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#1058 --- Monday, 8/8/2016 -- 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

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address.
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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



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

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

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<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

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-- Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page

[25](#) 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 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 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 1/7/2017 1/21/2017 Week 1 and Week 2 ROYAL PALM 2 bedroom condo \$1875 per week Joe jgarro55@gmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/3/2017 2/10/2017 Week 5 Royal Palm Resort Vacation in High Season. This extremely desirable week at the nicest resort in Simpson Bay. This gorgeous 2 bedroom with King beds, 2 bath unit has full kitchen, living room with queen sofa bed and is oceanfront. Watch boats and the beautiful Caribbean water while having breakfast or relaxing with an afternoon cocktail. The sunsets from this unit are spectacular. This is a fixed week unit. Unit comfortably sleeps 6 and has everything needed for your annual vacation. 3 TVs, DVD, panoramic slide-open living room window wall, and everything possibly needed. Numerous restaurants and clubs within walking distance. Week 6 also available. \$2,999.00 per week Fred senate1@comcast.net

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

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

This Week's Stories

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format (New):

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive:list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

www.linkedin.com

Get a growing list of 260+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

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
- 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.
- 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://www.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 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. Hurricane Earl In a Near Miss

Last weekend, a tropical wave crossed SXM, bringing with it foul weather, windy conditions, rain, and rough surf. It didn't do any real damage and it swirled westward into the Caribbean — where it was to become hurricane Earl.

There but for fortune, as the song goes; in this case, SXM lucked out. The peak of hurricane season is a month from now. The island is keeping its eyes open and is well prepared to cope with whatever may develop.

As always, please listen to local radio broadcasts to stay aware of current conditions and any watches or warnings as peak season moves closer. 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. Please also see stories 2 and 4 in this section.

2. Our SXM Weather Page Is Updated

In the last several days we've completely updated our SXM weather page. It includes new satellite images, updated radar scans, new historical tracking maps, and hurricane names for the 2016 season. You'll find a wealth of information by clicking Weather at www.EverythingSXM.com. That includes current conditions on the island including temperature, current weather, and the forecast.

3. Take Advantage of Your Free Membership in the SkyMed Travel Club

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers 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, 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](#).

4. Where To Get Current **Detailed** 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 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, 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

5. Check Out Our 2016 Hotel "Award of Excellence" Winners

If you're looking for fine hotels to visit on either side of the island, we suggest you look into timeshares and smaller hotels we talked about here in *SXM Weekly News* and also the hotel recipients of our Everything St. Maarten Awards of Excellence which were distributed early this year. You can't go wrong with any of these establishments.

You'll find our stories about timeshares and small hotels in our *SXM Weekly News* PDF Archives which you can scan topically by using "Edit - Find" in your browser. The 2016 winners of our Hotel Awards of Excellence are: Baker's Suites; Club Fantastico; Club Orient; L'Esplanade; La Vista and La Vista Beach; and Summit Resort Hotel.

6. Caravanserai / Alegria Court Decision Supposedly Coming

If you believe the St. Maarten court system, its decision on the suit brought by litigating Caravanserai timeshare owners against the owners of the now renamed Alegria resort should be revealed this coming week. If and when that happens, we'll post it on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook site](#) as well as in a bulletin to our JMB Website Supporters members.

When the current owners of Caravanserai (now renamed Alegria) bought it at auction a few years ago, their first action was to tell timeshare owners their contracts were null and void — a move which stripped timeshare owners of millions of dollars of personal investments and simultaneously gave the island two huge black eyes since it ignored pleas from timeshare owners and did nothing to help them. A revolving door of coalition governments on the Dutch Side has left proposed timeshare owner consumer protection legislation *still* waiting to be acted upon. If the court rules in favor of the timeshare owners, which in our opinion it should, we would hope that the government would

finally enact timeshare owner consumer protection with teeth to protect the people who have been SXM's single most loyal customers for about 30 years. It's a big deal.

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

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

7. The Sapphire Court Decision: Who Knows?

Meanwhile, the often-delayed decision by the same court (see previous story) on the lawsuit between the Sitbon family and the Verdier family for control of Sapphire Resort should happen soon — but then again, it was originally scheduled to be ruled upon last March and had been promised by the judge weeks ago.

Again, once that decision has been made, we'll post it on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook site](#) and also in a bulletin to JMB Website Supporters members.

8. Simpson Bay Resort Gets Rave Reviews Following Huge Renovations

As mentioned a few times here over the last several months, while hubbub surrounds a number of other timeshare properties, it's now smooth sailing for Simpson Bay Resort after several rough years.

Owned by Royal Resorts Caribbean, Simpson Bay by the end of this summer will have been totally renovated from floor to ceiling and wall to wall throughout the entire complex. The changes are literally stunning. Timeshare owners seeing their units after the renovations agree they can't believe they're revisiting the same property. There is just no comparison to the old Simpson Bay or Pelican Resort.

If you plan to rent a timeshare in St. Maarten, or to buy one, especially for next winter, take a good look at Simpson Bay. It is now easily one of the top timeshare resorts on the island.

SECTION 3: Member

9. 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.

10. Member Benefits Update: Jewelers

Over the last few weeks, this section has covered sailing, deep-sea fishing, and yacht charters; dining; and car rentals. Today, it covers jewelry shopping, one of the favorite go-to activities for lots of North American visitors.

Several of the island's top jewelry stores offer shoppers sparkling incentives for visiting their stores — including gift cards. Although you won't get change back when you use a gift card, you can use it toward any size purchase and get the full value of the gift card in outstanding quality merchandise.

Here are details. Complete info for each of these offers is on the Secret Site (members only). Vouchers are required (downloadable from our members-only secret website) as is, of course, your current, valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card.

AMA Jewelers Discount: AMA Jewelers, on Front Street and at Princess Juliana Airport, offers JMB Website Supporters members \$50 off any precious gemstone purchase.

Ballerina Jewelers St. Maarten has three big offers for JMB members: A free gift with any Tacori purchase; a \$50 Gift Card with a minimum purchase of \$250; or a \$100 Gift Card with a minimum purchase of \$500.

Caribbean Gems on Front Street, Philipsburg, gives JMB Members a free \$25 Gift Card. May be redeemed in person at any Caribbean Gems store in St. Maarten only.

DK Gems, on Front Street, Philipsburg, gives JMB Members a free gift for stopping by.

Kay's Fine Jewelry, Front Street, in Philipsburg offers a \$50 gift certificate toward the purchase of fine jewelry.

Oro Diamonte Jewelers, Front Street, Philipsburg, offers JMB Members a \$25 Gift Card good toward any in-store purchase.

Zhaveri Jewelers on Front Street, Philipsburg, gives JMB Members a free \$25 Gift Card good toward any purchase of \$25 or more.

All these businesses offer outstanding quality, superb customer service, and great prices that really are unique to the Caribbean as well as significant discounts to JMB members. You'll find all the details on our JMB members-only Secret Website.

Sill 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](#); see next item.

SECTION 4: Island

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

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 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>

11. No One Injured As Plane Makes Nose-First Emergency Landing at SXM Airport

Unable to get the nose gear of his twin engine cargo plane to deploy properly, the pilot had no choice but to land at SXM Airport Friday afternoon at around 2 p.m. only using his two wing-mounted landing gear.

It was extremely delicate, not to mention a bit perilous. It was called a *controlled emergency landing*. And those who watched it had their hearts in their mouths even after the plane came to rest with its tail of the air in its nose scraping the runway.

In the end, the pilot leveraged his skill and also had a bit of luck — he was totally uninjured and the plane was not heavily damaged. It was very much unlike the Emirates 777 crash this week in the Middle East where the plane was consumed by fire after crash-landing.

The plane was thoroughly inspected and then moved off the runway so normal operations could resume.

Ameriflight LLC, which owned the aircraft, said on Friday afternoon: "On August 5, 2016 at approximately 1400 local time, a Fairchild Swearingen Metro III cargo aircraft operated by Ameriflight, LLC of Dallas, Texas suffered a collapsed nose landing gear at Prince Juliana International Airport in St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles on a flight originating from San Juan, Puerto Rico. There are no injuries and it is unknown at this time what caused the incident. Ameriflight has reported the incident to authorities in the United States and the Netherlands Antilles and the airline is cooperating fully with the investigation."

For the record, the Netherlands Antilles ceased to exist as a political entity several years ago and is now simply called the Dutch West Indies.

12. Seaweed Situation

We've heard of no change in the seaweed situation on the island, which is good news.

As many of you know, Sargassum seaweed plagued the island part of last winter and a couple of years before, but for whatever reason the situation seems to have improved since then. That's good news for vacationers and also good news for sea turtles that lay their eggs on beaches this time of year — as well as for their hatchlings.

13. Get The Price of a Taxi Ride Before You Get Inside (And Don't Pay a Penny More)

The vast, vast majority of SXM taxi drivers are very honorable people who know what they're doing and work hard to keep tourists happy. All of them are properly insured and bonded if you take the time to be sure their license plate reads TAXI on the Dutch side or TXI on the French side. If the plate says anything else, you're dealing with an illegal Gypsy cab driver who is not licensed or insured or bonded and that's not a good idea in our opinion.

If you plan to take a taxi anywhere, make sure you find the price beforehand and agree to it. When you arrive at your destination, pay what was agreed and not a penny more, assuming you did not change the itinerary. You should not expect any problems at all.

14. Try a Long Weekend Getaway This Fall on Your Favorite Island

Increasing numbers of North Americans are making multiple trips every year to the island. Those trips include winter

visits, as usual, but in many cases they also include fall trips — often in October or November, before or during Thanksgiving.

In fact, Thanksgiving is a big deal on the island with many restaurants serving authentic Thanksgiving dinners with all the trimmings. There are so many American ex-pats here, that authentic Thanksgiving fare is easy to come by.

If you're not ready to take a second vacation in SXM this fall, perhaps you should try a long weekend. It's inexpensive, especially for the hotel. Many restaurants remain open. And beaches are quiet and beautiful and will offer you some cherished serenity and great summer weather.

15. Where to Find The SXM Entertainment Calendar

For years, we published the SXM Entertainment Calendar on our site. Please make a note that you will now find it at www.island92.com under "SXM Info" -- a location you might want to bookmark for reference when you're on the island.

16. About The SXM Ad That Appeared in *USA Today* a Week Ago...

Last week, we wrote about an ad that appeared in *USA Today* promoting St. Maarten. It simply showed two individuals enjoying what looked like a tropical beach and it mentioned that spectacular deals were available through a web link referred to in the ad.

Our criticism was that the ad didn't do enough to sell the advantages of visiting St. Martin during the summer and, therefore, wouldn't work.

While those comments were accurate, the target wasn't. It turns out that the ads were placed by SHTA, the local alliance of hotels and other businesses in the tourism business and not by the Dutch Side government. That organization was simply trying to do something to *promote* more summer business and we laud them for that.

Unfortunately, the lack of aggressive advertising by the government is taking a major toll on the island economy. We realize fully that the lack of available funds makes it difficult for the island to spend money on tourism promotion. At the same time, it is that *lack of promotion* that is causing the major problems of the island economy in the first place. The French and Dutch sides need to work together on a cohesive program which sets the highest priority for island promotion. Regardless of Cuba, St. Maarten / St. Martin has a tremendous product to promote — but it must actually promote that product for the island economy to thrive — and thriving is exactly what it deserves.

No car will go very far unless it has gas in the tank, and this is exactly the same situation.

17. A Tale of Two Breakfasts

This is a story about two unrelated restaurants, neither of which is known for its breakfasts.

To recap, the restaurants are Toppers and Vesna Taverna. Toppers is known for great home cooking, cherished family recipes, meticulous attention to detail, great quantity of food, superb service, and low prices — that's quite a combination for the Caribbean.

Vesna Taverna is known for its eclectic dinners — authentic and delicious American cuisine, French cuisine, and Greek cuisine offered at lunch and dinner with special nights with different focuses to satisfy every palate. The dining is outstanding, the service is excellent, and the prices are very reasonable.

Given that, why would either restaurant bother serving breakfast?

Vesna Taverna started out as a bagel house years ago across the street from its current location on the lagoon, a couple of hundred yards north of the Dutch Side drawbridge. In fact it still makes bagels every morning, often served lox (smoked salmon) and cream cheese plus the usual outstanding assortment of breakfast favorites. The bagels, which are the best on the island, are a favorite of ours, and in fact we've often had sandwiches made on them during lunch. If you've tried Vesna Taverna for dinner you need to also try it for breakfast and lunch which are equally fantastic. And if you've only tried it for breakfast it's time you tried it for dinner which we think is one of the best on

the island.

Last winter, we asked Topper why he didn't serve breakfast. He told us that their menu is so crammed as it is, there wasn't enough time for them to do breakfast and still do all the preparation for lunch and dinner.

Apparently our friends Topper and Melanie had a change of heart since then, because as we mentioned a few weeks ago, the restaurant has been serving full buffet breakfasts for the last several weeks for under \$10 per person — and that's quite a mouthful. We listen to Topper whenever he appears on Island92 radio, which is most Thursdays in the morning. He has such a vast knowledge of culinary arts that you know his breakfasts are going to be as great as are his lunches and dinners: he never cuts corners. So we don't hesitate to recommend both Toppers and Vesna as two outstanding choices for breakfast -- plus, of course, lunch and dinner. Definitely check them out.

18. 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. More on SkyMed is in articles later in this newsletter.

19. Restaurant of the Week: Daniel's By The Sea Italian Restaurant

Besides its amazing location in tradewinds-carressed gazebos under towering palm trees on Dawn Beach, Daniel's (the nighttime incarnation of Mr. Busby's Beach Bar) is one of those classic Italian restaurants that evolves -- no sudden changes, just evolutionary touches that always make your dining experience a little more delicious, a little more relaxing, and even better than the time before.

The classic Italian menu is big, ranging from traditional meat dishes to many pasta selections to vegetarian offerings and fish. There's also very fresh lobsters direct from their own lobster pool. These are Saba lobsters, the best you can get anywhere.

Daniel's has always had great apple pie for dessert but in the last few years, they've added many other decadent selections. So we admonish you: save room for dessert.

And of course their fully stocked bar is often tended by Laurell, who we've called "Wonder Woman" because she's so outstanding and so fast.

Definitely give them a try. Next fall, we expect to publish lots of pictures of key entrées (as we have before) on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). Daniel's has long been one of our favorite restaurants. When you visit, say hi to Daniel for us.

Daniel's gives discounts to JMB Website Supporters members. If you're not a member, see the beginning of this section to learn more and start saving real money on your SXM vacations. Also see the end of this story for our low pricing and links.

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/ (featured 8/1/16)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 2/29/16)
Canoa, 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 (featured 8/8/16)
Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 8/11/14)
Spiga, 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 (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 (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 (featured 4/13/15)
Vesna Taverna, 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

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 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/reinstate/index.shtml>

20. 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 or phone Jeff any weekday at 508-747-8281 or email him at 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 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 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 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

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 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/reinststate/index.shtml>

More stories are below.

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.](#)

21. 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.

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 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 (JMB members) or www.getskymed.com (non-JMB members) or email Jeff directly at 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.

22. 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](#).

23. 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*.

24. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml.

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

A complete list of all current prizes appears here next week — 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

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. *Only direct subscribers are eligible to win -- and subscriptions are free.*

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 .

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret

B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See 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**

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to **jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com** with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not be able to respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

To see the JMB Communications Privacy Policy, visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

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