

From JMB/SXM Weekly News 9/10/18: Hurricane Isaac Approaches; Irma's 1st Anniversary; Airport Status; Dawn Beach Club; Planet Hollywood; Thanksgiving; Restaurant Updates; Rainforest Adventures; Suntans & Reefs; [35 News Stories]

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**Vol. 2, #1168 --- Monday, September 10, 2018**  
**News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**



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[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

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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](http://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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Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership

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

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[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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-- *Solemnity, Determination Mark Irma's First Anniversary*

-- *A Look Back: On-Island With Irma, Story #1*

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- ***Dawn Beach Club Reconstruction Update***
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- ***Reservations Surging for Next Winter***
- ***Reopened Cost-U-Less Getting Rave Reviews***
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- ***KonTiki, Kakao Reopening in November***

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- ***A Closer Look at Emilio's***
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- ***SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic***

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Please see our [complete Table of Contents](#) below.

## **35 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

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

**In live issues only.**

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

**In live issues only.**

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

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

## Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

### "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.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingxsm.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\***  
\*\*\*\*\*

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. Isaac Approaching Central Lesser Antilles**

Tropical Storm and soon-to-be Hurricane Isaac was 1470 miles East of the central Lesser Antilles Sunday as this story was written. It's moving West and was forecast to cross the central Lesser Antilles next Thursday.

If Isaac continues as currently forecasted, it will be roughly 200 miles south of SXM when it moves through the Antilles. But Rob Lightbown, head of [crownweather.com](http://crownweather.com), the widely respected tropical weather experts, warned against complacency, saying Isaac could still throw tropical storm conditions at SXM late this coming week.

It's still too early to be certain that the storm's course won't wobble and change, and that its intensity -- currently expected by the NHC to be a Category 1 hurricane when it crosses the Antilles -- won't also change. For the latest information on Isaac, Florence, Helene, and

future storms, see our weather center at our main website, everythingSXM.com, or go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) which will continue to have updates on the movements of these and other storms during this busy hurricane season.

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## 2. Airport Terminal Rebuilding On Schedule

As we previously reported, the first floor of SXM Airport is expected to resume usage as the place where both flight arrivals and departures are handled effective during this November. Once that happens, work to complete repairs and renovations on the second floor will accelerate.

The first part of the airport's major renovations was the repair and strengthening of the roof, badly damaged by hurricanes Irma and Maria. That has been completed. Mold remediation throughout the first floor of the terminal is now underway and is proceeding on schedule, an Airport spokesperson said this week.. All of this is very good news for passengers as well as everyone else on the island.

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## **End of Summer SALE**

**\*\*\*ENDS SOON\*\*\***

**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; OUR BEST OFFER: 6 yrs. just \$139.**

**[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.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>**

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## 3. Best Places for Tropical Updates; Hurricane Tracking Chart

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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## **4. 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.**

**Keep  
SXM Weekly News**

**Coming to You  
Every Week.**

**JOIN JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS NOW.**

**You'll get 300+ SXM discounts &  
other benefits AND help support Weekly News.**

**Click the page curl at  
everythingsexm.com  
to join!**

***End of Summer Sale Ends Soon***

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## **5. Details on SXM's Forthcoming Planet Hollywood**

Planet Hollywood will soon start construction of its new 450-room luxury resort and casino on the site of the former Sonesta Great Bay Beach Hotel at the western end of Great Bay in Philipsburg.

One of the interesting things about this project is that it will include a conference center. That would be good for the island, especially so for Philipsburg, which lacks such facilities.

The entire project appears to be targeted at a younger, more affluent demographic, something else which can bring substantial benefits not only to the island, but also to downtown Philipsburg. That particular demographic would also be interested in the [Rainforest Adventures facilities](#) at the Emilio Wilson estate not far away.

Here are three stories about this project. The [first](#) is from a news site on the island; the second is from [travel week](#) and the third is from [casino beats](#).

We know there will be lots of amenities here as well as images of what the property will look like once it is ready to go. When that information becomes available, we'll tell you here and we'll also publish pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

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## **6. Dawn Beach Club Reconstruction Update**

As we reported here last week, reconstruction is underway at the Dawn Beach Club and some work appears to be in progress in the same complex at the Westin.

You'll find lots of pictures and brief explanations of what's going on at the Dawn Beach Club [here](#).

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## **7. 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.)

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## 8. 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.

The tentative location of this event is expected to be a large new restaurant not far from Philipsburg 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 that process is complete, we will 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 also be a charge for nonmembers to attend.

As soon as everything has been finalized, we will email JMB Website Supporters and 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 find out more by clicking the page curl on the homepage of our main site, [everythingSXM.com](#). A Sale is currently underway but it ends soon.

In answer to many questions that have already been posed to us, 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.

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### SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

## 9. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

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

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

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

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

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

**End of Summer SALE**

**ENDS SOON!**

**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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)**

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

**10. SkyMed On Sale for \$1.35/day; Global Coverage Available**

**Just \$1.35/day\* for SkyMed's BEST**  
**Family 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.**

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**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  
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.**

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## **11. Solemnity, Determination Mark Irma's First Anniversary**

The people who lived through hurricane Irma on SXM all have reported a spectrum of harrowing experiences. Doors exploding off buildings. Windows disappearing. Winds screaming with unimaginable noise and ferocity. Cars floating away in the storm surge. Waves washing away the first floor of a number of buildings, then breaking directly into the second floor. Boats torn apart, sometimes with half sinking the other half on land. Some boats wound up tossed atop buildings.

All that happened a year ago last Thursday, September 6, 2017. There was great solemnity to the anniversary of that day across SXM as those who lived through Irma remembered others who did not survive it — and simultaneously remembered their personal ordeals surviving what went down in history as the most powerful tropical cyclone in the Atlantic basin ever, with sustained 185 mile-per-hour winds with 240 mile-per-hour gusts.

Both French side president Daniel Gibbes and Dutch side President of Parliament Sarah Wescot-Williams delivered the statements that follow:

### **Ms. Wescot-Williams:**

*A year of initial shock, disbelief, desperation, hope, resolve and determination is behind us. The wrath of hurricane Irma is still fresh on our minds and never more so than right now, in the peak of the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season. There are daily reminders everywhere of the furor with which that 2017 hurricane swept over our island.*

*The initial shock, coming out of the worst Atlantic hurricane on record, made way for any and all of the feelings described above.*

*Through it all, however, the heroic, neighborly and selfless deeds during and following hurricane Irma continue to remind us that during that disaster we knew no differences, no class, no creed. We had no time for pettiness, too busy trying to pick up the pieces. A year later, much of this has waned and the frustration of a recovery at a snail's pace has set in.*

*Let us, in reflecting back on Irma to muster strength for the continuation of the long recovery process, remember that we have come a long way despite so many obstacles and setbacks and despite the tedious process of accessing much needed funds to aid in this recovery. Through it all, the resilience of the St. Maarten people has again shone through and despite our skepticism at the pace of recovery, we continue day after day to do our part.*

*Construction is booming on St. Maarten; businesses are reopening, our airport is busy, people are returning, investors are inquiring, and there is that sense of "better times ahead". However, this picture would not be complete without addressing our challenges going forward. The challenges, some of which have been exacerbated by the passage of Irma. Foremost on our minds at this time should be the readiness to face any potential threat during this current hurricane season. With the best forecasts in the world, weather predictions remain just that, predictions and to use an old adage "it takes only one". We yet have to assess how Irma's impact was what it was, how some homes and buildings withstood and other seemingly stronger built ones were leveled to the ground.*

*Without rehashing past mistakes, we must nevertheless name them and address them resolutely going forward. Shelters, command structure, state of emergency, French-Dutch cooperation during emergencies, security of persons and properties, distribution of aid, accessibility, primary needs and communication.*

*With the reconstruction of our beloved country well on its way, we need to focus on the wellbeing of our citizens and their needs, chief amongst which are housing, jobs and health.*

*The past year has not been easy and there is still a long way to go, but we have come this far....despite. By the grace of God we will weather this season too and continue the reconstruction of St. Maarten, making us better prepared and equipped for future threats to our livelihood, our environment and our development as a nation. May God bless our nation and keep us safe from harm.*

### **Mr. Gibbs:**

*On this sad birthday date, my thoughts go to Irma's victims and i wish to express my vows of courage and friendship to families and relatives of people who have lost their lives. I also think of all those who have suffered the damage caused by this terrible hurricane.*

*I wish to greet with the greatest respect those and those who have spared neither their hours nor their efforts in the aftermath of the cyclone, to help their next and exit Saint-Martin from the dramatic situation in which our island has been plunged into The space of a few hours on September 6th.*

*I would also like to thank, from the bottom of the heart, all saint-martinoises and all saint-Martinois for the resilience and patience they have shown every day for a year.*

*The time of reconstruction will be progressive, we will not give up anything with my team to raise st. Martin and build him a beautiful future.*

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## **12. A Look Back: On-Island With Irma, Story #1**

During the next several weeks, we'll be publishing some memories of 9/6/17 with Irma, experienced by several of our readers. The first is from Yvonne Mendenhall:

### **Irma, the "other woman"**

*More than a year in the making, plans for our 5 day 50th wedding anniversary celebration were complete. Island tours, restaurant and catered meals booked, guests invited, and accommodations reserved, even the guest "welcome" goodie bags were assembled tagged and ribboned. We arrived in SXM at the end of August, managing details.*

*The event was taking place at the Wittenblauw villa with overflow guest rooms reserved next door at the Flamingo (our longtime home in SXM). We arrived early and were staying in our studio at the Flamingo until move-in at the Wittenblauw. Our daughter from the US, a*

former chef, joined us early to share her culinary and event skills.

Coming from as far away as British Columbia, Tucson, and San Miguel Allende, guests would begin their travels to SXM on September 4. There were reports of a possible hurricane, but early on, like MOST hurricanes, SXM would probably escape a hit. Sadly, each day, reports intensified along with one of the strongest of the storms, Irma.

Continuing her path across the Atlantic and into the Caribbean, she was obviously furious intending some real damage. Reports turned into Hurricane Watches throughout the Caribbean. By September 3 Weather Channel reports of her fury held everyone's attention. Likely, even if SXM were skipped, there would be serious travel interruptions throughout the Caribbean. Watches turned to Warnings as Irma approached our still peaceful island.

Before the first guest could board a plane to Miami, we knew we had to cancel. Guests could be stranded in Florida or Texas, both states under extreme hurricane stresses already. And, risks of being anywhere in the Caribbean were too high. We sent out the word telling people to plan to cancel their flights.

Canceling the long planned, and 50 year "earned" celebration was heartbreaking. But the real trauma was approaching with up to 200+ mph winds. There was no time for self-pity, it was time to get ready. Mervin LeBlanc, Flamingo GM, lectured the 100 remaining guests at the resort in Hurricane Safety. Guests were moved to a central location and out of rooms more vulnerable to flooding or winds. We all stocked up on water and shelf-stable foods, candles, and charged our phones. With all the party supplies, we were almost ready.

September 5 started out sunny and clear. We took our morning walk where a neighbor told us all of the trees would be stripped of every leaf and in days the ground plants would blacken from the storm and salt water. We documented with "Before" photos. By afternoon, the dreaded red warning flag was posted at calm Simpson Bay, the clouds were piling up and the seas were high and pounding. September 5 sunset photos show a sky piled high with puffy clouds in beautiful pinks, oranges, gold, and blue hues.

We prepared a "safe room" in the bathroom with our case of anniversary wine safely stashed in the shower. Power was on when we went to bed at 11. After 1 a.m. we were awakened by the concrete Flamingo building shaking and rattling, winds howling and screeching through small cracks, thudding as small and large objects hit the building at 180+mph. Water was making its way into the room around the glass doors creating a "lake." Electricity was turned off to avoid electrocution from standing water. The wind battered the buildings and our beautiful, SXM "happy place."

The incredible roar and many crashes heard and felt through the building were terrifying. Our greatest fear was Irma penetrating our shell—the glass doors, or the hallway room entry. If Irma got in we would become part of her storm. We could see the glass doors "bending" from the abuse...the hurricane glass should hold but we were not so sure the metal frames would hold.

We hunkered down, prayed, held close our connections to the universe, and waited for what seemed like eternity.

The storm gradually slowed down around 4 a.m. By dawn, 5:45 a.m, we experienced the eye. Things suddenly calmed, rain stopped where we huddled...but as Irma spun around, some barely on the other side of us were whipped again by the tail of the storm. Then by 8 a.m. it was suddenly gone and we all tentatively ventured out to see what kind of destruction was wrought.

The aftermath is a longer story still going on. Irma continued her rage at other islands, but this is how she turned our once-in-a-lifetime celebration on SXM into what we hope is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Because My Son Scott  
Has Had Two Brain Tumors,  
My #1 Passion is Fighting Brain Tumors.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If You Like Saquon Barkley,  
Running Back of the New York Giants,  
Pick Up This Autographed Jersey -- and you'll**

**help fight brain tumors at the same time.**

**Thank you!**

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### **13. Isaac Approaching Central Lesser Antilles**

In case you missed it above, this story is #1 in Section 1, above.

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### **14. Planet Hollywood Resort Construction Set To Begin**

Again this story actually appears above, as story #5 in Section 2.

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### **15. Reservations Surging for Next Winter**

From everything we're hearing; and from anecdotal evidence we are seeing in our own offices; it looks to us as though winter reservations on SXM are surging.

Normally at this time of year, we receive a slew of timeshare unit ads to rent out timeshares owned by our JMB Website Supporters members. Although we currently have a fair number of ads for both 2018 and 2019, **late last week we sent out a notice to our members suggesting that they submit their ads for rentals now. The reason? We have received far fewer than normal — in fact, a low percentage of what we normally receive. What that tells us is that the timeshare owners themselves will be using those weeks, which means that a lot of people who have a lot of experience in visiting SXM are planning to come this winter.**

Moreover, we are now seeing increasing numbers of people joining our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) and our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program in search of information for what they say are **first visits to the island** coming this winter. That's another good sign.

If you're looking for a place to stay on SXM, right now there are plenty available; contact our partners, [Island Real Estate Team Vacation Rentals](#) and also [Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) to see what they offer, and also check out our timeshare rentals on our main site, [everythingSXM.com](#).

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### **16. Reopened Cost-U-Less Getting Rave Reviews**

Cost-u-Less is next door to Pizza Hut/KFC opposite the Carrefour near Philipsburg, formerly Le Grand Marché. It is the island's only real warehouse-type store that carries some Costco Kirkland brand merchandise, though at nowhere near the low Costco prices.

As we reported a couple of weeks ago, Cost-u-Less has now reopened with a beautiful assortment of fresh items. It was quite literally mobbed the first several days it was open, but now business is settling back to normal — meaning normally busy. People are giving it very favorable accolades.

When the new Carrefour reopens across the street, it will have more competition, since that Carrefour carries the full line that was carried in the other Carrefour near the Union Road plus all the other items formerly carried by Le Grand Marché.

The other highly competitive markets on the island are Super U near Marigot, which has great produce at reasonable prices, and the new Super U now being built near the Hope estate on the French side, between Orient and Grand Case. That second Super U may open before the end of the year.

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## 17. New Three Amigo's Opens

Three Amigos, the Mexican restaurant in the Maho district, has now reopened — and it looks great. Its executive chef, Ernesto Guzman, is quite well known from his days in Arizona and his appearances on various TV cable channels.

Much more on Three Amigos is [here](#).

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## 18. KonTiki, Kakao Reopening in November

Two restaurants from the central part of Orient beach, under reconstruction in recent months, will be reopening in just two more months, this November: KonTiki and Kakao.

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## 19. Celebrate Thanksgiving in SXM w/ All The Fixin's

Over the years, we have seen vast increases in the number of people who choose to spend the U. S. Thanksgiving holiday on SXM — either with family members and friends from home, or with a mixture of that and SXM friends.

You don't sacrifice anything by being on SXM for Thanksgiving. In fact, you get vastly better weather; way fewer problems at airports, especially if you leave several days early; and of course you get turkey, all the fixings, a boatload of pies, and if you don't like turkey — no problem, you can have Caribbean lobster, fish, or tons of other choices.

If you haven't made reservations yet for Thanksgiving, you should get on that quickly since the island will be packed to capacity as it is virtually every year except, of course, 2017.

If you're not sure where to reserve, check Irevacations.com, Jennifer's vacation villas, and our own timeshare rentals page at [everythingxsm.com](#). See story 15.

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## 20. Are All-Inclusives a Good Idea for SXM? Poll

One of the things we do occasionally on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) is conduct unscientific polls of our members.

After we recently published a story about an all-inclusive hotel property coming to SXM, there were howls of derision from a number of long-time SXM visitors who felt that all-inclusives were a fundamentally bogus idea that took away from the experience of a St. Maarten vacation. They pointed out that the island has extraordinary restaurants and that people shouldn't miss them by going to an all-inclusive.

We decided to run a poll on the idea and quickly discovered that the vast majority of our readers in our unscientific survey agreed that all-inclusives took away from the experience of enjoying SXM to its fullest.

However, those who went to the all-Inclusives made some important points. Chief among them was that this was how they were introduced to the island. They enjoyed the all-inclusive experience, but then broadened their trips to experience the exceptional culinary spectrum offered by SXM restaurants, the exceptional shopping experiences that the island has long offered, etc. It was an interesting discussion.

That poll is still active on our site, as are many other absorbing conversations. Join in; we welcome you to join the site, if you have not already. It is free and you will find it [here](#).

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## 21. SXM: Paradise or Utopia?

In Utopia, the weather is beautiful all the time; people are always smiling real smiles; the people you run into on nude beaches are always young and gorgeous; food at the best restaurants is always delicious, inexpensive, and non-fattening; all the drivers obey all the laws all the time; politicians around the world sing *Kumbaya* and get things done; and of course there is no crime.

SXM certainly is paradise but it is *not* Utopia. That's why we talk about crime and avoiding it on our main site, everythingSXM.com; why we suggest you keep doors and windows in your rental suite or villa locked at night or when you're outside; and why we suggest you not flash wads of bills or gold jewelry.

Also don't drive your car with the doors unlocked (carjackings can happen anywhere outside Utopia), and never put any valuables in your car trunk: bad guys see you do it and they can and do help themselves after you walk away.

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## 22. A Closer Look at Emilio's

When hurricane Irma slammed SXM a year ago, it obliterated the entire Starz casino at Cupecoy beach, destroying the near-legendary Temptation restaurant of Dino Jagtiani, the very famous chef who is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, CIA, an island first.

Meanwhile, Norm and Su Wathey, seasoned SXM culinary figures, were hard at work completing their Emilio's restaurant at the Rainforest Adventures facilities / Emilio Wilson Estate not far from Philipsburg. Among the highly qualified candidates they talked to about operating their restaurant was Dino Jagtiani who saw the opportunity at once and jumped on it.

Dino has adopted the restaurant as his own and has flown with it, using people from his staff at Temptation, some of his favorite recipes, and has built the place into a new restaurant with a phenomenal reputation — pretty amazing since it opened less than a year ago.

**Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program will soon be inviting its members to visit Emilio's early during Thanksgiving week for a still-in-planning seminar on relocating to SXM.** We'll be there as well and look forward to spending some time at Emilio's. We think you should add it to your list as well.

Check them out [here](#) and take a look at their [restaurant menu](#) here. See next story.

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## 23. What's Rainforest Adventures?

The Emilio Wilson Estate is a large tract of undeveloped land in the central part of the Dutch side of the island. The intent was to leave it in its natural state in perpetuity for the enjoyment of the people of the island.

A couple of years ago, island officials agreed to lease a small percentage of the land to a private developer for the creation of an Ecological Park (vaguely analogous to Loterie Farm on the French Side) on the estate, featuring a zipline and chairlifts to the nearby summit. That Park is Rainforest Adventures.

Although the idea and the construction were met with antipathy by a number of environmentalists and environmental preservationists, nonetheless the construction continued and was completed last year. The chairlift opened last winter and immediately got rave reviews from tourists plus sometimes begrudging admiration from others.

Our reaction to the project was that it offered a fantastic activity opportunity for both stayover tourists and visiting cruise ship passengers and indeed, so far that is proving to be the case. It seems to be the highlight of many daytrippers visits to the island and is widely talked about — perhaps as widely talked about as the Airport. Emilio's restaurant on the Emilio Wilson estate, where Rainforest Adventures finds its home, is the subject of the prior article.

More stories follow. See prior story.

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

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



the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

### **24. Suntan Lotion & Coral Reefs**

For years, the world has been telling everyone who gets in the sun to use suntan lotions that block harmful ultraviolet rays.

Now, we are learning that nonbiodegradable suntan products exacerbate the bleaching out of coral reefs, causing permanent damage and coral reef destruction. So, there is now a global effort — from Hawaii to Turks and Caicos — to ban such nonbiodegradable suntan products.

Much more on this is in this, from [The New York Times](#).

### **25. 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](http://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.](#)**

**\*Pricing applies to annual & five-year 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.**

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## **26. 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 [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.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.

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## **27. 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](mailto: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.

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## **End of Summer SALE Ends Soon!** **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; OUR BEST OFFER: 6 yrs. just \$139.**

**[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.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>**

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## **28. 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...*

## 29. "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](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, 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](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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## **30. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)**

### **CAR RENTALS:**

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

**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)**

**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](#)

**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 9/9/18

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## 31. 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](#).

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

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

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## 33. Restaurant of the Week:

Coming soon: **Pineapple Pete, Domino's**.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

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

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

**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 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.

**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.

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

**SECTION 5: For Members Only**

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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](http://www.everythingsxm.com). To change your password, click that same link.

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

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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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.*

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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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