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#1085 --- Monday, 2/13/2017  
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

## [Member News \(New\)](#)

### 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)

Add [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) to your address book  
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...**

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



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

**In This Week's SXM Weekly News:**

- **"Below Deck" Bravo Series Returns to SXM; Filming Starts, Support Boat Sinks**
- **Valentine's Day**
- **Major Timeshare Resort Buys Major Upscale Condo Property; What Happens Next?**
- **Blizzards Play Havoc on Flights to/from SXM**
- **French / Dutch Dispute Over Captain Olivers Settled - Or Not?**
- **Valentine's Day Special Jewelry Offers Extended to End of Feb.; Fourth Special Added**
- **Weak Canadian Dollar, Government Issues Hurting SXM**
- **Crime Prevention: Lock Your Car, Take Your Keys, Leave Nothing Valuable Inside**
- **Ends Friday: Valentine's Day Membership Sale Delivers Low Cost for About 300 SXM**

**Discounts -- One Year, \$44; Four Years Only \$89**

**-- The Ugly American**

**-- Those Amazing Pools Return to Cupecoy -- Then Disappear Again**

**-- SXM's Super Spots for Shimmering Sushi**

**-- A Portrait of Lady Ruby Bute**

**-- A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #12**

**-- 30 Day Free Look, No Age Limit When You Join SkyMed**

**-- Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits**

**-- Enter Our Five Million Smiles 14-Vacation Giveaway**

**-- See The Latest in SXM Real Estate Online -- Just Updated**

**-- Introducing The Periscope**

**35** news stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

## 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 version.

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

Not in PDF version.

### **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)

**Section One:** Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather [Go To This Section](#)

1. Current Weather
2. "Today's SXM Weather" Now On Our Everything SXM Facebook Site
3. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Four Key Sources)
4. 110% Guarantee Now On SkyMed Travel Club Hotel, Car Rental Rates
5. Blizzards Play Havoc on Flights to/from SXM

**Section Two:** Accommodations (*Hotels, Inns, Timeshares*) [Go To This Section](#)

6. Very Low-Cost Rentals at Villa Onyi for JMB Website Supporters Members (Worth Joining Just for This...)
7. Reminder: Another Reason to Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Timeshare Owner Orientations

See the lead story in Section 4.

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

**Section Three:** Member Discounts & Benefits [Go To This Section](#)

8. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts Benefits News & Updates
9. Next Level Car Rental Partners With JMB
10. February Member Benefits Update: Shopping in SXM (Jewelry, Clothing, Booze, Cigars, Much More)
11. Valentine's Day Special Jewelry Offers Extended to End of Feb.; Fourth Special Added
12. "Everything St. Maarten" Bracelets for JMB Members Only Available at DK Gems

**Section Four:** Island [Go To This Section](#)

**13. Ends Friday: Valentine's Day Membership Sale Delivers Low Cost for About 300 SXM Discounts -- One Year, \$44; Four Years Only \$89**

14. Major Timeshare Resort Buys Major Upscale Condo Property; What Happens Next?
15. French / Dutch Dispute Over Captain Olivers Settled - Or Not?
16. "Below Deck" Bravo Series Returns to SXM; Filming Starts, Support Boat Sinks
17. Valentine's Day
18. Crime Prevention: Lock Your Car, Take Your Keys, Leave Nothing Valuable Inside
19. The Ugly American
20. Those Amazing Pools Return to Cupecoy -- Then Disappear Again
21. Arts in the Park is Sunday
22. Weak Canadian Dollar, Government Issues Hurting SXM
23. To Work, Your Timeshare Rentals / Sales Must Arrive Early (No Unit #s)
24. A Portrait of Lady Ruby Bute
25. SXM's Super Spots for Shimmering Sushi
26. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #12
27. Restaurant of the Week:
28. Thinking of Buying a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages
29. 30 Day Free Look, No Age Limit When You Join SkyMed
30. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation
31. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits
32. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News
33. Enter Our Five Million Smiles 14-Vacation Giveaway
34. See The Latest in SXM Real Estate Online -- Just Updated
35. Periscope: Some of Next Week's Top Stories

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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***

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1. Current Weather

Weather the past week has been low 80s, lows in the mid 70s, with brief light passing showers -- mostly at night.

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

Check our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) each day for daily weather updates. You'll find forecasts by clicking Weather on our site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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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 has introduced a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations. You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up (it's free), and make your travel reservations directly through SkyMed Travel.

What it Is - 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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#### 5. Blizzards Play Havoc on Flights to/from SXM

Recent ongoing blizzards in the Northeast have wreaked havoc with vacationer travel plans. Some have been stuck in the cold waiting for flights to SXM and other warm-weather destinations, and others have been stuck on the island.

Some like extra days in SXM, others -- not so much. Missed business and medical appointments, babysitters who can't stay, and other issues cloud the fun of spending extra days in SXM. On the other hand, that also happens year-round...

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Traveling ***Anywhere?***

***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***



[jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com) with the subject "SkyMed".

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

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### 6. Very Low Cost Rentals at Villa Onyi for JMB Members (Worth Joining Just for This...)

Villa Onyi at Point Blanche is exquisite inside and out, and has been featured multiple times on HGTV.

Now, JMB Website Supporters exclusively get a very low price rental on this amazing property:

Rent Villa Onyi for USD\$3000.00 for a full four weeks or USD\$1500.00 for two weeks for the months of February and March 2017... Includes housekeeping service once a week (on Wednesdays) with basic cleaning, all utilities, cable TV, internet inclusive. Attractive pricing is available later, too.

Contact management via email at [onyinyechi.llc@gmail.com](mailto:onyinyechi.llc@gmail.com) or send them a message via <https://www.facebook.com/VillaOnyi/>

Tell them you heard about it through *SXM Weekly News*. Prices are for JMB members; others pay more, so join JMB by clicking the page curl at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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### 7. Another Reason to Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Timeshare Owner Orientations

Simpson Bay timeshare owners ought to sit in on the orientations at that timeshare resort through the end of March. Not only is the pastry delicious, but a surprise mystery guest will be there and you might want to hear what he has to say. He may have something for you, too....

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## **SECTION 3: Member**

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### 8. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

This 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.

*We now offer about 300 discounts (including those now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value. Please see below for this month's story.*

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### 9. Next Level Car Rental Partners With JMB

Next Level Car Rental -- which may have caught your eye because of its presence on the electronic ad board above Topper's in Simpson Bay -- has now joined JMB Website Supporters as an additional provider of car rentals. Their 65-car fleet offers all kinds of vehicles and they offer two types of discounts to JMB members.

For details, see "Car Rentals" in the Discounts Master Index on the JMB Website Supporters members-only Secret Website starting Sunday night, 2/12/17, after 8pm EST. Not a member? See the beginning of this section -- our Valentine's Sale ends Friday.

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## 10. February Member Benefits Update: Shopping in SXM

"Shopping" is one of the biggest sections of our JMB Website Supporters Discount Program's "Secret" members-only website. Discounts are offered for jewelry, cigars, spirits, clothing, all kinds of souvenirs and gifts, and far more. We also have discounts on many day sails, hundreds of activities (water & land), restaurants, and tons more.

*JMB Website Supporters currently offers JMB members nearly 300 discounts and other benefits across the island and beyond. See the beginning of the next section to join and to [save on virtually everything you do in SXM](#).*

For details on all the above, see the Discounts Master Index in the Secret Site. (Members only; username & password required).

[Still not a member? See next article](#) -- it's time you start saving.

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## 11. Valentine's Day Special Jewelry Offers Extended to End of Feb.; Fourth Special Added

We know it's tomorrow but giving great gifts is never out of style -- so here are a few great new chances to make someone special very happy. [All of these offers are good until February 28, 2017](#).

Click these links for our special Valentine's Day offers:

[Caribbean Gems](#)

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#)

[Little Europe Jewelers](#) (our newest partner -- this is a raffle for JMB members only -- click and participate)

[Oro Diamonte](#)

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## 12. "Everything St. Maarten" Bracelets for JMB Members Only Now Available at DK Gems

The bracelets are for JMB Website Supporters members only and are offered at a discount. We published pictures of them on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). Multiple types -- gold, silver, etc. - are offered. Current, valid JMB membership card required as is a government-issued photo ID. Contact Jeff at DK Gems, <https://www.facebook.com/dkgemsinternational>. Phone and online orders can be accepted if you send valid ID info.

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### **SECTION 4: Island**

## **13. Valentine's Day Membership Sale Ends Friday 2/17:**

**About 300 SXM Discounts --**

**New Memberships:**

**Four Years, \$89; One Year, \$44**

**Join, Renew, or Reinstate at**

**Low Sale Pricing:**

[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>

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

New Day: Now Every Wednesday  
at About 9:45 a.m. Island Time,  
8:45 a.m. EST

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#### 14. Major Timeshare Resort Buys Major Upscale Condo Property; What Happens Next?

A major SXM timeshare resort on Friday purchased a large luxury beach-front condominium complex, *SXM Weekly News* has learned. The parties are preparing a formal announcement for next week at which time we'll publish it in its entirety. We've submitted a number of questions to the principals and expect them to be answered in their release -- one way or another we'll have the full story for you next week. JMB Website Supporters members have been told via members-only Bulletins about a Facebook page exclusively for them -- we'll post the news there first. It will also go on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

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#### 15. French / Dutch Dispute Over Captain Oliver's Settled - Or Not?

The Dutch Side government has long regarded Capt. Oliver's Restaurant, operated by Maggi Shurtleff, as being on Dutch soil, and the resort has long paid taxes on the Dutch Side.

The French disagree and have been heavy-handed about telling the very affable (and usually unflappable) Maggi that she is on French soil and needs to follow French rules and pay French taxes.

All of this as been going on for six years + but recently escalated into something of an international incident, requiring negotiations between the two countries. In fact, we saw French and Dutch ministerial officials meeting at the Westin St. Maarten this week, although we do not know their agenda.

We've heard nothing about a settlement which Maggi had told us she expected this week. As soon as we hear, we'll pass it along.

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#### 16. "Below Deck" Bravo Series Returns to SXM; Filming Starts, Support Boat Sinks

"Below Deck," the Bravo TV series which entertainingly purports to show what life is like "below deck" between the crew and captain of a luxury Caribbean motor yacht, *Valor*, is back in SXM filming the show's next season.

The show originated several years ago at which time its home port was Port de Plaisance Marina, SXM. A "Bon Voyage" party was held in Florida several days back for Capt. Lee Rosbach, The Boss. Captain and crew are in SXM.

Some major characters won't be back for at least the initial episodes, including Chef Ben Robinson who is concentrating on his catering / holistic foods business in Florida and working on his YouTube channel and productizing his popularity.

Chief Stew Kate Chastain was arrested a while back for allegedly choking her girlfriend last June. At first it was said that she consequently would not be back on the show, but now we hear from a source close to the production that she will be back.

Although the series has a reality show lilt, it isn't reality. A majority of cast members are real yachties, but some have little yachting experience. They "crew" gathers for the filming aboard a rented yacht, then disperses after about six weeks of filming -- back to other yachts or other jobs.

It is quite entertaining nonetheless and some characters have become very popular. We will keep you aware of what's going on as we gather more info. Frankly, we miss the original Chief Stew, Adrienne Gang, who clearly knew what she was doing and ran a tight ship....

Meanwhile, Silver Queen, a 78-foot wooden sport-fishing boat used for production crew support, sank in the Fort Louis Marina Friday after an accident involving a propeller, a mooring line that got caught around it during docking, and a large hole. Nobody was hurt and it's going to be refloated this weekend; another support boat is being sought. Not exactly an auspicious start.

Lastly, many of the most popular crew members will be on a special Carnival Cruise off the west coast around Memorial Day. We'll have details soon.

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## 17. Valentines Day

It's one of the busiest holidays, of course -- restaurants are usually packed. Make reservations asap and call if you must cancel. Ads with special menus will be in local papers Saturday 2/11 (when many of you will see *Weekly News*) and on Monday.

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## 18. Crime Prevention: Lock Your Car, Take Your Keys, Leave Nothing Valuable Inside

There has been an increase in car thefts on SXM. Park in well-lit areas only, lock your car, and take your keys. Leave nothing valuable in your car or trunk. We still see people leave handbags, cameras, iPads, etc. in car trunks - and if we see it so do thieves. Don't do it anywhere, in SXM or at home.

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## 19. The Ugly American

We think the full moon may have something to do with it as well, perhaps, as the current tendency in the US toward name calling and public insults among some people. There's no excuse when visiting a foreign country for arrogant behavior -- blowing a whistle to get a beach boy's attention, shouting, leaving garbage behind, arguing loudly in restaurants. Let's all do our best to be civil to each other -- it's a small planet and all of us have an equal right to live here in peace.

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## 20. Those Amazing Pools Return to Cupecoy -- Then Disappear Again

Tidal pools refreshed by gentle waves appeared on Cupecoy Thursday, among the most beautiful, friendly places to enjoy life serenely.

But the waves -- coming from left to right -- were filling the pools with sand even as we enjoyed them, so by now they are filled in. When the waves come from right to left, the Shore Pointe beach at Cupecoy will wash away again, leaving rocks -- and "baby" beach will get sand. The beaches change constantly. John and Dany offer chairs and umbrellas and drinks and food -- so just go and enjoy. The beaches are traditionally clothing optional.

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## 21. "Arts in the Park" is Sunday

Dutch SXM's "Arts in the Park" Arts Festival at Emilio Wilson Estate, off L. B. Scott Road north of Grand Marche, Sunday 2/12, offers artists with many paintings, snacks, and more, for all ages. Just go and see some fascinating artwork at reasonable prices.

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## 22. Weak Canadian Dollar, Government Issues Hurting SXM

The very weak Canadian dollar is redirecting thousands of Canadian tourists to more economical destinations than SXM -- or forcing many to come here and simply spend less. Front street in Philipsburg, following a dead Summer and Fall season, is having one of its worst winter seasons in memory. "Stayover tourists are saving us," one jeweler told us, "but it's still brutal."

Bloated ships carrying low-fare passengers to SXM (as something less than a first-day destination) means little business from cruise ships. And SXM still has no Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection (US-style), which has soured many people from buying bedrock-important timeshares in SXM. And nothing has happened to help former Caravanserai timeshare owners or Sapphire timeshare owners, who have been through so much that many have sold units at low prices to people who eat in their rooms and appear to buy little other than beers.

The government spends virtually nothing on promotion and little on infrastructure and claims poverty. It needs to prioritize fixing infrastructure (electricity, roads, street lights, traffic lights) and promoting the island through advertising. Its fortunes will worsen, as will those of its people, unless it does all of those but there's no sign it's even listening.

A record 29 million tourist visits were recorded in the Caribbean in 2016. A story in the *Miami Herald* said there was double-digit growth in Turks & Caicos, Cuba, Bermuda, and Guyana, while the Dutch Caribbean islands reported a drop. At this point, that should hardly come as a surprise.

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## 23. To Work, Your Timeshare Rentals / Sales Must Arrive Early (No Unit #s)

JMB members can submit up to 10 ads / year (more for Platinum members) at 125 words each (more for Platinum members) to rent out or sell timeshare condos they own in SXM. Advice: submit them as far in advance as possible. That positions you high in the listings for your date, since ads submitted later appear after ads submitted earlier. The longer your ad runs, the more time it has to work.

For security reasons, we no longer publish unit numbers in ads. We will start accepting ads for 2018 rentals / sales on March 1, 2017.

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## 24. A Portrait of Lady Ruby Bute

She's an island artist who has been painting the people and moods of SXM for decades, among the most respected and well known of artists here. She has a small Gallery in Friar's Bay which you can visit by appointment. It shows not only her work, but stunning items from other island artists.

See some of Ruby's work here: <http://digibrushart.tripod.com/id10.html> and contact her here: <https://www.facebook.com/ruby.bute>

We visited recently. She's one fascinating lady.

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## 25. SXM's Super Spots for Shimmering Sushi

Three spots, in different parts of the island, offer three different variations:

- Big Fish in Dawn Beach, on the road to Oyster Bay Beach Resort and Mr, Busby's / Daniel's Bay the Sea, offers sushi appetizers but the variety is quite good. You can also have sushi here as your main course. Excellent restaurant -- a multiyear recipient of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence.
  - Sushiitto outside Port de Plaisance Casino has a full sushi menu plus teppanyakki cooking at your table -- and their teppanyakki folks know how to cook and respect dietary issues, too.
  - Ginger in the plaza behind IZI really goes whole hog for sushi lovers. Lots of choices and you can even get full sushi boats. Popular with vegetarians too -- reasonable pricing.
- 

## 26. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #12

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.

L'Alabama: For a lot of years, L'Alabama was by far (in our opinion) the best restaurant on the island. Located on Boulevard de Grand Case, it was French fine dining at it best, with Karin, from Austria, and Pascal, from Paris, in charge. The food was spectacular with a great Caesar Salad to start and a wide choice of specials from land and sea worldwide for specials, part of a kaleidoscopic ever-changing menu. Karin and Pascal were business partners who ultimately went their separate ways, Pascal briefly to Cuba then back to Paris and Karin to Austria to raise her young family and be near her parents. The property where L'Alabama reigned supreme now houses La Villa. L'Alabama was one of the best ever... no doubt at all.

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

Featured so far in this series (D=Dutch F= French):

- 1- West Indian Tavern D
- 2- Sam's Place D
- 3- Turtle Pier D
- 4- Scavenger's D
- 5- Surf Club South F
- 6- Laguna D
- 7- Le Perroquet D
- 8- Ric's Place D
- 9- La Raviolina F
- 10 - Da Livio D
- 11 - La Gondola D
- 12 - L'Alabama F

Next week: Andy 'n Cheryl's F

Coming soon: La Calanque F, La Diva F

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

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## 27. Restaurant of the Week: Sushiitto

Like great sushi? You'll see three sushi-serving restaurants listed elsewhere in this issue (story 25), but only one has teppanyakki. That would be Pierre Ferland's Sushiitto.

Teppanyakki cooking puts a chef in front of you to perform acrobatic cooking stunts over a hot grill but what matters more is the quality of what you get. GM Ivan keeps a close eye on everything and makes sure you get what you want, as you want it -- dietary issues are no problem at all here. The food is always fresh and delicious and very impressively served. One of our long-time SXM favorites and a multi-time recipient of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence. Highly recommended.

The article we published about SXM's Top Seafood Restaurants is now on its own page on our website — see a complete list of [top seafood restaurants here](#).

The article we published about SXM's Top Italian Restaurants is now on its own page on our website -- see SXM's [top Italian 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)  
Avantika Thai [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 2/6/17; added 2/17)  
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)  
La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 1/30/17; added 1/17)  
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 2/13/17)

More stories follow.

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## 28. 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) or \$9/day for an individual. 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 so letting a membership disappear like that isn't 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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## 29. 30-Day Free Look When You Buy SkyMed Medevac Protection

As a consumer you're well protected since SkyMed offers you a 30 day free look. See [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com).

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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## 30. 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.

## 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, Valentine's Day Sale ends soon - join, renew, or reinstate now.

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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31. 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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## 32. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxm.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.

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## 33. Enter Our Five Million Smiles Vacation Giveaway; Includes 14 Vacations

(2/6/17)

Our Five Million Smiles 14-vacation giveaway celebrates our site surpassing five million visits in the next several weeks. The site: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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:

- Grand Prize: 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.
- Grand Prize: 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
- Two Cases of Heineken Beer, one for each Grand Prize winner, donated by International Liquor & Tobacco
- 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 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](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.

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

Updated listings of St. Maarten Real Estate available for sale, in a variety of categories, are live as of today, 2/13. See [all the listings in five new categories](#) on our site. Feel free to share this with friends!

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### 35. Introducing "The Periscope"

The Periscope gives you a glimpse of major stories we're working on for our next issue. The feature will appear when appropriate (not every week).

Here's some of what's coming:

A long-standing feud between the Netherlands and France regards the tax status of Capt. Oliver's Restaurant which the French have been claiming for six years is on their side of the island and therefore owes them \$. The Dutch say it's on the Dutch Side as always. We'll let you know what's decided.

A popular Dutch Side Timeshare Resort has bought an upscale condo resort on the beach. We'll tell you who/what and what it all means as soon as the finalized agreement is formally announced, later this week we expect.

Look for **Periscope** here in the coming weeks.

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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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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](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 / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.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](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.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

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

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