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**Vol. 2, #1167 --- Labor Day Double Issue
Monday, September 3, 2018
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**



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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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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 308,000 people around the world...

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

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http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

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

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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 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 for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership

subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 4/1/2018 11/30/2018 Floater **DIVI LITTLE BAY** Spacious studio-sleeps 5. Located on private peninsula between 2 bays. Beach front unit. Stunning views. Beautiful tiled floors, Huge Jacuzzi in bathroom w/rainbow colors lighting tub while bathing. Huge shower. Mini full kitchen w/large frig, safe, balcony, water sports, 2 high quality restaurants, 4 pools, 3 hot tubs, deli, cafe, gym 2 bars, grocery store & free internet. My rate is half of resort if you booked directly with Divi. 1 mile of pristine beach almost private. Security on site 24 hrs. Beautiful water fall pool on hill. Also has Fort Amsterdam on property. \$900 Teddy 510-601-1154 girlsrule5@earthlink.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 8/15/2017 8/15/2018 Floating **Oyster Bay Beach Resort** Perched on a beautiful coral reef overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the Oyster Bay Marina. Ocean views, white sand beach, and the friendliest staff you can imagine. King bed, furnished balcony, dining table for two, flat-screen TV, DVD player, bathroom with shower, kitchenette with full refrigerator, stove and microwave. Infinity pool, restaurants, exercise facility on premises; beach, marina, and restaurants a one-minute walk away. Located on St. Maarten just south of the amicable French/Dutch divide. Besides being a truly beautiful place to hang out this is a great base camp for day-trips anywhere on the island. 2999 Mid 617-835-1408 mmidwalsh@gmail.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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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.

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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. Tropical Storm Florence Forms Well East of SXM

Tropical storm Florence, the sixth tropical cyclone of the season, formed over the weekend near the Cabo Verde islands in the Eastern tropical Atlantic. Although at this point the storm is not expected to affect the leeward islands, it nonetheless bears watching since it will moisten up the previously dry pathway between the coast of West Africa and the Leewards — perhaps making the trip for future tropical systems one that is more conducive to development.

Forecasters initially said the storm may rev up once it reaches the Bahamas, several days away; but now it may be that the storm misses the Bahamas entirely.

For much more information, see our Weather Center at our main SXM site, everythingSXM.com.

Note: If you are anywhere that's ever impacted by tropical cyclones, please visit crownweather.com and subscribe to Rob's very inexpensive private forecasting service. You'll get critically important info you can use when a storm appears to be approaching. We've subscribed for years and are always checking his site.

2. Next Up: Gordon & Helene

Tropical cyclone Florence is now active in the Atlantic. Two other storms appear to be forming: Gordon, at this writing moving from the Florida Keys into the Gulf of Mexico, and possibly Helene, expected to form off the coast of West Africa this week.

If you want to see all the names on the 2018 list, we posted them in our Weather Center at our main SXM site, everythingSXM.com.

3. End-of-August Weather in SXM

When hurricane Irma struck St. Maarten a year ago this week, it stripped the island completely bare of vegetation. Within a few weeks, the island's typically green foliage began to return and by spring, the island was quite lush.

The Summer has been dry, however, and much of the countryside has turned brown. As we begin to move into a rainier pattern, things should start to lush up. Current forecast information is always available on our main SXM site, everythingSXM.com.

4. Farmer's Almanac: Long, Colder-Than-Normal Winter Coming

Forecasters have not yet used the term brutal to describe next winter's weather, but from the sound of things published in the *Farmers Almanac*, that may be coming.

See the report [here](#).

Bear in mind that this report is from the Farmers Almanac, not the rival *Old Farmer's Almanac*. Meteorologists don't give much credence to these forecasts, but lots of people do.

All we'll say is that Winter in the US and Canada as well as Europe will be far colder and snowier than it will be in St. Maarten. We think the choice of where you want to be this Winter couldn't be clearer, no matter what happens at home.

5. Jet Blue Ups Baggage Fee on Cheapest Seats; Others Follow

Although all its airplanes have a single cabin, JetBlue does offer three different seat pricing tiers to its passengers. If you buy the cheapest seats on JetBlue, you will now pay \$30 to check your first suitcase.

One JetBlue executive said that the cost of jet fuel has increased by 65% in the last year or so, so something had to give to help the airline generate more revenue to cover the increased fuel costs. The first bag is still free for passengers buying seats in the other two JetBlue fare tiers.

Here is [more](#) on the change, which was quickly followed by **Air Canada** and **WestJet**.

End of Summer
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http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$35; 3 yrs. \$73; OUR BEST: 6 yrs. \$129

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

Sale Pricing Ends Soon

6. Worsening Pilot Shortage Promises Effects on Passengers

With many thousands of baby boomer pilots about to retire, the world's airlines are looking to their regional cohorts as a sort of farm system for the next generation of pilots. Legacy carriers in the US don't expect serious problems as a result of the shortage, but not all observers agree.

Pilots with whom we spoke note that many have chosen corporate pilot positions which are lucrative but not necessarily always as frenetic as commercial pilot schedules.

They also cite the huge cost of becoming a pilot -- unless they learn their skills free with one of the armed services. The cost of lessons can be upwards of \$80,000, for which there is no such thing as scholarships or student loans. Worse, initial jobs are often with smaller carriers where the pay is around \$50,000, less than half the pay pilots make on larger commercial carriers.

Side effects of the shortage for passengers of legacy airlines could be delays, cancellations, schedule foul-ups, etc., although some legacy carriers insist that they are prepared and that none of this is likely. We'll keep an eye on this moving forward. This is our second story this year on this topic.

7. AA Resuming CLT-SXM Flights 11/4

American Airlines has announced that it will be resuming its nonstops between Charlotte and SXM effective November 4, just in time for some holiday travel.

8. AA's MIA-SXM-MIA Flights Returning

American Airlines is also resuming its overnight flights from Miami sometime in February, at the latest.

These flights land in SXM late in the evening, staying at the terminal overnight. The same airplane becomes the return flight to Miami early the next morning, enabling passengers to enjoy convenient same-day connections to the rest of the American Airlines domestic system.

For more information, please contact AA; these flights are already posted on the AA.com website.

9. Sunwing To Resume SXM Flights From Toronto & Montreal

Canadian carrier Sunwing plans to resume nonstop flights to SXM from both Montréal and Toronto on February 28. [The flights](#) will be weekly.

Why the airline is not resuming flights earlier in the face of serious demand — and why it isn't introducing frequency greater than weekly — is something only the airline knows. Hopefully, it will revise its plan and resume flights to the airline earlier and with greater frequency.

We'll keep watching this for you.

10. Best Places for Tropical Updates; Hurricane Tracking Chart

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

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

1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.

2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. 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. 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.

11. 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.

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End of Summer Sale Now Underway

12. Update on the Status of Flamingo Beach Resort

This report was written by Yvonne Mendenhall, a Moderator on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). Here it is:

We met in room 7210, Mervin's Flamingo office. They are using that room as the existing sample of the "original" studio and have a room in the 600 building that is being maintained as the sample for Villa rooms.

REBUILDING PROGRESS: Some of the big points: The work is going well, demolition is nearly done. They are a little behind the schedule, but Mervin feels that is not a problem, they will LIKELY catch up and the reasons for the slower progress are good reasons. They also have built in time for most likely delays in their schedule.

They are making more and better construction decisions by taking the time to work with the contractor to do a superb job (not just a good job) of rebuilding. He described some of the improved changes and said Diamond and the insurer are supportive because it should build in lasting improvements.

One thing all of us who survived Irma at Flamingo should be pleased about is they are planning to affix the sliding glass terrace panels to the concrete floor AND concrete ceilings to make them stronger. In so many cases with Irma, the glass survived, but the frames gave away. They are also testing several new concrete mixtures and have test areas already in place for the contractor and insurers and Diamond to observe and evaluate.

Roofing is completed on building 7, but the flat roofs (Villa buildings) are going to be redone from the base up. That is a recent change of plans. They found that the many repairs, made through the years, has offered lots of new "trails" for water to flow and leak into rooms. Rather than "patch it up again" they will remove all the layers of repairs down to the base and add new and improved materials.

One other delay is new complete drawings are being done of all buildings to make future maintenance, care, replacement and changes better controlled. The new drawings will be electronically stored as well as hard copy, so they don't get lost through years of transition. The lack of accurate drawings are slowing the current repair process, so it is wise to avoid such delays in the future and of course having accurate current drawings will help the current reconstruction.

REOPENING HOPES: He is still careful about estimating a reopening because there are so many unknown variables (like weather), but there is HOPE that some of the units may be ready for a "soft opening" at the end of 2019 and the rest following shortly after. You can't bank on that yet!! The next few months should help see into that future a bit better. PLEASE don't make airline reservations until there is more data and a more firm calendar!! We should start hearing more on reopening dates once they really get into the reconstruction --starting soon.

STAFF: Mervin said that during demolition they hired around 4 dozen former Flamingo staff both women and men who worked for them through that process. Now that reconstruction is coming along, they will try to rehire some of the staff to help with the new work. He said many have found other jobs, a few are still working for them in landscaping and upkeep tasks. Some have retired. He believes Harold has retired, but said he will try to get an update. He is also going to see if he can find out something about Remy. Others he said are working at nearby resorts and with contract firms.

DESIGN AND DECORATING: Mervin had a small online "swatch" sampling page someone shared with him that he showed us, he warns it's not final, but they are definitely going with a tropical look! The colors were blues, greens, whites, and some nice wood hues. He said he is confident when we are at the Flamingo we will know we are in the Caribbean!!

Currently he said the room arrangement plans for the studios will include moving the bed to the front section in all units. The kitchen areas may be placed similarly to the existing layout, or they may be located where the bed is now placed. Sitting in room 7210, we could see what he described, but it's hard to imagine in the empty spaces. Likely some of those plans will adjust over the months, so we are just happy to hear it will be open and Caribbean happy! We didn't discuss the bedroom units, but they never had the sliding wall issue blocking owners from the beautiful view.

RESTAURANT: NOW, the restaurant! There will NOT be a structure on the beach. The beautiful beach will be for guests' enjoyment, views, relaxation, playing and sunning! There will be food service, but it will be mostly lighter, grill type choices, beverages, snacks, light breakfasts, etc. Possibly a small area (patio?) for a few tables. And, they are talking about beach-side service!! YAY! Mervin said that Simpson Bay area is where the growth is happening, so an onsite restaurant is not really needed, but good quality and easily available food and beverage offerings for guests and visitors will happen. The pool bar is likely to remain and they are looking at the corner near the stairs as a possible location for the main grill area.

HOWEVER, they are still looking at other possible sites on the property for the food service area(s), so it's not a final decision. Doug and I agreed with him that a "destination restaurant" would struggle with the new competition in this area and is unnecessary with all the new and varied restaurant options already underway down the street on Welfare Road.

People who come to Sint Maarten should get out into the diverse, exciting, interesting and active island to experience this amazing place!!

PHOTOS: All but the last three photos were taken this afternoon. I nearly cried when I went into OUR studio at 7212 and took my "annual photo" of the beach. It is so hard to be in our "happy place" and have it be empty without the liveliness and full happiness we have known for 30 years. Mervin said he walks the two properties at the end of each day, and often feels the same wave of sadness: this place is for people and it is not complete without us!! I feel it every time we walk by, and that's usually twice a day. A tug of the blues!!

DISCLAIMER: I tried very hard to hear Mervin and not put words into his mouth! He is a very positive man, and since this all started when he was a little hesitant about becoming a property construction manager for TWO properties, he has grasped the details and seems to be a great negotiator! Doug and I both felt Mervin is very positive, he watches the weather patterns, local politics and business activities, economics, and the community. I think he's good at seeing the pieces and realizing how it all works together. And, he loves the island!

13. Westin Begins Renovations?

As we've noted here, reconstruction and renovation are underway at the Dawn Beach Club, the timeshare component of the Westin St. Maarten Resort and Casino.

Several weeks ago, we wrote that the Westin was still waiting for payment on its insurance claims so it could finalize plans moving forward.

Although we have not heard from the hotel regarding any changes in its status, Michael Dean and Jim Tate have posted comments and photographs online from which it could be inferred that repair and renovation work is underway at the Westin itself, in addition to the Dawn Beach Club.

We have not been able to confirm this information with our sources at Columbia Sussex or elsewhere. As soon as we have feedback, we'll pass it along. In the meantime, if you view the Westin from Dawn beach, you should expect to see a fair amount of renovation/reconstruction activity in its campus.

14. Timeshare Rentals Listings Updated; See Hundreds

With several timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, Atrium Resort, Simpson Bay Resort, with Oyster Bay Beach now open too -- 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 [everythingSXM.com](#). Check them out: they have just been heavily revised as summer nears its end.. Get your rental weeks now. (Ads on those pages are from JMB Website Supporters members exclusively.)

15. Thanksgiving Week Seminar Coming on Relocating to SXM

Plans are advancing for a JMB Website Supporters members seminar/party on November 20 on SXM concerning both purchasing property on the island and relocating there.

We expect the presentation to be concise but thorough, examining all aspects of the process as they relate to foreigners on both sides of the island.

The tentative location of this event is expected to be a large new restaurant between Philipsburg and Simpson Bay that is getting rave reviews from visitors and locals. So, this event will not only provide you with a great deal of useful information from our real estate partners, Arun Jagtiani's **Island Real Estate Team**, but at the same time it will also give you a great initial visit to this new, top-of-the-line restaurant set in a beautiful location. The date is expected to be November 20, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We are working on all the details now.

As soon as everything has been finalized, we'll formally announce this event to our JMB Website Supporters

members. Like most of our island events, we expect this seminar/party to be a members-only event however at this point we expect to encourage our members to invite some of their friends who also are interested in relocating to SXM to come to the seminar with them, provided all are pre-registered. *There may be a charge for nonmembers to attend.*

When we formally announce the event by email to JMB Website Supporters members, we'll also announce initial registration. A similar announcement will also be published here in *SXM Weekly News*, although this event is not expected to morph into something public. If you are interested in attending this event or any other JMB members-only parties, we strongly suggest you join JMB Website Supporters and take advantage of the hundreds of discounts and benefits it offers. You can learn more by clicking the page curl on the homepage of our main site, everythingSXM.com.

In answer to many questions that have already been posed, we do expect this event to be recorded, and we hope to make that recording available to all JMB Website Supporters members through our members-only secret website. Attendance will be limited, so after you receive the details from us, we urge you to preregister at once.

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

**End of Summer
SALE Underway!
Act Today!**

**Get 300+ SXM Discounts,
Many Other Island Benefits,
& (P. S.) Invitations to Members-Only Island Parties:**

**Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership
Today:**

New JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$44; 3 yrs. \$79; BUT GET OUR BEST OFFER: 6 yrs. just \$139.

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

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$35; 3 yrs. \$73; BUT GET OUR BEST OFFER: 6 yrs. \$129

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

17. SkyMed On Sale for \$1.35/day for Family Peace-of-Mind

Just \$1.35/day* for SkyMed's BEST Peace-of-Mind Medevac Protection:

Protect All Your Upcoming Travel Worldwide

with SkyMed, the

Medical Evacuation Membership Program

that TAKES YOU HOME®

to doctors and hospitals you know & trust

when you become critically ill or injured

when traveling. Get it BEFORE you need it --

like fire insurance.

See www.getskymed.com for details,

or call Jeff for answers to questions

during office hours, EDT:

508-747-8281

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

***Applies to annual & multiyear SkyMed memberships. ExPat membership pricing differs.**

Global coverage is included in Ultimate memberships, and it's an inexpensive option on annual memberships.

Annual memberships "Take You Home" when you travel in the USA, Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage includes the rest of the world except places on the U. S. State Department Watch List.

18. First Anniversary of Irma, 9/6

All the major land-falling hurricanes conjure up pretty terrible memories. Katrina. Andrew. Carol. Sandy. Luis. Harvey. Maria. Georges. And countless others.

Despite thousands of deaths and hundreds of billions of dollars in damage, these storms all have one thing in common: they were not as powerful as hurricane Irma, the most powerful Atlantic hurricane ever — and only the second most powerful tropical cyclone in recorded world history. (The most powerful tropical cyclone was a super typhoon a number of years ago which had sustained winds of 190 mph, just 5 mph more than hurricane Irma.) Irma also brought with it a storm surge estimated at upwards of 18 feet and gusts recorded up to about 240 mph, the same speed as many super-powerful tornadoes.

Although the island has made a remarkable recovery, there is quite a lot of PTSD there because of the personal nightmares shared by so many. The first anniversary of the storm is this coming Thursday, September 6. We'd like to suggest that all of our readers observe a moment of reflection at 9:06 a.m. that day in reference to the lives lost and the lives changed forever during that terrible storm.

If you are interested in looking back at some of what happened, you can go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) and use the search window to find posts about Irma. You can also click Photos on the home page and you'll find literally thousands of Irma pictures and some videos taken in the days, weeks, and months following this historic storm's attack on SXM. You can also see all editions of *SXM Weekly News* in the months following the storm in our SXM Weekly News PDF archives.

The people of SXM have survived an epochal event. We all pray that nothing remotely similar visits the Caribbean again.

For more posts on how this anniversary will be observed on SXM, please check our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) several times this week.

19. "Cruise Critic" Reviews SXM a Year After Irma

Cruise Critic, one of the most popular sites for cruisers, just published a very well done article about SXM's recovery from Irma. See it [here](#).

20. Baie Rouge's Chez Raymond Closed and Bulldozed...

At the beginning of last week, after *SXM Weekly News* had already been transmitted, a troop of gendarmes surrounded the Chez Raymond beach bar that has been a landmark on Bay Rouge for decades and ordered it shut down. A few days later bulldozers arrived and the place was demolished.

As if to add an exclamation point to all this, the bulldozers even destroyed the stairs which enabled people to get to the beach easily. Beyond that, the parking lot was fenced off and people were told to park on the street, a remarkably bad idea on the curb of a busy highway through the lowlands from both a safety and security perspective.

A firestorm ensued. It seems that much of this was private activity — including the demolition which was not initiated by, condoned by, or conducted by the French side government. The firestorm resulted in the removal of the fence late last week, enabling people once again to use the parking lot.

The *Soualiga Post* published the following article shortly after Gendarmes seized the property:

"Restaurant on Baie Rouge Operating Illegally"

English auto-translation:

A new report in flagrance of the illegal operation of a beach restaurant in Baie Rouge was made Sunday, August 18 by the gendarmes," announces the parquet floor of St. Martin. The operating equipment of the establishment has been seized.

The operation took place within the framework of the committee of environmental and urban policies (COPOLENU) of the Northern Islands, which "aims in particular to allow the reconstruction in the legality and the respect of the rules of town planning".

The investigation is in progress. "The prosecution will soon indicate the nature of the proposed criminal prosecution against the operator and his daughter, who are in the process of hearing," said the deputy prosecutor Monday morning in a statement. "The farmer and his daughter occupy without right or title, a private property, where they have done work without a building permit, in a non-buildable area according to the local POS and with strong constraints of the PPRN (exploitation thus irregularizable), without declare the staff nor pay taxes and charges corresponding to the turnover, and without a license to sell alcohol ", adds the floor.

This same restaurant had already been closed in December 2012 following a control of the veterinary services. Its up to standards and work in the kitchen had allowed its reopening by the prefecture.

However, it remained illegal on the beach. In fact, the restaurants operating in Baie-Rouge must not request a temporary occupation permit (AOT) from the Collectivité (as requested in 2012 from the operator) but from the Terres Basses association. However, the association has not issued any authorization.

The French Side President, Daniel Gibbs, recently said this:

On the fallout from the Baie Rouge eviction affair, he stated: "The general issue of private beaches is legal and must be addressed at the source. There are two ways of doing this. I have chosen to deal with the issue in depth, because we are agreed that beaches of this territory must be accessible to all.

"On the problem of the Lowlands in particular, I met both parties. Each was able to explain to me his point of view and his difficulties. I am listening, but everyone knows that the Collectivité cannot intervene in a court decision. As far as access to the beach is concerned, we made sure with the Préfète that the parking lot was reopened. That is done and everyone can enjoy the beach.

"As for beach management in general, I am working with Préfète Sylvie Feucher to find sustainable solutions and I can tell you solutions exist to ensure that all beaches – public or private – are promoted and accessible to the public. At the same time, I am also committed to ensuring that public order and current regulations in force are respected on our beaches. I am speaking in terms of occupation of the public domain.

"As President, I want to send a message: this is not a time for division, but for unity. My role as president is to maintain calm and social peace. Believe me, St. Martin doesn't need division. And I condemn any political manoeuvring that exacerbates tensions unnecessarily and obscures the real debate. Let us ask the real questions, what is best for St. Martin?"

"We are rebuilding our territory, we know that a new society will emerge from reconstruction. What is at stake today? The answer is to give St. Martin all the tools possible so that its tourism can shine, because we must never forget tourism is our first economic resource."

Editor's Note: This story is far from over. Please see the following two stories for much more on why this happened and where we go from here.

21. MJP Rails Against "Illegal" Demolition

Despite the article in the *Soualiga Post*, it wasn't clear until a few days later that the seizure and destruction of the property did not involve the French side government. In fact, MJ P alleges that the seizure and the demolition were in fact both illegal. Here is [that story](#).

22. Baie Rouge Parking an Obstacle Course - Briefly

As a result of what could properly be called now the *Bay Rouge Fiasco*, the victims who got the worst of this appear to be beachgoers.

All French side and Dutch side beaches are free and open to the public, even though it doesn't always seem that way. But after Chez Raymond was bulldozed by private interests (see above), a fence was put up at the edge of the road preventing vehicles from parking in the parking lot. Worse, the stairs down to the beach had also been bulldozed, making foot travel onto the beach problematic for many people.

For a while last week, people were parking on both sides of the road and walking across to get permission from Guards to walk through the empty parking lot and down the hill where the stairs had been. Guards posted at the gate shrugged their shoulders when asked whether beachgoers would be accosted for going on what was being described as private property. (It isn't; all beaches on both sides of the island are public. See story #20 above for French Side President Daniel Gibbs' comment on this.)

Toward the end of the week, people were again allowed to park in the parking lot. If you go to Bay Rouge over the next several weeks, take your own drinks and snacks. We'll continue to monitor this for *SXM Weekly News* readers.

23. Multihull Challenge, Coming in Feb., Offers Free Weighing, Measuring

A couple of weeks before the Heineken Regatta early next March, a new Regatta will occur on SXM: the Multihull Challenge.

The Challenge is working to grease the skids for a significant number of boats to participate. Now, it has announced that it will offer free weighing and measuring, saving boat owners a significant amount of money.

That story is [here](#).

For much more information about the Multihull Regatta [please look here](#). Its dates are February 8 to February 10.

24. Irma Dealt a Severe Blow to SXM Nature

SXM Nature Foundation and associated organizations issued this rather [stunning report](#). (Via *Saint Martin News Network*.)

25. Dump Project Starts; Objective, Solve Dump Problems

Emil Lee, the SXM Dutch side government official responsible for public health matters and some related areas, has launched a project designed to stabilize and improve — and ultimately eliminate — the problems at the Dutch side dump.

For those who haven't been following this story, the dump is actually a mountain of trash behind Philipsburg and it's one of the first things tourists notice as their ships approach Great Bay harbor and the Dr. A. C. Wathey Cruise and Cargo facilities.

Fires at the dump have increased in frequency in recent years and have been spewing noxious smoke and odors over nearby residential areas and businesses. Many people have been clamoring for a solution. The first step in that direction is to stabilize the trash so it stops combusting. This story relates findings so far: [what's being done](#) seems to be a reasonable first step.

26. AA's *Destination* 2018-19 In-Flight Magazine Features SkyMed

The 2018-2019 edition of American Airlines *Destination* in-flight magazine contains a very informative article regarding SkyMed, the emergency medical evacuation membership program that takes its members home when they become critically ill while traveling. (SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of *SXM Weekly News*.)

Written by seasoned freelance writer and SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger, who also edits *SXM Weekly News*, our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), and [everythingSXM.com](#), the article is focused on informing American and Canadian tourists about key considerations in acquiring emergency repatriation to the US and Canada if and when the need arises.

The 2018 edition of *Destination* was originally intended for distribution late last year, as usual. But because of the devastation caused by hurricane Irma, the 2018 edition was combined with the 2019 version. The combined edition debuts in a few weeks. Edited by long-time *Destination* editor Kerry Biddle Chadwick, who lives on SXM, the issue features great articles regarding many interesting island topics.

27. Stay Away from Sea Turtle Nesting Sites

Thousands of years before SXM became a mecca for tourists seeking an escape from winter, its beaches were birthing places for significant numbers of now endangered sea turtles.

The turtles lumber onto the beaches, lay hundreds of eggs in holes they dig, cover the holes, and after possibly collapsing for a bit, they lumber back into the ocean and head away.

Days later, the turtle eggs have hatched and the turtles instinctively dig themselves out and head for the water. As youngsters, their lives are not easy since predators consider them a tasty snack. As they get older, they can be caught in fishing nets, hit by boats (which also are leading causes of mortality for whales), or may be otherwise harmed by human presence. *If you see any adult or hatchling sea turtles on any SXM beach, for their safety please stay away. They are seriously endangered and need your help allowing nature to take its course.*

28. Nature Foundation Concerned About Kim Sha Beach

Conditions at Kim Sha Beach in Simpson Bay aren't what they should be, according to the Nature Foundation which

says it has serious concerns about the status of the beach. Here is [that story](#).

29. El Tigre Being Rebuilt: Remember?

If you've been visiting SXM for decades (instead of just a few years), you may very well remember the catamaran El Tigre (the tiger), a relatively small craft that was immensely popular with tourists and had El Tigre plastered on its orange hulls.

El Tigre hasn't been around for years, so many people reasonably assumed it had either been sold for scrap or that it sank in one of the many storms that has hit the island over the last few decades.

Guess what: El Tigre is being rebuilt. We don't know what a realistic ETA for it might be, or whether it has any hope of competing with many of the larger, more sophisticated boats now in service. But in any case, it will be interesting to see this boat which will be an old friend to many long time island visitors. Here is [the story](#).

By the way: It is in Barbados.

30. International Rum Day Celebrated at Toppers Distillery

Topper's Rhum Distillery celebrated International Rum Day in a big way by hosting Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin *JMB Website Supporters Summer 2018 Island Party*. The well-attended cocktail party was filled with great music, food, fun, and of course rum.

This party was all about the rum (French spelling of "rum"). Guests were greeted at the door with a welcome drink called "Rhum for Your Life" which was Topper's entry into the post Irma Category 5 Cocktail Competition. Guest were invited to sample all of six Toppers' commercial rums as well as some of their 60 specialty rums which are only available at the distillery, such as Nelson's Blood, Jalapeño Lime, Dutch Drop, Dark Chocolate, Bonfire, Passion Fruit and Soursop to name a few. Guests were given mini-tours of the distillery by tour manager "Crazy Dave" Herbert, and a discount certificate toward their full-scale distillery tour.

The food was catered by Topper's Restaurant & Bar. Chef Kimar prepared ribs, chicken kebabs, fish skewers and crudités which guests had fun dipping in their choice of six delicious and unique rum infused sauces some of which are available for sale at the distillery.

The Topper's family also made a heartwarming toast to Renee Adams-Pereira who was a dear friend and worked for the distillery. Renee sadly lost her battle to cancer just the night before.

Topper's Rhum, a truly locally made product, is a world-class premium rum that is handmade, bottled, and packaged with precision right here in Cole Bay, St. Maarten. Topper's Rhum uses only all natural premium ingredients and no preservatives. They are committed to producing the world's best tasting rum and flavored rum spirits using the highest standards of quality. They are re-inventing rum by continually innovating and delivering unique products to their customers worldwide. The company is very environmentally conscientious and well known for their signature reusable swing-top bottles.

This official St. Maarten rum is the only spirit distilled and exported from St. Maarten. They currently export to six countries and over 21 states in the USA and are the official rum of the Dutch Army. By constantly expanding overseas, they are also notably promoting St. Maarten internationally. In addition, the products are sold online to almost anywhere in the world. Topper's Rhum has been awarded 24 medals given by the most prominent rum tasting contests in the world and recently won *USA Today's* 10 Best Caribbean Rum Distillery Award.

Topper's Rhum Distillery is one of the top unique places to visit on St. Maarten, according to the St. Maarten Tourism Bureau. They are open from 9:00am – 4:00pm Monday – Friday and 9:00am – 12:00pm on Saturdays for free rum tasting and shopping.

Tours are available for \$20 at 10:00am and 4:00pm Monday – Saturday by calling 721-520-0008 or booking online at www.toppersrhumtours.com and Sundays are available by appointment only.

For more information about the Topper's Rhum Distillery please contact the Topper's Rhum Press Officer at: press@toppersrhum.com or visit the website www.toppersrhumtours.com

Editor's Note: Sorry you missed this party? We are planning more at Toppers Rhum Distillery -- for JMB Website Supporters members only -- during the coming high season. Get invitations to all our parties, year round, plus over 300 SXM discounts and other benefits. Join JMB Website Supporters today. See more just below story 32 in this issue.

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. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

31. Are You Military?

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

Visit everythingsexm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership. We'll also need a DD214 with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you.

32. No Age Limit To Join SkyMed

Many people have wrongly assumed that SkyMed medical evacuation memberships are limited to people who are of a certain age, and that older people shouldn't apply. That information is wrong: *there is not and there has never been an age limit to join SkyMed*. And, applying for membership costs you nothing unless you are accepted, as most people are.

We can answer your questions and help complete an application by phone for you in less than 10 minutes. The questions we ask are brief and straightforward, including birth date, medical conditions, recent hospitalizations, and your prescriptions. It's not complicated and it's not time-consuming — but ***it's also something you do not want to put off. Like fire insurance, when you need it you need it — so get it before you need it.***

Contact our office at 508-747-8281 during normal office hours Eastern time and we'll be happy to return your call. Or, just email us at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with your phone number and time zone and we'll still be happy to call you back at a mutually convenient time. We've helped more than 4500 people get SKYMED; *we can help you get protected against the enormous cost of an emergency medical evacuation quickly and easily and at a very reasonable cost.* Call us and we'll show you how.

More stories follow.

End of Summer

SALE Underway! **Act Today!**

Get 300+ SXM Discounts,
Many Other Island Benefits,
& (P. S.) Invitations to Members-Only Island Parties:

Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership
Today:

New JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$44; 3 yrs. \$79; BUT SELECT OUR BEST OFFER: 6 yrs. just \$139.

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

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$35; 3 yrs. \$73; BUT SELECT OUR BEST OFFER: 6 yrs. \$129

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

33. About Our SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway

Entries are now locked. We'll soon set a giveaway date, expected to be in the next few weeks:

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.)

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

34. "WHY?" You Asked; Here's the Answer

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://www.everythingsxm.com); JMB has over 300 SXM discounts and many other benefits.)

For still more info, please see our SkyMed site, 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, at any time. Call Jeff at 508-747-8281 during business hours EDT.

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 or jeff@jmbcommunications.com (with the subject SkyMed); please include your phone number and area code.

SkyMed Takes You Home®: What else matters?

35. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Next Level Car Rental (just joined)

Starlite Car Rental (Belair Resort; just joined)

Sax Car Rental

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](#)

Art of Time (new)

Artistic Jewelers (new)

Alpha Jewelers (new)

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:

Azure Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Baker's Suites

RESTAURANTS:

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

Melange (new; Port de Plaisance)

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*.

Updated 9/3/18

36. Use Our Weekly News Archives

Our recently updated *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published in the last four years, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and our *SXM Airport Special Edition*, which has a great deal of useful future information on what's going to happen at the airport.

Check it out [here](#).

37. Got SXM Questions? Here's Where The Answers Are

Check out our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) and our main SXM website, everythingxsm.com.

38. Restaurant of the Week: Pineapple Pete

Pineapple Pete is one of those restaurants that has been around forever because it gives you dependably delicious food, generous servings, and reasonable prices.

Although their menus include something for everyone (at lunch and dinner), they're perhaps best known for their Lobster. It isn't unusual in season for you to see the waitstaff exiting the kitchen in a conga line carrying lots of lobster dinners.

Just go; say hi to top guy Pierre "Pete" Ferland, the ex-Canadian who got out of the cold decades ago and never looked back. He works hard to keep Pineapple Pete popular and he's the reason they've won a slew of Everything St. Maarten Awards of Excellence.

P. S.: You'll be back.

Coming soon: **Domino's**.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 9/3/18) Reopened and running as usual. Great food, busy place!

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 8/26/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 8/20/18, see story 20) 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.

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 7/2/18) Skipjack's main dining deck overlooking the lagoon was wrecked by Irma and is being rebuilt. They should be open late 2018.

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). Limited hours this time of year.

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.

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

Spiga, 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. **Closed for the season until October.**

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

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

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

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

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15) Reopening in September.

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.

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

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

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 1/22/18). Reopened. Now open Wed through Sunday B/L; dinner reopens in October (annual closing for Dinner).

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

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

The following restaurants are all closed permanently thanks to Irma.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 5/1/17). Big Fish has closed but will reopen later this year; different ownership expected and probably a new menu / name.

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

Canoa, 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 2019 or later.

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 (featured 8/14/17) Wrecked by Irma. Closed permanently and for sale.

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

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

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. Sold by Lal to new owners, but same kitchen staff and menu.

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.

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

Bylbos, Simpson Bay Not 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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39. 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 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.

40. Own a SkyMed Annual? Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate

Do you own a SkyMed Annual membership? For less than you'd spend over 10 years for a SkyMed Annual, we can upgrade your membership to Ultimate, give you additional highly valuable benefits, and guarantee your outlay won't change for 10 years (applies to five-year SkyMed Ultimate plans.) Call us for details. We can upgrade you regardless of health or age and get you more for less. Our phone: 508-747-8281, open regular business hours weekdays (EDT).

See the [complete list of SkyMed Features and Benefits for all their medevac memberships here](#).

41. Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban?

The Dutch Side parliament is considering it. There's much more to do, but this would be a huge start.

42. Iconic SXM Figure Rodger Boutelle Passes Away

Rodger Boutelle, widely known for both his Paradise Found SXM real estate business and for his former "Last Mango in Paradise" Jimmy Buffett stores in Philipsburg and at SXM Airport, has passed away. Was very sad to hear it on Saturday. Used to visit "Last Mango in Paradise" often. Many pictures were taken of the shark with the six-pack-abs (shark statue) that was in front of Last Mango. An icon of SXM, sadly, is gone.

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

***2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale* are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.**

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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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 / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See www.everythingsxm.com/secret

.Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml (Updated 5/25/18)

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