought.

Third, it is a venture of the Baker family, long-established entrepreneurs of multiple St. Maarten businesses. The Bakers have a passion for doing things right. Here, they leveraged their own travel experience to make sure Baker's Suites delivers above expectations.

Fourth, TripAdvisor reports deliver strong accolades for this property. We also have given them our own Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence on multiple occasions — deservedly so.

The only negative is that they are a small resort (with big rooms) — so if you intend to make reservations there, or have friends who will be looking for winter accommodations, it would be wise to nail down your reservations quickly. For more information, visit www.bakerssuites.com.

13. SXM Timeshare Resort of the Week: Fourth In a Series

Despite heavy adverse publicity about several SXM timeshare resorts, there are many on the island that are quite well-run, responsive to their timeshare owners, and reasonable in cost. Between now and this fall, we'll talk about several of them in this new series. Each one we list will be added below, most recent first.

Divi Little Bay resort, on its own beach near Fort Amsterdam just west of Philipsburg, has a near-perfect tropical setting, newly renovated rooms, exquisite vistas, great dining, and legendary Divi service.

Like the resorts previously covered in this series, if you try to find complaints about Divi you'll be hard pressed to succeed. It's a very good resort that takes care of its timeshare owners and consistently receives significant accolades. Learn more here: <http://www.diviresorts.com/divi-little-bay-beach-resort-st-maarten.htm>

Best timeshare resorts covered so far in this series:

Divi Little Bay Resort <http://www.diviresorts.com/divi-little-bay-beach-resort-st-maarten.htm> (7/20/15)

Simpson Bay Resort <http://www.simpsonbayresort.com> 7/13/15

Oyster Bay Beach Resort <http://www.oysterbaybeachresort.com/> (7/6/15)

La Vista (6/29/15): <http://www.lavistaresort.com>

Royal Islander (6/22/15): <http://www.royalislander.com/>

Watch for another next week.

SECTION 3: Island

Story 14:

LAST CALL: Big Membership Sale Ends This Saturday, July 25

---- 237 SXM Discounts for just \$49----

Our July membership sale absolutely ends this Saturday July 25, offering low prices on the biggest of all St. Maarten / St. Martin discount programs.

Sale prices are in their last week, so buy today:

Sale prices for new memberships:

1 year \$49; 2 years \$69; 3 years \$85; 5 years just \$115.

New memberships: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Sale prices for renewal memberships:

1 year \$34, 5 years \$79 (other durations available)

Renew your JMB membership: www.everythingsxm.com/secret

Sale prices for membership reinstatements:

5 years \$89, 7 years \$109 (other durations available)

Reinstate a JMB membership: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

15. Last Call for Entries In Our Three-Vacation Giveaway

It ends on Saturday July 25, so enter today -- the main qualification is you must be a subscriber to this newsletter, not a pass-along reader. If you're a pass-along reader, subscribe now at www.everythingsxm.com by clicking the "Free Newsletters" link and following the instructions. Tell your friends -- who knows, when they win they may even send you a postcard.

To celebrate the 1,000th edition of *SXM Weekly News*, we're giving away three SXM vacations. Here's where:

[Summit Resort Hotel](#), Cupecoy Beach;
[L'Esplanade Boutique Hotel](#), Grand Case; and
[Club Fantastico Naturist Resort](#), Orient Beach

These vacations will be awarded only to *SXM Weekly News* readers who enter the giveaway. Previous JMB vacation winners are not eligible.

Enter to win your vacation here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/weeklynews1000/index.htm>

Drawing date: Tuesday August 4 between 930 a.m. Eastern and 11 a.m. Eastern. If you don't answer your phone, we hang up and call somebody else.... Entries end Saturday July 25. Enter now...

16. Loterie Farm Recovering Rapidly from Tree House Lounge Fire

After a fire about a week ago at the Tree (House) Lounge, there were worries that rebuilding could take quite a while.

Both directly by email and online on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook page](#), we received a huge outpouring of good wishes for the folks at Loterie Farm after we had reported on the fire.

As we noted in our Midweek Update last week, although photos showed flames shooting high into the air during the fire, word from Loterie Farm 24 hours later was optimistic that at least part of the Lounge would reopen " in a few days."

Last Wednesday the news was amazing:

"Wednesday, just 3 days after the fire and the electricity is restored, the restaurant is fully open, the pool and

activities fully operational AND the tree lounge damage cleared for rebuilding.

"We will have the tree lounge opened back in a couple of days, Yes just a couple of days while we rebuild and improve the look.

"We would like to thank all of you who have sent us such a great outpouring wave of support, it really warms our hearts and shows us why we do what we do. Thank you all with lots of love from all of us here at Loterie Farm."

17. Orient Beach Bar / Restaurant Demolition / Reconstruction Update

All restaurants and bars between Pedro's and KonTiki had been totally demolished, and the resulting debris has now been fully carted away.

The cleared beach land, quite a few acres of it, is sealed off. Site preparation for new construction will begin in the next few weeks, and construction of entirely new facilities is expected to be completed by November of this year. Most of the prior tenants are expected to inhabit the new facilities, which will be located far back from the beach which will enhance the size of the beach significantly.

We expect to publish photos of the new construction soon after it begins on our everything St. Maarten Facebook page. Please visit and like that page and feel free to post your St. Maarten / St. Martin pictures.

More to come.

18. Island Governments Stepping Into Seaweed Battle

Both the French and Dutch side governments are looking into ways they can battle the invasion of Sargasso seaweed onto East facing island beaches.

It was originally expected that this invasion would be short-lived -- that it would pretty much disappear after several weeks.

Last fall, the invasion got worse, to the point where backhoes were incorporated to clean the seaweed off the beaches.

Now, Sargasso seaweed, brought in by shifting currents at the southern end of the Sargasso sea north of the Caribbean, has affected beaches not just in the northern Caribbean, but hundreds of miles farther south as well.

Despite the current situation, the outlook for this winter is outstanding — and the island intends to keep it that way. Officials are working with experts to find effective ways to stop the seaweed. They are also working to make sure, to the extent possible, that the seaweed and efforts to remove it do not affect nesting endangered sea turtles on East facing beaches.

More on the French Side effort: <http://tinyurl.com/okvfvua> and the Dutch Side: <http://tinyurl.com/nf8cpxe>

We'll keep you posted.

19. No Water Shortages in SXM...

The current drought is having a huge impact on Caribbean nations for whom agriculture is in major business. Agriculture is not a major business in St. Maarten so its economy has had no significant adverse impact from the current drought. Moreover, the Dutch side of the island has ambitiously moved to desalinating seawater to meet it's freshwater needs, which means the supply is inexhaustible as long as the equipment works. In fact, the Dutch side has at times been asked by the French side to help supply it with potable water.

In St. Maarten at least, the drought is not a huge public problem, at least not currently.

20. French Side Toughens Its Already Tough Driving Laws

The French side has always been tough against people who drink and drive; against people who use cell phones while driving; and against people who don't wear seatbelts. If you do any of those things on either side of the island, you are very likely to get hit by heavy fines — and we do mean heavy.

Those and other laws on the French side concerning driving have just been toughened further. The alcohol level, for example, is exceptionally low — meaning exceptionally tough on the French side.

Exercise an abundance of caution no matter where you drive on the island — it could save you a lot of money.

21. Why & How **SXM Weekly News** Decided To Continue Free Subscriptions

Faced with rising costs like every other business, **St. Maarten Weekly News** recently considered changing from its free subscription basis to paid subscriptions.. We have elected to continue free subscription and we want you to know why.

SXM Weekly News began publishing early in the 1990s. Our initial audience was some 28 people who joined us through a chat room on America Online. Our readership now is well over 240,000 worldwide and still growing.

There is a significant cost of bandwidth for transmitting Weekly News every week. As you can tell, we also spend quite a bit of time researching the news for you and putting together this newsletter. *SXM Weekly News*, in fact, is the only weekly tourist oriented *news medium* distributed worldwide via the Internet, at least as far as we know. There are other newsletters, but nothing that handles hard news like we do.

You may have noticed a recent increase in our promotions related to JMB Website Supporters memberships. Although our summer sale is about to end and it will be a long time before you see any more, the increase in sales promotion activity during the first half of this year was intentional and unavoidable; your memberships pay the bills. *We are grateful to the significant number of people who have joined JMB Website Supporters over the years, gaining valuable benefits such as free ads to rent out or sell timeshares you own — and hundreds of island discounts.*

[Check out membership.](#) It's cheap and it's good and all we ask is that you look it over. (It'll save you on everything in SXM.)

22. Make Your Own Perfume or Cologne at Tijon Parfumerie

Just about everyone has a favorite fragrance. *But what if you could create your own?*

John and Cyndi Berglund decided to quit the corporate life, move to SXM, and create tropical perfumes. But they did much more: they have opened their perfume laboratory or "parfumerie" to the world and give brief but fascinating classes on the art of making perfumes and colognes. It's a kick for women, men, and even young adults to actually craft their own fragrances. We've done it and we assure you it will be a highlight of your trip. Fascinating fun all.

Tell John or Cyndi we sent you. JMB members: check the Secret Site for your members-only JMB discount. Bring your JMB membership card. Highly recommended... Nonmembers -- see story 14.

23. If Beyond-Awesome Island Colors Fascinate You, Read On

SXM's shorelines, mountains, main streets, and valleys have something in common: the pure radiance and brilliance of their colors. The flamboyant tree -- now in full bloom -- offers brilliant reds that beg to be captured on canvas and on SXM, the world's most prodigious exponent of Caribbean en plein air impressionism welcomes you to his gallery / museum to watch (in awe -- our words) and he does precisely that. His name: Sir Roland Richardson, who could not be more fascinating, personable, and welcoming.

Regardless of your experience with art (or lack thereof), this is an incomparable life experience. Peruse the dozens of striking paintings "painted from life" and -- on most Thursdays -- you can even watch the artist at work, and it is both a magical and transformative experience. Just do it... then you'll understand.

Learn more at www.rolandrichardson.com and check the discounts / benefits offered by Sir Roland and Laura Richardson to our JMB members. Details are in our "Secret" members-only website. (Nonmembers - see story 14.)

24. Cars On Beaches Creating Issues in Philipsburg

Vehicles are parked on Great Bay beach -- on Great Bay beach -- behind a condo complex not far from Sea Palace Hotel. Cars are a bad idea on tourist beaches on the face of it... interaction with tourists can be dangerous and vehicles do leak, potentially creating an environmental hazard.

Here's the story, from *The Daily Herald* as posted on Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/o36h3ue>

More stories are below.

Advertising, Sales Promotion, PR, Publicity, and Complete Website Strategy, Copy, & Design (Traditional or WordPress).

It's what else we do.

See www.jmbcommunications.com for more.

25. Kids on SXM: The Carousel & Its Gelateria

Bringing kids to SXM in the Summer is an exercise in excitement for them and pleasure for you. There's still time -- much of August and, importantly, this season is expected to be quiet weather-wise.

SXM's Carousel in Simpson Bay is only part of the "Carousel" story.

The reality is that the Carousel is accompanied by a Gelateria, where outstanding gelatos - both traditional and sugar free - are made, and boy are they ever delicious. We'll soon be posting a discount offered by Diego, the owner, to JMB members on our members-only "Secret" website, which makes everything there all the more delicious. Dozens of flavors -- and gelato is not their only dessert creation.

Go. The kids or grandkids will love it almost as much as you do.... (Nonmembers, go to story 14.)

26. Kids on SXM: The Butterfly Farm

For kids and their parents/grandparents, The Butterfly Farm (off the main road to Orient Beach / Le Galion), is a rather magical adventure. Go early wearing brightly colored clothing and you'll find butterflies curiously give you the once-over -- and in fact they may just land on you to take in the sights. Not to be missed.

The Butterfly Farm has long offered discounts to JMB members; see the Secret Site for details. If you're still not a member, [go here for info](#). Sale ends Saturday 7/25... don't miss the Summer savings.

27. Kids on SXM: Daytime on Da Party Bus

At night, [the St. Maarten Party Bus](#) gets its groove on big-time. But during the day, the fun is great for families of all ages, definitely including kids / grandkids. Their day tour scours the island, enabling you to see things you may have missed in your own travels. It is adventurous, fun, and memorable; do check it out.

"Da Party Bus" folks and the family's other businesses -- Baker's Suites and both Tropical and Unique Car Rental - have long offered discounts to our JMB members; see the details on our Secret Website. If you're still not a member, [go here for info](#). Sale ends Saturday 7/25... don't miss the Summer savings.

28. Kids on SXM: Sunset Sail Aboard The Celine Too Motor Yacht

Every week, Capt. Neil Roebert's big new Celine Too motor yacht does a sunset sail through the lagoon, pointing out things you may not have known about the island's key geographic feature. He'll tell you who lives in some of those big homes on the hillsides. You'll also get a special perspective on megayachts, the new lagoon causeway (the yacht slides under it when it's closed), the airport, and more.

JMB members get 50% off, too. See the details on the Secret Website. If you're still not a member, [go here for info](#). Sale ends Saturday 7/25... don't miss the Summer savings.

29. Introducing **SXM Weekly News** Midweek Updates

When urgent news happens, we do Bulletins to our JMB members and post updates on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), often with pictures. If the event is huge -- like the Pelican bankruptcy, the Caravanserai debacle, or a hurricane -- we also send a Bulletin to JMB members.

More of you than we had ever expected were greatly concerned when fire struck the Tree Lounge at Loterie Farm. So last week -- when we learned that recovery was speeding along far faster than expected -- we sent out a "SXM Weekly News Midweek Update" to cover it, including some filler on our sale.

Midweek Updates will not be a new regular feature. If we do a handful of them a year, that will be a huge surprise. They're just a vehicle for getting important but not "Bulletin" level news to you before the next *Weekly News*.

Just wanted you to know....

30. Where to Get Engaged

Bottom line, there is a literally uncountable number of places to get engaged in SXM. It all depends on the mood you want...

Here are 10 ideas:

1. [Le Pressoir](#) Restaurant, Grand Case: The island's most incredible French Restaurant. We've seen more engagements here than everywhere else combined.
2. While parasailing above Orient Beach (but do it in a way that the ring can't be dropped in the ocean).
3. [Spiga Restaurant](#), Grand Case, the Italian Restaurant that rivals Pressoir in elegance, quality, and creativity....
4. [IZI. Simpson Bay](#), build it into one of their special occasion celebrations...

5. [Daniel's by the Sea](#), on a night with a full moon, after dinner, propose on the beach, under the stars, and arrange in advance for champagne afterwards inside the restaurant.... See also story 32.

6. Charter the Celine Too Motor Yacht and do a surprise proposal on board. See www.sailstmaarten.com.

7. On the Carousel in Simpson Bay.

8. Pretend you're just shopping for some earrings (or whatever) at your favorite jewelers in SXM, then get down on your knee and....

9. Have dinner at La Samanna (the most elegant place on the entire island) and whip out your 10 carat masterpiece at precisely the right moment....

10. If you are JMB members, ask us about doing it live on the air on a local station... we just might be able to help you make it happen.

31. What's Closed in Summer?

Nobody, to our knowledge, has a complete list of all SXM Summer-Fall restaurant closings. But we think Erich Kranz listing on his site is probably the best available: <http://www.sxm-restaurants.com/closings.html>

32. Soothing Tradewinds Enhance The Island's Top Beach Bar

Suppose you were looking for several different things. First, a super place for American breakfasts -- good-size breakfasts served hot and priced reasonably. We got it.

Second, suppose you were looking for a great beach bar on the beach (of course), with burgers, other sandwiches, maybe Philly Cheese Steak, lots of big salads including lobster and crab, and much more. We got it.

Third, you wanted real continental-style hand-tossed Italian pizza -- thin-style so the emphasis is on all those delicious toppings. We got it.

Fourth, you wanted an authentic Caribbean beach setting for under-the-palms dining featuring time-tested classic Italian dishes, Caribbean lobster (of course), and rich, decadent desserts. We got that, too.

For breakfast and lunch, it's Mr. Busby's Beach Bar under the able stewardship of Daniel Jurczenko.

For that amazing pizza, it's Island Pizza next door to Busby's, also under the able stewardship of Daniel Jurczenko.

And for dinner, it's Daniel's By The Sea at the same beautiful location, once again under the stewardship of the (almost) indefatigable Mr. Daniel Jurczenko..

They all have our highest recommendation -- and all, along with dozens of others, offer discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Website for details. If you're still not a member, [go here for info](#). Sale ends Saturday 7/25... don't miss the Summer savings.

33. Two Great Choices for Delicious Pastries

Sarafina's between the two roundabouts on the harbor in Marigot; see <http://www.caribbeanmedstudent.com/2011/03/my-favorite-french-bakery/> for pictures and a description. Expect lines and hundreds of choices.

Taste Factory or Sucriere on the Dutch Side in Simpson Bay. Aren't you hungry?

34. Restaurant of the Week:

This feature returns next week.

See past Restaurant of the Week businesses below. Most of the listed restaurants offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details. We'll cover another restaurant here soon.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 4/6/15)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/23/15)
SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 6/15/15)
Cugini (featured 12/8/14)
Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 5/11/15)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 7/13/15)
Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 8/11/14)
Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 2/23/15)
Fusion, www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com (featured 1/26/15)
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 4/28/14)
Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)
Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15)
Temptation, <http://www.rareandtemptation.com/EN/temptation/>
Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 1/19/15)
Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 2/23/15)
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 5/18/15)
Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 2/2/15)
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/4/15)
Coconut Grove (formerly SPN Cafe), <http://www.pineapplepete.com/sport.html> (featured 8/18/14)
Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path from the far side of Ocean Club to get there). (featured 4/27/2015)
FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 4/13/15)
Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 11/10/14)
Topper's / Topper's By The Sea <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 6/29/15)
Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15)
Bylbos, Simpson Bay
Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 1/12/15)

35. How To Get Your SXM Euro-Ovals

We are continuing to accept orders for our very popular copyrighted SXM Euro Oval stickers -- green lettering on a white vinyl background with twin palm trees in the background. They measure 5 3/4" x 3 3/4". You've likely seen them across SXM.

You can now order your own... We're currently offering them to our *SXM Weekly News* readers at economical pricing. They are one for \$5 or three for \$10. We use them on our cars and on smooth hard-sided luggage, which makes the luggage very easy to spot on carousels. They're printed on durable vinyl to last long. And they have a varnish coating to help protect against fading.

You can pay us through PayPal (have the payment go to jeff@jmbcommunications.com) but please specify what you're ordering and where they're to be shipped. Include your phone number. Buy some for friends too... If you want more than three, just place multiple orders.

Or pay by check payable to JMB Communications but again please specify what you're ordering and where they're to be shipped (all must go to the same address). Include your phone number. Buy some for friends too... Mail your check to SXM Weekly News Ovals, c/o JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812.

N. B.: Orders are shipped only to the USA and Canada. Allow six weeks for delivery. Questions about the ovals? Address them to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SXM Ovals. JMB members, please see our recent emails to you about SXM Euro Ovals for important info.

Advertising, Sales Promotion, PR, Publicity, and Complete Website Strategy, Copy, & Design (Traditional or WordPress).

It's what else we do.

See www.jmbcommunications.com for more.

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Page Updated Every Other Weekday

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2015 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13) Returns Next Issue

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .

SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 12/31/14

Please see our site, www.everythingsxm.com.

CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, www.everythingsxm.com/secret , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at support[at]jmbcommunications.com. If you have misplaced your password, you can get a new one by clicking the orange "forgot password" link below the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 9/7/13)

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> You CAN NOT unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select *2014 St. Maarten Weekly News* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access and to receive Low Airfare Bulletins. We'll be notified automatically.

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