

Jeff Berger's St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News

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June
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2014

St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

#948

Weekly SXM News and Comments

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Attention iPad and Smart Phone Users

This new format is easily readable on most mobile devices; scroll down for this week's news. A very small number of older Android phones may have issues; if so, download a pdf of the latest edition here:

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

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

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TOP STORIES

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

This is issue #948 of Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News*, published every Monday all year long (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). You're receiving this because you subscribed or are a JMB Website Supporters member.

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

- After Lots of Complaints, Dutch Side Government Conducts Full-Day "Control" at Sapphire Beach Resort**
- Starting Slowly: 132-million Euro Marigot Bay Development Project**
- Don't Travel Anywhere This Summer Without SkyMed Peace-of-Mind**
- Bravo's "Below Decks" Returns in August; We Have the Details**
- USA Today Features Top Caribbean Nude Resorts; Guess Which One is #One**
- Airfares Spiking Thanks To Iraq & Rising Crude Oil Prices**
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-- Sargasso Seaweed May be Returning to SXM

-- World Cup a Big Deal in SXM

23 new stories this week

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Timeshare Rentals 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, at no charge, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 200+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week (Two):

RENTAL 9/14/2014 9/21/2014 week 37 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Bougainvillea Bldg, Unit B257. One master bedroom and Murphy bed in living room sleeps 4 total, one bath. Totally remodeled, full kitchen with new appliances. Overlooking Simpson Bay with view of incoming/outgoing yachts. Private pool area, laundry facilities in building. Short walk to beaches. Casino, piano bar, convenience store, supermarket and restaurants within walking distance. Great views from balcony. Great place to relax with many amenities on site. \$5,000 or B.O. Can be connected to lockout apartment B358. Both are one bedroom complete apartments connected by inner, lockable stairway. \$600 for a week/both apartments (lockout) rent for \$1,100 Peter or Paula at 732-591-8396 hooch123@optonline.net

RENTAL 10/26/2014 11/9/2014 Flamingo Beach Resort Studio unit sleeps up to 4 people, complete with full kitchen, bath, gorgeous ocean and property views, large infinity pool (including am water aerobics and afternoon poolside entertainment), cabana bar, bbq pit, dining and 2 beaches. Convenient to everything - grocery store, many dining options, nightlife, casinos and outdoor bars with live entertainment even a complimentary fitness facility at Flamingo's sister resort all within walking distance. Renter pays timeshare taxes. \$1,000.00 Joy 774-261-0258 joylanders@comcast.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week (Now Two):

SALE 1/17/2015 1/24/2015 Week 3 Diamond Resorts Flamingo Beach Resort Deluxe beachfront studio (7120) at beach level on the Dutch side of St. Maarten facing Simpson Bay; just a few steps from the beach. Fully equipped kitchen, king size bed and convertible sofa. Sleeps 4. Veranda with table, chairs and chaise lounge. 2 TVs and DVD player. This resort has 2 beautiful beaches, a large infinity swimming pool, on premises restaurants, a French bakery, a deli and many other amenities,. Many excellent restaurants very close by. Close to airport and convenient to excellent shopping in Philipsburg and Marigot. \$1,500 Yale 516 679-6733 yrosen@optonline.net

SALE: 2/1/2014 - 2/8/2014 (week 5) Simpson Bay Resort Marina 207, prime winter week -- sleep-four studio overlooking both the Marina pool and quiet Pelican beach, just steps away. Resort offers several pools, many restaurants including the Stone, tennis courts, a convenience store, water

sports, casino, and The Red Piano piano bar. Unit features a/c, stove, refrigerator, microwave, cable TV, sleeps four, very convenient. Reduced to only \$2000 or best reasonable offer. Please contact Susan or Jeff at (508) 830-3456 or susan@jmbcommunications.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

"Like" Our Facebook SXM Timesharing Group People for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection in St. Maarten

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083

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 200+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

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

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Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare

Meet Our Sponsors (Updated 9/7/13)

Section Four: For Members Only (Revised 12/17/13)

- A. About Low Airfares We Post On The *Secret Site*
- B. All the Answers for JWS members: Just Click the Link
- C. Members: Why Check Airfares Daily?
- D. Members: Password Recovery Info
- E. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads

Section Five: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 12/17/13)

How To Get a GROWING LIST of 200+ 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://everythingxm.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 200+ benefits... and more coming soon.

Contact Us:

[Revised 12/17/13]

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 .

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members (including *Low Airfare Bulletins*) 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. Airfares Spiking Thanks To Iraq & Rising Crude Oil Prices

Even before radical Islamist ISIS militants set fire to Iraq's largest oil refinery in the last week, profiteers in the oil business sent the price of crude oil skyward. Gasoline, home heating oil, and everything else made of petroleum rapidly followed suit despite the fact that there was clearly no shortage and no delivery problems.

Bernie Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont who some view as a possible presidential contender, accused oil speculators of using Iraq as an excuse to drive up prices. Whether he or anyone else in Congress plans to do anything about that, no one knows, but we're sure none of us expects any action since oil companies line the pockets of many members of Congress.

We try to keep our news factual, but sometimes things get under our skin. The point of this story is that airfares rose in May by more than 5% before anything even happened in Iraq. Unfortunately, instability there will probably kick prices even higher, not to mention spook the stock market. We'll watch the prices of airfares for you as always.

2. Tropical Weather Stays Uneventful, But Hurricane Preps Are Intense

The Caribbean seems to get hit more often than practically anywhere else by tropical storms, tropical waves, and hurricanes. Despite the fact that this is expected to be a quieter-than-usual year, intense preparations are proceeding quickly throughout the Caribbean.

It's not like the island doesn't know what to do in case a hurricane comes; it certainly does. It simply makes sure that everyone is aware of what they must do should a storm arrive, and that all people faced with emergency responsibilities in the wake of a storm or during a storm be totally ready.

Should you be on St. Maarten during a hurricane, rest assured that both sides of the island are very well prepared.

Please see the next story, which is related.

3. "SXM Weather" Now on Facebook /sxmweather

The meteorological office of Country St. Maarten now has its own Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sxmweather> . It contains forecasts posted throughout the day and other info as events warrant. Check it out.

On our www.everythingsxm.com site you'll find weather radar loops plus satellite images. For those anywhere who are affected by hurricanes, we urge you to look into inexpensive professional private forecasting from www.crownweather.com which has done an extraordinary job over the years in tropical forecasting.

4. Important Reminder: "Global Entry" Can Speed Your Return to the USA

Returning to the United States from any international destination can be a royal pain without the assistance of Global Entry, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol program which includes a thorough background check on passengers and gives them credentials that enable them to get priority service. Global entry also includes the Pre-Check domestic security service which expedites security processing at selected airports across the country.

Although the program costs \$100 per person and gives you credentials that last five years, the cost is well worth it in terms of time saved and convenience. Beyond that, the program is being rolled out to more and more airports, benefiting travelers both domestically and internationally.

St. Maarten is talking about instituting preclearance for US bound passengers. Even there, we expect that Global Entry will significantly expedite your return processing to the US.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

5. After Lots of Complaints, Dutch Side Government Conducts Full-Day "Control" at Sapphire Beach Resort

We receive many e-mails each week about various goings-on across both sides of the island. For the past year, the vast majority of e-mails we received about Sapphire Beach Resort have been positive, reflecting what appeared to be sincere efforts to improve the resort.

However, to the best of our knowledge, the resort is still owned by the Verdier family who, in the opinion of most timeshare owners who have spoken with us, aren't exactly talented at maintenance or oriented toward total customer satisfaction.

We've run a number of articles about Sapphire over the years, not all of which have been complimentary. That, coupled with many social media postings and many letters to the editor as well as direct contact with government officials by many people led to a multidepartment all day government inspection last week of Sapphire. That inspection led the government to observe that the hotel needed massive renovations to make it satisfactory to the government. The government also implicitly warned other properties that this is only the first such inspection and more are coming.

Sapphire Resort seemed perplexed by the government's observations. The government said it saw some standing water at the hotel, exposed wires, rusted pipes, and more.

A couple of years ago, we were in one of the villas at Sapphire which looked a bit decrepit. Several years ago, the resort instituted a large supplemental maintenance fee and seemed to use it for upgrades that timeshare owners said should have been funded with their maintenance fees. Many asked where the maintenance fees went, but Sapphire owners never really answered. Sapphire has a timeshare owners association but it seems to be cloaked in secrecy, it has been accused by timeshare owners of being undemocratic, and it seems generally unresponsive to timeshare owners.

We'll keep watching to see what happens at Sapphire and elsewhere. Bear in mind that there is no strong timeshare owner consumer protection legislation on St. Maarten. Glaciers seem to be retreating faster than the rate at which proposed consumer protection legislation is making it through Parliament. Both of those factors have led to absurdly low sale prices for privately owned timeshares on the island. Oddly enough, if you want to buy one, now may be the best time to do so. We have hundreds of timeshares listed from our members on www.everythingSXM.com. More on Sapphire: <http://bit.ly/1ijnqwl>

6. Lionel, of Atrium Resort, Passes

For many years, Lionel has been one of the most popular employees at the Atrium Resort in Simpson Bay. In his early 50s, Lionel passed away unexpectedly within the last week. We wanted to pass this along to his many friends and offer our sincere condolences to his family and coworkers.

SECTION 3: Island

Travel for Business or Pleasure? Do this for you:

SkyMed Ultimate membership takes you home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. Get SkyMed peace of mind before you travel anywhere, business or pleasure. The SkyMed Ultimate is just \$59 monthly for ongoing peace-of-mind. Annual plans and short-term memberships are also available. Visit www.skymed.com/jmbsxm. For answers to any questions or to sign up, call 508-830-3456 (Jeff, weekdays 9-5 Eastern) or 800-475-9633 (SkyMed, during normal business hours weekdays; ask for Nan or Jim).

7. Starting Slowly: €132-million Marigot Bay Development Project

On the Dutch side, decisions are made and are quickly implemented.

The French side is far less development oriented and consequently, big ideas can take a long time to happen, if they're implemented at all. Redevelopment of the old La Belle Creole property in the lowlands, for example, has been discussed for years with no results.

A while ago, we reported on a major project to redevelop Marigot Bay. That project appears to be moving ahead, but literally at a snail's pace. The €132 million project will include port accommodations for mid-size cruise ships, significantly more room for megayachts in a new Marina, plus accommodations. But when it will actually happen is anyone's guess. All we know is that French side authorities are saying it's moving ahead.

8. Now, French Side ATM Users Become Victims of "Skimmers"

Thieves have installed skimmers inside Dutch side ATMs in the past, and virtually all of them have been caught and thrown in the slammer.

Now, the French side gendarmerie is investigating the use of skimmers there. We're not going to suggest that you bring travelers checks to St. Maarten since most places are no longer accepting them. What we do suggest is that if you use ATMs, use ones that are not freestanding and desolate. You should also make it a point to periodically check your credit card or debit card status via the web, to make sure everything stays kosher.

9. Retrospective on Last Winter in SXM

With an improving economy, recent year-by-year increases in tourism, and the expectation of a bad winter, hopes were high last fall that this past high season was going to be one of the best in years.

That didn't happen thanks, in large measure, to the Chikungunya virus, which started its visit to the island last November. For a number of hotels, business dropped like a rock after the Heineken Regatta in early March. In this newsletter, we previously criticized the government for not reacting to misleading press reports in North America about what Chikungunya is and about the island's response to it. Some government officials agreed that their response was indeed slow and not forceful.

Now, Chikungunya has appeared in many states in US. It remains to be seen if any US mosquitos will spread it.

In any case, the winter on the island was decent in terms of business but could have been a lot better. Chikungunya is not as serious a disease as dengue fever; the latter is sometimes fatal, and dengue has been in the Caribbean for years. The good news, if it can be called that, is that the incidence of dengue seems to be supplanted to an extent by Chikungunya. Heavy mosquito fogging and extensive educational efforts on both sides of the island have cut the incidence of Chikungunya substantially.

It has been a lesson well learned by all. See next story.

10. Our Crystal Ball on The 2014-2015 High Season

At this point, nobody knows what external factors are going to impact the 2014-15 tourist season in St. Maarten.

The 2014 Atlantic hurricane season is predicted to be less active than usual, but nobody knows how that will play out.

Where the economy going is also unclear, despite the Dow breaking records recently. The future of the insurrection in Iraq and how rising world oil prices could affect the world's economy aren't yet clear.

Chikungunya is under better control now, but nobody knows what the future holds concerning health and the tropics — just as nobody could have predicted much less pronounced Chikungunya before last November.

All things being equal, and with a bit of luck, the 2014-15 season in St. Maarten could be a very good one. Unfortunately, we won't know the results until next April.

11. Don't Travel Anywhere This Summer Without SkyMed Peace-of-Mind

For the past 12 years, after a somewhat scary but harmless experience in our own family, we've owned and recommended SkyMed membership to everyone who will listen.

Why? To us it exactly like fire insurance. Most of us don't expect our houses to catch fire, but we have fire insurance to avoid the financial calamity that would occur should it happen.

SkyMed is exactly the same. None of us expects to become critically ill or injured while we're traveling anywhere. But if it happens and we need a medical evacuation jet home, that jet could cost upwards of \$45,000 in cash in advance – or more. Under perfect circumstances, coming up with that kind of money is a pain; but in a severe medical emergency, the last thing you want is try to get \$45,000 to save your life on an urgent basis.

SkyMed takes you home in an ICU equivalent professionally staffed medical evacuation jet when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. You have fire insurance; you need medical evacuation membership in SkyMed. Please see the ad at the beginning of this section for more information.

12. Your Chance to Vote on the Best Wedding Destination

Many people think St. Maarten is one of the best places for destination weddings; we agree. Here's your chance to vote for the island in this key category: <http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-wedding-destination/>

13. Lagoonies Closing for the Summer; End-of-Season Bash Set for Friday

Lagoonies closes for the Summer in another week. The bar/restaurant on the southern end of the lagoon in Cole Bay is throwing a party all day next Friday -- then, that's it.

They wrote us and are saying...

We will have :
Live music -- Koolberry Jam - Kelly + Bob
Fried Seafood 6-10 p.m.
Drink Specials all day
And DJ Andy in between and after hours

Try the fish and chips, we hear it's outstanding.

14. Bravo's "Below Decks" Returns in August; We Have the Details

Below Decks was the name of a Bravo cable reality show that appeared about a year ago and purported to show the life of the crew of a megayacht.

The yacht, called *Honor*, was docked at Port de Plaisance in St. Maarten and its crew interactions were great fun to watch.

There were only a couple of issues.

First, the real name of the boat wasn't *Honor*; its real name is something else. And the crew featured on the show wasn't the actual yacht crew. The actual crew got time off when the *Below Decks* crew, hired by Bravo, took over the boat during filming.

After the series had been taped, the boat that had been renamed *Honor* was sold and was no longer available to the show. Word went out a while ago that the show was looking for crew and passengers for season two, and we published that a few months ago.

We've been in touch with several members of the season one cast. What we've learned is that the show is expected to air as soon as August. When we asked some season one cast members whether they would be in season two, it quickly became obvious that they were under nondisclosure -- we got no straight answers.

In fact, not all of the season one cast members had previously spent a lot of time on the water working on yachts. Season one cast member Sam Orme, for example, is the daughter of folks who owned a yacht but to our knowledge she had never worked on one before landing the part with Bravo. She was one of the show's most appealing characters.

Adrienne Geng, who managed much of the crew in season one, is involved in the yachting business up to her eyeballs -- apparently as something of a headhunter, from what we've found. And Kat -- the young lady who drank a bit on the show -- was involved in the industry in her home state of Rhode Island.

Again, the show airs in August but we don't know who the cast will be, at least not yet. Our guess is that some of the season one cast may well return. We do know that the show this time will be based in the British Virgin Islands and that this super megayacht will be its home:

<http://www.yachtcharterfleet.com/news/motor-yachtohana-to-appear-in-lbelow-deck-r-season-2-reality-show-1893.htm> .

We don't know whether the ship will again be renamed *Honor*.

15. USA Today Features Top Caribbean Nude Resorts; Guess Which One is #One

Last week, USA Today ran a feature on top Caribbean nude resorts.

French St. Martin has two such resorts: first, the villa-based Club Fantastico in the hills overlooking Orient Bay; and second, Club Orient at the southern end of Orient beach, which is probably the busiest stretch of beach on the island and it's entirely clothing optional.

Club Orient was listed first among the top Caribbean nude resorts. Our congratulations to them for this honor.

Jeff visited Orient a number of times last winter and hopes to do the same next winter; if you see him, say hi.

We have two hundred reasons for people to join JMB and renew by the thousands. Some have renewed their memberships past the year 2030. 200 reasons? We offer you about 200 discounts plus low airfares plus free ads to rent out or sell your timeshares not only in SXM, but worldwide. A one-year membership is just \$59 but it's much less per year if you join for several years. Join, reinstate, or renew today. Then you can write your own reason.... See www.everythingsxm.com

Get a [Website That Works](#) for your business or professional practice from JMB, a seasoned 24 year-old marketing company:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

16. Sargasso Seaweed May be Returning to SXM

In the Summers of both 2011 and 2012, Sargasso seaweed which flows with ocean currents wound up on some St. Maarten beaches. Authorities are saying that could happen again this summer, and they are watching currents so they can warn if it approaches.

The seaweed is a nuisance and is dealt with by authorities when it arrives. If it comes, it's not yet known where it will land.

17. Jamaica Decriminalizes Marijuana; Is SXM Next?

Caribbean press reports are saying that Jamaica is in the process of decriminalizing marijuana. What they're actually doing is decriminalizing possession by individuals of small amounts of marijuana.

We know some tourists buy marijuana in St. Maarten and use it, and others bring it in with them. The latter is a bad idea because of US federal laws against marijuana which could open these individuals up to prosecution regardless of what their state laws call for. There are serious penalties for marijuana possession in St. Maarten, so we urge you to be cautious if you decide to go down that road; we don't recommend it.

As for the likelihood of marijuana being decriminalized in St. Maarten, we think that's about as likely as a blizzard July 4 in Philipsburg.

18. Watchmaker Breitling Officially Inaugurates Boutique on Front Street

Although its Front Street boutique was officially opened last November, it has now been "inaugurated." Already, it's very busy. More: <http://tinyurl.com/lbfm4z>

19. World Cup a Big Deal in SXM

In St. Maarten and most of the rest of the world, the World Cup is huge. Even here in the United States, where we write this issue from the Boston area, "soccer" is bigger than ever.

It really is huge in St. Maarten. If you're on the island as World Cup is progressing, stop in where games are shown on TV and join in the fun.

20. Domino's / SXM Offers Shawarma Pizza

We were reading the online version of the Daily Herald the other day when we saw a restaurant ad with the word shawarma in big letters. Reading further, we discovered to our surprise that the ad was for Domino's pizza.

We've tried shawarma and enjoyed it; if you try the pizza, let us know what you think.

21. Restaurants of the Week: Two Favorites

This week we've selected two of our all-time favorite SXM restaurants for "Restaurant of the Week" honors. The top guys in each happen to be best friends, though that has nothing to do with their selection. Both also received 2014 Everything St. Maarten "Awards of Excellence" in March.

The first is Mr. Busby's Beach Bar.

It has been around almost forever on Dawn beach next to Oyster Bay Beach Resort. This is, in our opinion, the single best beach bar on the island. Not only that, it is on the ocean where it receives constant tradewinds. You dine under the palms in real tropical comfort.

The menu here is about the biggest we've ever seen at any beach bar anywhere. Open for breakfast and lunch through to late in the day, it offers big sandwiches, big salads, plus fish and lobster. Their burgers are amazing. Service is excellent. You won't find better breakfasts or lunches anywhere.. It's also good to know that Busby's is right on Dawn beach, so you can even walk out to beach chairs, park yourself under an umbrella, and eat there. There's food and drink service on the beach, too.

Through most of the day, Island Pizza, also owned by the Busby folks, serves delicious and authentic thin crust Italian pizza. Great stuff. At night, Busby's morphs into Daniel's By the Sea, an outstanding Italian restaurant with specials every night. They also serve lobster straight from their lobster pool. Say hi to Daniel Jurczenko for us.

IZI Ristorante Italiano In Simpson Bay is a hip, lively, fun place with truly outstanding food. Open only at night, and closed Tuesdays during low season, IZI is owned by a seasoned chef, Davide Foini. There are always at least two other seasoned chefs on hand, all of them fully experienced with every recipe served at the restaurant.

Davide formerly owned the La Gondola restaurant at Atlantis casino, which he sold several years ago. Special occasions are extra special at IZI. Just go; you'll love it. (Thousands of our readers go every year.) Say hi to Davide and Marco Ferrante for us.

Check this space for another featured restaurant next week.

Previous Restaurants of the Week:

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 4/21/14)

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 3/10/14)

Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 6/23/14)

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 1/20/14)

Fusion, www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com (featured 4/7/14)

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 4/28/14)

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 6/23/14)

Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 3/3/14)

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 2/24/14)

Temptation, <http://www.rareandtemptation.com/EN/temptation/>

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 1/6/14)

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/23/14)

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/23/14)

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 2/3/14)

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/5/14)

SPN Cafe, <http://www.pineapplepete.com/sport.html>

Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path from the far side of Ocean Club to get there).

FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/31/14)

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 2/10/14)

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 5/19/14)

Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/>

Soprano's Restaurant, Maho Plaza, <http://www.sopranospianobar.com/stmaarten/restaurant/> (featured 3/3/14)

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

Sushiito Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance 3/17/14

We'll write about another SXM restaurant here next week as we continue our summer SXM restaurant coverage.

22. Caribbean Recipe of the Week

We were thinking about Elisa Cohen who is now at Sushiito at Port de Plaisance and that brought us to search for Caribbean sushi recipes. To us sushi is a main course so what we found today is first under Entrees. Enjoy.

We grow this list every week, so ultimately you'll see tons of prior recipes here in one convenient place. The newest recipes are dated; that started 5/19/14.

Entrees:

Caribbean Sushi rolls <http://caribbeanvegan.wordpress.com/2010/09/19/caribbean-sushi-and-a-first-timers-experience-rolling-sushi/> 6/21/14

Caribbean Chicken with Jalapeno Mango Sauce <http://www.poweroffamilymeals.com/recipes/5032> 6/9/14

Caribbean Chicken Wings <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/sunny-anderson/sunny-andersons-caribbean-chicken-wings-recipe.html> 5/19/14

Caribbean Fish with Mango Salsa: <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/caribbean-fish-with-mango-salsa/>

Sugarcane shrimp: <http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/Sugarcane-Shrimp-358593>

Tropical coconut bread: <http://www.food.com/recipe/tropical-coconut-bread-29185>

Rock Lobster Thermidor (from Cuba): http://www.caribxseafoods.com/recipes-cuban_rock_lobster_thermidor.html

Almond crusted fresh fish (from the Bahamas): https://www.bahamabreeze.com/recipes/main_dishes/almond_crusted_fresh_fish.asp

Side Dishes:

Roasted and Fried Breadfruit <http://cooklikeajamaican.com/roasted-and-fried-breadfruit/> 5/27/14

Caribbean Rice and Beans: <http://tinyurl.com/mutk2n4>

Desserts:

Caribbean banana Mango Smoothies: <http://www.food.com/recipe/caribbean-banana-mango-smoothie-230184>

23. Reserve Your Free Sunset Lagoon Cruise Now

A relaxing, informative lagoon sunset sail is one of our long-time JMB Website Supporters member benefits. Sunset sails fill up fast -- we have over 20,000 members -- so go to the Secret Website, check out this benefit in the Discounts Master Index, and sign up now. The Secret Site is at www.everythingsxm.com/secret. Your username and password are required.

Sunset sails are now offered on Tuesdays and they depart from Boca Marina near Princess Juliana Airport.

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Want to rent or buy a week?

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http://everythingxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every other weekday. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

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Rent **St. Maarten Villas** is the website of Villalady Bobby Valins, showcasing her villas in Burgeaux Bay and in Grand Case. See her site at www.rentstmaartenvillas.com.

Villas in Paradise is your one-stop source for great St. Maarten Villa Accommodations.
See many choices at www.villasinparadise.com or call Marilyn Pulito directly at 508-533-1388.

Emerald Cove Villas provides a one-of-a-kind vacation experience in Oyster Pond. See their website at www.emeraldcovevillas.com . Learn why *Emerald Cove* is the name.

Caribbean Days provides luxury villa accommodations throughout the Caribbean. See www.caribbeandays.com .

Villa Journeys offers JMB readers villa accommodations (and much more) not only throughout the Caribbean, but across the USA and in Europe.
See www.villajourneys.com

Oyster Bay View Villa, overlooking Oyster Pond and Captain Oliver's Marina, delivers great accommodations near Dawn Beach, a quick ride to Orient Beach and the dozens of fine restaurants at Grand Case. See their site at www.oysterbayview.com

Club Fantastico, www.clubfantastico.net, overlooking Orient Beach, gives you fine villa-like accommodations in a totally clothing optional ambiance, inside and out. It's the perfect place for a *no tan lines* vacation.

Summit Resort Hotel, atop a cliff in Cupecoy, is a favorite. See why; check out www.thesummitresort.com

Shopping: (Updated 9/7/2013)

DK Gems on Front Street (opposite and not far west of the historic Court House) offers extraordinary eye-popping gems in a rainbow of exquisite settings. Not to be missed on your next trip. See www.dkgemsint.com .

Zhaveri Jewelers on Front Street opposite Little Switzerland (near the historic Courthouse) offers an incredible inventory of the finest gems in the Caribbean. Offering the island's largest selection of elegant jewelry for men, women, and kids. Visit www.zhaveri.com .

Fine Food, Pastries, Wines/Liquors, Yacht Provisioning:

Le Grand Marche has several Dutch Side locations to conveniently serve you -- at the roundabout near the Bush road, next to Port de Plaisance off the Union Road near the French border, or their *Gourmet Marche* store in Simpson Bay. For all the details see www.legrandmarche.net .

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Updated 12/17/13)

Returns soon.

SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 12/17/13

Car Rentals:

Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental: www.tropical-tropicana.com -- reserve at reservations@tropical-tropicana.com

Unique Car Rental: www.uniquecarrentalsxm.com

JMB Website Supporters members get discounts at both Tropical and Unique. See the Secret Site for details.

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Restaurants:

Detailed descriptions of many restaurants are at <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/restaurants/index.shtml>

Emergency Medical Evacuation Jet Protection:

In case of critical illness or injury while traveling, emergency medical evacuation can cost you upwards of \$50,000 or more payable in cash in advance. "SkyMed" takes you home from the US, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, or the Caribbean. See www.skymed.com/jmbxsm . The cost is only \$59/month for the Ultimate plan (minimum service, two years); short term plans also available. We never travel without this life-saving protection.

Bookmark our SXM site and visit us often: www.everythingsxm.com

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JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, www.everythingsxm.com/secret , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at support[at]jmbcommunications.com. If you have misplaced your password, you can get a new one by clicking the orange "forgot password" link below the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com assuming your membership is in good standing.

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