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#1041 --- Monday, 4/11/2016 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin

=== Island Restaurants Special Edition ===



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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)

Add [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) to your address book  
to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

**IMPORTANT:** "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address.  
For Contact info, see Contact Us  
at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have over 260,000 readers around the world...**

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, Note, and Android Users

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

## TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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

*In This Week's SXM Weekly News:*

- Jet Blue To Bring Its "Mint" Upper Class Service to SXM
- Yet Another Delay on The Sapphire Beach Resort Ownership Court Decision
- Fire Hits Alegria "C" Bar
- "Five Million Smiles" SXM Vacation Giveaway Starts Late This Month
- Our 14th Anniversary Membership Sale Continues: 260+ SXM Discounts at Sale Prices
- Summer in SXM / What Happens July 4?
- "Red Piano" Goes Smoke-Free: It's A Big Deal
- Favorite Restaurants in Simpson Bay
- Favorite Restaurants in Grand Case
- Favorite Restaurants in Dawn Beach / Oyster Pond
- Never Worry About Critical Illness Or Injury When You Travel With a SkyMed Membership..
- Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
- Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits
- Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

- [Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page](#)
- [Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News](#)

[26](#) 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 260+ 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 6/18/2016 6/25/2016 25 Divi Little Bay Studio, Building B #209, 1st Floor, right on the beach in front of the best snorkeling on the island! King bed, also pull out sleeper (sleeps 4 total) Fridge, Stovetop, Convection Micro, Sm Appliances, Fully Equipped Kitchen, Whirlpool Tub & Shower, Air, Balcony w Table/Chairs, Flat Screen, Wi-Fi. One Mile Beach, Water Sports, Gated, plenty of parking, 3 Restaurants, 3 Pools, Spas, Activities, Family Friendly. Walking Distance to Phillipsburg, Fort Amsterdam access on the Property, Grocery, Deli. Timeshare tax & electric are separate. \$800 per week Judy [jekooyers10@gmail.com](mailto:jekooyers10@gmail.com)

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

SALE 3/25/2017 4/1/2017 12 Simpson Bay Resort 5-tar timeshare with great view of Simpson Bay. Large, 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Living room, Dining area and fully equipped kitchen with patio across from the D-pool. Short walk to Simpson Bay Beach in the best rated resort on St. Maarten. Unit D-12 \$16,000 Stan 203 245-4727 cell 203 962-9630 [lspnvr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lspnvr@sbcglobal.net)

### **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)

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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7. Damaging Fire Hits Alegria "C" Bar
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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 agents](#)

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24. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits
25. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page
26. Where to Find Past Issues of *SXM Weekly News*

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

- 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. Jet Blue To Bring Its "Mint" Upper Class Service to SXM

Jet Blue will roll out its first-class-like seasonal "Mint" service on Saturday flights to SXM starting this November. The frequency will increase to daily service during peak holiday travel periods and will continue to be available until Spring, 2017. More: <https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/56568-jetblue-s-mint-in-st-maarten>

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#### 2. Why Are Fares So Expensive?

Everyone is asking. Planes are full, fuel costs are very low (but rising), airlines are making record profits, fees are high -- why no cuts?

The answer is that most airlines are on a plane-buying binge and they want you to pay for it, we think. AA declared bankruptcy at about the time it announced its purchases. Many are upgrading older fuel-eating jets and replacing them with more efficient aircraft expecting fuel prices to rise, which is already starting to happen and may accelerate soon.

The other possibility: greed. They could fill even more seats and bring planes out of mothballs to offer them but they don't seem interested in that....

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#### 3. Overnight Airport Parking For Trips to Other Islands

Parking is \$15/day at Princess Juliana Airport, so if you're headed to another island it may be cheaper to leave your

car where it is and take a cab to/from the airport. Check it out, but make sure you get an exact written quote from a real taxi driver (no unbonded gypsies) and if he/she argues the amount after they let you off, show them their quote and don't pay a penny more....

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#### 4. 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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#### 5. The "FlyTravelGo" Travel Website Makes Reservations Fast & Simple

The [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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#### 6. Yet Another Delay on The Sapphire Beach Resort Ownership Court Decision

For the third time, the court in SXM has delayed rendering its verdict on the lawsuit by the Sitbon family against Sapphire developers Jean and Philippe Verdier. At stake is whether Sapphire Beach Club in Cupecoy will be changing ownership.

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

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#### 7. Fire Hits Alegria "C" Bar

Although SXM news outlets claim the fire at the "C" Bar at Alegria Resort was caused by a Molotov cocktail, police are having none of that and they and fire officials are continuing their investigation to find the cause and the culprits, if there are any.

Here's the official release from SXM Police:

Fire destroys restaurant completely

"At approximately 08.00 p.m. on Sunday April 3rd, the Emergency Dispatch Center received several phone calls informing them that the C-Lounge Restaurant located on the premises of Alegria Hotel in the Beacon Hill/ Maho Reef area was on fire and that there were possibilities that this fire expand. Immediately several police patrols, fire department were sent to the scene to investigate what had taken place. On the scene traffic had stopped going into and out of Beacon Hill in order for the fire department to carry out their work.

"According to witnesses shortly before the fire started there was a very loud explosion coming from the direction of the C-Lounge Restaurant, which at the time was closed to the public. There was no-one in the building during the fire. What had caused the explosion is still unclear and will be investigated by the Forensic Department who were



also notified along with the Detectives.

"No one was injured during the fire which was quickly brought under control by the fire department. The fire however destroyed the entire inside of the building. The investigation is ongoing."

## 8. Attention Caravanserai Timeshare Owners: You Can Still Join The Litigation Group

Former Caravanserai resort timeshare owners: the door has reopened for you to join the group of other former Caravanserai timeshare owners that is litigating against Alegria, the entity that took over the resort and attempted to declare their timeshare contracts null and void.

If you "owned" timesharing at Caravanserai and didn't sign the form Alegria emailed you, you really ought to join this group.

And if you owned timesharing at Caravanserai and did sign that form, you ought to contact Lexwell attorneys in SXM directly. It seems to us that Alegria's mailing of that form may have been done without following due process. If so, it may have been illegal and therefore void.

If you are a former Caravanserai timeshare owner and would like more information about what is being offered by TOCA, the association of litigating timeshare owners, and about costs of participation, contact [tocagroup@gmail.com](mailto:tocagroup@gmail.com). Make sure you provide all the info they might need about your Caravanserai timeshare ownership.

Their communications will answer most of your questions. Feel free to share this with Caravanserai timeshare owners.

### SECTION 3: Island

## ***Got a Spare \$45,000? You May Need It -- In Cash In Advance --***

## ***To Pay for a Private Medical Evacuation Jet***

## ***When You Become Critically Ill or Injured While Traveling:***

### Here's Why:

If you're a SkyMed member, SkyMed Takes You Home for Free. One telephone call is all it takes.

If you're not a SkyMed member, you will be required to find and pay for the medevac jet, fuel, staffing, medical supplies, ambulances, fees, etc. --which could easily cost \$45,000 or more -- in cash, in advance, before anything can happen.

SkyMed Takes You Home® in an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet for exactly \$0 -- home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust. When you need SkyMed in a hurry, it's only a phone call away IF you're a SkyMed member. So... get your SkyMed membership now, before you need it. See more at <http://www.getskymed.com>.

Membership is as little as about \$1.25/day.

Major discounts on all SkyMed multiyear memberships are available to JMB Website Supporters members; see next story for low pricing:

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

Renewal JMB memberships:

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

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

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## Our 14th Anniversary JMB Membership Sale Ends Soon: 260+ SXM Discounts at Sale Prices

Special 14th Anniversary Sale pricing for new JMB Website Supporters memberships, renewals, and membership reinstatements is in effect right now.

Great pricing for every type of membership:

New memberships:

**One year, \$44 (our reg. \$59); four years, \$89 (not normally offered)**

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

Renewal memberships:

**One year, \$35; three years, \$59 (our reg. \$69); seven years, \$109 (our reg. \$139)**

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

Membership Reinstatements:

**One year, \$35; five years, \$99; seven years, \$129.**

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

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### 9. Front Street Repairs Set April 10-20

We wrote during the winter about the status of Front street, Philipsburg, portions of which have been "sinking" because of what were were told is sand underlayment. Regardless of the cause, the dips make travel annoying and are not good for emergency vehicles.

The government said it would start fixing the dips on Sunday, April 10 and continue them through April 20. The dips are scattered from one end of the street to the other and also occur on Back Street.

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### 10. SXM Carnival Pictures and More...

We've asked our nearly 6,000 followers on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) who are in SXM to post pictures on our site as the event unfolds. Some pictures are already posted.

See more here: <https://www.facebook.com/sxmcarnival/?fref=ts>

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### 11. "Five Million Smiles" SXM Vacation Giveaway Starts Late This Month

Later this month, to celebrate everythingxm.com surpassing five million visits next year, we'll launch our Five Million Smiles Vacation Giveaway, a name suggested by Spiga chef / owner *Ciro Russo*. We expect it to be our biggest giveaway ever -- and you can only enter through a link we'll post only here in future issues of *SXM Weekly News*.

Our 10 vacation giveaway, held March 21, celebrated [our site](#) surpassing 4.5-million visitors. The 10 vacation prize winners were:



- [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

Details on all the prizes won by the First and Grand Prize Winners were published in *SXM Weekly News* two weeks ago.

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## 12. Summer in SXM / What Happens July 4?

Escape broiling summer heat in big US cities this Summer with St. Maarten's version of Summer -- hot, yes, but caressed with near-constant tradewinds and a lusciously warm ocean. Plus, of course, the great food you love and bargains everywhere.

July 4? Fireworks, of course! Not mammoth displays like home but big enough so you don't miss anything except the gridlock getting come. Come and enjoy Summer in SXM...

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## 13. **USA Today** Features Sonesta Great Bay Resort

Our long-time friend seasoned freelance travel writer Melanie Reffes has published a new article in *USA Today*, this one touching on the Sonesta Great Bay -- take a look: <http://tinyurl.com/j62t97l>

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## 14. Article Features "Flights of Fancy" - Including SXM

Chris Garner has shot some very good photography at Princess Juliana / SXM Airport. Look: <http://christinenegroni.com/airplane-images-inspire-flights-fancy/>

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## 15. Rising Jet Fuel Prices Could Deal Yet Another Blow to SXM Tourism

In the last few weeks, we've all seen the lowest gas prices in years evaporate, replaced by steady price increases. The improved economy in the US and increasing demand in China and elsewhere have helped, and now oil producing countries seem likely to cap production to force prices even further upward.

When oil prices and jet fuel prices dropped, airlines left their high priced fares where they were, passing along no breaks for consumers. What will they do now? Their fares and fees are high already and planes are packed. They are unlikely to take older, less fuel-efficient planes out of mothballs since they'd rather replace more older planes with billions of dollars in newer planes already on order. Will they further increase prices? We think they will, in slight increments, and that is bound to hurt SXM where fares are very high already.

SXM suffered this past year from high cost (airfares and costs in general), Zika, French Side demonstrations, bargain-basement prices for ship passengers which brought in lots of folks who bought zilch, seaweed, and a mild winter in North America. And the 1000-lb. Gorilla Cuba is emerging from the jungle this year and will start to exert its own influence. The island has a profound marketing challenge ahead of it and it has no marketing agency and a pitiful budget of about \$1.5-million compared to Aruba's \$24-million ++.

We'll continue to publish more on tourism in the months ahead. The island needs to stop dawdling and get serious about marketing.

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## 16. "Red Piano" Goes Smoke-Free: It's A Big Deal

One of SXM's two piano bars has gone 100% smoke free, and they're getting rave reviews and are seeing many customers return after years of absence.

We visited Red Piano about five years ago and left after one beer. The place was choking with smoke. They decided to pull the plug on smoking and everyone seems happy including smokers and, we'd bet, entertainers as well.

Time to give Red Piano another try, folks.

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## 17. Favorite Restaurants in Simpson Bay

Grand Case, covered in a separate story below, claims to be the "Culinary Capital of the Caribbean" with more than two dozen restaurants but the fact is it has heavy competition -- some of which moved to the Dutch Side from Marigot.

Most of the competition is in Simpson Bay. Here in no special order are many of our Simpson Bay Favorites:

- SkipJacks, unrelated to similarly named restaurants in the US, is the busiest seafood restaurant on the island serving upwards of 225 dinners every night. Owned by veteran sport fisherman George Shetter and run at night by Jimmy (you might well know him), SkipJacks offers both Saba spiny Caribbean lobsters, Maine lobsters, cod fish and chips, and tons more. Great steaks too. They were recently a Restaurant of the Week choice here in *SXM Weekly News* and they won our Award of Excellence this year. Reservations highly recommended.
- iZi Ristorante Italiano is one of those great places that just keeps getting better. Superb traditional Italian with lots of interesting variations/influences. Outstanding seafood as well. Stefano, their accomplished Chef, knows what he is doing. Try the specials, always great stuff. Get reservations. Multi award-winner.
- Toppers & Toppers by the Sea offer homestyle cooking in relaxed, friendly surroundings. Lobster, meatloaf, brisket, great salads too and delicious dessert treats. Very busy starting late morning until the middle of the night. Award winner.
- Vesna Taverna is owned by a Greek/Macedonian lady (Vesna) and her French Chef husband, Yannick. The result is eclectic dining combining American, French, Greek, and other influences and flavors. Vesna herself is charming and a real hoot. Reservations strongly recommended on Fridays and Saturdays. Award winner.
- Fusion (behind iZi in Simpson Bay) offers "fusion" dining -- sizeable portions, attentive service, convenient off-street parking, delicious food. Award winner.
- Cugini is great Italian in a modern but relaxed waterfront location. Try the pasta, try the pizza, try the calzones, but leave room for the delicious desserts. Go. Fun place. Award winner.
- Pineapple Pete is simple dining, great portions, very efficient service, great Lobster Thermidor and lots more. Don't miss it. Multi award winner.
- Mario Bistro is in Porto Cupecoy, not Simpson Bay, but there was no way on God's green Earth we could ever leave it out. It is an extraordinary, extraordinary French Restaurant. Make advance reservations, absolutely essential. Tell Bobby the Maitre d' or Mario that we sent you. Love this place. Winner of many Awards including ours.

See more on these restaurants on our [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com) Restaurants page which is about to undergo its second 2016 update. More on restaurants in Grand Case and Oyster Pond follows.

Dozens of SXM restaurants give discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members. Not a member yet? You're spending too much \$ across the island: join today during our 14th Anniversary Membership Sale:

New memberships:

**One year, \$44 (our reg. \$59); four years, \$89 (not normally offered)**

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

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**One year, \$35; five years, \$99; seven years, \$129.**

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

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## 18. Sweet SXM

Just look -- a great video by SkyWorks SXM:

<https://www.facebook.com/skyworkscaribbean/videos/1085759834817820/>

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## 19. Favorite Restaurants in Grand Case

There are two, both venerable award winners that have been around for years. Again in no special order:

- Spiga, at the northern end of town across from Tijen Parfumerie, is flat out phenomenal Italian. Note: People who went for the first time this past winter -- both prize winners in our vacation / restaurant giveaways -- had the preconception that all Italian restaurants are pretty much alike. They were both blown away by Spiga. Patty B. who went just a few weeks ago said it was by far the best meal she has had on the island "in years" and she comes every year. And Bill and Susi simply said "Wow, we had no idea," and returned repeatedly. This is a totally different level of Italian dining. If you have not been, you have to go; it's extraordinary. Reservations are essential.
- Le Pressoir is the best French Restaurant on the French Side where they're everywhere. Great atmosphere (very old classic home), incredible attention to detail, and Chef / Owner Franck Mear is amazing. Again, reservations are essential. Multi award-winner.

Dozens of SXM restaurants give discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members. Not a member yet? You're spending too much \$ across the island: join today during our 14th Anniversary Membership Sale:

New memberships:

**One year, \$44 (our reg. \$59); four years, \$89 (not normally offered)**

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

Renewal memberships:

**One year, \$35; three years, \$59 (our reg. \$69); seven years, \$109 (our reg. \$139)**

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

Membership Reinstatements:

**One year, \$35; five years, \$99; seven years, \$129.**

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

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## 20. Favorite Restaurants in Dawn Beach / Oyster Pond

Because of the increase in outstanding dining here we've dubbed the area the "culinary village" of SXM. There's good reason -- in the form of great restaurants. Here we go (no special order):

-- Canoa delivers an incredible fusion of Continental and Caribbean flavors. It is unique on SXM, the product of SXM's own Chef Sherman Marten. On each of several visits during high season, we sat near the door to watch the goings on. Lots of people had to be turned away -- so reservations are a must. A very special treat, Canoa has won our Everything SXM Award of Excellence several years in a row. Do not miss it...

-- Mr. Busby's Beach Bar is the long-standing leader of the pack here. Day manager "LuLu" has been here for years and truly, absolutely knows her stuff. Open for breakfast and lunch year round, Busby's serves generous portions of great tasting food at reasonable prices and is a consistent winner of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence. Enjoy pizza as well from their Island Pizza, right next door.

-- Daniel's By The Sea is the nighttime incarnation of Busby's. Great traditional Italian dining under the palms on the beach. Excellent food, savvy service, and even a fresh lobster tank and lots of nightly specials. Also a Everything SXM Award of Excellence Winner.

-- Big Fish, under new management (Mike & Teresa formerly of Bajatsu) has way more than fish and is a busy, contemporary, up-tempo place for a fun dinner -- and thanks to the new TVs inside, you won't miss those important night games this season, either. They also have delicious fresh sushi which -- we warn you from experience -- is highly addictive. The good news: very reasonable prices. Save room for dessert. Also an Everything SXM Award winner.

-- Infinity at Oyster Bay Beach Resort, under the watchful eye of experienced SXM restaurateur Enzo LaRosa (LaRosa in Maho was his), has a completely renovated new home, a new menu, and a new leader. We tried it late in high season and loved it enough to give it "Restaurant of the Week" honors. Wonderfully creative new menu, excellent service, and outstanding food. The maitre d' is from the former Laguna Restaurant on Airport Road and she recognized us from there. Infinity is a must on your next visit to the Culinary Village.

Join JMB Website Supporters today for dozens of restaurant discounts and lots more benefits across all of SXM; **Sale Ends Soon!**

Great pricing for every type of membership:

New memberships:

**One year, \$44 (our reg. \$59); four years, \$89 (not normally offered)**

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

Renewal memberships:

**One year, \$35; three years, \$59 (our reg. \$69); seven years, \$109 (our reg. \$139)**

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

Membership Reinstatements:

**One year, \$35; five years, \$99; seven years, \$129.**

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

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## 21. Summer Weather in SXM: Better Than You Think

Unlike the stifling high 90s you'll find throughout much of the US this Summer, SXM usually stays in the 80s with near-constant soothing tradewinds. It's hot, but you're in the Caribbean on SXM's gorgeous beaches in the 80+ degree crystal-clear Caribbean Sea. Incredible dining as always. Way less traffic than in winter (and way less than at home). Lower prices for hotels than you'll see in winter.

Your Summer vacation will be more soothing than you think if it's **back home in SXM...**

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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, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV:](#)

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## 22. Never Worry About Critical Illness Or Injury When You Travel With

## SkyMed...

SkyMed "Takes You Home"® on an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. That's a free trip home exclusively for SkyMed members which gives them huge peace-of-mind.

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. (We're repeating this because many families are still traveling now on school vacations.)

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

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## 23. Questions & Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Heavily Updated 4/2016)

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 in full, immediately. *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.* Those memberships cover all pre-existing conditions in full after only 90 days. More on that is below.

### **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 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. **Ex-Pat and "Silver" memberships also are offered.**

**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. **Multiyear memberships give you more benefits than annual memberships but cost less when paid at inception. They're quite a bargain.**

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

A. Yes -- exactly like fire insurance, buy it before you need it! Why gamble? The peace of mind alone is worth every penny.

**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.



### **Got Other Questions?**

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?

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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## 24. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits

Read it for yourself: it beats every would-be competitor hands-down. Just look:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

This is an Adobe Acrobat PDF Document. Your system most likely already has a PDF Reader (free) but if not you can get one here: [download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

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## 25. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Site

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

Look here for our PDF archives: [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) .

Want to rent or buy a week?

\*2015 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxm.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). Your username and password are required.

## **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://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 \*2016 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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