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#1057 --- Monday, 8/1/2016 -- 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  
of Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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

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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 well over 270,000 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



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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.

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[27](#) news stories this week

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## Timeshare Rentals and Sales of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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, for no ad charge or commission, 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 membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

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

RENTAL 8/13/2016 8/20/2016 WEEK 33 Royal Islander Club La Plage One bedroom 3rd floor unit facing beautiful gardens, the pool and beach. Saturday to Saturday stay. 1 king bedroom plus additional queen sleeper. Sleeps 4. Full kitchen and 1 bath. Princess Juliana Airport is only minutes away. Located in the beautiful Maho area with casino, restaurants, and famous airport Sunset Bar within walking distance nearby. Renter is responsible for timeshare tax of additional \$50.00. \$995.00 Jim 267-847-4048 [jim@sculleyproteam.com](mailto:jim@sculleyproteam.com)

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

SALE 7/22/2017 8/5/2017 Week 29 and 30 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina One bedroom Deluxe with King Size bed, newly renovated unit, full bath, fully equipped kitchen, dining room and large living room, 2 pull down Murphy beds, large screen tv, in room safe, patio overlooking panoramic Simpson Bay. Olympic size pool, with swim up bar. Tennis courts, bakery, casino, restaurants, Marina, water sports, shopping, beautiful beach. \$7,000 each or \$13,000 for both weeks Greg 413-454-4548 [glitt@comcast.net](mailto:glitt@comcast.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 260+ 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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**Section Five:** 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 Six:** 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://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxm.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 260+ benefits... and more coming soon.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***  
\*\*\*\*\*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members 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. As Tropical Atlantic Heats Up, All Eyes Look East

The Atlantic hurricane season has been quiet since it began June 1, but that's changing.

It has been quiet because dry Saharan air and dust have dominated the area through which storms normally travel when crossing the Atlantic. But now, two disturbances are crossing the still relatively hostile tropical Atlantic -- and they're heading toward the Windward islands. Although there are unlikely to reach hurricane status, both are expected to make the tropical Atlantic more moist, improving conditions for storms following them to develop.

Weather for the last weekend of July and for parts of this coming week could feature gusty winds, heavy rains, and thunder, along with rough seas as these systems pass through the area, assuming their tracks stay close enough to St. Maarten.

As always, please listen to local radio broadcasts to stay aware of current conditions and any watches or warnings. More tropical waves are continuing to cross the African continent from East to West — so the next couple of months could be quite active.

Here's the [current satellite image of the tropical Atlantic](#). See much more by clicking "Weather" at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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#### 2. SXM Airport Installs Boarding Pass Readers; What They Do, What They Don't Do

Until recently, passengers at SXM Airport went from ticketing / baggage check to the upstairs departure lounge through manned boarding pass-checking kiosks. The process sometimes was slow.

Now, automated boarding pass verification devices have been installed near the stairs/escalator to the departure lounge. The security and customs/immigration processes upstairs have not been automated. The automated boarding pass checking stations will enable faster verification of boarding passes, after which passengers will move upstairs to security and customs faster.

On the busiest days, you should expect to move a bit slowly through the security area, though that entire process has been upgraded and made more efficient.

We'll keep you posted. Do let us know your experiences through our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

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### 3. Why SXM Airport Placed Security Cones in Front of the Terminal

In the wake of recent attacks in Europe, security folks at the Dutch side airport have taken what most people regard as an interim step to keep passenger traffic moving in front of the terminal, instead of dawdling. Orange cones block off most travel lanes, keeping vehicles a bit farther away from the front of the terminal.

The orange cones are not at all similar to robust cement structures widely used to block access to certain highway areas in the US. Theoretically, someone who wanted to could drive through them. We would expect these to be replaced in time with more permanent, robust structures, but frankly we are not privy to the airport's future security plans.

Here's [more information](#).

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### 4. Dutch Side Airport Moving to "Category 1" Certification (It's a Good Thing)

This is good news; see the details [here](#).

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### 5. "Norwegian Escape" Cruise Ship Makes Inaugural Call on SXM

Norwegian cruise lines says that Norwegian Escape is one of the most innovative ships afloat — and that ship now serves SXM, making its inaugural visit during July.

Here is Norwegian's description of Escape:

"Get ready to escape on the newest and most exciting ship on the seas! Norwegian Escape, our most innovative ship ever built, is ready to whisk you away to the Bahamas and The Caribbean from Miami. Indulging in every whim is what unforgettable vacations are made of. Get ready to chase sunsets on The Waterfront. Explore a world of exotic flavors with two new restaurants from Iron Chef Jose Garces. Get closer to paradise with two quintessential Jimmy Buffett venues: Margaritaville at Sea and the 5 O'clock Somewhere Bar. Sip on some of Napa's best blends at The cellars, A Michael Mondavi Family Wine Bar. Or try our unique specialty cocktails, hand-crafted by Bar Lab. Be dazzled by Broadway hits like After Midnight. Discover a new world of Freestyle Cruising on Norwegian Escape."

More on the ship's first visit to SXM is [here](#). For more on SXM tourism promotion, see story 20.

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### 6. Minor Quake Causes No Damage on SXM, But it Does Shake Things Up

A magnitude 4.4 earthquake North of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands brought some minor shaking to St. Maarten on Monday, July 25. There was no damage, there were no reports of injuries, and some people didn't even notice anything.

Details are [here](#). Minor quakes do happen in SXM fairly often.

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### 7. Exclusively for our Readers & Members, Free Membership in SkyMed Travel Club

It's back: Open Enrollment in the low fare SkyMed Travel Club is back for a brief time. Here goes:

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

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

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

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

And normally, this organization charges you \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members, and during a brief open enrollment period for everyone else, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Exclusively through us, you get access to a world-class global ticketing mechanism without paying one cent to get in the door.

This is a new benefit for JMB members. During this Open Enrollment, everyone can join by going to [www.SkyMedtravelclub.com](http://www.SkyMedtravelclub.com), clicking the sign up link on the top right corner of the homepage, and providing the requested information. It's very important to complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — entering that code is what ensures that you pay nothing to be a member of the SkyMed Travel Club. If you fail to enter that code, you will not gain free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing.

Do join — you will not be disappointed once you've booked travel through them. Readers who have used it already speak very highly of it.

If you've already joined and used the service, [tell us what you think](#).

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## 8. Where To Get Current SXM Weather Info

Current St. Maarten weather is always available from the weather page of our website. Just go to the masthead of [www.everythingSXM.com](http://www.everythingSXM.com) and click Weather for current weather information, satellite loops, radar, and hurricane information.

Our go-to source for accurate and dependable hurricane information related to St. Maarten and both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the US, as well as the Caribbean, has long been [www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com), headed by Rob Lightbown. This excellent site has an enormous amount of weather information updated pretty much around the clock. In fact, when storms are threatening, it *is* updated around-the-clock.

The site contains watches, warnings, and numerous satellite images, animated radar loops, hurricane forecast models, and much more. The cost per year is tiny and the value is enormous, especially if you live in an area vulnerable to hurricane strikes. We urge you to check it out.

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

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### 9. Why Many Fans of SXM in the US and Canada are Moving There

In case you didn't know, there are no real estate taxes in St. Maarten and it is highly unlikely that any will be coming.

The prices of new and resale condominiums continue to be reasonable and there is good availability.

Add to that easy accessibility from the US and Canada, an increase in the availability of competitively priced groceries, and great weather, beaches, and restaurants, and you have a perfect recipe for relocating to SXM. *We are seeing a noticeable increase of people who are making it happen, either as retirees or who are planning to get papers to work on the island.*

Related information is in articles 10 and 11.

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## 10. How to Shop for a Condo or Home on SXM

If you've been thinking about relocating to St. Maarten (see story 9), you should plan on contacting [Island Real Estate Team](#), our real estate partner on the island, to take a look at some of the properties that are available and to ask the questions for which you need answers about what's involved.

That's where it begins — asking questions, getting answers, and looking at what's out there.

There are condos, homes, and villas to match virtually any budget. Summer is always a good time to look because the island is a bit less busy.

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Need a Great Website or Other Marketing, Advertising, PR, Publicity, or Promotional Services?

Use [JMB Communications](#), the seasoned marketing company behind Everything SXM.

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## 11. Where to Find Short-Term Vacation Condo Rentals

If you visit [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) and click *timeshare condos for rent or sale*, you'll find hundreds of units available directly from our members at reasonable prices from many resorts. Most members are simply trying to recoup their annual maintenance fees through the rental. Check it out.

If you own a timeshare week and would like to rent it out or sell it on our site, all you need to do to make that happen is join [JMB Website Supporters](#). Once you're enrolled, you'll have access to our so-called "secret website" where you can submit ads easily online. Enrollment generally takes only a few days after you join online — then you are good to go.

[Here are details.](#)

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## 12. Check Out Villa Vacation Rentals on our Site

Go to [www.everythingSXM.com](http://www.everythingSXM.com) and click Where to Stay, a newly updated version of which will be available by 6 PM today, Monday, August 1. We talk a bit about hotels of all sizes, but we also talk about villas on the island which you can generally rent directly from villa owners. A large number of villas are also available from our real estate partner, Island Real Estate Team. Contact them via story 10, above.

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## 13. Latest Update on Prizes for Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway

As many readers are aware, we recently announced a major giveaway to celebrate our [www.EverythingSXM.com](http://www.EverythingSXM.com)

site surpassing five million visits some time next year, probably between March and May 2017.

Here is our current list of some of the items we'll be giving away. Many more are coming:

1. A villa vacation on the island, to be announced shortly.
2. La Vista, an eight-day, seven-night stay in a one-bedroom unit.
3. Simpson Bay Resort, eight-day, seven-night stay in a two-bedroom unit.
4. Oyster Bay Beach Resort, a four-day, three-night stay in one of their new boutique-hotel style suites in the main building.
5. Dinner for two, Dino Jagtiani's award-winning Temptation Restaurant.
6. Dinner for two, Mario Bistro, Porto Cupecoy.
7. Dinner for two, Infinity Restaurant, Oyster Bay Beach Resort.
8. Dinner for two, Spiga Restaurant.
9. Dinner for two, Toppers Restaurant.
10. Dinner for two, Toppers by the Sea Restaurant

More to come soon. Stay tuned.

Note: *If you own a SXM business and want to offer a vacation, a dinner, jewelry, a sailing excursion, a massage, or another gift to our winners in return for publicity beyond the drawing date next year, please email [susan@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susan@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "Five Million Smiles Giveaway."*

### SECTION 3: Member

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#### 14. Introducing The New "Section Three" -- Member Discounts Benefits News & Updates

This new section of *SXM Weekly News*, which will appear here virtually every week, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining JMB. *In addition, it will be the introduction point for new benefits beyond the 260+ already available to all JMB Website Supporters members.* We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value to all JMB members.

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#### 15. Member Benefits Update: Car Rentals

Two weeks ago, we covered sailing, deep sea fishing, and yacht charters; and last week, dining.

This week, it's car rentals. We deliver significant discounts from a cross-section SXM car rental companies, including:

- [Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#), now with an almost entirely spanking- new fleet;
- [Leisure Car Rental](#), the woman-owned provider close to SXM airport;
- [Rodael Car Rental](#), serving cruise ship passengers; and
- [Dollar-Thrifty](#), the global powerhouse with a fleet of hundreds of cars of virtually every description.

All of these companies offer significant discounts to JMB members. You'll find all the details on our JMB members-only Secret Website. If you're still not a JMB member, you're wasting money on every trip to St. Maarten when you could be saving a lot thanks to the discounts we provide. [Join us today.](#)

### SECTION 4: Island

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## [Cut The Cost of Your Next SXM Vacation:](#)

## Get Big Savings On Everything You Do in SXM ***With 260+ Island Discounts & Other Benefits*** ***Join, Renew, or Reinstate Your JMB Website Supporters*** ***Membership Now!***

Get Low Fares & Island-Wide Discounts Now:

New JMB memberships -- **One year, \$59; Three Years, \$95; Five years, \$125 (other durations available)**

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

Renewal JMB memberships -- **Low-cost renewals -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year:**

**1 year \$39; 3 years \$69; 7 years \$139**

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **Low-cost reinstatements**

**1 year \$39; 2 years \$49; 5 years \$99**

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

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### 16. Overseas Credit Card Transaction Fees Declining, Study Says

There's finally some good news on the credit card front: some companies are reducing or eliminating overseas transaction fees.

Here's the story, from [creditcards.com](http://creditcards.com) and published in [USA Today](http://USA Today).

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### 17. How To Solve The "Pre-Existing Conditions" Waiting Period on SkyMed Memberships

When you buy SkyMed Medical Evacuation memberships, they *include* coverage for pre-existing conditions after only a 90 day waiting period. If you have pre-existing conditions and want to be sure they're covered when you travel, you simply buy an annual SkyMed membership more than 90 days ahead of when you plan to start traveling.

Of course, SkyMed covers pre-existing conditions in full without a waiting period on its short-term memberships. However, annual memberships offer a number of important advantages over short term including coverage for a full year; coverage that is renewable regardless of your age or changes in your health for as long as you live (even to age 109+) as long as you renew before your membership renewal payment due date; and no "rated" increased fees, related to advancing age or declining health.

Although short-term memberships do not have any waiting period, their serious disadvantage is that they cover you only for the length of the term you buy -- and you must reapply to obtain another short-term membership later. At some point, your health may be such that you won't qualify for another short-term membership, which is why we always recommend people buy annual memberships which are guaranteed renewable at then-current pricing for everyone without renewal-related evidence of insurability provided you have not let your membership lapse.

Why wait? Get SkyMed now: [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com). More on SkyMed is in articles later in this newsletter.

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### 18. Anticrime Video Surveillance System Introduced

The island is being quite relentless in its efforts to keep St. Maarten safe. As we pointed out, crime statistics for the past several years indicate they are succeeding, since crime rates for all major crimes have been declining.

Here's the story on the new [video surveillance system](#).

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## 19. You Got a Problem With That? Contact Chris Elliott

For a number of years, we have offered our JMB Website Supporters members ombudsman services as a benefit of their membership. Using this service, a number of our members have been able to resolve issues with several St. Maarten businesses.

The ombudsman of choice regarding travel services — particularly airlines and hotels — is Christopher Elliott, a travel writer whose work has appeared in a number of magazines and regularly in *USA Today*. One of the most useful things he publishes is a list of key executives in many travel companies — people you should contact should you have a problem.

We happily refer our readers to [www.Elliott.org](http://www.Elliott.org).

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## 20. SXM Ad Appears in **USA Today**: Our Reaction

As regular readers know, SXM offers a number of unique summertime attractions: very low accommodations prices, often half the rates paid in winter; uncrowded beaches; uncrowded restaurants (for the most part); and uncrowded shopping.

Our hope and expectation for the new ads now being run in *USA Today* was that they would leverage all these advantages. They didn't, and in our view that is a serious shortcoming.

While we're happy that the island finally is running some advertising somewhere (it ran last week), the picture of a young couple on a beach could easily have been taken anywhere — it doesn't sell the uniqueness of SXM. Except for the color of the water, it could easily have been the Jersey shore or Southern California or even Florida. The headline was "Book spectacular deals to St. MAArten" and that was followed by a link to the island website. *The ad completely lacked any reason for people to respond now, and go during the summer, which merchants tell us is one of the worst low seasons they've ever seen if not the worst. Bottom line, it was a missed opportunity.*

When you run advertising, you need to sell the sizzle, not the steak. You don't say go to St. Maarten, you tell people why they want to go to SXM now, and what they'll get out of going. We know of no details concerning the strategy and execution of this ad. *The island knows why people visit; it should leverage that information in all its advertising, everywhere.* The advertising budget in SXM is less than 10% of that of Aruba. But if the content continues to be this meaningless, this totally impotent, they may as well forget about tourism and grow tobacco. *Run ads that work, folks -- not ads that just sit there and look pretty.*

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## 21. Restaurant of the Week: Big Fish

Located in what we've dubbed The culinary village at Dawn beach, Big Fish restaurant (on the road to Mr. Busby's and Oyster Bay Beach Resort) is a bright, upbeat culinary oasis with great food, attentive service, and a seasoned management team..

Although the name implies that Big Fish has nothing but fish, the fact is that it is a multifaceted restaurant with something for everyone. Those who have seen Jeff at the restaurant know that his favorite appetizers are all their sushi — of which the restaurant has several varieties.

For others, the hurricane shrimp appetizer is a favorite selection. It's spicy, creative, and delicious.

At dinner, there really is something for everyone in their big, eclectic menu. Their head chef is someone who's name may be familiar to you -- long-time accomplished, award-winning chef Wendell Laurence. Wendell has shown through the years that he knows what he's doing and his expertise is in every plate that leaves the kitchen.

The managers here are Mike and Teresa who formerly were at Bajatzu. Big Fish was a recipient of our 2016 Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence, a well deserved accolade.

Definitely give them a try. Next fall, we expect to publish lots of pictures of key entrées on our [Everything St. Maarten](http://Everything.St.Maarten)

[Facebook Site](#). Big Fish has become one of our favorite restaurants.

Big Fish gives discounts to JMB Website Supporters members.

Sill not a JMB member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits: see the end of this story for more.

Big Fish Restaurant [www.bigfishsxm.com/](http://www.bigfishsxm.com/) (featured 8/1/16)  
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 7/5/15)  
Daniel's By The Sea, [www.dawnbeachsxm.com](http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com) (featured 5/2/16)  
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 4/18/16)  
Fusion Restaurant has closed.  
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 5/9/16)  
Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 7/25/16)  
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 7/25/16)  
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 4/25/16)  
Topper's / Topper's By The Sea <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 6/6/16)  
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 7/18/16)

Get Low Fares & Island-Wide Dining Discounts and Much More Now:

New JMB memberships -- **One year, \$59; Three Years, \$95; Five years, \$125 (other durations available)**  
[http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

Renewal JMB memberships -- **Low-cost renewals -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year:**  
**1 year \$39; 3 years \$69; 7 years \$139**  
[www.everythingsexm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsexm.com/secret) Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **Low-cost reinstatements**  
**1 year \$39; 2 years \$49; 5 years \$99**  
<http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml>

## 22. Anything Can Happen Anywhere, Anytime: Trust SkyMed To Take You Home

SkyMed *Takes You Home*® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. *Whether it's an accident, a sudden illness, or virtually anything else, SkyMed is your free ticket home aboard an ICU-equivalent emergency medical evacuation jet with an ICU-certified medical attendant on board to make sure everything goes as planned.*

Like clockwork, you'll be taken from the hospital to a waiting aircraft by ambulance at SkyMed's expense; SkyMed pays all costs for the medical evacuation jet and for the ambulance at the destination which takes you to a waiting team at your destination hospital, which already has your medical records and is ready to start helping you.

Anything can happen anywhere — but you can always trust SkyMed to take you home when you need it most.

Without SkyMed, you'll need \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance to pay for a medical evacuation — if you can make the dozens of calls necessary to set it up in an emergency. SkyMed does all that for you; you simply make one phone call 24/7/365 to get things going. Enroll today while it's fresh in your mind. The SkyMed bonus will kick in afterwards, as described below.

See [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com) or phone Jeff any weekday at 508-747-8281 or email him at [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com) (use the subject "SkyMed inquiry") to learn more and get your questions answered.

If you're not a JMB Website Supporters member and would like to join SkyMed, here's something special for you...

a) Buy a new annual or multi-year family SkyMed membership at \$499 -- it covers you for a full year. You must buy it from us at [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com) or by phone, 508-747-8281 (regular office hours EDT).

b) After you receive your membership materials from SkyMed, forward your SkyMed "welcome" email to us at [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com) plus your street address and home phone number. We'll give you a one-year JMB membership on us (it will take a few days). *Applies only to nonmembers of both JMB and SkyMed. Offer expires August 31, 2016. We'll do the same thing, of course, for current JMB members buying new SkyMed memberships for themselves.*

c) You'll then be able to upgrade your annual SkyMed membership to a three- or five-year Ultimate membership, with global coverage, at our heavily discounted JMB members-only pricing.

To learn more, email [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com) and include your phone number; we'll set up a brief phone call and take your application by phone if you like. We'll be happy to answer your SkyMed questions.

Annual SkyMed memberships cover you throughout the "SkyMed Universe" with SkyMed "Takes You Home" emergency medical evacuation services. The "Universe" includes the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. You can add specialized coverage for the rest of the world for \$100/year but it's better to upgrade to a SkyMed Ultimate which includes global services and quite a bit more for the same price, for JMB members only. Jeff will be happy to explain SkyMed or SkyMed Ultimate features and benefits. (Also see the Q&A in this issue.)

For more on JMB memberships, look below.

New JMB memberships -- **One year, \$59; Three Years, \$95; Five years, \$125 (other durations available)**  
[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

Renewal JMB memberships -- **Low-cost renewals -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year:**  
**1 year \$39; 3 years \$69; 7 years \$139**  
[www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **Low-cost reinstatements**  
**1 year \$39; 2 years \$49; 5 years \$99**  
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

More stories are below.

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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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23. Where to Get Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 7/31/16)

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?**

A. 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. How fast are the evacuations?**

A. That depends on a number of factors. First the patient must be medically stable and ready to fly. Even though emergency medical evacuations are aboard ICU-equivalent medevac jets, the patient's stable health during the trip is of paramount importance. He / she must be medically stable to take that trip. Although arrangements for the electronic transfer of medical records, reserving flight and medical crews and the jet itself, making hospital arrangements at the destination hospital, and setting up ambulances at both ends of trip must all be completed beforehand, nonetheless it generally takes only a matter of hours before you're in the plane on the way to hospitals and doctors you know and trust near home. Bottom line is that SkyMed does it as quickly as it can be done assuring the patient's health and safety during the medical evacuation and the flight home.

**Q. Do they 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. (See the question, "**Does SkyMed cover us no matter where we travel?**" which is below.)

**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.

**Q. I already belong to SkyMed but I'm pretty sick now. Will SkyMed drop me?**

Once you've bought an annual or longer SkyMed membership, that membership stays in force as long as you pay renewals on time regardless of how old you get or how sick you get. When you're in, you're in -- declining health is not an issue. And no, you do not have to tell us about changes in your health that occur after you join.

**Q. I'm an American [or Canadian] xPat now living in SXM. Since I live there, can I still be brought "home" to Canada or the US?**

As long as you've purchased our xPat Membership (for people who live in SXM six months or more per year), you absolutely will be taken home, back to the US or Canada, to the hospital of your choice when you become critically ill or injured. Just be sure you've specified your preferred home hospital in your SkyMed application.

**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 or phone him at 508-747-8281. Please also include your phone number and best time to call; he'll be in touch. *Please use the subject "SkyMed Inquiry" 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. 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).

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## 27. Win SXM Vacations and Much More in Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway

A complete list of all current prizes appears earlier in this issue — but you can enter now, if you are a direct (not pass-along) subscriber to ***SXM Weekly News***... Click the link to enter now:

[http://everythingxm.com/sxm/getting\\_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml)

Entries from pass-along subscribers will be printed on rice paper and fed to goats. Don't let the island's goats get any fatter: subscribe directly now by clicking "Free Newsletters" at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). *Only direct subscribers are eligible to win.*

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

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

### **SECTION 5: 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 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)** Updated 10/18/15

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

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

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

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select \*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.

## Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

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

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

## Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

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) .

To see the JMB Communications Privacy Policy, visit [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml)

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