



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

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Important Note:

You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have over 224,000 readers around the world...

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



twitter

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



Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- 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://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?>

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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 #979 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:

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- ***Want to Fight for Your Rights As A Caravanserai Timeshare Owner? Here's What To Do***
- ***More on Jeff Berger's Appearance on Oral Gibbes TV Show in SXM (Focus, Timesharing)***
- ***Caravanserai / Alegria Situation on TV in Washington D. C.***
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30 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 and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare

Meet Our Sponsors (Updated 9/7/13)

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- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
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- 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 . 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. No Blizzards in SXM -- Just Hazy, Hot, Humid Mid-Winter Weather, As Usual

Unlike the situation now developing in the northeastern US, St. Maarten weather last week was generally hazy, hot, and humid, with widely scattered and quite infrequent showers. No significant change in weather is likely in the near future.

2. Spirit Airlines Strikes Again; Airline Notable for Low Fares, Poor Service Does Negative Reinforcement

Spirit airlines is to high-quality commercial air transport what McDonald's is to fine dining. Spirit seems to have a knack for getting headlines regarding negative events.

A week ago yesterday (Sunday), we noticed a Spirit airlines 737 sitting on the tarmac at Princess Juliana airport away from the main terminal building. Inevitable conclusion: it was disabled.

Later, we found out that due to mechanical issues, the plane failed to take off on Saturday as scheduled. After an apparently extraordinary amount of confusion, most passengers were temporarily housed at the Mercure Simson beach hotel in Nettle Bay, French side. The passengers were never accommodated on an outgoing flight until much later on Sunday, roughly 24 hours behind schedule.

If you want a highly dependable high-quality low-cost carrier, Spirit airlines isn't it. Hopefully they will get their act in gear and become qualitatively competitive.

3. 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, 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

4. Yet Another SXM Timeshare Mess: Sapphire & RCI Part Company, Leaving Many In The Lurch

Sapphire resort timeshare owners late in January received an unexpected letter from RCI stating that Sapphire and Resort Condominiums International, the world's largest timeshare registration and trading organization, had parted company. The letter characterized the split as a "suspension."

It is not yet known whether the suspension was initiated by RCI because of some recent negative publicity regarding Sapphire, or whether Sapphire initiated it in relation to rumored acquisition of the property by a new owner.

The key question for timeshare owners — who witnessed a timeshare owner-be-damned takeover at nearby Caravanserai beach resort — is how this affects them.

First, this appears to have no similarity whatsoever to the situation at Caravanserai/Alegria. Nobody is expected to lose their timeshares.

Second, Sapphire resort is not being taken over at this moment, as far as we know, and there appears to be no *immediate* interest by a new, professional operator for the resort.

If you have already banked weeks or points into RCI, see RCI's letter to Sapphire owners for specific guidance.

If you were planning to trade into Sapphire from another resort or from using points, you may have a problem. Consult RCI directly for guidance. If you were planning to deposit a week or points, you aren't likely to be able to do that through RCI.

We sent e-mails and made telephone calls to both RCI and Sapphire on Sunday but no one responded. We will continue to try to find out what is going on, how long it will last, and what effects it may have on Sapphire timeshare owners both in the short and long range.

5. Sapphire Sale Imminent?

Rumors begin easily in St. Maarten, and have a life of their own regardless of whether they're based in fact.

One of the latest rumors here is that Sapphire beach club is about to be sold, and that's why the relationship between RCI and Sapphire has been suspended.

Both Sapphire beach club and RCI have been remarkably silent about who initiated the split between these entities, why it was initiated, how long it will last, and whether there will be any changes after this has been resolved. Bottom line, people within each organization who know the answers to any of these questions aren't talking. So the fact is nobody else knows.

That also goes for the potential sale of the resort, which has been the subject of an unending train of rumors for several years.

It would not surprise us at all to see Philippe and Jean Verdier sell Sapphire at some point. The resort can use an overhaul. There was a time when the resort seemed to be improving, but positive reports now have become hard-to-find. We hope the sale is coming — we hope it is not remotely similar to the sale at Caravanserai — and we hope it comes soon from someone who cares about running a quality resort, unlike the Verdiers.

As always, we'll do our best to keep you posted.

6. What To Do If You Have Incoming RCI Trade Reservations to Sapphire -- Or "Points" Through RCI

If you have traded and have received a confirmed reservation to go to Sapphire resort via RCI, chances are your confirmed reservation is worthless, since RCI and Sapphire are no longer associated with each other.

Our first suggestion is that you call RCI directly to confirm your situation — and armed with that information, you will probably have to work with RCI to make alternative arrangements. You may still be able to make a change, but it may well not be to Sapphire -- or even to St. Maarten.

7. Want to Fight for Your Rights As A Caravanserai Timeshare Owner? Here's What To Do

TOCA, the Caravanserai timeshare owners group, will accept as new members, owners who have NOT signed Alegria's letter and who are willing to pay a starter retainer fee. There are no other fees to join this association. "We are all working on a volunteer basis and the only fees, incurred to date, are legal fees which are being shouldered by the membership," TOCA says.

"In order not to jeopardize our legal battle, our lawyer has advised us not to disclose our main case procedure/strategy to any social media.

"If you wish to join our association, please send an email to our email address at tocagroup@gmail.com and one of the members of the board of directors will return your email request at the earliest convenience."

Carol-Anne, John, Frank & David
(Members of the board of directors for TOCA)

Important...

A deluge of Letters to the Editor has the attention of local media and of the government. The letters are well-written, thoughtful, frank, and respectful, but they do say what happened, why, and their reaction to what happened to them.

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

And contact the Daily Herald newspaper at: editorial@thedailyherald.com

Please feel free to share this information with other St. Maarten timeshare owners. Do that here: <https://www.facebook.com/Caravanseraitimeshare> which is also a great place to share the Letter to the Editor you send to the SXM press.

8. More on Jeff Berger's Appearance on Oral Gibbes TV Show in SXM (Focus, Timesharing)

Oral Gibbes, described as the Larry King of SXM, is a seasoned talk show host who invites newsmakers to appear to speak about significant issues. Almost a week ago we taped a future TV show with Mr. Gibbes -- scheduled for broadcast this week.

Once we know the broadcast date we'll post it on our main FB page, <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten> . Focus: SXM timesharing.

9. Caravanserai / Alegria Situation on TV in Washington D. C.

Look: <http://tinyurl.com/qbj3nly>

SECTION 3: Island

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

10. Low Prices Always on Our 220+ St. Maarten Discounts & Benefits: Get The Biggest, Best SXM Discount Package -- 1 yr. only \$59; 3 yrs., \$95; 5 yrs., \$125

Get The Best SXM Discount Package: Get about 220 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 \$59 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_sxm/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.

Story 11:

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 February 28 (just 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 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 . 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 (JMB members only) or 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 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.

12. Now in SXM, Clean Beaches With No Seaweed

99% perfect. Increasingly rare scattered tiny seaweed patches... come on down.

13. Suggestion to Restaurant Guests: Do Dining Reconnaissance Missions

If you are planning to visit a restaurant that is new to you, make a dry run first to be sure you know exactly where it is and how to get there. Much smarter than guessing your way and possibly being late and losing your table.

14. Suggestion to Restaurateurs: Get Credit Card Numbers Before Accepting Reservations

Restaurateurs across much of the US now ask for credit cards when you make a reservation. In St. Maarten, that makes a great deal of sense — the island's high season lasts only four months which means that businesses can ill afford to hold aside tables for people who don't show up. They should absolutely collect credit card numbers, then charge \$50 per seat for everyone who doesn't show up.

15. About Making Dinner Reservations -- And Cancelling Them

We've overheard conversations during which someone says they'll make reservations at several restaurants knowing full well they'll only go to one and not bother to cancel the unused reservations.

It's an arrogant, inconsiderate thing to do. You're basically holding a table hostage and not allowing the restaurant to use it to generate revenue.

We have long suggested that restaurants collect credit card numbers from people making reservations and charge those people \$50 per seat in case of a no-show. Some in St. Maarten are now starting to do precisely that; as you may know it has been done in some cities in the US for years.

If you make reservations and go, fine; if you don't go, please do the right thing and cancel your unused reservation.

16. Deceptive Surf: Be Careful Out There

In recent weeks, one person was injured and another was killed by deceptively strong surf in SXM.

There are no lifeguards in St. Maarten. Be careful whether you're an experienced swimmer or a novice — and use the buddy system if at all possible. You never know when a larger than expected wave might come in and hit you at the wrong moment.

17. A Last Long Loving Look At Those Soon-To-Disappear Orient Beach Businesses

In recent weeks, *St. Maarten Weekly News* has reported that all of the structures on Orient beach from Pedro's to Kon Tiki will be demolished this spring and replaced by new Caribbean style structures which some of the businesses will then be able to rent.

Although authorities have released detailed plans — as we previously reported right here — the question is now whether it will really happen. We think it will, so we've published a couple of pictures of the existing structures and we'll publish many more this week. Go here to

see them, and keep an eye on our page: <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>

18. Post Your SXM Pictures On Our Facebook Page

We have a few different St. Maarten pages on Facebook, but one in particular wants your photographs of the island. Please enter your pictures here and you might just see them on the masthead of our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

19. Hate Tan Lines? Go To "The Clubs"

If you're really dedicated to coming home without tan lines, and if you want to make your trip with the absolute minimum amount of luggage, you might want to check out both of the clubs on the island.

Club Orient, the largest naturist resort in the Caribbean, is on the southern end of Orient beach. You can come directly from the airport and spend your entire vacation at the club, which has chalets, a restaurant, a bar, tennis courts, and a gorgeous beach, all clothing optional.

Or, you can go to Club Fantastico, overlooking Orient beach village. It's a Villa with several rooms for guests and a beautiful outside pool. And its managers are Chloe and Thierry, formerly of the old Kissing Fish bar at Summit Resort.

20. Low Prices Always + 220 Great SXM Benefits & Discounts

Our primary objective for this week is to complete posting many new discounts and benefits gathered over the last several weeks from businesses throughout the island. If you fly, rent a car, do any activities, visit any restaurant, stay in any hotel, buy anything anywhere, or do any other memorable things on St. Maarten or St. Maarten, you can save a significant amount of the cost of your trip by becoming a member of JMB Website Supporters. We provide about 220 discounts covering virtually everything you do on your SXM vacation. See the beginning of this section and don't spend any more during your next trip than you have to by using our many discounts across both sides of the island.

21. Watch for Our 2015 Awards of Excellence

Within the next week or two, when we finish posting our many new member benefits, we'll turn our attention to completing and distributing our 2015 Everything St. Maarten Awards of Excellence.

Now in their third year, these awards are different from customary popularity contests. We look at what the business is doing, how it does it, and how the business strategy works to motivate employees to deliver above customer expectations. Beyond that, we don't do many awards — usually only 12 to 15. And some businesses that have received awards from us in the past won't be getting any this year. We're adding some new ones, too.

Just as soon as we have distributed the awards to the winners, we'll announce the winners right here in *SXM Weekly News*. Stay tuned.

22. Hear Jeff Live on The Air Every Monday on Island92.com

Every Monday between 9:30 AM Atlantic standard Time and 10 AM, Everything St. Maarten and JMB Communications CEO Jeff Berger appears live on island 92 radio in St. Maarten. The content of his time on the radio is never written in advance or preplanned, so anything can happen. There is often a frank discussion of items of interest to St. Maarten tourists, and there sometimes are giveaways; our nine vacation Thanks Four Million giveaways were done live on the air on island 92 on January 12.

Tune in to hear the show live between 830 and 9 AM Eastern every Monday, 91.9 FM or at www.island92.com - click "Listen Live".

23. Favorite Restaurants for Great Burgers

Years ago, the Ric's Place sports bar had what was arguably the best hamburger in the Caribbean, although Ric's friend Andy of the old Surf Club South in Grand Case (later Baywatch on Orient Beach) had one that was just as good. Ric and Andy have both sadly passed on but today, there are still several places on the island serving outstanding burgers.

There are three we particularly like. In no special order, here they are:

First, Vesna Taverna, which serves breakfast and lunch every day year-round, and dinner Wednesday through Sunday night. We've actually had one of their burgers on a homemade bagel for breakfast as well as for lunch. It is fresh, juicy, and quite delicious.

Second, the Papagayo restaurant at Club Orient at the southern end of Orient beach. Part of the mystique of these burgers is that you're tanning everything you own on a beautiful tropical beach while you're munching it — along with very delicious fries. It's all delicious and the cost keeps dropping along with the euro, which may well reach parity with the dollar before winter ends.

Third, Mr. Busby's Beach Bar, Dawn Beach, which we would guess is the busiest authentic beach bar on the entire island. It has a huge menu which you ought to take time to sample but trust us: the burgers are among the best around.

24. Clean, Calm Local Beach - Great for Kids

Without a doubt, St. Martin's single best beach for kids is Le Galion on the French side just beyond the Butterfly Farm south of Orient Beach. Water is calm and warm, there are plenty of activities to keep kids busy, and there is no drop-off. Parking is free and food is readily available. If you have little ones, this is the place to bring them.

25. Parking Safely & Securely at Orient Beach / Club Orient

Thousands of people every week visit naturist Club Orient at the southern end of Orient beach. The best way to do this is to park your car inside the gate at the club for the grand sum of \$5. Nobody will bother your car and it is readily visible from the office and by security, so it is well protected. Unfortunately, you can't say that for some other parking areas on the beach. There's a restaurant, a bar, a small supermarket, and a store on the property as well. The entire facility is clothing optional.

26. About Security Guards in SXM Stores

The security guards in many St. Maarten stores aren't what Americans normally equate with security guards. Although they wear the usual type of private police uniform, they usually know the business well and can often answer questions about where certain merchandise is or even recommend things.

27. A Drug Store With Everything

On the Union road in Cole Bay, western side of the street next to Harley-Davidson, you will find Orange Grove pharmacy which has about the best selection of pharmaceuticals and all related items on the island.

They also regularly have clearance items that you may find useful. And lastly, they are the newest business to become our partner by providing a discount to all of our JMB Website Supporters members. That will happen during the next couple of weeks as we add a number of new membership benefits. Vouchers will soon be available for a 10% discount; we'll let members know when this new discount is live.

28. Contacting Capt. Neil Roebert of The Celine Too

Capt. Neil Roebert of the all-new Celine Too Motoryacht is getting lots of calls for reservations but not all the calls are getting through. (Thanks SXM phone system.) It's 721-526-1170. You can also email him at celinecharterssxm@gmail.com. If you want a third way to get in touch, contact Tamara Rodriguez, his first mate & the lady who ran Ric's Place for several years, She's available at <https://www.facebook.com/tamara.rodriguez.779642>. Well worth the effort....

29. The Precipitous Slide of the Euro

As of Monday morning it should be around \$1.13, lower than in several years. Makes everything on the French Side more affordable for Americans / Canadians.... and the slide is expected to bring parity in a few months.

30. Restaurant of the Week: Fusion

If you've not yet tried Fusion at dinner, it's time you did.

Conveniently situated behind IZI Ristorante Italiano at Paradise Plaza in Simpson Bay, Fusion has an eclectic menu with great food, reasonable prices, and generous portions. The salads are highly creative and totally amazing. From soups to steaks to their incredible desserts, Fusion is worth a visit early during your trip -- and repeated visits after that. Convenient off-street parking, too.

Like many SXM restaurants, Fusion offers discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details. Tell them you read about it in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*....More info is below:

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 12/24/14)

Canoa, 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 (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 (featured 11/5/14)

Fusion, www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com (featured 1/26/15)

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

Stone Restaurant, 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 1/19/15)

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 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.

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 .

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 Listings are now updated every other weekday. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13) Returns Next Issue

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: 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.
- 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.

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](mailto: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.

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.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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