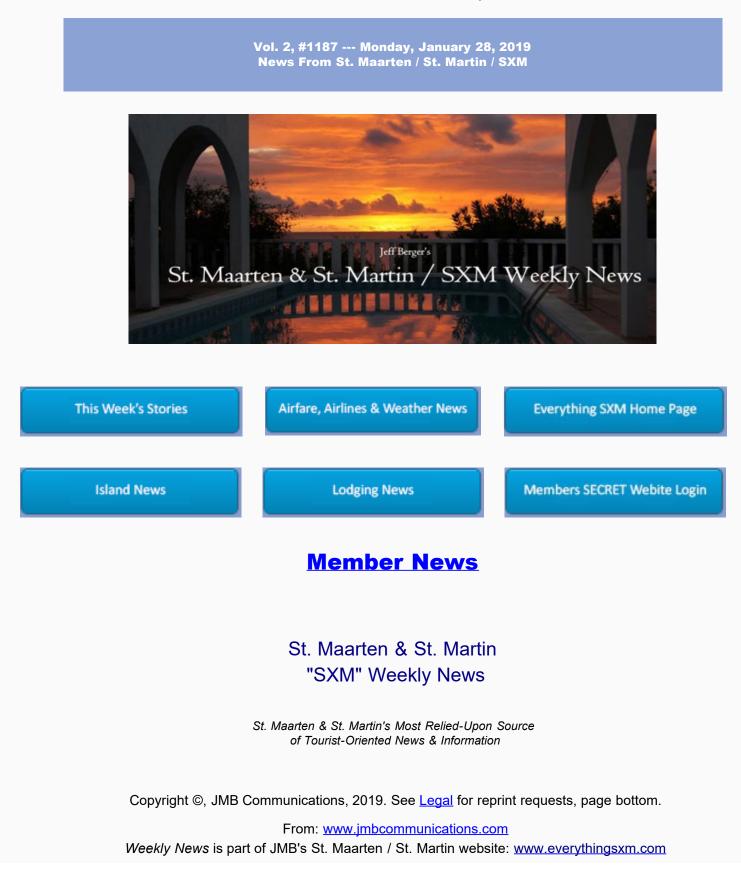
From JMB / SXM Weekly News 1/28/19: Air Travel After Shutdown; Vote "Best Caribbean Island"; Le Pressoir; SkipJacks; Lee's; Barranco; La Rosa Too; Big Fish; Grand Case; New Beach Townhouses; Dany's Cupecoy Beach Bar; Register for Our 2/13 Party [31 News Stories]

Can't see this newsletter? Go here for our SXM Weekly News PDF Archives.



file:///C|/Users/jmbcomms.000/Documents/JMBSXMWEEKLYNEWS/_SXM%20Weekly%20News/V2_1187Jan282019.html[9/7/2019 3:13:03 PM]

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

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

Important Note:

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



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

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

Weather; Getting Here:

=== End of Gov't Shutdown Brings Relief to Air Travelers=== -- FAA Halts Flights Into LaGuardia

file:///C|/Users/jmbcomms.000/Documents/JMBSXMWEEKLYNEWS/_SXM%20Weekly%20News/V2_1187Jan282019.html[9/7/2019 3:13:03 PM]

-- US Air Traffic Control System in Chaos -- Drone Temporarily Shuts Down EWR

SXM Accommodations:

- -- Guaranteed Lowest Rates For Hotel Rooms / Car Rentals
- -- Meet Surprise Mystery Guests at Belair and Simpson Bay...
- -- Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Updated)

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- -- Dany's Cupecoy Beach Bar is Heart of the Beach
- -- You're Invited to Our Feb. 13 Island Party
- -- Where to Watch Super Bowl in SXM
- -- Restaurant of the Week:
- -- Restaurants Very Busy; Reservations Essential

-- You're Invited To Our Feb. 13 Island Party (Repeat)

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---- Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed: <u>Customer Stories</u> ########

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

-- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors
########

-- Got SXM Questions? Here's Where The Answers Are

-- SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

Please see our complete Table of Contents below.

31 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare rent sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 2/2/2019 2/9/2019 **Divi Little Bay Beach Resort Studio** 1 bath max 4 people \$1,250 Matt 513 218 6102 <u>matt.murphyinsagency@gmail.com</u>

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/16/2019 2/23/2019 Week 7 **Belair Beach Resort Dutch side condo on Little Bay Beach 3rd floor directly on the Beach**. Quiet location. Two BR, 2 BA with king size bed in master, double in 2nd BR w/access to private bath. Private Balcony overlooking Beach, Caribbean Sea and St. Barths. AC, fully equipped kitchen, dining room, living room has sleeper sofa. Sleeps 6 total. TVs in living room and master BR. In-room wifi. Reserve your own Free Beach Chair w/Umbrella for the week plus daily Free Beach Towels. Newly renovated since Hurricane Irma. Best Snorkeling on the Island in Little Bay. See www.belairbeach.com for great details. Why Rent this February when you can Buy and Own until 2091? \$13,000 David 19788867611 davidfarzan@gmail.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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Find us on Facebook

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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

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

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

Focus):

www.linkedin.com

Get a growing group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership: http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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- 8. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Updated)

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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- 30. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

=== End of Gov't Shutdown Brings Relief to Air Travelers===

Faced with air travel headaches that made flying anywhere more challenging by the day, airline passengers bombarded Washington politicians with complaints sufficient to break the back of the Trump-mandated shutdown.

The bad news is that the break ends February 15, and there is no assurance that politicians will be able to make the restart of government operations permanent. But the short-term looks very good for air travelers....

Note that the stories below were written before the agreement to stop the shutdown was signed.

1. FAA Halts Flights Into LaGuardia

The United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Friday halted flights into busy New York LaGuardia Airport, citing a shortage of staffing there. Flights into some other cities are being limited as well.

Both the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the FAA have been coping with increased numbers of employees calling in sick during the now 35-day US federal government shut down, during which none of the employees has been paid.

Press reports say some employees are having difficulty even paying for gas for the cars they drive to work, since they have been unpaid for five full weeks.

Here is the detailed story about LaGuardia as it stood on Friday afternoon.

See next story.

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

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

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

New JMB memberships: Low Prices!

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

<u>Renewal JMB memberships: Low Prices!</u> http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

<u>Reinstatement JMB memberships: Low Prices!</u> http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

2. US Air Traffic Control System in Chaos

Spokespersons for Unions covering thousands of employees throughout the aviation industry in the US are voicing great concern about the US air traffic control system.

Like their cohorts in the TSA, responsible for aircraft security, FAA air traffic controllers ensure the smooth and safe operation of aircraft in the skies over the US and as they approach and depart from airports across the country.

Because of the US government shutdown, FAA employees responsible for the air traffic control system have been expected to come to work despite not having been paid for the last five weeks. Promises have been made that back pay will be given to them when the government shutdown ends, but that doesn't pay the bills now — including the cost of gasoline.

3. Drone Temporarily Shuts Down EWR

A drone flying at approximately 3500 feet near Newark airport temporarily shut down that airport last week, underscoring the danger that privately owned drones, misused by accident or by intent, pose to civil and commercial aviation across the country and around the world.

That story is here.

4. Current SXM Weather / Weather

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

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

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

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

3) Our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>, which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.

4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see <u>www.island92.com</u>. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

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

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

Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:

Years ago, before we were all saturated with weather information from cable TV to local (redundant and repetitive) news and forecasts plus weather updates and bulletins on our smart phones, gas stations and television stations

offered printed hurricane tracking charts so people at home could try to figure out for themselves whether they were about to get slammed by the latest hurricane.

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to get.

The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are available for download from the NHC <u>here</u>. Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like, SXM. Bear in mind that this hurricane season may well be frontloaded — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

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

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

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

Changing Your Email Address?

Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email and Sign Up Your New One for your **SXM Weekly News** subscription Quickly and Easily at our Site: <u>www.sxmweeklynews.com</u>

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

6. If You Want To Get Here, You Will...

Regardless of the status of any timeshare you may own, know that SXM has made an astounding recovery during the nearly year and 1/2 since it was hit by hurricane Irma.

The Dutch side is essentially back to normal, as remaining hotels and casinos that aren't yet back online are rushing there returns to completion. The beaches are perfect, the roads are in excellent shape (see story 17 about Grand Case), the restaurants are serving great meals to hordes of hungry tourists, and the weather, of course, is infinitely better than that teeth-Chattering, bone-chilling cold you may be unpleasantly accustomed to.

Know that the vast majority of accommodations units that were available prior to Irma are now back. <u>Some hotels /</u> <u>timeshares are planning big expansions (details coming this year.)</u> Almost all regular flights have resumed. Plus, many hundreds of private villas, condos, and apartments are also available for rental.To access many hundreds of available rentals, see the timeshare rental page of our everythingSXM.com website and also contact Jennifer's Vacation Villas as well as IREvacations.com, both of which have huge spectrums of available properties you can rent.

In addition, Island Real Estate Team is working with hundreds of people who are in the process of relocating to SXM from the US, Canada, and elsewhere. They can help you with that entire process and have hundreds of condos and villas available for sale as well as for rent.

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

[This resumes Tuesday Feb. 4.]

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 <u>timeshare rental site</u> on <u>everythingSXM.com</u> and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on everythingsxm.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:

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Reinstatement JMB memberships: Low Prices! http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

10. Vote SXM Best Caribbean Island For Romance

Tourists loving various islands throughout the Caribbean have had a field day recently trying to help their favorite place be selected as the best Caribbean island for romance.

You can do that right now for SXM. Click here to vote. You'll find details on the page this link takes you to.

11. Le Pressoir is Not Le Pressoir, But Does it Matter?

The good news, published in our *SXM Weekly News* edition a week ago, told you that Le Pressoir in Grand Case had reopened. What we found out later, however, was that the restaurant was not the same one you remember.

Same name. Same location, but now the restaurant has different owners, a different approach, new chef, etc. If you were expecting to see Melanie and Franck, you won't; it's no longer their restaurant. It is now a price fixed set menu — not a major choice of delightful alternatives.

The restaurant is too new for us to write reviews here. It is still in its opening days and everything including the staff, the ownership, and the kitchen crew — all new.

To see reviews about the restaurant as they are published by other SXM tourists, check out our <u>Everything SXM</u> <u>Facebook Site</u>. As always, we'll also be interested in any reviews you publish there based upon your initial visits to this new restaurant.

12. SkipJacks Now Reopening

Skipjacks Restaurant in Simpson Bay is now expected to reopen as early as this week, sources tell us.

Cement was poured a few weeks ago for a permanent new back deck to replace the deck that saw its demise in Irma. The deck and its roof have now been completed and almost all other changes and renovations necessary before reopening have now been completed.

Bottom line, you should expect to be able to return to Skipjacks within the next several days....

13. No Date Yet on Lee's Reopening

Lee's Roadside Grill on Welfare Road in Simpson Bay was demolished early last year after a long-running dispute between its owner and his landlord. The building was later demolished and the land has been empty since.

Lee's is building at a new location on Billy Folly Road in front of the family home, with apparently limited parking expected to be available behind the home.

It is not known whether Lee's will be using the outdoor grill previously employed at the Welfare Road location. A Chabad house, Atrium Resort, Buccaneer Beach Bar, Baker's Suites, Simpson Bay Resort, and other tourist-focused facilities are in the immediate area. An exact opening date is not yet known, but it looks like the new Lee's could be open sometime before the end of high season this year.

14. Big Fish Status

There has been no visible change in the external appearance of Big Fish restaurant in Dawn beach, but apparently work inside is progressing well: the building's long-time owner, Leslie Martina, tells us he hopes to reopen the restaurant in the next few weeks.

If you're looking forward to Big Fish Is reopening, know that the name is the same here too, but the management, menu, etc. will be different.

We expect soon to talk with Leslie to get all the details for our readers.

15. Barranco

On the site of the former II Nettuno Italian restaurant in Grand Case, as we reported a few months ago, you'll find a new restaurant, Barranco. It has no similarity to II Nettuno.

The interior has been heavily redesigned, there's a completely new menu, and people are describing the prices as being very high but the food as excellent.

Most restaurants in that area charge in Euros as opposed to dollars; you can check the current exchange rate on Google. Regardless of the official Dollar - Euro exchange rate, some restaurants set their own exchange rate which can be significantly higher (more disadvantageous to Americans) than the actual rate.

16. La Rosa Too

The La Rosa Too restaurant at Maho had changed hands some time ago. There is normally turnover in the restaurant business but that has accelerated since Irma. As you've seen in this issue, some names remain the same but ownership still changes and sometimes so does everything else. We try to make you aware of restaurant ownership changes so you can be on alert and judge for yourself when you go inside.

17. Change Continuing in Grand Case

In the 1990s, the marketing of Grand Case included postcards published by the association of Grand Case restaurateurs. The extra long color postcards showed a nighttime image of Grand Case with the slogan, the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean.

In any community of restaurants, change should be expected. Public tastes change; people enter and leave the business; chefs and ownerships also change, which can affect bottom line quality and popularity; and things like Irma can change many people's lives in a major way.

There has been extensive change in Grand Case in the wake of Irma. Boulevard de Grand Case has been a bit rutted since Irma, but that main road gets resurfaced and illumination added by the beginning of February (this week). That will help.

Expect more news about restaurant changes from Grand Case in the months to come here in *SXM Weekly News*. We guarantee more major changes.

18. Spacious New Townhouses on Simpson Bay Beach

If you've been thinking about moving to SXM but are turned off by large condo developments and have an urge to be on the beach in a place that is state-of-the-art strong, gorgeous, functional, and reasonably priced, we may just have found it for you on Simpson Bay beach, near its quiet northern end.

Drake Residences is built using quad-lock® insulating concrete forms construction which delivers rugged durability as well as great soundproofing.

There beachfront location consists of a four-story beachfront tower and five spacious townhouses, all offering beachfront access.

Construction is state-of-the-art using strong, steel reinforced concrete which is fire resistant, ultra-energy-efficient, with high wind resistance, impact resistance, seismic resistance, and flood resistance as well.

Drake Residences also offers true luxury, with modern design; an Italian kitchen; a waterfall island; floating staircases; all in a spacious, private, turnkey location.Preconstruction prices begin at just \$850,000; construction is about to begin. *This is the last buildable lot on Simpson Bay beach and at these prices, you can expect Drake Residences to be sold out quickly.*

If you'd like detailed information directly from the developer (whom you may well already know), send an email to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject Drake. We'll put you in direct contact with the developer himself so he can tell you all the details. This is the most attractive, incredibly durable beachfront property we've seen in SXM in many years, and it is brand-new construction.

19. Dany's Cupecoy Beach Bar is Heart of Cupecoy Beach

During lemondrop season and beyond, Dany's Cupecoy Beach Bar is the heart of Cupecoy beach. Dany offers parking close to the beach; chair and umbrella rentals; a wide-ranging bar; and delicious LoLo-type lunches as we previously described here. Prices are very reasonable as well.

There have been significant crowds at the beach in recent days, regardless of whether there is sand on the beach or whether surf is up. Cupecoy continues to be a great place to relax in a place where you can also get an all-over tan.

Earlier this week, a first-time participant in the lemondrop circle of friendship before sundown said, "I have been coming here for six years and I never even knew about this. I will be back." Do check it out. It will be one of the most enjoyable parts of your SXM vacation.

PS: lemondrops have been going on for more than 20 years but end for the season in roughly three weeks.

20. 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 <u>JMB Members SXM Island</u> <u>Party</u> 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, <u>no children under the age of 18 and NO EXCEPTIONS</u>.</u> 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.) <i>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.

21. Where to Watch Super Bowl in SXM

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 will 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 will be fever pitch regardless of which teams you favor or hate....

-- 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.

22. Restaurant of the Week: Topper's

What can we say about Topper's that hasn't already been said? Topper's legendary culinary expertise has been absorbed by his talented kitchen staff so you know the same recipes you've come to enjoy for many years will be strictly adhered to on every visit.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner, late dinner, Karaoke, sports gatherings in front of their TV's as you enjoy your favorite meals... Topper's brisket is a delicious legend, and his \$29 lobsters can't be beat (fresh daily from Saba). Great steaks too. Topper's has it all. Plus, they recently received our coveted Everything SXM Award of Excellence for 2018-19, already hanging on the wall at their main entrance. Do check it out.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Topper's <u>http://www.sxmtoppers.com/</u> (featured 1/28/19) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke some nights.

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

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, <u>http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/</u> (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 <u>www.avantikasxm.com</u> (featured 12/17/18) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

Spiga, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (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 <u>www.mariobistrot.com/en/</u> 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, <u>www.iziristoranteitaliano.com</u> (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, <u>www.sailstmaarten.com</u> (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats. **Domino's Pizza** <u>https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338</u> (featured 9/16) Open. **The Hideaway**, <u>http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html</u> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for

details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

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

Le Pressoir, <u>http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com</u> (featured 7/6/15) Reopened under new ownership, new staff, new menu, 1/19. The new ownership's version of SXM has not been a Restaurant of the Week.

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

Papagayo, <u>http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php</u> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma;

rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

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

Jimbo's, <u>www.jimboscafe.com</u> (featured 6/12/17) Reopened. **Vesna Taverna**, <u>www.vesnataverna.com</u> (featured 1/22/18). Reopened. Now open Wed through Sunday B/L;

dinner reopens in October (annual closing for Dinner).

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

22a. Restaurants Packed - Make Reservations

SXM continues to be 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.

23. 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 February 28, 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.

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

Emergency medical evacuations are <u>payable in cash in advance</u> and often cost upwards of \$45,000 -- <u>unless</u> <u>you have a SkyMed membership</u>. 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:

<u>Mary Beth and her partner Don</u> 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.

<u>An MD from Florida</u> 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.

<u>A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother</u> 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.

<u>A woman from Virginia</u> 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.

<u>Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay</u> 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.

<u>A member of the clergy</u> 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.

<u>All this is why we always recommend SkyMed</u>. 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</u>. 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 <u>www.getskymed.com</u>. 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: <u>http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweekly.../SkyMedServices.pdf</u>

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

Get The Current Low Price on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal. That's a 10-year price guarantee. More benefits... same price.

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See <u>getskymed.com</u>. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

25. Are You Military?

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

Visit everythingsxm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership. We'll also need a DD214 with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you.

26. 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.

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That's a 10-year price guarantee. More benefits... same price.

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See <u>getskymed.com</u>.

27. 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*.

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RESORTS:

Simpson Bay Resort

Baker's Suites

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

RESTAURANTS:

<u> |Z|</u>

<u>SPIGA</u>

VESNA TAVERNA

Melange (new; Port de Plaisance)

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at **Island Real Estate Team**. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Site*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

Jennifer's Vacation Villas has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Site*.

Heavily Updated 10/1/18

28. Use Our Weekly News Archives

Our 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.

29. 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.

30. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our <u>everythingSXM.com</u> website and its Hurricane Center, and our everything SXM Facebook site — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.

Our Sponsorships enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email <u>susan@jmbcommunications.com</u> with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly.Summer is here and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases throughout this year and into 2019. Contact us today for more information.

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

<u>Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.</u>

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

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml</u>.

Want to rent or buy a week?

2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at

<u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml</u> Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

A. Where to Get Member Info: 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 <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>. To change your password, click that same link.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

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