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#1088 --- Monday, 3/6/2017
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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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

Add 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

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?>

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

Not 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

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C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. US CBP Customs/Immigration Preclearance Moves Slightly Closer

US customs and border patrol preclearance officials gave St. Maarten negotiators a draft agreement for preclearance in St. Maarten. If adopted, preclearance would enable US bound passengers to complete inbound US customs and immigration while in St. Maarten, which means their flight upon arrival in the US would be handled like any other arriving *domestic* flight.

The island needs to figure out how to pay for this in a way that does not skew ticket prices disadvantageously higher. Preclearance should be an additional incentive for St. Maarten travel; it cannot become an expensive dis-

incentive that would endanger island tourism. Airfares to SXM are too expensive already.

We're working on more about this topic. See Periscope, the last article in this *Weekly News*.

2. 2017 Hurricane Names, Maps on Our Weather Page

The 2017 hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. To see 2017 hurricane names, click Weather on www.everythingsxm.com.

3. "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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Oops: FLL, Not FTL for Southwest & Jet Blue

Last week, *SXM Weekly News* published an article concerning the expected startup next year of service to SXM by Southwest Airlines from Fort Lauderdale (FLL) and the addition of service to SXM from Fort Lauderdale by JetBlue, also expected next year or earlier. The article incorrectly stated that the official code for Fort Lauderdale was FTL; in fact, that airport code is for a location in Alaska, as a number of commercial airline pilots who read *Weekly News* quickly told us. *SXM Weekly News* apologizes for the inadvertent error.

Traveling *Anywhere?*

Never go anywhere without SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection. Visit www.getskymed.com today; email Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at jeff@getskymed.com with the subject "SkyMed". Include your phone number & time zone.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

7. Timeshare "Consumer Protection" Comes Closer - But Is It The Real Thing?

What the government of St. Maarten claims is timeshare owner consumer protection seems to be moving closer to reality.

But, is it the real thing?

To the best of our knowledge, no Americans or Canadians who own SXM timeshares were involved in the drafting of this proposed legislation. That's a fatal flaw, since timeshare owners suffered millions of dollars in frightful, well-publicized losses when the new owners of Caravanserai resort, now Alegria, unilaterally invalidated their timeshare ownerships and threw them out of the resort with nothing to show for their major investments. Worse, the government of St. Maarten did nothing to help them. Many left and swore to badmouth SXM and never return.

In addition, when it appeared that Sapphire Resort was not performing maintenance required in its timeshare owner agreements — causing many members to howl publicly — it took forever for some government officials to inspect the property and agree that it was a problem. Still, nothing substantive happened until RCI slammed the door shut on Sapphire, disallowing trades in or out of the resort for more than a year. Finally, the current ownership seemed to get the message that they needed to do something.

Legislation to protect timeshare owners appears to have been largely influenced by the timeshare industry. Many of its members are excellent companies, but history shows that some others clearly are not. If no timeshare owners were involved in the drafting of this legislation, its legitimacy and its fairness will forever be open to question. The Dutch Side government will then have perpetuated its own timesharing debacle, which profoundly impacts island tourism and the demographics of visitors. Most island businesses we've heard from continue to complain that business is way, way off. No one should wonder why. We'll have more on this next week.

St. Maarten timeshare owners deserve fair treatment as well as timeshare owner consumer protection which lives up to its advance billing. As soon as we have the proposed legislation in English, we'll make it available to you — and we hope you comment on it, loud and clear.

8. Buying Timeshares Directly from Owners

The least expensive, easiest way to buy a timeshare on St. Maarten is to get it directly from its current owner.

As one of its first benefits when JMB Website Supporters came into being 15 years ago this month, we offered ads to enable members to sell or rent out timeshares they own.. You can find hundreds now posted on our site, www.everythingsxm.com. Buying directly from our members eliminates the "middleman" and can save you a great deal over the prices available directly from resorts. Our members pay us no commissions, and the prices they charge are usually surprisingly low. See the "timeshares for rent/sale page" on our site, www.everythingsxm.com.

9. Villa Onyi To Expand Its Very Low Cost Rentals for JMB Members Exclusively

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

Now, JMB Website Supporters members 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 month March 2017... with expansion coming very soon for future months. 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 -- ask them to put you on a waiting list until the low season rates are announced. *Your valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Number and expiration date are 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*. Again, prices are for JMB members only; others pay more, so join JMB by clicking the page curl at www.everythingsxm.com. Now about 300 total discounts....

Changing Your Email Address?

Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email and Sign Up Your New One for your Weekly News subscription Quickly and Easily at our new Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com

10. Reminder: A New Reason to Attend Simpson Bay Resort's Owner Orientations

Simpson Bay timeshare owners ought to sit in on the orientations at that timeshare resort. Not only is the pastry delicious, but a surprise mystery guest will be there (in person or by video) and you might want to hear what he has to say. He may just have something for you....

SECTION 3: Member

11. "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.

12. March Member Benefits Update: Activities in SXM

AquaMania is the single largest provider of tourist activities on the island, providing interesting and memorable experiences for tourists of every age and interest. Since JMB Website Supporters members get discounts on all of AquaMania's activities, we could legitimately tell you that we have somewhere between five and 600 total discounts now — though for counting purposes we list AquaMania as only one item. In any case, they have activities on the water, on land, and in a variety that's frankly beyond imagination. See the secret site and visit their website to learn much more just how extensive their selection of activities really is. Don't forget: you can save on all of their activities through our JMB Website Supporters members-only discounts. See the secret site for details today; your username and password are required. If you're not yet a member, [go here](#) for much more information and great sign up prices.

13. Kevin Laing Wins JMB Members-Only Drawing at Little Europe Jewelers, Gets Fabrizio Giannone Necklace

Fabrizio Giannone is an Italian jewelry designer whose striking designs are sold in St. Maarten at Little Europe jewelers.

Little Europe's Valentine offer for our JMB members was a drawing open to JMB members only. The drawing was held at the end of last month and we're happy to say that many members participated in it. The winner: Kevin Laing, who sounded flabbergasted when we spoke to him by phone to tell and he had won.

Congratulations to Kevin. Members, always check all emails from JMB Website Supporters: you never know what's inside and what you might wind up winning.

14. "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](#).. Phone and online orders can be accepted if you send valid JMB membership and ID info.

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

SECTION 4: Island

15.

**When you suddenly need
an emergency medical evacuation,
it's too late to buy SkyMed.**

**Get SkyMed before you need it,
so it's ready when you do.**

www.getskymed.com

Email Jeff with SkyMed Questions: jeff@getskymed.com
Include your phone number if you'd like a call back.

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

Every Wednesday

Somewhere Between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. Island
Time;
EST is one hour earlier

16. Heineken Regatta Rides The Wind and Skis The Waves -- UB40 Climax
Sunday Night

We've been filing reports on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) concerning the daily outcomes of the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. We've also been chasing the boats around the island and getting some great pictures and an occasional video — to see it all, visit our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

The Heineken Regatta legendary party on Sunday night starts early and continues until the middle of the night: UB 40 was scheduled to appear at about midnight Sunday night. We've seen them ahead of time so we know they are here and they are ready. (Many of our readers will receive *Weekly News* over the weekend.)

The Regatta itself has had rather incredible conditions — mostly sunny skies, plenty of wind to fill the sails and move the boats at record pace — and tons of excitement for tens of thousands of onlookers scattered across the island and in sightseeing boats. It is perhaps the most scenic event you'll ever find on the island. If you missed this one schedule yourself time on the island next year so you don't miss the next [Heineken Regatta](#).

17. Furor Erupts in Yachting, Home-Porting Industries After New Immigration

Rules Are "Suddenly Imposed"

We still don't know whether this was a tempest in a teapot or something serious — but during the week of the Heineken Regatta, some government officials appeared to lay out new rules, effective immediately, which threatened to restrict the ability of certain members of ship crews and megayacht crews from spending as much time on the island as they need to to do their jobs.

Some leading political figures immediately jumped on the rules, charging that they threatened two key components of the island's most important industry, tourism — specifically megayachts and small-ship home porting, a relatively new industry which the island is trying hard to foster. The officials retorted by saying the rules are already on the books and they were simply stating them for factual emphasis. But they added that if things need to be updated, they were certainly amenable.

For now, this doesn't appear to be the huge threat to tourism that was originally feared. But, St. Maarten is something of a chameleon so the color of this could easily change.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

[In separate news](#) some members of the European Union by saying if the United States intends to impose severe limitations on foreign travel to the United States, [perhaps they should require visas for US citizens traveling to members of the European Union](#). Note, France is a member of the EU but the Netherlands isn't. Also note that this is a proposal and not a reality.

We'll keep you posted on this, too.

18. Excavation Permit Issued for Giant "Pearl of China" Monolith on Bel Air Beach

Pearl of China is the name of the monolithic 776 room hotel/apartment complex ostensibly destined for Bel Air beach on the Dutch side which was approved secretly by the Dutch side government some months ago. It was greeted with nearly universal howls of derision and disdain. Our view is that it is nothing more than a beachhead for mainland China commercial enterprises selling throughout this hemisphere: many of the rooms will be apartments for Chinese nationals promoting Chinese business interests in this hemisphere, with a limited number of other hotel rooms. There is also exhibition space but it appears to us that both the hotel rooms and the exhibition space will be largely devoted to marketing Chinese wares and that they will have nothing to do with tourism.

If this project is so good for the economy, why was it kept secret until after it was approved, and why was public comment avoided?

As we've said all along, we hope this behemoth never happens. Now, an excavation permit for a retaining wall has been issued to those behind this project. There appears to be no information about why it's necessary; what oceanographic studies have been completed, if any, to legitimize either its need or that it will be benign to the environment; and there has been nothing to indicate how it may impact tidal effects on the entire area, including Bel Air beach itself and the nearby Bel Air beach timeshare resort.

Retaining walls / sea walls invariably have environmental impacts. This one appears to not have even been studied and until it has been and any deleterious effects have been mitigated, it remains a remarkably bad idea.

We are not fond either of this project or of the route it took to become approved. In our opinion, a bad idea keeps getting worse here. For more, [look here](#).

19. Time Running Out To Enter our 14-Vacation Giveaway

[Entry deadline: March 12, next Sunday](#). We'll draw all 14 vacations we're giving away in "Five Million Smiles" soon after that:

[Our Naturist Club Fantastico vacation will be given away on Wednesday, March 15](#). **See the next story to be eligible for that giveaway, which will take place between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. AST on Wednesday,**

March 15.

In addition to giving away the Club Fantastico vacation on March 15, the following week, on March 22, we'll give away all our other prizes which consist of extraordinary villa and hotel vacations and a slew of other prizes.

All of them will be drawn / given away between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. AST on Wednesday, March 22. The drawings will be live on the air at Island92.com and at 91.9 FM. We apologize to west coast US listeners since this is very early, but it takes a lot of time to give away 14 vacations.

You MUST answer your phone to win; if you don't, we hang up and give the prize to someone else and you will not be called back.

If you have not yet entered, see the end of this story and enter now.

Here are the two Grand Prize Packages, in no special order:

Grand Prize Package One:

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.

A Helicopter ride for the grand prize winner (from Corail Helicopters, Grand Case Airport)

Oro Diamante One \$100 Gift Card good toward any purchase

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 Euro 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

One Case of Heineken Beer, 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.

A \$100 Gift Card good toward any purchase at Le Grand Marche

Dinner for two at the exquisite new Mario Bistro in Cupecoy;

Dinner for two at Spiga Restaurant in Grand Case;

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 Pineapple Pete Restaurant

Dinner for two at Sushiiitto Restaurant

Dinner for two at Trattoria Pizza Pasta

Dinner for two at The Boathouse;

Lunch for two at Patrick Turner's Tropical Wave on Le Galion Beach

Grand Prize Package Two:

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.

Oro Diamante One \$100 Gift Card good toward any purchase

Full-day cruise for two to Tintamarre aboard the 62' Celine Too Motoryacht

Cruise for two on the legendary Celine Too Pub Crawl

One Case of Heineken Beer, 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 \$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

Dinner for two at award-winning Chef Dino Jagtiani's Temptation Restaurant;

Dinner for two at Big Fish Restaurant, Oyster Pond

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 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).

There are many other vacation prizes -- see story 33 for the complete list.

You can enter now if (and only if) you're a direct (not pass-along) subscriber to **SXM Weekly News**... Click this 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.

20. Win a Naturist Vacation at Club Fantastico; Enter Our "Au Naturel"

Drawing

We want to be sure when we give away our Club Fantastico naturist vacation, it goes to someone who enjoys the naturist lifestyle. So here's a special opportunity to enter and be picked.

See story #33 and click the entry link in that article. When you enter your last name, enter it as your name followed by NATURIST. We will search for "NATURIST" when picking winners at random. If you have already entered the maximum number of times (10 times per subscribed email address for SXM Weekly News subscribers only), you can now enter again five more times using NATURIST after your last name.

See also story #13.

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

and keep the current low price on a future renewal.
More benefits... **same price.**

Email Jeff now: 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 SkyMed member) to set up an emergency medical evacuation yourself. Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it. Email us today. SkyMed emails only.

21. Bloomberg Says SXM Among World's Most Popular Spots for the Super-Rich

Bloomberg says SXM is the fourth most popular Caribbean destination for the super-rich. Here is [their story](#). Billionaires are now almost as common in SXM as millionaires were about 20 years ago (that's our comment, not Bloomberg's.)

Part of the reason for this could be that some of the super rich are actually headed for either St. Barth's or Anguilla, neither of which has the sophisticated kind of airport many superrich require. So, many have to come to St. Maarten first. Nonetheless, the article has a lot of positive things to say about your favorite island.

22. "Sailing Yacht A" Quickly Released at Gibraltar; Coming Here?

Sailing Yacht A -- the tallest, longest sailing yacht in the world -- was released in Gibraltar quickly after it had been officially impounded (see our coverage in last week's *SXM Weekly News*). We know it was bound for more sea trials off Spain but we don't know where it goes after that since its owner, Russian billionaire Andrey Melnichenko, hasn't told anyone. His current megayacht, also called A (for his wife -- they have the same first initials) has been to SXM many times, including last year in March. Keep an eye out for it... that one looks like a giant white submarine.

23. See Heineken Regatta, UB40, & Mya Pictures

They're all on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Facebook Site](#).

24. Maho Beach Cam Returns, Now at a Different Location

The Maho Beach Cam is back, at a new location. See more [here](#); our link takes you to the cam itself.

25. How We'll Pick Our "Five Million Smiles" Vacation Winners & Grand Prize Winners

When our Giveaway ends on March 12, we'll pick 90 names at random from among all entries. Those names will be used to select all winners (see the Nativist selection process; story is above).

We'll select a Nativist winner on March 15. We'll call all the others on March 22 (see story above). After all regular

winner have been picked (12 vacations), we'll then draw the two Grand Prize winners from everyone who's left.

Again, you must answer your phone to win. No answer, no win.

26. Summer Travel? Two Ways To Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Waiting Period for Coverage of Pre-Existing Conditions on Annual and Longer Memberships

First: Get a short-term membership to cover your imminent trip. They're \$15 total per day for you and your spouse. Also sign up for an annual membership to take effect on the day your short-term membership ends. That does it. You're permanently protected and even pre-existing conditions are covered initially thanks to your short-term membership.

Second: If you're going nowhere until 90 days from now (next Summer), get a SkyMed Annual or longer membership; see our story on the SkyMed 10-year price guarantee on five-year Ultimate memberships. Since you're not going anywhere for 90 days plus, when you do travel your pre-existing conditions are covered since the membership will have already been in effect for 90 days, after which pre-existing conditions are covered in full.

Get going on this -- ask your questions at jeff@getskymed.com with the subject "SkyMed Inquiry." *Don't be without SkyMed when you need it most.*

See next story.

27. Get a 10-Year Price Guarantee on New or Upgraded SkyMed Five-Year Ultimate Memberships: Ends This Month

Buy or upgrade to a new five-year SkyMed Ultimate this month and choose to renew automatically, and both transactions will be at the current prepaid five-year price of \$2495 which is just \$499/year, the same as our Annual memberships, but with a lot more benefits. That's a 10-year price guarantee.

Annual SkyMed members (and non-members), take note: you can now upgrade to the SkyMed Ultimate and get more benefits and global coverage at no increase in yearly cost over your current annual SkyMed membership for 10 full years.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

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

You must upgrade to a prepaid five-year Ultimate now, before April 1, and opt for automatic renewals to be guaranteed the current price (\$499/year when prepaid at inception for the five-year term, \$2495). The 5-year Ultimate increases in price in April but that price increase will not apply to you at your subsequent initial renewal if you buy before April 1 and agree to automatic renewals.

Contact jeff@getskymed.com and include your phone number to get all the advantages of SkyMed Ultimate memberships now at this highly advantageous 10-year guaranteed pricing.

28. Less Humid & Much Less Crowded Than Home: SXM in Summer

Near-constant tradewinds and water temps in the 80s mean the sweltering heat and humidity you experience in the US during the Summer won't follow you to a SXM Summer vacation. Temps are lower, humidity is lower, crowds are unheard of, and prices for some airfares and virtually all hotels and car rentals are the lowest of the year. Just do it - it will become a wonderful new Summer experience for you and your family.

29. Restaurant of the Week: David Foini's iZi Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay

His "La Gondola" was a pure legend in its day, a gourmet standout with extraordinary dining.

His iZi (opposite Pineapple Pete in Simpson Bay) is a whole different concept, less formal, more contemporary / modern but one thing has never changed: David's nearly fanatical devotion to the best possible quality.

Try the specials -- the Chilean seabass we had recently was moist and flavorful and about as perfect as we've ever experienced. David has worked for years to make his sauces incredibly flavorful, as well.

Just go. See what a perfectionist can do for your palate. iZi is one of the finest restaurants you'll find anywhere in the Caribbean -- and you'll see special offers for iZi on our JMB members-only "Secret" website.

Go. You'll love it...

The article we published about SXM's Top Seafood Restaurants is 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 on its own page on our website -- see SXM's [top Italian restaurants here](#).

And we are now updating our SXM dining page bigtime on www.everythingsxm.com -- check it later this coming week. Never finished it last week, too busy doing Regatta...

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 www.everythingsxm.com.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 1/16/17)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/6/17)
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 2/27/17)
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)

30. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #15

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:

La Diva in Marigot had a 17-year run ending in 2002. Its owner was Michel who today is alive and well and working with David Foini at iZi (see iZi story, above. In fact, the dressing on David's Caesar Salad at iZi was derived from Michel's own amazing recipe from La Diva.) Among Michel's most popular items were Spaghetti alla Romanoff, with vodka, coarse freshly ground black pepper, tomato cubes, and a touch of cream. His Veal Piccata alla Marco Polo was medallions of veal with a marinade of leeks (ultra thin like angel hair pasta) with white wine and cream. And his Zucotto dessert was homemade sponge cake with fresh orange syrup mixed with Grand Marnier, filled with creamy vanilla ice cream, and covered with a hot chocolate sauce. "Sounds dangerous," I said to Michel at iZi one recent night. "Very dangerous," he smiled back. There was another Veal Piccata too, alla Diva, but you can ask Michel about that some time when you have a late dinner at iZi and the place isn't packed when you're finished. It was one of the island's top restaurants. Great memories.

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
- 14 - La Calanque F
- 15 - La Diva F

Coming soon: Antoine D, Sambuca D, Peg Leg Pub D; Tutta Pasta D.
See also the story of Tutta Pasta's closing in last week's issue.

Got suggestions? Email them to susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Look Back." *Include as many details as you can; you may well be the source of a future column.*

31. 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.

32. 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?

33. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation

Updated 3/6/17

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; email jeff@getskymed.com and give Jeff your phone number so he can call you. He'll 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 email Jeff 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; email him at Jeff@GetSkyMed.com. He generally returns 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, 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.](#)

34. 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](#).

35. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxsm.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.](#)

Email Jeff: 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.

36. Five Million Smiles 14-Vacation Giveaway Entry Deadline: Sunday March 12

Our Five Million Smiles 14-vacation giveaway celebrates our site surpassing five million visits in the next several weeks. The site: www.everythingsxm.com. **Deadline for entries, March 12. See other articles in this issue about the drawing date.**

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](#).

There are also many other prizes listed in story # 19.

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; email Jeff at jeff@getskymed.com with the Subject "SkyMed".

37. "The Periscope": Articles We're Working on for our Next Issue

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:

[Lee's Restaurant takes another shot. Will they still have to close on March 31?](#)

[Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection Laws Move Closer](#)

[SXM Government Needs To Floor It To Make Tourism Viable Long-Term](#)

Look for **Periscope** here next week.

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 .

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

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

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

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

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

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