

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

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August  
25,  
2014

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

#956

### *Weekly SXM News and Comments*

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

### Important Note:

*You are receiving [St. Maarten and St. Martin 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. We now have over 200,000 readers around the world...

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



Attention iPad, iPhone, and Android Users

This 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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 Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

Just enter your email address at the top, and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, just click the confirming link and you're in.

## TOP STORIES

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

This is issue #956 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:

- *Final Week to Enter: Our 9/1 Global Vacation Giveaway Lets You Go Almost Anywhere Worldwide -- How To Enter*
- *Tropical Storm Cristobal Forms NW of SXM, Brings Rain & Wind*
- *Old Farmer's Almanac Predicts Far Colder, Snowier Winter Than Normal in Northeast*
- *Hotel Visitor Alleges Intruders Stole from a Locked Hotel Safe*
- *This Is Our Last Edition of Weekly News in this Format; New "Adaptive" Format Arrives Next Week*

- *What It's Like To Spend Turkey Day in SXM*
- *Looking Forward to Christmas in the Caribbean?*
- *Announcing Our New Caribbean Recipes Web Page on Everythingsxm.com*
- *Beating The Heat in SXM With Tropical-Flavor Ice Cream*
- *Fish & Chips in SXM: Not What You're Used To*
- *Special Low-Priced High-Quality Jewelry Holiday Promotions Coming for JMB Webside Supporters Members*
- *Beachside Dining Gets Even Better on Dawn Beach*
- *Do You Rent Out or Sell SXM Villas, Condos, or Timeshares?*
- *Go Deep-Sea Fishing*
- *Where to Get Frameable Road Maps of SXM*
- *Do You Really Need Restaurant Reservations in the Fall?*
- *Where To Buy Inexpensive Gas*
- *New JMB Membership Prices Change October 1: Join Now For The Most Discounts & The Lowest Prices*

**31** 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsxm.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** 01/03/2015 01/10/2015 Week 1 DIVI Little Bay Platinum January Week, Dutch Side, Rm 428, Bldg E, CA King & sofa sleeper sleeps 4-5, Fridge, Stovetop, Convection Micro Oven, Small Appliances, Fully Equipped Kitchen, Whirlpool Tub & Shower, Air, Balcony with Table & Chairs, Flat Screen, WiFi, and much more! Resort Amenities, Scenic Caribbean Beachfront, 1 Mile Beach, Water Sports, Gated, Walking Distance to Downtown Phillipsburg, Fort Amsterdam on Property, Grocery, Deli, 3 Restaurants, 3 Pools, Spas, Activities, Family Friendly. Check must clear before transaction is finalized. Email [ghobel@msn.com](mailto:ghobel@msn.com) or call 724-658-5028. Please leave name & number. \$770

**RENTAL** 02/14/2015 02/21/2015 Week 7 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina President's Week. Beautiful one-bedroom unit being refurbished fall of 2014, sleeps four. This 4th floor unit, B404, has balcony with gorgeous views overlooking Simpson Bay. Air-conditioned, fully equipped kitchen, large private bedroom with king-size bed, living room with additional pullout queen bed. Resort offers several pools, many restaurants, tennis courts, new fitness center, a convenience store, water sports, casino, and The Red Piano piano bar. Timeshare tax is due upon checkout. For more info see: <http://www.simpsonbayresort.com>. \$1200 also available for sale Mary-Beth 7246985896 [marybeth.mccormack@gmail.com](mailto:marybeth.mccormack@gmail.com)

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

**SALE** 3/2/2014 3/9/2014 week9 Flamingo Beach Resort Heineken Regatta week; quiet recently renovated studio apt that will comfortably sleep 4. Slide out door with pull out couch, separate TV. Unit 7431, Sun. to Sun., garden view. make an offer if interested Laina (401) 934-2999 [armacdonald6@gmail.com](mailto:armacdonald6@gmail.com)

**SALE:** 1/31/15 to 2/7/15 (week 5) Simpson Bay Resort Marina 207, a sleep-four studio overlooking both the Marina pool and Pelican beach (a short walk to Marina Residences, next door). Many beaches, great restaurants, piano bar (The Red Piano), more nightlife, casinos, a Deli, and other shops and nearby. A clothing optional beach is about two miles away. Unit features stove, microwave, cable TV, WiFi is on site, sleeps four, very convenient. Sale price, asking: \$2499. This unit is also for rent for just \$1099. Timeshare tax for renters (\$50) is renter's responsibility. Please contact Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.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://everythingsexm.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:**

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

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3. Lower Oil Prices Unlikely To Impact High Airfares to SXM
4. Now The Good News: WestJet To Fly to SXM From Montreal

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***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***

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

7. JMB Membership Prices Change October 1: Join Now For The Most Discounts & The Lowest Prices
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25. Do You Really Need Restaurant Reservations in the Fall?
26. Where To Buy Gas
27. Think SXM Souvenirs for Holiday Presents -- But Do The Shopping Now
28. Restaurant of the Week:
29. Caribbean Recipe of the Week
30. Reserve Your Members-Only Sunset Lagoon Cruise Now
31. Why We'll Send You Another Copy of This Newsletter

***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)**

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## **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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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 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

#### 1. Tropical Storm Cristobal Forms NW of SXM, Brings Rain & Wind

Late last week and this past weekend, two small tropical disturbances merged into tropical storm Cristobal, which as of this morning (Monday) was poorly organized and moving slowly northward in the Bahamas.



While in its formative stages, the storm brought some inclement weather to the island with wind and rain but nothing huge. As usual this time of year, the island is keeping a wary eye to the east and to the south.

We'll keep you posted.

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## 2. *Old Farmer's Almanac* Predicts Far Colder, Snowier Winter Than Normal in Northeast

Published continuously since 1792, *The Old Farmer's Almanac* is the original and the most famous of all such publications, and it is renowned for its winter weather forecasts.

Now the bad news: the forecast for this winter will be heartening to those of you who liked the polar vortex last winter. The forecast calls for a far colder, snowier winter than normal, particularly in the US Northeast.

If you haven't made your SXM reservations yet, better do it. Maybe this colder than normal summer has been a signal.

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## 3. Lower Oil Prices Unlikely To Impact High Airfares to SXM

As you've no doubt noticed at the gas pump and heard in the news, gasoline prices are dropping because of the significant reduction in crude oil prices. ISIS appears not currently to be threatening oil supplies, which for now is good news for consumers.

Unfortunately, airlines have become accustomed to making money by squeezing lots of passengers into each airplane and charging for practically everything. Knowing that their business suffers cyclical downturns, the airlines are unlikely to increase capacity or lower fares to any significant degree — bad news for consumers.

As we often mention, our Low Airfare Grid on the Secret Website gives our JMB Website Supporters members a leg up on finding the lowest available airfares to St. Maarten from about 100 cities across the US and Canada. We suggest you look it over and use it as a guideline when you shop for fares for your next SXM trip.

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## 4. Now The Good News: WestJet To Fly to SXM From Montreal

For Canadians looking for alternative ways to get to SXM, there are now a lot of them, as reported recently by the *SXM Daily Herald* newspaper.

"Air Canada has added a second weekly flight from Toronto for 13 weeks in the high season; it now flies on Tuesdays in addition to Saturdays. Sunwing has added a new flight from Ottawa that will fly on Mondays during the high season. This is in addition to its four weekly flights on Thursday



and Sundays from both Toronto and Montréal from late fall to spring.

"Air Transat has also added a new flight from Toronto on Sundays for the high season in addition to its weekly high-season flight from Montréal. Years ago, the airline flew from Toronto to St. Maarten year-round, but it cut the flight schedule down to one weekly high season flight from Montréal shortly after Sunwing initiated flights to the island.

"WestJet also offers direct flights, three weekly from Toronto and one weekly from Montréal," the *Herald* wrote.

"We are very excited about the growing support from our airline and tour operator partners in Canada; 2013 was a record-breaking year for arrivals from Canada to St. Maarten, and this additional air lift positions us well to continue this trend," said Toronto-based St. Maarten Tourist Office representative Catherine Pentiricci.

2013 was the best year ever for SXM arrivals from Canada -- chikungunya cancellations late last winter notwithstanding.

More: <http://bit.ly/1vGwii5>

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

### **5. Timeshare News Update**

What follows is an update on the two major timesharing stories we published here last week.

First, as you recall, Caravanserai Resort was sold at auction to an unknown bidder for \$14 million. The bidder has six weeks to consummate the purchase; two of those weeks have already passed. The deal will not be confirmed until after it has actually been consummated.

Last week we gave you our guess as to who the purchaser may be, but the fact is nothing has been announced and the deal has not been finalized. As soon as we know more, we'll tell you.

We also published answers to some questions from Caravanserai timeshare owners in *St. Maarten Weekly News* last week. If you missed last week's issue and would like to see those questions and answers, follow the PDF link above to download a copy of the previous edition.

Second, regarding the court nullification of the bankruptcy of Pelican Resort Club, we have no further substantive news. We also printed a number of questions and answers about this situation in last week's edition; if you missed it, check out our PDF as noted above.

Although we don't have any expectation at all of any service disruption at either timeshare resort, neither we nor anyone else can 100% guarantee that. We're watching this closely and will keep you posted. By all means bookmark and "Like" our Facebook page -- we'll publish breaking news via emails to our JMB Website Supporters members and we'll later post it here: <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten> .

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### **6. 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**

## ***New Vacation Giveaway Next Week; Only One Week Left To Enter:***

In cooperation with Dream Vacations and Interval International, next week we will give away a one-week trip to practically anywhere. Trips can be to any of hundreds of resorts in the Americas or Europe; you choose. All you pay is a small cleaning fee and a one-night room fee: total \$279 for a studio. One-bedroom and two-bedroom units are also available. Flights not included.

To be eligible for the drawing, call us at 508-830-3456 and purchase a new five-year SkyMed Ultimate Medical Evacuation membership -- it costs only about \$59/month **or even less per year when you prepay the five-year Ultimate**. When you become critically ill or injured while traveling, call SkyMed and they'll take you home in an ICU-equivalent Medical Evacuation jet. No claim forms, no reimbursements, no deductibles, no future medical hurdles to jump across, no increased cost as you age or if your health becomes problematic. *SkyMed members are taken home free*. You can also call SkyMed directly at 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Nan; she's there weekdays, western time. Every JMB member who buys the five-year Ultimate by September 3 gets entered in this giveaway -- *that will probably be less than a dozen people*. If ever you were going to buy the SkyMed Ultimate, now is the time. Plus, your JMB membership will be extended for five full years free. We're happy to answer any questions: ask for Jeff personally at 508-830-3456.

Why wait? And yes, nonmembers of JMB can join JMB by phone and then get this low SkyMed pricing.

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## **Ends September 3:**

## ***Get Five Years of JMB Membership Free Only When You Get a Five-Year "SkyMed Ultimate" Medical Evacuation Membership 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.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 September 3, 2014. Good on prepaid 5-year SkyMed Ultimate purchases only.

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## 7. 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, 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.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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Get a [Website That Works](#) 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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## 8. Hotel Visitor Alleges That Intruders Stole from a Locked Hotel Safe

Long-time travel agent Sandy Molloy, who we've recommended for years on our SXM site, forwarded this from her client who had quite a bad experience at an Orient Beach vacation property. This had been edited for brevity.

"I always try to help anyone. I'm sad to have to post this report, but others need to know about this company and take the necessary precautions. We will return to SXM, but we will return better informed.

"Sprimbarth Cap-Caraibes is the master property manager for [so] many, many Orient Beach properties and you may not realize the agent you rent with actually rents from them. I'm writing to inform others of how they treat clients after their locked safe is robbed.

"We are seasoned visitors to Orient Beach and we rented a condo (Caribbean Rivera #4) in Orient Village from Sprimbarth Cap-Caraibes. One day after arrival Sprimbarth Cap Caraibes entered our unit with a contractor. The problem was solved, but we also found \$500 cash missing from our locked safe that evening. The thief removed only a portion of money from two separate wallets, hoping we would not know. Of most concern, the thief had a key to both the unit and the safe.

"Now here is what you can expect from Magali Bertho, and Jean-Paul Clerc, President and Director General, Sprimbarth Cap-Caraibes after your safe

is robbed with a key. You can expect exactly nothing.

"We reported the robbery to Magali Bertho at Sprimbarth but no one wanted to meet with us to discuss anything, including how someone entered the unit and opened a locked safe or most importantly our concern the thief could enter again at any time. We did not feel safe staying in Caribbean Rivera #4 and simply asked to be moved to another unit. Magali refused to move us or provide help in any way. And to date (over 30 days), she has refused to refund the 7 unused days of our rental or compensate us in any way. Sprimbarth Cap-Caraibes accessed our unit and on the same day a robbery of a locked safe occurs, yet they do not want to take any responsibility to help us. We spent over \$1700 to rent Caribbean Rivera #4, \$500 was stolen from us and we had to pay over \$1,100 for a safer hotel. We did comply with Magali's request and complete(d) a report with the Gendarmerie and visit(ed) their offices to provide additional detail.

"Lastly, let me express my thanks to Sandy Molloy for helping us book a room at the Alamanda Resort for the 7 days remaining in our stay. Sandy helped us when we were stranded and Sprimbarth Cap-Caraibes turned their back on us.

"I would not recommend anyone rent property on Orient Sprimbarth Cap-Caraibes controls. How could anyone sleep at night or leave any property in a locked safe [there]. How could Sprimbarth Cap-Caraibes have such lack of concern to tell us to 'just stay' when someone used a key to enter, leave us stranded to find our own safe accommodations and then refuse to refund our unused original rental costs. Magali Bertho, Sprimbarth Cap-Caraibes, lacks any concern for vacationer's safety, refuses to take any responsibility and her client service has been deplorable...."

We attempted to contact Ms. Magali Bertho but our messages were not returned. If she replies, we will publish her response.

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## 9. Today Newspaper Poll Gives Election Edge to Theo Heyliger's United Peoples Party (UP)

It's interesting -- since Mr. Heyliger has long been one of the country's top political figures -- but not necessarily accurate. The newspaper's poll a few years ago predicted the same thing, as the paper takes pains to note, and it was wrong then. Our guess: this time it's probably right. Here's the story: <http://tinyurl.com/q8q5wub>

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## 10. St. Maarten Zoo Financial Problems Lead to "Save Our Zoo" Campaign; How You Can Help

The only zoo on St. Maarten is in danger of going into bankruptcy.

A remarkable zoo, it has been running for as long as most people can remember with too little funding.

It needs your help to survive and to continue to serve as a unique resource on tropical wildlife not only for visitors, but also for local children and their families. It has a unique collection of animals endemic to tropical regions.

To see how you can help, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/stmaartenzoo>

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## 11. This Is Our Last Edition of *Weekly News* in this Format; New "Adaptive" Format Arrives Next Week

Our new format for *St. Maarten Weekly News* debuts formally next week. Using an adaptive format, the new SXMWN should sense the type of device on which you view it, which will enable it to be seen easily on practically any device, from smart phones to iPads and of course computers.

Later this week, we'll send you this edition of *St. Maarten Weekly News* again — in the new format, just so you have an advance look. We hope you like it. (Article #31 repeats that point.)

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## 12. What It's Like To Spend Turkey Day in SXM

The only difference between spending Thanksgiving at home and in St. Maarten — well, to be perfectly honest, there are lots of them.

First, before having a Thanksgiving feast, you can go to the beach. Even a clothing optional beach where you can get tan all over.

Second, there's a lot less traffic on St. Maarten than there is at home.

Third, there'll probably be fewer people falling asleep on the couch and snoring.

Fourth, the weather is lots better.

Fifth, you can get Turkey in any one of a number of restaurants across the island. Perhaps the one place most well-known for its turkey extravaganza is Toppers plus Toppers By the Sea, both owned by Topper Daboul who hails from Massachusetts, where Thanksgiving began. He has turkey and all the fixin's and it really is quite a feast.

Sixth, you don't have the drive a long way home sleepy afterwards.

Thanksgiving week is one of the busiest weeks of the year on St. Maarten. If you haven't experienced it yet, make your reservations now and get down here.

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## 13. Looking Forward to Christmas in the Caribbean?

Christmas week in St. Maarten is even busier than Thanksgiving.

If you've never tried it, you'll love it. It has all the advantages that we noted above for Thanksgiving plus special meals at most restaurants, and everything you expect of Christmas at home except the snow. There's special food, decorations, many beautiful displays across the island, and lots more.

Listen to what Jimmy Buffett says: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbkTvSBQh3U>

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## 14. Announcing Our New Caribbean Recipes Web Page on Everythingsxm.com

For quite some time, we've been posting new Caribbean recipes on this site every week; you'll find a listing in "Caribbean Recipe of the Week" later in this edition.

Now, we've posted all these recipes on our website, one of a number of changes coming to our online presence. Share them with your friends at: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/stmaartenrecipeoftheweek.htm>

That page will move soon. We'll let you know where it goes.

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## 15. Beating The Heat in SXM With Tropical-Flavor Ice Cream

Over the years, we've told you several times about Etna ice cream, unhesitatingly described as the richest creamiest ice cream on the planet. (Try it, you'll understand.)

Among the flavors periodically offered by the Etna folks are mango, coconut, orange-pineapple, cinnamon, and more. Though not particularly tropical, their "cafe" coffee ice cream, and their caramel ice cream are spectacular.

You can buy these delicious treats and virtually all supermarkets on SXM.

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## 16. Fish & Chips in SXM: Not What You're Used To

A plurality of our readers, if not a majority, are in the northeast, where fish and chips is beloved like baseball. It's usually fried cod or haddock with french fries, and it's delicious.

You'll also find fish and chips in SXM — but here, it's different. What you usually find is mahi-mahi — and although the flavor is excellent, it's not quite the same as cod or haddock. Try it — we think you'll like it.

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## 17. Special Low-Priced High-Quality Jewelry Holiday Promotions Coming for JMB Website Supporters Members

Last year, a bit after the holidays, we started offering very special deals through both Caribbean Gems and Zhaveri Jewelers — great gift ideas at rather phenomenal pricing.

Here's a heads up that we're making similar offers this year, well before the holidays — which will enable you to get some outstanding gifts for peanuts.

If you're a JMB Website Supporters member, watch your email this fall — you'll like what you see. *Please see story 27.*

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## 18. Beachside Dining Gets Even Better on Dawn Beach

In July, we told you that a number of changes were underway at Dawn beach's Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, Daniels by the Sea, and Island Pizza. Their seating is being extended seaward, enabling more diners to sit closer to the water at this extraordinarily romantic tropical Italian restaurant.

Seating isn't the only change, but we'll tell you about the rest later. We've highly recommended these restaurants for years for their outstanding food, their unrivaled ambience, and their consistently excellent service. Definitely count on more of the same *plus* improvements.

We've been publishing pictures of the construction on our Facebook page, where we'll publish more soon. Check the Busby's/Daniel's website to learn more about all three restaurants: [www.dawnbeachsxm.com](http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com).

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## 19. Do You Rent Out or Sell Villas, Condos, or Timeshares?

If so, you can generate more revenue while giving your clients the peace-of-mind that comes with having medical evacuation protection from SkyMed, the people that do it best. *It's also a phenomenal benefit for anyone who travels -- road warriors and key employees.*

SkyMed takes its members home when they become critically ill or injured while traveling. While you're in SXM and are from Canada or the US, your health insurance doesn't go overseas with you. SkyMed takes you home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust — and to where your health insurance is honored. See [www.skymed.com/jmbsexm](http://www.skymed.com/jmbsexm) or, if you're a JMB Website Supporters member, get our members-only rates at [www.skymed.com/jmbspecial](http://www.skymed.com/jmbspecial).

If you do rent those types of properties, you should sell SkyMed to your guests. To learn more, visit [www.skymed.com/jmbsexm](http://www.skymed.com/jmbsexm) then click the line that reads "Become a Rep" at the bottom of the home page. Got questions? Call Jeff at 508-747-8281. It can be a substantial new revenue stream....

SkyMed takes you home — what else matters?

## 20. Be Wary of ATV/Quads on SXM...

We've seen many accidents caused when inexperienced ATV / quad drivers lose control on hills and off the road. Broken arms, broken legs, and worse. We strongly recommend you avoid renting these vehicles unless you own one at home and know how to handle it. Their high center of gravity makes them unlike other vehicles and that is a problem for many drivers. Be careful....

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## 21. Go Deep-Sea Fishing

The Caribbean and Atlantic, both of which touch SXM, are great places for deep-sea fishing. But you need to know what to look for and where.

Rudy Sierens, the Rudy of Rudy's Deep Sea Fishing, Dutch Side, is one of the most experienced captains working from SXM. See his website [here](#). JMB Website Supporters members pay significantly less than his standard rates.

To book your trip, contact Rudy by landline, cell, or email: Tel/Fax: 1-721-545-2177; Cellular: 1-721-522-7120; email, [info@rudysdeepseafishing.com](mailto:info@rudysdeepseafishing.com) . To get the discount, you must use the current members-only code, which is available to members only on our Secret Website. No code, no discount. More details, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, are on Rudy's site, [here](#).

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## 22. Where to Get The Best Road Maps of SXM -- Suitable for Wall Hanging

Michal Kasproski makes them as he has for years. They're updated frequently and show every road on the island. They're oversized and make outstanding wall hangings. Here are details from Michal's website: <http://www.midok.com/MapFiles/14stmartin.html>

Highly recommended....

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## 23. Cell Phone Rentals

Our #1 recommendation is Sharon's cell phone rentals at Royal Palm Resort, Dutch Side. Why rent? Because using a SXM phone will cost a fraction of what a Verizon or other phone from the US would cost, with roaming fees.

If you have an unlocked US smart phone, you can also go to UTS in Paradise Plaza (behind IZI Ristorante Italiano) and buy a local SIM. Ask them about their special USA plan -- you pay \$10 extra and you get several days of ultra low cost calls to the US. If you must call home regularly and don't have Skype, it's a great solution.

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## 24. How To Get Really "Cold" Cold Water in SXM

At home in the US or Canada, getting cold tap water is easy; you just let it run.

But in SXM that never works. It's warm all year here and the ground is warm too, so water is warm and stays that way. (Plus, it's very expensive.) To get cold water, add ice to it or leave a pitcher in the refrigerator.

Dutch Side water is safe, French Side people drink wine. Local bottled water is cheap and we use it regularly....

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## 25. Do You Really Need Restaurant Reservations in the Fall?

Short answer: yes. Many but not all restaurants have a fall annual closing -- often in October. You're calling not only to get a seat but also to be sure they're open, so you don't waste pricey gas. Definitely call.

Exception: Busby's Beach Bar (see story 18) or Daniel's By The Sea (ditto); they never close. Re: gas, see next article.

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## 26. Where To Buy Gas

The Cadisco station on Simpson Bay Lagoon just north of the US Imports market at the French Side drawbridge has the most reasonable pricing. It also accepts dollars at a 1:1 ratio with Euros.

The French Side tends to charge less than the Dutch for gas; this is usually the cheapest station on the French Side.

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## 27. 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 readers 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. Please allow a good three weeks for handling and 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-sxm-grab-bags.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/low_fares/st-maarten-st-martin-sxm-grab-bags.shtml)

The next shipment of orders goes out 8/27/14.

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## 28. Restaurant of the Week:

This series resumes next week. 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.dawnbeachxsm.com](http://www.dawnbeachxsm.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.lavistaesort.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.dawnbeachxsm.com> (featured 6/28/14)

**Island Pizza**, <http://www.dawnbeachxsm.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> (featured 8/18/14)

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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## 29. Caribbean Recipe of the Week

Jamaican Jerk Chicken is our newest recipe this week under Entrees (top entry).

We will be adding this to our SXM site in a permanent location shortly. For now, see it here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/stmaartenrecipeoftheweek.htm>

### 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:

Jamaican Jerk Chicken <http://kitchenguuyarchive.com/jamaican-jerk-chicken/> (8/26/14)  
Grilled Marlin with Tropical Fruit Salsa <http://www.food.com/recipe/grilled-marlin-with-tropical-fruit-salsa-237972> (8/18/14)  
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.caribxseafoods.com/recipes-cuban\\_rock\\_lobster\\_thermidor.html](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](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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## 30. Reserve Your JMB Members-Only 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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## 31. Why We'll Send You Another Copy of This Newsletter

In the next couple of days we'll email another copy of this newsletter to you in our new format... we'll be interested to see what you think once you receive it. There will be instructions in the newsletter for how to tell us.

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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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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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### Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13)

#### Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection:

**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/jmbsexm](http://www.skymed.com/jmbsexm) . 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 (Constantly Updated)**

Please see [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) .

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

Returns soon.

## **CONTACT US**

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) assuming your membership is in good standing.

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> You **CAN NOT** unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the \*spam\* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select \*St. Maarten Weekly News\* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access and to receive Low Airfare Bulletins. We'll be notified automatically.

## Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

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

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