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#1061 --- Monday, 8/29/2016 -- 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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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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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...**

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

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

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

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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Timeshare Rental and Sale 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 3/11/2017 3/18/2017 10 Royal Palms Spacious 2 bedroom unit overlooking Simpson Bay. This is Heineken Regatta week. Don't miss out on this great event! I also have week 9 (March 4-11th) available. \$1,950 Carmela 856-906-1626 cai516@yahoo.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

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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- 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 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. Unnamed Tropical System Brings Winds, Some Rain, But No Major Damage

The tropical system that we warned you about last week affected St. Maarten on Tuesday night and Wednesday with strong winds and some rain. Most businesses closed and schools were closed in anticipation of the storm. The island takes no chances.

SXM received some rain, which it needed, and damage overall was minor — mostly small trees knocked over and many political signs blown down.

It's back to business as usual — including wary eyes looking eastward for whatever is next.

2. Where To Get Current **Detailed** SXM Weather Info

Current SXM 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 page was heavily updated in August, 2016.

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 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.

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 now 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.

Join the Club by going to www.SkyMedtravelclub.com, click the sign up link on the top right corner of the homepage, and provide 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.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

4. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Win Historic Court Case Against Sidhom & Alegria

Courts on the island of St. Maarten have ruled in favor of timeshare owners in several recent cases, as reported here in *SXM Weekly News*.

Last week, the court ruled in favor of litigating Caravanserai timeshare owners in a landmark case that solidifies the power of timeshare owner rights despite changes in ownership of timeshare properties, even in case of bankruptcy. The ruling was as stunning a victory for litigating timeshare owners as it was a stunning defeat for Ray Sidhom, the Long Island-based credit card processing magnate who bought the resort at auction a few years ago with other investors and attempted to cancel timeshare owners' contracted lease rights unilaterally.

Here is the response from Timeshare Owners at Caravanserai Association, TOCA, the owners group that was litigating:

"Timeshare Owners of Caravanserai Association (TOCA) is extremely pleased that the Sint Maarten Court of First Instance has held that Alegria Real Estate BVI, and its owner Ray Sidhom, violated their timeshare rights by canceling outright their ownership of long-term leases bought and paid for at the former Caravanserai Resort. This is a victory, not only for TOCA, but for the entire Sint Maarten tourism industry and, indeed all citizens of St. Maarten.

The people of this beautiful island can now have confidence that timeshare contracts in Sint Maarten mean what they say and developers who seek to avoid timeshare laws and ordinances will be held accountable for the damage they cause to the industry and to the reputation of the island. We will have more to say when we read the details of the decision but we want to thank Sint Maarten, and its government, for the on-going efforts they are undertaking to regulate and uphold the timeshare rights of timeshare owners on the island."

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Anne Lee-Desmarais
(president of TOCA-Timeshare Owners at Caravanserai Association)

Jeff Comments: Since there is no such thing as class action law on SXM, this applies only to litigating timeshare owners BUT it sets a precedent which can be exploited by other timeshare owners in subsequent cases. Indeed, it is a true landmark case. It remains to be seen precisely how the ruling will be carried out. We will publish more in future editions of *SXM Weekly News*. If you're a pass-along recipient, subscribe free by clicking "free newsletters" at www.everythingsxm.com.

5. SXM's Court System Proves Island's Timesharing Laws Aren't So Bad After

All

In recent years, the Dutch Side government has been maligned by timeshare owners on a continuous basis as it stayed at arms length in disputes between them and timeshare developers. The government wouldn't get involved, publicly, when Ray Sidhom told timeshare owners they could kiss their timeshare investments at Caravanserai goodbye, for example. And the government has been claiming it has been working on timeshare owner consumer protection legislation for the last several years, though nothing has happened — and some timeshare owners inferred from that that the island government doesn't care.

Perhaps the island government knew better. We're told that in St. Maarten, a spectrum of disputes are settled in court -- it's up to the court to decide what's legal and what's right.

In this case, the court supported the legality of the long-term leases held by litigating Caravanserai timeshare owners. As we understand it, the new owners of Caravanserai will be required to come to an agreement with the litigants in short order — or face rather huge fines for each week of timesharing it doesn't settle quickly.

It is not yet known what, if anything, the resort owners will do in response. As always, we intend to keep you posted. No matter what, this case has been historic — by any measure, a mammoth victory for timeshare owner rights.

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

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

6. SXM's Best Small Hotels

SXM has an abundance of fine smaller hotels on both sides of the island. They have great appeal because of the personal attention they offer, because of the convenience of a smaller campus, and of course for their many amenities.

Indeed, smaller resorts are undergoing a renaissance in consumer interest. So here are a number of our top choices, in no particular order:

First, [El Zafiro Resort](#) on Simpson Bay Beach, down the road apiece from Alegria resort. With only a handful of beautifully appointed seaside units next to its own excellent bar/restaurant, Zafiro has a very special appeal. (Zafiro is Spanish for Sapphire but El Zafiro is unrelated to Sapphire Resort.)

Owned by young couple from the Boston area, their tasteful attention to detail is evident in the appointments in every room. The prices are far lower than you'd expect for such beautiful units that open onto the beach. This is a hidden gem.

Second, [Baker's Suites](#) in Simpson Bay, only a couple of years old, has already received its first internal refresh. Although a refresh wasn't needed, the refresh adds yet another layer of beauty and amenities to an already outstanding property. Centrally located on Billy Folly Road, Baker's Suites is within walking distance of Kim Sha beach and many fine restaurants, and it's only minutes away from SXM Airport, Princess Juliana. Baker's now is installing an elevator which will make handicap access a breeze regardless of what floor your room is on.

Third, [L'Esplanade](#) in Grand Case is an elegant property with views to match. All rooms overlook Grand Case Bay from their hilltop location at the northern edge of town. L'Esplanade also boasts what we think is the best spa on the island, offering outstanding massage and related services by the immensely talented Tricia Altenau and her associates. There's also a new yoga / exercise studio on the property. Overall, it is one gorgeous place. Both Baker's Suites and L'Esplanade are long-time recipients of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence.

Fourth, [Mary's Boon Beach Plantation](#), also on Simpson Bay Beach, named for the colorful character who ran it for a number of years, Mary Pomeroy, is a fine older resort with new amenities following its renovation a few years ago. It's right on the beach and has its own bar and restaurant and an intensely loyal following. This well-run property is definitely worth your attention.

Fifth, [Summit Resort](#), a venerable property in Cupecoy that just keeps getting better under the leadership of its long time general manager, Patricia Evans. Patty knows what she's doing. The renovations, recently completed, bring new convenience and comfort to every room. Patty's special concern has always been the gardens which are even more picturesque than you may remember them. Summit has some of the most stunningly attractive views of any island property, from its hilltop sundeck and restaurant overlooking the northern end of Simpson Bay lagoon. If you haven't visited Summit, you're missing one of the best small hotels in the Caribbean.

Sixth and last but not least, [La Vista Resort](#) and La Vista beach, on pelican key, offer the unique charm and ambience of a family-owned, family operated resort. The bungalows at La Vista are picturesque, comfortable, and beautiful, and the Hideaway restaurant is a long-time favorite for a large number of experienced island visitors. Definitely keep this property high on your list of preferred vacation destinations.

SECTION 3: Member

7 . 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.

8. Member Benefits Update:

Over the last few weeks, this section has covered sailing, deep-sea fishing, and yacht charters; dining; car rentals; and jewelers. It will return in September covering another category of JMB member benefits / discounts.

SECTION 4: Island

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SALE

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**on new, renewal, and reinstated
JMB memberships**

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Beat the price increase coming 9/15!

**Get 260+ Island Discounts
And Other Benefits
at Big Savings Now:**

Join, Renew, or Reinstate Your JMB Website Supporters

Membership Today

Get Low Fares & Island-Wide Discounts Now at SALE PRICES:

New JMB memberships -- **SALE PRICES One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available)**
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml PRICES EFFECTIVE 9PM EDT 8/26/16

Renewal JMB memberships -- **SALE PRICES -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year:**
1 year \$35; 5 years \$95
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center* PRICES EFFECTIVE 9PM EDT 8/26/16

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **SALE PRICES -- the longer the reinstatement period, the lower the price per year: 1 year \$35; 5 years \$95** PRICES EFFECTIVE 9PM EDT 8/26/16
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstatement/index.shtml>

9. They're Back: Our SXM Euro Oval Stickers - How To Get Yours



They're Back: Our Copyrighted SXM Euro-Ovals.

Printed with green ink on bright white vinyl, varnished for long life, our copyrighted SXM euro ovals have been adorning cars on SXM and in the US for more than 15 years.

You can now get two for \$10 or 5 for \$15 mailed first class to your home in the US or Canada. You can pay for them by PayPal or by check. If you pay by PayPal, make sure the funds go to jeff@JMBcommunications.com and in the comments section be sure to tell us what you're buying — two for \$10 or five for \$15, SXM euro ovals, and include your current correct mailing address and daytime phone number. If you pay by check, we accept US dollar checks only drawn on US banks — sorry, no Canadian checks. You can mail them to SXM euro ovals, care of JMB Communications, PO Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. Make the check payable to JMB Communications. We have a decent supply but we suggest you order quickly to get them quickly; allow four weeks for delivery. We will send out various designs on hand, all of which we've copyrighted. (Image is low-resolution; the stickers are beautiful.)

10. Why It's Important To Clean Out Your Suitcases Before Re-Packing to Come Home

No matter how long your trip to St. Maarten lasts, one thing is clear: it's either in a closet partly opened, or you look into it frequently to find something you never unpacked.

In tropical climates there is nothing you can do to be sure that there are no other living organisms with you in the room where you're staying. Don't be surprised if a couple of organisms take up residence in your luggage and hitch a ride home with you. It happens, even in the best of resorts anywhere.

That's why, before you leave for home, it's important to thoroughly clean out the inside of your luggage and a shakeout any clothes you haven't washed. We know people have taken geckos home unwittingly — and geckos are the least problem.

Just thought you ought to know.

11. Why You Should Never Put Prescription Drugs In Your Suitcase

Suitcases get lost or misdirected with regularity. Today's crowded airplanes and tight schedules are a breeding ground for misdirected luggage. For example, several years ago, we were flying home from St. Croix to Boston on a nonstop. All four pieces of luggage went to Hong Kong and didn't get to us for three weeks.

No matter what, you should never put prescription drugs in checked baggage, regardless of whether you're leaving on a trip or coming home. You do not want to lose valuable and in some cases life-saving medications.

12. Four Different Flavors of Italian Dining In SXM

SXM is loaded with Italian restaurants, both on the Dutch and French sides. Here's a quick review of four unique restaurants, all serving Italian in remarkably different ways. These are in no special order:

[SPIGA Restaurant](#), which is closed until October 12 for vacation, offers gourmet Italian dining on L'Esperance Road at the northern end of Grand Case, just around the corner from Boulevard de Grand Case. It has been a huge favorite of ours since it opened years ago. The food and service are impeccable and it is one of the clear highlights of every trip.

[Daniel's by the Sea](#) on Dawn beach is totally unique. Blessed with a seaside location steps from the beach, it is remarkably romantic especially at the time of the full moon. Dine in gazebos under towering palm trees. As we've said before, you're gently caressed by light tradewinds while your dining on tried-and-true old family recipes. The food is phenomenal, the service is attentive without being overbearing, and the ambience is uniquely Caribbean. Know that lobster is a key part of the menu here as are outstanding desserts. Daniel's is another of our long-time favorites and it, like SPIGA, has received our Everything SXM Award of Excellence numerous times. Look for it displayed at better SXM restaurants.

[IZI Ristorante Italiano](#), opposite Pineapple Pete in Simpson Bay, is a modern, upbeat, highly creative Italian restaurant owned by native Italian perfectionist chef Davide Foini. He is among the most experienced and demanding chefs we've ever known — and your palate will love the results of everything he does. IZI is also a multi-year recipient of our coveted Everything SXM Award of Excellence -- look for it inside near the entrance.

Last but not least, one of the oldest restaurants on SXM is the small, family-run Trattoria Pizza Pasta next to Cheri's Café in Maho. Portions are big, the ambience can be a bit loud, and the food is about as consistent as you'll find anywhere. We've been going to Pizza Pasta for more than 20 years — excellent stop, and they too proudly display our Everything SXM Award of Excellence.

Enjoy.

13. Big Fish, Canoa Revisited

If you're not a regular visitor to the Big Fish restaurant in the Culinary Village at Dawn beach, you're missing out on an outstanding restaurant.

Despite its name, Big Fish is not limited to fish — it also has excellent beef and even vegetarian dishes. The restaurant is also rather eclectic, since it offers the spice that you might expect in some Mexican places; try their hurricane shrimp. And it also offers sushi appetizers that are every bit as good as those you receive in the island's top Japanese restaurants, such as Sushiitto. It's that good. The thing is, no matter what your appetite is, Big Fish is one of the few restaurants that can satisfy it with an eclectic collection of outstanding dining selections.

Across the street, you'll find *Canoa*, another restaurant resident of the Culinary Village of Dawn beach. *Canoa* offers Continental dining with a Caribbean flair. The variety, the ingenuity, and the atmosphere are all very special — and their new chef is excellent as well. Definitely give these neighboring restaurants a try.

14. Best Mexican Is Coming (Authentic Stuff)

Simpson Bay Resort, the sprawling complex on Billy Folly road that is just completing a massive renovation of the entire campus, is operated by Royal Resorts Caribbean Collection; Royal Resorts is headquartered in Cancun.

Who would be more knowledgeable about Mexican food than folks from Mexico? Nobody, we think. For the last several months, these folks have been working on putting the finishing touches on an authentic Mexican restaurant — authentic in every way, from real Mexican recipes and ingredients to *real Mexican chefs*. Spearheading the effort has been Julieta Sanchez, a lady with a passion for Mexican food and a history of knowing what to do about it.

Current plans call for an opening date sometime during October. We'll keep you posted; we hope to visit late this fall.

15. SXM's Two Most Eclectic Restaurants

We spend a lot of time "researching" SXM restaurants. How else could we possibly tell you about them? It's a hard job, but somebody has to do it.

Today, we report about two remarkably eclectic SXM restaurants, both on the Dutch side.

The first is *Vesna Taverna*, which is kind of like a chameleon. It began as a breakfast place and was originally called the bagel house. They still make bagels, but today they are much more well-known for their evening selections. *Vesna* is Macedonian and Greek and her husband *Yannick* is French. Consequently, they offer a unique combination of French, American, and Greek food. Saturday night is always Greek night with a boatload of Greek specialties as well as their full regular menu. As if she doesn't have enough to do, *Vesna* obsesses all day making decadent desserts of all descriptions, which is why I always look at the dessert freezer first.

The second is actually a group of closely related restaurants: *Mr. Busby's Beach Bar*; *Daniel's by the Sea* (see our article about Italian restaurants in this issue); *Island Pizza*; and the new rotisserie chicken place across the street from the others, in the *Great House Marina* along the road to *Oyster Bay Beach Resort*.

Mr. Busby's is the quintessential Caribbean beach bar, serving breakfast and lunch in gazebos under the palms and on the beach, by its beach boy service with *Grey* and *Jason*. They'll bring drinks, breakfasts, lunches, ice cream, and unending smiles. *Busby's* huge menu and the quality of their food are why hundreds of people flock to this restaurant every day, year-round; it never closes (no vacation; the restaurant does usually close at about 10 PM nightly). At night, the tablecloths come out, the candles are lit, padded seating comes out, and the restaurant is transformed into *Daniel's by the Sea*, a more upscale fine dining Italian restaurant with a big, popular lobster pool. Virtually all of the traditional Italian favorites you crave are here, using the kind of family recipes we mentioned elsewhere in this issue. *Daniel's* is a longtime personal favorite. Adding to the Italian flavors is *Island Pizza*, next door, open for lunch and dinner. In fact, if one member of your party wants pizza and the rest want other menu items from either *Busby's* or *Daniel's* during their operating hours, you can get the pizza delivered to your table at *Daniel's* or *Busby's*. The newest member of the dining club here is a small rotisserie chicken kiosk in the *Great House Marina*. Spiced just right, these succulent fresh rotisserie-roasted chickens have melt-in-your-mouth flavor. There are plenty of sides available too and the price is very reasonable.

Definitely give all these restaurants a try on your next visit to SXM.

16. Join The Conversation About Which Type Lobster is Best

Which is best — New England lobsters or spiny Caribbean lobsters?

That's one of the many critically important questions of our day that has been recently discussed on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). Join in the conversation, start one of your own, post pictures, answer questions, ask questions — our site is a great place to do all those things.

So, which is the winner? That's for you to decide. Delicious Caribbean Saba lobsters are available at most restaurants serving seafood. One, Skipjacks in Simpson Bay opposite the Kim Sha beach parking lot, offers both Saba lobsters and fresh Maine lobsters. So, get both and compare. You'll be delighted either way.

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

18. Restaurant of the Week: Returns in September

19. Comparing The Different Types of SkyMed Memberships

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.

It's Almost Fall - Time To Get Serious About SkyMed:

[Here's a comparison of the different types of SKYMED memberships:](#)

First, short term memberships are for brief trips in North America, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico -- 34 countries total. The advantage of short-term memberships is that they are very inexpensive, just about \$9 per day per person maximum of \$18 per day. The disadvantage is that they only cover you for the short term you are traveling; when they expire, your protection disappears. When you're ready to travel again, you must reapply for a new short-term membership. Although the process is quick, you still must be medically approved and at some point, that may not be possible. Bear in mind that many of us travel more than once or twice a year, even if it's only a few hundred miles from home to visit friends or relatives, which is why we recommend annual or multiyear SkyMed memberships instead of short-term memberships. *You do not want your protection to end.*

Second, both annual and multiyear SkyMed memberships are essentially permanent coverage. Once you've been approved and as long as you continue to pay your membership fee on time, your membership cannot be discontinued regardless of your age or changes in your health — two critically important advantages that ensure you have coverage when you need it most.

Third, Ultimate memberships cover multiple years and provide protection worldwide. The only exceptions are places like Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia — places no wise person would visit anyway. Ultimate memberships also offer the greatest breadth of coverage. You can see a complete list of all the features and benefits of these coverages [here](#).

Fourth, if you're an American or Canadian ex-pat living in St. Maarten or elsewhere outside your country for six months or more per year, you can still get SKYMED Takes you Home protection in the form of an ex-pat membership.

In addition to everything else he does, Jeff Berger has been a SKYMED rep for close to 14 years. He'll be happy to answer any questions you may have; just phone the office any weekday at 508-747-8281, or email him at Jeff@GetSkyMed.com. He generally returns calls and messages within 24 hours. To see [online frequently asked questions, go here](#). You can also see his site at www.GetSkyMed.com.

Got a spare \$45,000? That's what it might cost you to get a medical evacuation jet home should you need to charter it yourself. You'll also need to transfer your medical records, get a flight crew, make sure the plane is outfitted like an intensive care unit, and have a medical attendant on board who is ICU certified. Doing all that is expensive and time-consuming and not exactly easy in an emergency which is why we always tell people not to go anywhere without SKYMED protection. *It's practically Fall — time to get serious about SKYMED.*

JMB members get serious discounts on annual and longer SKYMED memberships. If you're not already a JMB member, join today and take advantage of those discounts -- everything is on sale!

For more on JMB memberships, look below.

[New JMB memberships](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) -- **SALE PRICES One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available)**
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml PRICES EFFECTIVE 9PM EDT 8/26/16

[Renewal JMB memberships](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) -- **SALE PRICES -- the longer the renewal, the lower the price per year:**
1 year \$35; 5 years \$95
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center* PRICES EFFECTIVE 9PM EDT 8/26/16

[JMB Membership Reinstatements](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml) -- **SALE PRICES -- the longer the reinstatement period, the lower the price per year: 1 year \$35; 5 years \$95**
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml> PRICES EFFECTIVE 9PM EDT 8/26/16

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.](#)

20. 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.

21. 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](#).

22. 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*.

23. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. This was scheduled to complete an update by 8/20.

24. 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://everythingxsm.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.

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<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://everythingxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

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