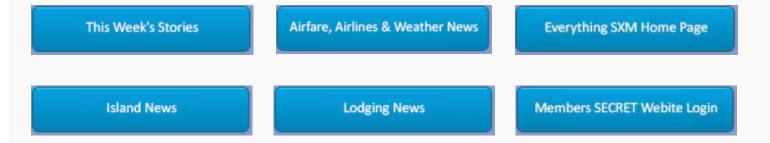
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St. Maarten / St. Martin Restaurants Special Edition

Vol. 2, #1154 --- Monday, June 4, 2018 News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM





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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Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored <u>send-only</u> email address. For Contact info, see <u>#Contact Us</u>

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 <u>St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News</u> 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:



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



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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:

<u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml</u> On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in

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:

- -- Dutch Side Getting Its Initial USD\$130-million Recovery Funds
- -- How "Busy" Hurricane Season Is Doesn't Matter
- -- Oyster Bay Beach Resort Reopens
- -- Esmeralda Resort Announces Reopening
- -- Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Villa Rentals Available
- -- The Dutch Side Drone Problem: See The Map

- -- No Sign of Chikungunya, Zika in SXM
- -- Spiga Gets Huge Accolades from TripAdvisor
- -- Many Restaurants Reopening Across SXM
- -- Maho Coming Back to Life
- -- Lee's Says It Reopens This Year
- -- Pressoir Reopening later This Year
- -- Are Your Favorite Restaurants Open?
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- -- Facts You Need to Know About SkyMed
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- -- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors
- -- Enter Our "Summertime" Vacation Giveaway

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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

<u>To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else</u> worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u> 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://everythingsxm.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): <u>Click to access our recommended real estate agents</u>

This Week's Stories

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

"Like" Our <u>"Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Site:</u>

Find us on Facebook

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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format): http://everythingsxm.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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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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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 <u>GROWING LIST of 300+</u> Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>, 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 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>. 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. How "Busy" Hurricane Season Is Doesn't Matter

Various forecasters have issued various forecasts regarding the prospective severity of the 2018 hurricane season, which began last Friday. But at the end of the day, what matters is if one of those hurricanes hits where you are, which could be any place from the Caribbean through the US Gulf Coast and the East Coast northward to Maritime Canada.

The season may be frontloaded, meaning that much of its action could occur earlier in the season rather than later. If you live in any hurricane-prone area, get yourself prepared. See our newly expanded and updated Weather Center on our site, <u>everythingSXM.com</u>. For the most capable forecasts we've seen anywhere, sign up for Rob Lightbown's private forecasting service (very inexpensive) at <u>CrownWeather.com</u>. We think he's the best out there.

Here are the 2018 storm names (**Boldface** storms are already history): **Alberto**, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar,

Patty, Rafael, Sara, Tony, Valerie, William.

2. Copa Airlines Is Back; New US Travel Alternatives

Copa Airlines, the Panama-based international carrier that serves a number of US cities, provides some connections from the US to SXM through its Panama hub. Its prices are also highly competitive.

People who have used their service speak well of its quality and efficiency. If Copa serves your city in the US, you might want to compare their service with other airlines you're considering.

3. Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>, 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:

<u>Crown Weather Services</u> whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
Our "Weather" page at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u> -- 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 <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>, 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 <u>www.island92.com</u>. 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: <u>http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG</u> .

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

4. <u>Guaranteed</u> <u>Lowest Rates</u> for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals <u>Around The World</u>

<u>SkyMed Travel offers you a **110% Lowest Rate Guarantee** for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide.</u> 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 <u>https://www.skymedtravel.com/register</u>, 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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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: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>

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

5. Oyster Bay Beach Resort (OBBR) Reopens

"OBBR" reports:

RE: FRESH

Be the first to see our exciting renovations including the new Infinity Pool, Infinity Restaurant and Bar, Lobby and Courtyard plus 85 beautifully remodeled rooms.

RE: CREATE

We all need some time to ourselves and resorts are no exception. After an extensive remodel, Oyster Bay Beach Resort is back and better than ever. Be the first to see our new look.

RE: VITALIZE

Everyone needs a vacation to recharge, relax and refresh. Resorts are the same. After taking the past eight months to remodel and restore our resort, Oyster Bay is back and ready for action.

RE: KINDLE

Life is about relationships and we've missed you the past eight months. That's why we're offering an extra special rate to the owners who have been the lifeblood of our resort.

RE: DEEM

Book between June 1st and September 1st and receive 25% off upgrades and additional rooms. Plus, enjoy two beach trips and two cocktail parties each week.

For more, see the OBBR website.

6. Esmeralda Resort Announces Reopening

From Esmeralda:

Esmeralda Resort is very pleased to announce our reopening on November 1, 2018.

Esmeralda's restaurant Astrolabe is open as of November 1, 2018. Coco Beach will not be ready by November 1.

Esmeralda Resort strides to bring you the best vacation experience and therefore we have decided to take our time during the rebuild to ensure the final product is 4+ stars and we promise not to disappoint.

After many months of rebuilding and support of our staff, past guests and future guests, we are excited about our reopening and thank all that made it possible with your wonderful words and support. Hearing stories of how much joy, happiness, honeymoons, anniversaries, and relaxing holidays/vacations Esmeralda has had the pleasure to bring to all our past guests that we review as part of the Esmeralda family as well as new guests that we will have the pleasure of making them part of the Esmeralda experience and our ever-growing family.

Thank you all for your exceptional support and positive vibes.

The Management

7. Westin Still Awaits Insurance Funds for Rebuilding

Although the renovation and restoration of Dawn Beach Club at the Westin Resort on Dawn beach is well underway, through the grapevine we're hearing that Westin only awaits receipt of its payment from the insurance company to move forward with the heavy rebuilding required on that property.

Once the green light is on, we expect to have full details about exactly what's going to be done; when which phases will be completed; and when guests can expect to return to the property.

As always, we will do our best to keep you completely informed about this and all other SXM resort properties.

8. 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 <u>timeshare</u> rental site on <u>everythingSXM.com</u> and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on everythingsxm.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

9. 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

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 29 and 31.

Questions? Call Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 or email <u>Jeff.Berger@skymed.com</u> with the Subject "SkyMed."

Do it <u>before</u> you need it.

10. The Dutch Side Drone Problem: See The Map

About a week ago, there was a short debate on our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u> about flying drones on the Dutch side of the island.

A drone enthusiast who identified himself as a pilot flew his drone from the beach near Royal Palm Resort in Simpson Bay not far from the airport. He said he had obtained permission "from the Tower," a bogus claim since "The Tower" is not involved at all in drone authorizations.

Here, from SXM Airport, is the exact process that must be followed by SXM visitors regarding drones:

Dear Mr. ---,

Thank you for the email. With regard to your question on the restricted area, I have attached a Google map chart of the area that would be off limits with respect to drone operations. In this regard, it is also expressly prohibited to operate the drone within the landing and take-off paths of the arriving and departing aircraft at Princess Juliana International airport. Most importantly the Department want all individuals who will be using their drone during the regatta to do so in a safe and responsible manner that will not cause a dangerous situation to aircraft, participants of the regatta, or the general public.

With your application please include the following; 1. Written request addressed to the Department Head, Mr. Louis Halley; 2. Information on the type and model of the drone; 3. Operations Specifications; 4. Takeoff and landing zone; 5. Proposed route. (chart or Google map caption).

Thank you for your cooperation and please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns. Kind regards, Arsenio Rombley Policy Advisor Sint Maarten Civil Aviation Authority, Department of Civil Aviation and Shipping and Maritime Airport rd #114 Sint Maarten Tel: 1-721-545-0111/ 1-721-545-0113 Email: Arsenio.Rombley@sintmaartengov.org

The photo of the No Fly Zone map is now in the Files area of our Everything SXM Facebook Site.

Our Comment:

We advise anyone who has any intention of flying drones on the Dutch side of the island to simply leave them at home. Princess Juliana SXM airport is in the heart of Simpson Bay. Approaching and departing aircraft may fly quite low over much of Simpson Bay, Cole Bay, Cupecoy, and related offshore areas.

A map created by the airport specifically shows the no-fly zone that exists around the airport and over much of the Dutch side of the island; it is posted in our above-referenced File.

It's our hope that SXM government authorities expand the size of the no-fly zone. Drones have the capability of flying several thousand feet high — which means that a number of departing aircraft fly over Point Blanche when heading for Europe, and others take this route when headed northward toward the US. It is not safe or advisable to fly any drone in the potential path of any aircraft leaving or approaching the island, and that could happen unless the no-fly zone becomes more restrictive.

There have also been tourist Helicopters flying over the nearby French side plus low-flying commuter planes

frequently flying low as they begin their journey to neighboring islands or as they approach SXM Airport for landing.

We know that drone restrictions are a work in progress and we urge all of our readers to leave their drones at home, for the safety of everyone.

11. Contingent of Dutch Police Staying in Place

The Dutch side police have been short staffed for as long as anyone can remember, and they continue to be short staffed today.

Fortunately, about 35 members of the Dutch police, assigned to the island in the wake of hurricane Irma, will remain on SXM until at least the end of August, according to the most recent information received in our newsroom. Several more Dutch police officers are working with Dutch side police at the prison in Point Blanche.

We'll have more about this as needed going forward.

12. Paradise not Utopia: No One Hurt in Villa Robbery

Police-provided details remain sketchy, but the good news about an attempted robbery at an oyster pond villa on the Dutch side is that no one was hurt.

We would speculate that although the robbers were dressed in black and carried weapons, they probably believed that the villa was unoccupied and that its contents might be easy pickings (Speculation). They encountered occupants when attempting to enter the property early one morning last week. They relieved the occupants of some of their possessions and also allegedly stole some things from the villa, police say.

Beyond that, very little was released by police, who are continuing to investigate. As we've said before here, and on our <u>everything SXM site</u>, it's important to keep windows and doors locked when you are staying at any hotel, villa, or timeshare anywhere to help prevent things like this from happening. No place is immune.

For more, please see our crime prevention advice.

13. No Sign of Chikungunya, Zika in SXM

A Canadian travel advisory concerning SXM pointed to the possibility that tourists could run into the Zika virus on SXM, among other places.

However, all of the current news from the island shows no evidence of either Zika or Chikungunya currently present. There have been ambitious programs in place to eradicate mosquitoes, particularly aedes agypti which are "vectors" that can carry these viruses. We will continue to keep you updated on this story.

See the Canada story, next.

14. Canada Cautions Travelers

Tens of thousands of Canadians visit SXM every year. Now that the threat of a WestJet strike no longer exists, passengers are making reservations as usual and coming to the island in increasing numbers.

The government of Canada is providing cautionary information to its citizens concerning SXM. It is not telling its

SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News

citizens not to visit the island, but merely cautioning them relative to Zika and Irma damage. You can see the details right <u>here</u>.

Our opinion is that the story is out of date and flat out wrong. You can conclude the same thing by reading this issue of *SXM Weekly News* and seeing how much progress the island has made. We don't think Canada did its homework here....

15. Spiga Gets Huge Accolades from TripAdvisor

Café Spiga in Grand Case is one of the very best restaurants on the island — and, in our opinion, the very best restaurant of any kind open in Grand Case.

Apparently many of you agree, since TripAdvisor has now bestowed one of its highest honorations on the restaurant.

Here is TripAdvisor's Hall of Fame info on Cafe Spiga.

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.

16. Chesterfield's Reopens

Chesterfield's, a well-known and venerable restaurant between the Dr. A. C. Wathey cruise and cargo facilities and the northern and of Front St., Philipsburg, has now reopened for breakfast, lunch, and dinner to serve its thousands of loyal patrons.

The restaurant took it on the chin from Irma, as did many others. But the good news is that it is now back in operation and ready to welcome you. For more, see <u>here</u>.

17. Le Piment Reopens Thursday

Le Piment Restaurant in Orient Bay reopens this Thursday. More info is here.

18. Le Pressoir Coming Back

News of the death of Le Pressoir Restaurant in Grand Case, as they say, was greatly exaggerated. Melanie and Franck Mear, co-owners, are on the island and are about to begin the arduous task of rebuilding their restaurant, one of the best gourmet French restaurants on the entire island and a winner of uncountable awards.

Dating from the mid-1800s, the home in which the restaurant was located had its kitchen in the back, near the

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beach. Its dining rooms were in the front, facing busy Boulevard de Grand Case.

Nine months ago this week, Irma paid a visit with an 18-foot storm surge around the island, sustained 185 mile-perhour winds, and recorded gusts up to 240 mph with a tornado or two. Grand Case was very hard-hit but a number of restaurants have already reopened and now, Le Pressoir is preparing to be added to that list.

We'll let you know as soon as we have more specifics. More stories are below.

<u>Get Hundreds of SXM Discounts</u> <u>& Invitations to all our Island Parties,</u> <u>exclusively for JMB Website Supporters members:</u> <u>Get, Renew, or Reinstate a JMB Membership Today:</u>

<u>New JMB memberships</u>: One year \$59, but THREE years \$99 and FIVE years \$129 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>

<u>Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships</u>: One year, \$39; THREE yrs., \$79 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

19. Boca Marina Reopens

Boca Marina, on the lagoon alongside the airport runway, has now reopened. It says the location is opposite Bada Bing, but our understanding is that the location has not changed; it's still not far from the western terminus of the lagoon Causeway, on Airport Road.

20. La Rosa Reopens

La Rosa Restaurant, in Maho Plaza, reopens today, Monday, June 4, and is available for reservations.

21. Maho Coming Back to Life

The entirety of SXM, "our" dual-nation island in the Northeast Caribbean, was pummeled by Irma. There is some disagreement about what areas were hit hardest but the fact is that the entire island was nailed, with no areas spared of devastation.

That was then. This is now:

One area that immediately became a ghost town after the storm was the Maho area, normally teeming with activity. Sonesta Maho and Sonesta Ocean Point, along with both sections of the sprawling Royal Islander resort were practically knocked to oblivion by the storm. It was previously announced here in *SXM Weekly News* that Sonesta Maho and Sonesta Ocean Point will be reopening sooner rather than later — see the specifics in our <u>Everything</u> <u>SXM Facebook Site</u>. Those resorts are already accepting reservations.Symbolic of the return of the entire island, the Maho village commercial area is now coming alive again as well. See that story <u>here</u>.

22. Lee's Says It Reopens This Year

The old Lee's Roadside Grill was forced out of its long-time location near the Simpson Bay drawbridge a number of months ago after Lee lost his long battle with his landlord. Although Lee's is gone, don't fret: *it's coming back*, as we've reported several times.

Folks from Lee's are saying that the restaurant has not yet found a new location, but that it expects to finalize one and reopen sometime later this year.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

23. SkipJacks Plans Late-Year Reopening

One of SXM's largest and busiest restaurants, Skipjacks saw its huge lagoon side dining deck virtually destroyed by hurricane Irma. Rebuilding is underway, and owner George has told us that he expects to reopen sometime late this year. If that changes, we'll revise this.

Although seafood lovers are probably Skipjacks biggest audience, this huge restaurant on Simpson Bay lagoon south of the drawbridge offers practically everything including delicious meat dishes and some vegetarian selections. The service is experienced and very responsive and the food is phenomenal.

Definitely put Skipjacks on your list for a future SXM visit.

24. Are Your Favorite Restaurants Open?

As you can tell, early June shows a tidal wave (you should pardon the expression) of restaurants reopening across SXM. Big restaurants, little restaurants, offering all kinds of dining.

But — are your favorite restaurants now open?

Every day, sometimes multiple times per day, we update our complete list of Dutch side and French side open restaurants in the Files area of our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>. We are not publishing that list here because by the time all 306,000 of our readers received it, that information would be obsolete. Having it available on Facebook enables us to update it instantly, every time we hear of changes.

If you have not already become a member of our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>, do so now: it is free as always and provides a tremendous amount of information.

25. Heavy Equipment Arrives on New Super U Site

Some time ago, the French-based chain that owns the Super U grocery store in Marigot bought both of the island's Simply markets — both the very small one immediately East of the French side drawbridge and the much larger Simply market in hope estate between Orient beach and Grand Case.

Not too long ago, the damaged remains of the Simply market in hope estate were completely demolished, and some site preparation work began. Now, heavy equipment has been moved in, building expectations that construction of the repeatedly delayed new Super U market may be about to start.

We have no reason to think that this site will be anything other than a market. The Super U folks in France operate a few different size markets. Their Hyper U markets are apparently the largest, with Super U down a notch or two in size rankings. The property now being developed appears to be significantly larger than the Super U in Marigot, but we don't know whether the new market will be a Super U or a Hyper U. As soon as we find out, we'll let you know.

The largest market on SXM, and the busiest, is currently the new Carrefour market near Philipsburg, formerly Le Grand Marche. It has the complete Carrefour line plus all the other items previously carried by Le Grand Marche.

26. Cost Pro Opening at Fresh Market Site

The long-closed site of the former Fresh Market in Mme. estate, Dutch side, will soon be reopening with the name Cost Pro.

We don't know whether Cost Pro will imitate the US Costco chain like the nearby Cost-u-Less does. Cost-u-Less even carries some of Costco's private label products, including its canned chicken breast.

What we do know is that Cost Pro picked a name that sounds like Costco. We don't know when it will open, but as soon as we hear we'll let you know.

27. Dutch Side Getting Its Initial USD\$130-million

Government sources are telling *SXM Weekly News* that the island's initial USD\$130-million from the World Bank in post-hurricane redevelopment funds will be arriving on the Dutch side shortly.

We've asked for details on the projects for which these funds will be used, and we expect to have that information shortly. We do know that some \$25-million of the total will help fund the new hospital which will ultimately replace the St. Maarten Medical Center. We're not going to speculate what the rest is going for but we will publish that information here in *SXM Weekly News* once we have it.

28. 2018 JMB Members Party #2 Held at Isola

Our second JMB Website Supporters members-only party of 2018 was held last Thursday night at Isola, Marco Ferrante's Italian restaurant next to Hollywood Casino in the middle of the Simpson Bay Resort.

About 50 JMB members enjoyed a buffet of sumptuous appetizers along with a fully stocked cash bar. Most were getting their first look at the completely redesigned restaurant and were seeing its almost completely redone menu for the first time. Photographs of some of our guests and of the buffet are on our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>.

We will be having more JMB members-only Island Parties this year, with still more plan during the 2018-2019 high season. Want to join us? Go to <u>everythingsxm.com</u> and click the "page curl" top right for JMB Website Supporters info. We offer over 300 discounts and other benefits on SXM <u>plus</u>, of course, our parties. Party pictures are also on our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>.

Join, Renew, or Reinstate a JMB Membership Today:

<u>New JMB memberships</u>: One year \$59, but THREE years \$99 and FIVE years \$129 <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>

<u>Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One year, \$39; THREE yrs., \$79</u> http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

29. Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed

Emergency medical evacuations are <u>payable in cash in advance</u> and often cost upwards of \$45,000 -- <u>unless</u> <u>you have a SkyMed membership</u>. 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 <u>SkyMed in action</u>:

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.

<u>All this is why we always recommend SkyMed</u>. 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 <u>www.getskymed.com</u>. 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.

30. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)

CAR RENTALS:

SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News

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:

<u>IZI</u>

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 <u>Island Real Estate Team</u>. 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

31. 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 <u>travel</u> 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, <u>no</u> 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 <u>never</u> 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 <u>here</u>.

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 of your SkyMed purchase and you get an equal number of years added to your JMB membership.

Many Special Features:

a) <u>SkyMed Takes You Home</u>. 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) <u>Pre-existing conditions covered in full</u> after only 90 days for one-year and longer memberships, and immediately for short-term memberships.

d) <u>Guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or health changes</u> (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) <u>Ten-year price guarantee for five-year Ultimate SkyMed memberships</u>: 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 or jeff@jmbcommunications.com (with the subject SkyMed); please include your phone number and area code.

SkyMed Takes You Home®: What else matters?

32. Restaurant of the Week: Emilio's

Everything we see tells us that Emilio's restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Sentry Hill, Dutch side, is the biggest culinary hit on SXM in years.

Norm and Su Wathey, who have been involved in culinary arts on SXM for many years, have called upon culinary Institute of America graduate Dino Jagtiani to direct and manage this restaurant after his own restaurant, Temptation, was totally destroyed by hurricane Irma.

It may well be the case that Dino Jagtiani has won more awards and accolades than every other SXM restaurateur combined. A winter in many celebrity chef events throughout the Caribbean and in North America, Dino's culinary magic is being celebrated daily and Emilio's, which has quickly skyrocketed to the do-not-miss category of fine dining restaurants on the island. Definitely go.Norm, Sue, and Dino have all agreed that Emilio's will be the site of a future JMB Website Supporters members-only island party, most likely late this year or in early 2019. Stay tuned.

Coming soon: Rum and Peas, Wasabi Charlie's, and La Patrona.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured June 4 2018) is the new property run by renowned chef Dino Jagtiani, whose Temptation Restaurant was wrecked by Irma.

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, <u>www.iziristoranteitaliano.com</u> (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 (featured 5/14/18) Avantika is open. SXM's best Thai.

Mario Bistro <u>www.mariobistrot.com/en/</u> 4/30/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

Spiga, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (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, <u>www.sailstmaarten.com</u> (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 <u>www.bigfishsxm.com/</u> (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, <u>www.canoasxm.com</u> (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, <u>http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/</u> (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 permanently. Selena has moved to St. Kitts where her mom, Ilde, and dad, Dario, operate their Ciao restaurant.

Daniel's By The Sea, <u>www.dawnbeachsxm.com</u> (featured 8/14/17) Wrecked by Irma. Closed permanently and for sale.

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 <u>https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338</u> (featured 9/16) Open. **The Boathouse**, <u>https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777</u> 10/3/16 Just got insurance settlement, not yet reopened. **The Hideaway**, <u>http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html</u> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

Stone Restaurant, <u>www.thestonerestaurant.com</u> (featured 9/2/14) Stone is permanently closed.

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

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

Temptation, <u>http://www.temptation-sxm.com/</u> (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 <u>http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com</u> (featured 6/26/17) Wrecked by Irma, closed permanently, for sale.

Island Pizza, <u>http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com</u> (featured 6/19/17) Wrecked by Irma. Closed permanently and for sale.

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 7/31/17) Reopened.

Papagayo, <u>http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php</u> (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, <u>www.jimboscafe.com</u> (featured 6/12/17) Recently reopened.

Vesna Taverna, <u>www.vesnataverna.com</u> (featured 1/22/18). Reopened. Now open Wed through Sunday B/L/D. **Topper's** <u>http://www.sxmtoppers.com/</u> (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 <u>https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm</u> (featured 2/13/17) Closed permanently; see Wasabi Charlie. 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.

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

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33. 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://everythingsxm.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: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml</u>. 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.

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: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>.

Want to rent or buy a week?

2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingsxm.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: <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>

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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. To change your password, click that same link.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>. Your username and password are required.

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

See <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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

To unsubscribe, go here: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>. You **CAN** <u>NOT</u> 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 <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>; 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)

SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News

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

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

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