

#1009 --- August 31, 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

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source
for Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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Part of www.everythingsxm.com

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



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



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 PDFs of all 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.

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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:

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30 new stories this week

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Timeshare Rentals and Sales 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 237+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

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 "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Facebook Site:



<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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- 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://everythingxsm.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. Tropical Storm Erika a Dud for SXM, But a Killer Elsewhere

Although it was only a tropical storm when it went through the Leeward islands well south of SXM last week, Erika did plenty of damage on the beautiful island of Dominica. There, more than 20 people lost their lives in floods and mudslides, and as of this writing Sunday night, some 50 people were still missing.

St. Maarten was hoping to get some drought-soothing rain out of Erika, but got practically nothing. In Dominica, 15 inches of rain fell in a matter of hours causing heavy destruction.

Much more on the storm is in article 14, Section 3.

2. Danny Fizzled Too; Now Fred Is On The Horizon

Earlier last week, quickly changing what had been a relatively calm tropical season, hurricane Danny fizzled to the East of St. Maarten, falling apart before it reached the Antilles.

It was a good dry run, however. Remembering last year's Gonzalo — which had been forecast a tropical storm but was a category two hurricane on arrival in St. Maarten — citizens prepared very well for Danny. Although Erika never developed into a hurricane, St. Maarteners were well prepared.

The full story about Erika and Fred, the storm that became a hurricane Sunday night, is in section 3.

3. **This** is a "Light" Hurricane Season?

Some people are now asking, "Is this the light season forecasters predicted?"

The answer is that it is too early to tell. At this point, there have been seven named storms including Fred. That is

the exact number of named storms the Hurricane Prediction Center had predicted for this entire hurricane season, which doesn't end until 11/30. The Center also forecast that there would be at least three storms category three or higher; we'll see.

4. Warning About Flight Cancellations

We know from disgruntled passengers that United Airlines is cancelling some SXM nonstops in October and November. If you have UA flights or flights on any other carrier, reconfirm your flights both now and a few weeks before you're flying. UA does seem to be contacting passengers with this unpleasant news, but it's best to be proactive rather than be surprised.

5. Use Our Low Fare Grid for Guidelines To The Best Fares

Our Low Fare Grid -- one of the first two benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership, introduced in 2002 -- shows you low fare guidelines for trips to SXM. Bottom line, these tell you roughly what you should be paying for round trips.

Effective today, you can get the lowest fares through the SkyMed Travel Club. Normally \$99/year, the SkyMed Travel Club is free for JMB members. It is not the same as the SkyMed "takes you home" medical evacuation program. Rather, it leverages SkyMed's depth of knowledge of the entire air transport system to bring very low fares to its members.

See all the details on the SkyMed Travel Club (including how to sign up for free) in the Low Fare Grid on our members-only Secret website. Log in using the orange login box below the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. More on the SkyMed Travel Club is in the next story.

6. A Great Source of Low Airfares & More Available Free to JMB Members

JMB Website Supporters now gives you access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on packages not just to the Caribbean, but worldwide.

Retail travel sites — the ones whose names you know very well — are heavily regulated. But private travel clubs like this, which normally charge members prices for membership/admission, are regulated differently and consequently, can offer much better pricing.

The organization providing these travel benefits has been traveling under the radar for 25 years and is only now making its travel reservations prowess publicly known. It's SkyMed Travel Club and it is entirely separate from the SkyMed "takes you home" medical evacuation service we've been recommending to you since shortly after the millennium.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have been testing it for months and have found the pricing to be extraordinary — even on the wildly popular river cruises that are a tourism phenomenon throughout Europe and are quickly gaining popularity here in the US.

And normally, this organization charges you \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Exclusively through us, you get access to a world-class global ticketing mechanism without paying one cent to get in the door. Go to the members-only Secret Website and click on the Low Airfare Grid for details on the SkyMed Travel Club. Log in through the orange login box below the masthead at everything.sxm.com. Your username is the email address you have registered with Membership Services. If you forgot your password, click "forgot password" in the login box.

Do join — you will not be disappointed once you've booked through them.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

7. Alegria Owner Not Pleased About Adverse Court Decision; Appeal Expected

We know from people close to Alegria owner Ray Sidhom that Mr. Sidhom is not happy with the recent adverse court decision in St. Maarten, which ordered Alegria to return timeshare units owned by litigating Caravanserai timeshare owners to the timeshare owners, along with monetary compensation. Heavy fines were promised for noncompliance.

An appeal to this verdict is all but certain. As always, we'll keep you posted. The next article should answer many questions from Caravanserai timeshare owners.

8. What The Alegria Court Decision Means to Caravanserai T/S Owners: Q&A

In an article about the SXM court decision we published last week, we attempted to explain what was going on and what timeshare owners should expect.

Since then, we've received a number of questions from timeshare owners. We thought it would be helpful to answer those questions here:

Who is affected?

The ruling applies to the litigants — although by extension non-litigating timeshare owners may benefit from it. There is no such thing as a class-action suit in St. Maarten, but there is such a thing as precedents. The court ruling applies specifically to the group of Caravanserai timeshare owners who litigated to achieve it. The ruling states that they must get their timeshare units back along with some monetary compensation specified in the ruling. This will be accomplished in ways which will be detailed to the litigants by their attorneys over the coming weeks.

Is this decision final?

As mentioned in the previous article, it is widely expected that Ray Sidhom, owner of Alegria, formerly Caravanserai, will appeal. If he does not, the decision is final. If he does, the appellate court will decide what happens — and their verdict will be final. The appellate court's decision can only be appealed to the Hague if there is a procedural question — there is no other road to appeal beyond the appellate court.

What about people who didn't litigate?

As we mentioned, although there is no such thing as class-action in St. Maarten, there is such a thing as precedent. This means that should the ruling be upheld, timeshare owners litigating the same point in the future should expect to achieve the same result, hopefully at less legal cost because the precedent has been set.

Does this mean that it may be possible for all Caravanserai timeshare owners to get their timeshare units back?

Possibly — if the decision is upheld and if remaining timeshare owners choose to go after Alegria/Caravanserai to obtain the benefits apparently available to them through this precedent.

We are timeshare owners at Caravanserai but didn't sign on to litigate; what should we do?

Hold onto your contract. It probably would not be a bad idea for you to contact TOCA, the organization of Caravanserai timeshare owners that litigated successfully. It could become useful to you to contact the law firm they used and to maintain an awareness of what happens in the appeal process. If that process upholds the lower court decision, you might wish to consult with the law firm about steps necessary to regain control of your timeshare at Caravanserai, which may well become a workable legal option.

How I contact that Association?

Caravanserai TOCA tocagroup@gmail.com.

9. SXM Timeshare Rentals Up Sharply; If You Want One, Get It Now

Timeshare rentals in SXM are a hot commodity. Based on our site, they're renting out faster than at any time in the last 10 years. This may be because of last year's unusually harsh winter and a similar forecast for this winter. Whatever the cause, if you want one, go to www.everythingSXM.com and click on the timeshare rentals page.

Many weeks are offered both for rent and for sale. That applies to a week 3 at Sapphire resort we own. Our page enables you to rent or buy directly from timeshare owners - no commissions involved, so the cost of acquisition from timeshare owners is quite low.

10. SXM Timeshare Resort of the Week: Tenth 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.

Now undergoing extensive renovation, Princess Port de Plaisance (not affiliated with Princess Resorts) is a condo community on a peninsula adjacent to Princess Casino, one of SXM largest. Adjacent to the casino are a number of excellent restaurants. The entire operation is near the Simpson Bay Lagoon Causeway, making getting anywhere easier than before. If you rent at Princess, get a renovated room.

Timeshare resorts covered so far in this series:

Princess Port de Plaisance Resort: <http://princessportdeplaisance.com> (not many good pictures) 8/31/15

Atrium Resort <http://www.festiva-atrrium.com/> (8/24/15)

Flamingo Beach Resort <https://www.diamondresorts.com/Flamingo-Beach-Resort> (8/17/15)

Bel Air Beach Hotel www.belairbeach.com (8/10/15)

Royal Palm Beach Hotel <https://www.diamondresorts.com/Rentals/royal-palm-beach-resort> (8/3/15)

Summit Resort Hotel 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 & La Vista Beach: <http://www.lavistaresort.com> (6/29/15)

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

Watch for more next week.

SECTION 3: Island

11. Personal Note from Jeff: We Ask Your Help in the Fight Against Brain Tumors

Just days after celebrating his 27th birthday, our son Scott collapsed on his bathroom floor and was unable to get up quickly. It was a normal Sunday night and he was preparing for work the next day.

Long story short, an ambulance took him to the hospital and the diagnosis there was -- a brain tumor. He had brain surgery in Boston that same week. Radiation came two years later after some tumor cells started to regenerate. Since then Scott has been fine but brain tumor awareness and trying to help others affected by brain tumors -- and funding research to combat them -- have become an important part of his life.

Scott lives in Arizona and is helping to raise funds in the forthcoming Phoenix Brain Tumor Walk. Any gift, regardless of size, is important. But please do give... Scott says, "Every dollar helps raise money for research and brain tumor awareness through the National Brain Tumor Society. Help us get over the \$1000 raised as a team today. Thanks for your support and feel free to share with your friends."

Please help:

http://www.brainumorcommunity.org/site/TR/TeamraiserEvents/BTW-AZ?px=2963787&pg=personal&fr_id=2430

12. Who Is Our 25,000th Member? (They're Getting a SXM Vacation)

We've not yet tracked down our 25,000th JMB Website Supporters member. As soon as we do, we'll tell him / her that their membership is now active and that they are our 25,000th member. They were also referred by another JMB member and because of that, the other member will be among finalists to win a SXM vacation in our eight-vacation giveaway early next year.

See more below.

13. Get SXM Giveaways & Discounts: Labor Day Membership Sale Underway

Lots of people gets lots of things you don't know about as a result of JMB memberships.

One of the unheralded benefits of membership is members-only giveaways. They can be as simple as pizza from Island Pizza or Domino's, as fun as a Friday Fun Cruise aboard the Celine Too motor yacht, or dinner for two at SXM restaurants like IZI Ristorante Italiano, Daniel's by the Sea, Spiga, Le Pressoir, Toppers, and many others. We've also given away vacations to members at Radisson Blu Anse Marcel (now Riu Plaza), La Samanna, Summit Resort Hotel, Ocean Club, and Coral Beach Club. We just gave one away to Club Fantastico and we'll give away more.

Of course, our 237 discounts -- for dozens of restaurants, dozens of places to shop, souvenirs, and more -- also attract lots of members and keep them with us for many years.

Our Labor Day Membership Sale offers low prices on new memberships, renewals, and reinstatements.

New memberships:

\$49 for one year but much less per year for multiyear memberships.

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

Low prices for renewal memberships go live at noon EDT Wednesday 9/2:

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

Low prices for membership reinstatements go live at noon EDT Wednesday 9/2:

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

14. Raging Seas, Some Wind, But Little Rain Affect SXM As Erika Slides South

Note: See also story #1 in this issue.

Despite very rough seas which caused a number of cruise ships to go elsewhere and the airport to close for a day, Erika's bottom line was a collective sigh of relief across the SXM. A few small tree branches down but other than that, no damage.

With many relatives and friends living on Dominica, there was great concern for the effects there of this storm. Erika dropped some 15 inches of rain on Dominica, causing mudslides and raging floods. At least 20 people died and 50 were reported unaccounted for as of Sunday night.

In St. Maarten and St. Martin, expected (and hoped for) rain to alleviate the drought never materialized.

Like Danny, in St. Maarten Erika was a dud. Hopefully Fred won't bother the island either. Fred was predicted to weaken tonight (Monday) as it left the Cape Verde islands.

15. Drought Still Here; Erika Brought No Relief

Well west of St. Maarten, people in Puerto Rico had been hoping for rain. Tropical storm Erika gave them plenty of it, but floods cause mudslides which do no good for thirsty crops. SXM is still waiting for rain.

16. SkyMed On Sale: Lots of Life-Saving Benefits, Low Cost

If you've been thinking about buying SkyMed but just haven't gotten around to it, this is the time.

SkyMed takes you home when you become critically ill or injured while traveling — home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust. With rare exceptions, your medical insurance from the US or Canada isn't valid in St. Maarten. There is also no trauma center in St. Maarten, and the sophisticated medical treatments available at leading US hospitals have no equivalent in St. Maarten. So if you become critically ill or injured, you really do need to get home to the US or Canada and get the help you need.

Thanks to this sale, that has now become a whole lot easier. There are two key reasons.

First, for every year of SkyMed medical evacuation protection you buy from us during the sale, you get an equivalent year of JMB Website Supporters membership free, on us, which brings you an increasing spectrum of benefits and discounts, soon to number close to 250. If you are already a JMB member, we will extend your membership on us for a number of years equal to your new or upgraded SkyMed membership. If you are not a JMB member and buy SkyMed through us, we will establish a JMB Website Supporters membership for you equal to your new or upgraded SkyMed membership's duration of one year or more.

SkyMed costs next to nothing when you buy it for a few days (less than \$18/day per family), or it costs \$499 for a family plan covering an entire year. *The critically important advantage of buying yearly coverage is that you are covered for as long as you continue to renew your membership regardless of your age or health at the time of the renewal.* Buy a "short term" plan for a week or so, and you must requalify medically every time you re-apply.

That same crucial benefit also applies if you get a SkyMed three-year or five-year "Ultimate" membership, the best they offer. (It's also what Jeff has had for a number of years).

The SkyMed Ultimate normally sells for a three-year or a five-year term. One critical advantage of the Ultimate — besides the fact that it covers you around virtually the entire world — is that you are covered in case the price of crude oil makes a U-turn and starts skyrocketing again -- which in fact it seems to be doing right now. Since medical evacuation jets use expensive jet fuel, current pricing for SkyMed annual memberships may increase with the cost of jet fuel. A five-year Ultimate membership will cost you either \$59 per month per family, or much less if you prepay it and are a JMB Website Supporters member.

The price is considerably less when you prepay. Non JMB members pay \$3495 in advance for five full years for the five-year Ultimate; JMB members pay only \$2495 through us — and remember, because of the bonus we mentioned above, when you sign up we will also sign you up for JMB membership *enabling you to save \$1000 on a five year Ultimate membership that is not available for the same discounted price to nonmembers.*

For answers to questions about SkyMed, or to sign up, regardless of whether you are a current JMB member, and to get these JMB membership bonuses and discounts, call JMB Communications weekdays during normal business hours at area code 508-747-8281 and ask for Jeff. This offer can be withdrawn at any time, so please do it soon. That's \$1000 off a five-year Ultimate plus a free JMB membership or membership extension -- available only by calling our office. You can learn more about SkyMed at www.skymed.com/jmbxsm but these JMB discounts are not available online. JMB members only, see www.skymed.com/jmbspecial .

17. Eighth Vacation, In a Two-Bedroom at Simpson Bay Resort, Added to Giveaway

Our seven vacation giveaway is now an eight vacation giveaway, thanks to the generosity of the folks at Simpson Bay Resort.

Simpson Bay has changed a great deal in the last several years. Now, almost every condominium throughout the complex has been gutted and completely rebuilt, floor to ceiling. The units are plush, modern, and inviting — as inviting as some of the best units you'll find on a vacation in Scottsdale. This is not the old Simpson Bay Resort.

Simpson Bay is offering a two bedroom unit for a full week to one of our vacation winners in our upcoming giveaway. You'll find details in the next article.

18. How to Enter Our Eight-Vacation Giveaway

We expect to surpass 4.5-million visits to www.everythingsxm.com during the first half of 2016 -- or conceivably earlier -- depending literally on how often you visit the site. (Do it often and we'll give away these vacations sooner.)

Here's where you could be going:

- Mary's Boon Beach Resort;
- 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*
- Simpson Bay Resort

It is likely that we will be adding still more vacations, and it is quite certain that we'll be adding dinners for two and much more.

Enter here:

http://everythingxm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

Full rules are on the page.

19. Sargasso Seaweed Still Affecting SXM, But Few Tourists Care

Sargasso seaweed, which has been affecting primarily the Eastern side of the island, continues. Western and Southern facing beaches are not affected, not significantly anyway, and Eastern facing beaches are cleaned every morning.

Except for tourists to whom this is a surprise, it's not really bothering anyone. It has not affected tourism.

Sargasso seaweed notwithstanding, as we've noted for weeks reservations for next winter are high and as of now, the island is looking forward to what should be a very busy year.

20. At Alegria, Business Has Pretty Much Gone Bust

Our sense is that the folks who took over Caravanserai Resort, renamed it Alegria, dubbed it "the place of happiness" and nullified vacation weeks owned by about 2500 timeshare owners -- somehow miscalculated the backlash.

First, they suffered a PR disaster. They were vilified by the press, by an angry constituency of thousands of timeshare owners and their friends, and their offer to allow timeshare owners to rent their own units fell on deaf ears. Instead of inheriting thousands of renters, they infuriated tens of thousands of tourists and their property, according to a number of people who have been there recently, is all but a ghost town.

Second, they came up with two ideas for development which defy logic. The first would place megayachts at dockage in the ocean, where they could suffer damage from sudden high surf which all tourists have witnessed over time; that's why yachts docked in St. Maarten are typically either in the lagoon or in the enclosed harbor at Marigot or Oyster Pond and not docked in the open ocean. The second was their plan to build a tall parking structure near the resort entrance, not far from the airport. The airport was not amused and will likely oppose the structure in court.

Third, they have tried to close or succeed in closing some of the businesses that brought people through the main entrance — not exactly the niftiest of marketing ideas.

As always we'll keep watching and report what we see here.

21. "Rima" Souvenir Emporium Is Back, Offering Huge Discounts to JMB Members

Remember the huge "Rima" store on the pondfill, Philipsburg, where you could buy tons of souvenirs at great prices? Until now Rima-style beachwear, loungewear, hats, dolls, kidswear, and boatloads of souvenirs were available only from kiosks on the island... no retail stores. And those kiosks only carried a fraction of the former store's wares.

Now the Rima website -- which brings everything "Rima" online -- will sell to JMB members at a huge 36% discount, the biggest discount they've ever offered to anyone. Shipping is free for all orders of \$40 or more to the USA, Canada, and the UK. The discount will apply regardless of how much or how little JMB members buy.

And lastly, the discount will be posted on the Secret Site this week, the first week of September. (We didn't get to it last week thanks to Danny and Erika... don't ask.) Discounts are for JMB members only. Don't expect to order at discount until you have the necessary info from the Secret Site. The Rima site is www.rimasxm.com. We'll post on the Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site when the new Rima benefit goes live. A link to that site is near our Table of Contents.

More stories are below.

It's Time You Joined JMB Website Supporters and got all the discounts and benefits we offer:

We offer 237 right now, more coming -- in time for your next trip. LOW SALE PRICES NOW IN EFFECT but they end soon. Learn more by clicking the page curl atop our home page at www.everythingsxm.com.

22. Spiga, iZi Closed for Vacation; Cugini Closes

A few of the island's most popular Italian restaurants are either now closed for vacation or closed for good.

Spiga in Grand Case, one of the top restaurants of any kind on the island, and an absolute standout ever since it opened in 2002, is closed for vacation for the next few weeks.

IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay is closed for the month of September.

And Cugini, which opened last year and became immensely busy for several months, has now closed. Its driving force is Sam Runza, who discovered in March that he had cancer and had to leave for treatment in Toronto. He has been there ever since but hopes to return to the island soon. In the meantime, his cousin Tony, at Sam's urging, has shut down the restaurant. Cugini — cousins in Italian — was operated by the two cousins along with Francesca, Sam's wife of many years. We liked the restaurant a lot and many of you visited it at our urging. Sam's focus now is totally on getting well soon.

There is one great Italian restaurant on St. Maarten that never closes — and that is Daniel's by the Sea on Dawn beach. The ambience is dining under the palms and the food quality is consistently excellent. With a full moon, it couldn't possibly be more romantic — so if you're on the island, Daniel's is the place to go. Daniel's, Mr. Busby's, and Island Pizza, all part of the same enterprise, all give discounts to JMB Website Supporters members, as do both Spiga and iZi.

23. Restaurants of The Week: Le Pressoir & Toppers

Pressoir usually closes for a time in late Summer or early Fall...so when you visit, contact them early-on to make reservations. Le Pressoir is one of the top two SXM restaurants. Extraordinary French food ... impeccable atmosphere ... very romantic.

The restaurant is housed in a building from the 1870s -- nearly 150 years old. Lots of character. Pressoir has been a "Bucket List" item for years (100 things to do before you die). See <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com/>. At the end of the evening you'll know why.

Toppers and Le Pressoir have nothing in common but outstanding food. Toppers is open so many hours each day you'll rarely find them closed. Busy at lunch & dinner and even very late at night. Known for lots of things including great attention to detail. Folks rave about their brisket and their meatloaf. Expect plenty of food, attentive service, and delicious desserts. Everything is homemade and fresh. Just go: <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/>

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.

Featured previously:

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); Cugini is no longer open.
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 8/10/15)
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 8/31/15)
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 8/31/15)
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)
Mario's Bistro, moving to Porto Cupecoy, Dutch Side www.mariosbistro.com (featured 8/17/15)

24. Toppers Rum

When you visit the main Toppers restaurant in Simpson Bay near Kim Sha Beach, ask about "Topper's Rhum". Crafted and bottled locally on the island only about a mile from the restaurant, it's authentic & delicious. You can buy it at the restaurant. More: <http://www.toppersrhum.com>.

25. Villa Rentals on SXM -- And a Villa For Sale, Villa Onyi

If you're making plans to stay on SXM next winter, why not do it in a villa? By yourselves or with another couple, villas are private and luxurious getaways that often do not cost as much per week as you might expect, especially if you go with other couples.

We recommend many; look: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/where_to_stay/index.shtml .

Tell them you heard about them through Jeff Berger's "Everything SXM" website. If you want to buy a villa, you can -- gorgeous Villa Onyi featured on cable TV in the US. Write us and we'll send you pictures and connect you with folks who can give you a tour. Write jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject Villa Onyi.

26. The Island's Top Car Rental -- And Its Craziest Fun Nighttime Activity

There have been many recent major changes at Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental, a company we first recommended in 1995. The changes are at all levels and have been focused on doing one thing: delivering the highest possible quality cars and the highest level of customer service.

Last year, Tropical-Tropicana relocated to the all-new Baker's Suites boutique hotel in Simpson Bay, opposite Atrium Resort. Since then, many of their cars have been replaced with new vehicles. The best of the older cars have been retained and more new cars are coming.

Tropical-Tropicana has also upgraded its staff. Some faces you've seen before have been replaced now by people totally committed to delivering a superior level of service quality from arrival to departure -- and everything between.

Of course, Tropical-Tropicana still gives significant discounts to all JMB Website Supporters members. So please check the members-only Secret Site for discount details, and bring your valid JMB Membership Card.

The Baker Family introduced Tropical-Tropicana about 25 years ago. The extended family owns Baker's Suites, Unique Car Rental (which we also recommend), and the wacky St. Maarten Party Bus, "da party bus," that former school bus dressed up in bright Caribbean colors that's on the road day and night.

Like partying? Just go: What happens on the party bus stays on the party bus. See their site:

<http://www.thestmaartenpartybus.com/> . See the daytime video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=298pwVBuvdQ>

And see this hint of what goes on at night: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx6aJigWuzo>

27. Tech Talk: Column Returns Next Week

28. 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 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. Sorry, no Canadian checks.

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.

This offer will expire for the winter in October. Order now.

29. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page

Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which has been around for several years, covers SXM happenings in words and pictures from its thousands of users, and enables people to ask questions, get answers, post trip reports, etc. We also post things there between issues of *SXM Weekly News*.

Besides that ... the 5000th person to "like" that page will be among the "Final 50" people we call when we give away seven vacations early next year. You are welcome to join our Facebook Site. .

30. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look right here (Updates to include this issue Wednesday by noon):

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

Advertising, Sales Promotion, Marketing Collateral, 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) -- Frequently Updated

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

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