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Vol. 2, #1129 --- 12/04/2017
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source
of Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" 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. Now read by more than 300,000 people around the world...**

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This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

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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 IN THIS ISSUE

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

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

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- **French Side President Calls for Island Congress, More Joint Decisions**
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- **Kingdom Official: No Dutch Takeover Coming**
- **King, Queen Visit Dutch Side**
- **Tourism Reawakening, Especially on Dutch Side**

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- **SkyMed On Sale: All-New Double Bonus Must End 12/31/17**
- **Will Maho Beach Ever Come Back?**
- **Christmas Winds - And Christmas Worms - Due This Month**
- **Something For All US/Canadian ExPats Living on SXM**
- **110% Guarantee Worldwide on Hotel, Car Rental Pricing**
- **Traveling Anywhere Soon? SkyMed Takes You Home®**
- **Now: Just \$59/month* for SkyMed's Best Medevac Protection**

34 news 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, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 2/17/2018 2/24/2018 Week 7 LaVista This cottage is scheduled for occupancy December 2017. The Cottage is a private separate structure with one bedroom (king bed), living room with pull-out sofa bed, dining area, kitchenette and bath with shower. Charming replica of traditional Antillian Home with large porch and Ocean view. The kitchenette consist of 2 burners, sink, refrigerator, microwave, and small appliances. They are all furnished with silverware, dishes, glasses, etc. The unit has air-conditioning, satellite TV (with 14 channels). \$1000 plus timeshare fee paid to the resort Judy 603-434-1254 Ronshagen@aol.com Posted 11-2017.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 8/11/2018 8/18/2018 Week 32 Simpson Bay Resort Large sleep 6, 2 Bedroom / 2 Bath unit in the D building. It is newly renovated with a full kitchen and large living room / dining space containing 2 Murphy beds. The resort has 6 pools, restaurants, a casino, mini market, bakery, shops, tennis courts, gym, free wifi, and a gorgeous white sand beach. Many activities are available throughout the week for children as well as adults. A great place to vacation! \$8,000 Ann 413-888-7657 Annluke70@aol.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents.](#)

This Week's Stories

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

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



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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 group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

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

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9. See Our Just-Updated Timeshare Rentals Page

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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32. Get Our SXM Euro Ovals -- Great Gifts - Order Today

33. Still Time: Enter Our SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway

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====Restaurant of the Week Returns Soon====

Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)

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 Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 8/2017)

How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 300+** 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 growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members 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: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. AA Resolves Its No-Pilots-for-Holiday-Travel Conundrum

American Airlines announced about a week ago that thanks to a computer glitch, some 15,000 of its flights scheduled between December 15 and December 31 had no pilots or copilots.

A bit of panic ensued from a number of quarters. American offered pilots who were willing to forgo their computer-generated days off about 150% of their normal hourly pay for taking to the air instead of staying home. Working with its union, AA said at the end of last week that the problem was virtually solved.

Now watch a blizzard come in during Christmas week to screw this all up (entirely possible).

2. Reconfirm Your Flights Repeatedly

It's not at all unusual for the price of various airline flights to change multiple times daily. But it is highly unusual for

flight times, frequencies, and other flight details to change several times per week — and that is exactly what's happening among several airlines serving destinations hit by major hurricanes earlier this year.

Although as you will see SXM is recovering rapidly and tourism is already increasing, airlift — available flights to take you to the island — will increase slowly until more timeshare resorts are back online early during 2018.

Just to make sure you have the correct, current information for your flight, *be sure to reconfirm a few times before you actually take off*. You don't want to arrive at the airport only to learn that the airline has radically changed your flights -- and you did not get the message.

3. We Asked The Airport Several Questions...

About a week and a half ago, through a senior official there, we asked several questions of Princess Juliana SXM Airport. Here they are:

1. Is there a target date for reopening the terminal? (We had previously heard "nine months" but we know the interior has significant issues, not just the roof.)
2. When will installation of the new runway lights be completed, enabling nighttime operations? (We believe it may already be finished, but we need to know the facts.)
3. Is there even the roughest information on the status of preclearance for passengers headed back to the USA? (Further discussions on this had been scheduled during September, when Irma visited.)

We know the Airport is slammed with work; they've not yet responded. We'll let you know when we hear.

4. "Smart" Luggage Being Banned on Multiple Airlines

It turns out that so-called "smart" luggage isn't.

Smart luggage with nonremovable batteries should be taken off your holiday gift-giving list: it has already been banned on multiple airlines and appears likely to be banned altogether by the FAA.

It's not that the bags are a bad idea; it's just that they require batteries, and batteries sometimes self-ignite. That would not be a good thing on an airplane especially if the batteries are nonremovable.

Here's [the complete story](#).

5. Get Up-To-Date Tropical Outlooks, Watches, & Warnings

Major updates to the Weather section of our everythingSXM.com website were completed during the just-ended hurricane season.

In addition to many new real-time tropical weather graphics — including satellite images and new loops — our weather site has now been updated with the National Hurricane Center's latest tropical outlook; tropical weather discussion (for true weather geeks); and the latest forecasts, watches, and warnings for all active storms, plus new track models.

You can access all this information free, as always: just go to everythingxsm.com and click "Weather" in the masthead.

If you are prospectively in the path of any future approaching storm, we urge you to visit crownweather.com and to sign up for their incredibly inexpensive detailed forecasting service. It's by far the best on the web and it can prove highly useful to you, your family, and your business. It gave live updates on Island 92 radio as Irma approached, warning of potentially catastrophic winds from the storm.

As we've said before, if you are in the path of an imminent approaching storm, never use any website for life or death advice: always rely on directives from local authorities.

6. Four Sources of Current SXM Weather Info (Revised 10/8)

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com, and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well.
- 3) Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming. They were knocked off the air by Irma but are now back.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

7. **Guaranteed Lowest Rates** for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals **Around The World**

SkyMed Travel offers you a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide. You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up free and make your travel reservations directly through *SkyMed Travel*.

What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers & JMB Members):

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 110% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for **Weekly News** readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. ***If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.***

You won't be disappointed.

[Changing Your Email Address?](#)

Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email

**and Sign Up Your New One
for your SXM Weekly News *subscription*
Quickly and Easily
at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com**

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc.

8. See Our Just-Updated Villas-for-Rent Page

Lots more has been added and hundreds of villas are now becoming available. Fly with friends or extended family for outstanding rates. See [our Villa page](#) for info.

9. See Our Just-Updated Timeshare Rentals Page

With several timeshare resorts coming back online soon — first Sapphire Beach Resort and Atrium Resort early in 2018, with others soon to follow -- timeshare owners are now posting units available for rent on our timeshare rental site on everythingSXM.com. Check it out.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

10. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

This section of *SXM Weekly News*, which appears weekly, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining JMB.

We now offer about 300 discounts (including those now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value. Please check this section in the coming months as we restart rolling out a number of entirely new discounts and benefits.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

Holiday Membership Sale Now Underway

UNHEARD-OF PRICING CONTINUES!

**Get About 300 SXM Discounts
& Many Other Benefits Through Our Exclusive
JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**

Join, Renew, or Reinstate Now:

New JMB memberships: One year \$29; Two, \$49; Our Best Offer: Five years just \$99

http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Two years, \$39; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$89

www.everythingsexm.com/secret Go to the **Membership Renewal Center**

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

Two years, \$39; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$89

<http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Here's What Your Membership Does in Addition to
Bringing You About 300 Discounts & Benefits:

Your Support enables us:

-- To continue to enhance the
SXM discounts we offer you through
your JMB Website Supporters membership;

-- To keep **SXM Weekly News** useful,
thorough, and free;

-- To give away SXM vacations;

-- To deliver tons of SXM info
through everythingsexm.com,
our Everything SXM Facebook Site,
and right here in **Weekly News**.

11. 2017: Most Expensive Hurricane Season in History

Harvey, Irma, Maria --- and more, all major Category 5 storms that slammed highly populated areas causing hundreds of billions of dollars in damage, together made 2017 the costliest Atlantic hurricane season in history.

In SXM alone, the final bottom line will likely be well over USD \$6-billion. Here's more from [Fortune Magazine](#).

12. Preliminary 2018 Hurricane Forecast from Crown Weather

Hurricane seasons become personal disasters when your life changes because of them. A number of Caribbean islands were blasted by hurricanes Irma and Maria, and Hurricane Harvey will never be forgotten in South Texas.

What will happen in 2018? Preliminary predictions from Rob Lightbown, head of Crown Weather Services, [crownweather.com](#), our go-to source for tropical and other weather information, tell us what to expect. *A busy prediction for the season does not necessarily mean that SXM will get hit again — it just means there may be a significant number of tropical storms with tracks that can't now be predicted.*

Meteorologist Rob Lightbown says that the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season at this moment appears likely to be as busy as 2017 was — and possibly busier.

As conditions that create the environment for the genesis of storms in 2018 continue to evolve, we should know more about where storms are likely to form and where they might go. Some of that on a preliminary basis already has been released by Crown Weather. We'll talk a bit more about it as conditions continue to develop and more nearly final seasonal forecasts become crystallized.

If you are potentially in the track of tropical cyclones either in the Caribbean or on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico or the US or Canadian Atlantic coast, be ready — and that includes getting regular updates during the season from [CrownWeather.com](#), which has a remarkably inexpensive program that communicates important details to everyone who may be in the path of approaching storms. If you live in areas which may be affected by severe *winter* weather, he covers that too; see his site for more information.

13. French Side Pres. Wants Island Congress, More Joint Decisions

Daniel Gibbs, President of the French Side Territorial Council, wants a united "Congress on Cooperation" between the two sides of the island, saying last week that added cooperation is more essential than ever in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

That full story from the *SXM Daily Herald* is [here](#).

One of his objectives is to put policies in place that survive changes in government on both sides of the island. He said, "In the Congress, decisions are made by an electoral body, from the executive of both sides, and once a decision is *sealed by a vote it is more difficult to retract.*" [Emphasis added.-Ed.] Continuity is what he's suggesting, perhaps in response to recent chaos particularly on the Dutch Side.

The idea has great merit, in our view. The new Dutch Side government may well embrace it, though the previous Marlin government would doubtless have dismissed it out-of-hand. We'll watch this and keep you posted.

Further **Comment:** *One island competing against itself from a marketing perspective is absurd. A high tide floats all boats -- a unified marketing effort that is well-funded and supported continually can make all of SXM more competitive, and such an effort is decades overdue.*

14. Kingdom Official: No Dutch Takeover Coming

Given the governmental chaos that ensued on the Dutch side in the weeks following hurricane Irma's strike on SXM three months ago this Wednesday, there was a bit of paranoia on the Dutch side about whether the Kingdom of the Netherlands might want to take over the island rather than deal with any more issues. The new head of island relations and the Dutch government put that idea to rest in a wide-ranging interview with *Daily Herald* reporter Alita Singh. Here is that very interesting [Herald interview](#). See also next story.

15. King, Queen Visit Dutch Side

Dutch King Willem-Alexander was asked by *Herald* reporter Alita Singh his reaction to seeing the progress made at restoring the Dutch Side post-Irma. [This](#) was his response.

16. Tourism Reawakening, Especially on Dutch Side

We've been carefully monitoring the sentiment among tourists who customarily visit St. Maarten but had been unable to do so because of closed timeshares. Many have said that due to scheduling, cost, or both, they've had to take advantage of alternative accommodations offered by their timeshare providers. Although they would rather be in St. Maarten, their circumstances don't allow it now. That's something only the island can address on a long-term basis by providing incremental new hotel accommodations on the island that are hurricane-proof — and require the same hurricane-proof construction in repairs of timeshares, along the lines of South Florida building codes.

Tourists who have more flexibility are already making plans to return to SXM, in many cases during the first half of 2018. Progress toward hurricane recovery has moved much faster on the Dutch side than on the French so far, despite post-Irma Dutch Side government chaos noted elsewhere in this issue and in previous issues.

It's not that the French don't want to catch up — it's that they want to make sure French side businesses aren't rebuilt in the same vulnerable manner as were structures in areas recently pummeled by Irma.

Bottom line: tourism is reawakening, considerably faster than most dared to imagine. And today we remain convinced — as we have been for quite some time — that a number of timeshares will be opening their doors sooner than expected, rather than later.

If you have St. Maarten friends who want to become aware of the news as it happens, please suggest they sign up for *SXM Weekly News* at sxmweeklynews.com.

17. JMB Removes Some Rental Listings from January, February

As we reported in articles 8 and 9, there are plenty of accommodations available on SXM now; those articles contain information that can help you make reservations.

Not all timeshares are open, and some won't be open for some time. Consequently, we have just updated our timeshare rental listings on everythingSXM.com to remove rental offers for properties which will not be open during those two months. *Properties now posted for January and February rentals have announced plans to reopen at that time.*

We have also let stand rentals for many properties beyond March 1. Please see our timeshare rental page on everythingSXM.com for more information.

18. JMB Expecting to Expand Charity List

When fundraising efforts began not long after hurricane Irma hit, we started listing charities which helped employees of various island businesses. We were far more concerned with getting funds to people who desperately needed help.

That was almost three months ago.

Now, after readers on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) have poured generous donations into those charities, we are looking at expanding the charities list to help get some businesses back on their feet. We understand that not all SXM businesses had hurricane insurance, which is enormously expensive. We don't think anyone ever expected a storm like Irma. If you're aware of such charities to benefit St. Maarten businesses, let us know through a post on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). We'll check it out and post it if appropriate.

19. Update on Our Christmas Shoebox Project

At the suggestion of one of the members of our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), our staff looked into spearheading a Christmas ShoeBox program for the kids of St. Maarten.

The idea was to stuff useful goodies into Shoe Boxes to be shipped to the island and given away to deserving, less fortunate children: a happy Christmas after the disaster that was Irma.

It was a great idea which had many supporters including JetBlue Airways, which had expressed interest in transporting the shoe boxes to the island.

In vetting the proposal, JetBlue encountered concerns on the part of the TSA, the US Transportation Security Administration, charged with the safety of air travel. That's when the project stalled. We have been looking into other shipping options, but we are moving very close now to the holiday and carrying this off in time may not be possible.

We're continuing to look at ways to make this happen and we'll publish here what the outcome is.

20. Chabad Needs your Help

The Highline Ballroom in Manhattan will be the location on December 13 at 6:30 PM of a Hanukkah celebration to help raise money for Chabad of St. Maarten's fundraising for its rebuilding effort.

Chabad usually sponsors a Hanukkah party at Porto Cupecoy on the island, but since so many people can't come this month Chabad is bringing the party to the people in the heart of Manhattan. Please plan to go; it will be great fun and you'll help a very worthy cause. For more information, see [JewishSXM.com](#).

21. Will Kim Sha Beach, Dutch Side, Be the New Orient Beach?

Orient beach right now is big, naturally beautiful, and desolate. All of the businesses on the beach were destroyed by Irma. Debris from some of those businesses was pushed by storm surge and enormous wind-driven surf all the way to the road to Le Galion beach, a good distance away.

Taxi drivers used to drive many hundreds of people to Orient beach every day. But as cruise ships started to return to the island this week, they aren't going to Orient beach: they'll be going to Kim Sha beach, located between Royal Palm Beach Resort and Atrium Resort on the Dutch side. There, chairs and umbrellas are being made available for their use.

Meanwhile, Club Orient at the clothing-optional southern end of Orient beach is now renting out chairs again and has a newly constructed "Perch" bar also in operation along it's part of the beach.

Kim Sha can't replace Orient; it's not as pretty and it's also not clothing optional. But for a while — perhaps for as long as a year — it will be one beach to which tourists are taken for a taste of the island.

They can opt to go to other beaches as well, but Kim Sha will be the primary focus.

22. Spiga Restaurant Reopens This Month as Cafe Spiga; Lunch, Too

Ever since it was founded more than 15 years ago, the Spiga restaurant in Grand Case has undergone evolutionary changes that somehow made this outstanding restaurant even better, year after year.

Now, after Irma raked Grand Case, Spiga has decided to turn its business model on its head. Highly talented chef/co-owners *Ciro Russo* and *Lara Bergamasco Russo* will continue to lead an inspired team of culinary professionals offering a combination of old favorites, a bounty of fresh pastas, and lots of culinary surprises. Pleasant, people-pleasing prices will be in store as will phenomenal luncheon salads available during their first-time-ever, six-day-a-week lunch services, available during normal lunch hours.

Dinner will begin at the restaurant's normal dinner hours. All service will be six days a week — every day but Sunday. Spiga has always surprised and amazed us. Now, it is about to debut as *Café Spiga*, with more surprises than ever.

We do not know 100% about what all the surprises are but *In Ciro and Lara We Trust*, and we look forward to them opening later this month. We'll keep you posted on the exact date.

Spiga Lunch Giveaway: Send an email to tracy@jmbcommunications.com with the subject Spiga Lunch and tell us why you want to win a lunch for two at Spiga. We'll read every entry and pick the best, announcing the winner in our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#). Start now...limit one entry per reader.

23. Tijon Parfumerie Reopening

From Tijon:

Tijon Parfumerie is pleased to announce it's reopening on Friday, December 15th after its own battle with Irma. The Tijon staff prays for all whose lives were forever changed on that fateful day of September 6.

To commemorate the re-opening Tijon is launching a new fragrance called *Apres Vous* for men, the second fragrance in Tijon's Gold Collection. *Apres Vous* is an exotic rendition inspired by Hurricane Irma with a hope for a quick return to a normal and beautiful island life.

This naturally clean, pure and contemporary fragrance opens with marine and fresh green notes with bergamot, cardamom, pineapple, papaya, rose, green tea and cooling mint and finishes with amber, rich cedarwood and musk producing an excellent sillage. It is combined with 23 karat gold leaf.

For the holidays, valid until January 1, anyone purchasing *Apres Vous* shall receive a free stainless steel or titanium bracelet valued up to 80 euros.

Included in this reopening offer is a complimentary *Tres Chic* tote bag for anyone purchasing Tijon's first perfume in its gold collection, *Ti Amour* for Women. *Ti Amour*, introduced one year ago and already a best seller, has been described as a little love, an elegant and stylish scent inspired by the powdery beaches of the French Caribbean.

Perfumer and owner John Berglund said, "This December marks our 10th anniversary in Grand Case. Months ago we had planned a grand celebration that will now be postponed to a later date. But we're pleased to contribute to the island's rebuilding by reopening and adding our new fragrance *Apres Vous*."

Tijon Parfumerie has created and sells twenty-four fine perfumes and colognes in addition to offering the world's #1 Creation Perfume Experience, where guests can create their own perfume or cologne. The "Create Your Own" can make for a wonderful holiday gift, with gift certificates available for purchase at Tijon.

Tijon will be open Monday-Fridays from 9:30 am to 5 pm. Tijon is still attempting to restore internet and telephone service but checks email daily at john@tijon.com.

24. Oober-Amazing Massage Therapist Tricia Leaves SXM Permanently

Tricia Altenau, who has lived and plied her trade as the best massage therapist on the French side of SXM for more

than two decades, left St. Maarten in the wake of hurricane Irma and is not planning to return. We talked with her from her home in Ohio.

A US native, Tricia is fluent in French and served a broad spectrum global clientele. She is looking at a particularly attractive US location to restart her business — a beautiful place you probably have already visited, one of the most gorgeous areas of the country. Temperate climate, too -- and not congested.

Once she has set up shop and is back in business, we'll tell you where she is: for many of you, it will be a great reason to return there.

25. Christmas Winds - And Christmas Worms - Due This Month

SXM in December is characterized by two particular things.

First, Christmas winds appear — stiffer than usual tradewinds that may blow a bit of sand on you, particularly if you're on Orient beach (not likely right now because nothing is there).

Christmas worms are an entirely different matter. They can appear outside or in, and are very bright red, almost iridescent. Although they are about the same length as earthworms, they move more like inchworms. We once stayed in an apartment in the Guana Bay area several hundred yards from the beach. One night, we found dozens of them crossing the kitchen floor to head under the back door of the apartment to leave.

It was peculiar, but that was the only night it happened. Normally, both Christmas winds and Christmas worms appear only in December — hence the name.

And also hence the reason this is story number 25.

26. Will Maho Beach Ever Come Back?

For tourists, Maho Beach is one of the favorite sitting sites on the entire island. It's not that the beach is particularly gorgeous — it isn't. It's also not that the people watching is all that fascinating — it's mostly ship people without much of a tan.

But Maho beach has been covered in the press worldwide for years, because planes landing at Princess Juliana SXM Airport fly only a few dozen feet above your head.

Now, with a temporarily vastly reduced number of flights, there isn't that much to watch from the Airport -- besides which Irma removed virtually all the sand from the beach and left only boulders.

Many people have asked, will Maho beach ever come back? Of course it will. Sand comes and goes at many SXM beaches, including Dawn, Cupecoy, Orient, and even Mullet Bay as well as Maho. During rough surf, sufficient sand is often dumped on the road between the fence and Maho Beach to require plowing.

The Dutch Side has a lot of things on its plate right now, so don't expect it to dump dredged sand on this beach — that's probably going to be Mother Nature's job.

27. SkyMed On Sale: All-New Double Bonus Must End 12/31/17

Thinking of buying a new annual or multiyear SkyMed medical evacuation membership, or upgrading an annual membership to a multiyear Ultimate? This news will make you happy that you waited:

[An all new SkyMed double bonus](http://www.getskymed.com) is available through www.getskymed.com or by calling Jeff when you buy a new SkyMed membership from us -- or upgrade to a multiyear SkyMed membership from an annual membership you bought from us. Great pricing is available now, too.

First, what is SkyMed? Scottsdale Arizona based SkyMed International takes its members home when they become critically ill or injured while traveling. Basic "Takes You Home" memberships cover you in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global memberships (provided by SkyMed affiliate GETS) cover you in the rest of the world with a few exceptions — like Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan, North Korea and possibly a few others. As you understand, that list may change as world events unfold.

The Double SkyMed bonus is simple. Once you've bought or upgraded your SkyMed membership through us, you forward to us by email your SkyMed acceptance email. Once we verify it, we extend your JMB Website Supporters membership by the same number of years as you purchased coverage from SkyMed. Now, with the double SkyMed bonus, we will *also* give you a certificate good for a \$25 discount on a future JMB Website Supporters membership renewal. The certificate is valid for two years from the date of issue. That's in addition to the years extension: That's quite a double bonus.

The double bonus offer comes only with SkyMed memberships purchased from us from now through 12/31/17.

SkyMed medical evacuations take you home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust — where your health insurance works. You call SkyMed, and SkyMed makes all the arrangements. There are no deductibles, no claim forms, and no reimbursements since SkyMed pays for all the arrangements it makes.

Without SkyMed, if you or a covered loved one needs a medical evacuation, you must make the arrangements yourself in the middle of an emergency and you must pay for everything upfront in cash — ambulances, aircraft, flight crew, jet fuel, medical personnel, etc. With SkyMed, by contrast, SkyMed makes all the arrangements and you pay \$0 for the evacuation. SkyMed *Takes You Home*® — what else matters?

For more information, see www.getskymed.com or contact Jeff any business day Eastern time at 508-747-8281 (fastest) or email him at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Include your return telephone number and time zone. He'll be happy to answer your questions and can even take an application by phone.

28. For US / Canadian ExPats Living on SXM:

As a US/Canadian ex-pat living on SXM at least six months per year, you understand the need to get home where your US or Canadian health insurance works if you become critically ill or injured while living on SXM. That's exactly what SkyMed ex-pat coverage does; it covers the ambulance from the local hospital to the airport, the medical evacuation flight home, and the ambulance at the arrival airport that takes you to the hospital, to which SkyMed has transferred your record; waiting there is a bed for you; and a team that has your medical records and is prepared to start working with you.

Don't take chances about being able to get home in a hurry in case of a serious personal medical emergency. SkyMed takes you home. What else matters? Read about the double SkyMed bonus in effect from now until the end of December in article 13, then see www.getskymed.com or call Jeff at 508-747-8281 during normal East Coast business hours.

Do it soon — the double SKYMED bonus will end December 31, 2017.

29. Traveling Anywhere Soon? SkyMed Takes You Home®

More Info: No matter where you go, take SkyMed medical evacuation protection with you: SkyMed Takes You Home(R) to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Without SkyMed, that medevac trip home could easily cost you upwards of \$45,000 payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that?

Get SkyMed protection now, before you need it. See www.getskymed.com. Got questions? Phone SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 weekdays during regular office hours, Eastern time.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklyn.../SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find Frequently Asked Questions here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2015SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

SkyMed Bonus: See info on the all-new SkyMed Bonus in story # 13 in this issue.

SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. What else matters? Global coverage is available. Call Jeff for details & answers to questions. .

30. Now: Just \$59/month* for SkyMed's Best Medevac Protection

How about SkyMed for \$59 a month for your family?

SkyMed medical evacuation programs protect your pocketbook and your health when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. That's because SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill while traveling. They protect your pocketbook by making it unnecessary for you to pay for a medical evacuation in cash in advance --- the only way to get this level of protection without being a SkyMed member.

Those out-of-pocket costs are huge: upwards of \$45,000 in many cases, and often far more.

*Now, you can get a five year SkyMed Ultimate membership and pay for it monthly at just \$59 per month for your family, which makes it easily affordable to practically anyone (even retirees and AUC students).

Of course, if you prefer, you can prepay for five years at the sharply reduced rate of \$2495 for JMB Website Supporters members. When you apply, you can get a 10 year price guarantee as well simply by noting on the application that you want an automatic renewal. That's the equivalent of paying \$499 per year for 10 years— an extraordinary price guarantee in times that are tumultuous politically worldwide.

You can also pay the \$59 a month for a month or two then convert to the prepaid Ultimate membership to grab those prepayment savings. For info, call Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only). He can answer all your questions and even help you get signed up. *Please also see the next story.*

Learn more at www.getskymed.com.

31. Buy SkyMed for Your Traveling Parents, But You Get The Bonuses...

Got aging parents who travel? There's no age limit to apply for SkyMed medical evacuation protection. For your peace of mind as well as theirs, this holiday season get them SkyMed protection. When you do, if you like we'll give you the double SkyMed bonuses described in story 13. Good for them. Good for you.

Got questions? Call Jeff at 508-747-8281. We'll tell you how we can help make it happen.

32. Get Our SXM Euro Ovals: Great Gifts -- Order Now

Printed with green ink on durable bright white stock, varnished for long life, our copyrighted SXM euro ovals have been adorning cars on SXM and around the world for more than 15 years.

You can now get two for \$10 or five for \$15 (ten for \$30) mailed first class to your home in the US or Canada. You can pay for them by PayPal. If you pay by PayPal, make sure US dollar funds are sent to Jeff@JMBcommunications.com and in the comments section be sure to tell us what you're buying — two for \$10 or five for \$15, 10 for \$30, SXM euro ovals, and include your current, correct mailing address.

If you pay by check, we accept US dollar checks only drawn on US banks — sorry, no Canadian checks. You can mail them to SXM euro ovals, care of JMB Communications, PO Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. Make the check payable to JMB Communications. Check orders are NOT likely to be received before the holiday. PayPal orders made this week will be shipped by next week.

We have a decent supply but we suggest you order quickly. No shipping charge.

We periodically publish pictures of these on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

**Your Business
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www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

33. Still Time: Enter Our SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway

Our Summertime SXM vacation giveaway is underway and you can now enter. *SXM Weekly News* readers (NOT pass-along readers) can enter up to 10 times per subscribed email address. The drawing has been deferred now until at least March, 2018.

Here is our current prize list. Since this giveaway promotes non high-season visits to SXM, most of these vacations are yours from mid April to mid December, 2018, though for obvious reasons those dates are subject to change. All vacations are subject to availability.

- an 8-day, 7-night vacation at La Vista Resort, May through December 2018.
- a 5 night stay (based upon availability April 10-Dec 18, 2018) in an ocean front room at the Westin St Maarten Dawn Beach Resort, Spa, and Casino.
- a 4-day, 3-night stay at the beautiful Oyster Bay Beach Resort.
- Dinner for Two at Davide Foini's legendary IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay (One winner)
- Dinner for Two at Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort. (One winner)
- Dinner for Two at Spiga, the highly acclaimed Italian Restaurant in Grand Case. (One winner.)

Enter here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

Dates for all vacations subject to change thanks to Irma....

34. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. Most issues for the past few years are now online.

[Get The Current Low Price](#)
[on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)
[and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.](#)
[That's a 10-year price guarantee.](#)
[More benefits... **same price.**](#)

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See getskymed.com.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

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?

2017 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.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

- 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 .Your username and password are required.

SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 7/2017

See www.everythingsxm.com.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. 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 www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

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

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Contact Us (Revised 8/21/17)

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, contact **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 respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

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