

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 10/8/18: Lower Fares from JetBlue; JFK; Relocation Seminar Invite; Club Orient Shutdown; Ocean Point Delay; Macron Visit; Fire at Daily Extra; Art; Causeway; Last Call [34 Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1172 --- Monday, October 8, 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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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

Important Note:

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

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



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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

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- *Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate*

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34 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 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 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 12/22/2018 1/5/2019 51 & 52 **Royal Islander Club La Plage** 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, sleeps 4 max. Beach front property with large swimming pool & World famous Maho Beach. Located in the Maho complex with numerous quality restaurants, food market, night clubs, casino & retail stores within 5 minutes walk. Rental car not necessary as local bus makes frequent stops in front of complex. Govt occupancy tax must be paid at check out \$50 per week (subject to change). edmisiph@comcast.net \$1,400 per week Ed -- 781-953-6799

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/10/2018 2/17/2018 week 6 **Royal Islander Club La Plage** Located on Maho Beach, the Dutch side of St. Maarten. This is a high demand week, Saturday to Saturday stay. The unit is a 1 bedroom, ground floor unit facing beautiful gardens, the pool and beach. 1 king bedroom plus additional queen size sleeper sofa. The unit sleeps 4. Full kitchen and 1 bath. Decorated in island style. Walk to restaurants, shopping, casino and nightlife. Princess Juliana Airport is only minutes away. Rented for 2017. \$5,200.00 plus transfer fee. Diane 262-569-0806 dianecon1@aol.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/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

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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A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret

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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://everythingxm.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. Jet Blue To Introduce Lower "Basic Economy" Fares

JetBlue next year will be joining a number of other airlines with its version of basic economy fares — especially low fares aimed at those seeking a more frugal experience in-flight.

The fares are likely to be called Blue Save. Here is [more](#) on features expected in the new JetBlue fare tier.

2. Reader Comment About FAA Draws Heavy Criticism

Our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) is usually a calm place where lovers of SXM share information, experiences, advice, and lots of pictures. For a brief time last week, it became slightly testy when readers spoke their mind about the FAA's recent consideration of legislation to specify minimum seat room in aircraft cabins.

One reader then said this: "The FAA is for preventing plane crashes, not leg cramps. If you don't like an airline, you don't have to use it. Stop whining to politicians about every minor inconvenience and discomfort in your life."

That led to a horde of comments from other readers who felt that the airlines needed not only to make cabins comfortable for their passengers, but also to ensure that there's enough room to be able to safely exit the passenger cabin in an emergency within 90 seconds as prescribed by current federal regulations. The contention is that the extremely dense seating aboard some aircraft makes it impossible for passengers to exit as quickly as required to survive emergency events -- we covered that story recently here in *SXM Weekly News*.

As there are further developments in what the FAA may or may not do regarding passenger seating, we'll report them here.

3. Don't Forget November Storms...

Although the tropical Atlantic seems to have calmed down a bit for now, don't forget that November — the last month of hurricane season — can bring some serious storms to SXM. Hurricane Lenny a number of years ago was one such storm, and hurricane Gonzalo, which hit the island with surprising strength just a few years ago, was another late arrival.

Hurricane season in the Atlantic doesn't end until November 30. We'll be keeping our eyes open well beyond that date.

Any important tropical weather news that breaks will appear at once and watches, warnings, satellite images, radar loops, and more will be in our Weather Center on our main site, [everythingxsm.com](#).

4. Cleaner LNG Replacing Diesel as Cruise Ship Fuel

It appears that some cruise ship operators are beginning to utilize LNG (liquefied natural gas) as a reportedly more environmentally friendly fuel than the traditional diesel normally used aboard cruise ships. A Bloomberg article appearing in a number of outlets, written by Anna Shiryaevskaya, says that Carnival Corp., "the world's biggest

cruise line operator, just added the first of 11 LNG powered vessels to its fleet and competitors have their eyes on buying more."

Another possibility which could be on the horizon are cruise ships powered by high temperature superconducting power plants — which create an enormous amount of power in a much smaller footprint and at much lower energy cost than traditional diesel engines. Such plants are already in some US Navy ships. More on this science is [here](#). (Note: American Superconductor, a leading player in this market, has been a client of our parent company, JMB Communications.)

5. Major JFK Update Cost Hits \$13-Billion

A *New York Post* article published last Friday says that the costs of the major update now underway at John F. Kennedy international Airport are now expected to top \$13-billion, a 30% increase over previous estimates. The aging airport has become an inconvenient place for passengers, including those returning to the US from SXM and hoping to make connections to a distant city. Schlepping your carry-on baggage between terminals there can be a daunting task aggravated by an outmoded terminal layout

According to the article, "The renovation plans calls for combining a hodgepodge of eight terminals into two mega facilities that connect nearly all the airlines. JetBlue will anchor the 1.2 million square-foot North Side terminal. A consortium of four international airlines — Lufthansa, Air France, Japan Airlines, and Korean Airlines — will develop another 2.9 million square-foot South Side terminal."

We'll keep you posted.

*******LAST CALL*******

*****END-OF-SUMMER SALE**
ABOUT OVER:
IT MUST END THIS WED. 10/10/18***

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_xsm/paypal.shtml

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

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

6. 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.

7. 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.

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

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

8. Your Invitation To Our Seminar on Relocating To SXM

On November 20 in St. Maarten, we will hold an important, well-detailed seminar designed to help people who are interested in relocating to SXM; buying a vacation home there; buying a retirement home; acquiring an income property on SXM; or even starting a business there. .

The seminar will be led by Arun Jagtiani, head of Island Real Estate Team and widely regarded as SXM's top realtor and will feature other subject matter experts. The Seminar will be opened by Jeff Berger.

Although it is expected to last only two hours, the seminar will be packed with information that applies to both sides of the island. Subject matter experts are creating this event in such a way that it will answer all your questions — even many you may not have thought of. Nonetheless, there will be a substantial audience question and answer period as well following the presentations.

In the past, our audiences for special events like this have always been JMB Website Supporters members, in most cases exclusively. We have decided this event, however, will be different: we are opening it up from the get-go to both JMB Website Supporters members, who can register now at no cost, and to others interested in possible relocation or property investment on SXM. Nonmembers will be allowed to preregister now as well, and they will be approved on a space-available basis at a cost of \$35 per person assessed by the venue and collected by the venue upon check-in on the day of the seminar. *We expect to publish the complete seminar agenda sometime this coming week or next on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), following which it will also be published here in SXM Weekly News.*

Preregister Now. Attendance will be strictly limited to 100 people. To preregister, send an email to susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject Relocation Seminar. We will need your JMB Website Supporters membership number if you are a member, plus the full names of all attendees and their email addresses and telephone numbers. JMB Website Supporters will be allowed to bring two guests to the seminar — two people who are also interested in relocating to SXM or buying property there. Children are not invited to and are not welcome at this event. The nonmember guests must pay the fee noted above (though they can of course join JMB and avoid it). We will acknowledge attendance quickly for JMB Website Supporters members and we will add nonmembers to a wait list. They will be contacted in the order in which they registered soon, at which time we hope to accommodate everyone to the maximum of 100 total attendees.

If you are serious about possibly relocating to SXM, you may want to become a JMB Website Supporters member by the middle of this coming week which is when our membership sale must end; once you become a JMB member, you will not only get our 300 discounts and other benefits across SXM, but we will have priority access to the

seminar and will not have to pay to attend it.

A couple of people have asked us if this is some kind of timeshare sales gimmick. It absolutely is not. It is exactly what we say it is, a seminar to help people who are seriously considering relocating to, buying a vacation home on, or acquiring income property on SXM. As noted, we also expect also have info for people who may be interested in coming to SXM to open a business. *There is lots to cover here and we look forward to delivering a very useful seminar to our members and to many others.*

9. New Format for Rental / Sale Ads On Our Website (Reprise)

Last week, we changed the way we format new timeshare rental and sale ads posted on our main site, everythingxsm.com.

In addition to running the resort name in boldface type, we're now also bolding the key selling points that most JMB Website Supporters members place first in their submitted ads -- so buyers get the most important facts from your ad emphasized more effectively.

Demand for SXM accommodations is high and many prime winter rentals are selling quickly. We think this change will help your ads do a better selling job for you.

The changes are being implemented on new ads as they are being published. There is no change to our input form or how you use it.

Reminder: always notify us when a week you're advertising with us has been rented or sold, so we can remove the ad.

Non-JMB-member readers: Free timeshare rental / sale advertising on our main site is one of hundreds of discounts and *other benefits* you get when you join our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. Our "End of Summer" Sale ends soon -- take advantage of great pricing and join now. Click the page curl at everythingxsm.com for info.

10. Will Your Kids Inherit Your Timeshare Bills?

Timesharing is open-ended; once you buy a timeshare, you are expected to pay annual maintenance fees and any supplemental maintenance fees that become due. You can sell your timeshare or give it to someone — but either way, the payments continue.

If something happens to you or you decide you no longer want the property, then what? There are procedures for turning back timeshare weeks, renting them out (which you can do on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), if you are a JMB member) or selling them, which you can also do on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

What should you do if you want to make sure your kids don't get bills for a timeshare they don't want after you're gone?

"Nerdwallet" recently published a very interesting article on this topic; [here it is](#). It has many of the answers you're looking for.

11. Club Orient Management Shutting Down; Beach Stays Open

If you've already heard the news that Club Orient is shutting down, don't panic — it's not what you may think it is.

The articles which follow tell you exactly what's happening — as well as exactly what isn't. See them and you will have all that detail.

The southern end of Orient beach continues to be clothing optional. The Perch bar/restaurant at Club Orient will continue to operate, as will the chair and umbrella rentals on the beach. None of that is expected to go away.

The [first article](#) is this story as it was covered in the *Daily Herald* newspaper.

Immediately below is the verbatim text of a post from the Club Orient Facebook site which explains step-by-step what is going on, why, and what happens next:

Dear Friends,

For those of you who have been following our postings online or read the emails we have previously sent, what we're about to say should not come as a total shock. But, please read it carefully and understand the following only affects Orient Beach Club (OBC), which employs all of the staff and operates the resort. The Copropriété (Copro) which owns the land on which Club Orient is built and is similar to an HOA is responsible for the vast majority of structures.

OBC received its insurance money in full on October 31, 2017, which included business interruption insurance. It has now been over a year that OBC has been waiting for the Copro to receive its money, so the rebuilding can begin.

OBC has had to pay "chomage partiel", which is similar to unemployment in some countries, but different in that the company must pay out 85% of an employee's actual wages and is reimbursed at only a percentage of minimum wage rates. This form of unemployment has been a very expensive proposition.

We were comfortable doing this as the Copro believed we would have at least some of our units ready for the high season starting in November/December. This prognostication, unfortunately, has proven not to be the case.

Even if the Copro was to receive their money in October or November, they could not complete any of the necessary rebuildings and repair until Summer or even longer. OBC cannot afford to continue to operate while missing two full high seasons, last year and this coming year.

OBC expects to be legally closing its doors over the next thirty days with the assistance of a government liquidator. We have just about completed contacting all the people who still had advance deposits on hold for a future stay. To all of you who were kind enough to donate them or delay asking for their return, you are a big reason why we have been able to continue to survive this long. Thank you very much for your help.

Now, does this mean Club Orient is finished? NO. It merely means the management company OBC, which is the employer and operator of the revenue-producing areas is closing.

Once the Copro receives its funds and the re-building commences, a new management company would have to emerge to operate Club Orient. Hopefully, most of the same staff will still be available and return.

Once again, the only reason OBC must close is they have no resort to manage and no way to continue to pay the staff without revenue being generated.

So, this is a very sad time for all of us, many of us have given years and often decades of our lives to Club Orient as employees. Most of us have never felt like employees, but more like being a part of an extended worldwide family. We cannot predict what will happen next, as we will not be involved. We know the Copropriété is continuing in its efforts to re-build Club Orient and has contracts in place, once the legal and insurance issues are resolved.

Our website and Facebook page will remain up for at least the next few months, and we have listed an email address to be able to contact a representative of Club Orient who is on the island.

Thanks to all of you for your support over the years and we have missed seeing you this last year. We are heartbroken this mess has not yet been rectified and hope that the Copro will be able to rebuild very soon, so we can once again welcome all of you back to paradise.

Au Revoir...

From SXM Weekly News: We expect to have much more on the future of the Club Orient resort in the weeks and months ahead, but please hear this: the unavailability of Club Orient is a serious blow to the economy of the French Side of the island, still reeling from the effects of hurricane Irma which struck SXM 13 months ago. Glaciers appear to be receding at a far faster pace than the French Side is moving to rebuild its tourism infrastructure and get money coming back into the island. See story 15 about French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to SXM a bit more than a week ago, which also ties into this story.

12. Ocean Point Reopening Delayed

The reopening of the Sonesta Ocean Point Resort in Maho has been delayed; it is now expected to occur in mid-December of this year.

Please see [this article](#) from the homepage of the Ocean Point website.

13. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick

With several timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, Atrium Resort, Simpson Bay Resort, and Oyster Bay Beach now open too -- timeshare owners continue to post 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.

Get your rental weeks now. Note: ads on those pages are from JMB Website Supporters members exclusively.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

14. 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

*******LAST CALL*******

*****END-OF-SUMMER SALE**
ABOUT OVER:
IT MUST END THIS WED. 10/10/18***

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

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

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

15. French President Macron's Visit to SXM

There were two things that were rather shocking about the visit a week ago Saturday of French Pres. Emmanuel Macron to the French side of the island.

The first was that apparently he was not taken down Boulevard de Grand Case, arguably the heart of French Side tourism. The Boulevard remains torn up by hurricane Irma — it has not yet been fully repaired, something which should have been expedited many months ago.

And second, he reportedly said that the French Side gets only about 5% of the tourism income that comes to the island -- a figure we'd suggest is 100% bogus.

Cruise ship passengers by the thousands visit both Philipsburg and Marigot, and many hundreds more have long visited Orient beach daily. Stayover tourists before Irma flocked by the thousands every week to Grand Case, previously dubbed the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean — though now, incredible restaurants are found across the island. *The notion that only 5% of SXM's tourism revenue goes to the French side doesn't seem remotely possible or plausible*, though for now -- in the aftermath of Irma -- it's quite possible. Instead of revving up reconstruction, the French Side government seems to be red-taping it to death.

In any case, you will be interested in reading the full article: [perhaps things will now be changing](#).

16. Many Maho Businesses Have Reopened

Among recent news reports about Royal Islander La Plaige and Royal Islander La Terrasse, as well as the Sonesta Maho and Ocean Point — all of which for now still are under heavy reconstruction — little note has been made of the fact that many businesses in the Maho stores area are actually open and doing business. In fact, the parking garage also is partially open, and Casino Royale has been back in operation for many weeks. .

Here's a current list of open Maho-area businesses: 3 Amigos, Moulin Fou, La Rosa, We Lounge, Gamers Lounge, SXM Cigars, Hot Look Sunglasses Shop, and Gios Gelato.

Thanks to Jay Time of 3 Amigos for providing this list.

17. Prosecutor's Office Piles On in Fight Against Dump

Ever since Barbara Cannegeiter launched a multi-person lawsuit against the operators of the dump and the government of Dutch St. Maarten, others have underscored the severity of the situation there. They've also echoed widespread public sentiment that the days of inaction about the dump fire problem must come to an end.

Now, even the public prosecutor's office is getting into the act. Please see [this story](#) from the *SXM Daily Herald*.

18. Friday Night Fire Damages Daily Extra Market

Latest reports indicate that a generator left running in the Daily Extra supermarket in Cole Bay after everyone had left for the night may have started the fire which struck the establishment Friday night.

As we wrote this story on Saturday, there was no word about how serious the fire was or how long it will take Daily Extra to clean up and be back in business. It is not believed that the fire was quite as serious as the roof fire at the main Carrefour market near Philipsburg, formerly Le Grand Marché, which should reopen next month.

More on the fire is [here](#).

19. Roland Richardson Gallery/Museum Reopening in December

The Roland Richardson gallery/museum on Rue de La Republique in Marigot is tentatively expected to reopen in December.

The building, which houses hundreds of original works by the Caribbean's legendary plein air impressionist, was heavily damaged by hurricane Irma. Many paintings were damaged -- now being restored -- and some others were destroyed. Heavy work has been going on to restore the Gallery/Museum to its pre-Irma's state. When we spoke to Laura Richardson last week, she told us they are hopeful that they'll be able to reopen in December.

We will keep you posted on when this happens — it's a place you'll want to visit, especially when the artist is at work in his studio - it's a once (or twice) in a lifetime experience.

20. Artwork by SXM's Ruby Bute to Hang in The Hague

Both sides of St. Maarten/St. Martin are the homes of very talented painters, another of whom is noted artist Ruby Bute. (In fact, she, artist Patty Meotti, and art by Sir Roland Richardson were all at our recent JMB member party at the Toppers Rhum Distillery in Simpson Bay.)

Now, Ruby Butte will have some of her art hanging in the Hague — a major distinction indeed. For more, see the article [here](#).

21. Relocation Seminar Opens to Wider Audience: Want to Go?

In case you missed the story above (see story number 8), we have opened our November 20 seminar on relocating to SXM to all readers of *SXM Weekly News* in addition to our JMB Website Supporters members.

If you're interested in attending, please read story 8 now, and preregister as quickly as you can. Maximum attendance is only 100 people; see the details in story 8.

22. Saving Endangered Coral Reefs from Climate Change

The reality of climate change is being felt in many ways around the world, perhaps none more stunning than its effects on coral reefs worldwide.

Now, a novel approach being tried in small areas appears to offer an ingenious prospective solution to coral reef degradation. See the fascinating story [here](#).

23. Original "Below Deck" Returns To Bravo

The Bravo reality series *Below Deck* originated several years ago, purporting to show crew life aboard a charter megayacht in the Caribbean.

As with most other so-called reality shows, the made-for-TV series has a fair amount more drama than you'd actually see on many Megayachts — but it does make for good television, which is what it's supposed to do. As we previously reported here in *SXM Weekly News*, the show was shot in Tahiti last March. Regular episodes have now started airing on Bravo, and will continue for roughly 10 weeks.

It is not yet known whether the crew will be returning to St. Maarten or elsewhere in the Caribbean for filming next year, assuming the program is renewed. In fact, at the beginning of the first episode this season, Capt. Lee Rosbach paid a bit of homage to St. Maarten, wishing everyone there well and characterizing it as the place where the crew "lived and worked" through a number of Caribbean seasons. It was a very gracious comment.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

24. "Pete" Ferland's Wasabi Charlie a Big Hit

Pierre "Pete" Ferland, originator and owner of Pineapple Pete in Simpson Bay, has made a remarkable career of serving delicious food very nicely prepared quickly and at reasonable prices. He really knows what he's doing, as we've pointed out repeatedly in our Restaurant of the Week features which return soon in this newsletter.

Several years ago, he opened Sushiiito, a hibachi/sushi emporium at Princess Port de Plaisance resort off the union road in Cole Bay.

Instead of commuting between Pineapple Pete and Sushiiito, Pierre decided after Irma that it made more sense to open a new Japanese restaurant next door to Pineapple Pete: the name Wasabi Charlie was chosen.

The good news for fans of both Pineapple Pete, Sushiiito, and Pierre Ferland is that the new restaurant is getting rave reviews. How could it miss? The menu has stayed essentially the same as Sushiiito (a great menu), the staff has returned, and the service is great -- as always.

Whether you like hibachi style cooked Japanese entrées made at your table or meticulously fresh sushi, sashimi, and other accoutrements of a great Japanese meal, Wasabi Charlie is sure to please you: give it a try on your next visit to SXM. It's next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson Bay and across the street from Davide Foini's iZi Ristorante Italiano, which by the way reopens soon after its seasonal closing.

25. Causeway Lights Go Out

Nobody seems to know why, but those decorative lights that have adorned the sides of the Simpson Bay lagoon Causeway since it was first opened several years ago have now gone out.

When they return to service — or when we know a date when they will return to service — we expect you'll see pictures on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). The bridge was well built to withstand all kinds of weather, but nobody expected anything like hurricane Irma. The island has lots of priorities right now — we'll keep you posted on what happens with the lights.

More is [here](#).

26. Traveling Next Winter? Why It's Critical To Get SkyMed Now

Traveling Next Winter? Beat SkyMed's 90-day exclusion for pre-existing conditions by joining SkyMed now.

On its guaranteed renewable annual and multiyear memberships, SkyMed has a 90-day waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions -- everything else is covered in full as soon as your SkyMed membership has been approved, per SkyMed's member services agreement.

If you're traveling in January or later, you can beat that one-time 90-day pre-existing conditions exclusion by joining today. That way the 90-day exclusion period will be over by the time you travel -- so you're covered in full, including pre-existing conditions, at that time.

SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. There is no age limit to apply, and once you're enrolled you can renew without further medical checks regardless of your attained age or your health at the time of renewal. Without SkyMed, if you need an Emergency Medical Evacuation, you must pay for it in cash, in advance. No cash, no evacuation. And the cost without SkyMed can be astronomical. Why risk that?

By contrast, if you're a SkyMed member, you call SkyMed directly and they make all the arrangements for all the services they provide. SkyMed Takes You Home -- what else matters?

And there is *no age limit to apply*. Call us at 508-747-8281 and ask for Jeff; he'll answer your questions and can take your application by phone, usually in under 10 minutes.

It's available to Americans, Canadians, and ExPats from both countries. Short-term and annual coverage includes the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage is available on annual memberships for a \$99 additional yearly fee, but global coverage is standard on multiyear SkyMed Ultimate memberships, which are both SkyMed's best and its least expensive medevac memberships.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweekly.../SkyMedServices.pdf>

Got questions? Call us daytimes (EDT) at 508-747-8281. Again, we can answer your questions and take your application by phone in about 10 minutes. We can set up evening phone appointments too. It's like fire insurance -- get it before you need it.

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

28. 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.

*******LAST EXTENSION*******

*****END-OF-SUMMER SALE**
EXTENDED ONE FINAL WEEK,
BUT IT MUST END WED. 10/10***

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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

29. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate

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.

30. About Our SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway

Entries are now locked. We'll very 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...

31. 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)

Alpha Jewels

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

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

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*.

Heavily Updated 10/1/18

32. 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](#).

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

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

34. Restaurant of the Week:

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

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

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 Sushiiitto) (6/18/18) is the new name of Sushiiitto, 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.avantikaxsm.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.

Pineapple Pete, 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 (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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www.websitesthatworkusa.com

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35. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web 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.

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

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

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

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingSXM.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://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.**

SECTION 5: For Members Only

- A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. 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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To change your email address, visit 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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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact support@jmbcommunications.com

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not respond individually.

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

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

10/08/18 #V2-1172 600 am EDT 10/7/18 9.5

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