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

Weekly SXM News and Comments

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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://everythingxm.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 #958 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:

- *JetBlue Flight 787 To SXM from JFK Diverted to Bermuda***
- *19th Anniversary of Hurricane Luis Largely Observed With Solemnity***
- *For Canadians, Global Entry Help From U. S. Customs & Border Patrol***
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- *Think SXM Souvenirs for Holiday Presents -- But Do The Shopping Now***
- *Only \$59/month Gets You Five Years of Global Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed (plus a bonus of five years of JMB Website Supporters membership - bonus ends 9/30)***

24 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 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 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 12/20/2014 12/27/2014 week 52 La Terrasse/Royal Islander Club Very large and modern 3 bedroom/3 bathroom penthouse condo that sleeps 12. Huge deck with patio furniture and hot tub that overlooks the pool and ocean. The condo has a fully-equipped kitchen with stainless steel appliances, washer/dryer and 5 televisions. There is a grocery store on the ground floor of the building, gym across the street, tennis courts down the street, beach across the street and the Casino Royale next door. There is indoor parking in the building and there are excellent restaurants within walking distance. \$3,000 Howard 514-747-1314 howardwolfe@gmail.com

RENTAL 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. \$1099. This unit is also for sale at just \$2499! Timeshare tax (\$50) is renter's responsibility. Please contact Susan at (508) 747-8281 or email susan@jmbcommunications.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week (Now Two):

SALE 01/10/2015 01/17/2015 Week 2 Simpson Bay Resort One bedroom beach front unit with full kitchen in the Flamboyant Building (F4). Sleeps four (4) with king bed and sleeper sofa. Spacious patio overlooking Caribbean Sea. \$13,000.00 Ken 409-781-3820 (cell) 409-866-8435 (home) kseholm@gt.rr.com

SALE: January 17 to January 24, 2015 (week 3) Sapphire Beach Club on Cupecoy Beach, sleep-four unit faces Cupecoy Beach and the Caribbean sea. Includes a Jacuzzi whirlpool hot tub on the balcony, king size bed, full a/c, cable TV, DVD player, refrigerator with ice maker,

marble bath, beautiful furnishings throughout. Resort has shops, restaurants, min-mart, plus a large pool, whirlpool, and bar – all on the ocean. Close to Atlantis Casino, many great restaurants including Temptation, plus Mullet Bay Beach, the Cupecoy clothing-optional beach, Baie Longue, and Baie Rouge on the French Side, and did I say incredible restaurants? Asking only \$4499 to buy (negotiable). We also have weeks four and five available to rent or buy at nearby resorts; will discount if you buy or rent two weeks or more. Photos available. Phone Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email Susan susan@jmbcommunications.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

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

Search the *SXM Weekly News Archives:*

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format (New):

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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- **JMB Membership Prices Change October 1: Join Now For The Most Discounts & The Lowest Prices**
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24. Only \$59/month Gets You Five Years of Global Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed (plus a bonus of five years of JMB Website Supporters membership - ends 9/30)

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.

Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare

Meet Our Sponsors (Updated 9/7/13)

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

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

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

How To Get a GROWING LIST of 200+ Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

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

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

Now a growing list of 200+ benefits... and more coming soon.

Contact Us:

[Revised 12/17/13]

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. JetBlue Flight 787 To SXM from JFK Diverted to Bermuda

No one was injured last Monday when the JetBlue nonstop from New York, flight 787, made an unscheduled stop in Bermuda after smoke and fumes were detected in the cockpit. The plane landed safely and passengers were accommodated in a lounge until a replacement aircraft could arrive.

JetBlue names all of its aircraft, and this one was aptly named Devil in a Blue Dress.

More: <http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20140901/NEWS/140909999>

2. 19th Anniversary of Hurricane Luis Largely Observed With Solemnity

If you were on St. Maarten early in September of 1995, your memories probably revolve around ferocious hurricane Luis. With sustained winds of around 140 miles an hour and much stronger gusts, plus a number of tornadoes, Luis damaged or destroyed high percentage of all structures on St. Maarten and it sank a significant number of boats. Many were homeless and electricity was out four weeks, particularly on the Dutch side which has since buried most electric cables to prevent a repetition. Island residents who lived through it shudder at the memory.

More: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dcEFuBEc78>

3. A Very Wet & Messy Friday

A warning went up early Friday morning, alerting residents that heavy rain was expected and street flooding was possible; both of those happened.

A tropical wave was crossing the island, certainly not unusual this time of year, bringing with it a bit of squally winds and a lot of rain.

Ocean temperatures are in the 80s and it's that time of year. For tropical weather satellite images and radar loops, click Weather at www.everythingStMaarten.com.

When any storms approach, we post detailed information on our Facebook page, here: <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten> .

4. For Canadians, Global Entry Help From U. S. Customs & Border Patrol

Last week, we advised US readers to look into purchasing Global Entry status from the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. You get that status by submitting answers to a lengthy questionnaire from Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), having a personal interview with Customs and Border Patrol personnel, and paying your fee, if you are approved. It helps expedite flying through many US airports and, significant for St. Maarten passengers, it also expedites your return trip through U.S. Customs.

Canadians can also benefit via the NEXUS program when they fly from or to US cities. See more here:

<http://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/nexus>

This was what we published last week about Global Entry:

Global Entry, a fairly new program from the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), enables trusted travelers to get through US Customs much more quickly and easily than is otherwise possible.

To become part of the program, you complete an exhaustive application, pay a fee, and go to an interview at a location determined by CBP. The process can take several weeks, but at the end of the day, departures from US airports and arrivals back in the US from overseas are expedited significantly.

The program is being expanded to many new airports.

In addition to overseas flights, Global Entry includes the domestic pre-check program, which lets you speed through security check-in lines when taking US domestic flights from many airports. Depending upon the airport, you may be able to leave your shoes on and leave your computer in its case.

For more information, go here: <http://www.cbp.gov/global-entry/about> , where you can also find an online application. Do it soon, however, since it often takes several weeks to get your credentials.

This article stemmed from an email from a reader. We welcome your comments; email us at [jmbweb\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb[at]jmbcommunications.com).

5. Southwest To Inaugurate Service to Aruba From Baltimore Next April

Several weeks ago, we relayed information from Southwest Airlines saying that they are very much interested in flying to St. Maarten, but they gave no specifics as to when that service might begin. Our guess was and is that it probably is within a year to a year and a half, possibly sooner.

The airline has announced that will inaugurate service to Aruba from Baltimore next April, but it has still said nothing about St. Maarten.

The selection of Baltimore was interesting to us because we said Baltimore would probably be the airport from which flights to St. Maarten would originate.

We're watching this and will keep you posted.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

6. Sonesta Ocean Point Resort, New Luxury Hotel, Opening on Dutch Side in October

During the summer, we told you that Sonesta Maho was undertaking major renovations to its former Ocean Terrace building to create a 129 room Sonesta Ocean Point resort, which it describes as a sophisticated, adults only, all inclusive property. The building includes accommodations ranging from 480 square-foot junior suite king rooms to its 2600 square-foot luxury penthouse.

The Azul Sonesta Ocean Point Resort features three pools, a significant amount of meeting and conference room space for business and social occasions accommodating up to 1000 people, and more. The resort is expected to soft-open some time next month.

Much more: <http://www.sonesta.com/oceanpoint/?fa=featuresactivities.home> . We'll check it out later this year.

7. Royal Islander / La Terrasse Receives RCI Diamond Award

Royal Islander Club Front Desk Clerk Kimany Bernard and La Terrasse Housekeeping Supervisor Valina Albert are recipients of the 2014 RCI Diamond Award, presented annually by timeshare exchange company RCI, now a division of the firm Wyndham Worldwide.

The Diamond Award recognizes their commitment and dedication to their duties and the provision of friendly and excellent customer service to vacationers at the two properties.

The management of Royal Islander Club and La Terrasse are very proud of the achievement of Bernard and Albert. They said the two continue to show that teamwork and dedication are the cornerstones of individual and overall company success

Bernard and Albert have demonstrated "the highest level of customer service and impeccable team spirit," say the resorts.

The RCI Diamond Award recognizes the people behind the resort for providing well-deserved attention to guests and timeshare owners who are the heart and soul of a vacation property. It is offered every year to a resort's operations team member who continually goes above and beyond what is expected, exudes a positive and friendly attitude and provides RCI exchange guests and owners with the best possible service experience. Only 250 to 300 people receive this Diamond award each year.

8. Island Posts Discounted Rates, Incentives for Fall Travel

Travelers seeking to get away this fall should look no further than the lively and picturesque island of St. Maarten, of course. With resorts and hotels providing discounts up to 40% off standard rates, along with other travel incentives and activities, St. Maarten is the perfect vacation destination for families and friends.

Mary's Boon Beach Resort is offering travelers two special packages for those interested in visiting the friendly island this September. Guests who book three nights in a garden or beachfront studio will receive a fourth night free, starting from just \$342 including tax and service charges. Those wanting to stay a full week in St. Maarten can book the seven-night package, with guests only responsible for the cost of five nights. The seven-night special is available for garden, beachfront and deluxe beachfront studios and starts at \$570 inclusive of taxes and service charges.

These fall specials include a 15% discount on additional nights, free welcome fruit/rum punch and free Wi-Fi. The specials are valid for travel through Sept. 30, 2014. To book, call (800) 497-5834 and tell them you saw this in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

Oyster Bay Beach Resort is luring travelers with a variety of discounted rates throughout the fall season. Guests will enjoy 40% off standard rates when traveling through Sept. 30, 2014, 20% on travel Oct. 1 - 31, 2014 and 10% off travel Nov. 1 - Dec. 19, 2014. Oyster Bay Beach Resort is perched on a coral reef overlooking the Caribbean Sea and Oyster Pond Marina, and provides breathtaking ocean views, a white sandy beach and countless amenities. For reservations, call (866) 978-0212 and tell them you saw this in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

Princess Heights Luxury Boutique Condo Hotel is providing vacationers with a free rental car when booking directly with the hotel from Aug. 30, 2014 for reservations through Dec. 18, 2014. Princess Heights is located in a quiet and exclusive neighborhood with a multitude of activities including watersports, spas, casinos and restaurants only a few minutes away. Rates start at \$139 per room, per night. Visit www.PrincessHeights.com, call (800) 881-1744 and tell them you saw this in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort Casino & Spa is affording travelers extra value with its Fall Into Savings special, offering a fourth night free plus \$300 in resort credits for travel through Dec. 18, 2014, when booked by Sept. 30, 2014. Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort, Casino & Spa is a serene Caribbean haven and St. Maarten's premier, limitless all-inclusive, adults-only resort. To book the Fall Into Savings special, visit www.Sonesta.com/GreatBay.

Sonesta Maho Beach Resort & Casino is also offering vacationers a Fall Into Savings special, providing a third night free, plus \$200 in resort credits for travel through Dec. 18, 2014 on reservations booked by Sept. 30, 2014. This all-inclusive St. Maarten resort is a spectacular destination within a destination, offering endless activities for travelers' enjoyment and relaxation. To book this deal, visit www.Sonesta.com/MahoBeach.

Brand new to the island this fall, Sonesta Oceant Point Resort is celebrating its soft opening with 35% off standard rates, plus a tour to St. Barth's, on reservations seven-nights or longer. This special is valid for travel Nov. 1, 2014 - Dec. 24, 2015 and must be booked by Oct. 31, 2014. To be one of the first to experience this new property, visit www.Sonesta.com/OceanPoint.

The Westin Dawn Beach Resort & Spa is offering guests discounted rates when booking two nights or more. For every night travelers pay the standard rate, they receive 40% off the next night. The property features 310 luxuriously appointed guest rooms and 15 suites, with two restaurants, a lobby bar and swim-up bar, a poolside deli, a full-service European-style spa, fitness studio, casino, retail shops and a beachfront watersports shop. The Westin is the only major resort in the Caribbean to install and utilize solar panels to replace its energy consumption. This special offer is valid for travel through Dec. 31, 2014. For reservations, call (866) 716-8108 and mention rate plan ZB4.

SECTION 3: Island

Below are articles 9 and 10...followed by Island News from St. Maarten:

Beat The 10/1 Price Increase: Get The Best SXM Discount Package at the Lowest Price; 200 Discounts Across SXM Are Yours With JMB Membership

As with everything else, the cost of JMB Website Supporters new, renewal, and reinstated 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, renewing, or reinstating your JMB Website Supporters membership 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.

And it's just \$59 for one year but much less per year when you buy multiyear memberships. Low prices for renewals and reinstatements, too.

Learn more here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Military Discount Now Available on All JMB Memberships

JMB has long offered military discounts on new memberships, but we've resisted doing so for renewals because they are already so inexpensive. But we've decided to do it anyway, and it's a big deal: \$10 off any renewal, even sale renewals. Applies only to renewals initiated on or after September 3. Although it's not retroactive, if you've renewed recently there's no reason you can't renew again. That will get you the \$10 military discount on renewals plus you'll beat the 10/1 price increase on renewals, new memberships, and reinstatements.

Military Discounts take effect for all renewals bought 9/3/14 and after. Details on renewals will be posted on the Secret Site shortly.

11. Fewer Than 400 Cases of Chikungunya Reported Between 10/13 and 8/14

According to official Dutch Side government figures, fewer than 400 cases of the Chikungunya virus were recorded there between mid-October of last year and mid-August 2014.

As you'll recall, the U. S. and Canadian governments in December issued travel advisories because Chikungunya was reported on the French Side for the first time ever late in the year.

These figures don't include the French Side, where the disease started and seemed to have been more widespread. And the figures did not allude to the declining incidence of the similar but more lethal Dengue Fever. Both diseases are carried by the aedes aegypti mosquito, which is black with white spots – quite unusual. We reported here last week that now, thanks to fogging and heavy prevention promotion, Chikungunya seems well under control on SXM.

As we said last week, smart tourists know how to use mosquito repellent to protect themselves.

12. Dengue Fever Hits Japan

For the first time since 1945, Dengue Fever has hit Japan. The incidence is small and concentrated in one area. More: <http://tinyurl.com/py2ahzy>

13. Two Grand Case Bridges Restored to Original Designs

During a conversation with renowned Caribbean impressionist Sir Roland Richardson last winter, Roland told Jeff Berger of his efforts, alongside other individuals, to restore two bridges in Grand Case from their current simple design to the way they appeared many years ago.

If you plan to return to French St. Martin during the winter, you will notice a rather remarkable change in the two bridges, especially if you look at them sideways.

We intend to go by the bridges when we return to the island late this year, and will take some pictures we'll post on our St. Maarten Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten> .

14. Serious Sargasso Seaweed Seen on Atlantic-Side Shoreline

Long story short, there is currently a fair amount of Sargasso seaweed on Atlantic facing beaches in St. Maarten, among them Orient beach. The seaweed is cleaned up daily but if you're visiting the island soon, you will notice it. You can Google Sargasso seaweed for information on

where it comes from and why it's here. It seems to appear every few years for a brief period, usually around this time of year.

15. Why Check Your Credit Card Bills?

As most Americans and Canadians are now well aware, there have been many security breaches in a number of companies, most notably both Target stores and Home Depot. Tens of millions of credit card records were allegedly exposed to hackers.

Even if that were the only thing going on, it is always wise to check your credit card bills thoroughly, perhaps even more so if you use paperless billing options with your credit card companies.

There is no particular link to St. Maarten here, just the sense that it's wise to be sure you are being billed only for things you have actually purchased.

16. Blue Mall Adding Stores

Blue Mall, located in a rather tall building (for St. Maarten) overlooking Cupecoy beach, continues to add new stores slowly, as it has been for almost a year.

Usually when malls open, they are loaded with stores and most of them are open. A hulking edifice, Blue Mall had few stores ready when it first swung open its doors — and the most popular of them was, and probably still is, it's frozen yogurt emporium.

See some recent retail activity at Blue Mall from its Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Blue-Mall-SXM/215083858618007>

17. Mickey ("Mikey") Daniel To Open Mickey's Car Rental on the Dutch Side

Although it doesn't yet have an announced headquarters location, a formal website, or even a publicly announced telephone number, Mickey's Car Rental is quickly moving to the point where it will be able to offer you all of these things plus, of course, car and minivan rentals.

Mickey is Michael Daniel, sometimes called Mikey by his friends — the longtime public face of Tropical Tropicana Car Rental on the Dutch

side. Prior to working for Tropical, which is owned by Mickey's uncle Antoine Baker, Mickey worked for Hertz rent a car.

Now, Mickey is fulfilling a dream he has had since before the Great Recession — opening his own car rental agency. It happens very soon, and we'll tell you when it does.

In the meantime, Mickey has a very short and very un-detailed website, www.mickeyscarrental.com. His full website, which will include online reservation requests, debuts in a few weeks.

Mickey is a longtime friend who introduced us to the Tropical folks almost 20 years ago. Thousands of you know him well; we'll keep you posted on what's happening.

18. *Caribbean Journal* Lists Classic Beach Bars

The Journal's listing was Caribbean-wide and included only one SXM bar and another from Anguilla. Their SXM choice was Karakter on Simpson Bay Beach (west of Mary's Boon), and their Anguilla choice was Elvis' beach bar.

See them all here: <http://www.caribjournal.com/2014/08/25/10-classic-caribbean-beach-bars/>

19. Our New Format Brings Advantages To Smart Phone, iPad Users

This issue is your first look at the new format of *SXM Weekly News*. We're still tweaking and tinkering so the final new look is still down the road, but what you see here is about 80% there.

Biggest change: we've resized the newsletter to make it easy to read on smart phones and virtually all other internet-accessing devices. We're not finished with dimensional changes but many readers will benefit from this change right now.

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



Jeff "Santa" with Laurell at Mr. Busby's Beach Bar

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. *This will end well before the holidays, so order today....*

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 any 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. If we run out of your size we'll email you to see if one size bigger will work. Most grab bags will include two items of clothing and lots more.

The cost is still 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. Again, we will ship to USA addresses (50 states) only. All orders received by last week will be shipping this week.

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 Please don't notify us by email re: 2XL.

21. Restaurant of the Week: Canoa

Located in a beautiful over-the-water building at Great House Marina, near Oyster Bay Beach Resort, Canoa serves extraordinary continental food with a Caribbean twist.

Anybody can say that and it's a neat line, but what's it like in execution? It's extraordinary, says our Jeff Berger. "It's quite an exceptional restaurant. You have a salad or an appetizer and from the moment it reaches your field of vision, you know you're in for an exceptional evening."

Discounting its amazing location, Canoa delivers a highly romantic, magical culinary experience. "Just go. The food is meticulously prepared and as beautiful to see and appreciate as it is to consume. Canoa is one very special restaurant," Jeff says.

Meats, seafood, vegetarian selections -- Canoa has it all. They are building a new website but you can see their current site here: <http://www.canoasxm.com/>

Recently featured Restaurants of the Week:

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 9/8/14)

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 (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 (featured 7/14/14)

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

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

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

Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)

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 (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

Vesna Taverna, 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 year-round SXM restaurant coverage.

22. Caribbean Recipe of the Week

See the Painkiller Cocktail, just added to our "Drinks" category.

We will be adding this list 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 7/28/14

Painkiller Cocktail <http://www.islands.com/articles/painkiller-cocktail> 9/8/14

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://kitchenguyarchive.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.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

Vegetarian Entrees:

Zesty Garlic Flavored Avocado Yogurt Dip <http://caribbeanpot.com/zesty-garlic-flavored-avocado-yogurt-dip/> 9/2/14

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-932> 7/14/14

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>

23. 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. 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

24.

Extended Through September 30:

Get Five Years of JMB Membership Free When You Buy a New Five-Year "SkyMed Ultimate" Medical Evacuation Membership from us -- and It's Only \$59 a month!

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

requaified 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://everythingxml.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).

For one-year or other duration memberships, buy online at www.skymed.com/jmbspecial (JMB members only) or www.skymed.com/jmbxml (everyone else).

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 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 JMB membership extension. Offer ends September 30, 2014. The five-year JMB membership extension will be terminated if you cancel your SkyMed membership before its five-year term expires.

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://everythingxml.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://everythingxml.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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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shopping: (Updated 9/7/2013)

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

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

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

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

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

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

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