



This Week's Stories

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

*Weekly Tourist-Oriented News & Comments from SXM*

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Part of [www.everythingstmaarten.com](http://www.everythingstmaarten.com)

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### Important Note:

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

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

## Get Your Own Free Weekly 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 #977 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:

**-- Holiday Sale Ends Thursday January 15: - Last Days for Lowest Prices of the Year for New Memberships, Renewals, and Reinstatements; Join To Keep These Newsletters Coming (Story Below)**

**-- SkyMed Stays On Sale -- Go Nowhere Without SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection**

**-- Focus on Caravanserai / Alegria (Three Stories)**

**-- See & Hear Our Nine-Vacation Giveaway Live As It Happens On Your Computer**

**-- A New Vacation Giveaway is Coming in July to Celebrate the 1,000th Issue of SXM Weekly News**

**-- What To Do If You Entered Our Giveaway But Are In SXM Unable To Answer Your Phone...**

**-- "Celine Too" Motor Yacht Enters Service; Capt. Neil Elated**

**-- What SXM Beaches Are Clothing-Optional, And Where Are They?**

**-- "Sushiitto" Is Among New Discounts Coming This Month for JMB Members Only**

**-- Missing Something? Get It At The "Super Dollar Store"**

**-- Our Main St. Maarten Facebook Page Passing 8000 Likes**

**-- Huge Marigot Makeover Still On The Horizon, Officials Saying**

**-- Cold? Rent a Timeshare Directly From Its Owner On Our Site**

**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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else, worldwide, at no charge, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 200+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

### SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:

RENTAL -- January 31 to February 7, 2015 (week 5)-- Exceptional cliff-top unit 4B at Summit Resort Hotel offers unobstructed panoramic views of the northern lagoon, lowlands, Marigot, even Creole Rock and Anguilla from a central convenient location in Cupecoy. Gated resort has a restaurant and friendly bar on the pool deck with phenomenal lagoon views and beautifully landscaped grounds. Many

beaches and restaurants are nearby... Beaches: Cupecoy, Mullet Bay, Baie Longue, Rouge, Maho, Simpson Bay. Restaurants: Temptation, FIG, La Gondola, and many others. Breezy recently renovated unit is fully air-conditioned, has a king size bed, stove, refrigerator, microwave, cable TV, free wired and wireless internet, privacy and serenity. Want a quiet midnight swim? Pool is open all night. More photos available! Reduced to only \$1099. Jeff, 508-747-8281 or [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com). This unit and week 4 in the same unit are also both for sale.

RENTAL 01/31/2015 02/07/2015 Week 5 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Unit D-7. Completely renovated large 2 bedroom, 2 bath with 2 murphy beds in living room. Unit D-7. Completely renovated large 2 bedroom (king beds), 2 bath, with two murphy beds in living room' Full kitchen with separate dining area. Beautiful pool steps from unit. Beautiful view from large balcony. Resort has fitness center, several pools, beach bar, water sports, grocery store, nightclub, casino, restaurants and many more within walking distance. \$1,500 Ester - 718-234-3673 [hallest@aol.com](mailto:hallest@aol.com)

### **SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:**

**Sharply Reduced! About To Be Renovated Unit Available At A Fraction of its Future Price; Steps from the Caribbean With All The Amenities You'd Expect**

===== MUST SELL =====

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. Reduced to only \$1099 but we will accept any reasonable offer. Please contact Jeff at email [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) - leave phone number and we'll call back.

SALE 2/7/2015 3/7/2015 Weeks 6, 7, 8 & 9 The Villas @ Simpson Bay Resort & Marina 2-bedroom suite, 5th fl. king bed/master bedroom, 2 Murphy beds/living room, full kitchen, dining/living room, spacious bathroom, separate double vanity area. 2nd bedroom (Lock-out) (Separate entrance) able to rent out. 2 full beds, small kitchen - dorm size refrigerator, microwave, toaster, coffee maker, NO STOVE; spacious bathroom/separate double vanity area. 2 Balconies overlooking Simpson Bay & Pool. Resort - Restaurants, Casino, tennis courts, pools, deli, shops, Marina, beach, free kayaks, beach equipment, Beach Bar, Fitness Center. Plenty of Restaurants - walking distance. \$23,000 for each Week Jo 914-761-7451 [scope4@frankenspeed.com](mailto:scope4@frankenspeed.com)

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

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

### **This Week's Stories**

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

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



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

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

[http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_205834172765083](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083)

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Get a growing list of 210+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

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

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6. Editorial: Somehow, Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Must Be Made Whole

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**-- 7. Holiday Sale Ends Thursday January 15: - Last Days for Lowest Prices of the Year for New Memberships, Renewals, and Reinstatements; Join To Keep These Newsletters Coming** (Story Below)

**-- 8. SkyMed Stays On Sale -- Go Nowhere Without SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection** (Story Below)

**-- 9. SkyMed Offers End-of-Year Bargain Renewals to Current Members; Act Quickly**

**-- 10. Reminder Heads-Up To American & Canadian Expatriates Living in St. Maarten or Elsewhere Overseas**

**[Go Nowhere Without SkyMed MedEvac Protection -- About \\$1.25/day Protects You For a Full-Year](#)**

11. Hear Our Nine-Vacation Giveaway Live As It Happens On Your Computer
12. What To Do If You Entered Our Giveaway But Are In SXM Unable To Answer Your Phone...
13. "Celine Too" Motor Yacht Enters Service; Capt. Neil Roebert Absolutely Elated
14. Take Neil's Friday Fun Cruise to Tintamarre
15. For JMB Members, Discounts on all Celine Too Cruises
16. Mullet Bay Speed Bumps Flattened; It's a Smooth Ride
17. Our Facebook "Everything St. Maarten" Peeps Overwhelmingly Favor "No Tan Lines"
18. Our Main St. Maarten Facebook Page Passing 8000 Likes
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20. The Great Circle Tour
21. Huge Valentine's Day Jewelry Specials Coming for JMB Members Only
22. "sushiitto" Is Among New Discounts Coming This Month for JMB Members Only
23. Savor Sushi? Scintillating Supporters-Only Specials Satisfy at sushiitto
24. Missing Something? Get It At The Super Dollar Store
25. Here Is Why You Must Try Etna Ice Cream
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27. Huge Marigot Makeover Still On The Horizon, Officials Saying
28. Cold? Rent a Timeshare Directly From Its Owner On Our Site
29. Reminder - Coming This Summer: A New Vacation Giveaway To Celebrate SXM Weekly News' Issue No. 1,000
30. Euro Slides to Nine-Year Low, Helping French Side Businesses - Somewhat
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**Scroll down for indexes to sections IV and V, and scroll further to get a growing list of 200+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel discounts.**

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Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare

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Meet Our Sponsors (Updated 9/7/13)

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

- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

**Section Five: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 12/31/14)**

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

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

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

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

**Contact Us:**

[Revised 12/17/13]

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**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. January Weather Arrives; "December Winds" Gone

The famous December winds — which can sandblast your face on Eastern facing beaches – seem to be gone now, and typical January weather has started to settle in.

In January, daytime temperatures are about 82 and nighttime temps are in the mid-70s. Come on down; the only ice here is in your drink.

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2. How To Get The Lowest-Cost Airfares, Hotels, Cruises, and Tour Packages Worldwide  
(Repeat)

This is the single biggest piece of membership news we've had in the past 12 years and it bears repeating: JMB Website Supporters now gives you access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on packages not just to the Caribbean, but worldwide.

Retail travel sites — the ones whose names you know very well — are heavily regulated. But private travel clubs like this, which normally charge members prices for membership/admission, are regulated differently and consequently, can offer much better pricing.

The organization providing these travel benefits has been traveling under the radar for 25 years and is only now making its travel reservations prowess publicly known. It's SkyMed Travel Club and it is entirely separate from the SkyMed "takes you home" medical evacuation service we've been recommending to you since shortly after the millennium.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have been testing it for the past few weeks and have found the pricing to be extraordinary — even on the wildly popular river cruises that are a tourism phenomenon throughout Europe and are quickly gaining popularity here in the US.

And normally, this organization charges you \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members, and during a brief introductory period for everyone else, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Exclusively through us, you get access to a world-class global ticketing mechanism without paying one cent to get in the door.

This is a new benefit for JMB members. During this introduction, everyone can join by going to [www.SkyMedtravelclub.com](http://www.SkyMedtravelclub.com), clicking the sign up link on the top right corner of the homepage, and providing the requested information. It's very important to complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — entering that code is what ensures that you pay nothing to be a member of the SkyMed Travel Club. If you fail to enter that code, you will not gain free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing.

Do join — you will not be disappointed once you've booked through them.

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

### 3. Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Receive Generous Vacation Options from SMTA (Please Share This)

As we reported a couple of weeks ago, the St. Maarten Timeshare Association has published some rather generous offers to enable Caravanserai timeshare owners to regain a good portion of what they lost by the takeover at bankruptcy of the former Caravanserai resort in St. Maarten.

You'll find their offerings here: <http://www.timesharestmaarten.com/caravanserai-help>

To be sure, there are shortcomings in their offer. First, many of the weeks offered for exchange are not in the winter, when tourists want and need them most. The reason, of course, is that inventory that time of year is rare. Second, a complete solution would involve paying timeshare owners the market value of their units — and that's not offered here.

We have suggested openly that the St. Maarten government foster, urge, and push extensive communications between representatives of Alegria resort and the former Caravanserai timeshare owners to bring this situation to an amicable conclusion. Please see the story 6.

Also...

If you're a St. Maarten timeshare owner, particularly a timeshare owner at Caravanserai, we urge you to make your views known to the people of St. Maarten via letters to the editor pages. It does matter — far more than you think.

Contact the Today newspaper at: [todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com](mailto:todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com)

And contact the Daily Herald newspaper at: [editorial@thedailyherald.com](mailto:editorial@thedailyherald.com)

Please feel free to share this information with other St. Maarten timeshare owners.

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### 4. Caravanserai Owners Start Making Themselves Heard In Local Papers

In thoughtful letters written to local St. Maarten newspapers, Caravanserai timeshare owners are making their case thoroughly and forcefully.

Their letters are making an impact and are being talked about locally. Much of the discussion now centers on ensuring that this problem never happens again. That of course is desirable, but it doesn't solve the problem for Caravanserai timeshare owners. Please see our editorial in article number six.

Here is where you can add your voice to the chorus of St. Maarten timeshare owners expressing themselves concerning the Caravanserai debacle:

If you're a St. Maarten timeshare owner, particularly a timeshare owner at Caravanserai, we urge you to make your views known to the people of St. Maarten via letters to the editor pages. It does matter — far more than you think.

Contact the Today newspaper at: [todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com](mailto:todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com)

And contact the Daily Herald newspaper at: [editorial@thedailyherald.com](mailto:editorial@thedailyherald.com)

Please feel free to share this information with other St. Maarten timeshare owners. Two more Caravanserai / Alegria articles are below.

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### 5. **Daily Herald** Repeats Call for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection Legislation

In an editorial which appears to have been published largely in response to letters to the editor from Caravanserai timeshare owners, the St. Maarten *Daily Herald* has suggested that timeshare owner consumer protection legislation is seriously overdue and now, more urgent than ever. Some individuals close to the government have told us that timeshare owner consumer protection legislation has moved to the front burner of for the new Dutch Side government.

We'll keep a close eye on this.

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## 6. Editorial: Somehow, Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Must Be Made Whole

Although the Caravanserai debacle only began to unfold in October, the new government of St. Maarten has only been in office for a few weeks. It has a lot on its plate and the Caravanserai situation is certainly one of those items.

The single most important pillar of the St. Maarten economy is stayover tourism funded by timeshare owners. Caravanserai had sold thousands of weeks to some 2300 timeshare owners. Those owners were told by the new resort owners that their weeks — large, significant lifelong investments that were hard to earn — were null and void.

The initial announcement was cryptic and poorly written and sent by e-mail, hardly an official and empathetic communication. The fact that this could happen on St. Maarten is intolerable to timeshare owners who have gone to court to stop it, so far not with much success -- but that battle continues. The island has always given the distinct impression that timeshare owners were protected by law against financial problems at the resorts where they have invested. That proved not to be the case at Caravanserai.

Somehow, someone in St. Maarten needs to see to it that Caravanserai timeshare owners are made whole in some meaningful way. Allowing a situation *in which a business has summarily and cataclysmically slammed the door shut on the investments of thousands of people who had invested millions of dollars in aggregate* to go unchallenged by the government isn't an acceptable circumstance. Regardless of whether it was a "loophole," those victimized by it deserve help.

In point of fact, timeshare owners blame the government for this — and they want the government to step in and fix it. Many of them have said on the pages of local newspapers and in conversations with us that they blame the island and won't come back next year -- and in fact some are not returning this year either. When we said to them that they would be hurting innocent third-party businesses, they scoffed, saying business owners should have stepped in on their behalf and pleaded their case to the government -- but did not.

At the end of the day, business owners will suffer from the loss of these timeshare owners and that means a net negative effect on tax collections as well as a serious hit on the island's reputation as "friendly." Imagine the net negative effect on SXM that can occur as 4,600 unhappy tourists (2300 couples, not counting their families and friends) tell the world what happened to them here -- and that has already started.

This is a sore that will continue to fester until bold action is taken by the government to fix it. For the sake of the island — and certainly for the sake of timeshare owners — we hope that happens soon. Enacting timeshare owner consumer protection legislation is essential; figuring out an innovative way to make Caravanserai timeshare owners who have lost so much whole again is absolutely just as important, if not more so.

### **SECTION 3: Island**

#### **[Just \\$59/month Gets You Global SkyMed Medevac Protection: Go Nowhere Without It](#)**

Story 7:

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## Holiday Sale Ends This Thursday January 15: Only \$39 For The Biggest, Best SXM Discount Package -- 210+ Discounts Across SXM -- Gift Memberships Available

Get The Best SXM Discount Package: Get about 210 discounts across the island including sizable jewelry gift cards, half-off members-only lagoon sunset cruises, discounts at dozens and dozen of restaurants, plus many activities, art, shopping, and other discounts on both sides of the island.

And it's just \$39 for one year (new memberships) but much less per year when you buy multiyear memberships. Low prices for renewals and reinstatements, too.

New memberships: Learn more here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_xsm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml) . Your JMB membership keeps these

newsletters coming every week and gives you tons of discounts across SXM.

Reinstate a former membership: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Renew your current JMB membership at the Membership Renewal Center on the members-only [Secret Website](#).

To get a Gift Membership -- simply buy via PayPal and use the "Comments" area to tell us who you're buying for (name, address, email). Bonus: buy a Gift Membership and we'll extend your own membership for a full year on us.

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Story 8:

## SkyMed Now On Sale: Don't Gamble When You Travel - Take SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection With You

SkyMed takes you home in a hurry on an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet when you or your spouse / partner become critically ill or injured while traveling. Without membership, you must pay for the evacuation in cash, in advance -- if you can set it up -- and the cost can easily be \$50,000 or more -- sometimes far 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.

And now the best SkyMed plan is deeply discounted for our members.

There are a number of SkyMed plans available:

Short-term plans are the least expensive in 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 join -- and they are far less per day on an annual basis.

***And when you renew SkyMed annual or Ultimate plans, your membership continues uninterrupted and is renewable indefinitely without further medical requalification regardless of your age or health.*** There are also never any increases in membership fees (premiums) related solely to your age or health: everyone pays the same low rates.

Six Big Reasons To Buy SkyMed Now: The first five -- we are giving away vacations to destinations worldwide to the next five people who buy new five-year SkyMed Ultimate memberships from us between now and January 31 (just expanded / extended.) You get a one week vacation (airfare not included) at your choice of many resorts worldwide and pay only the cost of maintenance *for one day*. That's a deal and a half. (Email us at [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) immediately after buying the new five-year Ultimate from us to tell us.) There's another reason to buy a new 5-year Ultimate: a 5-year free extension of your JMB membership. More on that is below.

The Sixth Reason: Buy any new SkyMed membership other than short term now and even pre-existing conditions are covered once the 90-day waiting period (for pre-existing conditions coverage) has passed.

Here's that steep discount. For five years of "Ultimate" SkyMed global protection, you'd prepay the five-year rate of \$699/year. But JMB Website Supporters members get \$1000 off -- they pay just \$499/year when prepaid in full, or \$2495. If you'd rather pay monthly, it's \$59, \$49, or \$39/month depending on what you need /want. Get yourself protected against the high cost of medical evacuation and you will have great peace of mind.

Call SkyMed any weekday Mountain time at 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Nan or Jim. Tell them you're a JMB Website Supporters member to get the best rates. If you're not a JMB member, join; it's now on sale at Holiday / Black Friday prices (usually 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 the best SkyMed plans is deeply discounted for JMB members. SkyMed will ask for your JMB membership number.

For one-year or other duration SkyMed memberships, buy online at [www.skymed.com/jmbspecial](http://www.skymed.com/jmbspecial) (JMB members only) or [www.skymed.com/jmbxsm](http://www.skymed.com/jmbxsm) (everyone else). Do it today... It's great peace-of-mind when you travel.

Five-year Free JMB Membership Extension With New Five-Year Ultimate Purchase: 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 both the SkyMed JMB-members-only discount and 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 extended; ends



January 31, 2014. The five-year JMB membership extension will be terminated if you cancel your SkyMed Ultimate membership before its five-year term expires. Vacation offer expires when we run out of vacations; limited quantity available. Join SkyMed now...anything can happen anywhere you go.

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## 9. SkyMed Offers End-of-Year Bargain Renewals to Current Members; Act Quickly

Thousands of readers of *St. Maarten Weekly News*, as well as many of our JMB Website Supporters members, have opted to join SkyMed, which gives them enormous peace of mind when they travel. SkyMed takes you home when you become critically ill or injured while traveling — in our view, nothing else matters.

SkyMed members who have an annual or Ultimate membership bought through us have received a letter in the last few weeks offering them membership extensions at a very special year end low price. If you have not responded to SkyMed's mailing, you should do so now: this bargain membership extension will likely not be repeated and it offers you exceptional pricing on SkyMed's superb annual or multiyear memberships.

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## 10. Reminder / Heads Up To American & Canadian Expatriates Living in St. Maarten or Elsewhere Overseas

If you're an American or Canadian expatriate living in Dutch or French St. Martin, it's critical for you to protect yourself against the possibility that you will be stuck on the island if you become critically ill or injured while living here. Although there is quality medical care available in SXM, it's not what you get back home -- and **Americans and Canadians to a huge extent prefer being home with doctors and hospitals they know and trust** when they become critically ill or injured – **home where their insurance works, which is almost invariably not the case overseas.**

American and Canadian expatriates living in the Bahamas, any nation in the Caribbean, or Mexico are eligible for SkyMed's NATO plan — its North American Transport Option. Despite the fact that expatriates are living most of each year outside of the US or Canada, expatriates are eligible to be flown home on a medical evacuation jet to the US or Canada when they become critically ill or injured while away, from these areas.

To protect yourself, please phone SkyMed directly at 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Nan on weekdays, mountain time. Tell her you are a Jeff Berger St. Maarten member or that you read about this in Jeff Berger *St. Maarten Weekly News*. She can tell you about NATO and help get you protected.

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## 11. Hear Our Nine-Vacation Giveaway Live As It Happens On Your Computer

With over 60,000+ entries, our "Thanks Four Million" vacation giveaway is by far the biggest we've ever held. The 60 finalists have already been picked. They're from states across the United States from Maine to California and Minnesota to Texas, and from most Canadian provinces and some foreign countries.

The 16 finalists were picked at random after the close of voting on January 8. They have not been notified.

The drawing will take place at 10 AM island time, 9 AM Eastern, at the studios of island 92 in Simpson Bay, on the second floor of the Fedex building. The drawing will be aired live on island 92 radio, 91.9 FM. It will also be broadcast live at [www.island92.com](http://www.island92.com).

Winners will be contacted by telephone and will win if and only if they answer. For the one and only one exception, see the next story.

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## 12. What To Do If You Entered Our Giveaway But Are In SXM Unable To Answer Your Phone...

The entry form for our Thanks Four Million giveaway requested a telephone number you can always answer. But if you're in St. Maarten and didn't take your US phone, there is a solution.

Be at the studios of island 92 in St. Maarten before 10 AM local time on Monday, January 12. A sign-up sheet will be available. Sign up by 10 AM — *if and only if you have already entered the contest* – and if we pick your entry, you will be called into the studio for recognition. (We may call some folks into the studio just to talk, so don't get your hopes up if you're called in.)

That's the only exception. Otherwise, if you don't answer the phone you gave us -- you lose.

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### 13. "Celine Too" Motor Yacht Enters Service; Capt. Neil Roebert Elated

*Celine Too* is a big, gorgeous motor yacht bought by Neil Roebert about a year and a half ago which he has been perfecting inside and out ever since.

He has now finished... It is in the water... And it is taking passengers on pub crawls, trips to Tintamarre, Sunday sunset lagoon cruises, and a slew of charters. The boat is beautiful and we've already taken some pictures and posted them right here on our St. Maarten Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten> . Please visit and "like" our page.

You can find out much more at [www.sailStMaarten.com](http://www.sailStMaarten.com). Of course, Neil gives significant discounts on all of his sails to our JMB Website Supporters members. Check the Secret Site for more information, and don't forget to bring your JMB Website Supporters membership card which is required to obtain discounts on the island.

Not a member? See the top of this section and join today at Holiday Sale prices which end this Thursday.

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### 14. Take Neil's Friday Fun Cruise to Tintamarre

Now sailed aboard his gorgeous new Celine Too motor yacht, Capt. Neil Roebert's Friday Fun Cruises are trips to Tintamarre (adults only) which include a light breakfast, a delicious hearty lunch (which proves Neil is an accomplished chef), plenty of time on the beach (clothing optional), and stops on the way back at Creole Rock (snorkeling) and Happy Bay (rest and another late-day snack). We took the cruise many times on Neil's Celine catamaran and will soon take it aboard Celine Too, his much larger motor yacht.

Do it: it will be a huge highlight of your trip. More: [www.sailstmaarten.com](http://www.sailstmaarten.com). Reservations are a must; bring your JMB Membership Card and the code from the Secret Website that together give you your discount.

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### 15. For JMB Members, Discounts on All Celine Too Cruises

We're adding a slew of new discounts so our total will soon be well above 210. Among them are our long-standing discounts with Celine cruises. When the you choose to charter, take a pub crawl, go to Tintamarre, or take our 50% off on Sunday sunset lagoon cruises, you always get great discounts from Celine by being a JMB Website Supporters member. You must present your JMB Website Supporters membership card when boarding, so don't forget it.

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### 16. Mullet Bay Speed Bumps Flattened; It's a Smooth Ride

We're not quite sure why, but the owners of the old Mullet Bay Beach Resort property have removed the speed bumps that had formerly jolted trips through the property. It's a welcome relief.

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### 17. Our Facebook "Everything St. Maarten" Peeps Overwhelmingly Favor "No Tan Lines"

We asked our Facebook peeps: tan lines or no tan lines? By a huge lopsided vote, they voted no tan lines. So we just asked a second question – what was your first time like? You can answer here: <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>

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### 18. Our Main St. Maarten Facebook Page Passing 8000 Likes

By the time you read this our main Facebook site on Facebook will likely have passed eight thousand likes. Lots of new stuff every week

and \*many\* pictures. See it here: <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>

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## 19. What SXM Beaches Are Clothing-Optional, And Where Are They?

When people think of St. Maarten clothing optional beaches, they often think of only the most famous one – Orient beach. But there are several others. Here is a rather complete list:

Orient Beach: only the far southern end of Orient beach is clothing optional. That's the part owned and operated by naturist club Orient. The rest of the beach is tops optional. Bar, restaurant.

Petite Cayes at Anse Marcel, reachable only by foot after you park near the French Side dump, is clothing optional. No services.

Happy Bay, north of Friar's Bay and reached from Friars by foot, is clothing optional. Limited services.

Baie Rouge at its far western end is clothing optional (by tradition; long walk). Restaurant, bar.

Plum Bay isn't clothing optional but its farther reaches are often used that way since Gendarmes have little interest in walking the whole beach to hassle people. No services.

Baie Longue isn't clothing optional either but it's northern end is often used that way as well (same reason as Plum Baie). No services.

Cupecoy "big beach" (north of what's left of the monolith) and "baby beach" are clothing optional, but put your clothes on when you leave the beach. Chair and umbrella rentals, food, drink from Dany and John.

All beaches on the island have been used topless, including Maho beach where folks greet airplanes less than 50 feet above their heads.

Our favorites -- Cupecoy Beach right now since the Lemondroppers started to return late last week (stay the whole day to see why, you'll be invited) -- and Orient at [Club Orient](#), the busiest of all SXM clothing optional beaches. Note: the Club Orient site has naturist pictures, not necessarily work-appropriate.

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## 20. The Great Circle Tour

First, get a good map of the island -- the one created by cartographer Michal Kasproski is the best one, and he offers discounts to JMB members. (His discount will be effective in a week or so). See more at <http://www.midok.com/>

Notice that there's really one main road around the island's circumference. Highlight it.

Bring your camera and spend it exploring off that circumferential road, including nooks and crannies. Be sure to explore Colombier and Loterie Farm, off the road to Pic Paradis -- (but avoid the summit). Also explore the French lowlands, where millionaires and billionaires have homes. Just tell the guards you're going to Baie Longue and they'll let you through the main checkpoint.

You'll find a lot of great sights. Also climb the hill to La Savanne (using your car)...beautiful photos from the top.

We've long suggested the island create a "Route 1" circle auto tour around both sides, but it has never happened.

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## 21. Huge Valentine's Day Jewelry Specials Coming for JMB Members Only

JMB members, watch your email for jewelry special buys coming from both Zhaveri Jewelry and Caribbean Gems. They'll be in your email soon.

Nonmembers: the benefits never end for our members. Our Holiday Membership Sale ends this Thursday, January 15, so see the ad at the beginning of this section and join today. Why spend more than you need to?

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## 22. "Sushiitto" Is Among New Discounts Coming This Month for JMB Members Only

Pierre "Pete" Ferland's Sushiitto at Princess Port de Plaisance off the Union Road in Cole Bay has the island's best sushi, in our humble opinion, and it is very reasonably priced (other places aren't). Pete has signed on to offer discounts to JMB members as well and that starts

soon; we'll let you know when his discount has been posted on our members-only Secret Website. He will be joining dozens and dozens of other SXM restaurants and many other tourist-oriented businesses offering discounts to our JMB members. If you're not a member, it's time; the sale ends this week and those low sale prices won't be back. See the beginning of this section to join today / get more info.

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### 23. Savor Sushi? Scintillating Supporters-Only Specials Satisfy at Sushiitto

We explained this in the previous article — but we simply wanted to make sure you knew you could take advantage. See above for details. If you're not yet a JMB member, membership can save you a small fortune on your next trip -- including the low fare guidelines on our airfare grid which tell you how much you should expect to pay. Join now; sale ends this Thursday, January 15.

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### 24. Missing Something? Get It At The Super Dollar Store

There's no Dollar Tree in SXM, but the island does have a Super Dollar store. It's just north of the Grand Marche in Philipsburg. Instead of turning right toward P-Burg at Grand Marche, go straight north. A few hundred yards up the road on the right you will see the Super Dollar Store operated by the Chin family. No food, just good stuff cheap. Thousands of different things -- check it out. And the Super Dollar Store will also join our 210+ partners offering you discounts. Join JMB Website Supporters now. Nothing else gives you discounts like we do. See the beginning of this section for more.

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### 25. Here Is Why You Must Try Etna Ice Cream

All natural flavors generously added. Rich ultra-creamy formula, far creamier than anything else you've ever tried. Made locally in the St. Louis section of the French Side (you'll have a hard time finding it). Just get it. Worth every penny.

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### 26. Daytime Shopping on the Marigot Waterfront

Little booths with souvenirs, clothes, spices, and tons more. Park nearby and enjoy it. Stop at Sarafina's for breakfast or pastry. Go early....

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### 27. Huge Marigot Makeover Still On The Horizon, Officials Saying

The folks in Marigot seem to think if they completely rebuild the waterfront in a mammoth project, that will bring back tourists. It won't; a hotel won't, either. They need to clean up Marigot and have adequate policing which, right now, is sorely lacking, especially at night. The makeover is coming anyway, and we'll let you know how it progresses.

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### 28. Cold? Rent a Timeshare Directly From Its Owner On Our Site

With daytime temps in the 80s and nighttime temps in the 70s, winter is nicer in SXM. So rent a timeshare and get down here. Hundreds of rentals directly from owners are listed here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml). We publish all those listings free (no commission) for our JMB Website Supporters timeshare owners.

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### 29. Reminder - Coming: A New Vacation Giveaway To Celebrate SXM Weekly News' Issue No. 1,000

The issue will likely be out early in July, so your July 4 holiday will be more special than ever. Watch *SXM Weekly News* for details and tell your friends to subscribe. *Only SXM Weekly News subscribers can enter*. Tell friends to subscribe....

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## 30. Euro Slides to Nine-Year Low, Helping French Side Businesses - Somewhat

The Euro at this writing costs \$1.18, the lowest in years. That helps Americans and Canadians buy goods on the French Side, where the Euro is used, and it makes matters easier for French Side businesses which accept dollars at par with Euros (\$1=€1). Many folks on the French Side have long bought groceries, hardware, etc. on the Dutch Side. That was a bonanza when the Euro cost \$1.48 but now... not so much. But the current 18% premium is still a motivator.

You can use Google anytime to find the current Euro / Dollar exchange rate.

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## 31. Restaurant of the Week: Sushiitto

Sushiitto at Princess Port de Plaisance is unique among SXM restaurants. First, it's run by Pierre Ferland, the "head pineapple" at Pineapple Pete and SPN -- so you know the food is fresh and delicious and the prices are reasonable, unlike other SXM sushi emporiums. If you like sushi -- this is the place. And this month we'll roll out new Sushiitto discounts for our JMB members exclusively.

Call for reservations; you'll find their Facebook page below. Just an outstanding, memorable Japanese dining experience....

IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 12/24/14)

Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://www.canoasxm.com) (featured 12/15/14)

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

Cugini (featured 12/8/14)

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

Daniel's By The Sea, [www.dawnbeachsxm.com](http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com) (featured 11/17/14)

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 11/5/14)

Fusion, [www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com](http://www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com) (featured 4/7/14)

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

Stone Restaurant, [www.thestonerestaurant.com](http://www.thestonerestaurant.com) (featured 9/2/14)

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 12/25/14)

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

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

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/28/14)

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

Pineapple Pete, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://www.pineapplepete.com) (featured 2/3/14)

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

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

Vesna Taverna, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 11/10/14)

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 12/1/14)

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

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 1/12/15)

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

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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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.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)

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### 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/jmbxsm](http://www.skymed.com/jmbxsm) . 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)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

## SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 12/31/14

Please see our site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

## 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://www.everythingsxm.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://www.everythingsxm.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.

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

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