

#1004 --- August 3, 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](http://www.everythingstmaarten.com)

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

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

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## 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:

*In This Week's SXM Weekly News:*

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- **First Signs of New Construction Appear on Orient Beach Between Pedro's & Kon Tiki**
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- **The Culinary Capital of the Caribbean?**
- **What are the Island's Busiest Restaurants?**

26 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](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](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:

### **SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

### **Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

"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](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](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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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## 8. Timeshare of the Week

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

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- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://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](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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)**

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to **[jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

\*\*\*\*\*  
**All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***  
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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. Have You Bought Your Winter Flights Yet?

If not, you should get to it as soon as possible. After last winter, many people were traumatized by the extreme cold and copious snow. Though forecasters disagree about next winter's weather, there's no question that the northern states will continue to be cold and snowy — it's what they do.

We've seen [timeshare rentals offered on our site](#) moving far ahead of usual, and traffic on our low-fare guidelines page on the JMB members secret website has been high this summer, unusually high. We know many people have already bought their tickets. If you haven't, it's time; even JetBlue is already selling tickets through the entire winter.

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#### 2. 2015 Hurricane Season May Not Be as Benign As Forecasters Had Predicted

Forecasters this year seem to agree that the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season will be a relatively light one. The bad news, of course, is that it only takes one storm to royally screw things up — think Gonzalo from last fall in St. Maarten.

Right now, meteorologist Rob Lightbown of [crownweather.com](#) is pointing to Atlantic tropical conditions that could enable storms to form, gather steam, and move westward across the tropical Atlantic without recurving northward and out to sea before hitting the islands. Conditions by mid-August may be conducive to that, he says. And that development could favor storm formation and possibly land falls in the islands or in the US.

We watch [crownweather.com](#) closely every year; it's our go-to source for hurricane information. If you are located along the US or Canadian Atlantic coast or in the Caribbean, it would behoove you to look into a low-cost membership in Crown Weather so you can be ahead of the curve should a storm approach.

Hopefully this time Rob is wrong and this season will be quiet. As always, we'll keep you posted. You can find additional information by clicking Weather at [www.everythingStMaarten.com](#), our own site.

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#### 3. Where To Get The Latest Hurricane Info from NHC

The latest Atlantic / Caribbean / Gulf hurricane info is always here, at the NHC site:  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo.php?basin=atlc&fdays=2>

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#### 4. 3.8 Magnitude Quake Hits SXM Thursday Evening

Right around 630 last Thursday evening, things started shaking in St. Maarten. Postings on Facebook immediately reflected rattling dishes, shaking tables, ripples in the tops of drinks, and a fair amount of nervousness.

It was over quickly, and we've heard no reports of damage or injury. But the Caribbean is an area that can periodically expect earthquakes, so they should be anticipated. There had been another earlier in the week near Grenada, followed by unfounded concern about a tsunami.

You can read the *Daily Herald's* brief piece on this SXM quake here: <http://tinyurl.com/q2dx5h2>

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## 5. Cruise Schedule Expected To Undergo Trimming

As we previously reported, some cruise lines are preparing to move some ships that normally serve the Caribbean to China starting in 2016. The intent is to reduce the glut of ships now plying the Caribbean and to take advantage of increased demand for cruise ship activity from China.

The expectation here is that this will reduce competition somewhat and increase prices. The recent glut of ships has put hordes of people onto Front Street and onto tour buses -- but Front Street merchants are unanimous in saying that those tourists aren't buying much -- certainly not much expensive jewelry. And when they are in town, stayover tourists -- timeshare owners -- who are the ones who spend money -- tend to stay out of town.

When we originally published this cruise ship news a few months ago, most merchants were quite happy to read it. The cuts aren't major and on some days will hardly be noticeable; hopefully they will help as merchants expect.

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## 6. Fly Travel Go

If you're looking for simplicity when you buy airfares, please choose our own [www.flytravelgo.com](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) better for our members. Please do give it a try -- it has many loyal clients.

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## 7. Where To Find Low Airfare Guidelines; Will Congress Investigate Fares?

Check the Low Fare Grid on our members-only "Secret" website. It shows you what you should be paying when making reservations.

Despite the fact that the cost of jet fuel has been down for a while -- and is now declining further -- airlines are raking in record profits and not budging much on high fares. There are some good fares available, particularly midweek -- and our grid (story 6) gives you details. But don't expect any fantastic bargains. *Congress is threatening to investigate whether the airlines are working in cahoots to keep prices artificially high but that hasn't even started yet.*

We'll keep you posted, as always.

## **SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares**

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## 8. SXM Timeshare Resort of the Week: Seventh 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. In this series we've been talking about several of them. Each one we list will be added below, most recent first.

If we were basing resorts featured in this series on cost of ownership, Royal Palm beach would not make the cut. They are ridiculously pricey in terms of AMF -- and totally without justification, in the minds of many timeshare owners. Nor have they played nice with their timeshare owners when originating their high charges.

But the resort has a well-maintained physical plant, a beautiful beach, quite good amenities, and a capable,

experienced staff — so on that basis we've included them.

We have also never had any complaints about the rooms at Royal Palm, another good sign. So... It may be worth checking out. We are not particularly fond of Diamond Resorts, the company that owns Royal Palm. If you Google them, you may well find some of our reasons.

Best timeshare resorts covered so far in this series:

Royal Palm Beach Hotel <https://www.diamondresorts.com/Rentals/royal-palm-beach-resort> (8/3/15)  
Summit Resort Hotel [www.thesummitresort.com](http://www.thesummitresort.com) (7/27/15)  
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: <http://www.lavistaresort.com> (6/29/15)  
Royal Islander: <http://www.royalislander.com/> (6/22/15)

Watch for another next week.

### **SECTION 3: Island**

Story 9:

#### **Vacation Giveaway Drawing is Tuesday Morning 8/4 on Island 92**

Thousands of readers entered our three-vacation giveaway which celebrates the recent 1000th edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

We'll do the drawing live on the air on [www.island92.com](http://www.island92.com) 91.9 FM Tuesday 8/4 morning between 9:30 and 11 a.m. Eastern. You must answer your phone to win. You can listen live online. Here are the choices:

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

Airfare is not included. We will have some big announcements during the show as well. Good luck, everybody....

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## 10. First Signs of New Construction Appear on Orient Beach Between Pedro's & Kon Tiki

This month, construction is expected to get underway in earnest on Orient beach between KonTiki and Pedro's, where all previous bars/restaurants/shops were demolished starting late in June in a rebuilding program by the nature reserve.

For the last few weeks, some preliminary site preparation work has been underway, since debris from the prior demolition was previously removed.

We ran pictures of the demolition [on our Facebook page](#) and we expect to run pictures of the construction there as well. If you visit Orient beach between now and November, don't hesitate to post your pictures from both Orient and the rest of the island on our Facebook page.

For those of you who have no idea what we're talking about, the nature reserve wanted to increase the width of the beach and replace the aging structures between Pedro's and KonTiki. They demolished all those structures, not including Pedro's and KonTiki. New construction will be well to the rear of the demolished buildings, yielding a much wider beach. New roads and parking will also be established. Club Orient, Pedros, and everything from Kon Tiki northward is unaffected.

What was seen this week appeared to be the beginning of actual construction — very preliminary stuff. We'll keep you posted.

## 11. Severe Caribbean Drought Continues

Perhaps it's because of the Pacific El Niño, but in any case the drought in the Caribbean is rather serious. It is less of a problem for St. Maarten than for other islands, which have more of an agricultural economy. But it is a problem for businesses with goats or cattle which require rain fed grass grazing since there hasn't been any appreciable rain in some time.

Perhaps the tropical activity that may occur later this month will bring some welcome rain without unwelcome wind. We can hope.

More stories are below.

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

*It's what else we do.*

See [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com) for more.

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## 12. An Early Peek at Seven Vacations Coming for You in "Feel Alive in Four Point Five"

JMB Communications, owners of [www.everythingStMaarten.com](http://www.everythingStMaarten.com), will soon announce a major new vacation giveaway celebrating our website surpassing 4.5 million visitors which will likely occur during the first half of next year. If you visit the site every day, and have your friends do the same, it could happen quite a bit earlier (hint).

Here's a list of the resorts that are participating in this giveaway so far. The list is both tentative and incomplete; more may be added. The formal announcement will come this month, and there will be a number of other things coming as well — a car rental for the grand prize winner, many dinners for two at top island restaurants, sailing adventures, jewelry, and more.

Once this celebration begins, we'll tell you how you can get involved as an entrant. Stay tuned and tell your friends about this — entry information will be published only here in *SXM Weekly News*. You must be a subscriber to *Weekly News* to participate but of course, there is no charge for subscriptions to *St. Maarten Weekly News*.

The vacations we're giving away will be at Mary's Boon, Oyster Bay Beach Resort, La Vista or La Vista Beach, Summit Resort, Baker's Suites, Club Fantastico, Hotel L'Esplanade OR Le Petit Hotel OR Blue Pelican, and possibly more...

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## 13. Be Our 25,000th JMB Member and We'll Send You on Vacation to SXM

This month, we expect member number 25,000 to join JMB Website Supporters. Since businesses that hit a big number like to celebrate, we decided to do that too. We are very close to 25,000 now and have decided that whoever joins us for the first time as a new member and becomes member number 25,000 will win a vacation in St. Maarten.

It works rather simply. We normally pick at random about 50 entries to use in any of our giveaways as finalists; from that group we pick winners. In the new multi-vacation giveaway we're about to launch, one of the finalists will be member number 25,000 and we will arrange for that person to be among the first 10 entries drawn in our new to-be-announced giveaway, which means they will win a St. Maarten vacation in the giveaway described in the above article.



That means if you are member number 25,000, you will receive a St. Maarten vacation in the drawing for our next giveaway. If ever there was a time to join JMB Website Supporters, now is the time; there is nothing better you can get than a trip to St. Maarten.

Important: you need purchase nothing to enter the giveaway. Other than member 25,000, we'll be drawing winners at random as we always do.

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## 14. Our Top Choices for Breakfasts

St. Maarten offers a number of excellent choices for breakfast. Here are a few that we consider our top choices, in no special order:

First, Mr. Busby's Beach Bar. The beach bar, on Dawn beach near Oyster Bay Beach Resort, has what we think is the single best location of any beach bar on the island. It is on the Windward side of St. Maarten, which means it offers virtually perpetual ocean breezes. On those rare summer days when there are no breezes, last year the restaurant installed ceiling fans so you're guaranteed a breeze no matter what. The breakfasts are big and delicious and reasonably priced.

Second, Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay. Although Vesna is principally known for its dinners, it is also open for breakfast and lunch and those breakfasts are amazing. The kitchen knows what it is doing and the prices are reasonable as well.

Third, currently closed because of Orient beach reconstruction, is Andy and Cheryl's near Pedro's on Orient beach. The restaurant expects to reopen in November, probably late, after reconstruction. We include this restaurant for two reasons — first, Andy was one of our favorite folks and he passed away a couple years ago. His birthday is right around now, too. But his recipes live on and the food is excellent — especially those Andy-exclusive blueberry pancakes.

Fourth, the St. Maarten yacht club, at the Simpson Bay drawbridge, offers lots of megayacht scenery in high season. In low season, megayachts stay away because of the possibility of hurricanes which are not covered by their insurance policies. Good food, good service, and reasonable prices....

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## 15. Want to Get Married in SXM or Renew Your Vows? Here's How

If you Google tropical weddings in St. Maarten, or St. Maarten beach weddings, you'll find a number of choices. We'll be writing more about this soon and will include specific recommendations, which have changed since we last covered this topic.

Be aware that regardless of who you choose, it isn't cheap to get married in St. Maarten. Paperwork is expensive. Our referrals will give you more details, coming soon.

Our friend Jeff Sochrin, Dr. Soc from island92 radio, has sometimes referred people who simply want a tropical wedding but didn't care where to Anguilla, St. Maarten beautiful neighbor, where the costs of licensing etc. are significantly cheaper.

More to come.

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## 16. Perfect Time to Book a Fall Trip to SXM

Forecasters have been saying that the current El Niño will result in a much lighter than usual hurricane season in the Atlantic. Except for storms, which may not be all that likely this year, fall is a great time to visit SXM. It's the quietest season of the year and most but not all restaurants remain open, especially after September. Rates are low regardless of where you stay.

If you were thinking that this might be a good time to book an extra trip to the island, do it; it's quiet, clean, and beautiful.

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## 17. Old JMB Discount Vouchers To Be Voided

In the next few weeks, we will complete the transition to new JMB Website Supporters discount vouchers that include language specifying that your current valid JMB membership card is required to be presented with vouchers for you to receive benefits and discounts. We have to do this because of fraudulent misuse of vouchers by nonmembers.

Once the transition is complete, we will void all old vouchers. At that point, only the new vouchers will be accepted *and only with your current valid JMB Website Supporters membership card*, which verifies your identity. We will let you know ahead of time when that cutoff will occur. We expect it to happen either this month or, more likely, in September, to directly affect as few people on the island as possible.

Membership cards are sent to members when they first enroll, beginning in 2013. They are also updated upon renewal or reinstatement, once the renewal or reinstatement has been processed. They are always sent from [Tracy@JMBcommunications.com](mailto:Tracy@JMBcommunications.com). If you have any questions, please contact [support@JMBcommunications.com](mailto:support@JMBcommunications.com).

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## 18. Your Valid JMB Membership Card is Required To Get Membership Benefits

Most JMB Website Supporters members are well aware that since January, 2014, the use of JMB Website Supporters membership cards has been required to obtain discounts on the island from our partners. The membership card, with a photo ID, identifies you as a legitimate member, enabling you to use the discount vouchers.

See the above story for more information on membership cards and vouchers.

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## 19. Best People Watching

People watching is a fun diversion in St. Maarten. There are several great places to do it.

First and foremost, Maho beach next to the ocean end of the Princess Juliana airport runway. We strongly suggest you avoid standing in the middle of the beach or anywhere near the airport fence, since you could be seriously injured by jet blast from departing planes. Sitting at the Sunset Bar next to the beach is good, if you can get a seat. During some hours, ladies drink free — but there's a catch you'll find out about at the bar.

Second, Front Street near little Switzerland, Philipsburg. This spot is good because you'll see many cruise ship passengers trying to figure out where to go and arguing about it, usually without much advance knowledge. If you are savvy about the island, you might hear some particularly interesting conversations. It's also interesting to hang out in front of the courthouse where the cabs are, and listen to their pitch to tourists to go to Orient beach — which many do.

Third, check out the boardwalk along Great Bay in Philipsburg. This spot is particularly good during high season, when things are busy. When things are calm, you might well be by yourself — not that there's anything wrong with that.

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## 20. The Culinary Capital of the Caribbean?

In the 1990s, when Pascal Potin was still on the island and his LAlabama restaurant was the reigning king, we believe he coined the expression *the culinary capital of the Caribbean* and started using it on postcards and other promotion for Grand Case French side restaurants.

At the time, that moniker was well-deserved, since almost all of the island's top restaurants were right there in

Grand Case.

But today, it is better said that the entire island is the culinary capital of the Caribbean. Although Grand Case still has a couple of dozen outstanding restaurants, there are now a number of restaurants on the Dutch side that give them quite a lot of competition. (The Euro is no longer an issue; it has been around \$1.10 for months, near parity.)

The dining page at [www.everythingSXM.com](http://www.everythingSXM.com), our sister website, mentions a number of our favorite dining locations on both sides of the island. Those featured below, which covers our Restaurant of the Week selections, shows you many more.

We think there's little doubt that the entire island should now justifiably be called *the culinary capital of the Caribbean*.

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## 21. What are the Island's Busiest Restaurants?

St. Maarten has hundreds of restaurants across the island — French side and Dutch. All of the busiest and biggest restaurants, however, are on the Dutch side.

Four vie for top dog: Toppers; Pineapple Pete; Daniel's by the Sea / Mr. Busby's beach bar; and IZI Ristorante Italiano.

We're not going to pick which one is busiest, a smart move since we know the owners of all these restaurants and don't want to get into any fights. At least two of these Restaurateurs are great friends and call each other every night during high season to compare the number of people they have had. Top dog can vary greatly.

Toppers, for its part, could easily stay open 24 hours if its owners so desired. As it stands, the restaurant is already open until the wee hours and it is very busy at night. It's also busy at breakfast and lunch.

Pineapple Pete, from whose relatively small kitchen comes what is arguably the hottest selling lobster Thermidor on the island, turns out excellent meals with great service and a huge variety -- lunch and dinner.

Daniel's by the Sea, the nighttime incarnation of Mr. Busby's beach bar, stays open until about 1030 each night during high season, though the kitchen generally closes earlier. The place is hopping during high season for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, effectively aided by island pizza next door.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, whose first name is pronounced "easy," has fewer seats than the others, but starts early in the evening and runs until the last guest goes home, which can be late. Incidentally, IZI is closed for the month of September this year.

All of these restaurants are run by seasoned Restaurateurs who pay great attention to detail and are passionate about quality. We've had extensive conversations with each and we can also tell you that both David Foini at IZI and Daniel Jurczenko at Daniels by the Sea are wine connoisseurs who love to talk about fine wines. And Topper of the restaurant by the same name has been in this business for many years and can talk about ingredients encyclopedically. All of these top restaurants give discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members as well. If you still haven't joined, it's time -- our 25,000th member gets a free vacation and we expect to sign up that member this month. (We're very close.) [Join here](#).

Good people. Great food. Outstanding restaurants.

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## 22. 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](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 4/6/15)

Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 2/23/15)  
Fusion, [www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 4/13/15)  
Vesna Taverna, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://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)

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## 23. Where to Buy Groceries -- and Why

SXM has a number of great places to buy groceries.

First, a few admonitions: there are no markets on St. Maarten that are similar to the best markets in the US. At home, we are spoiled by what amount to mini take out or stay in restaurants in major supermarkets. You won't really find anything equivalent in St. Maarten.

Second, getting pizza, fried chicken, or sushi generally requires you to go to individual restaurants in SXM — not supermarkets. Same applies to good premade sandwiches.

There is also no real deli on SXM....

That said, there are some excellent supermarkets. Prices are high because everything is shipped in and a duty is charged on all containers to help pay for projects like the lagoon Causeway.

If you are buying large quantities of items — such as soda — try Prime Distributors in Cole Bay. They very often have sales which bring the price down substantially. And they do have many frozen prepared foods as well, sold to restaurants and to individuals.

Prime is wholesale but totally open to the public.

To get traditional groceries, we usually use the Grand Marché in Cole Bay. Sale prices are not bad — except for ice cream — and there seem to be fewer outdated products than there were here a few years ago.

The Simply market near Orient beach in Grand Case has good, inexpensive baguettes. The baguettes you'll find on the waterfront in Marigot taste better and are bigger, though. We're thinking specifically of the Sucriere bakery in Marigot, which is next door to Sarafina's. (The Sucriere in Simpson Bay is not related.)

If you're in or near Dawn beach, Pier Grocer across from Mr. Busby's Beach Bar at the Great Bay Marina near Oyster Bay Beach Resort is outstanding. It is very clean, prices are generally reasonable for the island, and it tends to be open long hours. Go first thing in the morning for delicious home-baked pastries and baguettes and some rolls.

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## 24. Great Places for Take-Out

In back issues (see our PDF Archives; link above), we've suggested several places where you can get box lunches. But here, all we recommend you do is seek your favorite restaurant and ask for your favorite meal, whether for lunch or dinner. The fact is, sometimes you don't feel like going out for dinner and you'd rather just dine where you're staying. No problem. Virtually all restaurants are willing to put up meals to take out.

One caution, however: we think the best food makes the best eating when it is first prepared. So, if you're picking up takeout, don't do it from your absolute top favorite restaurants; their expertise is in delivering superb meals to your table. Don't dilute the sanctity of that experience by taking out entire meals — leftovers, fine, but not entire meals. Just enjoy the entire experience at the restaurant.

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## 25. IZI Closing All of September

IZI, one of SXM's most popular restaurants, will be closed the entire month of September. After reopening in October, they will be closed Tuesdays until high season.

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## 26. 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](mailto: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](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SXM Ovals. JMB members, please see our recent emails to you about SXM Euro Ovals for important info.

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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](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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) .

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

Please see our site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

#### CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at [support\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

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