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#1063 --- Monday, 9/12/2016 -- 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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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have well over 270,000 readers around the world...**

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



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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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<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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- Blue Mall / Marriott Story: Is Marriott Coming to SXM?**
- What Changes Are Brewing at the Westin?**
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- They're Back: Our SXM Grab Bags - How To Get Yours**
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-- **Orient Beach is Open, But Club Orient is in its Annual Closing**

-- **As The Fall-Winter Travel Season Begins, Get Serious About SkyMed**

-- **No Age Limit to Join or Renew SkyMed**

-- **Win SXM Vacations and Much More in Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway**

26 news stories this week

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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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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 12/10/2016 12/17/2016 Week 50. La Vista. 1 BR Deluxe 2 BA. Unit #28. Renovated unit. Large balcony with ocean vista view. \$1,275 Mike 847-863-4277. lamoss1@mac.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/5/2017 3/12/2017 week 9 Simpson Bay Resort Bougainvilla building, One bedroom ,sleeps four top floor,new elevators \$9,500.00 Tony 781-738-6341 merlino.tony@gmail.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingsexm.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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25. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News
26. Win SXM Vacations and Much More in Our "Five Million Smiles" Giveaway

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://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. Tropical Weather Update

Although at this writing on Sunday afternoon there are no tropical systems threatening SXM, there continue to be tropical systems in the Atlantic east of the island and more systems moving east to west across Africa, headed toward the Atlantic. September remains a high point for tropical activity, and we'll continue to watch developments this month and next. In addition, we'll post National Hurricane Center Outlooks and Advisories as they relate to SXM and to the location of most of our readers on the US East and Gulf coasts. You'll find those postings on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

You can get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin any time through this link:
<http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

2. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Three Key Sources)

Here they are:

- a) [Crown Weather Services](#), whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- b) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops.
- c) Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.

N. B.: Never rely on any website if you find yourself in the path of a storm. Always heed all warnings from local authorities.

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. Intense Reaction to Plans for 776-Room Hotel/Apartment Complex for Belair Beach

About a week ago, SXM was rocked by news of a new China-financed 776 room hotel/apartment/"showroom" complex approved by the Dutch side government to be built on Bel Air beach.

The entire process — from proposal to hearings to vetting and so forth — was secret, which means no one except a few people in government had any advance knowledge of the bombshell announcement.

The announcement was met not only with a huge number of questions, but also with a great deal of anger and immediate opposition. An online petition (see story 5) sprang up which as of Sunday morning already had hundreds of signatures. Although we don't know of any public opinion surveys taken on SXM about the project, the vast majority of people who are talking about it seem to be strongly opposed.

Please see the following stories for more.

5. Petition Rises to Oppose Hotel Project...

See [what people are saying](#).

6. ... But Some Info Initially Reported Was Wrong, Gov't. Says; No "Million Tourists a Year"

Objections to this project centered on a spectrum of issues ranging from destruction of important wetlands to severe impact on island infrastructure to power generation, waste disposal, and many more.

One impact widely covered in the press noted that the project's Chinese backers had told government that the project would generate an additional one million tourists per year to SXM. Officials later walked that statement back, saying that one million tourists would be coming to St. Maarten over the ten years after the project was completed -- not per year.

Please see the following two stories.

7. Secrecy By Project Backers in Gov't Results in a PR Disaster

Most people don't like change especially when it impacts the way they live and work. The secret way in which this project was developed, which is not unusual on the island, has created added tension between political parties and a certain degree of mistrust by voters just ahead of major elections this month.

In the US, most major zoning and construction projects must be vetted at public meetings, must pass environmental hurdles, and are subject to public scrutiny every step of the way. People in the US may not like the projects, but at least they have an opportunity to comment -- and to know they're coming.

In this case on SXM, the project was sprung on the public at the last minute as a done deal ready for groundbreaking. If in fact the project is worth doing it needs to be properly explained to the public and sold to them -- not shoved down their throats, which is how many St. Maarteners regard the recent chain of events.

What is the real story? What are the answers to the questions? Is this in fact worth doing? Please see the next story.

8. SHTA Adopts a Wait And See Attitude: We Publish Their Statement

The influential St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association may be the most powerful industry group on the island. It has adopted a wait and see attitude on this project. We thought you'd want to see the entire text of a letter they recently sent to government. (If you ever want to write to the SXM Dutch Side government, you can use the same address):

Government of St. Maarten
Attn: Council of Ministers

P.O.Box 943
Clem Labega Square
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Philipsburg September 9th, 2016

Re: [Open Letter to the Government of Sint Maarten](#)

Dear Honorable Council of Ministers,

The St. Maarten Hospitality & Trade Association –S HTA, the largest private sector representative, has been closely following the media reports about the upcoming development of the Pearl of China/Caribbean. While the SHTA realizes that there could be a need for foreign Direct Investments and job creation, but lacking proper statistics there is no way to be sure. At this point we feel that we do not have enough information about the project in order to form a proper opinion. It would be a shame if one of the largest projects to reach our shores for many years doesn't happen because of a lack of information.

A project of this magnitude, which will impact the entire island should, besides broad community support, also enjoy broad political support. The only way to achieve that is through an open and transparent process. As an example the SHTA would like to mention the Indigo project where many rounds of consultations were held with the stakeholders before plans were finalized.

The SHTA considers it of the utmost importance that the community at large is properly informed when it comes to large developments.

In order to be able to assess the impact of this development we, as representatives of the private sector, have a few questions. Not asking these questions would make us poor representatives.

1. What are the credentials of these investors? i.e. How will the community be guaranteed that these investors have the capital and the ability to bring this project to fruition in an equitable and sustainable way?

Was an environmental impact study performed and if so can it be made public now?

This should, besides the effects on nature in the area, also include impacts on infrastructure, utilities and the surrounding residential communities.

Has an economic impact study been done? If so, can the results be made public?

2. Does this resort plan to offer all-inclusive packages?
3. Will this resort receive a casino license if they request one?

4. Did Government make any financial, fiscal or other commitments, like, but not limited to; Tax Holidays, permits for foreign employees skilled and unskilled, special utility rates, permits where it concerns concessions like i.e. watersports or beach chairs?
5. Has this project been looked at from the perspective as outlined in the carrying capacity study as well as the draft development plan for the little bay area?
6. Is there a plan to expand the airport in order to deal with the increased arrivals of long haul wide body jets?
7. Is there any additional information on the "water source" mentioned? If so can we please have it?
8. What is the intended location and scope of the "eco-city"?
9. What measures will be taken to prevent harming current businesses that already handle Chinese products on both a wholesale and retail level, like clothing, electronics and other consumer goods?
10. To what extent does becoming a "hub" impact government revenues when increased direct imports erode the TOT base?
11. Will the to be established, "competition authority" and "consumer protection" also apply to the Chinese showcase?
12. Will this showcase be open to anyone or only to businesses active in particular market segments?
13. Has advice from the SER been sought about the implications of this type of resort? If so can we review the request?
14. Is there an actual business plan that indicates how many jobs will be created post construction? And how many of these jobs will require Chinese speaking employees?
15. What type of business licensing will be required of the companies using the showroom?

These are just some of the questions that arise from the limited information available at this time.

In the interest of transparency, Government should provide more information. The good, the bad and the ugly, so that the people and taxpayers of Sint Maarten can decide for themselves whether this is an economic development that fits our community.

The SHTA has read and shares many of the concerns as expressed by the Nature Foundation and other vocal personalities in the community. The SHTA also appreciates the Prime Minister's concern that the opposition to the project, may scare off the investor.

This is, in the opinion of the SHTA all the more reason for some additional clarity. If this project is to be successful, buy-in from the entire community is required, and that can only be achieved once all the information is provided and the community at large is able to discuss the pros and cons in an open and democratic way, with due consideration for everyone's needs and concerns.

We look forward to receiving the requested information and constructive dialogue.

Sincerely,
The St. Maarten Hospitality & Trade Association - SHTA

c.c. The Council of Ministers
c.c. Parliament of Sint Maarten
c.c. The Ombudsman
c.c. The SER
c.c. Sint Maarten Media

9. Do You Own at Sapphire Beach Resort? You'll Need to Change Where You Park

For roughly 20 years, many timeshare owners at Sapphire Beach Resort have parked across the street on a vacant lot instead of using the hotel's underground parking.

Soon, that lot will no longer be available. The same organization that built lots of student apartments along Jordan Road near the American University of the Caribbean Medical School is about to build a new apartment complex across from Sapphire. We don't know the time frame, but our hunch is it will be under construction during the upcoming high season. We've also asked whether any of these apartments would be available to nonstudents but have not yet heard.

10. Blue Mall / Marriott Story: Is Marriott Coming to SXM?

For many months, there has been a persistent rumor on St. Maarten that Blue Mall is in trouble and that major changes were inevitable. There has also been a rumor that a Marriott hotel is coming to the Cupecoy area.

Interest by Marriott in the Cupecoy area is not new. Several years ago a senior Marriott executive had talked to the Verdier family at Sapphire Resort: that executive expressed interest in acquiring Sapphire. That transaction never happened but it appears that Marriott's interest in SXM hasn't waned.

Meanwhile, we hear that retailers at the Blue Mall are not particularly elated over the size of their monthly rents. Some have departed and others will follow, an industry source tells us.

Now, it's being said by seasoned sources within the hospitality industry that Marriott will acquire the Blue Mall and turn it into a resort property. We do not know whether Marriott is also talking to Sudi Ozkan, the Turkish billionaire who owns Princess port de Plaisance and also owns the big empty lot next to Ocean Club on Cupecoy beach. It would make sense for Marriott to acquire that property, which is for sale for several million dollars, for waterfront development.

In any case, you should expect a takeover of Blue Mall to happen in the coming months. By law, the owners of current condominiums on the upper floors of the building will not lose their ownership rights and privileges as the floors below them are heavily modified for resort use.

We know nothing further about the expected changeover — nothing about how many rooms, amenities, etc. We also don't know whether Marriott will operate the property itself or whether it will be handled by another entity such as Columbia Sussex, a huge multinational hospitality organization that currently operates Marriott, Westin, Hilton, and a number of other hotel brands and casinos worldwide.

When we know more, we'll pass it on.

11. What Changes Are Brewing at the Westin?

We've also heard from equally reliable sources that changes are brewing at the Westin.

Although this high-end hotel does very nicely in the winter, and not all that bad in the summer, it still isn't doing the business it would like and we've heard several customer complaints about the condition of rooms in certain buildings -- but that's not unusual.

To reach its potential, this resort needs an update from several perspectives. It needs to be able to handle bigger conventions of a size the island can't currently accommodate. Its pricing needs to be adjusted to meet the reality of stiffening regional competition. Some employees have been critical of the resort's maintenance, but touchups may be all that's needed there.

Although the resort has a casino, the casino is small and we have never seen it busy; we suspect that it doesn't bring in nearly the revenue the resort's owners would like. Whether Columbia Sussex will stick with this property and upgrade/rebrand it remains to be seen. We think the high likelihood will be a rebranding of the Westin which could well occur in the next year. Whether that means the property will be sold by Columbia Sussex to someone else, we don't know. But we do think that changes at this property are inevitable.

12. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts Benefits News & Updates

This new section of *SXM Weekly News*, which appears weekly, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining.

In addition, it will be the introduction point for new benefits beyond the 260+ already available to all JMB members. We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value.

13. Member Benefits Update: Island Activities

Over the last few weeks, this section has covered sailing, deep-sea fishing, and yacht charters; dining; car rentals; and jewelers.

This month it covers Activities. There are also "sailing" and "deep sea fishing" discounts referred to as part of Activities. *A current, valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card is required for all activities; benefits are for the member and spouse/partner only, no guests or friends are entitled to JMB discounts unless they are also current JMB members.*

We detailed what these benefits are in last week's *Weekly News*. Here, we're simply repeating who the providers are:

---Aqua Mania at the Simpson Bay Resort (formerly Pelican) Marina (agent for hundreds of SXM Activities)

- Butterfly Farm
- Celine Too Motor Yacht / Catamaran (Capt. Neil Roebert)
- Charter Yachting Discounts - Caicos Sailing:
- Charter Yachting - Select Yacht Charters
- Charters - Seaside Charters
- Classic Schooner Passaat
- Clothing-Optional Boat Charters - Captain Alan
- Deep See Fishing, Rudy's Deep Sea Fishing Discounts
- Diving - Octopus Diving in Grand Case
- Garfield Fun Charters Per Family Member Discount
- Go-Karting Coconut Trees
- Jet-Ski -- Happy Hour Charters
- Party Bus - "Da Party Bus" - The St. Maarten Party Bus
- Power Boat - Sea Angels
- Random Wind 54-foot traditional sailboat
- Yacht Excursions - Turtle Tours Yacht Excursion Discounts
- Zoo - St. Maarten Park / Zoo

Many more discounts are coming. Stay tuned.

SECTION 4: Island

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OUR "BEAT THE PRICE INCREASE" SALE CONTINUES

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on new, renewal, and reinstated
JMB memberships

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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:

Although our **regular** pricing for JMB memberships increases 9/15, you can still take advantage of our low sale prices all this week. ***These sale prices end soon, so take advantage of them today.***

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

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 NOW EFFECTIVE

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

14. They're Back: Our SXM Grab Bags - How To Get Yours

Our famous SXM grab-bags offer you a variety of discontinued SXM logo clothing and other merchandise from our warehouse. We Priority Mail grab bag merchandise directly to any US postal address (US addresses only, sorry). They're filled with SXM t-shirts, tank tops, drink coozies, beach bags -- whatever is in stock. Price, just \$49 per grab bag including shipping. Send your payment via PayPal (or check if you don't like PayPal) to the email address [jeff\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff[at]jmbcommunications.com). Include your current address and shirt size and a letter saying your sex (M,F,Y for Youth). You can include multiples if you want various stuff in one box. Sorry, supplies are limited so we can't ship specific items or colors. These were enormously popular the last two years so order early for a good variety. No refunds/returns so be sure to get your sizes correct.

Checks payable to JMB Communications may be mailed to JMB, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. Again, we ship only to US addresses (50 states).

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



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. We just got a new shipment so we're mailing these within two to three weeks of receiving your order. (Checks take longer to process.)

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 payable to JMB Communications — sorry, no Canadian checks. You can mail them to SXM euro ovals, care of JMB Communications, PO Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812.

We will send out various designs on hand, all of which we've copyrighted. (Image is low-resolution; the stickers are beautiful.) This offer will end in mid-October. Order now.

16. What's SXM Like in the Fall?

The weather this time of year in SXM tends to be a bit wetter than you may be accustomed to. That said, many people love the season because the island is quiet and the weather is usually still sunny and hot. What's more, the ocean now is about the warmest you'll find all year long.

Looking for a fall vacation? The island is lush and beautiful; come on down. For much more about places to stay and things to do, see www.everythingSXM.com.

17. Our 2nd 2016-2017 Season "Restaurant of the Week"

Trattoria Pizza Pasta in the Maho district, at the end of the alley between Cherie's Café and Casino Royale, is a one of those legendary "hole in the wall" places that serves great food.

In business for more than twenty years, the restaurant has a fiercely loyal following that loves its big portions, friendly service, informal atmosphere, and reasonable prices.

On the wall, you'll see they proudly display our Award of Excellence from Everything St. Maarten.

There pizzas are big, their listings of traditional entrées and salads is one of the biggest on the island, and the staff

has been here for years and knows what it's doing. Valet parking is available right in front of Casino Royale. Vegetarian selections too.

Definitely go and tell them we sent you. It's a long-time favorite. Pizza Pasta also gives discounts to JMB members; see the Secret Site for details.

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 beginning of this section.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 8/16)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 2/29/16)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/22/16)
Mario Bistro 9/5/16
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 9/12/16)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 7/25/16)
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)
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)

18. Orient Beach is Open, But Club Orient is in its Annual Closing

Your vacation may be coming up and you may be planning to spend a significant part of it succumbing to sand gravity nekkid on Orient beach.

The good news is that Orient beach is open as usual, including the clothing optional portion of the beach in front of Club Orient. Chair and umbrella rentals continue. The Papagayo restaurant is closed, as is the resort (annual closing). We've heard that the Perch bar continues to be open; it's a quick walk south along the beach from Pedro's.

19. Steeply Discounted JMB Military Memberships Offered to Vets & Active Duty Military

What's not to love about our new military memberships?

If you're an active duty, reserve, or retired member of the US military, you can upgrade to a military membership in JMB for four full years at just \$67.96 total – that's just \$16.99 per year paid in full upon joining.

With a military membership, you can renew at that same fee quite probably forever. What's more, converting an existing membership to military or joining us as a military member *immediately gives you platinum status JMB membership*, entitling you to highlighted ads on our site to sell or rent out timeshares you own in St. Maarten or elsewhere and to future benefits yet to be announced.

To join us as a military member or to convert your current JMB membership to military, send us a check for \$67.96 payable to JMB Communications, mailed to PO Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. If you'd rather pay by PayPal, go to www.paypal.com and send the \$67.96 to Jeff@JMBcommunications.com and in the Notes area, indicate that it's for a new (or renewal) military membership.

You'll need to email or fax us your military identification, with the serial number obliterated. The email address to use to send us your military ID info is support@JMBcommunications.com ; please don't use Facebook for any personal communications. You can also fax it to 508-749-7898. *Be sure to tell us the email you'll be using when you sign up, so we can match the ID to the new membership.*

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at support@JMBcommunications.com .

20. It's Fall: Time To Get Serious About SkyMed

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 makes all the arrangements and 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. There are no co-pays and no deductibles, either.

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.

Compare The Types of SkyMed Memberships:

Comparing The 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 about \$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 as a result of advancing age or declining 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, North Korea — 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 over 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 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 -- **SALE PRICES One year, \$49; Five years, \$109 (other durations available)**
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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*

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- **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>

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. No Age Limit to Join or Renew SkyMed

What's the upper age limit to join SkyMed? There isn't any: apply today regardless of your age.

What's the upper age limit to renew your existing SkyMed membership? Key point: just pay your SkyMed renewal on time and your membership will continue regardless of your health or age at the time of your renewal. There is no cutoff for advancing age or declining health, unlike so-called competitive programs. *And the price of your renewal membership will not increase due to declining health or advancing age.* SkyMed Takes You Home® -- what else matters?

22. 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.

23. 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](#).

24. 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*.

25. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. This is scheduled to complete an update shortly.

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

A complete list of all current prizes appears here soon — 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://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

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