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#1101 --- Monday, 6/12/2017
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

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by around 295,000 people around the world...**

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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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- **Sellers: How To Avoid "Buyers" Who Are Scammers**
- **JMB Members Submitting Ads Must "Certify"...**
- **Order Extra Vacation Days Right On Our Site**
- **LAST CALL: Membership Sale Must End on Solstice Day, June 21: Lowest Prices of the Season**
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39 news stories this week

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml 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 about 300 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:

RENTAL 11/25/2017 12/2/2017 Week 47 The Westin Dawn Beach Resort & Spa Westin at Dawn Beach
Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, living/dining room, balcony, located on the beautiful Dawn Beach. Beautiful swimming pool right on the beach. Renters can get room service from Westin Hotel. Casino and restaurants right on property. Timeshare tax of \$50 will be due at checkout paid by renter. \$1500 OBO Pam 757-868-6001
pam_falls@msn.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/16/2018 2/23/2018 week 7 royal palm beach resort sat-sat -2 bedroom-2 bath-sleeps 6-full kitchen- 3ed floor -great ocean views \$5,900.00 richard 508-832-9212 vanguardrcc@yahoo.com

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:

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 group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

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

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

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
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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. Where To Access Hurricane Reports 24/7/365

The Atlantic hurricane season began June 1 and ends November 30. Forecasters are predicting the busiest season in the last few years based upon rising ocean temperatures and the lack of an El Niño condition in the Pacific, which can affect the genesis of Atlantic storms.

The weather page of our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) includes a variety of hurricane information, most particularly current satellite images and radar loops. When you hear of storms forming, you'll be able to see them in near real-time through the images on our site. We also intend to carry hurricane watches and warnings applying to SXM on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

As always, if there are hurricane watches or warnings for your area, always heed the warnings from local authorities. Don't rely on any website for life or death weather information.

2. Where to Get All The Details on Current SXM Weather (New)

If you're interested in more than the usual details about current St. Maarten weather, and want real-time information, go to everythingxsm.com and click the second weather image below the masthead. It will take you to a detailed weather page with many additional current and recent SXM weather observations.

3. See Weather Satellite Images & Radar Loops During Hurricane Season

Here's more detail on the images you'll find in the weather section of our everythingxsm.com website.

The site contains a number of satellite images and radar loops covering North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and the Canadian Maritimes. Oceanic images give you detailed information on what's happening in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and both the north and tropical Atlantic as well as North Africa and West Africa. You will see tropical waves crossing Africa on their way to the Eastern Atlantic, as well as storms which develop closer to the islands and to the US.

For still more detailed information — especially valuable to anyone who lives or works anywhere near the potential path of any hurricane — a few dollars will buy you a membership at www.crownweather.com, Rob Lightbown's rather astoundingly complete storm information site. If where you are has ever been hit by or threatened by any hurricane or tropical storm, we strongly urge you to check out www.crownweather.com and join. We've been members for years and it has our highest recommendation.

4. Yes, Southwest Is Dead Serious About Coming to SXM

At least a couple of years ago, we predicted that Southwest airlines would be flying to St. Maarten, possibly from Fort Lauderdale and/or BWI. As we reported here in *SXM Weekly News*, St. Maarten has been in talks with Southwest, talks which will continue in September and beyond.

Southwest has in fact said it is no longer a matter of if, but when Southwest will serve St. Maarten. The airline will require certain things from the island which we expect will be forthcoming. The battle to acquire new carriers on a particular island is fierce — lots of competition. Right now, this is St. Maarten's battle to lose, and we believe the island has no intention of losing.

A formal announcement is not likely until later this year. Our expectation is that service will begin in 2018 — initially from Fort Lauderdale, with lots of connections offered. As we said before, we also expect flights at some point originating in BWI.

More info is [here](#).

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

Check our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) each day for daily weather updates. You'll find forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

See next story.

6. 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.*

7. 110% Guarantee Now On SkyMed Travel Club Hotel, Car Rental Rates (Updated 6/5/17)

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 won't be disappointed.

8. Some Airlines Now Charging for Overhead Bin Space

An increasing number of US airlines likes the idea of charging passengers for space in overhead bins.

To them, it's all about making money, but not exactly the way you think.

To be sure, passengers who pay for overhead bin space do add to airline revenues. More important to the airlines, we believe, is the fact that the boarding procedure currently takes too long, harming airlines' ability to take off on a timely basis. The faster the boarding and seating process becomes, the more on time and airline can be.

Airlines don't make money from planes sitting on the ground. They make money only when aircraft move passengers between cities, so the less time aircraft spend on the ground, the better their revenues.

Without a doubt, speeding the boarding process by having passengers check baggage instead of bringing it on board is more a matter of airline efficiency than of revenue enhancement. In this case, airlines get both — they hope.

1. Call Jeff.
2. Get SkyMed Answers **today**.

Never go anywhere without SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection: it's your "free ticket home" aboard a medical evacuation jet. Visit www.getskymed.com today; phone Jeff for answers to SkyMed questions at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only) or email jeff.berger@skymed.com with the subject "SkyMed". Include your phone number & time zone.

Guaranteed Renewable*, a Big Deal:

***SkyMed Annual & Multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of changes in your age or health. Plus, SkyMed never raises its rates related to any member's advancing age or declining health. Contact Jeff today.**

Changing Your Email Address?

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

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

9. Sapphire Slaps Timeshare Owners With Special Assessment

If you are timeshare owner at Sapphire Beach Resort in the Cupecoy area, you may not yet know that for the second year in a row Sapphire is about to slap you with another supplemental maintenance fee which will ask you to spend several hundred dollars you hadn't anticipated.

Timeshare resorts make money when they sell units. They don't make much money on maintenance fees. So if Sapphire timeshare owners walk away in disgust — as many have --- it's no big deal to the developers of the resort since it gives them an opportunity to resell a week they had already sold and profited from before.

The supplemental maintenance fee was emailed to a number of timeshare owners in the last few days — and timeshare owners aren't happy. They say it is the second year in a row during which Sapphire has levied such a fee. Some say the fee is designed to pay for what should be routine maintenance — not something requiring a special

assessment. You can see the mailing in the "Files" area on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) and judge it for yourself.

Of course, the government of St. Maarten for years has not had timeshare owner consumer protection legislation in place, though the Dutch side Parliament is looking at legislation now. It isn't strong by US or Canadian standards, but it's a decent start. One would hope they would enact it soon — without the top-heavy, expensive, "Timeshare Authority" bureaucracy that they had proposed along with it. Such a bureaucracy would add substantial new cost to timeshare owners and could mortally damage the industry that brings SXM the majority of its stayover tourists.

This assessment, according to timeshare owners, is Sapphire's second in two years and owners we spoke to about it during the weekend were not happy.

We'll be watching this as it unfolds and we expect to have additional reports in the weeks to come.

10. Many New Timeshare Units for Rent / Sale On Our Site

Late last week, everythingSXM.com posted dozens of new timeshare units for rent or for sale across St. Maarten. You'll find them by clicking the Timeshare link on our site's homepage.

New listings are now posted about weekly. See next story.

11. Sellers: How To Avoid "Buyers" Who Are Scammers

Unscrupulous criminal scammers make a living by bilking timeshare owners and other people out of their money. *We describe their scams in detail on our timeshare listings page on everythingSXM.com. If you are selling or renting out a timeshare week you own on our site or on any other, we urge you to read thoroughly and share with other renters the scam warnings now published on our timeshare page on everythingSXM.com.* Our warnings may well help you avoid criminal tricks that could take several thousand dollars out of your pocket — do read them thoroughly.

12. JMB Members Submitting Ads Must "Certify"...

To help our JMB Website Supporters members avoid scams, we have added scam information to the form they use to submit timeshare weeks for rent or for sale to our everythingSXM.com website. Once they read that material, they must certify to us on the form that they have read it and agree with it; that knowledge can help protect them against scammers.

JMB now requires its JMB Website Supporters members to certify that they have read and will abide by the scam warnings. It's an important change, intended to help protect everyone who advertises timeshare rentals or sales with anyone.

13. Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Owner Orientations

Simpson Bay timeshare owners should sit in on the Monday orientations there. 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....

14. Order Extra Vacation Days Right On Our Site

In addition to offering timeshare weeks for sale and for rent, the Timeshare page of our EverythingSXM.com website

offers direct links for sources of additional days for timeshare renters.

In an increasing number of cases, people wish to fly midweek — or, in fact, any day but Saturday or Sunday, when the airport can be a bit hectic. Before buying fares for midweek travel — which are almost always lower in cost than weekend travel — timeshare owners may also need to obtain a few days at other resorts.

On our Timeshare page on everything.sxm.com, we now have links to rentals at Simpson Bay Resort, which offers a number of beautiful, newly renovated units through much of the year in convenient Simpson Bay. For those who prefer a smaller property, we also provide easy links to Baker's Suites in Simpson Bay which also just finished renovations.

Simpson Bay Resort has restaurants on site and beaches on the property, while Baker's Suites has many restaurants nearby and is within walking distance of attractive beaches.

SECTION 3: Member Discounts & Benefits

15. "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.

16. June Member Benefits Update: New Benefits

Thanks to a significant number of major stories about St. Maarten that broke over the last 10 days, we didn't have a chance to post many of the new benefits that we told you to expect on our site last week.

We fully expect to get these additional benefits on our site and into the hands of our JMB Website Supporters members this week. We then will tell you about them in more detail next Monday. If you're a JMB Website Supporters member, expect an email this week telling you about the new benefits, which will go live as quickly as we can do it on our secret website for JMB members only. *If you're not a member, [please see the next story.](#)*

SECTION 4: Island

17. *****LAST CALL***:**

Our Black Friday & 1/2 (& Jeff's Birthday) JMB Membership Sale

MUST END WEDNESDAY JUNE 20

AND WILL NOT BE FURTHER EXTENDED.

**JMB Offers You About 300
St. Maarten / St. Martin Discounts & Benefits:**

===Sale Offers Our Lowest Prices Until Black Friday===

New JMB memberships: One year, \$39; Three years, just \$89
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: One year, \$34; Five years, \$109.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: One year, \$34; Five years, \$109.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Hear Jeff Live On Island 92 Radio (91.9 FM or
www.island92.com)
Now Every Monday
Somewhere Between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m. Island
Time;
(EDT is the same time)

This week it's Tuesday morning -- 9:45 a.m.

18. Alleged Would-Be Bank Robbers Shot, Arrested, & Jailed

Thanks to alert bank employees, excellent training, a very good emergency plan, and highly competent work by the St. Maarten Police Department, alleged would-be bank robbers hoping for a big haul at Scotia Bank in Simpson Bay instead wound up wounded, arrested, and in the slammer.

Although it was a scary time for the bank staff, no one was hurt except the alleged perpetrators, and what was taken was recaptured by police.

Here's [the full story](#).

19. How You Can Help Fire Victim Odessa Timmerman (of Jimbo's)

You might very well know Odessa Timmerman — she's the tall young lady who has worked as a waitress for the last several years at Jimbo's in Simpson Bay.

We learned late last week that hers was one of the homes that was heavily damaged by fire, as we reported a week ago here in *SXM Weekly News*.

Here is her story about what happened, with information about how you can help:

"Last week Tuesday night while I was at work at Jimbo's my son called me to say our home is on fireI rushed home to find it was true The neighbors were there, they formed a brigade that was keeping the fire at bay before the fire truck got there ...at the time the fire started my 3 kids were home but were not harmed by this The fire started in my bedroom which is always locked It was an electrical fire and its true origin was not found because my entire room was burnt out and the water destroyed whatever evidence that would have pinpointed its cause....

"We have stayed somewhere for two weeks which is up next Friday but are trying to rebuild to return as soon as possible.... We are asking for any donations to aid in the rebuilding process ... the entire home was not badly damaged just my bedroom including part of the roof, rafters, doors, windows, and lots of cracking in the walls from the heat. The rest of the home is covered with smoke and black soot. Any form of donation towards rebuilding is greatly appreciated.... Thank you for your help.... Odessa ..."

If you wish to donate, please use PayPal; the payment should go to odessat80@gmail.com . See www.paypal.com.

20. New Sports Bar, Replay, Opens on Marina Plaza, SBR

St. Maarten's newest sports bar, Replay Sports Pub, has just opened its doors on the Marina Plaza at Simpson Bay Resort. It's inviting timeshare owners and the general public to visit and enjoy seeing their favorite games.

Replay Sports Pub is welcoming future patrons with 2-for-1 drinks and half-priced food items until June 21. The Grand Opening kicked off with the much anticipated NBA Finals, in the presence of management and almost all guests of Simpson Bay Resort & Marina, where the bar is housed.

DJ Ridge and his team hosted the event, which included dancing, unique cocktails including signature drink "MVP", and must-have sports eats including wings, burgers, loaded sandwiches, and the star dish, Chilli Bean Nachos.

The bar includes both indoor and outdoor seating. It's plastered with sports memorabilia and life-size images of athletic icons. Located at the resort's Marina Plaza, Replay Sports Pub features expert mixologist Ivan and opens every day at noon, closing when the game ends.

21. Lots of Sand, for The Moment, at Cupecoy, Baie Rouge

Both Cupecoy beach and Bay Rouge were reported this past week as having lots of sand. The sand at Cupecoy can change daily, but a photo from an *SXM Weekly News* reader on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) appears to show more sand on Cupecoy than we've seen in years. How long it will stay is another matter.

If you're on the island, and enjoy it.

22. Seaweed

Not much change in the seaweed situation since last week.

Sargasso seaweed continues to wash in overnight and it's removed every morning, mainly from eastern-facing beaches.

Ever since this began, the southern (naturist) end of Orient beach has done rather well, thanks perhaps to the offshore reef and to ocean currents.

Beaches on the southwestern and western parts of the island, at the moment, appear to be less affected.

23. Unhappy at a SXM Restaurant? Here's What To Do

Although this site regards St. Maarten, nonetheless the advice in this story applies everywhere.

No restaurant is perfect. "Off" nights happen, whether it's kitchen help, service, cleaners, management, suppliers — things can and do go wrong even at the best restaurants.

Virtually all restaurateurs that we know are hard-working, conscientious people who go all out to make customers happy and to make their businesses successful. If you have a problem in a restaurant anywhere, ask for the manager or owner. Practically every manager we know very much wants to know about problems so they can fix what's wrong and make sure it doesn't happen again.

The vast majority of managers are helpful and their response to your complaint is positive. We recently complained to management at US restaurant about food that was not prepared properly to order. They fixed the problem and they comped the meal, which as originally delivered was inedible. At the end of the day the meal was delicious and the service was as it should be.

It does not make sense to go away mad and post something nasty on Trip Advisor — trying to solve the problem right away, at the restaurant, is a much more productive way to go.

24. Destination Weddings in SXM, Chapter 2

Increasingly, couples are opting for destination weddings in St. Maarten and other tropical locations.

For years, the "Goddess" of St. Maarten weddings has been Jean Rich, who has done it for years. She had to take some time off for some surgery a couple of years ago, but she's back in action and continues to be the most experienced provider of [St. Maarten beach weddings](#).

She does everything from getting all the licensing paperwork done to helping you select a location, flowers, clergy, reception location and menu, cake, limousine, accommodations — the works. You can contact her at [St. Maarten beach weddings](#). Of course, she also does weddings (and vow renewals) at other locations. She's done hundreds of them and we do recommend her.

There are other providers as well, and we'll recommend some in future issues of *SXM Weekly News*.

25. Create Your Own Amazing Fragrance at Tijon

Regardless of whether you're a woman or a man, one of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences you can have on the island is creating your own unique fragrance at Tijon Parfumerie in Grand Case. See their site at [Tijon.com](#)

We did it a year ago — both of us — and today, the fragrance we created that afternoon is one of our favorites. Set it up and do it: you'll enjoy it just as much as we did, and the fragrance will remind you of the island in a pleasurable way for years to come.

26. Keep **SXM Weekly News** Coming: Join JMB Today

It takes a lot of time for us to gather, write, and report all the news of interest to St. Maarten / St. Martin tourists every week. Without our JMB Website Supporters members, it wouldn't be possible to continue to produce *SXM Weekly News*.

Help keep **SXM Weekly News** coming every week: join JMB Website Supporters today and you'll quickly get all our hundreds of SXM discounts and other benefits. The sale must end Wednesday, June 20 and will not be further extended. Help us keep helping you:

New JMB memberships: One year, \$39; Three years, just \$89
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: One year, \$34; Five years, \$109.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: One year, \$34; Five years, \$109.

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

27. 10-Year Price Guarantee Now from SkyMed

SkyMed is now offering a remarkable 10 year price guarantee on its best memberships, the SkyMed five-year Ultimate. SkyMed ultimate memberships cost only \$499 per year when you pay for their full five year duration at membership inception. When applying, if you indicate on the application that you want to renew automatically, that renewal will be charged at the same \$499/year when you pay for the full five year renewal at its inception. All SkyMed memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of health or attained age: This Ten-year price guarantee is remarkable especially considering what you get: see the details here. The best way to get your questions answered is to call Jeff directly on his SkyMed line, 508-747-8281. He can also take your application by phone and send it to them electronically. Most applications are processed within a few business days. Get it today — make your next trip worry free.

28. SkyMed "Guaranteed Renewable" Memberships

As most JMB readers are well aware, the SkyMed medical evacuation service takes SkyMed members home when they become critically ill or injured while traveling.

One of SkyMed's most remarkable features, available to members who have purchased annual or multiyear memberships, is guaranteed renewability regardless of age or health at the time of renewal. You can apply for SkyMed at any age; joining simply requires you to complete a very brief health questionnaire — just a few questions.

Once you're a member, you can continue to be a member regardless of age or health, simply by renewing your membership on time. Short term SkyMed memberships do not have this feature. Longer term (annual or multiyear) memberships are also less expensive per day: roughly \$1.30 for your family per day for annual and multiyear memberships versus \$15 per day for your family for short-term memberships (generally a few days to a week or two).

We can answer any of your questions; just write to jeff.berger@skymed.com or see our site, www.getskymed.com or [phone Jeff at 508-747-8281](tel:508-747-8281) during normal business hours. Get it before you need it so it's ready to help you when the time comes....

Talk to us? Call Jeff at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only).

29. Vacations Added: Enter Our Sum-Sum-Summertime SXM Vacation Giveaway

Our Sum-Sum Summertime SXM vacation giveaway has begun and you can now enter. *SXM Weekly News* readers (NOT pass-along readers) can enter up to 10 times per subscribed email address. The drawing will be late in October, 2017. Here is our current prize list. Since this giveaway promotes non high-season visits to SXM, most of these vacations are yours from mid April to mid December, 2018. All vacations are subject to availability.

- an 8-day, 7-night vacation at La Vista Resort, May through December 2018.
- a 5 night stay (based upon availability April 10-Dec 18, 2018) in an ocean front room at the Westin St Maarten Dawn Beach Resort, Spa, and Casino.
- a 4-day, 3-night stay at the beautiful Oyster Bay Beach Resort.
- Dinner for Two at Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano at Simpson Bay Resort. (One winner)
- Dinner for Two at Spiga, the highly acclaimed Italian Restaurant in Grand Case. (One winner.)

Enter here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

30. A Closer Look at Best Reasons for Taking SXM Summer Vacations: Part 5

We recently listed these reasons for taking a Summer vacation in SXM:

1. Much less traffic than during high season (winter).
2. Much lower prices for car rentals and accommodations.
3. No competition for sand space at any island beaches.
4. Uncrowded restaurants mean less waiting and less need for making reservations except on holidays.
5. The ocean is warmer -- well up in the 80s. July is a picture-perfect month: clear skies, low humidity, no sweltering like you'd get staying home (near-constant ocean breezes are a great help). You gotta come, mon...
6. All restaurants are open, so you can go to your favorites night after night after night with no crowds. And everything tastes better in SXM...
7. Plane watching is easier at Maho beach because there are fewer tourists, though cruise ship people are still here. As an experienced stayover tourist, you can point at them when a departing plane blows them into the ocean. (No offense.)
8. Etna Ice Cream melts very slowly no matter how hot it gets. And it's creamier and tastes better than the stuff you get at home.
9. Jewelers may just make the best deals of the year since there are fewer customers around during summer -- leaving you more time to haggle.
10. We'll leave number 10 open for you to fill in after you vacation in SXM this Summer. Stay tuned... we'll be looking for what you feel #10 should be. It might just win you something.

So far, we've explored #1, #2,#3, #4, #5, #6, #7. and #10. This week, it's #8 and #9:

Number 8: If you love Ice Cream but have never tasted Etna from St. Maarten, prepared to be awestruck. As we've said many times, it's the creamiest, richest, most flavorful Ice Cream your lips will ever touch. It uses all natural ingredients four flavor experience unlike any other.

Number 9: there is less business on the island in summer, so the competition for business is tougher than during the rest of the year. Jewelers want to make sales. They can't give the stuff away they certainly can give you deals that might be tougher to come by during winter, when stores are busier. If you love quality jewelry, summer may well be the best time of the year to visit SXM.

We'll talk more about summer vacations in SXM next week; in the meantime, enter our new giveaway now. [Enter here.](#)

More stories are below.

**[Get The Current Low Price](#)
[on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)
[and keep the current low price on a future 5-yr. renewal.](#)
[More benefits... same price.](#)**

Email Jeff now: jeff.berger@skymed.com (new email)

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. Visit www.getskymed.com.

31. Two Ways to Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Waiting Period to Cover Pre-Existing Conditions

On its annual and longer memberships, SkyMed has a 90-day waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions — after that, they're covered in full.

So, if you plan a summer vacation or another later this year, the best way to avoid that waiting period is to buy your annual or longer membership now. That way the waiting period is over when you're traveling.

Annual memberships always cost far less per day than short-term memberships (about \$1.30/day for family annual memberships and \$15.00/day for family short-term).

Annuals and multiyear memberships are also guaranteed renewable regardless of your age or health -- a big deal. If you buy a short-term membership, after it's over you must medically requalify to get a new one — and your health can change in a heartbeat.

SkyMed delivers up to 18 benefits: [see them all here](#) (downloadable PDF).

Questions? [Email Jeff](#) and ask away. Include your phone number and time zone, or call him directly at (508)-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only).

32. Restaurant of the Week: Jimbo's

It's been about two years since we mentioned Jimbo's iconic restaurant in Simpson Bay. Their location, bisected by a number of small pools, strikes us as quintessentially Caribbean.

Jimbo's bills itself as a "Rock & Blues Cafe" and its food covers a spectrum of flavors. Go for the atmosphere, which is coool, and stay for the food. Vibrant all around...worth a check.

Jimbo himself is an interesting story. He was an actor before moving to SXM, was born on Valentine's Day, has been seen tooling around SXM on his Harley, and has a "Zen" lifestyle reflected in the ambiance of his restaurant.

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 5/1/17)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/6/17)
Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 6/5/17)
Isola Ristorante Italiano (featured 5/29/17)
Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/6/17; added 2/17)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 4/10/17)
Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 3/13/17
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 3/25/17)
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 5/21/17)
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 5/14/17)
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 the turn near Shore Pointe to get there). (featured 4/17/2017)
FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17)
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)

33. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #25

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.

Pinocchio's: "I may be mistaken, but I haven't seen Pinocchio's on your list of restaurants from the old days. It was on Front Street on the water side and run by Byron and his then wife or partner Veronique. Byron's last name I can't remember but he went on to open other restaurants in the 80s. I still see him quite often. Pinocchio's was functioning when I arrived on the island in 1984 and I was working at the West Indian Tavern at the time. In those days pretty much everything was happening on Front Street, Sam's Place etc., Calalloo." - **Robert Luckock**

Readers: We're looking for your suggestions about other restaurants; let us know your past-era SXM favorites so we can feature your complete reviews. Email your suggestions *with detailed information please to susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Look Back."* **Please be sure to include as many details as you can; you may well be the source of a future column.** Do check below first -- we've already featured over two dozen former SXM restaurants.

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
- 16 - Antoine D
- 17 - Sambuca D
- 18 - Peg Leg Pub & Steakhouse D
- 19 - Tutta Pasta D
- 20 - Wendy's (D)
- 21 - Risdon's Drive-In (D?)
- 22 - Dawn Beach Hotel Restaurant (D)
- 23 - Paradise Cafe (Contributed by Laurence Aiello) (D)
- 24 - Callaloo (D)
- 25 - Mario's Bistrot (Marigot) F (updated name and moved to Dutch Side, D)
- 26 - Pinocchio's (D)

Coming soon:

Cugini (French Side) and Zachary's (D)

You can read about all of these past restaurants by checking back issues of *SXM Weekly News* on our PDF archives page.

34. Should You Get 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.

35. 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. We know we repeat this... we do it for very good reason.*

SkyMed Takes You Home® -- what else matters?

36. Q & A about SkyMed Medical Evacuation

Updated 5/8/17

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, no reimbursements, and no deductibles for SkyMed services, ever. SkyMed arranges everything and pays for all the services it provides.

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 (five-year SkyMed memberships only). This offer is available only by phone; email jeff.berger@skymed.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). Americans, Canadians, and ExPats only.

See www.getskymed.com or email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.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. 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 -- and now a SkyMed Ambassador -- for over 15 years. He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.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. See our current low sale pricing at the beginning of this section: sale ends soon.

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.](#)

37. 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](#).

38. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

39. Periscope

Future stories: More on the Sapphire Supplemental Maintenance Fee.

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".

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://everythingxm.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://everythingxm.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 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. 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 www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

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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, contact 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 respond individually.

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

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

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