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#1082 --- Monday, 1/23/2017  
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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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during 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. Now read by more than 285,000 people around the world...**

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in.

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***-- Ocean Club Bought Out, New Management in Place***

***-- Group Forms to Rejuvenate Philipsburg***

***-- Get a Huge Selection of About 300 Discounts for Everything You Do in SXM --  
Three Years, \$99; Five Years, \$129; One Year, \$59***

***-- Dutch Side Suffers Another Big Blackout***

***-- Three Restaurants For Sale***

***-- Lemondroppers Season Formally Launched at Cupecoy Beach***

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**32** 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 260+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

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

Not in PDF

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

Not in PDF

### **Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)

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

## This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

"Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Facebook Site:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook 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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

**Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):**

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

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

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

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

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

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4. 110% Guarantee Now On SkyMed Travel Club Hotel, Car Rental Rates
5. AA Launches Cheaper "Basic Economy" Fares

See Section Four for an article about the new Airport emigration kiosks.

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6. Ocean Club Bought Out, New Management in Place

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

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**Section Five:** For Members Only (Revised 12/31/14)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

**Section Six:** Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)  
(Revised 12/31/14)

How To Get a ***GROWING LIST of 230+*** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the \*secret\* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a total of a growing list of 200+ additional major travel benefits, including reduced-cost access to

Not a member yet? See [http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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. Weather Back To Normal After a Week of Rough Surf, Beach Changes

People familiar with SXM beaches know they can change markedly after rough surf. Prolonged northerly winds which ended early last week took lots of sand from Orient beach near Pedro's and moved it south, giving naturist Club Orient more sand than it has had in years.

Of course, all changes are temporary; when mother nature decides, she'll change them again.

Perhaps the most significant changes were at Dawn Beach and Club O — both beaches expanded markedly.

At Orient, up to four lanes of beach chairs appeared between Perch and Papagayo for the first time in memory. At Perch, much of the beach used by Pedro's for lounges disappeared, moving south. The flagpole at the Perch was removed before it could fall into the ocean, but it was set to be replaced last Friday or Saturday. Sand under the Perch stairs was washed out but reappeared late during the week.

All in all, significant gains in sand on several beaches — a much better outcome than many expected.

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](#).

### 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](http://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](http://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.

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### 4. 110% Guarantee Now On SkyMed Travel Club Hotel, Car Rental Rates (Updated 1/21/17)

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 <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, 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. ***If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.***

You will not be disappointed.

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## Traveling?

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

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## 5. AA Launches Cheaper "Basic Economy" Fares

In an attempt to compete better against low-fare carriers, American has launched new Basic Economy fares. More: <http://tinyurl.com/zr66rel>

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

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## 6. Ocean Club Bought Out, New Management in Place

Ocean Club has been bought out, we're told, and now has new management in place. Renovations are also underway and the resort appears to be after more management employees. We're told the new chief honcho is Eric Loos. We've seen no signs at all of any adverse effect on timeshare owners.

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### **SECTION 3: Member**

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## 7. "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.

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## 8. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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## **SECTION 4: Island**

9.

***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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)



### Renewal JMB memberships

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

### JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

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Hear Jeff Live On Island 92 Radio (91.9 FM or [www.island92.com](http://www.island92.com))

Every Monday at About 9:45 a.m. Island Time, 8:45 a.m. EST (subject to weekly variations)

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## 10. Mother Nature Replenishing Sand at Club Orient, Affected by High Surf

Please see story one in the "Weather" and Getting Here section, above, for this story.

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## 11. Group Forms to Rejuvenate Philipsburg

Philipsburg at night is practically a ghost town, and a similar situation exists in Marigot. That's why a number of Philipsburg merchants are working together to see if they can't bring some renovations to the Dutch side capital city and other changes to re-attract tourists at night. The group plans to look at all aspects of the situation to develop workable solutions.

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## 12. Dutch Side Suffers Another Big Blackout

After installing, testing, and launching a new generator a few weeks ago, GEBE, the Dutch side excuse for an electric company, said everything was hunky-dory and that it was working toward a time when it would be delivering dependable electric power generation.

As it turned out, that time still appears elusive. One night last week, power went out completely across the Dutch side, inconveniencing everyone and generating a horde of derisive comments about GEBE across the spectrum of social media. And it went out again late in the week in some areas.

After having endured up to about six hours in the dark, most Dutch side residents and tourists the next day continued to complain about GEBE, which is government-owned and which charges about triple the rates paid by Americans.

The saga of GEBE's poor performance continues.

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## 13. Three Restaurants For Sale

If you're interested in owning a restaurant in St. Maarten, now may be the time to jump in. It is not an easy profession, especially since neither the Dutch side nor the French side advertises very much and consequently, the island has only about a four-month high season and less business the rest of the year. You need a thorough understanding of the business, deep pockets, and the understanding that you're going to need to work about 18 hours a day to make it happen.

If you're interested in pursuing current opportunities, we'll put you in touch with people who know what's available. Email us at [JMBweb@JMBcommunications.com](mailto:JMBweb@JMBcommunications.com) with the subject "restaurants for sale."

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#### 14. Lemondroppers Season Formally Launched at Cupecoy Beach

Kim, the unofficial mayor of Cupecoy, has arrived and is holding court on the beach late every afternoon: the Lemondropper's 2017 season has begun.

Bring some Absolut Citron and enjoy the clothing-optional fun any afternoon on Cupecoy beach. Chairs and umbrellas are available for rental, food is available for purchase, and parking close to the beach requires only a nominal fee. Just do it; very enjoyable.

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#### 15. At Spiga, New Menu Gives You Even More Great Choices

At [Spiga](#), the fantastic Italian restaurant in Grand Case, owners Lara and Ciro Russo during the low season made a number of menu changes. Don't worry, all their most popular menu items are still available but now there are many more new selections.

In fact, the selections are so exceptional and creative that the biggest problem is figuring out what to have. Lots of items were extremely appealing.

I usually go for their black Angus filet mignon but on our most recent to visits, we chose fish entrées, to the surprise of Lara. Great food, beautiful ambience, authentic Patty Meotti paintings on the wall (for sale), and legendary service. Go; you'll quickly see why we view Spiga so highly.

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#### 16. Valentine's Day Gift Specials For JMB Members Only Offered by SXM Jewelers

In the next few days, we'll be emailing links to JMB Website Supporters members only for Valentine's Day discounts and special offers from downtown Philipsburg jewelers. Other good offers will be made available to readers of *SXM Weekly News* but, as always, the best offers go to JMB Website Supporters members. See the beginning of this section for information on joining our very popular SXM discount program.

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#### 17. Where To Get Patent Medicines You Need

Orange Grove Pharmacy, across the side street from the Harley-Davidson dealership in Cole Bay off the Union Road, is the best place on the island to get all your patent medicines. They have a great selection and are ready to help you. Moreover, JMB Website Supporters members are entitled to a 10% discount on non-sale items: always bring your JMB Website Supporters membership card and a government issued photo ID. Frank is the owner/pharmacist.

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#### 18. Update: Etna Ice Cream is Back in Production

Etna Ice Cream, the the ultra-premium super creamy Ice Cream manufactured for many years on the French side of the island, is now back in limited production and expects to resume full production very shortly. Their products are now starting to reappear in some area markets. Watch for quantities to increase soon. Well worth looking for and waiting for....

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## 19. Update: No Sargasso Seaweed

A couple of years ago, Sargasso seaweed two feet deep formed a ring around island beaches but it disappeared about five months ago. There's none now, and beaches are in excellent shape — giving you additional reasons to come on down.

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## 20. Update: No Issue With Mosquitoes; Use Mosquito Milk

We first heard of mosquito milk on the island roughly 20 years ago and we've been using it ever since. Infused with a natural lemongrass sent, mosquito milk is highly effective at repelling some of the few mosquitoes that are still on the island. We've heard of no current issue with dengue fever, Chikungunya, or Zika, which are carried by the aedes agypti mosquito.

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## 21. Have You Tried SXM's Clothing-Optional Beaches?

See our story about trying naturism for the first time [here](#), and see our review of all SXM beaches [here](#).

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## 22. Vesna Taverna's Legendary Morning Lox & Bagels

Early every morning, Vesna Taverna cooks a variety of delicious home-made bagels. Their breakfasts are terrific including lox (smoked salmon) and bagels. Although Vesna is better known for her dinners (Wednesday through Sunday), she has great lunches and breakfasts, too. Give them a try. See her site, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com).

Dinners: delicious traditional American dining with superb mussels and fresh imported Nova Scotia salmon and lots more. Saturday night is Greek night (Vesna is 1/2 Greek) with lots of Greek specials and their full regular menu. Great restaurant, a consistent winner of our *Everything SXM Award of Excellence*. And they give discounts to JMB Website Supporters members -- see the beginning of this section to learn more about JMB membership.

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## 23. All Kinds of Sushi at Big Fish (Much More Than Just Fish, Too)

Lots of places on SXM sell sushi, but only Big Fish of all mainstream restaurants has real sushi / sashimi appetizers. There's more on their menu than the usual maguro tuna and salmon, too. Their sushi menu includes: Crab, Shrimp, Ahi Tuna, Saku Tuna, Hamachi, and Atlantic Salmon. They use traditional short-grain rice and everything you expect including chopsticks, of course.

At the same time they have a huge menu of creative seafood and non-seafood selections. We went recently and it was one of the best meals of our trip. They have an outstanding Lobster and Shrimp cocktail (cooked, of course) which is highly creative and loaded with delicious lobster and shrimp morsels -- and their specials really are extra-special and worth your attention.

Service was attentive, appetizers and main dishes came out promptly, and all in all it was a terrific night. If you have not visited Big Fish this season, plan on it -- better than ever. They are a consistent winner of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence. And they give discounts to JMB Website Supporters members -- see the beginning of this section to learn more about JMB membership.

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## 24. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #9

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.

La Raviolina: When native Italian Davide Foini (La Gondola and now iZi Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay) first settled in SXM after a stint with Royal Caribbean, he opened La Raviolina, and started selling homemade pasta to SXM restaurants. His first sales were to Daniel Jurczenko, now the guy behind Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and Daniel's by the Sea. Davide was constantly urged to open a restaurant and he did, in his tiny kitchen. At times he was waiter, owner, and cook, but started acquiring staff to help as the popularity of the restaurant soared. But the neighborhood soured and Davide later moved, opening upscale *La Gondola* restaurant at Atlantis (now Starz) Casino, closing that after many years after opening his enormously popular iZi Ristorante Italiano, one of the best on SXM.

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
- 8- Ric's Place
- 9- La Raviolina
- 10 - Watch for our next "look back" in another week.

Got suggestions? Email them to [susan@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susan@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "Look Back."

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## 25. Restaurant of the Week: Mr. Busby's Beach Bar

Throughout all of the beach bars in the Caribbean, finding anything remotely like Busby's is a hard task indeed.

First, it's on the beach under the palms, on the windward side of the island. In the unlikely event there's no breeze, no problem -- ceiling fans in all their gazebos keep you comfortable year round.

Second, they serve breakfast and lunch. Hearty home-cooked meals are offered with experience by day manager Laurell, whose friendly smile greets you and truly brightens each morning. Taken together, everything makes breakfast highly enjoyable. Besides all the things you usually love, they have French toast offered on baguettes or various breads, pancakes, and their Egg BLT -- big and delicious. There's lots more for breakfast, but what about lunch?

Lots of sandwiches including their big beefburgers, many salads, and even Philly Cheese Steak. You can even pick up Busby's Rotisserie chicken next door or their great Island Pizza, thin crust and delicious with a nearly endless choice of scrupulously fresh toppings.

Busby's gets packed in season but it's a big place so there's seldom much of a wait. Reservations are available for large parties. See their site, [www.dawnbeachsxm.com](http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com). By the way: ask to sit in "Jeff's Office" -- it has the best view in the entire restaurant. Busby's is a consistent winner of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence. And they give discounts to JMB Website Supporters members -- see the beginning of this section to learn more about JMB membership.

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](#).

**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/](http://www.bigfishsxm.com/) (featured 1/16/17)  
IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 11/28/16)  
Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 12/5/16)  
Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 1/23/17)  
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 7/25/16)  
Pineapple Pete, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://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](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 4/13/15)  
Vesna Taverna, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.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)

More stories follow.

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## 26. Thinking of Buying a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages

Short term SkyMed Medical Evacuation memberships are cheap, only \$15/day per couple (including minor children). Pre-existing conditions are covered immediately for those who qualify.

But the bad news is that once your short-term membership ends, it's over, and you must medically requalify to get coverage for any subsequent trip. *Your health can change instantly at any moment so letting a membership disappear like that may not be the best thing to do for yourself.*

Annual and multiyear memberships cost only about \$1.30/day per couple -- way cheaper. They include more benefits -- especially Ultimate memberships. [See all the features and benefits here.](#)

SkyMed never increases the pricing on its memberships related to your advancing age or declining health. *Once you sign up for SkyMed, you're a member for life as long as you pay your renewals on time. And SkyMed never cancels anyone because of advancing age or declining health.*

Do NOT take chances by waiting. GET SKYMED BEFORE YOU NEED IT ...so you'll have it when you DO need it. See [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com). *In our opinion, it's the best medical evacuation membership product on the market.* --Jeff

More stories follow.

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## 27. 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 age.

What's the upper age limit to renew your existing SkyMed membership? *There isn't any.* 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 membership 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?

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## 28. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation

Updated 1/23/17

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

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

Renewal JMB memberships

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

More stories are below.

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

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

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## 29. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits

Read it for yourself: it beats every would-be competitor hands-down. Look:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

This is an Adobe Acrobat PDF Document. Your system most likely already has a PDF Reader (free) but if not you can get one here: [download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

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## 30. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml). All issues for the past few years are now online.

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

Phone or Email Jeff: (508) 747-8281

[jeff@getskymed.com](mailto: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.

## 31. 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 Meit'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 Breach 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](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](http://www.everythingsxm.com). *Only direct subscribers are eligible to win -- and subscriptions are free.*

More stories follow.

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## Traveling Anywhere?

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

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### 32. See The Latest in SXM Real Estate Online -- Just Updated

Effective today, Monday, January 23, by 6 p.m., we updated our listings of St. Maarten Real Estate available for sale, in a variety of categories. See [all the listings in five new categories](#) on our site. Feel free to share this with friends!

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### Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) .

Want to rent or buy a week?

\*2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com](http://www.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsexm.com/secret). Your username and password are required.

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

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

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret>. If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at **[support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)**

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

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsexm.com](http://www.everythingsexm.com).

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

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