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Vol. 2, #1157 --- Monday, June 25, 2018  
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



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

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

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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)

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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...**

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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:

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**29** News Stories This Week

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## 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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:**

In emailed versions only.

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

In emailed versions only.

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

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

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- 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. SXM Airport "Special Edition" Due This Week**

Over the last couple of months, we told you in *SXM Weekly News* stories that we had a lot of questions for the top people at Princess Juliana SXM Airport. By the end of last week, we had answers to all of our questions.

Because our conversations with airport officials were so wide-ranging and encompassing, the result will be a major story on SXM Airport and where it is going in the future. *That includes information about the size of the terminal building, what will be in it, new flights from new airlines, and increased flights from some airlines currently serving Princess Juliana.* The story is too big to share space with lots of other stories here in this regular edition of *SXM Weekly News*, so we are preparing a special edition focused solely on SXM Airport in which we'll give you everything in one fell swoop. As of now, we expect that *SXM Weekly News* special edition to be emailed to our 308,000+ subscribers around the world later this coming week. When it starts mailing, we'll announce that on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

If you are a pass-along reader of *SXM Weekly News* — or if you feel your friends would benefit from this upcoming special edition — either subscribe yourself at [sxmweeklynews.com](http://sxmweeklynews.com), or tell your friends about it so they can sign up. Currently, *SXM Weekly News* remains free, as it has been for many years. Our upcoming *SXM Weekly News* Special Edition is one you and your SXM friends will not want to miss.

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**2. Warning: AA Changing Flights, As Usual**

Here's a heads up for anyone who flies American Airlines to and from SXM: AA is doing its thing again regarding flight schedule changes.

With some airlines, when you book a flight you can be confident that your airline will run that flight on the day and at the time you reserved it.

Unfortunately, American Airlines is not one of the airlines you can depend on to do that. In our experience and in the experience of many people who follow our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), American consistently changes its flight schedule, often screwing up passengers' carefully made flight plans.

As we have long suggested, once you make a reservation recheck it several times before the day of your flight — especially if you're flying American Airlines. You can easily be relaxing in a powder room or at a coffee shop in an airport thinking your plane doesn't take off for an hour when in fact it's roaring down the runway with you not in it. American and some other airlines don't always bother to let you know that they made changes, and *that's* why you need to be so vigilant.

See another story about AA in Section 4.

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### 3. Court: Airport, NAGICO Have Four Weeks to Settle

A Dutch Side court last week told SXM Airport and NAGICO, the local insurance company, that they have four weeks to settle the airport's claim against NAGICO.

According to SXM Airport, NAGICO owes tens of millions of dollars to the airport to cover both horrendous damage to the terminal and the cost of business interruption, all of which it says were heavily insured.

Most people don't expect the two sides to come to anything resembling an agreement, though anything is possible. The airport is the heart of the island's stayover tourist business; getting its claims settled quickly, and paying them just as quickly, should have been a tremendously high priority for NAGICO. But here we are, almost 10 months after the storm, and nowhere near enough has happened to enable the terminal to complete its renovations and get back online as quickly as might otherwise be possible.

See story 1; much more on the future of the airport is coming.

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### 4. Dutch Side: USD\$1-billion Shortfall in Recovery Funding

Dutch side projections of the funds necessary to completely rehabilitate the Dutch side of the island exceed expected insurance payments plus the half billion dollars coming from the World Bank by another USD\$1-billion, Dutch side officials said last week.

Somehow, they must fix that gap without taxing the life out of thousands of businesses pummeled by Irma, the most powerful Atlantic hurricane in recorded history.

With hundreds of new condominium units under construction or in planning on the Dutch side, one revenue source that has been mentioned over the years is establishing some kind of real estate tax, which does not currently exist. The lack of real estate taxes is a strong reason for the construction of so many condos on the Dutch side. It's a big attraction to the island's older visitors who see the island as a reasonably priced place to retire. We have *not* heard any specific talk about real estate taxes being considered now — it seems to be an alternative that the island is loathe to accept.

More is [here](#).

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**SUMMER MEMBERSHIP SALE**

## NOW UNDERWAY

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[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One yr. \$33; THREE yrs \$73; \***BEST**\* 6 years \$123

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

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### 5. Airport Radar Being Replaced

The radar installation at the domed tower on the hill near the western end of the main airport runway is essentially being replaced, top to bottom, because of very heavy damage caused by hurricane Irma.

The project is well on its way and is expected to be completed this August. For details, [click here](#).

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### 6. Tropical Waters Cool: Be Careful What You Wish For

Unusually warm waters in the tropical Atlantic during the height of last year's hurricane season gave birth to a number of very potent hurricanes including Irma, the most powerful hurricane ever witnessed in the Atlantic basin.

At the moment, waters in the tropical Atlantic are cooler than they have been in many years, apparently due to a variety of factors. Phil Klotzbach of Colorado State University, renowned hurricane expert, says that if the cooler waters prevail, that could have a dampening effect on the likelihood of severe hurricanes developing this year.

Klotzbach described a number of causes of the cooler ocean waters. In recent years, other meteorologists have expressed concern that millions of tons of melting ice at both the north and south poles and in Greenland could release so much cold water into the Atlantic that they could cause a "nuclear winter" in northern Europe, and other adverse effects. Mr. Klotzbach did not reference any causal relationship between current tropical weather conditions and melting ice caps, however.

The biggest worry for the entire Caribbean — and for coastal cities around the world — is rising oceans, caused by massive ice melting around the world. The still increasing use of fossil fuel worldwide is steering increases in CO2 and the massive ice melts.

[This video](#) about the effects of climate change on SXM was produced more than 10 years ago by "SXM Private Eye"; it applies more than ever now. View it with your sound turned up.

Here's [more](#).

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## 7. Trade Boarding Passes for Free Beer?

A recent promotion by a bar not far from SXM Airport suggests that you bring them your used boarding pass and they will trade it for free beer.

If that were the extent of the offer, we would suggest you avoid it because boarding passes contain a great deal of your personal information and should never be given to strangers. In this case, that's not a worry, however, because the bar's policy is to obliterate the personal information in front of you when they receive your boarding pass. So if you're thirsty, bring your boarding pass and be their guest for free beer. Make sure, however, that it's your *used* boarding pass — not one for flights you're about to take.

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## 8. 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.*

[Download your own NHC Hurricane 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 get.

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 — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

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## 9. Get The ***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)***

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

## **10. Royal Islander Great Bay T/S Owners Can Rest Easy**

Most people outside the world of Royal Islander La Terrasse and Le Plage probably don't know it, but there is a third Royal Islander entity: Royal Islander Great Bay.

As most of our regular readers know, the long-standing Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort was ripped apart by hurricane Irma. It had been upgraded to a place of great beauty following heavy renovations just a couple of years earlier.

After Irma finished with Great Bay, almost the entire resort needed to be demolished — and that happened several weeks ago.

One building was left standing. Ironically, and perhaps poetically, that building housed 13 units specifically used for Royal Islander Great Bay timesharing.

If Royal Islander Great Bay timeshare owners were worried about what happened to their units as a result of Irma and what's coming around the corner, the great news is they no longer need to worry. Although their units were damaged, those damages are being repaired and their units will be upgraded in the months to come. In place of the Great Bay Beach Resort, a Planet Hollywood is to be built — and the Royal Islander Resort at Great Bay will be attached to Planet Hollywood.

Here are more facts supplied to *SXM Weekly News* exclusively by the Managing Director of the property, Keith Graham:

Timeshare will remain at Great Bay Beach Resort

- This is an independent entity and not affiliated to Maho Royal Islander
- We have 13 Timeshare Units; All Timeshare units will be renovated and re-equipped
- We work with RCI and are in constant contact with them
- For 2017 post Irma any Timeshare Member can redeem their week with RCI for an exchange as all Maintenance fees were paid up to date prior to the hurricane
- For 2018 any Timeshare Member can pay their Maintenance Fee and receive an exchange with RCI
- For 2018 any member not wishing to pay their Maintenance Fee just loses the right of their 2018 week and/or an exchange; the same applies for 2019
- *No Timeshare Member loses their investment*

Mr. Graham added, "We have no official re-opening date and obviously as soon as we do we will inform all our Timeshare Members. Anyone calling in has been asked to contact Cathy (cathycarasso@royalislanderclubgreatbay.com) who has handled all questions."

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## 11. For Atrium T/S Owners, Huge "Release" Fees

To the best of our knowledge, at most SXM timeshare resorts should you wish to walk away from your unit or sell it, you fill out a form or two, pay a small fee, and that's that. The fee is usually under \$200

Of course, there are exceptions to this process. Unfortunately, the most glaring exception right now seems to be at Atrium Resort, one of the first timeshare resorts on SXM to reopen after Irma.

A timeshare owner who shall remain nameless reported on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) recently that to walk away from his unit (for which he had already paid his 2018 timeshare maintenance fee), Atrium told him he must pay an additional \$2400. "release" fee.

Reading his post, another timeshare owner told him if there was nothing in his contract concerning such a release fee, then he was not obligated to pay it.

Atrium has had other issues with timeshare owners, both before it became associated with Festiva resorts and since that association took place. Although most timeshare contracts are in English and are between you and an Antillean Corporation, we believe the Festiva contract may be with a US corporation — [Festiva Resorts](#). If you're trying to get out of a timeshare with Festiva Resorts, we invite you to let us know whether they are imposing such a "release fee" on you. We also urge you to put it in social media, especially our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) to let others know. It strikes us that if such release fees are not prominently covered in your timeshare contract, you *should* be under no obligation whatsoever to pay them — and it also strikes us that attempting to impose such fees, if they're not in your contract, is an arrogant, abhorrent, anti-consumer activity. Word spreads incredibly fast around the world thanks to electronic media. No timeshare owner should have to put up with a practice like this. If this applies to you, see a lawyer in SXM. We're going to post names of some lawyers involved in timeshare cases on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

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## 12. Le Petit Hotel Reopens in Grand Case

Le Petit Hotel owner Kristin Petrelluzzi reports that her hotel in Grand Case has now reopened. We visited Le Petit hotel a couple of years ago and checked it out closely, top to bottom. It's a beautiful property, ruggedly built, gorgeously finished, and perfectly situated on pristine Grand Case Bay. It's convenient (steps to the beach), offers parking, and is a very quick walk to many of the best restaurants on the island.

For much more, see [their website](#).

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## 13. L'Esplanade Expects November Reopening

[L'Esplanade](#) on the hill overlooking Grand Case Bay is a gorgeous, beautifully situated smaller hotel that's a quick walk from Grand Case beach and the many restaurants on the northern end of Grand Case Boulevard.

Also owned by Kristin Petrelluzzi, L'Esplanade is scheduled to reopen this coming November. We highly recommend it. For more information, please see [their website](#).

## 14. 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 [everythingxsm.com](#). Check them out: they were heavily revised during each of the last two weeks and will be updated again this week.

## 15. Timeshare Calendar Updated

Our [everythingSXM.com](#) website includes hundreds of 2018 and 2019 condo rentals at timeshares across the island, timeshare weeks for sale, and villa rentals.

We last week updated the Timesharing Calendar on the rentals page of our site to cover all years through 2024; for those of you who wish to plan well in advance.

We'd like to thank Simpson Bay Resort for supplying this calendar, which we believe applies to most resorts. Do check with your resort to verify that these dates apply to you. The link to the calendar is in the first several paragraphs on our timeshare rentals page.

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

## 16. 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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**SUMMER MEMBERSHIP SALE**

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[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: One yr., \$33; THREE yrs., \$73; 6 yrs., \$123  
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

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## 17. Fire at Carrefour Outside Philipsburg

In the early morning late last week, fire did some serious damage to the island's largest supermarket, Carrefour, formerly Le Grand Marché, near Philipsburg.

Fortunately, no one was hurt.

Preliminary observations indicate that the fire may have been caused by a power surge. Smoke belched from the roof at the rear of the building, halting nearby traffic. People with drones nearby sent them over the area, enabling real-time broadcast of what was happening on social media. The video was quickly broadcast on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

We contacted Anil Sabnani, Carrefour owner who after hurricane Irma had worked very long hours along with his staff to get the heavily damaged market reopened as Carrefour just weeks following the storm.

In his note to us, Mr. Sabnani said crews are throwing out damaged goods and cleaning. The store's roof suffered damage as well. Damage assessments continue as investigations into the actual cause of the fire are being pursued.

At this point there is no estimate of a reopening date, he told us. Anil talked of their Herculean efforts to reopen after Irma, then sadly added, "...and now this."

Here is [more](#).

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when traveling. Get it BEFORE you need it --  
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See [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com)

or call Jeff for answers to questions  
during normal office hours, Eastern time:  
508-747-8281

See the [rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits](#)

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## 18. Nine-Hole Golf Course Coming to Loterie Farm

The Mullet Bay golf course on the Dutch Side will get its first significant competition soon when a nine hole golf course, now being built at Loterie farm, opens this coming Fall.

The Mullet Bay course, which has had no competition for decades, has beautiful vistas but it's not the perfectly manicured type of course that North Americans and other visitors have come to expect.

The new course will be built north of the main entrance road to Loterie farm. It will have beautiful views and, of course, the same access to Loterie farm's facilities that other visitors currently enjoy.

Keep informed of the progress on this course through the [Loterie farm website](#).

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## 19. Boatowners: One Week To Get Boats Off Beaches

Hundreds of boats sank on both sides of the island almost 10 months ago when hurricane Irma struck. Although most of them have been removed, some boats do remain on some beaches — and the Dutch Side says it has had enough.

The Dutch Side broadcast a message last week that said boat owners have one week left to remove their boats. No one knows if it was bluster or a reflection of an intent to seize and remove any vessels remaining after the warning expires.

If you see boats on beaches, we welcome you to post pictures of them on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

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). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

See the [rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits](#)

## 20. Le Pressoir Plans September Reopening

The prestigious Le Pressoir restaurant of Grand Case, one of the finest French restaurants on SXM, was feared lost because of heavy damage from hurricane Irma but, as we mentioned a week or two ago, both Melanie and Franck Mear are on the island preparing the restaurant to reopen.

We contacted Melanie last week and she told us that they expect to reopen Pressoir this September, a welcome boost for Grand Case.

Le Pressoir is on the water side of Grand Case Bay, across from the salt pond and near the bridge not far from the LoLos. Across the street is the huge salt press active when the salt pond was used in the production of salt. It was a "pressoir," or salt press, for which the restaurant is named.

## 21. AA Settles Passengers' Lawsuit, Pays USD\$45-million

American Airlines last week agreed to settle a lawsuit brought by some of its passengers alleging collusion among major airlines to limit capacity and set their prices artificially high. Here are [details](#).

++++  
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++++

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[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_xsm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml)

**Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships:** One yr., \$33; THREE yrs., \$73; 6 yrs., \$123  
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

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## 22. Like Shopping? "Koop Avond" Is For You

If you enjoy shopping, this unusual event is bound to be of interest. [Check it out.](#)

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## 23. A Whopper of a Story

Part of the story research for every edition of *SXM Weekly News* involves checking police logs for anything that might be of interest to tourists.

Here's one story from the Dutch side police that we think you will find of interest; it's a Whopper.

"The Detective Department is presently investigating two separate break-ins at the two Burger King Restaurants located in Cole Bay on Welfare road and Union road. These two break-ins took place within a period of five days. At both locations the access was gained through a window in the drive through section.

"Only at one of these locations a small amount of petty cash was missing in addition to the damages to the establishment."

The report did not indicate whether the perpetrator or perpetrators ate anything.

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## 24. A Short Story Answering Your Question, "Why?"

My wife and I were returning from dinner with friends in Grand Case several years back, when my wife suddenly felt hot and had breathing difficulty.

It got worse, when she nearly passed out as we approached Sapphire Beach Club and I immediately asked for an ambulance to be called. She was hot one minute, cold the next.

I thought it might be a stroke because she had trouble talking. The ambulance arrived quickly, walked through what we had for dinner, and after a tortuous hour trying to figure out what had happened, she started feeling better and declined a visit to the hospital.

Only some time later, back home, did we find out she has a severe allergy to a certain cheese -- and that had triggered the entire episode.

Although it was a relief, it was also the first time that I realized *talking* about medical evacuation wasn't enough -- it was about 14 years ago and that scare is what made me buy what I had recommended for the prior two years to others, but had never bought myself. It scared me into realizing that anything can happen to anyone, anywhere,

anytime.

A number of readers have asked me over the years why, exactly, do I talk about SkyMed medical evacuation protection. An emergency trip home on a medevac jet today could easily cost upwards of \$50,000 payable in cash in advance -- *without* SkyMed. No money, no medevac jet home. From overseas, the cost can easily be twice that. Now you know why I've been a bit evangelical about it: it really is a remarkably big deal.

Please allow me a few very quick facts:

First, there is no age limit to buy SkyMed; you can apply at any age. Pre-existing conditions are covered at once on short-term memberships, and after a short 90-day waiting period on annual and longer memberships.

Second, annual and multi-year SkyMed memberships are guaranteed renewable as long as you like, regardless of advancing age or declining health. You just pay your renewals on time.

Third, SkyMed memberships don't get more expensive as you get older or have illness issues; everyone pays the same reasonable rates. SkyMed won't cancel your membership or increase its cost just because you've reached a certain age, either. Keep it until you're 109 if you like.

Fourth, basic coverage "Takes You Home" when you travel in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Available global coverage includes the rest of the world except places on the State Department "watch list" (North Korea, for example.)

Fifth, SkyMed delivers far more than just medical evacuations. Its entire list of all key Features & Benefits is here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

Sixth, JMB Website Supporters members get substantial discounts on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. If you're not a JMB member when you call, we'll sign you up on the spot, if you like, giving you instant access to discounts available only to our JMB Website Supporters members. (More on JMB membership is on our site, [everythingxm.com](http://everythingxm.com); JMB has over 300 SXM discounts and many other benefits.)

For still more info, please see our SkyMed site, [getskymed.com](http://getskymed.com).

We can answer all your questions; call us any day or evening up to 8 pm EDT at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only please). If you're ready to protect yourself and your family, we can take your application by phone -- usually in under 10 minutes.

Please do it now. Everything can change in a heartbeat.

### ***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 Cay 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.

Anything can happen anywhere. Call Jeff at 508-747-8281.

#### To Sum Up - 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 details in our [list of benefits](#)) 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 weekday or evening (EDT) 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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## 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](#)

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## [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*.

6/17/18

## 26. Restaurant of the Week: La Patrona

In the US, "TexMex" is what you get in a "Mexican" restaurant. But don't you want what Mexicans actually crave at the best restaurants in Mexico -- authentic Mexican food?

La Patrona along the waters of Simpson Bay at Simpson Bay Resort is the island's only authentic Mexican Restaurant, where everything is as it is in Mexico's best dining spots. Just go -- it's great dining that will do wonders with every palate.

Remember too that during the day they create pizza, too -- big, generous pies, super-fresh ingredients, and amazing flavors. You will love it...

Try it soon and tell the managers we sent you.

Coming soon: SkipJacks

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 6/25/17; added 1/17) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (6/18/18) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

Rum & Peas (featured 6/11/18) is the newly iconic island hotspot for island flavors and lots more. It's the creation of Sherman Marten (Canoa) and one of his top managers is Laurel Victor (Lulu from Mr. Busbys). Come soon, you will not be disappointed.

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, [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 permanently. 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. Closed permanently and for sale.

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, closed permanently, for sale.

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

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.

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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## 27. Friday July 13 Is Last Chance To Enter Our Giveaway...

Almost over -- you must enter by Friday July 13.

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. Drawing is expected to be held this Summer.

-- 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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## 28. 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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## 29. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our everythingSXM.com website and its hurricane center, and our everything SXM Facebook site — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.

Our sponsorships enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email [susan@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susan@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject JMB Sponsorships. We'll get complete information to you quickly. Summer is here and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases throughout this year and into 2019. Contact us today for more information.

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

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

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

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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).

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 5/25/18)

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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)**

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to **[jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com)** with the subject \*Free Newsletter Recipient,\* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not 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) (Updated 5/25/18)

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