

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

[This  
Week's  
Stories](#)

[Airfares  
Airlines  
& Weather  
News](#)

[Lodging  
News](#)

[Island  
News](#)

[Everything  
SXM  
Home  
Page](#)

[Members  
SECRET  
Website  
Login](#)

[SXM Condo  
Rentals &  
Sales](#)

[Something  
New Is Coming](#)



August  
11,  
2014

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

#954

### *Weekly SXM News and Comments*

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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This new format is easily readable on most mobile devices; scroll down for this week's news. You can also download a pdf of recent editions here:

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

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

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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 #954 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:

- *Lead Story: Polar Vortex in September's Forecast -- Prelude to a Worse-Than-Normal Winter*
- *US Customs & Border Patrol Eases Return of US Passengers from Caribbean*
- *NOAA Could Be Wrong, If Madden-Julian Goes as Lightbown Says: An Alert for Everyone Near the Coast*
- *Mickey ("Mikey") Daniel Forming His Own SXM Car Rental Company*
- *What Did Our "Summit Summerthing" Vacation Prize Winner Think of Her Just-Concluded Trip?*

- *Caravanserai Auction Set For Wednesday, 10 a.m, at Pasanggrahan - Court Lets It Go Ahead*
- *New JMB Membership Prices Change October 1: Join Now For 200 Discounts & Lowest Membership Prices*
- *All-New "Device Friendly" SXM Weekly News Coming This Month*
- *Think SXM Souvenirs for Holiday Presents -- But Do The Shopping Now*
- *How To Advertise Your SXM Timeshare For Rent or For Sale on Our Website*

**27 new stories this week**

**Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents**

## Timeshare Rentals and Sales of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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 SXM newsletters coming.

### **SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week (Two):**

**RENTAL** 8/23/2014 9/13/2014 The Villas on Great Bay This two bedroom, 2.5 bath villa is situated right on Great Bay Beach in a small complex of twelve individual privately owned villas with a lovely beach front swimming pool and breath-taking ocean views. This is the perfect place to relax around the pool or to just lounge on your private lanai or elevated deck overlooking our beautiful beach. It is remodeled with new furniture, king beds, full kitchen, dishwasher, microwave, dining room, and living room with LCD TV's in each room. Within easy walking distance of restaurants, grocery stores, shopping, and casinos. \$200 per night Doug 785-554-875 [dkinsinger@topekachamber.org](mailto:dkinsinger@topekachamber.org)

**RENTAL** 02/13/2015 02/20/2015 Week 7 Diamond Royal Palm Beach Resort Beautiful two bedroom/two bath timeshare resort sleeps six in this unit located on fifth floor, room 8504 overlooking the beautiful waters of the Caribbean. The master bedroom has a king bed with sliding door to the veranda overlooking the beach. The second bedroom has a king bed and there is a queen sleeper in living room. Resort has its own beach and pool with swim-up bar and restaurant, mini-market, shops, complementary fully equipped gym, free internet, washer and dryer available . Restaurants, entertainment and shops within 1 to 3 blocks walking distance. Enjoy the open-air living room, dining room and fully equipped kitchen. This is President's week and this unit will rent fast. \$2,000 Pat 610 308 2851 [Jhaney54@comcast.net](mailto:Jhaney54@comcast.net)

### **SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week (Now Two):**

**SALE:** 1/24/2015 through 3/21/2015: Weeks 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11 Simpson Bay Resort & Marina 2 Bedroom Villa: 211A - 211B (Master and Junior Suites) together accommodate 6 people. Master suite consists of King size bed/master bedroom, 2 Murphy beds/living room, full kitchen, dining/living room, spacious bathroom with separate double vanity area. Beautiful, large deck overlooks Simpson Bay. Junior suite – (lock out) 2 full beds, a small kitchen, dorm size refrigerator, microwave, toaster, coffee maker. The bathroom is spacious with a separate double vanity area. Decks overlook Simpson Bay & Pool. Sale price per week: \$19,000.00 Matthew O'Donnell 609-780-6845 [mess113@yahoo.com](mailto:mess113@yahoo.com)

**SALE** 11/22/2014 11/29/2014 Week 47 Diamond Resorts Royal Palm Royal Palm Royal Palm Beach Resort Unit 8227 Sat-SAt Sleeps 6. Newly renovated two bedroom, two bath unit with a sleep sofa. King size bed in ea. bedroom. Fully equipped kitchen and large living/dining room area. There are 3 T.V.'s and a DVD. Balcony overlooks Simpson Bay. Resort has its own beach and features are: a health club, hair salon, bar, restaurant, pool, pool bar, in room internet and mini-market. Within walking distance of many fine restaurants and a supermarket. 5 minutes from airport. \$3,000 3023763824 [rhughes565@msn.com](mailto:rhughes565@msn.com)

### ***Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:***

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)

### **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](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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

***Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):***

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

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

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

**Get a growing list of 200+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:**

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

**Lead Story: Polar Vortex in September's Forecast -- Prelude to a Worse-Than-Normal Winter**

1. NOAA Revises Hurricane Season Forecast: Increased Chance of a Below Normal Season
2. NOAA Could Be Wrong, If Madden-Julian Goes as Lightbown Says: An Alert for Everyone Near the Coast
3. US Customs & Border Patrol Eases Return of US Passengers from Caribbean
4. In the Bay, Bertha Beaches a Boat
5. Why Tide Changes in SXM are Hardly Noticeable

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

6. What Did Our "Summit Summerthing" Vacation Prize Winner Think of Her Just-Concluded Trip?
7. Caravanserai Auction Set For Wednesday, 10 a.m, at Pasangrahan - If There Are Bids
8. How To Advertise *Your* SXM Timeshare For Rent or For Sale on Our Website

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

**Get Five Years of JMB Membership Free Now Thru 8/31 Only**

**When You Get a Five-Year "SkyMed Ultimate" Medical Evacuation Plan from Us**

**8a. New JMB Membership Prices Change October 1: Join Now For The Most Discounts & The Lowest Prices**

9. All-New "Device Friendly" SXM Weekly News Coming This Month
10. See Lots of SXM Pictures at Daily News on Our Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Facebook Page
11. Trans-Border Agreement Signing Due Aug. 18
12. Bikini Beach Manager Accused of Assaulting a Man Using a Metal Detector on "His" Beach
13. 42nd Central American Bodybuilding Championship October 2-4 in French SXM
14. Dutch Side Police Chief Making Good on a Long-Time Promise
15. Police Sign Agreement for a Community Police Substation at Maho
16. Two Police Dogs Join Dutch Side Force; Focus - Drugs & Firearms
17. On Dutch Side, Sharp Decline in Armed Robberies
18. Dutch Side Not Now Considering Medical Marijuana
19. Beach Bonfire Ban Buys Baby Turtles
20. Think SXM Souvenirs for Holiday Presents -- But Do The Shopping Now
21. "Below Decks" Due Back Tomorrow, August 12
22. Mickey ("Mikey") Daniel Forming His Own SXM Car Rental Company

23. Restaurant of the Week: John Caputo's Domino's Pizza
24. Caribbean Recipe of the Week
25. Reserve Your Free Sunset Lagoon Cruise Now

***Scroll down for indexes to sections IV and V, and scroll further to get a growing list of 200+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel discounts.***

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## **Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare**

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## **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](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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com).

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

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

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## All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\*

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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**

#### **Lead Story: Polar Vortex in September's Forecast -- Prelude to a Worse-Than-Normal Winter**

If you intensely disliked last winter's worst weather in the US and Canada, be warned: it's coming back -- in *September*, no less.

And to make matters even worse, long-range forecasts all seem to be pointing to a winter that is colder and snowier than normal -- and that begins earlier than normal.

Read the bad news here -- if you [dare](#).

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#### **1. NOAA Revises Hurricane Season Forecast: Increased Chance of a Below Normal Season**

The news is good, if you believe the latest information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA.

They're saying that there is now an increased chance of a below normal Atlantic hurricane season. They had predicted a below normal season before, but they're now saying it's more likely to happen.

Of course, if you're in the line of fire for one of the few Atlantic hurricanes NOAA still expects, this forecast is of little consolation. No significant activity was expected by any Atlantic hurricane forecasters during the weekend of August 9 and 10th, the two days before the cover date of this issue of *St.*

Not every forecaster agrees with the NOAA forecast, particularly our "Ace" forecaster Rob Lightbown. See next article.

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## 2. NOAA Could Be Wrong, If Madden-Julian Goes as Lightbown Says: An Alert for Everyone Near the Coast

During the last several hurricane seasons, we have often recommended Crown Weather Services and its chief meteorologist, Rob Lightbown.

In the last few days, Rob said that he is expecting an uptick in tropical activity due to the Madden Julian oscillation, something which most television meteorologists never talk about. Rob does, because it affects the likelihood of tropical systems forming.

In this case, Rob has said that the movement of the Madden Julian oscillation could be problematic in the Atlantic. In this one case, we should all hope he is wrong.

However, at about 3 PM on Friday afternoon, when we wrote this story, we looked at this image:

<http://tropic.ssec.wisc.edu/real-time/europe/images/imm7.GIF> . It's a satellite image of monsoonal storms moving from east to west across Africa. These storms, when they exit the coast and head toward the Cape Verde islands, can give birth to tropical storms or hurricanes, if they hold together. Those storms can then threaten the Caribbean basin and the United States. When we looked at that map, it showed some very big storms crossing Africa. On Saturday morning, things looked a bit quieter across Africa, but still stormy. When you look you will see the then-current image, not what we saw.

If you want to see current satellite images, just click Weather on [www.everythingStMaarten.com](http://www.everythingStMaarten.com) . If you want to learn much more about upcoming forecasts and whether your area could be hit by an oncoming storm, we strongly suggest you subscribe to [www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com).

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## 3. US Customs & Border Patrol Eases Return of US Passengers from Caribbean

When you next return from St. Maarten to the USA, the time you spend in U.S. Customs might be a little less complicated thanks to a new joint Customs declaration now being put into use by US Customs.

Here's the full story: <http://bit.ly/1nA8mXz>

Don't forget the Customs & Border Patrol's Global Entry program, which whisks you through the Customs process. It's amazing and spreading to more US international airports. Here's [more](#).

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## 4. In the Bay, Bertha Beaches a Boat

Roughly a week ago, St. Maarten was being stared in the face by tropical storm Bertha, which fortunately for the island was well South and West. The storm did bring wind and rain plus very rough seas.

For the sailing yacht Sydkorset, which was moored off Simpson Bay beach, the day was almost a disaster. A *St. Maarten Daily Herald* report said that the beautiful yacht was ripped loose from its mooring in the Bay by high winds and started drifting toward rocks on the beach. The captain was aboard and put up a sail to change the boat's direction, which thankfully worked.

At the end of the day what happened next was good news: the boat came to rest on the bay's sandy beach. Later, with Coast Guard help, it was re-floated and was last seen sailing away apparently none the worse for wear. Even better, there were no reports of any injuries.

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## 5. Why Tide Changes in SXM are Hardly Noticeable

The farther north you go in the US and Canada, the more you'll notice the difference between high tides and low tides on ocean beaches. In fact, the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick, Canada, is well-known for its extreme tide changes.

Ever wonder why you don't notice tide changes in St. Maarten? They do exist, but are much less extreme than those experienced in latitudes closer to the North and South Poles. For example, when spans for the Simpson Bay Causeway were brought in through the current Simpson Bay drawbridge, special attention was made to ensure that the passage was made during the correct tide-affected water depth.

But if you're on a beach, the change will most likely pass unnoticed. You're in the tropics, mon.

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

### 6. What Did Our "Summit Summerthing" Vacation Prize Winner Think of Her Just-Concluded Trip?

Summit Summerthing was the name of the vacation giveaway contest we ran in the spring of 2013. The giveaway, one of many we do periodically for our JMB Website Supporters members exclusively, included a week at Summit Resort Hotel, long our favorite hotel on the island, plus a number of dinners and other prizes.

The winner, Bonnie Jennings, writes:

"Just a note to thank you again for the wonderful trip to St. Maarten. Our stay at the Summit couldn't have been nicer. Everyone was extremely friendly, accommodating, helpful and the whole combination made for an unforgettable stay. We enjoyed the pool, sitting on the balcony enjoying the trade winds and the serenity.

"Our dinner at [Z](#) was fantastic to say the least. Marco greeted us as if we had always known him and we had such a good time. The food was

delicious - I had one of the Summer Specials which consisted of baby lettuces, walnuts, Granny Smith apples and gorgonzola cheese; Chicken fillets in a porcini mushroom sauce served with sautéed vegetables and rosemary potatoes; and the Belgian chocolate mousse with almond crunch. Wonderful!

Our next dinner was at [Vesna Taverna](#). It was awesome too. Vesna greeted us with open arms - again, like she knew us forever. It is a lovely, cozy restaurant and the service was great. Vesna came to the table and visited with us a couple of times and told us a little about herself and her husband the chef who is French. She recommended this fantastic salad that she had made earlier, garnished with pork. It was more than a meal. We had a dessert that was made with apricots and peaches from the French side, thin crust and very light filling. Can't recall the name (damn) as I would love to order it again. It was wonderful and I will go there again. Vesna is a lovely, lovely person.

Our third dinner was to be at [Daniel's by the Sea](#). I was anxiously awaiting our trip there as I have always heard that it was Great. Daniel's opens at 6PM and we planned to go there on Friday, our last night on the island. Wouldn't you know it started to rain about 4:30 PM and by 5:00 PM it was wild outside. I am used to the intermittent rains that come to the island and usually disappear as quickly as they come. Not this day. It poured so hard that we couldn't even get to the car without getting soaked. We waited and waited and finally decided we wouldn't be able to go. The rain, wind and darkness came fast and furious and lasted all night. Long and short.....we missed a wonderful evening there.

Thank you a million times for the wonderful trip and the dinners...a very memorable trip.

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## 7. Caravanserai Auction Set For Wednesday, 10 a.m, at Pasanggrahan - Court Lets It Go Ahead

This coming Wednesday, August 13, some St. Maarten notaries (vaguely like lawyers) have scheduled an auction involving Caravanserai beach resort including the Dunes casino.

There were legal efforts to stop the auction, perhaps most notably by someone who thinks he owns the Dunes casino. Those cases were decided on Friday, August 8. All the rulings went in favor of mortgage holder Scotia Bank (Bank of Nova Scotia) so the auction will go ahead as planned.

The auction is set for Wednesday at 10 AM at the hotel noted in the title, if there are bids; they were due by the end of last month.

This is at least the third or fourth time the resort is been put up for auction. The price this time is a mere \$12-million, down from \$20-million during the first auction.

Here's more on the court proceedings: <http://bit.ly/VanBiL>

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## 8. How To Advertise *Your* SXM Timeshare For Rent or For Sale on Our Website

If you own a St. Maarten timeshare and want to either rent it out or sell it, we offer our JMB Website Supporters members the ability to advertise up to 10 timeshare weeks for sale or for rent within any 12 month period. You need only be a JMB member. To learn more about membership, go here:

[http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml). One year of JMB Website Supporters membership is \$59, but four years is only \$99 total. In addition to all those ads to rent out or sell your timeshares, membership gives you close to 200 other discounts across the island plus our low airfare grid which shows you the lowest fares we've found from more than 100 cities in the US and Canada -- and how/where to get them.

Ads are free but available exclusively to JMB members.

### **SECTION 3: Island**

## ***It All Ends August 31: Get Five Years of JMB Membership Free Only When You Get a Five-Year "SkyMed Ultimate" Medical Evacuation Plan from Us***

**Having your own medical evacuation membership enables you to get home in a hurry when you or your spouse / partner become critically ill or injured away from home. Without membership, you must pay for the evacuation in cash, in advance -- if you can set it up -- and the cost can easily be \$45,000 or more, sometimes lots more.**

**Only SkyMed guarantees to take you home** should you become critically ill or injured throughout the SkyMed universe, which consists of the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba, plus Belize and Costa Rica. Should you need protection anywhere in the world, you can get that, too. But the point is simply this: don't travel anywhere without making sure you have medical evacuation protection from SkyMed.

**There are a number of SkyMed plans available.** Short-term plans are the least expensive in terms of initial outlay, but you must be medically requalified every time you want a new short-term plan. By contrast, both SkyMed annual and Ultimate plans require only one medical qualification when you first apply. When you renew SkyMed, your membership continues uninterrupted and is renewable indefinitely without further medical requalification *regardless of your age or health*.

The cost of SkyMed never increases because of your advancing age, nor is SkyMed ever canceled strictly because of advancing age, which is in sharp contrast to other plans. SkyMed Takes You Home -- what else matters?

**Get yourself protected against the high cost of medical evacuation and you will simultaneously find yourself with great peace of mind.**

Call SkyMed any weekday Pacific time at 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Nan or Jim. Tell them you are a JMB Website Supporters member to get the best rates. If you're not a member, join; it's just \$99 for four years or \$59 for one year. Sign up for JMB here: [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) . **The cost of SkyMed is as little as \$59 monthly or \$49 monthly if you do not require global coverage (beyond the "SkyMed universe" we described above).**

**You can also get complete information about SkyMed directly from Jeff Berger, SkyMed rep for the past 12 years; phone him at the JMB office any weekday at 508-830-3456. He can answer any questions and even sign you up over the phone.**

Once you've joined SkyMed through us, email [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com) and tell them you've bought a new SkyMed Ultimate five-year membership. Upon verification, we'll extend your current JMB Website Supporters membership for five full years. Offer open to U. S. and Canadian citizens only. You must join JMB first to be eligible for this JMB membership extension. And you must join SkyMed only as described above and not by any other means to qualify for the extension. Offer ends August 31, 2014. Good on prepaid 5-year SkyMed Ultimate purchases only.

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## **8a. New JMB Membership Prices Change October 1: Join Now For The Most Discounts & The Lowest Prices**

As with everything else, the cost of new JMB Website Supporters memberships will be increasing effective October 1. Even our lowest-priced memberships, those with the longest terms, will be increasing to catch up to rising costs.

Beat the price increase by joining JMB Website Supporters today. You'll receive about 200 discounts across the island including sizable jewelry gift cards, free lagoon sunset cruises, discounts at dozens of restaurants, plus many activities, art, shopping, and other discounts on both sides of the island.

Learn more here: [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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**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.everythingsexm.com](http://www.everythingsexm.com)**

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**Get a [Website That Works](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com) for your business or professional practice from JMB, a *seasoned 24 year-old marketing company*:**

[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com)

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## 9. All-New "Device Friendly" *SXM Weekly News* Coming This Month

Even millions of diehard flip phone fans of finally switching to smart phones, taking advantage of thousands of "get connected" opportunities offered by these and other web-connected devices.

Although the vast majority of users of iPads, iPhones, android phones, and other devices, as well as PCs and Apple computers have no trouble reading our *SXM Weekly News*, a few do — and we're about to solve that.

Our completely new design for *Weekly News* is finished and is now being tested. It's designed to work perfectly with every current electronic device as well as those contemplated down the road.

We expect to introduce it later this month and hope you like it.

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## 10. See Lots of SXM Pictures and Daily News on Our Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Facebook Page

If you'd like a fix of St. Maarten information and lots of pictures every day and not just once a week reading *St. Maarten Weekly News*, then you should see our Facebook page, which is moving toward 8000 likes.

Not only does it contain a wealth of island photography and information, but it also updates you on consequential news the day it happens -- weather and more.

Visit it, tell your friends, participate, and enjoy: <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>

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## 11. Trans-Border Agreement Signing Due Aug. 18

Although French St. Maarten and Dutch St. Maarten share a borderless Caribbean island, they are still two independent countries, though in recent years cross-border cooperation has been increasing.

On August 18, a week from today, a transborder agreement is scheduled to be signed which will further increase cooperation between the governments on both sides of the island. It will contain provisions involving a joint wastewater treatment plant, a drinking water project, and a joint environmental impact study regarding the Simpson Bay lagoon. There is already very substantial cooperation between police on both sides of the island.

## 12. Bikini Beach Manager Accused of Assaulting a Man Using a Metal Detector on "His" Beach

According to a story published in the *Daily Herald* on last Thursday, a man with a metal detector claims he was assaulted on Orient beach by the manager of the Bikini Beach Bar.

Nick, a former manager at the St. Maarten Yacht Club, said he has filed a complaint with the gendarmerie for the way he was treated. " I had my headphones on and was walking across Bikini Beach when the guy from the restaurant came up to me and said he didn't want me on his beach with a metal detector and I had to leave. I was two rows back in the water and they were stacking up the chairs at the time so that's when I started with the metal detector."

The Beach Bar manager, David, dispute disputed Nick's version of what happened. " I intervened because we still had people sitting on the lounges and he was bothering them with the detector because it caused the sand to fly about. I asked him to stop doing it we have a responsibility to our own customers reading in the chairs. I suggested he come back and do it early in the morning or late in the evening when the beach is empty but he started shouting and became very rude. It was clear to me he had been drinking. He hit me in the face first that's why I pushed him but I didn't want to get into a fight with him so at that point I called the gendarmes. At some point the metal detector broke I don't know how but it was not broken intentionally."

Ever since Elisa Cohen was forced out of her Bikini Beach Bar, we don't go there at all....

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## 13. 42nd Central American Bodybuilding Championship October 2-4 in French SXM

If you're into bodybuilding and happen to be on the island early in October, you'll be able to see the 42nd Central American Bodybuilding Championship on the French side from October 2 to October 4. All we know about it so far is that it will have about 300 athletes from 28 countries. As we learn more, we'll pass it along.

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## 14. Dutch Side Police Chief Making Good on a Long-Time Promise

When he first took office in 2010, Dutch Side Police Chief Peter de Witte promised he would serve until July, 2014, and then step aside to enable a local to take over as police chief. Now, he's making good on that promise.

Over the next few months, a search will be undertaken for a new police chief who will be carrying forth the current chief's highly effective community policing initiatives, which have been largely responsible for a significant drop in crime on the Dutch side of the island. Chief De Witte will not participate in the search, but he will be heavily involved in bringing the new chief up to speed in preparing him or her to take over the department within a few months of being hired.

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## 15. Police Sign Agreement for a Community Police Substation at Maho

Although there is currently a Dutch side police substation in Simpson Bay at the drawbridge, the police department believes other substations are necessary to carry out its community policing policies, which have paid off well especially in the last couple of years.

To that end, it's about to open a community police substation in Maho, which would become the focal point of police activity on that part of the island. The Maho, airport, and Cupecoy areas are very busy, so the substation is quite welcome.

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## 16. Two Police Dogs Join Dutch Side Force; Focus - Drugs & Firearms

The St. Maarten police force is being augmented by two highly trained police dogs, which have undergone exhaustive preparation outside St. Maarten.

The dogs, now paired with specially trained Dutch side police officers, will be focused on detecting both drugs and firearms.

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## 17. On Dutch Side, Sharp Decline in Armed Robberies

The Dutch side police department has reported a sharp reduction in criminal activities. An article in the *St. Maarten Daily Herald* reports:

"Theft related offences, including burglaries, robberies, plain thefts and thefts of cars have gone down. Dwelling burglaries have fallen by 37 per cent since 2010, and have gone down from 366 burglaries in 2012 to 307 burglaries in 2013. There were 160 robberies in 2013, as opposed to 199 in 2012.

"Car thefts had gone down from 183 in 2012, to 154 in 2013. That means less than half the amount of cars was stolen in St. Maarten, compared to French St. Martin.

"Our Police Force works in a completely different way to the French, who have their local police force as well as the Gendarmerie,' De Witte said. 'Community Policing and increased visibility are things that have worked for us in bringing these figures down."

"Only theft of items from vehicles had gone up from 250 to 258. Tourists with rental cars are often the victims of these theft crimes, as it frequently happens that items such as cameras and wallets are left inside the car within view from the outside.' "

"A leaflet is currently being produced which will be distributed in places frequented by tourists, to warn them not to leave items visible in vehicles. The police hope this will help as a preventative measure so they will be able to report a drop in this type of theft next year.

"There were three homicides in 2013, down from 10 in 2012; 2010 saw seven homicides with a peak in 2011 of 18 homicides, which was attributed to the Vesuvius murders. Although homicides were down to three, attempted homicides had gone up from 11 to 14. Police Chief De Witte said that a substantial number of these were linked to domestic violence cases."

We've always advised against leaving any valuables in cars, particularly in trunks -- cameras, handbags, etc. We often see people put valuables in their trunks and if we see it, so do "bad guys." Don't do it....

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## 18. Dutch Side Not Now Considering Medical Marijuana

Despite the fact that many states in the USA are legalizing medical marijuana, and in some cases recreational marijuana, no such consideration is underway in either Dutch or French St. Maarten.

In fact, local officials say in essence that such consideration is complicated not only by the fact that the United States as a country still considers the possession of marijuana a criminal offense (you can't take it on airplanes), but also by the fact that St. Maarten is part of the kingdom of the Netherlands and its laws play a role here.

So, nothing is imminent, and stiff penalties continue to apply.

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## 19. Beach Bonfire Ban Buoy Baby Turtles

Tourists often enjoy bonfires on beaches -- which are sort of akin to campfires back home.

But it is still the nesting season for rare and endangered sea turtles, and bonfires and the activities that go with them can be very hazardous to the turtles.

So, for now, there's a beach bonfire ban boosted to buoy baby turtles: no bonfires, Bucky.

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## 20. Think SXM Souvenirs for Holiday Presents -- But Do The Shopping Now

If you like useful St. Maarten souvenirs -- for next Christmas / Chanukah or for anything else -- this is for you.

We have a collection of most sizes of St. Maarten/St. Martin tank tops, T-shirts, sweatshirts, coozies, notepads, insulated drink carriers, hats, and more, and we're making it available to our members at extremely good preholiday-type pricing. Even 2XL.

All you have to do is go to the link below, specify a man or woman and size or sizes in the PayPal Memo section, and we'll send you a selection of these exclusive St. Maarten items in a midsize priority mail box. We'll stuff as much into the box as we possibly can. We can't promise specific items or specific colors which is why the price is so low, but we want to clear out the warehouse so this is quite a deal.



The cost is just \$39.99, well below the retail value of the merchandise you will receive, and that pricing includes shipping inside the United States. Sorry, no orders shipped outside the US.

You can order one grab bag per transaction, but you can place as many orders as you want. Quantities limited. Allow two weeks for shipping despite the fact that we're using Priority Mail. We will ship to USA addresses (50 states) only.

Note: 2XL is not listed in the size selection (we found them late); if you want 2XL, tell us in the PayPal order "Notes/Comments" area. Order here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/low\\_fares/st-maarten-st-martin-xsm-grab-bags.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/low_fares/st-maarten-st-martin-xsm-grab-bags.shtml)

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## 21. "Below Decks" Due Back Tomorrow, August 12

Previous-season episodes of Below Decks, depicting the goings-on aboard a SXM-based megayacht, are being rebroadcast now on Bravo along with a preview of Season Two, which debuts tomorrow, August 12.

The bad news: it's not based in SXM this time, it's on a different yacht (last season's yacht has been sold), and most of the crew isn't returning. Back are the chef, the captain, and Kat Held, the blonde woman from Rhode Island who was remembered by fans perhaps mostly for the liquid refreshments she enjoyed and for occasional below decks disrobing.

Although the crew in the series is not the yacht's "real" crew, most do have a yachting background and know what they're doing. In any case, it is, as always, an interesting show to watch.

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## 22. Mickey ("Mikey") Daniel Forming His Own SXM Car Rental Company

Mickey Daniel, who years ago worked for Hertz Rent-a-Car in SXM and later became the public face of the Baker family's Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental, for years has wanted to open his own car rental agency.

In fact he had mused about it with me around 2007 -- but then the bottom fell out of the economy.

Now the economy has recovered, Mickey's is one of the best known faces in the car rental business, and he has left Tropical to start his own business. At this point that's all we know -- stay tuned.

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## 23. Restaurant of the Week: John Caputo's Domino's Pizza

From the cold northern Midwest, John Caputo came to SXM and opened up a little Domino's Pizza in a trailer on Welfare Road more than 20 years ago. We saw it, stopped by, and were hooked by him and his pizza. He was upbeat and enthusiastic about selling pizza in SXM and it showed in the quality of what he did.

Today he has two very busy stores on SXM and others on other Caribbean islands. And the Domino's "Two for Tuesday" applies on Tuesdays and Thursdays in SXM. Great sandwiches, too. Check them out.

Recently featured 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](http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com) (featured 8/4/14)

**Domino's Pizza** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 8/11/14)

**Spiga**, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 7/14/14)

**Fusion**, [www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com](http://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](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 6/23/14)

**Stone Restaurant**, [www.thestonerestaurant.com](http://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 6/28/14)

**Island Pizza**, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/28/14)

**Pineapple Pete**, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://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](http://www.jimboscafe.com)

**Canoa**, [www.canoasxm.com](http://www.canoasxm.com) (featured 3/31/14)

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 7/28/14)

**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 (featured 3/17/14)

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

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## 24. Caribbean Recipe of the Week

This is really, really Caribbean: curry goat. Goat is like lamb but much leaner. See it at the top of our entree list.

### Drinks

Almond Colada [http://www.guavaberry.com/recipes\\_almond.php#almond-colada](http://www.guavaberry.com/recipes_almond.php#almond-colada) 7/28/14

### Appetizers:

Caribbean Plantain Chips <http://www.yummly.com/recipe/Caribbean-spiced-Crispy-Baked-Plantain-Chips-560168?columns=5&position=5%2F67> (7/7/14)

### Entrees:

Caribbean Curry Goat <http://www.instructables.com/id/Curried-Goat/> 8/11/14

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.caribexseafoods.com/recipes-cuban\\_rock\\_lobster\\_thermidor.html](http://www.caribexseafoods.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](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:**

Mango Lime Sorbet <http://www.yummly.com/recipe/Mango-Lime-Sorbet-607662?columns=6&position=3%2F55> 8/4/14

Caribbean Christmas Pudding w/ Brandy Butter <http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/Caribbean-Christmas-Pudding-with-Brandy-Butter-9327/14/14>

Caribbean Rum soaked cake: <http://latinfood.about.com/od/desserts/r/Bacardi-Rum-Soaked-Bacardi-Cake.htm> 6/30/14

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

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## **25. 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 thousands of 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret). Your username and password are required.

Effective January 1, 2015, Sunset Lagoon Cruises for members will be \$15/person (versus their regular retail of \$35) so they can cover their increasing costs for fuel, refreshments, and staff. (A \$40 savings on a trip for two). Sunset sails are now offered on Tuesdays and they depart from Boca Marina near Princess Juliana Airport.

Still not a member? What are you waiting for? Check out membership here: [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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### **Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Page Updated Every Other Weekday**

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](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) .

#### **Want to rent or buy a week?**

**\*2014 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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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**SkyMed Takes You Home®** if you become critically ill or injured while traveling more than 100 miles from home in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, plus Belize and Costa Rica. Learn more at [www.skymed.com/jmbsxm](http://www.skymed.com/jmbsxm) . Highest recommendation by JMB.

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## Travel Arrangements & Accommodations:

For The Best Prices On Individual and Group Tours to St. Maarten & St. Martin, as well as stays at B&Bs, condos, hotels, and villas, visit our sponsor: **Sandy Molloy at SXM Travel Specialists** --- <http://www.stmartin-stmaartentravelspecialists.com> 704-567-6661

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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](http://www.rentstmaartenvillas.com).

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**Villas in Paradise** is your one-stop source for great St. Maarten Villa Accommodations.  
See many choices at [www.villasinparadise.com](http://www.villasinparadise.com) or call Marilyn Pulito directly at 508-533-1388.

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**Emerald Cove Villas** provides a one-of-a-kind vacation experience in Oyster Pond. See their website at [www.emeraldcovevillas.com](http://www.emeraldcovevillas.com) . Learn why \*Emerald Cove\* is the name.

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**Caribbean Days** provides luxury villa accommodations throughout the Caribbean. See [www.caribbeandays.com](http://www.caribbeandays.com) .

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**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](http://www.villajourneys.com)

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**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](http://www.oysterbayview.com)

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**Club Fantastico**, [www.clubfantastico.net](http://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.

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**Summit Resort Hotel**, atop a cliff in Cupecoy, is a favorite. See why; check out [www.thesummitresort.com](http://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](http://www.dkgemsint.com) .

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**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](http://www.zhaveri.com) .

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### 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](http://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](http://www.tropical-tropicana.com) -- reserve at [reservations@tropical-tropicana.com](mailto:reservations@tropical-tropicana.com)

Unique Car Rental: [www.uniquecarrentalsxm.com](http://www.uniquecarrentalsxm.com)

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

#### **On-Island Activities:**

JMB Website Supporters get discounts at [Aqua Mania](#) through a special website for our members only. See the Secret Site for details.

#### **Low Airfares:**

Save hundreds on airfares and get many more travel benefits thru JMB Website Supporters. See [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) to learn more.

#### **Restaurants:**

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

#### **Emergency Medical Evacuation Jet Protection:**

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Bookmark our SXM site and visit us often: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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