

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 1/21/19: Storm Harper; Sonesta Maho Reopening; Mercure Doing Great; Cupecoy Towers; Pressoir Reopens; Spiga; Altro; Lal's; SkipJack's Reopening; Starz; Super Bowl; Your Invite To Our Distillery Party [27 News Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1186 --- Monday, January 21, 2019
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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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 about 315,000 people around the world...

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



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

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

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- *SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic*

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27 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 2/22/2019 2/23/2019 Week 7 **LaVista Resort** We have **1 night (Friday, Feb 22) available** in a Cottage @LaVista. It is a private separate structure with one bedroom (king bed), living room with pull-out sofa bed, dining area, kitchenette and bath with shower. Charming replica of traditional Antillian Home with large porch and Ocean view. The kitchenette consist of 2 burners, sink, refrigerator, microwave, and small appliances. They are all furnished with silverware, dishes, glasses, etc. This unit has air-conditioning, satellite TV (with 14 channels). La Vista also proposes a safe deposit box at a minimal fee, direct dial telephones and electrical generator in case of island power failure. \$175/night Judy 603-434-1254 Ronshagen@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/9/2019 2/16/2019 Week 6 **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** Flamboyant bldg. Two bedrooms,two bathrooms, two patios upper and lower. Unit is directly on the beach. Close to pool also with swim up beach bar and grill. Downstairs has capacity to sleep two more with pull down Murphy beds. Total 6 comfortably. Fully stocked kitchen, dining, living room, master suite, bath, patio overlooking beach, lower level. Upper level master suite, bath , full patio as well. Directly on beach, fantastic views, and beach access. Stainless, granite, all new furniture. Resort has many pools, casino, shopping, grocery,bakery,restaurants,tennis,playground. \$21,000.00 Karen 774-264-1267 Rinkydy151@aol.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

<https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format:

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews>

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

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)

- 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. Storm Harper Screws Up SXM Travel

As storm Harper blew across the country last week and this past weekend, it screwed up the nation's air travel system and with it, flights to and from SXM involving storm-affected cities. With many flights from the US canceled and many resorts full, some ticketed passengers were turned away by airlines at SXM Airport and had to scurry to find new accommodations. Some were told last Friday that they would not be able to get off the island until this coming Wednesday, providing an instant reminder of the importance of carrying extra doses of medications you rely on during your trip just in case your return is delayed by weather.

A JetBlue A320 aircraft that had flown into SXM on Saturday had its return to the states canceled, and was still sitting on the tarmac at midday Sunday.

Other storms are certainly in the wings, so this may be only the beginning of the misery that sometimes accompanies winter travel.

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

**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: Low Prices!

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

Renewal JMB memberships: Low Prices!

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

Reinstatement JMB memberships: Low Prices!

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

2. Current SXM Weather / Weather (Updated)

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.

3. 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.

4. Sonesta Maho Sets Opening Date

The Sonesta Maho resort and casino near SXM Airport now says it will be reopening late in February of this year.

The resort has been moving very quickly in recent months to complete its rebuilding program on time, though its pronouncement of the end of February — just as the Heineken Regatta reaches its zenith — won't be easy to accomplish.

Here are all the [details](#) directly from Sonesta.

5. Mercure Simpson Beach Hotel & Marina Going Great

Almost two years ago, we reported here about the Mercure Simpson Beach Hotel and Marina on Simpson Bay lagoon not far West of the French side drawbridge. At the time, the resort had just undergone major renovations and it looked beautiful, inside and out, under the watchful eye of owner/manager Baki Arbia, who just happens to be an artist.

Although the resort had been heavily damaged by hurricane Irma in September, 2017, Baki stayed on site and began the cleanup immediately, launching into renovations at once when cleanup had been completed.

The property now looks beautiful, as we saw in our initial look this past weekend. The grounds are immaculate as always and the hotel is very busy, accommodating many guests in a significant number of available rooms. Renovations at additional rooms continue and are expected to be completed soon.

In the meantime, the resort continues to be decorated with beautiful artwork, inside and out, including many murals painted by well-known French artists who came to the island at Baki's request a couple of months ago to paint panels on the wall outside the resort grounds. In fact, municipalities around the world have been highly impressed by the work that was done at Mercure — and this coming spring, the same group of artists will be traveling to Los Angeles to do similar mural painting there.

Mercure Simpson Beach this year received our **Everything SXM Award of Excellence**; learn more about this property [here](#).

6. Cupecoy Towers Construction Continues

Construction of the new twin towers project between the St. Maarten golf course and Starz casino continues; we posted construction pictures shot Sunday morning on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

If you're interested in learning more about the property, contact [Island Real Estate Team](#), our realtor partners on SXM.

The pictures tell the story of how this project is progressing.

7. Meet Surprise Mystery Guests at Belair and Simpson Bay...

Normally there's a barbecue at Belair resort late every Monday and at Simpson Bay there's a similar event on most Tuesdays. If you're a guest at either property, go -- from now through the end of March.

If you see someone there that you know; introduce yourself

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

With most 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.

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

9. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- New Update

We're updating the site right now to reflect new discounts and recently reopened properties. The Secret Site update should be complete in the next week.

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

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

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

**[Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership
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[New JMB memberships: Low Prices!](#)

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

Renewal JMB memberships: Low Prices!

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

Reinstatement JMB memberships: Low Prices!

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

10. Le Pressoir in Soft Reopening

The Grand Case French restaurant Le Pressoir, widely regarded as one of the island's best for many years, surprised a number of people through its soft opening last week. Visitors say the restaurant, as always under the culinary direction of acclaimed chef Franck Mear, is as fabulous as ever. The restaurant has been completely reimagined since it was devastated during Irma's visit to SXM. The entire French side was hit hard by the storm and the antique Creole building in which Le Pressoir was located was hit especially hard, as were many other buildings. That structure was well over 100 years old.

Now, it has been reimagined and, initial visitors say, expanded to accommodate demand from discriminating diners.

11. You're Invited To Our Feb. 13 Island Party

If you are a JMB Website Supporters member, you're invited to attend our Feb. 13, 2019 [JMB Members SXM Island Party](#) to be held at Toppers Rhum Distillery, Jobco Complex #3, Well Road #9, Colebay St. Maarten. Time: 6-8 pm.

Preregistration is required; see How To Register, below.

Island Party Features:

- Appetizers
- Welcome Drink
- Open Bar
- Rhum Tasting
- Mini distillery tour

To cover the cost of the open bar, the Toppers Rhum Distillery will charge just \$12 per person to all attendees (cash) upon entry. There are no other costs unless you (wisely) decide to buy some of Toppers delicious rhums.

Learn much more about Toppers Rhum at toppersrhum.com.

At this party, it's all about the rhum (French spelling of "rum"); and you'll be invited to sample some of Toppers' flavors. There will be mini-tours of the distillery, and you may decide you want the full scale tour also presented by the distillery during daily operations. If so, the Toppers Rhum folks will give you a discount certificate toward a reduced-cost full-scale Distillery Tour you can take during your trip to SXM.

How To Register...

This promises to be one of our biggest parties of the year, so please register early:

1. **Membership:** You must be a JMB member in good standing to attend. **If your membership has expired, please renew now at the Membership Renewal Center on the Secret Site, or by calling Membership Services at 508-830-3456 daytimes during regular office hours EDT.**

2. **Who Can Attend:** Member and spouse / partner; single members may bring a guest, but

everyone must be preregistered. Sorry, no children under the age of 18 and NO EXCEPTIONS.

We have space for up to 125 people. It is possible that as we get closer to the date of the Party, we will have space enough so our members can take two friends with them. If that is of interest to you, tell us when registering and give us the names and email addresses of your guests (max two.)
If we have space available as we get closer to the event, we will notify you about your guests' attendance.

3. What We Need / How To Register: Email susan@jmbcommunications.com and in your email give us the names of who will be attending, your email address, and your JMB Website Supporters membership number. For security please also tell us your street address. We will acknowledge your email and confirm your attendance. *If you have guests, give us their information as well but we cannot confirm them until much closer to the event, since JMB members must get top priority. We'll confirm guests, we expect, during the first week in Feb.* Members will be confirmed starting late in January.

4. The Last Word: Again, no children under 18, and cash is needed for the \$12 p/p registration. *Register early.* This big high season event has a chance to sell out early, so don't delay your registration.

Jeff Berger may be on hand to welcome you.

12. Spiga Wins "Six Ladies" Contest

As often happens, a group of people, in this case six women, was looking for recommendations on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) for places to go for a great dinner.

Responses came immediately from around the planet, including many fine restaurants. But the recommendations for Spiga, an upscale creative, romantic Italian dining spot at the northern end of Boulevard de Grand Case opposite Tijon Parfumerie, swung the decision in Spiga's favor.

We are told they loved the dinners and we're sure they loved the setting, the ambience, the service, and everything else about Spiga, which had caused that restaurant to be awarded our Everything SXM Award of Excellence for 2018 – 2019 very recently, along with a number of other fine restaurants, hotels, and other facilities.

Good decision, ladies.

13. Altro Under New Ownership

Altro, the fine dining Italian restaurant located at Porto Cupecoy, changed hands last fall.

Originally founded by the Moreau family, who formerly owned Sol y Luna, Altro had become a popular restaurant at the time it was sold — as you would expect from the former owners of Sol y Luna.

14. Lal is Back at Lal's Indian Cuisine

Lal Baharani, whose namesake Indian restaurant Lal's curry in a hurry had been an island landmark for years, quietly left the restaurant a while back to pursue other interests, though the restaurant kept going with the same name, the same recipes, and the same kitchen staff in Simpson Bay, on airport road south of the airport runway.

We saw Lal last week outside a French side market and asked him how life is treating him, to which he replied that he has taken over Lal's and is back in business.

His food was always terrific, cooked to diner specifications for spiciness (I like bland, Ilene likes flamethrower) and Lal's crew has always been great at responding to the wishes of the restaurant's customers.

Stop in soon and tell Lal we suggested you visit.

15. SkipJacks About To Reopen

Skipjacks seafood restaurant, the privately owned landmark SXM restaurant that has long been one of the busiest on the island, appears almost ready to reopen late this month or early in February.

We will publish the exact date as soon as we have it.

The main dining deck of the original restaurant was ripped off, literally, by the punishing winds and seas of hurricane Irma in September, 2017. An enormous amount of work since then has gone into creating a deck that is highly unlikely to budge, made of thick concrete.

The way to reopen has been more painful for customers, we think, than for owner George, who has been working to reopen since returning to the restaurant to clean it up after the storm had ended. But thankfully, that long wait is now almost over for everyone. Good luck George & staff!

16. Are You Ready for Super Bowl Football?

If you'll be on SXM on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, you'll have a variety of places to choose from for watching the game. Many restaurants — even iZi Ristorante Italiano — offer TV coverage, but so do all the sports bars, casinos, many restaurants, and most cable TVs in hotel rooms.

If you're ready for some Super Bowl football, you won't miss it if you watch the game here in SXM. With so many Americans on the island during superbowl Sunday, interest is at a fever pitch regardless of which teams you favor or hate....

17. Starz Casino Rebuilding Well Underway

It started several weeks ago and still has a long way to go, but the rebuilding of the Starz casino in Cupecoy is well underway.

When hurricane Irma destroyed the entire casino in 2017, one of the victims (along with several restaurants) was Dino Jagtiani's near-legendary Temptation restaurant, for years revered as one of the best in the Caribbean.

Today, Dino's culinary expertise is on display nightly at Norm and Su Wathey's Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate, in the Rainforest Adventures area. The food there is spectacular and includes many of his personal recipes from Temptation.

What restaurants will be opening at Starz casino when it reopens, most likely in time for next year's high season? We'll let you know as soon as we have official word. But — based on past performance — we expect some of them at least will be quite spectacular.

-- 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.

18. Restaurant of the Week: Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar

If you're looking for SXM's most unusual and most enjoyable beach bars, Dany and John's at Cupecoy beach should be on your short list.

First, Cupecoy is one of the most gorgeous beaches you will ever see, with tan to rust color sandstone cliffs as a backdrop that changes color according to where the sun is when it strikes them.

Second, the beach is generally fairly quiet, enabling you to to enjoy the nature around you.

Third, Dany and John offer chair and umbrella rentals, at reasonable prices, to help make your stay more comfortable.

Fourth, they offer bar service with your favorite drinks readily available.

Fifth, they offer Lolo-style food — delicious stuff and very reasonable prices.

Sixth, the beach is clothing optional, enabling you to get an all-over tan if you like. Or not.

Give it a try. You may just see a number of other readers of *SXM Weekly News* on the beach with you.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

, Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiiito) (1/7/18) is the new name of Sushiiito, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 12/30/18) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 12/24/18) SkipJack's main dining deck overlooking the lagoon was wrecked by Irma and is being rebuilt. They should be open early in 2019.

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.mariobistro.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.

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 some time in 2019.

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.

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

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) 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.

19. Restaurants Packed - Make Reservations

SXM right now is busier than it has been in several years. Regardless of what your practice was in the past, this year it makes sense to make reservations to be sure you're not disappointed. If you're making them for a specific holiday or special occasion make sure you make them several days in advance at least. And if it turns out that you can't go, please make sure to cancel your reservation — that's only fair to the restaurant, enabling them to sell seats they reserved for you to someone else.

20. SkyMed on Sale

SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Without it, an emergency medical evacuation by air ambulance will cost you from \$35,000 to \$50,000 or more, sometimes much more, payable in cash in advance. Worse, you must get it before you need it - just like fire insurance.

Buy a new SkyMed multiyear five-year membership from us from now through January 15, 2019, at getskymed.com or by phoning us at 508-747-8281 (at about \$1.35/day price guaranteed for 10 years when we take your application by phone) and we'll give you a 10 year new or renewal JMB Website Supporters membership *on us*.

Of course we'll be happy to answer your questions and we'll tell you about everything SkyMed offers. Totally up to you what type of coverage you select. Much more info about SkyMed is in the next story.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits [here](#).

See next story for much more on SkyMed. Offer ends soon.

21. 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](#)

22. Are You Military?

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

Visit everythingxsm.com 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.

23. 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.

24. 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

25. 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](#).

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

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

27. 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_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://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)

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