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#1086 --- Monday, 2/20/2017
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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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address.
For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#)
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Important Note:

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



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

<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:

- **Oyster Bay Beach Resort Buys Coral Beach Club; What Happens Next?**
- **Blockbuster Bravo TV Series "Below Deck" Filming in SXM; Cast Dines at Toppers, for Broadcast**
- **Etna Ice Cream Back in Full Production, Grocery Stores Stocked Up**
- **Captain Oliver's Saga Ends Happily, For Now; Prefet Apologizes**
- **Cugini Restaurant For Sale**
- **Super U in Hope Estate / Grand Case Unlikely to Open Until Late This Year**
- **Very Low-Cost Rentals at Villa Onyi for JMB Website Supporters Members (Worth Joining Just for This...)**

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- [-- February Member Benefits Update: Shopping in SXM \(Jewelry, Clothing, Booze, Cigars, Much More\)](#)
- [-- Last Call - Sale Ends This Friday Feb. 24: Valentine's Day Membership Sale on 300 SXM Discounts One Year, \\$44; Four Years \\$89 -- Renewals/Reinstatements 1 Yr., \\$34 but 5 Yrs \\$109](#)
- [-- Crystal-Clear Weather Delivers Visibility to Seven Islands](#)
- [-- US Customs / Immigration Preclearance at SXM Airport Under Discussion](#)
- [-- SXM Officials Talking to Airlines About Airlift: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly](#)
- [-- A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #13](#)
- [-- Thinking of Buying a Short-Term SkyMed Membership? Advantages, Disadvantages](#)
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- [-- Enter Our Five Million Smiles 14-Vacation Giveaway](#)

32 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 and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

Not 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

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format (New):

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

See story #20 in Sec. 4 regarding US preclearance at SXM Airport

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

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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8. February Member Benefits Update: Shopping in SXM (Jewelry, Clothing, Booze, Cigars, Much More)
9. "Everything St. Maarten" Bracelets for JMB Members Are Available at DK Gems

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10. Last Call - Ends This Friday Feb. 24:

Valentine's Day Membership Sale Delivers Low Cost for About 300 SXM Discounts -- One Year, \$44; Four Years Only \$89 -- Renewals/Reinstatements 1 Yr., \$34 but 5 Years \$109

11. Oyster Bay Beach Resort Buys Coral Beach Club; What Happens Next?
12. Blockbuster Bravo TV Series "Below Deck" Filming in SXM; Cast Dines at Toppers -- With Film Crew Shooting
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31. See The Latest in SXM Real Estate Online -- Just Updated

32. Periscope: Some of Next Week's Top Stories

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

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

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

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

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

Not a member yet? See http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 260+ benefits... and more coming soon.

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. Current Weather

Normal winter weather: sunny, light breezes, increasingly rare very brief showers. Hillsides drying out with fields turning straw-brown. Weather this past week was low 80s, lows in the mid 70s.

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.

3. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Four Key Sources)

Here they are:

- a) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- b) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops.

c) Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.

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

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

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

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

4. 110% Guarantee Now On SkyMed Travel Club Hotel, Car Rental Rates (Updated 2/18/17)

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

What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers):

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.

Traveling *Anywhere?*

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

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

5. 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. Special low JMB member-only rates for months through October are coming soon: feel free to inquire now. Membership number and expiration date required.

Contact management via email at onyinyechi.llc@gmail.com. See their site at <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.

6. A New 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....

SECTION 3: Member

7. "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.

8. 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.

9. "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 finishes -- 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.

"Everything St. Maarten" is a trademark owned by JMB Communications and is used with permission. JMB does not manufacture, sell, or warranty these products.

SECTION 4: Island

10. Valentine's Day Membership Sale

LAST CALL

Ends This Friday 2/24:

About 300 SXM Discounts --

New Memberships:

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

Renewals/Reinstatements 1 Yr., \$34, 5 Yrs \$109

New JMB memberships

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

Renewal JMB memberships

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

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

New Day: Every Wednesday

Somewhere Between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. Island Time,

EST one hour earlier

11. Oyster Bay Beach Resort Buys Coral Beach Club; What Happens Next?

Oyster Bay Beach Resort (OBBR), one of SXM's premier timeshare resorts, has bought nearby upscale condominium resort Coral Beach Club. The terms of the sale are expected to remain private. Both resorts offer quick and easy walk-on access to Dawn Beach on the eastward or windward side of the island.

We will have much more complete coverage of this after it has been formally announced. Our expectations are that it will offer current timeshare owners unprecedented upgrade options, enhanced future amenities, and improved beach access. For condo owners at Coral Beach Club, at the very least it's likely to mean vastly improved/upgraded marketing opportunities.

This move, like the recently completed \$35-million major renovations project at Simpson Bay Resort, shows tangible faith in St. Maarten's future from overseas investors -- a good sign. We'll be talking more about what the island needs to do to capitalize on this in future editions of *SXM Weekly News*.

12. Blockbuster TV Series "Below Deck" Filming in SXM; Cast Dines at Toppers

Below Deck is the second most popular reality series on Bravo TV -- second only to its *Housewives* series. *Below Deck* returned to SXM about 10 days ago to film its next season, expected to be aired probably late this Summer.

Capt. Lee and others -- sans Chef Ben Robinson, who may well be back later in the season -- are on the megayacht Valor which normally is named "BG" and is a familiar site around SXM. We believe it is moored at Port de Plaisance. This past week the cast visited Toppers in Simpson Bay late at night complete with a film crew doing series filming. They're likely to be seen elsewhere and may already have visited Calmos in Grand Case.

People in Little Bay this week saw Valor not far from shore, where its water slide was deployed during the day. The boat was brightly illuminated at night as filming continued almost nonstop.

Expect some beach excursions, food shopping, and restaurant visits, along with lots of activity on the water. The project will end late next month.

[Beat The April Price increase
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Memberships:](#)

[Get SkyMed Now, **Before** You Need it.](#)

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

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

13. Captain Oliver's Saga Ends Happily, For Now; Prefet Apologizes

Although it is on the mostly French northern part of Oyster Pond, Captain Oliver's Restaurant has always been regarded by the Dutch Side as a Dutch Side business. It functions just like any other Dutch Side business.

The issue is that almost everything else in that area is considered part of French St. Martin. So Gendarmes came by a while back and raised quite a ruckus, claiming taxes were owed and property upgrades were disallowed until the

restaurant did what French Side officials told it to do.

Result, a mini International Incident, requiring higher level talks between French and Dutch officials.

The French Side Prefet (official) has now apologized, but people from both sides expect further negotiations. This "battle" was won by the Dutch Side, but no final decision has been agreed to about a precise border location in this area, apparently; otherwise, why would more negotiations be contemplated?

Owner Maggi Shurtleff says stoically, "At least it's a step in the right direction." It sure is.

We'll keep you posted.

14. Etna Ice Cream Back in Full Production, Grocery Stores Stocked Up

It's the creamiest, richest ice cream your lips will ever touch -- and now it is in full production and stocked in stores across the island. Many restaurants are restocking it, too. Don't miss Etna.... See more at www.etnaicecream.com.

15. Cugini Restaurant For Sale

When Sam Runza owned and ran it, it was a gangbusters operation -- great food, superb responsiveness, and waits at the door.

Sam passed away a year ago and Cugini was taken over by Tony, his cousin. Now [the restaurant is for sale](#).

16. Super U in Hope Estate / Grand Case Unlikely to Open Until Late This Year

We're told the former "Simply" market in Hope Estate / Grand Case will not be converted to a new, larger Super U Market until November, 2017, its current target for opening.

Super U also bought the small "Simply" near the French Side drawbridge. It was to stay open, they said, but it closed months ago and there is no sign of life nearby. The Marigot Super U is only about a mile away from that Simply. The plan is for Marigot to remain open when the larger Super U debuts.

Coincidentally, Le Grand Marche -- now the island's largest market -- has told us it plans to remodel / renovate this Summer.

17. Another Week, Another Stupid Blackout: Is SXM "Tanzania"?

The industry organization, St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association, did some research and found that SXM's electricity company, GEBE, which some say is an acronym for "Generate Electricity Below Expectations," has reliability about as bad as that of power suppliers in Tanzania, the third-world African nation -- not a positive distinction.

The PR mavens at GEBE always come up with some obscure reason for the outages but at this point residents could not possibly care less: they are beyond fed up with blackouts followed by appliance-killing power surges *and* a company expressing little interest in compensating customers for damages caused by its power surges. Even the LED system on the Simpson Bay Lagoon Causeway was recently repaired after it, too, fell victim to repeated GEBE-caused surges.

The only good news is that most hotels and timeshare resorts have generators so the outages are hardly ever noticed there.

Bottom line: bring a small LED flashlight. It may well come in handy.

18. Lemondroppers Season Ends, But Beach Fun Continues at Cupecoy

Lemondroppers season at Cupecoy Beach -- a growing social gathering of beachgoers who arrive annually and enjoy each other's company and camaraderie on the beach and off -- ended on February 16. A smaller group returns early in November and the "big" Lemondroppers celebrations should resume early next January.

Fun does not end at Cupecoy, the Dutch Side's main unofficial clothing-optional beach. Dany and John are there to rent chairs and umbrellas, provide drinks, and on busier days provide delicious Lolo food, fresh and delicious. Tan lines optional; enjoy. Entrance is just south of the small roundabout near Porto Cupecoy. Watch for the sign.

19. Crystal-Clear Weather Delivers Visibility to Seven Islands

Weather on some recent days has been super clear, enabling people to see lights as far away as Saba. We've seen as many as seven islands some days. You can tell which ones through this map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/@18.1685853,-64.0461515,9z>

20. US Customs / Immigration Preclearance at SXM Airport Under Discussion

Preclearing US Customs and Immigration in SXM would mean your flight home to the US would land as a domestic flight, without the need to go through Customs and Immigration in the US except, perhaps, in a cursory way.

But nations providing this service must pay for it and that can be expensive. SXM Airport is largely self-supporting -- "Country St. Maarten" didn't even pay for the airport's fire trucks. So it would have to pay the freight for the program and the problem is that SXM fares, one source of airport revenue, are already higher than most other islands.

We hope they find a way to do it but without a fare increase. When other competitive Caribbean islands are working very hard to upgrade their winter tourism product, and are vastly outspending SXM promoting it, SXM raising fares for any reason would be a horrible, counterproductive decision.

21. SXM Officials Talking to Airlines About Airlift: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

Many tourist destinations provide cash incentives to airlines to bring in tourists; SXM does not. Many islands spend millions on advertising to create demands for airlift; SXM spends practically nothing. Those two facts hurt SXM terribly and the island's one-pillar economy cannot get better or compete until those issues are solved.

That said, we do know directly that four airlines are interested in SXM: Southwest, which could well be flying here, most likely from BWI, in the next year; British Airways, from London, perhaps as an intermediate stop related to flights to British islands in the Caribbean; Richard Branson's Virgin, which has been interested in SXM for years but hasn't been effectively catered to by the island; and, oddly enough, Norwegian Air, a low-cost carrier which could conceivably do nonstops from Boston, USA, and possibly other cities.

We'll see what happens.

22. Restaurant of the Week: Melange

We visit many different and many new restaurants, usually quietly and almost always unannounced. We like to see exactly what a restaurant is about when *you* go in, not when some restaurant critic / writer visits.

We suggest you try Melange now and again on your next visit. It's the work of CIA grad / former Marriott hospitality guru Nikhil Gurnani, so the guy clearly has the credentials to do a masterful job here.

The restaurant is eclectic, with Indian, American, Asian, and other influences. Its food ranges from bland to OMG wicked flaming hot. We wrote Nikhil after our visit with some suggestions which are easily followed and could add to his kudos.

Whether you are vegetarian, carnivore, or whatever, Melange (located at the former site of Peg Leg Pub next to the main Casino entrance at Princess Port de Plaisance) is beautifully redecorated and features comfortable seating around tables with an heated grille in the middle. Our group of five nixed the grill, preferring to have the chef finish the cooking -- no worries. Everybody except me wanted their food hot / spicy, no issue; all diners were delighted.

The restaurant is new, its concept is new and still developing, though it was busy on Friday night and people were enjoying the warm ambiance, innovative food, and excellent entertainment from singer Luca.

Just do it. We feel this place will soon hit a very nice stride and that it has a long future. Try it now and try it again on your next island visit...

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/ (featured 1/16/17)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 11/28/16)
Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 12/5/16)
Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/6/17; added 2/17)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/22/16)
Mario Bistro 9/5/16
SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 12/19/16)
Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 12/5/16)
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 (featured 11/21/16)
The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16)
Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)
Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17)
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 (featured 9/19/16)
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16)
Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path from the far side of Ocean Club to get there). (featured 4/27/2015)
FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 4/13/15)
Vesna Taverna, www.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.

23. Super Valentines Deal at SXM Jewelers Extended to Month's End

Great gifts never go out of style -- so here are a few 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 Month offers:

[Caribbean Gems](#)

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#)

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

[Oro Diamonte](#)

Check them out!

24. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #13

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.

Here is this week's story:

Andy 'n Cheryl's: Andy Susco, the prototypical benevolent curmudgeon, was a culinary icon in the NY/NJ area when he decided 30+ years ago to move to SXM. He opened Surf Club South, covered in story 5 in this series, a fried food / music / drinking establishment on Grand Case bay in southern Grand Case. The giant tree that was the heart of the restaurant was taken out by 1995's Hurricane Luis; the restaurant moved briefly to where *Al Dente* is now, then to Orient Beach as Baywatch, then Andy n Cheryl's Baywatch, then just Andy 'n Cheryl's. It still had fried food, but was known more for its hearty, delicious Italian lunches -- and its American breakfasts, including blueberry pancakes. Sadly, Andy passed away from cancer a few years ago, and after giving it a go for a while Cheryl packed it in when the Reserve Naturelle decided to knock down and replace its building on Orient Beach. Here's a [picture of the Orient Beach Andy 'n Cheryl's](#).

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
- 13 - Andy & Cheryl's F

Next week: La Calanque F

Coming soon: La Diva F, Antoine D, Tutta Pasta D, Sambuca D

Got suggestions? Email them to susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Look Back."

25. 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. *In our opinion, it's the best medical evacuation membership product on the market.* --Jeff

More stories follow.

26. 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.

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?

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

Types of SkyMed Memberships:

First, short term memberships are for brief trips in North America, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico -- over 30 countries total. Short-term memberships are very inexpensive, about \$9 per day per person, maximum of about \$15 per day. The disadvantage is that they only cover you for the short term you are traveling: when they expire, your protection disappears. When you're ready to travel again, you must reapply for a new short-term membership. Although the process is quick, **you still must be medically approved** and at some point, that may well be impossible (see story 19). Bear in mind that many of us travel more than once or twice a year, even if it's only a few hundred miles from home to visit friends or relatives, which is why we recommend annual or multiyear SkyMed memberships instead of short-term memberships. You do not want your protection to end just when you may need it most.

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

Third, Ultimate memberships cover multiple years and provide protection worldwide. The only exceptions are places like Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, North Korea — places you won't visit anyway. (Ask before going anywhere dangerous/unusual.) Ultimate memberships also offer the greatest breadth of coverage. You can see a complete list of all the features and benefits of these coverages [here](#).

Fourth, if you're an American or Canadian ex-pat living in St. Maarten / St. Martin or elsewhere outside your country for six months or more per year, you can still get SKYMED protection in the form of an **ex-pat** membership. Email us (see next paragraph) and we can tell you how it works and answer your questions.

In addition to everything else, Jeff Berger has been a SkyMed rep for over 15 years. He'll be happy to answer questions; phone him weekdays at 508-747-8281 or email him at Jeff@GetSkyMed.com. He generally returns calls and messages within 24 hours. To see [online frequently asked questions, go here](#). You can also see his SkyMed site at www.GetSkyMed.com.

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

For more on JMB memberships, see below, Valentine's Day Sale ends soon - join, renew, or reinstate now.

New JMB memberships

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

Renewal JMB memberships

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

JMB Membership Reinstatements

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

More stories are below.

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

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

28. 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](#).

29. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. All issues for the past few years are now online.

**Beat The April Price Increase
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Memberships:**

Get SkyMed Now, *Before* You Need it.

Phone or Email Jeff: (508) 747-8281

jeff@getskymed.com

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

30. 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.

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](#)

Entries from pass-along readers will not be accepted; Subscribe directly now by clicking "Free Newsletters" at www.everythingsxm.com. *Only direct subscribers are eligible to win -- and subscriptions are free.*

More stories follow.

Traveling Anywhere?

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

31. See The Latest in SXM Real Estate Online

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

32. 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:

Oyster Bay Beach Resort has bought Coral Beach Club, as we said this week; many more details are in our next issue.

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret

B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website

Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret. Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://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

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

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

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

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