



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

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Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

## 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)

**Add [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.**

### Important Note:

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

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



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

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

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## TOP STORIES

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

This is issue #983 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:

**-- Unmanned "Drone" Aircraft Shoots Video Uncomfortably Close to SXM Airport; Investigation Underway**

**-- Now, Divi Little Bay Becomes The Target of Timeshare Owner Anger on SXM**

**-- Jeff's Interview on "Oral Gibbes Live" on SXM Cable TV; Heavy Focus, Timesharing Legislation**

**-- Get 227 SXM Discounts Now: Valentines Day Membership Sale Extended for One Final Week**

**-- Only About \$1.25/day Gets You SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection; Do It Before You Need It**

**-- At Cupecoy Beach, Sudi Ozkan Moves a Boulder, Enabling Free Parking Near Ocean Club**

**-- St. Maarten Beaches Page Heavily Updated -- All The Latest Beach Info**

**-- Heads Up: Avoid Sandy Ground at Night**

**-- Best Place to ... Eat Dessert First**

**-- Yes, We've Seen Wild Monkeys This Year**

**-- Members: Half Price (Only \$15PP) on The 90-minute Sunset Cruise Aboard Neil's All-New Celine Too Motor Yacht**

**-- A Closer Look at Topper's By The Sea Broadway Revues**

**-- Trattoria Pizza Pasta Keeps Rolling Along; Why It's Still Packed After All These Years**

**-- Unlocking Locked US Smart Phones for Use in SXM With a Local SIM Card**

**-- How You Can Help Us Reach 250 SXM Discounts (And What You'll Get for Helping)**

**-- Restaurant Suggestions Taken From Our Restaurants of the Week Listings for Regatta Week**

**30** new stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

## Timeshare Rental and Sale 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 Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 3/14/2015 3/21/2015 Week 11 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Renovated this November, studio unit with king bed, granite and stainless full kitchen, dining, patio, flat screen tv,ac, blue ray. Next to Olympic pool with swimup bar, steps to beach. Sat to Sat rental \$700.00 Karen. 774-264-1267 [Rinky51@aol.com](mailto:Rinky51@aol.com)

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

SALE 3/14/2015 3/21/2015 Week 11 Princess Port de Plaisance Second floor (Elevator access) Two-Bedrooms (king-sized Bed & queen-sized bed + Sleeper Sofa (Unit sleeps 6), 2-Bathrooms, fully-equipped Kitchen with Microwave, TV units in Living Room and Master Bedroom, well-decorated, spacious Unit # E-14204, large Balcony housing Chaises and beautiful scenic view of Simpson Bay Lagoon, magnificent Sunsets and direct view of mega-Yachts entering and leaving the Lagoon. Casino, Car Rental, Salon, state of the art Spa and Health Club, lighted Tennis Courts, and three Restaurants on site. Large new well-stocked, Food Super Market (Grand Marche) is located immediately outside the Facility grounds. \$15,000.00 Harold (732-255-1790) [orthodoc1@optonline.net](mailto:orthodoc1@optonline.net)

### ***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)

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

1. Weather Update: More of The Same
2. How To Get The Lowest-Cost Airfares, Hotels, Cruises, and Tour Packages Worldwide (Repeat)

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

3. Now, Divi Little Bay Becomes The Target of Timeshare Owner Anger on SXM
4. Oyster Bay Beach Resort Receiving Bouquets - and Brickbats
5. Here's Jeff's Interview on "Oral Gibbes Live" on SXM Cable TV; Heavy Focus, Timesharing Legislation
6. Add Your Voice To The Chorus of Comments on Timesharing in SXM

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

-- 7. ***Valentines Day Sale Extended for One Final Week***

-- 8. ***Only About \$1.25/day Gets You SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection; Do It Before You Need It***

9. Unmanned "Drone" Aircraft Shoots Video Uncomfortably Close to SXM Airport; Investigation Underway

10. At Cupecoy Beach, Sudi Ozkan Moves a Boulder, Enabling Free Parking Near Ocean Club
11. Island Ready for Heineken Regatta, Busiest Week of the Year
12. At Starz Casino (formerly Atlantis), Sugar Cane Cafe Disappears...
13. St. Maarten / St. Martin Beaches Page Heavily Updated -- All The Latest Beach Info
14. Heads Up: Avoid Sandy Ground at Night
15. "Blue Water" Restaurant Under Construction at Indigo Bay
16. Best Place to ... Eat Dessert First
17. Yes, We've Seen Wild Monkeys This Year
18. Members: Half Price (Only \$15PP) on The 90-minute Sunset Cruise Aboard Neil's All-New Celine Too Motor Yacht
19. Should You Still Go to the French Side for Gas?
20. Where To Get Authentic SXM Johnny Cakes
21. SXM Government Making Life Difficult for St. Maarten Sea Palace Guests
22. A Closer Look at Topper's By The Sea Broadway Revues
23. Restaurant of the Week #1: Spiga
24. Restaurant of the Week #2: Le Pressoir
25. Restaurant of the Week #3: Mr. Busby's Beach Bar
26. As Regatta Approaches, You Must Make Restaurant Reservations
27. Trattoria Pizza Pasta Keeps Rolling Along; Why It's Still Packed After All These Years
28. Unlocking Locked US Smart Phones for Use in SXM With a Local SIM Card
29. How You Can Help Us Reach 250 SXM Discounts (And What You'll Get for Helping)
30. Restaurant Suggestions Taken From Our Restaurants of the Week Listings for Regatta Week

**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 2/24/15]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only \*secret\* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If

you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**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. Weather Update: More of the Same

Daytime temps are around 82-84. Nighttime, 76-77, though it sometimes feels cooler when windy. We're in the dry season and many fields look parched. Showers are much less frequent and shorter, usually. No snow. Ice only in glasses...

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

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. Now, Divi Little Bay Becomes The Target of Timeshare Owner Anger on SXM

A Facebook post today said that Divi Little Bay is sending out large bills for 2016 (sic!) timeshares -- in some cases more than double the usual maintenance fee. If you have received such a bill, please email [jmbweb\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb[at]jmbcommunications.com) with details. If you can scan and send us any explanation provided by Divi, we'd appreciate it. Initial reaction from a few Divi timeshare owners was negative to the point of saying "time to sell."

We have asked Divi to comment.

#### 4. Oyster Bay Beach Resort Receiving Bouquets - and Brickbats

Winning awards and other accolades from its timeshare owners has become old hat to Oyster Bay Beach Resort, which has won quite a share of them in recent years.

The resort used to sell "flexible" weeks at a low cost, enabling people to stay there in the dead of winter for short money.

But eventually there are more would-be guests than rooms, so OBBR solved that by selling upgrades to time-specific dates -- that upgrade route costs money (a fair amount of it) but it also guarantees specific calendar weeks.

Selling winter week-specific upgrades further reduced inventory available for internal trades, so some formerly happy owners who always had traded found themselves unable to do so. Result, brickbats.

OBBR General Manager Ricardo Perez, who personally has received a number of OBBR awards, says it's a supply and demand situation. He said OBBR is willing to set aside specific winter weeks on a permanent basis, which timeshare owners want, but at a cost. Off season weeks are worth less; in-season weeks are more expensive, but some owners still aren't happy. Simpson Bay Resort in its "Pelican" days many years ago did exactly the same thing.

It's like trading a new Honda Civic (a great car) for a Lexus RX 350 (an outstanding car). The difference does cost money. Feel free to write [jmbweb\[at\]jmbcommunications](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications) about this if you like. Use the subject "Timesharing." We intend to publish a representative sample of your messages.

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#### 5. Jeff's Interview on "Oral Gibbes Live" on SXM Cable TV; Heavy Focus, Timesharing Legislation

Here it is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgnToxVC9FY>

Lots of timeshare related info is in this interview.

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#### 6. Add Your Voice To The Chorus of Comments on Timesharing in SXM

Address letters to the editor to:

Daily Herald newspaper: [editorial@thedailyherald.com](mailto:editorial@thedailyherald.com)

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

Feel free to share your comments with other St. Maarten timeshare owners: <https://www.facebook.com/Caravanseraitimeshare> .

### **SECTION 3: Island**

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

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## **7. Valentine's Day / President's Day Sale Extended One Final Week --- Lower Prices Now on 227+ SXM Discounts & Benefits:**

Get The Biggest, Best St. Maarten/St. Martin Discount Package --

1 yr. \$44; 6 yrs., \$129 - Ends Monday March 2

Get The Best SXM Discount Package: Get about 227 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 \$44 for one year (new memberships) or six years for just \$129. Low prices for renewals and reinstatements, too. Final Week.

New memberships: Learn more here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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.* Ends next Monday and will not be further extended.

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](#).

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Story 8:

## Get SkyMed Now: 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 JMB 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 March 31 (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](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. Unmanned "Drone" Aircraft Shoots Video Uncomfortably Close to SXM Airport; Investigation Underway

Venus is the late Steve Jobs unconventional super megayacht which has spent most of the winter right here in SXM. Over the weekend, a video shot from above showed the yacht exiting the lagoon through the Simpson Bay Drawbridge. (It was just Jobs' 60th birthday; his family chose to spend it here in SXM, remembering him.)

It was quickly obvious to us that the video had to be shot from a drone -- the same type of remotely controlled, pilotless vehicle that has been causing great concern at US airports. Worse, it was flying only a few hundred yards from the airport itself. It never should have happened since the "pilot" could have lost control and the drone could have been a serious danger to airplanes, passengers, and people on the ground in the path of departing jets.

We notified authorities and we know an investigation is already underway. The *Daily Herald* put it on its front page today (Monday) and ran an editorial pointing to the need for legislation to control drones and protect people... even if the drone pilot's only intent was to make a fun video. This was a dangerous and unnecessary situation.

This is the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0l3Pq0yp6Z8>

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## 10. At Cupecoy Beach, Sudi Ozkan Moves a Boulder, Enabling Free Parking Near Ocean Club

Free parking next to Ocean Club is back. Sudi Ozkan, the billionaire owner of Princess Port de Plaisance, moved a boulder which had made parking impossible, so free is back.

To park right at the beach entrances, you will need to pay a small fee since Sudi leased that property to the concessionaire. It's more convenient and smarter to do that since the concessionaires (Dany & John) can keep an eye on your car. It also helps them pay back their monthly lease, which enables the parking.

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## Doesn't Your Business/Practice Deserve a Website That Works?

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

*Marketing-Centric / Client-Focused, created by US!*

"Websites that Work," part of JMB Communications, offers substantial discounts to JMB Website Supporters members.

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## 11. Island Ready for Heineken Regatta, Busiest Week of the Year

Lots of activity here right now as the island ramps up for Heineken Regatta, the single busiest week of the year. Only Christmas week and Carnival approach it. Any necessary fixups on land or water are being completed everywhere, not just at the Yacht Club which is the hub of all the activity. If you're here... you'll love it. And Kool and The Gang headlines the free concert. See much more here:

<http://www.heinekenregatta.com>.

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## 12. At Starz Casino (formerly Atlantis), Sugar Cane Cafe Disappears....

The Casino entrance at the southern end of the complex off Rhine Road -- the former Sugar Cane entrance -- was demolished a few weeks ago even as the old La Gondola restaurant was demolished. (David Foini's new venture, IZI, opened in Simpson Bay five years ago and is outstanding.) Now Sugar Cane Cafe is gone totally as well... at least from outward appearances. "Starz" continues to undergo big changes...



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### 13. St. Maarten Beaches Page Heavily Updated -- All The Latest Beach Info

The updates to [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) are continuing. Latest page to be updated is our Beaches page which tells you about everything including Sudi's boulders at Cupecoy, the heavy demolition at Orient Beach, and the parking issue at Guana Bay Beach. Go to the site and click "Beaches" for the latest.

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### 14. Heads Up: Avoid Sandy Ground at Night

Sandy Ground is the area immediately south of the French Side drawbridge south of Marigot. Avoid it at night. Use the Dutch Union Road and the causeway to return to the Cupecoy and Maho areas from Marigot and Grand Case at night.

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### 15. "Blue Water" Restaurant Under Construction at Indigo Bay

Construction permits have been issued so work is beginning on the new Blue Water Restaurant at Indigo Bay (Cay Bay) on the Dutch Side, which is likely to give Kokomo a run for its money. More:

<http://bluewaterglobalgroup.com/blue-water-selects-st-maarten-general-contractor-for-indigo-bay-restaurant/>

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### 16. Best Place to ... Eat Dessert First

"Life is short -- eat dessert first." Been there, done that, even had multiple desserts and at times no main course at all.

Do you really want dessert first?

You can always ask restaurateurs to save you a slice of whatever, but what the... sometimes it's more fun to eat dessert first.

One place with great homemade desserts is Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay north of the drawbridge. Vesna concocts these lusciously seductive selections herself and they are amazing. Just do it.... [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com)

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### 17. Yes, We've Seen Wild Monkeys This Year

There may well be close to two thousand wild monkeys on SXM but -- unless you're a homeowner with a garden -- you're not all that likely to see them. We did see a couple of dozen dining on fruit trees in Loterie Farm at Pic Paradis, French Side, in December 2013. We saw none after that until last week, when one bounded across Oyster Pond Road not far from Dawn Beach.

You never know....

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### 18. Members: Half Price (About \$15PP) on The Sunset Cruise Aboard Neil's All-New Celine Too Motor Yacht

See the JMB members-only Secret Website for details. Sails every Tuesday on Neil's big new Celine Too. Neil does full-day cruises every Friday to Tintamarre, his famous pub crawls, day cruises, charters, and much more. See [www.sailstmaarten.com](http://www.sailstmaarten.com). Capt. Neil Roebert is the best of the best....

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## 19. Should You Still Go to the French Side for Gas?

French Side gas is now around € 1 per liter. Some stations do € = \$ and some don't. On the Dutch Side, prices are in guilders per liter. For years the Dutch Side was pricier, but now it's close; Delta Petroleum near McDonalds in Dutch Quarter is reasonable though chaotic. We still like the Cadisco station near the stadium in Marigot, opposite Simply Market. Pricing is still far higher at both than in the US, but good for SXM.

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## 20. Where To Get Authentic SXM Johnny Cakes

Usually, Caribbean Johnny Cakes (nee: Journey Cakes) are fried dough in the shape of sandwich rolls. You can get a variety of sandwiches on Johnny Cakes (or other breads or rolls) at [Mr. Busby's Beach Bar](#).

Don't confuse them with Kenyon's Johnny Cakes, made in Rhode Island by one of America's oldest manufacturers since 1696 (not a typo). See <http://www.kenyonsgristmill.com/home.html> -- a good place to visit next summer.

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## 21. SXM Government Making Life Difficult for St. Maarten Sea Palace Guests

Taxis should be able to transport passengers to and from hotels without interference from anybody. But for guests of the Sea Palace Hotel, it's not that easy. To make it nice for cruise ship passengers, Front Street is sometimes barricaded as a pedestrian mall. So cabs need to drop off passengers and all their luggage a distance from the hotel, and pick them up the same distance away, unless they get police permission first -- which is inconvenient to all concerned, especially when there's no fast resolution.

Taxi drivers who move barricades without doing any planned hotel drop-off or pickup should be fined. But there should never be anything limiting their ability to bring hotel guests to their hotel or take them to the airport. There's no excuse for interfering with that; it makes the "Friendly Island" look less friendly.

Marketing 101: Make It Easy for People to Buy. "This" action makes it tough... a bad policy, in our opinion.

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## 22. A Closer Look at Topper's By The Sea Broadway Revues

Only Broadway is Broadway, but thanks to "Topper" Daboul a number of young ladies from St. Maarten are learning how to dance Broadway stage style. Members of this group have indeed made it onto Broadway, or on stage in Europe.

Every Thursday, Topper presents a Broadway Revue at his Topper's By The Sea Restaurant at Flamingo Resort.

The food is really great (and consistently so) and you've got to see the review. These dancers are really impressive. Just do it ... a very real treat.

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## 23. Restaurant of the Week #1: Spiga

Easily one of the very finest St. Martin / St. Maarten Italian restaurants, Spiga - opposite Tijon Parfumerie in Grand Case, "the culinary center of the Caribbean" -- offers a staff of seasoned pros who know how to leverage the finest ingredients to deliver spectacular dining.

Whether you favor beef, seafood, poultry, or vegetarian fare, you will find their creative Italian cooking to be among the very best on the island. We've been going since they opened and always visit several times on each trip. It's extraordinary dining, look at the pictures:

[http://www.spiga-sxm.com/photo\\_gallery.htm](http://www.spiga-sxm.com/photo_gallery.htm)

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## 24. Restaurant of the Week #2: Le Pressoir

What Spiga (prior story) is to Italian fine dining, Le Pressoir is to French fine dining. It's romantic, unique, and elegant. In fact we have seen more engagements take place here than at all other SXM restaurants put together.

Franck Mear is one extraordinary French chef and Melanie, his better half, heads the service team on the floor and they are flawless. Beautiful location dating from the 1800s, opposite the well-lit paved public parking area in Grand Case. Their new wine list goes live this week. If you're looking for the best of the best of all French restaurants . . . Pressoir is it. Absolutely outstanding: <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com/>

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## 25. Restaurant of the Week #3: Mr. Busby's Beach Bar

Busby's -- and its nighttime companion, Daniel's By The Sea -- deliver ambiance unlike any other.

With totally different menus, both restaurants share a common location on the island's east coast, right on Dawn Beach. Caressed by constant tradewinds, both restaurants offer dining in spacious gazebos under a canopy of palm trees.

Busby's huge lunch menu offers all the usual Caribbean-American dining you expect plus many things you would not expect -- like authentic Philly Cheese Steaks, for example. Lots of seafood, salads, burgers, and much more.

Daniel's offers classing Italian dining under the stars. For rare occasions when the soothing tradewinds abate, ceiling fans in the gazebos take over, assuring nonstop comfort. Top-notch food and service and unbeatable seaside ambiance.

Daniel's and Busby's, as well as Le Pressor and Spiga, are recipients of our coveted Everything St. Maarten Awards of Excellence, recognizing the best of the best. New website coming soon: [www.dawnbeachsxm.com](http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com).

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## 26. As Regatta Approaches, You Must Make Restaurant Reservations

They're essential -- but remember to cancel reservations you won't use... it's the right thing to do.

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## 27. Trattoria Pizza Pasta Keeps Rolling Along; Why It's Still Packed After All These Years

One of the island's longest-running restaurants is still the same as it ever was, thanks to consistency in the kitchen and the able hand of Miracle on the dining floor. Selena will be back before too long, and Ilde and Dario keep an eye on things from St Kitts.

If you have no idea who all those folks are, what really matters is these five things:

- First, a clear, simple menu on which each item is created with meticulous care and consistency, as noted above. What you love this time will be exactly the same when you next order it.
- Portions are very generous; I usually get a couple of meals from each entree.
- Service is attentive but not overbearing.
- Make reservations: the restaurant is small and sells out quickly.
- Use free valet parking next door at Casino Royale (and try your luck after dinner)

Great food, generous portions, a true "Trattoria" atmosphere, and reasonable prices. It's why we've recommended Pizza Pasta for the past 19 years. Go; you've love it. In the alley between Casino Royale and Cheri's Cafe, Maho area, Dutch Side.

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## 28. Unlocking Locked US Smart Phones for Use in SXM With a Local SIM Card

Many times when you buy a smart phone in the US, you'll be told it's "unlocked" so you can use a foreign SIM when you travel to SXM.

Unfortunately that's often a lie. But ask around in SXM -- there are people here who unlock phones for a small fee. If you're here in SXM for any length of time, you'll save a small fortune by getting a local number. We use UTS here -- not perfect, but quite good. And their "USA" program gives you 150 minutes of calls to the US for use in a week for \$10. That is way less than you'd spend on your Verizon or AT&T phone....

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## 29. How You Can Help Us Reach 250 SXM Discounts (And What You'll Get for Helping)

We are in the process of surpassing 227 discounts and other benefits offered to our JMB Website Supporters members. We expect to have roughly 250 benefits and discounts by the end of this year — and it will pay you to help us achieve that.

What we offer your favorite island businesses is increased foot traffic at a cost of zero dollars. For this, we seek unique offers from quality partners. Since we charge our partners nothing, the offers we receive for our members should be superior to offers available anywhere else.

If you have a favorite business that is not currently a partner of ours, suggest to them that they offer discounts or other incentive to our 26,000+ members. If you suggest a partner who later joins us in offering a discount as a result of your suggestion, we will extend your current JMB Website Supporters membership for a full year on us. There is no limit to this offer, which means your future memberships can be free simply by recommending new partners who join us; do it as often as you like. You must let us know the name of the business, its address, its phone number, the name of the owner, and his or her e-mail address since we *always* approach in writing by e-mail. It's also important, if possible, that you speak with them about us so they know to expect our e-mail.

If they're a business that's new to us and that has not been previously approached or referred by others, this offer is valid. Of course, this offer is available to JMB Website Supporters members only; if you're a nonmember and would like to participate, join during our Valentine's Day sale mentioned above.

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## 30. Restaurant Suggestions Taken From Our Restaurants of the Week Listings for Regatta Week

Most of these restaurants offer significant discounts for our JMB members. See the Secret Site for details. Log in using the orange login box on all pages of [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). Your entire registered email address is your username (in lowercase). If you forgot your password, click "forgot password" in the login box. Learn more about membership at the top of this section.

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 2/23/15)

Fusion, [www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com](http://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](http://www.thestonerestaurant.com) (featured 9/2/14)

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 2/23/15)

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 2/23/15)

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

Pineapple Pete, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://www.pineapplepete.com) (featured 2/2/15)

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 2/23/15)

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

\*2015 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 few weekdays. 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](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: See [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) .

#### **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).

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.

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

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

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