

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 12/17/18: Airport Reopens; Preclearance; AA; Toppers Distillery Party; Resort Updates; Louis Vuitton Buys La Samanna; Kakao; Tijon; Marigot; Christmas / New Year's; Vesna's Desserts [33 news stories]

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Vol. 2, #1181 --- Monday, December 17, 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

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

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

Important Note:

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

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



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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

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---- *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 ENDS 12/24******

*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*

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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 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 1/5/2019 1/12/2019 Week 1 **Atrium Beach Resort Large beachfront 2 bedroom lock-out** (a 1 bedroom unit plus a studio unit with a private connecting hallway) with a large wrap around balcony on the 3rd floor, 2 king beds, queen sleeper sofa, 3 TV's with cable, AC, full kitchen with granite countertops in 1 bedroom unit, partial kitchen in studio unit, free gated parking, 24 hour security, laundry facility and small gym on site. Beautiful beach with beach bar and grill, calm waters in Simpson Bay, kiddie pool and lounging deck. Many restaurants and a grocery store within walking distance. \$1100.00 which includes \$50 timeshare tax. Renter pays Atrium's utility and environmental fees of \$4.50 per person per day. Ilona 952-443-2867 hoggarth123@yahoo.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 5/19/2018 5/26/2018 Week 20 **The Towers at Mullet Bay** 1 Bedroom, 3rd Floor Unit, sleeps 4 and recently updated. Overlooks the Pool with Balcony off Living Area and small balcony off Bedroom. Has full Kitchen & Bath. Mullet Bay Beach is a quick walk over the Golf Course, and is near to Maho area with plenty of restaurants, shops , grocery store and Casino. \$5000 negotiable per week Anne 516-431-2350 amreap@gmail.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/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://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. SXM Airport Main Terminal Reopens

The main terminal of SXM Airport reopened last week. Both arrivals and departures are now processed on the first floor of the terminal.

Work on restoring the second floor is not expected to be completed before late in 2019. We have no word yet on when preclearance might be available, but it is not expected without significant further terminal construction. See next story.

Dismantling of the pavilions — the tent structures that have been used for many months for both arrivals and departures — is already underway.

LAST == CALL

HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP SALE

******* ENDS MONDAY 12/24/18 *******

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

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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. So When Is US Preclearance Coming?

We'll have further, more precise word on this very soon, but the bottom line is that preclearance is not expected to happen during 2019. As noted in the previous story, additional construction is needed so that precleared passengers heading to US destinations are kept separate from passengers heading to other destinations.

When we last spoke with airport officials, they told us preclearance was a matter of when, not if, and we have no reason to feel that has changed. It certainly was delayed by Irma and it cannot be created by waving any magic wand -- it's complex and requires work and extensive new construction before it can happen.

More is coming on this....

3. AA Overnighting Flight from Miami Set To Return

We've been told that American Airlines' overnighting flight between SXM and Miami — the flight that arrives late at night from Miami, stays in SXM overnight, and flies out early the next morning back to Miami — returns December 19.

The flight enables many people from across the country to arrive in SXM the same day. Because of the early departure, it also enables most of these people to return to their destination airport on the same day they leave SXM.

The flight is a welcome addition to the American Airlines schedule.

4. Early-Season Storms Screw Up Flights

An early season snow storm about a week ago hit the Charlotte area hard, shutting down a key hub for American Airlines. The shutdown snarled travel plans for thousands of passengers, including some traveling to and from the hub from SXM.

It was an early sample of what can happen in wintry weather and what may be ahead for some people traveling this winter.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Simpson Bay Resort Receives Our First '18-'19 Award of Excellence

JMB Communications began distributing our **Everything SXM 2018-19 Awards of Excellence** to SXM businesses one week ago; we hope to complete the distribution process to all winners by the end of this month or early in January, when we'll list them publicly.

The first business to receive the award this year was Simpson Bay Resort, where Marcel Javois is the general manager. It was delivered to him personally during last week's Meet and Greet at Simpson Bay.

Mr. Javois credited resort timeshare owners with being the real power behind the resort's recovery, through their long-time loyalty to the resort.

8. What's Going On at Simpson Bay Resort & Belair Beach?

Late every Monday afternoon, Belair beach has a Managers cocktail party for its timeshare owners. And late every Tuesday afternoon, Simpson Bay Resort has a similar event for its timeshare owners.

Just about every week, both resorts have a **surprise mystery guest** who you know. If you're a timeshare owner or guest at either Simpson Bay or Belair through this winter, by all means attend their get togethers — you might be interested in that surprise mystery guest and want to say hello.

See what he has to say...

9. Anse Marcel Beach Reopening 12/20

The Anse Marcel beach restaurant reopens December 20, this Thursday. For much more information, see their [website](#).

10. Towers at Mullet Bay Won't Say Reopening Date

Several months back, the Towers at Mullet Bay had said that it would be reopening in November, 2018. It didn't. We walked into the main lobby several days ago and it was manned as it would normally be when the resort is open. There were no guests, and nobody wanted to say anything about when exactly the resort would be reopening.

There were some issues early-on related to damage from hurricane Irma, and there were additional issues of a complex legal nature. The resort looks like it should be able to open soon — but we can't and won't guess when.

11. Lots of Work at Sapphire as Renovations Continue

One SXM resort known for its history of poor communications with timeshare owners seems to be making strong progress in its post-Irma renovations — finally.

When we casually spoke with a few resort employees about a week ago, they told us that 30 rooms were already

open and that new elevators were at that time in the process of being installed. They said that as soon as the elevator installation was complete, the resort would be moving quickly to accelerate the pace of its room renovations and repairs following Irma.

Other resorts managed to open weeks after Irma. Why not Sapphire? We know their damage was significant — but so was damage elsewhere. What's the resort's reason for moving so slowly at getting repairs underway and finished?

A number of SXM resorts need to answer that same question directly to their timeshare owners. Some resorts did a superb job of communications — witness Simpson Bay Resort, for example. Atrium, Divi, Belair, and Oyster Bay Beach Resort all did an excellent job in communications and in getting the job done.

We'd like to know what the excuse was at Royal Palm, Flamingo, and especially Sapphire. The worst of all: Ocean Club, which leaves derelict buildings standing and says nothing substantive about the future here on SXM. Alegria has also been twiddling its thumbs since Ray Sidhom bought it.

No excuses. ***For the sake of its tattered economy, the island government should launch a full scale inquiry into why these businesses have been dragging their feet -- and compel them to get it in gear now. Enough is enough -- hardball is long overdue.***

12. Cupecoy Twin Towers Pumping Water into Mullet Bay

As we previously reported, work is underway on previously undeveloped property at the junction of University Drive and Rhine Road in Cupecoy. University Drive leads to the American University of the Caribbean medical school campus; to the road's North is the remains of the Starz Casino and to its South lies the land now being developed and the Mullet Bay golf course.

While excavating in the area to build the foundations for both towers, contractors encountered water, not unexpected for construction so close to the shore. The water needs to be pumped from the excavations so the construction can proceed — and pumping of thousands of gallons of water from the site is underway. Large blue tubes (larger than fire hoses) carry the pumped water around the edge of the golf course and across the access road to the Towers at Mullet Bay Resort, dumping the water into mullet pond, part of Simpson Bay lagoon.

Because the excavation site is shielded from public view, we were unable to contact construction officials to ask how long pumping will continue or whether any pumping will be necessary on a permanent basis — and either way, whether the water will continue to be pumped into the pond or removed for disposal elsewhere. We hope to be able to find out more about this and when we do, we will report it here.

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

With several timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, Atrium Resort, Simpson Bay Resort, and Oyster Bay Beach now open too -- timeshare owners continue to post units available for rent on our [timeshare rental site](#) on [everythingSXM.com](#) and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on [everythingsxm.com](#). Check them out: they have just been heavily revised.

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

14. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

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

We now offer about 300 discounts (including some now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here

that will be of great interest and value. Please check this section in the coming months as we continue to roll out a number of entirely new discounts and benefits.

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

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

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

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HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP SALE

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15. Louis Vuitton Buys Belmond Resorts, La Samanna Owners

LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the world leader in luxury goods, is acquiring London-based luxury hotel brand Belmond Group (formerly Orient Express) for USD\$3.2-billion.

As the wealthy further boost their spending for luxury goods and services, the acquisition seems perfect for LVMH, and further solidifies its leadership position.

Belmond La Samanna is part of this deal. [La Samanna reopened](#) just last week, on December 10. Much more about the purchase is in this [article](#) by *Fortune*.

What's the future for La Samanna? We'll be watching for you.

16. Kakao Beach on Orient Reopens Today

Kakao Beach Restaurant on Orient Beach officially reopens today. See their [website](#).

17. Air Lekkerbek Airplane Bar Is No More

Built from the fuselage of a retired commercial airliner, Air Lekkerbek stood near the Pondfill in Philipsburg for many years, with bar and restaurant services for primarily local clientele.

The property was severely damaged by hurricane Irma and the owner had been told to fix it but didn't, so the building was demolished in the fuselage hauled away last week — so Air Lekkerbek is no more.

18. Tijon Parfumerie for One-Stop Holiday Shopping

Regardless of whether you're on the island, Tijon Parfumerie should be a focal point of your holiday shopping for everyone in the family.

If you're on the island or about to get here, Tijon offers you the opportunity to **make your own perfume**. Begin a brief session about all of the source materials put in front of you, after which you pick the ingredients you want in your own personally designed fragrance. We did this a couple of years ago and it was a wonderful experience. Each of us created our own fragrance, and Tijon recorded all of the ingredients in its permanent database. When we recently ran out, we reordered our own fragrances and picked them up at the Parfumerie. Voila...

But there's far more to it than that. There are many prepared fragrances available for purchase, but there are a number of skincare products and many beautiful island souvenirs plus gift items to bring back home.

The Parfumerie is open weekdays; it's located diagonally across the street from Spiga restaurant at the northern end of Grand Case on the French side. For much more, see their website, www.tijon.com.

18a. Winter JMB Member Meet-and-Greet Coming at Toppers Rhum Distillery

Our last Distillery party during the Summer was a big success, so we're planning another for late January or February. Other parties coming will be at the all-new Zhaveri Jewelers (Zhaveri Luxury) in Philipsburg, an all-new Relocation Seminar possibly at Emilio's (date TBA), and more.

The distillery party will offer a mini-tour, some tastings, lots of rum-related island souvenirs, and of course some great snacks from Toppers Restaurant. **No children admitted; this is an adult event.**

Details will be emailed to JMB Website Supporters members soon. Advance registration required.

19. In Marigot, All Talk & No Action Re: Shoreline Development

A few years ago, major hoopla surrounded an announcement about a huge remake of the Marigot waterfront, seemingly designed to make it more attractive to tourists.

There have been occasional rumblings about this ever since — as well as the serious interruption by hurricane Irma — but basically nothing has happened.

Worse, the widely publicized recovery aid money that Pres. Macron promised to the island apparently came with all kinds of deductions for what was already delivered in the emergency weeks following the catastrophe. So, the net amount left for recovery was actually far smaller than Macron had promised.

The French side was hit worse than the Dutch side — but not dramatically worse. Both sides are working hard to recover and welcome tourists, but the Dutch side seems to have done a much better job of recovering than the French, which seems to have come up with an enormous amount of red tape instead of progress.

When a government commits to do something, it should do it -- or have a very good explanation. So far, there's a lot of nothing -- and the plan was announced roughly three years ago. We know Irma was a huge blow, but...

We'll keep you posted.

20. Christmas in SXM

Jimmy Buffett's [Christmas in the Caribbean](#) had it right — here in SXM, the Christmas season is just as dynamic as it is back home — and it has everything but snow.

There are refrigerated containers loaded with fresh trees, first sold at the end of last month, there are ornaments, lighting displays, holiday sales, holiday music, and even holiday menus at many restaurants. Christmas is traditionally one of the busiest weeks on SXM, and this year is expected to be no exception.

Many of the decorations and some of the music stay up for several days after Christmas, so if you want to experience your own **Christmas in the Caribbean** you still have time to make it happen. For rentals, see our main site, www.everythingsxm.com. And check out our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) for answers to questions and loads of pictures.

21. New Year's Celebrations

As usual, a full list of New Year's Eve celebrations will be posted not only in the *Daily Herald*, but also on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). There will be fireworks in downtown Philipsburg and many special New Year's Eve menus at restaurants across the island.

The key is to make reservations early because a number of restaurants are already close to being sold out....

22. Award-Winning Toppers Rhum Becoming Pervasive in USA

Toppers Rhum ("rhum" is the French spelling) is becoming pervasive across the USA, now available in many states. If it is not yet available near you, ask for it by name.

The Toppers Rhum distillery, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, is in the Cole Bay industrial area and is available for tours. Tour schedules are regularly listed on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). You should also see

story 18a; we are now finalizing a winter JMB Website Supporters member party coming to the distillery probably late this January; if you're a JMB Website Supporters member, you will receive an invitation by email soon. Early reservations are recommended. (If you're not a member, see the posts in this issue about our membership sale; prices will never be lower but the sale delivers about 300 discounts & benefits and it ends December 24, so join or renew or reinstate today.)

Toppers Rhum Distillery has become one of the island's top tours. The tour leader will show you how rum is manufactured, many different flavors of rum, and information about their lab in which flavors are developed.

There's also the matter of Toppers rum cake available at Toppers restaurant — it's delicious and really does contain rum, as you'll discover once you take your first bite. (A++++).

Bring some flavor of St. Maarten home from your favorite liquor store — and again, if they don't carry Toppers rum, ask for it by name and tell them to get it.

23. Incredible Spectrum of Desserts from the Mind of Vesna

On the Vesna Taverna website, VesnaTaverna.com, you'll see a variety of desserts listed. What you won't see are the nightly specials, which are amazing — especially on Friday night and particularly Saturday night, which is Greek night.

We visited on Saturday night when the restaurant presents a menu of Greek specialties, French specialties, and their regular menu. The dessert menu on the website lists items that are frequently available. *But when Vesna gets her creative juices going — which is most of the time — you'll find some incremental incredible dessert offerings.*

In fact, when we visit Vesna Taverna for dinner, I always go by the refrigerated dessert case first and reserve whatever I want — why risk disappointment?

Vesna Taverna is a fabulous restaurant without prices to match: we have strongly recommended it for years — and what we're saying here is, just be sure you save room for Vesna's incredible desserts. Take-out is always available, too....

24. Jubilee Library Closed; \$12-million Replacement in Design

The 75-year-old St. Maarten Jubilee library in Philipsburg was pummeled by hurricane Irma but has remained open after a fashion ever since. It has now been ordered shut down by the government because of the serious condition of the building.

The Jubilee library staff is been attempting to raise money for some time. In fact, it is now looking at a possible \$12 million replacement for the library, though how exactly that would be paid for in a down economy (thanks to Irma) isn't known. We'll keep you posted.

More stories follow.

-- Finally, Salsa Classes For Adults, from Experts

If you thought that the Soggy Dollar Bar (behind Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay) was only for kids, you'd be wrong — adults also love it.

One of the reasons is that on Latin night, they have salsa dancing lessons from 7 to 9 PM for a cost of only \$10 per person — wicked cheap, as they say in Boston. **Every Tuesday Soggy Dollar celebrates Latin Night with a Live Band in addition to the 2 for 1 drink specials on Brugal and El Jimador with FREE**

entrance and Margarita for everyone! Come that night to Vesna's for dinner at 5pm, then walk back next door to Soggy at 6:45 for the Salsa Lessons. No need to register in advance.

It's every Tuesday night... stay tuned.

25. Restaurant of the Week: Avantika

Only a few years old, Anish Chugani's Avantika Thai Restaurant brings beauty, creativity, a spectrum of great flavors, and panache to Thai dining on SXM.

Whether you prefer vegetarian / vegan entrees or want meat, fish, or poultry, their huge menu will give you heaping portions of great food in a rather festive ambiance without breaking the bank. It has become one of our favorite restaurants.

It's conveniently located in Simpson Bay across the street from Toppers. Just go -- you will not be disappointed.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 12/17/18) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 12/10/18) Reopened as Cafe Spiga, new menu; redesigned. New bar, new bar snacks, same great staff, service, and wonderful food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world.

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.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 Sushitto) (6/18/18) is the new name of Sushitto, 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.

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.

26. 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](#)

27. 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 everythingxm.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.

28. 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.

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:

[**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

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, everythingxsm.com.

**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.

32. 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

***2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale* are posted at http://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com .

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

12/17/18 #V2-1181 0600 pm EST 12/16/18 8.5

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