From JMB / SXM Weekly News, 10/29/18: Hurricane Oscar; 200 Euro Trips from Paris; SXM Airport; SXM Party Invites; Royal Islander; Sonesta Ocean Point; Vesna Taverna; Rum & Peas; Carrefours; French Side; Amex; [33 News Stories]

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

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

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

#### **Important Note:**

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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

#### Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?

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

#### TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

## Top Stories in Today's <u>SXM Weekly News</u>:

#### Weather; Getting Here:

-- Introducing Hurricane Oscar

- -- Outlook for the Final Month of Hurricane Season
- -- Airport Terminal Reopening Set for December

-- Cruise Liners Switching to LNG: Why? -- Budget Carrier Joon Offers 199 Euro Each Way Fares From Paris SXM Accommodations: -- Your Invitation To Our 11/20 Party / Seminar on Buying Property in SXM -- Jay Time's Thoughts on Royal Islander -- Sonesta Ocean Point to Reopen 12/15: Pictures **Island Headlines for Tourists:** -- Your Invitation To Our 11/21 "Meet & Greet" in SXM -- Big Special Issue Coming "On Returning to SXM" -- Vesna Taverna Dinners Resume November 8 -- French Side Updates -- Both Carrefour Markets Moving Toward Reopening -- Auberge Du Mer, Others Ordered Shut Down -- Rum & Peas Restaurant For Sale / Lease -- Current Pictures of Resorts & Restaurants -- One Euro Costs \$1.14 -- Should You Bring Your Amex Card to SXM? -- Don't Bring Travelers Checks... -- We're Throwing Two Parties, & You're Invited to Both ####### -- Traveling Next Winter? Why It's Critical To Get SkyMed Now ####### -- Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate -- \*\*\*\*\*FALL MEMBERSHIP SALE ENDS SOON\*\*\*\*\* JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Fall Membership Sale Delivers 300+ SXM Discounts & Other Benefits Click the page curl at everythingsxm.com for info -- SXM Vacation Giveaway Drawing Coming Next Month -- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors #######

-- Got SXM Questions? Here's Where The Answers Are -- SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

Please see our complete Table of Contents below.

**33** News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

### **Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week**

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare</a> rent sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

### SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 11/24/2018 12/1/2018 47 La Vista Resort Ocean View Deluxe Suite- 2nd floor end unit sleeps four with full kitchen, microwave, king size bed, full bath, dining/living room combo with gueen size sofa bed. There is a room safe, WiFi, flat screen TV & daily maid service (towels & trash). Wide doors open onto a large private balcony with a magnificent view of the resort's large infinity pool and the crystal blue waters of the Caribbean. Onsite there's an ocean view restaurant with grocery stores, restaurants, casinos and other beaches within walking distance. \$785 Sandy 239-825-1656 dragonflynursery@gmail.com

#### SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/20/2019 1/27/2019 Week 3 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Poolside sleep 2 studio on the ground floor which has been newly renovated in the lower "B" building. Close to pool, beach, restaurants and shopping. \$1,800.00 Debbie 330-503-1410 dmorri3035@gmail.com

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

See them all at http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare rent sale/index.shtml

#### **Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:**

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

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

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Find us on Facebook

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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format): http://everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews

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

Focus):

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

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- 3. Airport Terminal Reopening Set for December
- 4. Cruise Liners Switching to LNG: Why?
- 5. Best Places for Tropical Updates; Hurricane Tracking Chart
- 6. Guaranteed Lowest Rates For Hotel Rooms / Car Rentals

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| St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential<br>Properties for Sale (NEW): <u>Click to access our recommended real estate agents</u>   |
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B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

**Section Six:** Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 8/2017)

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

Visit <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>, the \*secret\* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

## All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read \*From JMB\* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

# THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

**SECTION 1:** Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

# **1. Introducing Hurricane Oscar**

Mother nature, fully aware that hurricane season does not end until November 30, decided that we should have another hurricane, so she conjured up hurricane Oscar this past weekend.

That's the bad news. The great news is that Oscar, though still strengthening well north and east of the Lesser Antilles, will soon be turning north and northeast and accelerating away from every land area — it won't even bother Bermuda. The storm could send some swells to beaches in Bermuda, the US East Coast, and the Caribbean, though they're probably not significant. To see current satellite images of the tropical Atlantic including Oscar, visit our main website, everythingSXM.com, and click Weather for our Weather Center. Other than Oscar, which is far from SXM, there is no significant weather news from the island -- except that weather has been gorgeous.

## **2. Outlook for the Final Month of Hurricane Season**

Other than Oscar, conditions in the tropics have not recently been conducive to the formation of tropical cyclones. But hurricane season still has a full month to go.

To stay aware of what's happening, go to our Weather Center at everythingsxm.com, where we post watches, warnings, advisories, and Outlooks concerning tropical development should any additional storms form. As always, the page will continue to provide satellite images, radar loops, and other useful tropical cyclone information.

We also post current National Hurricane Center Tropical Outlook data on our <u>Jeff Berger's Everything SXM</u> <u>Facebook Site</u>.

# **3. Airport Terminal Reopening Set for December**

Although renovations and rebuilding of the Irma-pummeled main terminal of SXM Airport continue to progress, the airport has told us that the target date for moving departures and arrivals back into the main terminal (from the current tents) has been changed to December.

That's not a problem; most passengers say that the tents have been working fine and are very efficient.

Flight frequency at the airport will build substantially in December as airlines get set to accommodate increased demand for the 2019 winter high season. At that point, departures and arrivals will move into the first floor of the main terminal while heavy reconstruction proceeds on the second floor, which had been heavily damaged by Irma and Maria. The second floor is expected to be fully operational by next Fall.

We expect to take a photographic tour of the terminal some time during the next several weeks. If you want to get a close look at progress at that point, check out our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>; joining it takes only a minute.

More on the schedule change for moving to the main terminal is here.

# 4. Cruise Liners Switching to LNG: Why?

They are a familiar scene: mammoth cruise ships chugging out of port while their smokestacks belch black, sooty smoke into the air.

It's a phenomenon that has been noticed by people concerned with air pollution in ports nearby, but also by people concerned with noxious smoke from cruise ships defouling oceans more than they're defouled already.

Some recent press reports from Bloomberg seem to tout this as a forward move by the cruise ships — which it is, but the impetus seems to be coming more from municipalities which are moving toward regulating pollutant-belching ships out of existence.

<u>This story</u>, published earlier this year, talks about the progress being made by Carnival and some of the real reasons it's a necessary step. <u>This story</u> regards cruise ship pollution.

# \*\*\*\*\*\***FALL MEMBERSHIP SALE ENDS**SOON\*\*\*\*\*\*

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

# <u>Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership</u> <u>Today:</u>

New JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$44; 3 yrs. \$79; <u>BUT GET OUR BEST OFFER</u>: 6 yrs. just \$139. http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$35; 3 yrs. \$73; <u>BUT GET</u> <u>OUR BEST OFFER</u>: 6 yrs. \$129 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

# **5. Best Places for Tropical Updates; Hurricane Tracking Chart**

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

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

# 1) <u>Crown Weather Services</u> whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.

2) Our "Weather" page at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u> -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.

3) Our 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 <u>www.island92.com</u>. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <u>http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG</u>.

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

#### **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 <u>here</u>. 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.

## 6 Get The Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Around The World

<u>SkyMed Travel offers you a **110% Lowest Rate Guarantee** for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide.</u> You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up free and make your travel reservations directly through *SkyMed Travel.* 

#### What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers & JMB Members):

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 110% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for Weekly News readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <u>https://www.skymedtravel.com/register</u>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.

You won't be disappointed.

# **Changing Your Email Address?**

# *Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email and Sign Up Your New One*

file:///Cl/Users/jmbcomms.000/Documents/JMBSXMWEEKLYNEWS/\_SXM%20Weekly%20News/V2\_1174Oct292018.html[9/7/2019 3:12:41 PM]

# for your **SXM Weekly News** subscription Quickly and Easily at our Site: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>

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

# 7. Your Invitation To Our Party/Seminar on Relocating To SXM

On November 20 in St. Maarten, we will hold an important, well-detailed party/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 conversation will be led by Arun Jagtiani, head of Island Real Estate Team and widely regarded as SXM's top realtor, and it will feature other subject matter experts. <u>There will also be plenty of time where the experts can answer your questions</u>. Events will be kicked off by Jeff Berger.

Scheduled for about two hours total, the party / seminar will be packed with information that applies to both sides of the island. We're creating this event in such a way that it will answer <u>all</u> your questions — even many you may not have thought of.

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 shortly 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 event for our members and to many others.

# 8. Jay Time's Thoughts on Royal Islander

Jay Time, who as many of you know is the head of the Three Amigos restaurant in Maho, has a view of what's going on in the Maho/Royal Islander universe that's better than most, just because of its proximity.

We thought we'd pass along his comments about the status of Royal Islander: "....My guess is within a month La

Plage and Royal Islander will be open; I know La Plage will be open on or around Dec 1."

## 9. Sonesta Ocean Point to Reopen 12/15: Pictures

On our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u> 10/27, Melanie Reffes posted pictures of Sonesta Ocean Point, where progress has been huge. Check it out on our site.

## **10. 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**

## **11. 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

## <u>\*\*\*\*\*\*FALL MEMBERSHIP SALE ENDS</u> SOON\*\*\*\*\*\*

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

# <u>Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership</u> <u>Today:</u>

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

just \$139. http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$35; 3 yrs. \$73; <u>BUT GET</u> <u>OUR BEST OFFER</u>: 6 yrs. \$129 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

## **12. Big Special Issue Coming "On Returning to SXM"**

Our next issue, normally published Monday 11/5, will be focused on the needs of people returning to the island for the first time since SXM was hit by Irma nearly 14 months ago. It will cover the airport ... a look at the entire island ... restaurant focus areas ... Philipsburg ... Marigot ... Grand Case ... Simpson Bay ... and much more. It will likely be published around November 7 or 8. Look forward to it -- and you might want to tell your SXM tourist friends to subscribe at sxmweeklynews.com.

## **13. Vesna Taverna Dinners Resume November 8**

Vesna and Yannick, owners of Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay, typically close the restaurant for dinner each Fall for several weeks during their seasonal closing. They use the time to relax a bit but learn a lot — typically in Paris. Their culinary adventures translate into new flavors, textures, and aromas for their many long time fans. This year will be no exception.

Vesna and Yannick are now returning from Europe and will reopen for dinner starting on November 8, a week from this Thursday. Reservations are strongly suggested since the restaurant is extremely popular. For more information, please see their website, VesnaTaverna.com.

# 14. Come to Our "Meet and Greet" on SXM 11/21

You're invited to a **MEMBERS MEET AND GREET & HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE** for SXM island children *Preregistration Required:*  **When:** Wednesday, 11/21/18 6PM to ? *That's Thanksgiving Eve.* 

**Where:** Snoopy's Bar next to the main entrance of Isle de Sol Yacht Club / Snoopy Island (next to SkipJack's). Address: 80 Welfare Road, Simpson Bay, Dutch Side.

#### Who: JMB Website Supporters

*Members Only* (see **"Guests"** below). No one under the age of 21 admitted. <u>You MUST have your current, valid</u> <u>JMB Website Supporters Membership</u> <u>Card with you</u>.

**Features**: 2 for 1 well drinks and free appetizers. SNOOPY'S BAR is home to

SXM's only recognized "Singing Bartender" who many of you know. KARAOKE too.

<u>Guests</u>: JMB member couples may bring up to two guests to this event but they also \*<u>MUST</u>\* be preregistered. Again <u>ABSOLUTELY NO CHILDREN</u>. Not a JMB member but want to go? See below.

**Relocation Seminar:** This event is separate from the Relocation Seminar we're sponsoring on the island the prior evening at Emilio's. You also must preregister for that as outlined in separate messages to JMB members.

#### How To Register for the Party at Snoopy's:

Email <u>SNOOPYPARTY11212018@GMAIL.COM</u> with your JMB Website Supporters membership number and expiration date and your name and your spouse / partner's name. Your attendance is confirmed when we respond in writing after membership verification. Remember, if you plan on bringing guests, they \*MUST\* be preregistered by you NOW. Maximum two guests. When you receive our response, please print it out and bring it with you to the party: it will serve as your admission. You cannot register for this party by writing to Membership Services or any other JMB address.

#### Not a member? We have space!

Register as noted above but note that you're not a JMB member; we'll admit everyone we can until we hit the attendance limit of 100 people.

## **15. French Side Updates**

KonTiki and other restaurants that had been blown away by hurricane Irma are again under construction. Bikini beach, as we reported before, already has reopened.We're going to be doing a grand tour of the island during next week and we'll be reporting what we see in our next issue of *SXM Weekly News*.

One thing we'll look at very closely will be the new Super U being built in hope estate, on the French side between Orient beach and Grand Case. Lara Russo, whose Spiga restaurant is in Grand Case, will be passing by the Super U site in the near future when her restaurant reopens. She has already said that it appears to be much larger than Simply was — the market that was previously on this site, destroyed by hurricane Irma and subsequently demolished.

We'll also see if we can get a handle on the new Super U's opening date.

## **16. Both Carrefour Markets Moving Toward Reopening**

The Carrefour market near Philipsburg, formerly Le Grand Marché, is expected to reopen fairly soon. Its sister store, the Carrefour off the Union Road in Cole Bay, was severely damaged by Irma and even a few weeks ago did not yet have a roof. Work is proceeding there now. We hope to get specific information about reopenings for both properties

in the next couple of weeks.

## **17. Auberge Du Mer Businesses Ordered Shut Down**

Relief is in sight, apparently, for 10 businesses that the French side government told to vacate their building a couple of weeks ago.

The businesses inhabited units at Auberge Du Mer at Marina Royale in Marigot. The Auberge building was declared unsafe and in need of demolition, and the businesses inhabiting it were told to get out. They howled — such a dictum was grossly unfair, they said, following Irma, Maria, and low season, and they needed relief.

Now, the French Side government appears to have come up with what may be a solution. See the story here.

We will continue to cover this story, which has had several twists and turns since it was first reported. This was the <u>original story</u>.

## 18. French Low-Cost Carrier Joon Offers €199 Fares From Paris

The French low-cost carrier Joon, an offshoot of Air France, is now offering three times weekly roundtrips from Paris to SXM for €199 each way — extraordinarily cheap by Paris/SXM round-trip pricing standards.See much more <u>here</u>.

## **19. "Rum and Peas" For Sale or Lease**

Sherman Marten's Rum and Peas restaurant in Simpson Bay is now up for sale or lease. It's a fully equipped restaurant.

Sherman, you may remember, was also owner of the Canoa restaurant on oyster pond, which was completely destroyed by hurricane Irma. Rum and Peas, build from sturdy former shipping containers, whether the storm rather well. For more information, dial 721-586-3388; tell them you heard about it from Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

## **20. Current Pictures of Resorts & Restaurants**

Many people have expressed an interest in seeing current pictures of resorts and SXM restaurants. Pictures are a big part of what's on our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>, every day. You'll find pictures of progress on restoration across the island — the airport, restaurants, hotels, and more. The pictures are complete with information about what's happening. In our Files area on the <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>, we also have detailed information about the status of dozens of hotels and restaurants as well as timeshares across SXM.

If you're looking for pictures and information about your favorite island, our site has everything.

# 21. One Euro Costs \$1.14

The Euro has been sliding slightly in recent days. As of today, the exchange rate between the dollar and the euro meant that the euro costs \$1.14. We can hope that the Euro continues to slide: a couple of years ago, they were close to parity.

# 22. Should You Bring Your Amex Card to SXM?

American Express cards are still accepted by many jewelers on the island, but they are increasingly difficult to use at many other establishments.

Owners of those establishments have said for years that American Express in the Caribbean pays slowly and charges higher fees than other credit cards. If you have cards other than Amex, you might be better off using the other cards when on SXM — they are likely to be refused less often.

# 23. Don't Bring Travelers Checks...

ATMs are widely available across SXM. In fact, if you are a customer of Bank of America, there is an agreement between the Bank of Nova Scotia (Scotia Bank) and Bank of America under which the bank doesn't charge for ATM transactions. It's a reciprocal agreement, good for customers of both banks. That means you can easily take cash out of your Bank of America account at Scotia bank ATMs on SXM.

That's another reason not to bring travelers checks to the island, but the main reason is that they aren't readily accepted. Many stores and restaurants flat out refuse them and some banks won't accept them either.

# 24. We're Throwing Two Parties; You're Invited to Both

JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters / Everything SXM are actually putting on two parties during Thanksgiving week, as you may have read in preceding stories.

The first, our widely heralded November 20 late-day party/seminar on relocating to SXM, buying income property there, or setting up a business on the island — covering both the French and Dutch sides — is described in detail in story 7. Registration is now open to all — not just JMB Website Supporters members, but also readers of *SXM Weekly News* and members of our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>. Please see all the details in story 7.

Our second party is the next day, November 21 late in the day. Invitations were just sent out to all JMB Website Supporters members, who are already registering for this event. It's actually a JMB Website Supporters members meet and greet and also a holiday toy drive for island children. See the details in story 14.

# 25. Traveling Next Winter? Why It's Critical To Get SkyMed <u>Now</u>

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

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 <u>getskymed.com</u>. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

# See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

# 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 everythingsxm.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.

# \*\*\*FALL SALE ENDS SOON\*\*\*

# **Get 300+ SXM Discounts,**

# Many Other Island Benefits, <u>& (P. S.) Invitations to Members-Only Island Parties:</u>

# <u>Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership</u> <u>Today:</u>

New JMB memberships: 1 yr. \$44; 3 yrs. \$79; <u>BUT GET OUR BEST OFFER</u>: 6 yrs. just \$139. http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

<u>Renewal / Reinstatement JMB memberships</u>: 1 yr. \$35; 3 yrs. \$73; <u>BUT GET</u> <u>OUR BEST OFFER</u>: 6 yrs. \$129 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

# 27. 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 <u>getskymed.com</u>.

# 28. 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....

# 29. 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:** 

<u>IZI</u>

<u>SPIGA</u>

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

## **30. 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.

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

Check out our Everything SXM Facebook Site and our main SXM website, everythingsxm.com.

## **32. Restaurant of the Week:**

This column resumes during November, 2018.

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

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

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

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

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

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

**Rum & Peas (featured 6/11/18)** is the newly iconic island hotspot for island flavors and lots more. It's the creation of Sherman Marten (Canoa). Limited hours this time of year.

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

**Isola Ristorante Italiano** (featured 5/28/18) Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano next to Hollywood casino in the middle of Simpson Bay Resort was one of the first restaurants to reopen soon after Irma struck, and it has been open ever since. It is now also fully enclosed and fully air conditioned - no street noise.

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

**Spiga**, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (featured 4/9/18) Reopened as Cafe Spiga, new menu; redesigned. New bar, new bar snacks, same great staff, service, and wonderful food. **Closed for the season until October.** 

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

**Domino's Pizza** <u>https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338</u> (featured 9/16) Open. **The Hideaway**, <u>http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html</u> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

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

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

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

**Papagayo,** <u>http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php</u> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

**Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar** (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path the turn near Shore Pointe to get there). (featured 4/17/2017) Reopened. Their sign blew away in Irma -- to Virgin Gorda's airport 192 miles away.

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

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

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

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

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

The following restaurants are all closed permanently thanks to Irma.

**Big Fish Restaurant** <u>www.bigfishsxm.com/</u> (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**, <u>www.canoasxm.com</u> (featured 4/10/17) Canoa has established a gofundme campaign to help it rebuild. We have no information on timing, but our guess is probably 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**, <u>www.dawnbeachsxm.com</u> (featured 8/14/17) Wrecked by Irma. Closed permanently and for sale.

**The Boathouse**, <u>https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777</u> 10/3/16 Just got insurance settlement, not yet reopened. **Stone Restaurant**, <u>www.thestonerestaurant.com</u> (featured 9/2/14) Stone is permanently closed.

**Temptation**, <u>http://www.temptation-sxm.com/</u> (featured 7/5/17) Permanently closed. Dino has now relocated to Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, which will be featured here soon.

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 7/10/17) Open now for lunch and dinner. Sold by Lal to new owners, but same kitchen staff and menu.

**Mr. Busby's Beach Bar** <u>http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com</u> (featured 6/26/17) Wrecked by Irma, closed permanently, for sale.

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

**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 <u>Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site</u>. Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

# Your Business Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused Website That Works.

# That's what we do:

# www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

## **33. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web** Traffic

*SXM Weekly News*, our <u>everythingSXM.com</u> 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 <u>susan@jmbcommunications.com</u> 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: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>.

#### Want to rent or buy a week?

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

#### SECTION 5: For Members Only

#### A. Where to Get Member Info: <u>www.everythingsxm.com/secret</u>

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. To change your password, click that same link.

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

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

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

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

To unsubscribe, go here: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>. You **CAN** <u>NOT</u> unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the \*spam\* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access*.

#### Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

### Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

Privacy Policy <a href="http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\_policy/index.shtml">http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\_policy/index.shtml</a> (Updated 5/25/18)

10/29/18 #V2-1174 1100 am EDT 8.3

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