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#1039 --- Monday, 3/28/2016 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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## 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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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

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[http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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 (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks).

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- Gendarmes Surround Iguanas: The Mystery Deepens**

- [Demands From Orient Beach Businesses Published on Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#)
- [Next Phases of Princess Juliana Airport Expansion](#)
- [Check Your JMB Membership Card: No Card, No SXM Discounts \(How To Get Yours\)](#)
- [Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation](#)

[29](#) news stories this week

[Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents](#)

## 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](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 237+ 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 7/30/2016 8/6/2016 week 31 Ocean Club One-Bedroom unit at Cupecoy Beach, kitchen, terrace overlooking grounds. Sleeps 4, with a pull-out couch in living room area. Parking space for unit. Security on premises. \$800 for the week. Person occupying unit is responsible for island tax (\$50) and electric charge fee (\$90) Rita 917-453-2017 [bublesr@aol.com](mailto:bublesr@aol.com)

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

SALE 11/12/2016 11/19/2016 Week 46 Royal Islander Club This unit is a one bedroom @ La Plage overlooking pool & ocean w/spectacular sunset views. \$1,100 Ted @ 760-537-1144 [tedjanka@icloud.com](mailto:tedjanka@icloud.com)

### **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 "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](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)

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[http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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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)

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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

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[Revised 2/24/15]

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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) .

\*\*\*\*\*  
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## THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

#### 1. Current Weather

Weather in SXM continues to be a bit unusual. Those consecutive crystal clear March days with tiny quick showers are few and far between. It has been overcast a lot, quite muggy, and wetter than we normally see in late March. This should be the start of dry season but it hasn't been all that dry -- and very windy as well.

#### 2. Hurricane Season Coming: 2016 Hurricane Names

Here they are, from NOAA, complete with a pronunciation guide (just in case):

Alex AL-leks  
Bonnie BAH-nee  
Colin KAH-lihn  
Danielle dan-YELL  
Earl URR-ull  
Fiona fee-OH-nuh  
Gaston ga-STAWN  
Hermine her-MEEN  
Ian EE-an  
Julia JOO-lee-uh  
Karl KAR-ull  
Lisa LEE-suh  
Matthew MATH-yoo  
Nicole nih-KOHL  
Otto AHT-toh  
Paula PAHL-luh

Richard RIH-churd  
Shary SHAHR-ee  
Tobias toh-BEE-uss  
Virginie vir-JIN-ee  
Walter WALL-tur

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### 3. Where to Find Current Weather Observations & Forecasts

For current weather, go to [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- the SXM forecast is on our home page and on our Weather page; you can click those links for detailed forecasts. Our Weather page also includes constantly updated satellite images and radar loops for SXM and the entire Caribbean.

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### 4. Our "FlyTravelGo" Travel Website Lets You Easily Compare Fares, Buy What's Best

Our [flytravelgo.com](http://flytravelgo.com) website has been redesigned to give you clear preferences when you buy airfare. Now, you can quickly and easily select what's important to you: getting there fast with a minimum number of stops (or none); price; specific airline; time of day. The site also lets you look at fares for specific dates or nearby dates, which may save you money.

FlyTravelGo has become a favorite of many of our readers and their families and friends. Check it out at [www.flytravelgo.com](http://www.flytravelgo.com).

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

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### 5. Court Decision on Sapphire Beach Club Ownership Delayed Again

Once again the court in SXM has postponed a decision on whether Sapphire Beach Club in Cupecoy will be changing ownership. Originally slated for March 8, the decision was delayed until last Tuesday, March 22, then delayed again until early April.

The Sitbon family, which ran the resort for a few years under contract to resort developers the Verdier family, will possibly find out then whether they get to buy Sapphire Beach Club.

We'll post results as soon as we have them on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) and in *SXM Weekly News*.

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### 6. RCI Lifts Block on Sapphire Timeshare Owner Trades; Sales Not Happening?

Reports from Sapphire Resort timeshare owners are that RCI has now lifted its ban on trades both into and out of the resort, enabling traditional timeshare owner trading rights to be restored.

There are wrinkles, though, as timeshare owner Karen posted on our Facebook Site: "FYI. I was able to confirm my week 45 through RCI yesterday. I had already gotten a letter from the Sapphire when I was there confirming it as well.

RCI wanted to charge me a \$179 change fee since I was not in the proper time frame for my home week. I told the rep in no uncertain terms that I wouldn't pay the fee since it was RCI that prevented Sapphire from bookings, including the units we own. I asked to speak to a supervisor. It took about a 1/2 hour, but he finally confirmed my unit for week 45 without a charge." Thanks Karen!

Note that timeshare owners, when they get through to the resort (another difficult task, they tell us) say the resort is not currently allowing timeshare owners to sell their weeks. We have tried calling the resort to confirm this and we've encountered the same problem of unanswered calls that timeshare owners say has been going on for a long time.

The clamp on sales started a few weeks ago. If you have been able to sell in March, please let us know....

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## 7. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Place Lien on Alegria, Halting Any Changes

Alegria Resort owner Ray Sidhom's plans for transforming the former Caravanserai timeshare resort into a very upscale hideaway for the rich and famous has hit yet another roadblock.

Sidhom, who is Chairman at EVO Payments International, a credit card processing company in Melville, New York, bought the resort a while back and immediately emailed timeshare owners telling them their timeshare contracts were null and void, an act met with extreme anger on the part of thousands of timeshare owners who lost investments worth millions of dollars. Many vowed never to return to the island. Pleas from timeshare owners to the island government to intercede fell on deaf ears.

Sidhom's announced plans for a large parking garage close to the entrance of his property adjacent to the runway at Princess Juliana Airport were met with derisive howls from airport officials, who said it would endanger air traffic and promised to vehemently oppose it in court.

Sidhom's announced plans for a megayacht port in Simpson Bay requiring the destruction of coral was met with equally derisive howls from nature advocates and government officials.

Now, we've heard that TOCA, the association of Caravanserai timeshare owners fighting Sidhom in court, has placed a lien on the property to stop any construction until their case is resolved early in the Summer.

Sidhom apparently wants Marty's Dream Bar gone but so far, the only result for him has been a long nightmare -- the same kind of thing he gave Caravanserai timeshare owners when he unilaterally nullified their contracts without compensation.

We'll keep you posted. This is far from over.

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## 8. Caravanserai Timeshare Owner Court Case Results Due In June; What's Happening With Choice Ascend?

No one knows what the result of the court case will be when the verdict is handed up this Summer, but it's conceivable that litigating timeshare owners may be entitled to get the value of their units paid back by Alegria, possibly along with damages. That could be the start of good news for timeshare owners, but don't bet on it: Sidhom has deep pockets and is likely to fight.

Meanwhile, it slipped out more than a year ago that Alegria had hooked up with Choice Hotels' upscale Ascend Collection, something Alegria has never advertised. The reason may be that a number of reviews of the property on booking.com aren't all that complimentary. You can see them here and judge for yourself:

<http://www.booking.com/hotel/sx/alegria-an-ascend-collection-member.html>

You can get discounts at a number of resorts -- Caravanserai not included -- and hundreds of other discounts across SXM -- through a JMB Website Supporters membership. Join today: your membership helps keep SXM Weekly News coming.

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Membership Reinstatements:

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

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## 9. Ray Sidhom, Alegria Owner, Suing Marty of Marty's Dream Bar a Fourth Time

Alegria Resort chief honcho Ray Sidhom has lost several consecutive court cases against Marty's Dream Pool Bar, which has a lease repeatedly upheld in court. Sidhom wants to remove Marty's Bar and put something else there, but the courts say he can't. So, Sidhom is going to court in June to try again, though most observers think he has no better chance than before.

We'll keep you posted.

### **SECTION 3: Island**

## **Get a Free Trip Home**

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Membership Reinstatements:

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

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## 10. Marty's Gyros Reopens Next To Toppers

We knew Marty's Gyros, next door to Toppers in Simpson Bay (and sharing their building), had closed a while ago. We knew Marty owned the Dream Pool Bar at Caravanserai / Alegria and figured he was busy there.

We found out recently that we were wrong; Marty's Gyros reopened not long ago after a short offline respite. We will make it there soon, but their TripAdvisor ratings are terrific and knowing what the Dream Bar is like, we have high confidence in the ratings. Here's one we read, typical of many:

"I'm going to try and get you to the restaurant first. It's kind of tucked behind another restaurant...I believe it is called Toppers. It actually looks like it shares the same building. If you pass a large liquor store you passed it! If you do pass the liquor store park in the grocery store lot and just walk over. Now, the gyro isn't what I was expecting physically. In the States you get that wrap with strips of gyro meat, but Marty prepares his Gyro's with chunks of meat and in a pita bread. Now the flavor is great. The meat is well cooked, and the pita bread...I don't know what he does to it, but it's delicious. Overall, very happy with the gyro's there, and would definitely go back. The service was also great and the value was good for the area. Oh, and if you want fries with your gyro, I recommend just splitting a



basket of fries with someone because a basket was a good bit of fries!"

The review was by "Kayaker." [Go here](#) for more.

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## 11. Here's The List of Winners of Our Ten Vacation Giveaway

Our 10 vacation giveaway celebrated [our site](#) surpassing 4.5-million visitors earlier this year. The winners were picked last week.

Drawn Monday morning, March 21, on Island 92 radio ([www.island92.com](http://www.island92.com)) our 10 vacation prize winners are:

- [Club Orient](#) Winner Tami M., Indiana
- [Mary's Boon Beach Resort](#); Winner Jerry P., Wisconsin
- [Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#); Winner David E., Utah
- [La Vista or La Vista Beach](#) Winner Roy M, New York
- [Summit Resort](#) Winner James S., Pennsylvania
- [Baker's Suites](#) Winner Joe D, Georgia
- [Club Fantastico](#) Winner Sandy S., Arizona, traded to the winner of Club Orient; First Prize Winner
- [Le Petit Hotel](#) Winner Marco F., St. Martin
- [Simpson Bay Resort](#) Winner Lara R., St. Martin, Grand Prize Winner
- El Zafiro Boutique Hotel Simpson Bay Winner Donna G., Pennsylvania

Here's everything won by our **Grand Prize Winner, Lara R. from St. Martin:**

One Week Vacation at Simpson Bay Resort  
Dinner for Two at Temptation, Cupecoy Beach  
Sunset Cruise for Two aboard the Classic Schooner Passaat  
One-week car rental (Hyundai i10 or equivalent) from Leisure Car Rental  
Dinner for two at Spiga, Grand Case (given away to Patty B., Maine, another finalist, since Lara owns that restaurant)  
Dinner for two at Infinity (OBRR)  
Dinner for two at Sushitto  
Dinner for two at Toppers  
Dinner for two at iZi Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay  
Dinner for two at Vesna Taverna  
Dinner for two at Fusion Restaurant, Simpson Bay  
Massage from Tricia Altenau of AIA Massage Therapies, the island's most sought-after massage therapist

And here's everything won by our **First Prize Winner, Sandy S. from Arizona:**

A one-week vacation to be named and awarded later;  
Dinner for two at Mario's Bistro, Porto Cupecoy  
Dinner for two at Le Pressoir, Grand Case  
Dinner for Two at Big Fish, Oyster Pond  
Dinner for two at Beau Beaus (Oyster Bay Beach Resort)  
Dinner for two at Pineapple Pete  
Dinner for two at Daniel's by the Sea  
Dinner for two at Lal's Curry In a Hurry  
Dinner for two at Toppers By The Sea  
Dinner for two at The Palms Restaurant, Simpson Bay

Watch for the introduction of our next giveaway late in April. Thanks to the 91,000 plus people who entered, almost a 50% increase over our last giveaway. Thank you, entrants in the USA, Canada, St. Maarten / St. Martin, and throughout Europe.

See story 16.

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## 12. Name Our Next Vacation Giveaway And Become an Instant Finalist

We're looking for someone to name the giveaway that begins about a month from now. It will conclude and draw after we reach 5,000,000 visits to [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com), which we think will happen somewhere between March

and May, 2017.

To participate, join our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) and look for the pinned post about "Name Our Next Giveaway." The winner *must* be a direct subscriber to our free *SXM Weekly News*. Your entry can't be anything like the "Thanks a Million" theme we used before and ideally should refer to five million site visits. [Subscribe to SXM Weekly News \(free\) before you enter this contest](#). You can subscribe by clicking "free newsletters" on [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). Submit your idea in our pinned post at our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). For the post we like most we'll verify your subscription. You will be on the list of about 70 finalists from whom we draw winners in our next giveaway, giving you a high chance of winning a vacation....

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### 13. Revisiting SkipJack's in Simpson Bay

A few weeks ago, we visited SkipJack's in Simpson Bay and had two simple dinners. We were mightily impressed by them and by the service, especially since no one knew who we were or that we'd write about the visit.

This time we returned and did the artichoke dip (it deserves its phenomenal reputation), boiled lobster, and their filet mignon. Voted "best fish restaurant" several years running, SkipJack's serves well over 200 dinners every night and was as packed during our second visit as it was during our first in late February.

Service is exemplary. The view of yachts in the lagoon is terrific, interrupted only briefly when rain came and the rain shade had to be rolled down.

But the food is the story. "You have to try the artichoke dip," owner George Shetter had told us -- so we complied. It is some helluva dip -- just do it. A bundle of great flavor.

The portions for all dinners were generous, the prices were very reasonable (lower than lobster at many other spots), and then -- when I was full to the gills already -- I ordered dessert. I have no clue what possessed me to do that and I also remember I loved what little part of it I had and took the rest away, but I was already in a food coma and have zero recollection of what it was. (But I'll get it again when we go back; we will be regulars....)

On our next SXM trip SkipJacks is near the top of our list.... Reservations are a must.

SkipJack's is a 2016 winner of our Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence. They have a special offer for JMB Website Supporters members, one of about 260 SXM discounts we now offer:

New memberships:

[http://everythingshm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingshm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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Membership Reinstatements:

<http://everythingshm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml>

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### 14. Our 1st Visit to Infinity Restaurant in the "Culinary Village" at Oyster Pond

We've alluded several times in recent months to the growing "Culinary Village" in Oyster Pond / Dawn Beach, where there are a number of quite outstanding restaurants: Big Fish, Busby's, Canoa, and Daniel's by The Sea.

There was a time when the only road to Dawn Beach was a rutted dirt obstacle course, but it was paved a number of years ago and now fine dining is sprouting up everywhere, a great thing to see -- and it's a quick 20 minutes from Simpson Bay, or less if you drive like a local. (No offense.)

We knew that the Infinity Restaurant at Oyster Bay Beach Resort (OBBR) had been totally redesigned and renovated, then we heard that Enzo LaRosa, formerly of LaRosa Restaurant and GranDuca in Maho, had returned to the US and had taken over as food and beverage manager at OBBR, where he's focused on top-to-bottom upgrades at both Infinity and the old Beau-Beau's Restaurant.

Last week we visited Infinity for dinner the first time and we were quite impressed. The place was very busy and a

bit noisy, an issue they'll address with added sound-deadening after high season. But that should not stop you from going now. The Hostess is a delightful lady you may remember from her days at Laguna, a classic Italian restaurant on Airport Road until its owners retired several years ago. Enzo is in the kitchen seeing after the execution of their new menu.

The menu itself is quite a story. It contains something for everyone -- vegetarian entrees, beef, fish, poultry -- tons of selections. The lobster spring roll appetizer was big and delightful. My wife's dinner was shrimp in a creole sauce with roasted cauliflower. I had a fish entree -- a very generous portion which was delicious start to finish, though we couldn't finish it so we took it home.

Infinity is a great addition to the "Culinary Village." The "Village" brings additional fine dining a quick ride away... and it's well worth the trip.

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## 15. The iZi Way To Enjoy Crab & Mahi Cakes

Crab cakes in *some* restaurants are mass-produced frozen over-salted imported yuck, capable of making your feet swell from the excessive salt. That is most decidedly NOT the case at iZi, where everything is home made and absolutely wonderful.

Chef Stefano, who started here last year, is an outstanding talent. But the recipe is that of David Foini, IZI owner, who is an unrelenting perfectionist who never "settles" for anything less than perfect. His "cakes" are crab and mahi and are luscious, as are IZI's other dishes. His fish is from only the most meticulously selected sources and is among the best on the island.

If you haven't tried IZI lately, you're missing one of SXM's best restaurants. It's in Simpson Bay opposite Pineapple Pete.

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## 16. Spiga Gives Away a Dinner For Two (Why & Who Won It)

One of our Grand Prizes was a dinner for two at Spiga Restaurant in Grand Case, one of the island's top restaurants. But this year's giveaway had three (of 70) finalists from SXM, two of whom won.

Marco Ferrante won a week-long vacation at Le Petit Hotel. Marco has long been a partner to David Foini and is both an accomplished chef and general manager of IZI in Simpson Bay.

And Lara Russo, co-owner of Spiga "Italian Kitchen by Ciro" (Ciro is Lara's husband) won the Grand Prize this year (see story 11). It was the first time anyone from SXM had won any vacations from us.

One of the prizes was a dinner for two at Spiga, so she gave it back to us to re-gift.

We reached into the bag of finalist entries and pulled out the name of Patty Brochu of Maine, who was leaving for home two days later. She visited Spiga the night before flying home and said of that Grand Case restaurant: "The best dinner we've had on the island in years! Thank you Lara at Spiga and Jeff Berger for a fabulous evening, excellent food and great service!"

You'll find much more about Spiga [on their website](#). They also offer [online reservations](#).

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## 17. Gendarmes Surround Iguanas: The Mystery Deepens

In Orleans, French Side, well north of the scenic overlook at Baie Lucas, there's a small school bus graveyard next to which tourists, tourist cabs and buses stop to photograph lots of iguanas. The iguanas are always nearby and when people come, so do they, awaiting obligatory food handouts. (Hey, these guys don't pose for the heck of it.)

A few days ago we saw two unformed gendarmes there photographing the iguanas. It seemed odd to us unless they

were gathering evidence of some sort -- gendarmes are quite serious and when in uniform they generally do not goof off. We do not know why they were really there....

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## 18. Demands From Orient Beach Businesses Published on Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site

You may have to scroll down a ways to find them since they were posted a few days ago, but they're on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

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## 19. Next Phases of Princess Juliana Airport Expansion

It's slow, but progress on the continuing improvement and expansion at Princess Juliana Airport continues.

Arriving passengers will see kiosks now in the arrival area in front of immigration booths. Airport chief honcho, Regina Labega, on a leave of absence, told us the kiosks will expedite immigration. They'll allow forms processing electronically. They were supposed to be operational last November, she added, and were a high priority. She said she did not know why it "took so long" for those in charge in her absence to get them in.

We were in the arrival hall a couple of weeks ago and the devices were installed but covered in plastic and not yet usable.

Meanwhile, businesses along Airport Road east of Thrifty Car Rental will all disappear eventually. Acquisition of all business properties located parallel to the runway beyond Thrifty is part of land acquisition by the airport in preparation for construction of a parallel taxiway, which will enable the airport to handle more flight traffic. The current employee parking area is actually tarmac and will become active with airplanes at an expanded terminal later in the expansion process.

It will still be several years before all this has been completed. A central car rental facility and a small airport hotel are also on the airport's radar....

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## 20. Why Aircraft Serial Number Prefixes Are Fascinating

Although we like to trace the registrations of some private planes arriving at SXM Airport (such as Roman Abramovich's private 767, P4-MES, which flew in Friday morning), most people don't care.

But what if you just want to know what country the planes may have come from?

If you see the first few letters of the registration, that's easy. Look here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_aircraft\\_registration\\_prefixes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_aircraft_registration_prefixes)

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## 21. Check Your JMB Membership Card: No Card, No SXM Discounts (How To Get Yours)

Every JMB Website Supporters member receives an updated Membership Card by email (from [tracy@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:tracy@jmbcommunications.com)) whenever there's a membership transaction. Check yours. Discount vouchers must be used with your current, valid Membership Card; no card, no discounts, which is noted on all vouchers.

If you don't have yours, check your email from Tracy -- it was sent to you. It also shows your Expiration Date. As always, all membership questions should be addressed to [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com). That is the fastest way to contact us. Do *not* reply to this email (Jeff1620) to contact us; that "send" address for Weekly News is

unmonitored.

## 22. Restaurant of the Week

Because of all the restaurant articles in this issue, we are skipping a "ROW" this week. See past Restaurant of the Week selections below. Most of the listed restaurants offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details or scroll below the restaurant list.

We'll cover another restaurant here next week.

Sill not a member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits: see below the restaurants list.

- Big Fish Restaurant [www.bigfishsxm.com/](http://www.bigfishsxm.com/) (featured 2/8/16)
- IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 2/29/16)
- Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://www.canoasxm.com) (featured 3/22/16)
- SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 3/7/16)
- Cugini (12/7/15)
- 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 11/16/15)
- 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 12/21/15)
- 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 2/19/16)
- Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 1/25/16)
- Pineapple Pete, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://www.pineapplepete.com) (featured 2/2/15)
- Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/4/15)
- 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, Maho complex at Le Terasse
- 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)

Join JMB Website Supporters today for hundreds of discounts across SXM:

New memberships:  
[http://everythingshm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingshm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

Renewal memberships:  
[www.everythingshm.com/secret](http://www.everythingshm.com/secret) Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

Membership Reinstatements:  
<http://everythingshm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml>

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St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent](#)

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## 23. Traveling This Summer? Important News About SkyMed's 90-Day Pre-Existing Conditions Exclusion

SkyMed "Takes You Home"® one-year and multi-year memberships include a 90-day waiting period for pre-existing conditions. Most members want to be sure any pre-existing conditions are covered when they travel so... if you are traveling 90 days or more into the future, [get SkyMed now so when you're ready to go, everything is covered.](#)

Got questions? Email [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com). If you want us to call you to answer your SkyMed questions, include your phone number and best time to call as well as your time zone. SkyMed is available to Americans, Canadians, and ex pats only.

For details, see [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com).

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## 24. Age Is No Deterrent to Getting SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection

SkyMed has no upper age limit on applications for its medical evacuation protection. It doesn't matter if you're 89 -- apply anyway, there is no charge for unsuccessful applications. SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. See the entirely new website [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com) for more but read the next few articles; they answer many questions. You can also contact Jeff for more info at [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com).

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## 25. Questions & Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Heavily Updated 3/19/16)

Here are constantly updated questions and answers about SkyMed, the folks who fly you home in an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. *It's a life-saving flight that could easily cost you upwards of \$45,000 in cash in advance without SkyMed. Thousands of you have bought it through us.* To learn more, see [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com).

### **Q. What's so special about SkyMed? Aren't these companies all the same?**

A. *Not by a long shot.* Most other programs say in their fine print that they take you to "the nearest appropriate facility," *not* home like SkyMed. If you're in SXM, that means *SkyMed competitors* would likely take you to Puerto Rico. Some others also raise prices after you reach a certain age... Or they cancel you on a particular birthday, or cancel your membership when you get sick. *SkyMed does none of that.* Sign up for SkyMed today and when you reach age 109 you pay the same low price as everyone else. Once you're a member, there's no age or health discrimination -- as long as you pay your membership fee you're good to go. (Applies to all annual and longer memberships. Short-term memberships, lasting only a few days, require medical requalification when you buy another -- which is why we recommend annual or multiyear memberships. *Why risk the hurdle of medical requalification?*

### **Q. What other evacuation-related services do you offer besides the evacuation itself?**

There are 18 other services, some of which you've never even thought about but all of which are important. You'll find them on our downloadable SkyMed Benefits PDF on our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#) page.

### **Q. You mean they don't cancel me if I get really sick?**

A. *No, they don't.* Once you're a member, as long as you continue to pay your membership fee your membership continues regardless of your health or age, when you buy an annual or multiyear membership and keep it in force. SkyMed does not throw you out if you get sick. If you allow your membership to lapse, you will need to reapply to determine if you're still medically acceptable -- so just don't let it lapse.

### **Q. I have a few medical issues and I'm in my 70s. Will SkyMed accept me?**

A. In its brief application process, completed online or by phone or in person with a rep, SkyMed asks for your name, DOB, current Rx medications, medical conditions, and hospitalizations in the last six months. It also asks where in the US or Canada you want to be transported when you need an emergency medical evacuation. It now also requests your passport number to help expedite customs / immigration should you require an international medical evacuation flight. *The vast, vast majority of applicants are readily accepted.* You do not have to be in "phenomenal" health at all. By the way: if you travel very little and only for short periods, you can apply for SkyMed's short-term memberships. They cover all pre-existing conditions. *Just remember that you must medically requalify every time you need a new short-term membership, which is why most of our members buy and renew annual or multiyear Ultimate SkyMed memberships instead of short-term.*

***Q. We travel for weeks at a time. Do we have to tell SkyMed where we're going?***

A. No, you don't. As long as you're home in the US or Canada more than six months per year, you're fine. If you spend more than half of each year away (in aggregate), out of your home country (USA or Canada) then you're considered an expatriate (ex-pat) and would need a program custom-tailored for ex-pats because you're away a majority of the time and that means you represent increased exposure. That program is called X-Pat - the program for American and Canadian expatriates living overseas. Even as an ex-pat living in SXM, you can still be transported back to your city of choice in the USA or Canada.

***Q. Does SkyMed cover pre-existing conditions?***

A. Yes, right away for short-term memberships and after just a 90 day waiting period for all memberships lasting a year or longer. To make sure you're covered for everything when you travel, including pre-existing conditions, just buy your annual or multi-year Ultimate SkyMed membership more than 90 days ahead of your initial date of travel.

***Q. Do you require a physical exam for renewal or when I reach a certain age?***

A. No, SkyMed requires neither. Once you join and buy an annual or multiyear membership that SkyMed approves, they'll renew it every year upon on-time payment of your renewal fee. No physical exam is required regardless of your age or health if you've paid your membership renewal on time. You can be age 109 and still be protected by your SkyMed membership.

***Q. What is the maximum age for applying for membership?***

A. There is no maximum. Apply away.

***Q. I seldom travel now. Do you have short-term plans?***

A. Yes, at about \$9/day per person or maximum \$18/day per family. Since they only last a specified number of days, they end when the term of coverage ends. If you want another short-term plan later, you must apply again and medically requalify. Annual plans cost roughly \$1.30/day for your entire family (parents and minor kids); plans for singles are less. *Annual* and multiyear plans are renewable without medical requalification, assuming they haven't lapsed. That's a key advantage over short-term plans.

***Q. I'm from Canada. May I join SkyMed? I have to get back to my province if I'm seriously ill or my health insurance won't work.***

A. Both Americans and Canadians are eligible to join SkyMed. American and Canadian ex-pats living overseas also are eligible.

***Q. What types of policies are there?***

A. SkyMed Memberships (often called policies by members though they actually are memberships, not policies) come in several flavors: short term, for people who travel little and for short durations; "annual" for people who want full-year protection that is guaranteed renewable for life when you pay the membership fee on time regardless of age or health at the time of renewal; and Ultimate multiyear memberships which offer low annual cost, maximum benefits, and global coverage and are also renewable for life regardless of age or health when membership fees are paid on time.

***Q. Which membership gives the biggest bang for the buck?***

You clearly get the most for the least with our three-year or five-year Ultimate memberships. Coverage is global, guaranteed renewable, and can not be cancelled due to increasing age or declining health - ever, assuming renewals are paid on time. You'll also pay the same fee as all other members -- there's never an increase related to your personal health or advancing age. And annual memberships are upgradeable to Ultimates at any time.

**Q. Is there a best time to buy?**

A. Yes -- exactly like fire insurance, buy it before you need it! Now is a particularly good time because JMB is offering special benefits and discounts; see next story. Those incentives won't be around forever.

**Q. Does SkyMed cover us no matter where we travel?**

The basic annual SkyMed "Takes You Home®" plan covers you in the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. The Ultimate membership covers you globally through SkyMed Global -- or you can add a global rider to annual memberships (at \$100/year) which adds rest-of-the-world coverage, also through SkyMed Global. SkyMed does not cover countries where there are open hostilities -- Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, North Korea, etc.

SkyMed Takes You Home®: What else matters?

For more, see [skymed.com/jmbspecial](http://skymed.com/jmbspecial) (JMB members) or [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com) (non-JMB members) or email Jeff directly at [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com) with the subject SkyMed. If you include your phone number, he'll call you about SkyMed as well, to answer any questions you may have including all pricing options.

You can also call SkyMed directly (in Scottsdale AZ, Mountain standard time year round.) Their number is 1-800-475-9633; ask for Nan. If you're a JMB member, say so and have your membership card ready. **All multiyear plans offer major discounts to JMB members.** Please tell them you're calling because you heard about them from Jeff Berger.

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## 26. Got Other SkyMed Questions? Here's Where to Ask

If you have questions about SkyMed not answered above, email [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com) and Jeff will get back to you. Please also include your phone number and best time to call; he'll be in touch. *Please use the subject "SkyMed" in your email.*

SkyMed Takes You Home® - what else matters?

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## 27. Our SkyMed Bonus

----- SkyMed On Sale Through JMB: Lots of Life-Saving Benefits, Low Cost ----  
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If you've been thinking about buying SkyMed but just haven't done 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. Credit Card evacuation programs take you to the nearest appropriate facility; what good is that? There is also no trauma center in SXM, and the sophisticated medical care available at leading US and Canadian hospitals is not present in St. Maarten / St. Martin. So if you become critically ill or injured, you really do need to get home to the US or Canada and that's exactly where SkyMed takes you.

*Thanks to this sale, that has now become a whole lot easier. Here's why:*

For a five-year SkyMed Ultimate, non JMB members pay \$3495 in advance; JMB members pay only \$2495 through us for the family plan (or only \$59/month). *That discount is not available to non JMB members.* So... the #1 advantage of buying through us is low cost, no matter how you buy.

For contact info (answers to questions about SkyMed), see the last paragraph of the previous story.

The second benefit: a dream vacation. Email us after you're signed up through us and for a limited time SkyMed will give you a vacation for a small fraction of its usual cost. (Oyster Bay Beach Resort is one of their vacation sites.)



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## 28. 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*.

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## 29. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

Updated weekly.

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### 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](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](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.

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### 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)

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#### **SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)** Updated 10/18/15

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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### 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 \*2015-16 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. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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3/28/16 #1039 3/25 6 a.m. AST 7.7

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