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#1080 --- Monday, 1/9/2017
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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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 most 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. Read every week by more than 280,000 people around the world...**

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



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Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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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:

Not shown on PDF

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Not shown on PDF

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 St. Maarten Timesharing Group

<https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

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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- 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. The Eastern Air Lines Plane You Saw Was Not a Mirage...

Several months ago, we wrote about the resurrection of Eastern Airlines after having seen an Eastern 737 at Princess Juliana SXM Airport.

The airline had gone out of business decades ago, for all practical purposes, but its livery and trademarks were still alive. A group decided to relaunch the airline as a small charter operation and, in fact, it was one of their planes that went off the end of the runway in New York a few months ago with VP-to-be Mike Pence on board — it was his specially painted campaign plane.

The airline does mostly charters now, but also some regular Caribbean runs. It operates a small fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft and has a number of additional aircraft on order.

Eastern is coming back... We'll keep you posted.

2. "Today's SXM Weather" Now On Our Everything SXM Facebook Site

We post current SXM/St. Maarten/St. Martin weather every morning on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

2a. Late SXM Weather Info for This Coming Week

Rob Lightbown of www.crownweather.com reports that a vigorous cold front moving eastward north of the islands may spawn a low pressure system north of the northeastern Caribbean, possibly resulting in rough seas, 15 foot waves in some areas, and windy conditions. Surf began to get rough late on Sunday.

If you are on the island or heading to it, be sure to catch the latest weather updates from the sources shown in the next article.

3. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Four 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.

d) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

See significant National Hurricane Center Outlooks and Advisories as they relate both to SXM and to the US East and Gulf coasts on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.

4. 110% Guarantee Now On SkyMed Travel Club Hotel, Car Rental Rates

SkyMed is now introducing a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations. You can't lose with that kind of guarantee, so read this article, sign up, and make all your travel reservations directly through SkyMed Travel!

Here's what it is and how to join:

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 travel reservations and packages worldwide.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their new 110% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is a big deal.

Normally, this organization charges \$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. 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. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing.

You will not be disappointed.

Traveling?

Never go anywhere without SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection. Visit www.getskymed.com today; call Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at (508) 747-8281 or email him at jeff@getskymed.com with the subject "SkyMed".

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

5. Renovations Complete, Simpson Bay Resort Receiving Numerous Awards

At ceremonies to be held this Wednesday at Simpson Bay Resort, that property will celebrate the completion of its massive renovation program and the opening of its new authentic Mexican restaurant, La Patrona. The agenda includes award presentations from Interval International and from Dutch side government officials.

Soon, SkyMed International expects to present a special award to the resort — and so do we, an Award of

Excellence from Everything SXM.

The renovation, which cost tens of millions of dollars, tore out virtually every room in the resort from floor-to-ceiling, transforming the entire resort into a beautiful, modern facility with all the amenities visitors expect.

If you want to rent or buy a timeshare at Simpson Bay, visit www.everythingSXM.com and click timeshare rentals; hundreds are on our site.

6. La Vista, L'Esplanade, Baker's Suites, Summit Resort Receive Awards of Excellence

In addition to Simpson Bay Resort, recipients of our Everything SXM 2017 Awards of Excellence in the hotel/timeshare sector include La Vista Resort and La Vista Beach, L'Esplanade Hotel in Grand Case, Baker's Suites in Simpson Bay, and Summit Resort in Cupecoy, all well-deserving properties which have done heavy renovations in recent years. They're very well deserved accolades...

7. Finally, Some Good News About Sapphire

Sapphire Resort has had more than its share of bad news over the last several years.

First, Resort Condominiums International, the largest timeshare vacation exchange company, yanked recognition from Sapphire a few years ago, disallowing trades into or out of it from all RCI owners. The cause of this debacle was Sapphire allowing the place to fall into serious disrepair. Timeshare owners had howled to RCI about the Resort's condition, in part using addresses published here in *SXM Weekly News*. Even government officials reported that Sapphire was failing inspections in numerous categories.

Second, timeshare owners also complained that the resort continued to charge annual maintenance fees that some owners alleged were not being used to perform annual maintenance. Worse, some said, the resort was collecting Supplemental Maintenance Fees which they alleged were used to pay for routine maintenance.

The resort brought in Jan Borsje, a gentleman heavily experienced in the timeshare business having been the well respected general manager of Oyster Bay Beach Resort for many years. Working with the developers, he appears to have made a substantial difference now on the property.

But before he arrived, Bruno Sitbon had been hired to manage the resort. He spent a lot of his own money improving it and buying upgraded items for the entire resort -- and he executed a Purchase and Sale agreement with the developers, Jean and Philippe Verdier.

There has been a contentious court battle over resort ownership in recent years as a result. Bruno Sitbon claims to have a valid P&S agreement and, in fact, the court in St. Maarten already ruled in his favor, saying that the P&S is valid and must be honored -- but it has yet to enforce the ruling. Some observers are alleging that much of the funding for the current major maintenance at the resort came out of Bruno Sitbon's pocket -- as well as from Supplemental Maintenance Fees charged to timeshare owners. Hopefully we'll all know the bottom line before long.

Regardless, timeshare owners now visiting the resort are providing glowing reports. They say the resort is in excellent shape with many new appliances, that it's very clean, offers plenty of fresh towels, and that even employees are responsive.

Future ownership of the resort is still cloudy but it will hopefully be resolved in the coming months. As always, we'll keep you posted.

SECTION 3: Member

8. "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 JMB.

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. We expect to be close to 300 later this month.

Please see below for this month's story.

9. January Member Benefits Update: SXM Activities

Here are our SXM Activities Discounts, in alphabetical order. Remember also that we give discounts on all activities from AquaMania — which adds hundreds more discounts exclusively for our members. All discounts require your current, valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card, a photo ID, and any voucher noted on the Secret Site.

Aqua Mania at the Simpson Bay Resort (formerly Pelican) Marina, booking agent for Tango, Lambada, The Edge, and more, offers JMB Website Supporters members 10% off all regularly scheduled trips.

Butterfly Farm is a unique adventure for everyone in your family -- weekend photographers love it as much as kids. JMB members get a significant discount.

Celine Too Motor Yacht / Catamaran (Capt. Neil Roebert) Members-only Discount for Tintamarre Day Sails and Lagoon Pub Crawls Aboard the Celine Too-- A discount is offered off all of Celine Too's trips; for the sunset lagoon cruise, the discount is a full 50%. Yacht charters are also available and they get a percentage discount as well.

Charter Yachting Discounts - Caicos Sailing: "Caicos Sailing Charter Yachting," based in Tortola, offers either 10% off all cruises/charters or 8 days for the price of 7.

Charter Yachting - Select Yacht Charters, a provider of luxury yacht charters in SXM and around the world, offers JMB Website Supporters members a free bottle of Dom Perignon champagne for all bookings of one week or more.

Charters - Seaside Charters offers boat charters to SXM beaches and neighboring islands. You can see all their charters at www.everythingsxm.com/secret/discounts/seasidecharterdescription.pdf.

Classic Schooner Passaat offers JMB members discounts on its cruises: Sunset, \$30 p.p. (usually USD\$35); Dinner cruise, \$71 p.p. (usually USD \$79); and Day sails, \$80 p.p. (usually USD\$89).

Clothing-Optional Boat Charters - Captain Alan -- with five boats, five captains, and many excursions -- some clothing optional -- Capt. Alan offers \$ off off all trips to JMB Website Supporters members.

Deep See Fishing, Rudy's Deep Sea Fishing Discounts Rudy Sierens, of Rudy's Deep Sea Fishing, Dutch Side, is one of the most experienced captains working from SXM. You can see his website [here](#). Forget the rates listed on his site: yours are significantly lower.

Diving - Octopus Diving in Grand Case does much more than diving; see their website, www.octopusdiving.com . Octopus offers JMB members a discount off all activities.

Garfield Fun Charters \$5 Per Family Member Discount: Garfield Fun Charters offers a number of enjoyable SXM sailing adventures; see www.garfieldfuncharters.com for details.

Go-Karting Coconut Trees, on the road between Marigot and Grand Case, offers all JMB Website Supporters members a 20% discount off all Go-Karting.

Jet-Ski -- Happy Hour Charters offers JMB Website Supporters members a percentage off JetSki rentals and many, many other tours.

Party Bus - "Da Party Bus" - The St. Maarten Party Bus is a somewhat wacky but deliriously fun adventure from the Baker family, owners of Baker's Suites Boutique Hotel, Simpson Bay, and Tropicana Car Rental, Simpson bay. See their website for all that [Da Party Bus](#) has to offer. Our members get a significant discount off regular rates.

Power Boat - Sea Angels is a charter business using a very fast 36-foot power boat able to travel to all local islands in comfort and speed. Day charter rates start from €800 for the day. Significant discount for JMB members.

Random Wind 54-foot traditional sailboat offers JMB Website Supporters members \$ off the Paradise Day

Sail *per person* when you book directly.

Yacht Excursions - Turtle Tours Yacht Excursion Discounts: Plying the turquoise waters of the lagoon, sailing around the island, or going to close-by islands with Turtle Tours is a pleasure. Join one of their packaged excursions, or create your own. Your JMB Website Supporters membership entitles you to 15% off any Turtle Tours excursion on any full day rental/outing that comes to Turtle Tours directly, meaning not through an activities desk etc.

Zoo - St. Maarten Park / Zoo 25% discount on admission for up to two people.

More discounts are coming. Stay tuned.

For details on all the above, see the Discounts Master Index in the Secret Site. (Members only; username & password required). To use these discounts your current, valid JMB Membership Card is required. Again, see all the details on the members-only Secret Site.

Still not a member? See next article. A new set of benefits will be explored in February.

SECTION 4: Island

9a.
**Get a Huge Selection of About 300 Discounts
for Everything You Do in SXM --**

Three Years, \$99; Five Years, \$129; One Year, \$59

Click these Links:

New JMB memberships

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

**Hear Jeff Live On Island 92 Radio (91.9 FM or
www.island92.com)**

**Every Monday at About 9:45 a.m. Island Time,
8:45 a.m. EST**

10. Photographing Monarch & Great Southern Butterflies in SXM

Although the numbers of yellow Great Southern butterflies and monarch butterflies aren't yet approaching the levels of recent years — during which tens of thousands of great Southern butterflies were seen near wildflowers — the numbers do appear to be increasing, thanks perhaps to more nearly normal rainfall and possible lessening of the recent Caribbean drought.

Great Southern butterflies are not particularly photogenic, but Monarchs are. You'll find them near tropical milkweed which is in bloom with its bright red flowers across the island. We occasionally run pictures of Monarchs on tropical milkweed in the masthead photo of our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

11. Irritating French Side OPC Activity Diminishes as Gendarmes Go After Perps

OPCs are off premises consultants, officially; they stand beside roads flagging down tourists to sell them timesharing. They often offer a dinner or some other incentive if you sit through a 90 minute presentation.

On the French Side, they have often set up shop on private property and interrupt the flow of traffic, irritating property owners and apparently breaking French law. Gendarmes have recently taken active measures against them and the OPCs have disappeared from the main road near the border at Oyster Pond. Unfortunately, they're still at the scenic overlook just north of Baie Lucas on the French Side. Wave them off if you aren't interested.

12. Warning: Avoid Gypsy Cabs

Legal cabs on the Dutch side of the island have license plates that read TAXI. On the French side, the license plates read TXI.

Illegal Gypsy cabs do not have these plates, although they may have little signs proclaiming their vehicles to be Taxis. They aren't legal; they aren't licensed; and they aren't insured, which is why we never recommend them to our readers. They may be cheaper than regular cabs, but cheaper isn't always better. They certainly are not as safe or reliable as regular taxicabs that are licensed. We always suggest tourists check the license plates of all "taxis" before doing anything.

13. Take It iZi: Reflections on a Legend, Davide Foini (La Gondola, iZi)

When he opened his original La Raviolina in Sandy Ground many years ago, Davide Foini was fresh off a Royal Caribbean cruise ship intent on making a life for himself on French St. Martin. He manufactured pasta at La Raviolina and sold it to island restaurants.

His pasta was an instant hit and folks urged him to open a restaurant. He opened a hole-in-the-wall called La Gondola in Sandy Ground, next door to La Raviolina. On some nights Davide worked alone, taking orders then running to the kitchen to prepare the food then running back to serve it. All the pasta was homemade fresh.

Between manufacturing pasta and running his little restaurant, Davide was working a ton of hours but the neighborhood was sliding downhill and Davide accompanied diners to their cars in a small lot across the street from his restaurant. Ultimately, the neighborhood no longer worked and Davide wanted to do something completely different so not long after the millennium, he opened his legendary upscale La Gondola at Atlantis Casino and closed the Sandy Ground location -- and soon he stopped making his pasta for other restaurateurs. La Gondola was an immediate upscale smash hit and it stayed that way for years.

When he sensed the economy teetering, he opened iZi in Simpson Bay, an upbeat, less expensive Italian restaurant where he has gradually added some La Gondola favorites and allowed his perfectionist tendencies to lead the way in refining his recipes still further toward perfection. He soon closed La Gondola and his sole focus ever since has been perfecting iZi Ristorante Italiano, which has received top honors from Trip Advisor, *The Daily Herald* reader poll, and our own *Everything SXM Award of Excellence* many times including for 2017.

Nothing ever stays the same in the restaurant business but the bottom line is the quality of the food, service, and ambiance. If you've not yet visited iZi, go; you will not be disappointed. Check the JMB Website Supporters members-only Secret Website: iZi offers multiple discounts and benefits to JMB members, as always. It remains one of SXM's top Italian Restaurants.

14. New Orient Beach Bars, Restaurants Take on a Familiar Appearance

When they were first built and opened about a year ago, the new restaurants/bars between Pedro's and Kon Tiki on Orient Beach looked cookie-cutter similar -- and sterile. There was no canopy over the dining area on the exposed deck, ignoring tropical downpours. And there was no individuality.

That has changed as the businesses were allowed to personalize their buildings. We've posted some pictures of the buildings now on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Facebook Site](#). You may have to scroll down a bit to see the pictures since the page has 7500+ members and is very active.

15. Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna

We've mentioned Vesna Taverna on multiple occasions over the last few years, ever since we first visited simply to buy a coffee about five years ago.

Known simply as the Bagel House in those days, Vesna Taverna today has relocated to bigger quarters on the lagoon side of Airport Road just north of the Dutch Side drawbridge. It has become one of the most popular restaurants in Simpson Bay and the only one that combines classic American dining with many Greek, French, and Caribbean influences.

Open for breakfast and lunch seven days a week, Vesna is also open for dinners from Wednesday through Sunday. Mussels and salmon imported from Nova Scotia come in by air and are featured all week but especially on Friday night. Saturday is Greek night, reflecting a full day of cooking by Vesna herself (she is a delightful combination of Greek and Macedonian) -- her fine cooking and the restaurant's entire regular menu are both offered every Saturday, along with Vesna's quick-selling decadent desserts.

At breakfast, the restaurant serves all the usual favorites plus delicious homemade bagels. The smoked salmon is outstanding. Smoothies are also offered all day; excellent stuff.

If you haven't yet tried Vesna Taverna do it on your next visit to the island. Vesna and her husband, French chef Yannick, do an outstanding job here every day: you'll love it.

The article we published a few weeks ago about SXM's top Seafood Restaurants is now on its own page on our website — see a complete list of [top seafood restaurants here](#). It includes many fine restaurants in what we've called The Culinary Village at Dawn Beach -- lots of great stuff is there including also Daniel's by the Sea, Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, Island Pizza, delicious Rotisserie Chicken, the multi award-winning Big Fish, and Canoa.

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 12/26/16)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 11/28/16)
Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 12/5/16)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/22/16)
Mario Bistro 9/5/16
SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 12/19/16)
Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 12/5/16)
Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16)
Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 11/21/16)
The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16)
Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)
Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15)
Temptation, <http://www.temptation-sxm.com/> (featured 10/10/16)

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 9/19/16)
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16)
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.vesnataaverna.com (featured 1/9/17)
Topper's <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)

16. A Look Back at "Old" SXM Restaurants: Story #7

Over the years, St. Maarten/St. Martin has been home to many restaurants of varying descriptions. This series briefly describes a number of restaurants from both sides of the island that have passed into history but have not left our memory.

Le Perroquet: This was continental fine dining on Airport Road before it was ever really fashionable here. As one review said at the time, "Chef Pierre Castagna prepares exotic specialties, such as grilled breast of ostrich in a bordelaise sauce, as well as savory dishes featuring duck, veal, and beef." In fact the chef brought out a platter of raw meat samples to each table, fascinating some visitors but repulsing others. It was a love it or hate it restaurant particularly regarding the chef, who was not patient with those rare customers who didn't like what he served. At the end of the day, though, most people revered him and this memorable restaurant.

Check next week for another article about a former SXM restaurant.

Featured so far in this series:

- 1- West Indian Tavern
- 2- Sam's Place
- 3- Turtle Pier
- 4- Scavenger's
- 5- Surf Club South
- 6- Laguna
- 7- Le Perroquet

Next week: See what we'll publish here. See also story 13 about La Gondola.

17. A Series of Travel Disasters in SXM

Not every trip to SXM winds up the relaxing event you'd expect. These events all happened in SXM:

A recent Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. *Flight & ambulance cost to the patient: \$0.*

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. *Flight & ambulance cost to the patient: \$0.*

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cole Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted rider in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was evacuated by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. *Flight & ambulance cost to the patient: \$0.*

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. *Flight & ambulance cost to the patient: \$0.*

A man suffered severe respiratory failure and lapsed into a coma on the island. He too was airlifted and returned to Texas where he recovered.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in just about all these actual cases. SkyMed took its members home in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet with an ICU-qualified medical attendant -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home to where their health insurance actually works.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger today at 508-747-8281 or email jeff@getskymed.com and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also walk you through the application by phone. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian expat living overseas more than six months a year.

Anything can happen: do it today, *before* you need it. You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find Frequently Asked Questions here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2015SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

To learn more, see www.getskymed.com. *JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing on most memberships*: see the beginning of this section. Again, contact Jeff anytime at jeff@getskymed.com or [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com); please use the subject SkyMed.

18. Warning About Driving on the French Side

French authorities exact huge penalties for anyone in your car failing to wear seat belts; for the driver using a cell phone; or for drunk driving, which has a very low threshold. Dutch Side laws are catching up but enforcement there right now is not as rigorous as on the French Side. So ... across the island ... wear your seat belt; don't use your cell phone while driving; and never drive after drinking. Share this with your friends by downloading a PDF of this issue and forwarding it. The PDF of this issue will be available soon on our [PDF Archives](#) page.

More stories are below.

Get SkyMed Now, *Before* You Need it.
Got Questions About
SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation?

Phone or Email Jeff: (508) 747-8281
jeff@getskymed.com

SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling, saving you upwards of \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance if you aren't a member -- to set up an emergency medical evacuation yourself. Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it. Call any weekday during normal business hours, Eastern Time. Please leave a message or email us if you get a voicemail response.

19. Enter Our Five Million Smiles Vacation Giveaway; Now Includes 14

Vacations

Both of our two Grand Prizes are weeks at two of the island's most fabulous villas — the names of both of them are below. *All vacations are subject to availability, seasonal limitations, and island taxes / fees at the discretion of the resort owners.* Here are all our prizes:

- Eight days and seven nights at [Belle Vue](#), an incredible villa overlooking Orient Bay on the French Side that will accommodate up to eight people (bring your family / best friends -- or not). We're grateful to the owner and to [IREvacations.com](#) (and SXM's top real estate agent Arun Jagtiani) for supplying this incredible vacation.
- Eight days and seven nights at [Villa Onyi](#) at Point Blanche. Featured on HGTV this is one of the island's most breathtaking villas, inside and out.
- Eight days and seven nights in the [Guest House at Colony Manor Goldendaze](#), brand new and gorgeous on quiet Simpson Bay Beach.
- Eight days and seven nights at the beautiful [Villa Son Risa](#) in Pelican Key (Cleaning charge applies; avail. May-Sept. 2017.)
- Eight days and seven nights at [Mercure Beach Hotel and Marina](#), Simpson Bay Lagoon, French Side (new)
- Eight days and seven nights at [Holland House Beach Hotel](#), Philipsburg, on Great Bay Beach (new)
- Eight days and seven nights in a garden studio (from 4/15/17 to 12/15/17) at [Mary's Boon Beach Resort](#)
- Eight days and seven nights at [El Zafiro](#) beachside resort on Simpson Bay Beach (new)
- Eight days and seven nights at [La Vista Resort or La Vista Beach](#);
- Eight days and seven nights at [Baker's Suites](#) in Simpson Bay, near Kim Sha Beach
- Eight days and seven nights in a brand-new two bedroom suite at [Simpson Bay Resort](#);
- Eight days and seven nights at [The Summit Resort](#);
- Four days, three nights, plus open bar and breakfast at naturist [Club Fantastico](#)
- Four days, three nights in boutique hotel style suites in the main building at [Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#).
- A one-week car rental from Leisure Car Rental, one of our car rental partners (Grand Prize)
- A one-week car rental from Tropicana Car Rental, our first car rental partner (Grand Prize)

There are also many other prizes including:

- A Helicopter ride for the grand prize winner (from Corail Helicopters, Grand Case Airport)
- Jewelry prizes:
 - Caribbean Gems (to come)
 - [Oro Diamante](#) Two \$100 Gift Cards good toward any purchase, one for each Grand Prize Winner
 - Little Europe Jewelers (to come)
 - Zhaveri Jewelers (to come)
- From Tijon Parfumerie in Grand Case, a bottle of Ti Amour, their new gold perfume collection with 23K gold inside, which normally sells for 129 € per bottle.
- Full-day cruise for two to Tintamarre aboard the 62' Celine Too Motoryacht
- Cruise for two on the legendary Celine Too Pub Crawl
- Tour of the Etna Ice Cream Factory -- and a few pints to take with you
- Tour of Toppers' Rhum Distillery (including free samples, if you're old enough)
- A painting by renowned SXM artist Patty Meotti which has been posted in our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). More on Patty is [here](#).
- A \$100 Gift Card good toward any purchase at Le Grand Marche
- A \$50 Gift Card for Aaron Mei's / No Rest Agencies' Julio's Smoke & Booze, a leading wholesaler of snacks and island souvenirs located in the Dutch Side Industrial Park, Simpson Bay
- We'll detail these soon.

Many dinners for two are also offered for the Grand Prize winners, including this heavily updated group:

- Dinner for two at award-winning Chef Dino Jagtiani's [Temptation Restaurant](#);
- Dinner for two at the exquisite new [Mario Bistro](#) in Cupecoy;
- Dinner for two at [Spiga Restaurant in Grand Case](#);
- Dinner for two at [Big Fish Restaurant](#), Oyster Pond
- Dinner for two at [SkipJack's restaurant](#), Simpson Bay (limit, \$90)
- Dinner for two at [Daniel's By The Sea](#) on Dawn Beach;
- Dinner for two at [iZi Ristorante Italiano](#), Simpson Bay.
- Dinner for two at [Infinity Restaurant at Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#);
- Sunday Brunch for Two at [Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#)
- Breakfast Buffet Any Day for two at [Toppers Restaurant](#) in Simpson Bay
- \$50 Gift Certificate for [Avantika Restaurant](#);
- Dinner for two at [Toppers Restaurant](#);
- Dinner for two at [Pineapple Pete Restaurant](#)

- Dinner for two at [Sushiitto Restaurant](#)
- Dinner for two at [Trattoria Pizza Pasta](#)
- Dinner for two at [Vesna Taverna](#) in Simpson Bay
- Dinner for two at [Lal's Curry In a Hurry Indian Restaurant](#);
- Dinner for two at [Cheri's Cafe](#) (limit \$50);
- Dinner for two at [The Boathouse](#);
- Lunch for two at Patrick Turner's [Tropical Wave](#) on Le Galion Beach;
- All Dinners are subject to reasonable limitations.

You can enter now if (and only if) you're 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 readers will not be accepted; Subscribe directly now by clicking "Free Newsletters" at www.everythingsxm.com. *Only direct subscribers are eligible to win -- and subscriptions are free.*

Traveling Anywhere?

Never go anywhere without SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection. Visit www.getskymed.com today; call Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at (508) 747-8281 or email him at jeff@getskymed.com with the Subject "SkyMed".

20. SkyMed Is On Sale

Updated 12/26/16

What SkyMed Does: SkyMed *Takes You Home*® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. *SkyMed is your free ticket home aboard an ICU-equivalent emergency medical evacuation jet with an ICU-certified medical attendant on board to help make sure everything goes as it should.*

How SkyMed Works: Like clockwork, you're taken from the hospital by ambulance to a waiting aircraft 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 for SkyMed services, ever.

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

What's It Cost? *Without* SkyMed, you'll need \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance to pay for an emergency medical evacuation — if you can make the dozens of calls necessary to set it up in an emergency. SkyMed does all that for you, for a small membership fee; you simply make one phone call 24/7/365 to get things going.

Why Buy Now? We're offering SkyMed now at very special pricing *for JMB Website Supporters members only — but if you're a nonmember and care to join SkyMed now through us*, we'll enroll you in JMB Website Supporters at the same time. This offer is available only by phone; call Jeff directly at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed questions only) and he will be happy to answer your questions, tell you about the different types of programs available, and their respective costs. He'll also be happy to fill out your application for an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership by phone and at the same time you can set up a JMB Website Supporters membership (required to get the biggest multiyear SKYMED discounts).

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.

Types of SkyMed Memberships:

First, short term memberships are for brief trips in North America, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico -- over 30 countries total. Short-term memberships are very inexpensive, about \$9 per day per person, maximum of about \$15 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 well be impossible (**see story 19**). 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 just when you may need it most.

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 may 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 you won't visit anyway. (Ask before going anywhere dangerous/unusual.) 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 / St. Martin or elsewhere outside your country for six months or more per year, you can still get SKYMED protection in the form of an **ex-pat** membership. Email us (see next paragraph) and we can tell you how it works and answer your questions.

In addition to everything else, Jeff Berger has been a SkyMed rep for over 15 years. He'll be happy to answer questions; phone him weekdays 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 SkyMed site at www.GetSkyMed.com.

JMB members get serious discounts on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. If you're not already a JMB member, join today and take advantage of those discounts.

For more on JMB memberships, see below,

New JMB memberships

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

More stories are below.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

21. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. The page has just been completely updated -- all issues for the past few years are now online.

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_xsm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2017 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.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select *2016 St. Maarten Weekly News* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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

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

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at support@jmbcommunications.com

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

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

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

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