



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

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Island News

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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:

***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 230,000 readers around the world...***

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



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Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, and Android Users

This format has been further narrowed as of April, 2015, so it is now easily readable on almost all 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.

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 #988 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:

- **Colorado State Hurricane Forecasters Expect "Light" Year for Hurricanes, But...**
- **New "St. Maarten Timesharing" Page Debuts on Facebook**
- **\$120-Million Waterfront "St. Maarten Quarter" Project OK'd by Ministers Despite Strong Opposition**
- **Our 13th Anniversary Membership Sale Ends Soon; What's In It For You**
- **SXM Airport Releases Airport Growth Graphics; Where To Download The PowerPoint**
- **Royal Caribbean's Odd Obsession With Seaweed That Isn't There**
- **Next Big Thing: The Dutch Side Carnival**
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- **RIU Palace, French Side, Gets Huge Press Coverage**
- **For Le Pressoir, TripAdvisor Is The Place for Superlatives**
- **The Unique Charm of Mr. Busby's Beach Bar**
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- **Enter To Win One of Three SXM Vacations**

25 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 2/27/2016 3/12/2016 Week 9,10 Villas at Simpsonbay Villas at Simpson Bay 5th floor unit 510 A- Sleep up to 4 guests in this ultra deluxe 1 bedroom with king size bed - 1 bath unit with double sink and hair dryer, full complete kitchen, 2 pull down single wall beds, large screen TV with DVD player and CD player, high speed internet access, in-room safe, private balcony and a superb ocean view ( On the Water!!) Ideal for a family with children ! Resort has loads of amenities ! Timeshare tax (approximately \$50) not included. Week 9- \$1700 ; Week 10- \$1600 Tavia @ (716) 310-4504 [tavie@sxm-time.com](mailto:tavie@sxm-time.com)

## SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

**Totally Renovated New Unit Available; 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, Newly Renovated completely redone (during 2015) luxurious 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, and a clothing optional beach is about two miles away. Unit features all-new stove, refrigerator, microwave, cable TV, WiFi is on site, sleeps four, very convenient. 2016 occupancy. Reduced to BEST OFFER OVER \$2700. Please contact Jeff at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com)

## Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

## This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

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

<http://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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**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 230+** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

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

Not a member yet? See [http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99

total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

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

## Contact Us:

[Revised 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. Colorado State Hurricane Forecasters Expect "Light" Year for Hurricanes, But...

Virtually all of the meteorological expertise regarding hurricanes is pointing toward a lighter than usual season for Atlantic hurricanes this year.

The water temperature in the Eastern Atlantic is cooler than usual, possibly because of melting polar ice entering into the circulation in the Atlantic and particularly in the Eastern Atlantic, where many major hurricanes are born.

Water temperatures in the Western Atlantic, near the Caribbean, are still high, which means that storms can still form there. The same is true along the US Southeast coast and it is even more true in the Gulf of Mexico, where water temperatures this summer are expected to be very warm.

Several storms are still expected to form, and despite the forecast meteorologist Rob Lightbown does expect the possibility of serious issues in both the Caribbean and especially the US East Coast and the Gulf Coast. If you live in a hurricane prone area, do not let up your guard this year. All it takes is one storm — and several storms are still expected to form and move around this year. It will pay to learn more about Rob's [www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com).

As always, we'll keep you posted on hurricane season as it unfolds. It starts in six weeks or so, June 1.

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#### 2. SXM Airport Releases Airport Growth Graphics; Where To Download The PowerPoint

Last week, we published an extensive article concerning the future of air travel to St. Maarten, particularly at Princess Juliana airport. The article discussed additional airlines which are expected to come to the island, additional US cities from which nonstop flights are expected to originate, changes in the airport's physical plant, and much more. If you missed the article, it will be posted by 8:00 p.m. Eastern tonight (Monday night) on our PDF archives page, here: [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

Since we wrote that article, the airport has released graphics showing some of the locations of some of its future facilities. You can download those graphics, if you are a JMB Website Supporters member, here: [www.everythingSXM.com/secret/](http://www.everythingSXM.com/secret/) after 8 p.m. Monday night (tonight). *SXM Weekly News* is free, but there is a huge bandwidth expense involved in offering downloads from our site, which is why we can only offer downloads to our paid JMB Website Supporters members. See the article at the beginning of section 3, below, about our

anniversary sale; it gives you hundreds of discounts across the island for short money, and will entitle you to future downloads as they become available.

They received our 2015 Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence.

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### 3. 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

### 4. New "St. Maarten Timesharing" Page Debuts on Facebook

Several years ago, we launched a timesharing oriented St. Maarten page on LinkedIn. You can reach it here: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1852957>

But Facebook is infinitely more widely used worldwide than LinkedIn, so several days ago we started looking to see whether a similar page already existed on Facebook. We felt that such a page would offer more people a greater opportunity to express themselves about St. Maarten timesharing. Finding none, we built one.

If you'd like to express yourself about timesharing at any resort in St. Maarten, this new page is the place to do it. Your thoughts will be shared with hundreds of other St. Maarten timeshare owners in real time. Post whatever you like, but we strongly advise you not to post any rental or sale communications, which we will remove. The reason, there is no way to verify the identity or legitimacy of people posting such ads on Facebook, or, for that matter, verifying the legitimacy of prospective buyers (as opposed to scammers). So, please don't post any ads and don't respond to any posted by others.

Here is the page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing>

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### 5. Express Yourself About St. Maarten Timesharing in the SXM Press

Here's where to address Letters to the Editor:

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

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

Specify where in SXM you own timesharing; it does not necessarily have to be at Caravanserai.

Feel free also to share your information with other St. Maarten timeshare owners:

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

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## 6. SXM Smaller Hotel of the Week, (New Series, Second Week)

Beyond the big hotels like Westin and Sonesta Maho, and timeshares like Simpson Bay and Oyster Bay, which we've covered here many times, SXM has numerous smaller hotels with lots to offer.

This is the second in a new series of brief articles on many of those hotels. Below, you'll see a list of all resorts covered, in reverse chronological order, most recent first. Watch for other articles in this series coming every week.

Given an iconic name and a fascinating history, Mary's Boon, operated by now-veteran hoteliers Mark and Karla Cleveland, is a long-time St. Maarten landmark. Painstakingly restored by the Clevelands, the resort has a pristine setting on upper Simpson Bay Beach not far from Beacon Hill, where it offers beautiful accommodations, a bar and restaurant on the beach, and an impeccable slice of beachside heaven. If you haven't visited "The Boon," it's time. They offer discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members. Highly recommended.

Watch for another small SXM hotel here next week.

Mary's Boon Beach Plantation, Simpson Bay, [www.marysboon.com](http://www.marysboon.com) (4/13/15)

Baker's Suites, Simpson Bay on Billy Folly Road near Kim Sha Beach, [www.bakerssuites.com](http://www.bakerssuites.com). (4/6/15)

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## 7. \$120-Million "St. Maarten Quarter" Project OK'd by Ministers Despite Vocal Opposition

We told you about this project in recent weeks: it's a mixed-use resort hotel, shopping, and casino facility at the harbor between Chesterfield's Restaurant and the Dr. A. C. Wathey Cruise and Cargo Facilities.

Royal Caribbean is behind it; the harbor group of companies is pushing it; and the Dutch side government apparently supports it strongly, despite vocal opposition from many long time island residents as well as some Front Street merchants who believe it could seriously damage their businesses.

Some residents deride the project as a "Disneyland" type venture that will lure visitors from ships to stay all day, effectively killing daytime business elsewhere on the island. The project was approved by Ministers apparently without much visible request for public input.

The project still requires permits but folks we've talked with believe that is a formality.

We'll be talking more about this in the coming weeks.

As we said last week, we feel that St. Maarten needs a major convention center hotel which could act as a year-round draw. We also said that we thought the Seminole tribe would be an ideal organization to run it, since they are behind the Hard Rock International brand which could be a huge draw. The harbor appears not to feel this way.

As always, we'll keep you posted. For now, but only for now, we'll reserve comment.

### **SECTION 3: Island**

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

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## 8. Our 13th Anniversary Membership Sale Ends Soon; What's In It For You

This month is the 13th anniversary of JMB Website Supporters and the 22nd anniversary of the founding of Everything SXM. To celebrate, we're offering you 237+ discounts and other benefits and special low anniversary sale prices.

What you get: Discounts on everything you need for a great SXM vacation, including where to get the lowest fares; high quality hotel stays at low cost; discounted car rentals; dozens of restaurant discounts; dozens of shopping discounts; activities discounts; jewelry gift cards, and lots more. The pages below provide much more info.

New memberships, renewals, and reinstatements are heavily discounted in this sale. Prices begin as low as \$49 for a new one-year membership but five years is just \$99 total. Renewals and reinstatements are sharply discounted now too.

Buy a new membership here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

Reinstate your former JMB membership here: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Renew your current JMB membership at the Membership Renewal Center on the members-only "secret" website. Login through the orange login box below the masthead on each page of our site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

Our SXM discounts are worth lots of money; why spend more than you have to? Sign up today.

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## 9. Royal Caribbean's Odd Obsession With Seaweed That Isn't There

According to Royal Caribbean passengers posting questions on the Internet, that cruise company is telling people that Orient beach is loaded with seaweed and should be avoided. That information is incorrect, and has been incorrect for months. We were last on the beach at Orient at the end of last month and there was no seaweed at all to speak of — in fact, none at all at Club Orient, which is arguably the most popular part of the beach. We've spoken with a number of people who have been on the beach since, and there is no seaweed.

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## 10. Next Big Thing: The Dutch Side Carnival

Although we are already in Carnival season, the major events of the Carnival are still ahead. For complete information, look here: <https://www.facebook.com/sxmcarnival>.

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## 11. Timeshare Condo Rentals Offer Bargains Across The Island

We've offered timeshare and other condos for rent or for sale directly from their owners for many years. See them all, updated continuously, right here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)

This is a membership benefit for our JMB Website Supporters members. There is no separate fee to run ads and there are no commissions, either. See the above article (beginning of this section) to join.

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## 12. RIU Palace, French Side, Gets Huge Press Coverage

RIU, formerly Radisson Blu, Anse Marcel, is making a huge splash in the press. Look:

<http://www.caribjournal.com/2015/04/08/in-st-martin-a-different-kind-of-all-inclusive-resort/>



<http://www.travelpulse.com/opinions/column/riu-palace-st-martin-challenges-all-inclusive-perceptions.html>

[http://www.bostonherald.com/entertainment/travel/2015/04/riu\\_palace\\_in\\_st\\_martin\\_offers\\_idyllic\\_escape](http://www.bostonherald.com/entertainment/travel/2015/04/riu_palace_in_st_martin_offers_idyllic_escape)

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### 13. For Le Pressoir, TripAdvisor Is The Place for Superlatives

The French Restaurant Le Pressoir in Grand Case, opposite the well-lit paved public parking area near the lolos, is usually listed near or at the top of all SXM restaurants. It's romantic, hauntingly beautiful inside, with unsurpassed service and truly extraordinary food, regardless of what you order.

Apparently almost everybody who has reviewed it on TripAdvisor agrees. Just look, and plan to go on your next trip. As we've long said, it will be a major highlight of your trip. And because the dollar is so strong, Le Pressoir has become less expensive lately (thanks to the falling Euro).

Look here: [http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant\\_Review-g147351-d1371238-Reviews-Le\\_Pressoir-Grand\\_Case\\_Saint\\_Martin\\_St\\_Maarten\\_St\\_Martin.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g147351-d1371238-Reviews-Le_Pressoir-Grand_Case_Saint_Martin_St_Maarten_St_Martin.html) and look here: <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com/>

Out of this world, in every way. They received our 2015 Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence.

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### 14. Monarch Butterflies, Rebounding in Mexico, Are Plentiful in SXM

We've photographed them on a number of red flowering plants across SXM. This year, thanks to the fact that the US Monarchs rebounded during the winter in their wintering home in Mexico, you may see more at home in the US or Canada.

Their favorite plant is milkweed, which comes in many varieties. Twenty years ago on a countryside fall ride, we grabbed a mature milkweed pod and spread the seeds over our former vegetable garden. Ever since, we've had many annual milkweed plants and a number of visiting Monarchs. Good for them, good for us.

You can help Monarchs survive by doing the same. You can get seeds here: <https://www.livemonarch.com/free-milkweed-seeds.htm>

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### 15. The Island's Best French Bakeries

Our opinion: many great places, but Sarafina on the French Side between the roundabouts at the Marigot waterfront is arguably the best on the island. Taste Factory on the Dutch Side in Simpson Bay is excellent as well. Do both; you'll find remarkably different ambiance.

Best French baguettes on the entire island: La Sucriere in Marigot next door to Sarafina. It is not the same as the Sucriere on the Dutch Side.

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### 16. Best Place for Sushi

Sushiito is at Princess Port de Plaisance, Cole Bay, off the Union road. It's owned by Pierre "Pete" Ferland of Pineapple Pete and SPN in Simpson Bay. Outstanding service, very reasonable prices, and great food. Hibachi cooking too. Great fun. Discounts for JMB members; see the Secret Site and bring your Membership Card and voucher. (New voucher goes up this week.)

They received our 2015 Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence.

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### 17. The Unique Charm of Mr. Busby's Beach Bar

At Busby's, dining under the palms in their gazebos on the beach is the way to go. Looking for more?  
Here are our Top Ten reasons to go, in no special order:

10. Easy to find, on Emerald Merit Road off Oyster Bay Road. It's the same road that goes to Oyster Bay Beach Resort and Dawn Beach. You can't miss it.
9. Free parking in their spacious lot or on the street for restaurant patrons.
8. Plenty of room -- Busby's is one of the island's biggest restaurants.
7. Great food at Breakfast and Lunch: full American breakfasts and a huge lunch menu with everything you'd expect in a great beach bar. Also great salads and authentic Philly cheese steaks (delicious.)
6. Laurell, one of the top servers on the island, is there almost every day at breakfast and lunch. Tell her Jeff Berger sent you. She is outstanding, as is the entire wait staff.
5. Same location as Daniel's by the Sea, great Italian dining at night; go during the day first and you'll find it easy to go back at night.
4. Eat on the beach; if you want lunch there, no worries, they can pack everything to go. Beach chairs and umbrellas are available too.
3. Dawn Beach is gorgeous, and Busby's is right on Dawn Beach. (Tops optional.)
2. Great fishing; lots of people fish here, early or late. Hand lines work just fine.
1. Tradewinds: it is almost invariably perfectly comfortable, but new ceiling fans are everywhere in Busby's to make sure you're comfortable as you dine no matter how high the sun gets.

Go, and tell them Jeff Berger sent you. You'll find Jeff's "office" in one of the Gazebos....

They received our 2015 Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence.

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## 18. For Groceries in Simpson Bay / Cole Bay, Prime Is The Top Choice

Prime used to be "the" wholesale market for restaurants and hotels. They still come, but now everyone can get the same truly low pricing. Prime has everything you can think of for every meal. They're doing a new site which will deliver lots more info, but for now look here: <http://www.primedistributors.com/>

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## 19. Need a Drug Store?

Our choice: Orange Grove Pharmacy in Cole Bay, across the side street from the Harley-Davidson dealership.

Pharmacist/owner Franklin is very helpful no matter what you need, the prices are excellent (JMB members get discounts; we expect to post those discounts later this week.

Orange Grove was and is the first and only SXM pharmacy to receive our Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence this past winter... give them a try.

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## 20. Where to Fix Shoes & Other Leather Goods (Handbags, Luggage, Computer Cases)

On occasion we've had to fix the strap of a computer case, repair the heel of a women's shoe, fix a handbag strap, and a few related things in SXM. We discovered a little place in Cole Bay just south of Burger King, "St Maarten Fast Shoe Repair & Key Shop," on "Dr Tjon Sie Fat Street". It is cluttered, busy, and not same day service (usually), but it delivers quality work at a fair price....

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## 21. "The Bagel House" Is Something Else Entirely at Dinner

If you've been visiting SXM for a number of years or live there, you might still refer to this restaurant as "The Bagel House" even though "Bagel House" is no longer part of its name. It's Vesna Taverna, and it's something else at dinner.

Although (for now) they still have bagels available at breakfast and lunch, bagels certainly aren't at the heart of what they do. Here are three big things they do well:

1. Great breakfasts. Full American breakfasts with everything you expect. Delicious stuff.
2. Lots of lunch choices. That includes humus -- authentic humus, since Verna herself is half Greek and half Macedonian. Of course many sandwiches and great salads.
3. Dinners -- lots of choices all week long. Closed Monday and Tuesday night. Specials every night. Fresh salmon and mussels flown in from Nova Scotia every Friday; their salmon is delicious and never frozen. Great steaks. Saturday night is Greek night: in addition to their regular menu, many homemade Greek dishes.

Vesna is one of our top choices for dining in SXM. It's about 150 yards north of the Simpson Bay drawbridge, on the lagoon side of Airport Road. See [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com). Vesna is a 2015 Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence winner, and the restaurant offers discounts to JMB Website Supporters members. See the members-only Secret Website for details on this and dozens of other restaurant discounts.

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## 22. Restaurant of the Week: Jimbo's

Jimbo's in Simpson Bay, which has a quintessentially Caribbean look that we're convinced will appear as a movie set at some point, is a multifaceted Tex Mex Mesquite Grill at the Yacht Club, close to the water. In fact we've seen folks jump into the water inside the restaurant...

Varied menu. Reasonable pricing. Attentive service. And excellent food. Definitely try it, especially if you haven't done so in a while. See more below. Most of the listed restaurants offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 4/6/15)

Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://www.canoasxm.com) (featured 3/23/15)

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 3/16/15)

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) (featured 4/13/15)

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.

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## 23. Bizarre Sign Posted at Cupecoy... But Who Did It, and Why?

You can safely assume that the sign in this photo, posted on a wall at Cupecoy beach, was neither created by nor posted by the island government of St.; Maarten:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=989368901103724&set=p.989368901103724&type=1&theater>

Cupecoy has been one of the island's most popular clothing optional beaches for as long as anyone can remember. Technically, such beaches aren't allowed on the Dutch Side. But the fact is that at Cupecoy, nobody cares and it's been that way for eons. Residents of Shore Point knew it before they bought there and the developers of Blue Mall knew it before they thought of building there.

Beach is gorgeous, drinks, chairs, umbrellas, and excellent LoLo style food are available on the beach from Dany & John. Go and enjoy ... and don't worry about the sign.

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## 24. Enter To Win One of Three SXM Vacations

Our Three Vacation Giveaway has begun.

To celebrate the 1,000th edition of SXM Weekly News, coming this summer, we are giving away three SXM vacations. They are at:

[Summit Resort Hotel](#), Cupecoy Beach;  
[L'Esplanade Boutique Hotel](#), Grand Case; and  
[Club Fantastico Naturist Resort](#), Orient Beach

These vacations will be awarded only to *SXM Weekly News* readers who enter the giveaway. If you're a pass-along reader of *SXM Weekly News* subscribe directly to become eligible. Only subscribers can enter and win these vacations. (*Weekly News* is free).

To subscribe, go to [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) and select our 2014 Weekly News list among our "Free Newsletters." We will check all entries to be sure they are Weekly News subscribers; if not, the entry will be discarded.

Enter here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/weeklynews1000/index.htm>

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## 25. Reminder to Patronize Businesses That Have Earned Our 2015 Awards of Excellence

Most are already displaying our Award proudly. These are among the best-run businesses across the island. The list is alphabetical:

[AIA Massage](#), Tricia Altenau, Ti Spa, L'Esplanade Hotel, Grand Case  
[Baker's Suites](#), Simpson Bay  
[Mr. Busby's Beach Bar](#), Dawn Beach  
[Canoa Restaurant](#), Dawn Beach  
[Caribbean Gems](#), Philipsburg  
[Celine Too Motor Yacht](#), Simpson Bay  
Cugini Italian Restaurant, Simpson Bay (no website; they are located between Fedex and the Carousel)  
[Daniel's By The Sea Restaurant](#), Dawn Beach  
[Island92 Radio](#), Simpson Bay  
[Island Pizza](#), Dawn Beach  
[iZi Ristorante Italiano](#), Simpson Bay

[Jet Blue Airways](#), SXM  
Johney Burger, SXM Airport  
[L'Esplanade Boutique Hotel](#), Grand Case  
[Le Pressoir](#) French Restaurant, Grand Case  
Orange Grove Pharmacy, Cole Bay  
[Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#), Oyster Pond  
[Pier Grocer](#), Dawn Beach  
[Pineapple Pete Restaurant / SPN Sports Bar](#), Simpson Bay  
[Princess Heights Boutique Hotel](#), Dawn Beach  
[Princess Juliana Airport](#), SXM  
[Spiga](#) Italian Restaurant, Grand Case  
[Summit Resort Hotel](#), Cupecoy Beach  
Super Dollar Store, (no website, located on L. B. Scott Rd., Mary's Fancy, Dutch Side)  
[Sushiitto](#), Port de Plaisance Casino, Cole Bay  
[The St. Maarten Party Bus](#) (There's only one Party Bus)  
Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Beach  
[Toppers and Toppers By The Sea](#), Simpson Bay  
[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#), SXM  
[Vesna Taverna](#), Simpson Bay  
[Zhaveri Jewelers](#), Philipsburg

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

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

*Marketing-Centric / Client-Focused, and created by JMB!*

"Websites that Work," part of JMB Communications, offers [substantial discounts](#) to JMB Website Supporters members.

Many helpful website-creation-related articles are on our site, which was recently revised. Check it out.

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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?

\*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)

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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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