



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:

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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 has been further narrowed as of April, 2015, so it is now is easily readable on 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

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 #992 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:

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

-- Formation of Tropical Storm "Ana" Makes Northern Caribbean Take Notice

-- It's a Good Time To Buy Timeshare -- But a Bad Time to Sell It

-- Potentially Your Last Shot at a Totally New Sleep-Four Simpson Bay Unit for About \$1900 (Somewhat Negotiable)

-- Our SXM Site To Show Island Villas, Condos, Homes, & Business Opportunities on New Page

-- Want to Buy a Chalet at Club Orient? You'll Soon Be Able To Do That Through Us, Too

-- New To The Villa Rental Market: Hilltop Villa Onyi in Point Blanche With Fantastic Views (Reminder)

-- Be Sure Mom (or Dad) Can Get Home in a Hurry When They Become Critically Ill or Injured While Traveling: Talk With Jeff About SkyMed Medical Evacuation Before You Need It.

-- It's Almost Over: Our Sale on 237 SXM Discounts Ends Wednesday May 13

-- French President Francois Hollande Visits French Side After Royally Screwing Up Dutch Side Traffic

-- Le Grande Marche in Cole Bay To Be Converted to a Carrefour Super Market

-- Orient Beach Demolition Less Than a Month Away

-- For Father's Day, Why Not Great Cigars Manufactured To Order in SXM?

-- For Your Car & Hardside Luggage: SXM Euro Ovals Available by PayPal or Check

-- Win a Week's Vacation in SXM from JMB

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 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 Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 01/01/2015 12/31/2015 Floater Divi Little Bay Resort Spacious studio-sleeps 5. Located on private peninsula between 2 bays. Beach front unit. Beautiful decor. See cruise ships arriving & departing. Beautiful interior decor, w/tiled floors. 1 mile of white sanded beach w/water sports. HUGE whirlpool tub & shower. Mini Kitchen, safe, balcony. Stunning views from unit. Amenities include 2 restaurants, deli, cafe, internet cafe, gym, beach bar. Can walk to Phillipsburg for shopping. My asking rate is almost half of the resort rate if you book directly with Divi for weeks 21-40. \$900. The extra fee resorts charges to go weeks 11-20 is \$402 and for weeks 1-10 \$804. \$900.00 Teddy 510-601-1154 girlsrule5@earthlink.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Totally Renovated New Unit Available; Steps from the Caribbean With All The Amenities You'd Expect

=== MUST SELL THIS MONTH OR TURN IT BACK TO THE RESORT, WHICH WILL CHARGE FAR MORE WHEN THEY RESELL IT ===== **REDUCED TO BEST OFFER OVER \$1500.**
=====

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. Further Reduced to BEST OFFER OVER \$1500. Please contact Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com or call 508-747-8281

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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26. Restaurant of the Week
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28. For Your Car & Hardside Luggage: SXM Euro Ovals Available by PayPal or Check
29. Oversize Green SXM Euro Oval Luggage Tags Make Finding Your Suitcase a Breeze
30. Totally Renovated Unit At Simpson Bay Available for Very Short Money..

Scroll down for indexes to sections IV and V, and scroll further to get a growing list of 200+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel discounts.

Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare

Meet Our Sponsors (Updated 9/7/13)

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

- 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 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. 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**

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. Formation of Tropical Storm "Ana" Makes Northern Caribbean Take Notice

The 2015 Atlantic hurricane season doesn't start until June 1 — and it won't end until November 30. But longtime Forecaster and chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown of www.crownweather.com, our prime source for tropical weather information, had been forecasting an early-season storm for couple of weeks. That's exactly what happened last week when tropical storm Ana formed East of the US Southeast coast, and was forecasted to bring high winds, heavy rains, and beach erosion to the Carolinas.

Although the people of St. Maarten are well accustomed to tropical activity during the season 00 despite the fact that this season has been forecast as a light one -- it was something of a rude awakening to see a storm form this early, even though it is far away from SXM and no threat to the island. The people of St. Maarten didn't need a rude awakening, but Ana got their attention. Hopefully none of Gonzalo's relatives plan a SXM visit this year.

2. Dry Weather Continues, But It's Going To Change

As we reported last week, it has been dry in St. Maarten. But as summer unfolds and tropical waves begin to emerge, summertime showers will be back and the dry season will gradually end. Dry weather has been enhanced somewhat by the presence of Saharan dust over the last few weeks but that, too, won't be around forever.

3. Harbor Hosting Fewer Ships As Summer Schedules Ease In

As the summer unfolds, ship schedules in the Caribbean are lighter as ships are reassigned to cruises in more temperate areas. Philipsburg becomes considerably less crowded, as does much of the island. See story 23.

4. 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 anywhere 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 it almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We've been testing it for the past few months 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.

Normally, this organization charges \$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

5. It's a Good Time To Buy Timeshare -- But a Bad Time to Sell It

A few years ago, the timeshare market on St. Maarten was depressed. Timeshare owners at Atrium Resort filed suit against that resort; timeshare owners and Sapphire Resort filed suit against Sapphire; timeshare owners at Pelican resort were basically put on the street for a time when that resort essentially went bankrupt; and there have been other issues.

Sapphire is working to improve so that it can get back its accreditation with RCI; Pelican resort, now Simpson Bay resort is nearly finished with its renovations which essentially have turned the place into something entirely new and beautiful; the Atrium suit was dismissed; but the fresh wounds at Caravanserai gave the SXM timesharing industry a black eye from which it has yet to recover.

Despite the fact that the island's largest timeshare resort, Simpson Bay, is turning into a showplace, the industry still has a reputation problem. If you're thinking of buying timeshare, there is no better time to buy than now, while

prices continue to be depressed and sellers are accepting lowball offers to unload unwanted units.

If you're a seller, you will likely need a low-price to be able to move your units, unless the units are truly exceptional. If you're a buyer, make a reasonable offer and plan to negotiate. As we said at the beginning, this is about the best time you'll ever have to acquire a timeshare at a rock-bottom price.

6. Potentially Your Last Shot at a Totally New Sleep-Four Simpson Bay Unit for About \$1900 (Somewhat Negotiable)

Simpson Bay resort has been undergoing some \$22 million in upgrades over the last few years — upgrades which will be largely finished by the end of next year. In fact, most of the upgrades will be completed by the beginning of the 2015 – 16 high season.

The Marina building is one of the last Simpson Bay buildings to be renovated — and renovations are already underway in a number of Marina units. The units are being completely gutted and essentially rebuilt from scratch. Jeff Berger, who owns Marina 207 in week five, asked to see what his unit will look like during his visit last winter. He was shown a sleep four studio in one of the B buildings, a unit that had just been opened after renovation. You can see the photographs here: <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>

Jeff now leases elsewhere on the island so his unit is for sale, and he'll be turning it back to the resort at the end of this month if it isn't sold. He's asking only \$1999 but is willing to negotiate. For that price, plus a renovation fee of about \$1300, you can acquire what in actuality is a 100% new unit, new from floor to ceiling. Again, you can see the photographs here: <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>

To contact Jeff, please email JMBweb@JMBcommunications.com. He has all the necessary forms and is ready to go.

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

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.

7. Our SXM Site To Show Island Villas, Condos, Homes, & Business Opportunities

Our www.everythingStMaarten.com website has offered timeshare condominiums for rent or sale from their owners for the last 13 years, but it has never been a place to look for anything beyond that — villas, homes, business properties, or active businesses you can buy.

That is all about to change. Thanks to the new JMB Real Estate Partnership, we are about to create a new page on our site focused on showing you exactly what's out there in all those categories. The page will cater to the obvious desire of an increasing number of people to relocate to St. Maarten either during the winter or year-round. Already, the island's top broker, Arun Jagtiani has signed on to the partnership. Once his materials are in, the page will go live. There will be a link to it from the homepage of www.everythingStMaarten.com and there will be a new link from our current timeshare rental/sales page to the new page. We'll also publish the link to the new page right

here in *SXM Weekly News*.

8. Want to Buy a Chalet at Club Orient? You'll Soon Be Able To Do That Through Us, Too

We know that a huge number of our readers – thousands of you – flock to the southern end of Orient beach as soon as you hit the island to enjoy the freedom of clothing optional recreation on the beach at Club Orient.

We know that a number of you also stay there and that others may be wondering how they could do the same.

Of course, you can rent there -- just drive in the main gate, go into the office, and ask about renting. But if you're interested in buying, we will soon post an exclusive link to the folks responsible for selling units to prospective chalet owners. That link will go up soon, and we will publish it on both our timeshare and real estate pages as soon as it is ready. It will include a description of the resort's accommodations and it will put you in contact with the individual at the resort who can discuss details with you. Of course, there is a vetting process to ensure that the ambience of the resort remains as pleasant as it has been since the resort began more than 30 years ago.

We'll publish another article here as soon as this new feature goes live on our site.

9. SXM Smaller Hotel of the Week, #6

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 fifth in a new series of brief articles on many of those hotels. Below, you'll see a list of all resorts covered so far, most recent first. Watch for other articles in this series coming for the next several weeks.

Le Petit Hotel in Grand Case is exactly what its name implies -- a small hotel. But its ownership is shared with both Blue Pelican in Simpson Bay and L'Esplanade, also in Grand Case but overlooking town and the harbor from the Northeast. Le Petit Hotel is well-managed, exquisitely maintained, and totally focused on visitor satisfaction. You can learn much more about Le Petite Hotel -- beyond the fact that it is quite exquisite -- here: <http://www.lepetithotel.com/>. Highly recommended.

Watch for another small SXM hotel here next week. Those listed in boldface type are prior winners of our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence. (Bear in Mind that we will be expanding our Awards next year to additional properties...)

Le Petite Hotel, Grand Case, French Side <http://www.lepetithotel.com> (5/11/15)
Blue Pelican Resort, Pelican Key, Dutch Side www.bluepelicansxm.com (5/4/15)
Summit Resort*, Cupecoy, Dutch Side www.thesummitresort.com (4/27/15)
L'Esplanade Hotel*, Grand Case, St. Martin, FWI, www.lesplanade.com (4/20/15)
Mary's Boon Beach Plantation, Simpson Bay, www.marysboon.com (4/13/15)
Baker's Suites*, Simpson Bay on Billy Folly Road near Kim Sha Beach, www.bakerssuites.com. (4/6/15)

*Winner, Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin Award of Excellence

10. New To The Rental Market: Hilltop Villa Onyi in Point Blanche With Fantastic Views

We've known the owner of this property for many years. She decorated this beautiful villa on her own, so you'll get to see some real talent once you're inside. For lots of pictures, go here: <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>

Here are the details:

Property Description:

Villa Onyi is located high on a hill in Point Blanche, Dutch Side, minutes from the cruise ship facility, the famous Great Bay Beach, and Philipsburg, the shopping center of St. Maarten. It is the last house at the end of Trush Rd. in a very private neighborhood with excellent views on a clear day of five different islands: St. Barths, St. Kitts, Nevis, St. John, and Saba. It is self enclosed with it's own pool, fans, inverter air-conditions, two bathrooms, two bedrooms, a laundry room, and a living room that opens to the pool area.

The main bedroom has a king size bed and a lush orthopedic mattress. The main bathroom has a generous stand up shower. The second bedroom has a queen size bed and a detached bathroom with a tub. The villa is turnkey and fully equipped with cooking utensils and additional linen, pillows, and other amenities.

Rental Rates:

All rental rates include both electricity and water, for which many other places charge separately. Rental from November 1 to April 30 is USD\$2500.00 weekly which also includes: Cable TV, Free WiFi (4GB), Free washer / dryer for personal washing, once a week maid service (Wednesday), free pool service. The property is equipped with a safe. Taxi pick up and drop off from the airport can be arranged for an additional fee. Additional cleaning can be requested at the rate of USD\$75.00 per request (does not include doing laundry). A two-car car port is on the property.

Rental from May 1 to October 31 is USD\$1750.00. This includes: Cable TV, Free WiFi (4GB), Free washer/ dryer for personal washing, once a week maid service (Wednesday), free pool service. The property is equipped with a safe. Taxi pick up and drop off from the airport can be arranged for an additional fee. Additional cleaning can be requested at the rate of USD\$50.00 per request (does not include doing laundry).

Additional requests:

Chefs / catering services, decorations for special events (like small weddings / vow renewals / celebrations), room orders / requests, shopping etc. can all be done prior to and during our guests' stay. Interested clients can contact onyinyechi.llc@gmail.com for bookings and any further information. Unfortunately we are not accessible via wheelchair. Pets not allowed.

Making reservations:

To secure booking, a security deposit will be requested in the amount of USD\$500.00 per week for reservations booked from May 1 to October 31 and a security deposit of USD\$750.00 will be needed for reservations booked from November 1 to April 30. In the unfortunate event that the reservation is cancelled one month (31 days) before arrival the full amount (minus charges) will be refunded. If the reservation is cancelled one month (30 days) or less before booking the full amount will be forfeited.

Contact the villa owner directly at onyinyechi.llc@gmail.com to secure reservations.

SECTION 3: Island

Story 11:

Be Sure Mom (or Dad) Can Get Home in a Hurry

When They Become Critically Ill or Injured While Traveling: Talk With Jeff About SkyMed Medical Evacuation **Before** You Need It.

Jeff has been recommending SkyMed for years and thousands of you have joined through him.

SkyMed takes you home® to the USA and Canada, home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. Home -- where your health insurance works and where your support system is there for you.

SkyMed offers short-term, annual, and multi-year plans. SkyMed protects you either in North America and the Caribbean or virtually everywhere around the world... your choice.

Without SkyMed, a medical evacuation home may cost you \$45,000 or more in cash in advance, an expense that is 100% avoidable when you're a SkyMed member. And SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable when you pay

your renewal fee on time -- renewable with no increase in fees due to advancing age or declining health. **Nothing else is SkyMed.**

Call Jeff any weekday from 10 a.m. Eastern to 5 p.m. at 508-747-8281. If there's no answer, leave a message. He'll answer any questions you may have and can sign you up by phone.

Prefer to join online? Go to www.skymed.com/jmbsxm . JMB members should join here: www.skymed.com/jmbspecial .

Note: SkyMed's top plan is the SkyMed Ultimate, a five-year family plan with global coverage available to JMB members for a low prepaid fee or just \$59/month if you prefer to pay monthly (requires payments for at least two years). There are several plans available to meet any need.

Call today for answers to all your SkyMed questions. SkyMed Takes You Home®.

12. It's Almost Over: Our Sale on 237 SXM Discounts Ends Wednesday May 13

What You Get With JMB Website Supporters Membership: Discounts across SXM on everything you do on the island -- from our low fare grid which tells you what fares are bargains to hotel, car rental, restaurant (dozens of restaurant discounts), activities, jewelry, shopping discounts. If you do it in SXM chances are we offer discounts for it. And we are adding new ones too.

How Much: Sale price for new memberships is just \$49 for one year but five years is \$99. Renewals and reinstatements are similarly discounted.

Buy a new membership here: 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.

Our SXM discounts are worth lots of money; why spend more than you have to? Sign up today. Below is a small alphabetical sample of the 237+ companies across SXM offering discounts to JMB members:

[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
[Island Pizza](#), Dawn Beach
[iZi Ristorante Italiano](#), Simpson Bay
[Le Pressoir](#) French Restaurant, Grand Case
Orange Grove Pharmacy, Cole Bay
[Pineapple Pete Restaurant / Coconut Grove Bar & Restaurant](#), Simpson Bay
[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

13. French President Francois Hollande Visits French Side After Royally Screwing Up Dutch Side Traffic

French Pres. François Hollande was visiting the Caribbean for a meeting, but before it started he wanted to meet with officials on the French side of the island. Since there is no real commercial jet airport on the French side, he was scheduled to land on the Dutch side somewhere after 3 PM Friday and motorcade through Simpson Bay to the French side. The entire French side corps of gendarmes was to be on the streets to ensure his safety, and heavy security was to be in place throughout the Dutch side with many road closures scheduled between 3 PM and about 9 PM when he was scheduled to take off.

Since it's a Friday night, this was a prescription for lots of traffic nightmares...

14. French Side Resident Gives French President an Earful About The State of the Collectivite

French St. Martin is rather unique among French territories since it shares an open-border island with another country that does not use the euro. Consequently, there has been a lot of suffering on the French side and many business collapses when the euro surged close to \$1.50 per euro not too long ago.

You'll see our separate article about the euro later, but the fact remains that the cost of operating a business on the French side is enormous thanks to taxes and other expenses. The cost on the Dutch side is much lower, though still high. Added to those costs are the costs of shipping in virtually everything to be sold.

The point of the objections was that the French side is still suffering greatly and needs help. Whether the French president will do anything more than listen politely is anyone's guess, but he no doubt heard the message. More: www.tinyurl.com/lgvqhn8.

15. Le Grande Marche in Cole Bay To Be Converted to a Carrefour Super Market

With more than 10,000 stores in 34 countries, Carrefour is the leading retailer in Europe and the second largest worldwide. It welcomes more than 10 million customers daily worldwide.

Carrefour Market offers Carrefour brands (Carrefour, Carrefour Bio, Reflets de France, etc.); a full range of consumer products (groceries, beverages, dry goods, cosmetics and hygiene, fresh self-service fruits and vegetables, fresh meat, etc.) and many other national and international brands.

Carrefour's objective is to provide for each product category the best possible choice at the best price. The new store will be located at the current site of the Cole Bay Grand Marche. it will sell 60,000 products, create new jobs, and have its own production facilities for baked goods, cuisines, pizza, rotisserie, etc.

The company did not say when the new store will open. We've asked for its ETA and whether the store will remain open while renovations progress.

16. Orient Beach Demolition Less Than a Month Away

Everything between Pedro's and Kon Tiki will be demolished, to be replaced by a wider beach and all-new Caribbean-style buildings. Demolition starts in June and the \$2-million project is expected to be finished by Fall. Club Orient is not affected. Many of the current businesses are expected to relocate to the new facilities -- but not all.

Since the new businesses will be constructed behind structures to be demolished, the beach will be bigger. We'll be there after it's finished and will post pictures on our Facebook pages.

If you're there during construction, go to our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>, ask to be allowed in, and once you're in please post your pictures.

17. How and Where To Use Orient Beach While Demolition is Underway

We won't be going to Bikini Beach and Kon Tiki unless and until the situation there is settled in the litigants' favor. So that leaves Club Orient -- it's clothing optional and families are welcome and there is zero demolition going on there. It's a big beach and it will stay quiet as always (no construction noise) -- so go and enjoy. It's at the far southern end of Orient Beach.

18. For Father's Day, Why Not Great Cigars Manufactured To Order Right in St. Maarten?

Das Cigars in SXM is quite a story. It has been in business for a number of years and manufactures cigars to order on SXM -- all kinds with various wrappers and tobaccos suited to any taste. The tobacco is grown in a rich, fertile, lush valley in the D. R. from Cuban seeds. Andi Siegers is the native-born St. Maartener who manages it all and he knows what he's doing. If you or your guy love fine hand-made cigars, these are the people to see. Shipping is available. Call Andi at 1-721-553-3314 or on his US line at 1-231-838-5617. Tell Andi Jeff Berger suggested you call.

19. Beyond Groceries: Pier Grocer, Dawn Beach, Offers Lots More Than You'd Expect

They have lots of groceries, of course, but otherwise they are quite dissimilar to other island grocers. Lots of ways: 1) Pier Grocer is new only a couple of years or so old, so it's very modern, very clean, and air conditioned; 2) every morning you'll find lots of fresh-baked pastries and baguettes made by someone we'd swear is Wonder Woman herself (if you get there early, tell her Jeff says she's Wonder Woman -- just do it); 3) there is a wine cellar with lots of excellent vintages (plus choices for every taste and pocketbook); 4) a good stock of packaged deli items; 5) Etna ice cream, the island's best; 6) local newspapers; 7) fresh baguettes every morning; and 8) practically everything else you can think of including beer by the case. Go... great store, in the Great House Marina on Emerald Merrit Road opposite Mr. Busby's Beach Bar.

20. SXM Hosts Tsunami Conference

The Caribbean is in a tsunami zone and is working on a regional warning system. It hosts a tsunami conference next week (May 19-21): <http://www.todaysxm.com/2015/05/07/st-maarten-will-be-host-to-tsunami-conference/>

21. "Danmark" Tall Ship Visits SXM

If you ever have an opportunity to tour a tall ship when one visits a port near you, definitely do so; it's a terrific experience. More: <http://tinyurl.com/lbkw9qn>

Incidentally, the Charles W. Morgan is the world's last survivor of a great fleet of whaling ships. Launched in 1841, it is usually at the Mystic Seaport in Connecticut. More: <http://tinyurl.com/lbkw9qn>.

22. Euro Is Rising -- Will it Continue?

After rising to near parity against the Euro all year, the dollar has dropped in each of the last four weeks. On Thursday, it cost around \$1.13+ to buy a Euro. But on Friday a stronger than expected US April jobs report was

released and the unemployment rate dropped further. The stock market surged and so did the dollar against the Euro.

The good news for SXM travelers: parity is still a possibility which means lower prices on the French Side. The bad news: US companies selling overseas -- and tourism destinations in the US that seek foreign tourists -- will be the losers if parity happens as the cost of their products rises for foreigners.

Meanwhile, the price of gasoline continues to rise....

23. Why Summer Is Perfect for Your Next SXM Vacation

SXM in summer is hot, but not nearly as sweltering as much of the US. Near-constant seabreezes over 80+degree oceans keep the temperatures mostly comfortable. Crowds are down and hotel costs are much less in summer than in high season. Summer traffic is minimal. Bottom line, it's much more fun than getting into the heavy traffic and high prices back home....

24. Where to Download Copies of Prior Issues

We're updating this page during Mother's Day weekend so by this issue's cover date (Monday), all our issues for the past year will be downloadable at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml - including this one.

25. Attention SXM Real Estate Agents

We are about to expand our services to SXM visitors to include full-ownership condominiums, villas, homes, and commercial properties / businesses that our readers can buy on the island directly from real estate brokers. Details about this program are available now to St. Maarten / St. Martin brokers. There will be NO limit to what brokers can offer through us and they will be able to update their offerings weekly. For details, email [jmbweb\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb[at]jmbcommunications.com) with the subject Real Estate Partnership Program and tell us at what real estate firm you're a broker. We'll send the info by email.

26. Restaurant of the Week: Trattoria Pizza Pasta

Pizza Pasta, which we've been recommending for close to 20 years, is the single most consistent Italian restaurant you'll find on the western part of SXM. The food is outstanding, using authentic old world recipes that don't change with the chef's mood. Great food; lots of it; reasonable prices; amazing consistency, year after year. We went there a bunch of times during our recent stay. Convenient valet parking at Casino Royale. And Pizza Pasta gives discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the details on our Secret Website (members only). Pizza Pasta won our Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence for 2015.

See more Restaurant of the Week businesses below. Most of the listed restaurants offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details. We'll cover another restaurant here next week.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 4/6/15)

Canoa, 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 5/11/15)

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 2/23/15)

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 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 (featured 2/2/15)
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/4/15)
SPN Cafe (now Coconut Grove), <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). (featured 4/27/2015)
FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 4/13/15)
Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 11/10/14)
Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 2/23/15)
Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15)
Bylbos, Simpson Bay
Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 1/12/15)

27. How To Win a Week's Vacation in SXM from JMB

To celebrate the 1,000th edition of *SXM Weekly News*, coming this summer, we're giving away three SXM vacations. Here's where:

[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 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 to win your vacation here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/weeklynews1000/index.htm>

28. For Your Car & Hardside Luggage: SXM Euro Ovals Available by PayPal or Check

For years, we've printed and distributed our own SXM Euro Oval stickers -- green lettering on a white background with twin palm trees in the background. They measure 5 3/4" x 3 3/4". You've likely seen them across SXM.

They're back and you can now order your own... We're currently offering them to our *SXM Weekly News* readers at economical pricing. They are one for \$5 or three for \$10. We use them on our cars and on smooth hard-sided luggage, which makes the luggage very easy to spot on carousels. They're printed on durable vinyl to last long. And they have a varnish coating to help protect against fading.

You can pay us through PayPal (have the payment go to jeff@jmbcommunications.com) but please specify what

you're ordering and where they're to be shipped. Include your phone number. Buy some for friends too... If you want more than three, just place multiple orders.

Or pay by check payable to JMB Communications but again please specify what you're ordering and where they're to be shipped. Include your phone number. Buy some for friends too... Mail your check to SXM Weekly News Ovals, c/o JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812.

N. B.: Orders are shipped only to the USA and Canada. Allow four weeks for delivery. Questions about the ovals? Address them to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SXM Ovals. JMB members, please see our recent emails to you about SXM Euro Ovals and luggage tags for important info.

29. Oversize Green SXM Euro Oval Luggage Tags Make Finding Your Suitcase a Breeze

They're big (5 1/2" x 3 1/2") bright green luggage tags with white lettering on the front, and plenty of room to enter your contact info on the back. Thick, durable, pliable translucent vinyl, very long-lasting in our experience. We've used them for years on checked baggage with no need for replacement. They really stay put in our experience.

\$15 for one, two for \$22. Strictly limited supply; when they're gone, they're gone. This offer is for *SXM Weekly News* readers only, we are not offering these to the world -- and they are not available on the island or anywhere else. Limit per order from any address, two luggage tags (sorry).

Pay through PayPal or by check:

You can order by PayPal; have the payment go to jeff@jmbcommunications.com but please specify what you're ordering and where they're to be shipped. Include your phone number.

Or pay by check payable to JMB Communications but please specify what you're ordering and where they're to be shipped; US and Canadian addresses only. Include your phone number. Mail your check to SXM Weekly News Luggage Tags, c/o JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812.

N. B.: Orders are shipped only to the USA and Canada. This offer is for *Weekly News* readers only. Allow six weeks for delivery.

Got questions about these offers?

Email them to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "SXM Weekly News Lugs." JMB members, please see our recent emails to you about SXM Euro Ovals and luggage tags for important info. .

Order now. Offer disappears very soon.

30. Totally Renovated Unit At Simpson Bay Available for Very Short Money...

Totally Renovated New Unit Available; Steps from the Caribbean With All The Amenities You'd Expect

Jeff must sell this unit or he'll turn it back to the resort by the end of May. Must sell now.

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. Further reduced to best offer over \$1,500! Email Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com or call 508-747-8281

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

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.

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?

2015 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 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
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .

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. 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.

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 *2014 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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