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Honor America's Military - Memorial Day, 2018

Vol. 2, #1153 --- Monday, May 28, 2018  
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

## [Member News](#)

### 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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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

*Weekly News* is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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

**IMPORTANT:** "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored send-only email address. For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#) at the end of this newsletter.

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 306,000 people around the world...**

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



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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

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TOP STORIES 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:**

- **WestJet Strike Averted; What About JetBlue?**
- **Hurricane Season Starts Early: Now What?**
- **Our Weather Center Is Updated**
- **SXM Airport Taking Insuror To Court**
- **Airport Tents Versus Hurricanes**
- **When Will SXM Airport Reopen?**

- **From Sapphire Beach Club, Nothing But Silence**
- **French Side Armed Robbers Caught; Crime Diminishing**
- **All New "Random Wind" Is Sailing**
- **Giving Away Tix to Rainforest Adventures Rides**
- **Boathouse Won't Be Back; Want To Rent It?**
- **Corail Helicopters No Longer on SXM**
- **"Pelikaan Beer" Now Brewed in SXM**
- **Last Call for our JMB Members-Only Party at Isola**
- **Dollar Strengthens, But for How Long?**
- **There is No Such Place as SMX**
- **JMB Members-Only Parties & Giveaways...**
- **Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed**
- **Facts You Need to Know About SkyMed**
- **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**

**31** 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](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](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:**

Emailed versions only

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

Emailed versions only

### **Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Get a growing 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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

1. Hurricane Season Starts Early: Now What?
2. "Alberto" And The Price of Jet Fuel
3. Where Is The Price of Jet Fuel Going?
4. SXM Airport Taking Insuror To Court
5. Airport Tents Versus Hurricanes
- 5a. WestJet Strike Averted; What About JetBlue?
6. When Will SXM Airport Reopen?
7. Our Weather Center Is Updated
8. Download NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart
9. Current SXM Weather Info (Updated)
10. Guaranteed Lowest Rates For Hotel Rooms / Car Rentals

**Section Two:** Accommodations (*Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas, Etc.*) [Go To This Section](#)

11. From Sapphire Beach Club, Nothing But Silence
12. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Villa Rentals Available

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

**Section Three:** JMB Member Discounts & Benefits [Go To This Section](#)

13. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

**Section Four:** Island News, Info, & Features [Go To This Section](#)

14. French Side Armed Robbers Caught; Crime Diminishing
15. SXM Is Paradise, Not Utopia
16. All New "Random Wind" Is Sailing
17. Giving Away Tix to Rainforest Adventures Rides
18. Last Call for our JMB Members-Only Party at Isola
19. Boathouse Won't Be Back; Want To Rent It?
20. Corail Helicopters No Longer on SXM
- 20a. Pelikaan Beer Brewed in SXM
21. Dollar Strengthens, But for How Long?
22. There is No Such Place as SMX
23. JMB Members-Only Parties & Giveaways...
24. Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed
25. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors
26. Facts You Need to Know About SkyMed
27. Restaurant of the Week: Isola
28. Enter Our "Summertime" Vacation Giveaway...
29. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

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

- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

**Section 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](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\***  
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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. Hurricane Season Starts Early: Now What?

As predicted this week by Crown Weather chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown, the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season began early with the approach of tropical storm Alberto to the US Gulf coast late Sunday afternoon. The storm was predicted to bring very heavy rains to a wide portion of the US Southeast.

Where do we go from here?

Meteorologist Lightbown, whose [CrownWeather.com](http://CrownWeather.com) website has long partnered with us, has been saying that this hurricane season may be rather busy — but that "busyness" may well be frontloaded, with much of the action occurring early during the season. The reason is that we are moving into neutral territory between the recent La Niña weather condition and a possible El Niño. La Niña or neutral conditions are more conducive to the development of hurricanes than El Niño, which has other effects. However, it only takes one storm to royally screw things up wherever it hits.

Yesterday, on Sunday, May 27 we completed another major update to our Weather Center on [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) -- posting more satellite images. But as we have long said, if you live in an area that is ever a target for any tropical cyclone, it behooves you to sign up with [CrownWeather.com](http://CrownWeather.com) for their inexpensive private forecasting service: it is very well worth the small price to gain early access to Rob's nationally respected tropical weather expertise.

Here are remaining storm names for 2018:

Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sara, Tony, Valerie, William.

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## 2. "Alberto" And The Price of Jet Fuel

The development of tropical storm Alberto and its sojourn through oil-rich waters in the Gulf of Mexico sends shivers through a wide swath of businesses using crude oil. If the system were a strong hurricane, it would threaten supplies in an already tight market, possibly exacerbating oil shortages and causing further increases in the price of jet fuel.

It wasn't predicted to be a hurricane, though it came close. But it's just the beginning of the season and hurricanes do happen. Despite the fact that the US is pushing OPEC and Russia to increase output, any such increase will be

gradual (see next story) so the oil-price impact of a full-on hurricane hitting the Gulf could be significant.

As always, we'll keep an eye on this for you. Note: Please buy or renew a [JMB Website Supporters](#) SXM Island Discount Program membership -- it makes *SXM Weekly News* possible.

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### 3. Where Is The Price of Jet Fuel Going?

The price of crude oil surpassed \$80 per barrel this past weekend, pushing the price of gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel still higher. Despite the fact that the US government is jawboning to push OPEC and Russia to increase crude oil output, as of this writing there is no guarantee that is going to happen. Furthermore, even if it does, it won't be fast. Consequently, the price of oil-based commodities seems likely to continue to increase for the next several months. Only quick action by Russia and OPEC at opening the spigots faster could slow or reverse recent increases in the cost of crude oil and related products.

So, where is the price of jet fuel going?

Barring a miracle, we expect it to continue to go up in the next few months, which means that ticket prices to SXM, already low this fall, may not go much lower. If the spigots are opened faster or wider, fall sales could become more attractive.

We'll keep an eye on this for you.

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### 4. SXM Airport Taking Insuror To Court

We would venture to say that it's a good bet right now that NAGICO, the largest insuror on the Dutch side, is even more unpopular these days than GEBE, the Dutch side electricity and water company that has long been the focus of pointed criticism.

Business and personal insurance customers of NAGICO have been complaining for months about what they charge is horrendously slow service, grotesquely delayed insurance payments (if they have been paid at all), and endless nickel and diming.

Indeed, SXM Airport, which had a huge policy with NAGICO, is taking that company to court to compel it to pay up on the Airport's huge policy so that the airport can move ahead faster in getting its repairs completed and reopen the main terminal.

NAGICO is still liable to pay SXM Airport's claim even though SXM Airport has pulled its policy away from the island insuror and moved it to Guardian.

The airport is proceeding with its very heavy renovations despite the alleged tortoise-like action by NAGICO.

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### 5. Airport Tents Versus Hurricanes

Some weeks ago, we asked SXM Airport executives what their plans were for protecting the temporary arrival and departure tents now being used by the airport until its main terminal has been repaired from the effects of Irma. We were told that in the event a serious hurricane were to approach the island, the tents would quickly be stripped and all critically important equipment inside would be stored in a secure location. Our understanding is that very little but the frame of the buildings would remain. This would also make it possible to reassemble and relaunch the tents as functioning entities in short order after the passage of any new hurricanes, if necessary.

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#### 5a. WestJet Strike Averted; What About JetBlue?

WestJet, the spunky Canadian carrier that has been serving SXM for years, has averted a pilots' strike by agreeing to binding arbitration with ALPA, the Airline Pilots Association. With binding arbitration, there will be no WestJet pilots' strike.

But there are other labor issues simmering at other airlines, UA, Delta, and JetBlue among them.

If you've flown JetBlue lately, you may have noticed many pilots' ID cards worn with an "Airline Pilots Association" ALPA ribbon. The airline had never been unionized but earlier this month, its pilots -- represented by ALPA -- reached an agreement with JetBlue which both sides seem to be happy about. JetBlue serves SXM daily from New York Kennedy.

JetBlue flight attendants recently voted to be represented by the TWU, Transport Workers Union. JB had long been non-union. Here is more on both the [pilots](#) and [details](#) for those who might be interested in flying for JB, a rapidly growing carrier.

We'll keep an eye on the other carriers and let you know more in coming issues.

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## 6. When Will SXM Airport Reopen?

When officials of SXM Airport first estimated when the terminal would reopen, their initial comments said this October or November. Most observers felt those observations were overly optimistic — and they were right.

According to what a key airport official told us several weeks ago, the airport should not be expected to reopen in full-service until at least the fall of 2019.

We have a number of questions that we posed to airport officials regarding many items of interest to SXM tourists. We hope to have the answers to those questions soon. That information, frankly, is more important than the date when the terminal will reopen, since the current arrangement of two sophisticated arrival and departure tents continues to get great reviews from airport passengers -- but more is needed when full airline schedules resume, presumably later this year.

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## 7. Our Weather Center Is Updated

On Sunday afternoon May 27, we did yet another major update of our Weather Center on [everythingSXM.com](#).

The update made it easier for site visitors to see the latest advisories, watches, and warnings about current tropical cyclones, and it also added new-to-the-page satellite imagery.

You can check it out by visiting [everythingSXM.com](#) and clicking Weather.

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## 8. Download NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart

Years ago, before we were all saturated with weather information from cable TV to local (redundant and repetitive) news and forecasts plus weather updates and bulletins on our smart phones, gas stations and television stations offered printed hurricane tracking charts so people at home could try to figure out for themselves whether they were about to get slammed by the latest hurricane.

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to come by. The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are available for download from the NHC [here](#). Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like, SXM. Bear in mind that this hurricane season may well be frontloaded, as noted in the previous article — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

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## 9. Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM 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](http://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.

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.*

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## 10. ***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.

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## 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](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)

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

## 11. From Sapphire Beach Club, Nothing But Silence

Timeshare owners of Sapphire Beach Club have had a rather rough time of it. There have been periods during which the owners, the Verdier family, did practically no maintenance, owners allege, and now, timeshare owners are complaining that they are being left in the dark about the state of repairs and what the target date is for the resort to reopen.

One timeshare owner this past week said to us, "It's as if they are keeping some big dark secret and having fun doing it. Our money built the resort, and they have an obligation to tell us what is going on." It took heavy criticism of a similar nature before Ocean Club finally talked about what is happening there. It behooves the Verdier family today, nearly 9 months since Irma struck, to communicate clearly and quickly with its timeshare owners about exactly what is going on at their resort.

## 12. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Villa Rentals Available

With several timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, Atrium Resort, Simpson Bay Resort, with Oyster Bay Beach following quickly -- timeshare owners are now posting units available for rent on our [timeshare rental site](#) on [everythingSXM.com](#) and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on [everything.sxm.com](#). Check them out: they were heavily revised during each of the last two weeks and will be updated again this week.

**SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits**

## 13. JMB 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 some 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 continue to roll out a number of entirely new discounts and benefits.*

*We recently started adding new discounts and benefits. Please stay tuned; special messages will be sent to all JMB Website Supporters members as more new benefits are rolled out.*

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

**SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features**

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**SkyMed Is On Sale:**

**Get SkyMed's  
Lowest Daily Cost**

# SkyMed Ultimate Medical Evacuation Membership, SkyMed's best coverage.

Details on  
What SkyMed Is  
and How It Works  
are in stories 24 and 26.

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Got questions? Call  
Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281  
or email [Jeff.Berger@skymed.com](mailto:Jeff.Berger@skymed.com)  
with the Subject "SkyMed."

Do it now,  
before you need it.

## 14. French Side Armed Robbers Caught; Crime Diminishing

In recent weeks, between April and May, there were several armed robberies on the French side which — thanks to the prompt work of the gendarmerie — have been stopped and their alleged perpetrators have been arrested.

Beyond that, there is a lot of good news concerning French side crime which had reached a worrisome state a couple of years ago, well before Irma hit.

[This article](#) tells the full story.

## 15. SXM Is Paradise, Not Utopia

As Kathy Hetzel, co-owner of the venerable Ric's Place bar and restaurant told us a number of years ago, SXM is paradise but not utopia. Ric passed away several years ago, the restaurant sadly closed, and Kathy has returned to the US — but her comment today is as true as it ever was.

Paradise and utopia are not the same thing. SXM has incredible beaches, gorgeous surroundings, unequalled dining, and incredible people — but it is not without some jerks and with them, some crime.

The best way to avoid crime in SXM is to remember that it *is* paradise and not utopia. Lock your car, leave nothing of value inside the car or in the car trunk, and don't do anything else to make yourself a conspicuous target or make where you are an easy place for unsavory characters to visit.

For more, please see the [article about crime](#) on our site, everythingSXM.com.

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## 16. All New "Random Wind" Is Sailing

For years, one of the most popular boat excursions in the waters of St. Maarten was the Random Wind. Tragically, it was one of a number of tour boats that sank in Irma's fury.

Fortunately, those providing marine insurance seem to have responded quickly to claims from boat owners and the nameplate Random Wind was recently applied to a new boat which is now in the water making people smile again. You can see much more about this happy situation [here](#).

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## 17. Giving Away Tix to Rainforest Adventures Rides

If you've been reading the pages of *SXM Weekly News* or if you've been seeing SXM posts including photography on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), you've seen some breathtaking photography shot by people taking the new chairlift at the Rainforest Adventures theme park on the Emilio Wilson estate.

We are happy to say we are starting to launch a new partnership with Rainforest Adventures. They are giving us passes to some of their rides which we will use as Giveaways for some of our JMB Website Supporters members during the next several months. We also hope to be able to offer our JMB Website Supporters members discounts at Rainforest Adventures — we'll keep you posted on our efforts to make that happen.

JMB Website Supporters membership brings you hundreds of discounts across the island and many other benefits — including our now legendary island parties. If you're not already a JMB member, it's time you got more out of the fun side of SXM. For more information, please click the page curl on [everythingSXM.com](#).

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## 18. Last Call for our JMB Members-Only Party at Isola

This is the last call to JMB Website Supporters members who wish to attend our members-only party late this week at Marco Ferrante's Isola Restaurant in Simpson Bay next to Hollywood Casino.

We sent an email to all JMB members a couple of weeks ago advising them how to reserve space at this upcoming event for the member and his/her spouse. We have a maximum number of 50 people who can attend this members-only function and we are now very close to sold out. If you are a JMB Website Supporters member and expect to be on the island this week, please see the email sent to all JMB members with event information and how to preregister. *Preregistration is required.*

This event will give you the opportunity to meet and schmooze with many other JMB Website Supporters members at a restaurant now managed by long-time SXM chef and restaurateur Marco Ferrante. A number of special appetizers will be served and there will also be a cash bar and soothing live background music. This event is very near sellout status so get your registration done through Susan immediately to avoid disappointment. Current JMB members only.

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## 19. Boathouse Won't Be Back; Want To Rent It?

Cleo Day Day, chief honcho at the Boathouse restaurant, destroyed by hurricane Irma several months ago, told us this weekend that she will not be reopening Boathouse. However, she does intend to rent out the property — so if you are interested in running a bar/restaurant in the heart of Simpson Bay on the Dutch side, this might be your opportunity. It's not something for the faint of heart or someone who is simply interested in dabbling. To succeed in SXM, you need to be a diehard restaurateur willing to work long hours for a couple of years before your head gets above water (figuratively). If you're interested in learning more, we can put you in touch with Cleo.

More stories are below.

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[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](http://getskymed.com).

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## 20a. Pelikaan Beer Brewed in SXM

It's new and it's brewed in Cole Bay. There are lots of varieties (light to dark) and its name is a tongue-in-cheek referral to "Maarten." We asked the owners for more info on it, including where it's sold, but they had not responded by presstime.

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## 20. Corail Helicopters No Longer on SXM

During the last few years, many SXM tourists had seen Corail helicopters flying around much of the French Side of the island; the Dutch side airspace is much more restricted because of the presence of SXM Airport.

After hurricane Irma hit, there were no tourists to take on helicopter rides and there were no megayacht helicopters to repair or megayacht passengers to ferry to nearby luxury retreats on neighboring islands. So for now, Corail helicopters has relocated to Mauritius — but don't be surprised if at some time in the future they return to the French side aerodrome in Grand Case.

When they return, we hope they will resume providing discounts to our JMB members for a range of helicopter rides. We'll keep you posted.

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## 21. Dollar Strengthens, But for How Long?

In recent days the dollar has been showing some strength against the Euro, after the cost of a Euro had risen to around \$1.25. It's now down to \$1.17. The cause, experts say, has been the US economy and the detente between the US and North Korea. The detente is wobbly, so the big question is where does the Euro go from here. We sure don't know but as always we'll keep you posted. The French Side uses the Euro... a strengthening dollar would reduce costs there.

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## 22. There is No Such Place as SMX

There is no such place as SMX, an erroneous but nevertheless sometimes used nickname for Sint Maarten / St. Martin. There is actually no St. Maarten either, since the abbreviation "St." isn't used in Dutch. "Sint" is correct, but that misuse is so pervasive among tourists we'll use it, too....

The real three-letter nickname is SXM.

## 23. JMB Members-Only Parties & Giveaways...

After an absence of several years, this year we've restarted our JMB Website Supporters members-only parties in SXM.

The first was held early in March at Cafe Spiga in Grand Case which, fortunately, suffered comparatively little damage from the wrath of Irma and had reopened late last year. It has been further upgraded inside as you'll see, and the food is as divine as it could possibly be.

The second JMB Website Supporters members-only party is this week at Isola. There are very few seats left and preregistration is required, so if your JMB Website Supporters membership is paid up to date, check the email we sent you a couple of weekends ago and contact Susan in our office to preregister. You cannot join the party unless you are preregistered. See story 18.

## 24. Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed

***Emergency medical evacuations are payable in cash in advance and often cost upwards of \$45,000 -- unless you have a SkyMed membership. SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, and where your health insurance actually works. It's available to Americans and Canadians and to ExPats of both countries, taking them home from throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage is available covering every country around the world except those on the U. S. State Department watch list. SkyMed makes all medical evacuation arrangements and pays for them directly...you just pay for your SkyMed membership.***

***Here are examples of SkyMed in action:***

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

An MD from Florida who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed *which arranged and paid for* an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cole Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. *SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works.* That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than

\$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian expat living in SXM or certain other countries.

Nobody is immune: anything can happen anywhere. Do it today. To learn more, visit [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com). JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters in this section.

Please see story 22 for more specifics.

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## 25. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Next Level Car Rental (just joined)

CIGARS HAND-MANUFACTURED ON SXM:

[Das Cigars](#)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#) (New)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS::

[SkyMed International](#) (Scottsdale, Az.)

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Little Europe Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

Caribbean Gems

Oro Diamante

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES:

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A JMB Sponsor, they offer both residential and commercial real estate in every price range. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles what you seek: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Site*.

RESORTS:

Simpson Bay Resort

Baker's Suites

RESTAURANTS:

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Site*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Site*.

5/28/18

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## 26. Facts You Need To Know About SkyMed

Got questions about SkyMed? Call Jeff directly any weekday at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only). Leave a message if he's on the other line, with your phone number and time zone. Some SkyMed info is below and Jeff can answer all your remaining SXM questions. He has been a SkyMed Ambassador for many years.

What it Is: SkyMed is a Scottsdale, Arizona, based medical evacuation membership company. It "Takes You Home" if you're a SkyMed member when you become critically ill or injured while traveling anywhere in the United States (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global coverage, offering services in the rest of the world (except where the U. S. State Department has issued [travel advisories](#)), is available as an option on annual memberships and is included in multi-year "Ultimate" memberships, through SkyMed company GETS, Global Emergency Transport Services. Americans, Canadians, and ExPats living in any of the countries named here are eligible to apply for membership.

What Medical Evacuations Cost Without SkyMed: At the low end, medical evacuation flights aboard private specially-outfitted and staffed "air ambulances" usually cost anywhere from \$35,000 to \$70,000 *payable in cash in advance, before anything happens*. Prices from Mexico and some distant parts of the world can cost far more. For SkyMed members, SkyMed arranges and pays for all the services it offers. There are no claims forms, no deductibles, no pre-payments for services by you with you waiting for SkyMed reimbursements -- no hassles. You make one phone call to SkyMed and SkyMed handles everything. *Medical evacuations are typically never covered by your health insurance policies.*

What it Covers: A complete, highly thoughtful spectrum of important evacuation-related services. Download the complete list with descriptions [here](#).

How It Works: As you would in any medical emergency anywhere, get to a hospital right away when you become critically ill or injured. You can call SkyMed at their toll-free number (or collect from outside the US) when you first get to the hospital if you like, to make us aware of the situation. Once the medical staff has given you emergency care, call SkyMed from the hospital so we can talk with those handling the member's care. Critically ill or injured members must be stable for medical evacuation air travel to occur safely. SkyMed keeps you informed every step of the way, and SkyMed arranges and pays for the ambulance from the hospital to the airport; the medevac jet to your destination city; and the ambulance from that airport to the hospital. We will already have obtained and transferred your records to the destination hospital, where a bed will be waiting for you and a team will be ready to help you. We take you home where your support system is and where your health insurance works. All you pay is your SkyMed membership fee; SkyMed arranges and pays for all the services it provides for you.

JMB Website Supporters Members Get Discounts & Bonuses: Discounts are available on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. Ask Jeff for details; see the end of this story. Bonuses available give you additional years on your JMB membership when you buy a new multi-year SkyMed membership from us or upgrade a SkyMed membership bought from us to multi-year. After buying, simply notify [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com) of your SkyMed purchase and you get an equal number of years added to your JMB membership.

Many Special Features:

a) SkyMed Takes You Home®. Others in their fine print say they take you home or to the nearest appropriate facility, at their option; that could be thousands of miles from home.

b) No age limit to apply. No age limit for services.

c) Pre-existing conditions covered in full after only 90 days for one-year and longer memberships, and immediately for short-term memberships.

d) Guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or health changes (applies to annual and multiyear memberships).

e) No membership price increases due solely to advancing age or declining health. You pay what everyone pays.

f) Ten-year price guarantee for five-year Ultimate SkyMed memberships: When you apply for a five-year SkyMed Ultimate membership and indicate "renew automatically" on your application, you are guaranteed the same price upon renewal that you paid when joining. The SkyMed Ultimate, which is prepaid for five years at inception, currently offers more features and benefits than SkyMed's annual memberships (see What it Covers, above) at a highly advantageous annual cost. SkyMed Annual memberships have no price guarantee (though their price has been unchanged for several years). Jet fuel price spikes can affect the cost of Annual memberships. But with the Ultimate's 10-year price guarantee, you're solid no matter what.

Where to Get Answers To Your Questions: Call SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger any daytime or evening at 508-747-8281. He can answer all your questions and even complete an application with you in about 10 minutes. Often, you'll have SkyMed's reply in one or two business days. You can also email Jeff at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com) or [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) (with the subject SkyMed); please include your phone number and area code.

SkyMed Takes You Home®: What else matters?

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## 27. Restaurant of the Week: Isola

We have not mentioned Isola since May of 2017 and since they're the site this week of our JMB Website Supporters members-only party, we thought it was time.

Marco Ferrante is a classically trained Italian chef who has been on SXM for many years, as many of you know. Now, however, he has a new role: general manager at Isola, next door to Hollywood Casino.

Although he has kept some of Isola's most popular items from previous management there, he has otherwise literally turned the place upside-down, changing many staff members and totally reinventing the kitchen staff and the complete look of the restaurant. It had been open-air since the old Crocodile Cafe days at the erstwhile Pelican Resort, but now it's fully enclosed and completely modernized -- no street noise or stray traffic odors, just the fragrances of freshly created Italian food.

SXM has many Italian restaurants. The new Isola is quite different from what was here before and you should give it a try. Tell Marco Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News* sent you.

Coming soon: Rum and Peas and La Patrona.



Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Isola Ristorante Italiano (featured 5/28/18) Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano next to Hollywood casino in the middle of Simpson Bay Resort was one of the first restaurants to reopen soon after Irma struck, and it has been open ever since. It is now also fully enclosed and fully air conditioned - no street noise.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 5/21/18) David is back and the restaurant has reopened. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too. Now open for lunch and dinner.

Avantika Thai [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 5/14/18) Avantika is open. SXM's best Thai.

Mario Bistro [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://www.mariobistrot.com/en/) 4/30/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

Spiga, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 4/9/18) Reopened as Cafe Spiga, new menu; redesigned. New bar, new bar snacks, same great staff, service, and wonderful food.

Celine 3 luxury Catamaran, [www.sailstmaarten.com](http://www.sailstmaarten.com) (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it enters service soon. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

Big Fish Restaurant [www.bigfishsxm.com/](http://www.bigfishsxm.com/) (featured 5/1/17). Big Fish has closed. We do not have any word on whether Mike and Teresa will be reopening.

Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 6/5/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.

Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://www.canoasxm.com) (featured 4/10/17) Canoa has established a gofundme campaign to help it rebuild. We have no information on timing, but our guess is probably late 2018, or later.

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 7/17/17) Skipjack's main dining deck overlooking the lagoon was wrecked by Irma and is being rebuilt. They should be open late 2018.

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16). The Maho area was hit very badly by Irma and Pizza Pasta has closed and is not expected to reopen, not at that location anyway. Selena has moved to St. Kitts where her mom, Ilde, and dad, Dario, operate their Ciao restaurant.

Daniel's By The Sea, [www.dawnbeachsxm.com](http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com) (featured 8/14/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 1/30/17; added 1/17) La Patrona is open and has been for quite some time.

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.

The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16 Just got insurance settlement, not yet reopened.

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

Stone Restaurant, [www.thestonerestaurant.com](http://www.thestonerestaurant.com) (featured 9/2/14) Stone is permanently closed.

Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15) Believed permanently closed and likely for sale. We'll post quickly if we hear anything else.

Temptation, <http://www.temptation-sxm.com/> (featured 7/5/17) Permanently closed. Dino has now relocated to Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, which will be featured here soon.

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 7/10/17) Open now for lunch and dinner.

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/26/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/19/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.

Pineapple Pete, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://www.pineapplepete.com) (featured 7/31/17) Reopened.

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path the turn near Shore Pointe to get there). (featured 4/17/2017) Reopened. Their sign blew away in Irma -- to Virgin Gorda's airport 192 miles away.

FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse Had closed permanently before Irma hit.

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge Reopened.

Jimbo's, [www.jimboscafe.com](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 6/12/17) Recently reopened.

Vesna Taverna, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 1/22/18). Reopened. Now open Wed through Sunday B/L/D.

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 2/27/17) Reopened quickly.

Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.

Bylbos, Simpson Bay Not yet known.

Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 2/13/17)

Closed permanently; see next item. Pierre ("Pete") Ferland has opened a new Japanese Restaurant next to Pineapple Pete...

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great service.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate will be featured soon. It's the new property run by renowned chef Dino Jagtiani, whose Temptation Restaurant was wrecked by Irma.

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

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## 28. 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 June, 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 will 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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml)

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

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## 29. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml). Most issues for the past few years are now online. Many back issues were added last week (at long last) and the rest are expected to be added this week.

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**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.

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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.](#)

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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](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](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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

To unsubscribe, go here: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://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](http://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.*

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

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

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

## 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

Privacy Policy [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml)

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