

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 12/3/18: Hurricanes; Royal Palm; Westin; Royal Islander; Planet Hollywood; "Secrets"; Pearl of China; Nutcracker; New Boardwalk; Zhaveri; Orient; [38 News Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1179 --- Monday, December 3, 2018
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



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Member News

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

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

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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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Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

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.

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:

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- *Restaurant of the Week: Mario's Bistro*

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---- *Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed: Customer Stories*

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

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-- *******HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP SALE NOW UNDERWAY*******
JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Membership Sale
Delivers 300+ SXM Discounts & Other Benefits

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-- *Please Patronize JMB Sponsors*

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-- *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.

38 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 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 12/8/2018 12/22/2018 49 & 50 **Royal Islander La Plage St Maarten Two bedroom deluxe Penthouse unit Sleep six** maximum include two private balconies overlooking the ocean and tropical gardens. Living room with sleeper sofa, Dining area with seating for four Fully equipped kitchen Refrigerator Dishwasher Microwave Two spacious bedrooms with a king-size in the master bedroom and two full size beds in the guest bedroom Three TV sets In room safe Electronic key-card system \$1700 a week Richard 5198194733 royalislanderowners@gmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/13/2018 1/27/2018 Weeks 2 and 3 **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** Newly renovated and fully equipped one bedroom in Bougainvillea Building, 4th floor, sleeps four (King bed in bedroom, two Murphy beds in living room), magnificent view from balcony of Simpson Bay and sunsets, located poolside. Gym and tennis courts. Restaurants, shopping, casino and marina all within walking distance. \$7,000 per week (negotiable) Barbara 413-549-1386 nberlin@english.umass.edu

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
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- 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://everythingxsm.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. Hurricane Season Is Over, But...

The busy 2018 hurricane season is over, although Mother Nature sometimes ignores calendars. That's why we'll keep a close eye on the Caribbean for you and we'll report anything significant to our JMB Website Supporters members via Bulletins and will also post any significant storm information on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

Preliminary forecasts for the 2019 hurricane season, which begins May 1, are expected during January from Colorado State and other sources. We will be reporting that information here in *SXM Weekly News*, as always.

HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP SALE

NOW UNDERWAY

**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: 6 yrs only \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs. \$79; one year \$33
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: 7 yrs. \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs. \$69; one year \$33
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Reinstatement JMB memberships: 6 yrs. \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs. \$73; one year \$35
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

2. World's Largest Cruise Ship Visits SXM

Royal Caribbean's Symphony of the Seas, the largest cruise ship in the world, visited SXM for the first time last week.

Here are some statistics on this amazing ship: capacity 6680 psngs.; 1184 feet long, 238 feet high

More information can be found [here](#).

3. Current SXM Weather / Weather Updates

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.

4. Get The Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Around The World

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

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

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

5. Workers Abound at Royal Palm

At long last, work seems to be underway at Royal Palm Beach Resort at Kimsha beach. Workers can now be seen around the property and some internal demolition is obvious, and has been the case in recent weeks.

When we see anything of further significance happening at the property, we will report it here in *SXM Weekly News*.

More is [here](#).

6. Westin's Dawn Beach Club Reopens

Dawn Beach Club, the timeshare operation of the Westin St. Maarten resort, has now reopened, at least in part. More information on that is [here](#).

There is still no word on the future of the Westin Dawn Beach Resort and Casino. We know the resort had some serious issues with its insurance company, as we reported here previously. Management had told us that information would be released earlier this year, but that has not yet happened. There are lots of rumors but no substantiated information about the future of the resort, which had become the anchor of a vibrant Dawn beach since it first opened a number of years ago.

Westin is owned by Marriott, a much bigger, seemingly more vibrant brand. Whether resort owner Columbia Sussex

or Marriott will decide to rebrand the Westin is not known, but it continues to be the subject of much speculation.

We will update you as soon as we have any new information.

7. Work Starting at Royal Islander / Great Bay?

When the Sonesta Great Bay Beach hotel was demolished after being pummeled by hurricane Irma, subsequent to its purchase by Sunwing for redevelopment into an upscale Planet Hollywood Resort, the only buildings left on the property were those used for the Royal Islander Great Bay timeshare units.

That building continues to look rather derelict now, but in recent days a number of cars have been seen around it. It's possible that work is proceeding to repair and renovate the property in preparation for its reopening. There has been no announcement about the timing of this, from what we know. We'll try to find out more about the future of this specific Royal Islander property.

8. Planet Hollywood Update

According to a story published in the St. Maarten *Daily Herald* within the last week or so, Sunwing continues to polish its plans for development of a Planet Hollywood Resort on the former property of Sonesta Great Bay Beach hotel.

It is not yet known when the first ceremonial shovel of earth will be turned on that property, but most people believe it's likely this winter.

Hopefully, the property will open for the 2020 – 2021 season. SXM badly needs upscale properties appealing to a younger, more affluent demographic -- and that's what this will be.

9. About "Secrets" in St. Martin

The new [Secrets resort](#), planned for the site of the former RIU Palace (previously Radisson Blu and L'Habitation), should be quite a beautiful, upscale facility. Our link gives you much more info on this all-inclusive property.

10. Pearl of China Project

When it was originally unveiled several years ago, the Pearl of China development project was to be a mammoth condominium/hotel/convention facility which, from all appearances, amounted to a Chinese sales beachhead for this hemisphere, with precious little positive impact on the St. Maarten economy and virtually no impact on tourism. The building as originally conceived was also about as appealing and creative/imaginative as your average cinderblock.

The project was widely criticized by people living in the Bel Air area because of its size and its huge projected impact on resources. It has been scaled down since then, but whether it will ever see the light of day, in any form, at this point is unknown. Although some government officials targeted it as being a huge boon to the island, there was never any proof of that, many opponents said.

We'll keep you posted.

11. Chinese Investment in SXM

Although the Chinese economy has issues, nonetheless Chinese investment folks are alive and well in the

Caribbean.

The Chinese know that North American tourists will continue to drop millions of dollars in revenue into Caribbean coffers — and they would like a share of it.

The Pearl of China project is not the only investment the Chinese have proposed for SXM; there had been others and there will be more.

As always, we'll keep you posted on what happens.

12. 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 [everythingxsm.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

13. 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

HOLIDAY SALE NOW UNDERWAY

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

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Reinstatement JMB memberships: 6 yrs. \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs. \$73; one year \$35
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

14. "Chocolate Nutcracker": A Must See Holiday Event

The Chocolate Nutcracker — a whimsical musical — is being performed in SXM December 2, December 3, December 8, and December 9 at the Philipsburg Cultural Center in downtown Philipsburg.

Jeff Berger attended the dress rehearsal late last week and said on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) that it's a must-see musical extravaganza featuring 72 very talented players/dancers in a multitude of costumes with great music from beginning to end.

The students are part of the INDISU dance studio, long funded by Topper Daboul, and they won numerous awards in a recent global competition in Los Angeles. Tickets are only US \$25 or \$20 for children and students and are available at INDISU studios in Cole Bay and both Van Dorp and Executive Business Services locations on SXM.

For information please call 721-544-3633.

You'll find many pictures posted on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

15. Boardwalk Coming From Port to Great Bay Promenade

Popularly known as the Boardwalk, but more formally known as the Great Bay Beach Promenade, the boardwalk along with its sister project, the upgrading of Front Street, has been one of the most successful Caribbean downtown renewal projects in the history of the region.

Now, a new boardwalk is about to be constructed from the Dr. a C Wathey cruise and cargo facilities directly to the existing boardwalk on Great Bay beach.

Consequently, passengers arriving by ship will no longer have to walk along the side of the busy road leading from Philipsburg to the port. Once the project has been completed, they can walk alongside Great Bay on the beautiful new boardwalk which will take them directly to the Philipsburg waterfront and Great Bay beach. All of this should make the walk to Philipsburg — which should be regarded as the **Jewelry Capital of the Caribbean** — faster, easier, and a lot more fun.

16. Philipsburg Coming Alive Friday Night December 7

If you like the sound of steel bands, special nights for holiday shopping, and more steel bands and dancing, you'll want to be in downtown Philipsburg the night of December 7 from 5 PM on when the whole area comes alive in a pre holiday celebration.

Shopping and steel bands — several of them, will highlight the night, so don't miss this opportunity to have a great nighttime experience in Philipsburg.

17. Zhaveri Jewelers / "Luxury" Moves West on Front Street

Zhaveri Jewelers, which for many years has been just east of the center of downtown Philipsburg opposite Little Switzerland, has moved into new space just west of the historic courthouse. That new space is actually four times the size of their previous store, which enables them to offer an extended selection of jewelry, watches, and other luxury items for every member of the family as well as lots of new surprises which will be coming over the next several weeks.

Check out the store now at 68 Front Street, then come back in a couple of weeks when everything is 100% completed and all the new merchandise has arrived.

We've known owners Deepu and Henna Budhrani for more than 20 years and we're sure this latest endeavor will be something to see indeed. Tell them we sent you...

More surprises are to come; watch *SXM Weekly News* and our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) for details.

18. Owners Livid Over Slow Progress on Orient Beach "Carbets"

The older buildings on Orient beach were widely recognized for their honky-tonk style — but they were well loved like lots of places people have become accustomed to.

Hurricane Gonzalo did a number on those old buildings leading the Collectivite to rebuild them as rather sterile structures which the renters custom tailored to suit the personalities of the businesses. They took far too long to build than the tenants liked, and the rental costs were rather astronomical.

Tourists barely had time to get used to the new structures when Irma came along and literally blew them away, leaving the beach largely as it was in the late 1970s before anything had been built on it.

The French side wasted no time in approving new structures for the Five Stars "sisters," including Bikini Beach, Waikiki, and KonTiki — leading many people to point out that places that paid the highest rents to the government had unfair advantage over their smaller neighbors.

Meanwhile, saddled with expenses mandated by the government, the smaller businesses waited for their "carbet" structures to be rebuilt — and they are still waiting. It's quite fair to say that they are livid and its equally fair to say that many people who normally patronize the carbets are actively talking about boycotting the "bigs" in retaliation for the Collectivite's delay.

More on that is below. This situation is far from resolved.

19. Will Orient Beach Tourists Boycott "Bigs" To Protest Alleged Preferential Treatment by the Collectivite?

A number of tourists discussing the situation with the carbets on Orient beach actively broached the idea of boycotting the bigs to "penalize" the Collectivite for dragging its feet on helping the carbets. Whether this will materialize into anything isn't known, but if the sentiment is there the action may be sure to follow.

If the Collectivite wants to avoid any kind of social action in response to the mess it created, it needs to start responding to business leaders desperate to rebuild and get their businesses back into the shape necessary to start earning revenue. It has mired them in red tape so far with apparently little thought to the damage it is doing to the French side economy. Any social action — whether it's a strike, blocked roads, or anything else — will aggravate the situation on the French side. All of those things have happened before regarding the very same buildings that Irma destroyed. Hopefully the government, now sadly hamstrung by its own regulations, we'll figure out a way to solve this expeditiously.

20. Winair Adds Holiday Flights To/From Islands

WINAIR airlines, the small St. Maarten-based carrier that uses twin engine STOL (short takeoff and landing) aircraft for flights to a number of neighboring islands, has added new flight frequencies to accommodate the people on the islands who want to do some holiday-related shopping and travel.

See more about this at www.fly-winair.sx.

21. Scotiabank to Sell Its Caribbean Branches

Scotiabank, the Bank of Nova Scotia, has elected to sell all of its Caribbean branches to a bank based in the Caribbean.

A number of islands are reminding Scotiabank that the proposal must be reviewed and approved by local authorities and cannot simply be executed.

For tourists, the impact mainly falls on Americans who are Bank of America customers. There has been a reciprocal agreement under which Bank of America customers using Scotiabank ATMs can withdraw money without bank fees, as they would on their home Bank of America ATMs. Without Scotiabank, that advantage seems unlikely to persist.

Scotiabank employees are supposed to be retained by the new buyers, assuming the transaction is approved. But their true status is open to question; they will need to reapply with the new owners, if the ownership change actually happens.

We'll keep an eye on this for you.

22. Tijon Parfumerie Reopens M-F

Tijon Parfumerie in Grand Case, diagonally across the street from Spiga, recently reopened Mondays through Fridays at its traditional location.

The Parfumerie, which is been open for many years, has attracted thousands of tourists to its line of fragrances uniquely oriented toward the Caribbean — as well as to its brief courses which enable visitors to create their own fragrances, a rather amazing experience for both women and men.

For more information please see Tijon.com.

23. Georgina's Nails in Elegant New Location

The venerable Georgina's Nails had been located on the second floor of a commercial building near the Palapa Marina in Simpson Bay — a building that was severely damaged by hurricane Irma.

Georgina's has relocated to Miss Lallie's commercial center on the Bush road only a couple of doors away from the headquarters of the *SXM Daily Herald*. They are on the second floor of the large U-shaped building and are actively welcoming clients. Phone: 543-2499.

24. Something Big Brewing at Isle de Sol Marina

We can't give you precise details yet — but we can tell you that a new business of special interest to the many megayacht passengers who pass through Isle de Sol Marina is about to come alive in that Marina.

This will be of great interest to skippers, yacht owners, and most of all to megayacht passengers.

Stay tuned.

25. Downtown Parking a Bit More Organized

The paid parking lot in the middle of downtown Philipsburg in front of the old government administration building was a great place if you liked free-for-all's.. You could go in, take a chance on which of the cars might leave, and compete with several other cars all rushing for the same space. It was a great place to park but the competition for space was a pain.

In 2017, they introduced a new system whereby you drive in and are only allowed into the lot when a space becomes available — if you're the next car, that space is yours.

The process is far more civilized and, at the end of the day, quicker and safer. The only problem with the lot is it's not big enough.

26. Blue Bitch Bar

Taloula Mango's restaurant in downtown Philipsburg, founded at about the time the Great Bay Promenade was launched, includes a drinking establishment called the Blue Bitch Bar. Thanks to bar memorabilia, the Blue Bitch has become better known than Taloula Mango's. Consequently, a rebranding is coming, we've heard, to discontinue the Taloula Mango name and run with the Blue Bitch Bar moniker.

Taloula's was named after a family dog in the family of Norm and Su Wathey, owners of the establishment. So it stands to reason that the Blue Bitch Bar relates to the color of an imaginary dog and not to a person going through melancholy.

Thought you'd want to know.

27. Emilio's Launches a "Jeff Berger Burger" at Lunch

As many of you know, our first-ever Relocation Seminar on SXM was held at Emilio's Restaurant a couple of weeks ago, before Thanksgiving. Chief cook and bottle washer at Emilio's is none other than renowned Temptation chef Dino Jagtiani, working closely with restaurant owners Norm and Su Wathey.

Dino's brother, Arun Jagtiani, the top realtor on SXM, was the lead presenter at our Relocation Seminar. At the seminar's conclusion, Chef Dino came out with a platter on which stood a huge double hamburger. When Chef Dino started talking about someone who had made a substantial contribution to the island over the years, I was wondering who he was talking about. Then he announced that the Jeff Berger Burger, on the Platter in front of him, was named in my honor and is now on the luncheon menu at Emilio's, which is located in historic buildings at Rainforest Adventures on the Emilio Wilson Estate. .

I was surprised and honored by the presentation. Not long after, I consumed the entire concoction: it was delicious, as were the fries that accompanied it.

Definitely add Emilio's to your SXM plans, for lunch or dinner or both. Many menu items from Dino's former restaurant, Temptation, are on the menu at Emilio's. Temptation was blown apart by hurricane Irma in 2017.

28. No Romaine in SXM, Either

A few days after US officials banned the sale of domestic romaine lettuce, romaine was banned here in SXM as well, temporarily...

29. No Mosquito Issue, But Preventative Spraying Done

There is currently no issue on SXM with any mosquito borne illnesses — Zika, Chikungunya, or dengue fever.

The island wants to keep it that way, so the Dutch side recently completed mosquito fogging in all of its municipalities.

If mosquitoes like you, mosquito repellents like Off! are widely available across the island. However, we strongly recommend the use of the commercial product Mosquito Milk, available in some supermarkets and virtually all pharmacies. It is highly effective and reasonably priced.

Simpson Bay Pharmacy, Orange Grove Pharmacy in Cole Bay, and others typically carry it.

30. Dump Update

There was a relatively small fire at the Dutch side dump behind downtown Philipsburg early Sunday morning, but other than that there have not been any serious fires there recent in recent weeks.

Dutch officials have been reviewing what's going on there and generally seem to agree that the solution won't come quickly or be cheap, but that it must be done. There seems to be general agreement that the dump must change from a mountain of trash to a trash to energy facility that generates power and hopefully eliminates pollution of toxic substances.

We'll keep you posted.

31. Restaurant of the Week: Mario's Bistro

It takes a long time for a restaurant to build a reputation like that of Mario's Bistro, owned and operated by Mario Tardif.

For years, Mario's Bistro was located next to the French side drawbridge in Marigot. But a few years ago, it relocated to Porto Cupecoy, where it has continued to enjoy rave reviews ever since. Although the surroundings are beautiful, the real artwork and creativity here is shown on the menu, every day. Whether you like beef, poultry, or seafood, you will find many items here that will delight all of your senses.

For the first time during our visit to Mario's last week, we tried his Filet Mignon, which was exquisite. In fact, I would use those Christmas Carol words "tender and mild" along with perfectly spiced as my description; loved it.

If you have special dietary needs, the staff at Mario's bends over backwards to accommodate them, consistently delivering truly extraordinary dining.

Don't leave Mario's for the end of your trip — it deserves repeat visits, so visit it early and you are certain to plan return visits during your current trip.

One quick last word: save room for dessert. We've been tempted to eat dessert first here, but the appetizers are so special that we couldn't.

Reservations are a must. You can contact Mario's at 721-523-2760.

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

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mario Bistro www.maribistrot.com/en/ 12/3/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

Isola next to Hollywood Casino in Simpson Bay Resort, **11/19/18**. 100% redesigned, inside and out, floor to ceiling and everything inside. Just go.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 11/12/18, David is back and the restaurant has reopened. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too. Now open for lunch and dinner.

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 or early 2019.

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.

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.

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

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

Enigma C3 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 late 2018.

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.

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.

32. Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed: Customer Stories

*Emergency medical evacuations are **payable in cash in advance** and often cost upwards of \$45,000 -- **unless you have a SkyMed membership**. SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, and where your health insurance actually works. It's available to Americans and Canadians and to ExPats of both countries, taking them home from throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage is available covering every country around the world except those on the U. S. State Department watch list. SkyMed makes all medical evacuation arrangements and pays for them directly...you just pay for your SkyMed membership.*

*Here are examples of **SkyMed in action**:*

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

An MD from Florida who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed *which arranged and paid* for an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. *SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical*

evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works. That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.

Nobody is immune: anything can happen anywhere. Do it today. To learn more, visit www.getskymed.com. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters in this section.

More Info on SkyMed...

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](#)

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 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

36. Use Our Weekly News Archives

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

Check it out [here](#).

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

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

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

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www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

38. 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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)

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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)

12/03/18 #V2-1179 1000 pm EDT 12/02/18 8.8

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