

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 2/4/19: Two Timeshare Resorts in Major Expansion; Jet Blue's \$220 SXM Round Trips; Preclearance Starts in 2020; OBBR; Alamanda; Towers at M. B.; Jacky Rom's New Novel; New Zipline; Harmony Nights [34 News Stories]

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**Vol. 2, #1188 --- Monday, February 4, 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](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

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**34 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](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](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** 2/10/2019 2/17/2019 6 **Simpson Bay Resort Bougainvillea Bldg (Upper B) Comfortable & stylish Studio Sleep 4**, 1st Flr overlooking & easy access to the large B Pool. Recently refurbished, w/full kitchen, king bed & hideaway bed, tv, sitting area, patio. Walkable to restaurants, shops, beach, and activities. Also have Week 7 (1 bdrm) available. \$1,500 Debb 774-408-7525 [debbking53@comcast.net](mailto:debbking53@comcast.net)

***SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:***

**SALE 2/23/2019 3/2/2019 Week 8 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** Flamboyant bldg. directly on the beach. One bedroom, King master suite, sitting area, full bath, full kitchen, dining, living room couch chairs, also with Murphy beds to accommodate two more people. Full mattresses on Murphy beds, not thin as like on sofa beds. Two flat screen televisions, bluray, AC throughout. Patio facing ocean, table chairs, lounge. Steps to beach and pool with swim up bar and restaurant. Property has many restaurants, casino, grocery, bakery, tennis courts, many pools, gym, shopping. White sandy beach with palapas and chairs. Sit and watch the Regatta from your patio, this is only one of 12, one bedrooms that are located directly on the beach. Walking distance to many off resort restaurants as well. \$10,000.00 Karen 774-264-1267 [Rinkydy151@aol.com](mailto:Rinkydy151@aol.com)

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

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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**

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

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](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](http://www.linkedin.com)

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

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

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## THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

## 1. Preclearance at SXM Airport Starts Next Year

US TSA / Customs and Border Patrol preclearance of Americans headed home from SXM will begin next year at SXM Airport, a Dutch Side SXM tourism official said while speaking to reporters late last week at a Caribbean tourism conference in Jamaica.

Asked when exactly in 2020 preclearance would begin, the official said by the end of the year, but wasn't specific.

We've asked officials at SXM Airport to corroborate this information, but we had not heard from them at presstime.

Only a few weeks ago, CFO and at the time acting CEO of the Airport Ravi Daryanani said there were many moving parts to making preclearance a reality, including funding (which appears to have been solved), planning, design, construction, contractual arrangements, plus other details. He had said government had long expressed support for the project and that it was a matter of when, not if.

We'll publish specifics from the Airport when we receive them. Bottom line: preclearance is moving beyond a favored concept and appears to be on the road toward reality.

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### **About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:**

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## 2. Weekend Departures Slow at SXM Airport

With arrivals and departures now both carried out temporarily on the first floor of SXM Airport, the busiest days -- Saturday and Sunday -- for a while will be the slowest for check-in and security,

We suggest all passengers get to the airport at least three hours ahead of your scheduled flight departure time. By now, AA has been told about the stark difference from its messaging to passengers about when to get to the airport and the time in which its employees actually show up to process passengers (see next story). One would hope that they respond to the current lack of appropriate customer orientation with a change in their employees' schedules which will provide more timely, quality service to AA passengers.

See next story.

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### 3. AA 1455 1/27 A Flight To Remember

A good example of particularly bad service by a legacy airline at SXM Airport occurred last Tuesday as passengers for American Airlines flight 1455 from SXM to Charlotte queued up at the AA check-in counter.

American Airlines tells people to arrive at the Airport about three hours ahead of its flights, Last Tuesday, a few dozen passengers had queued up for processing but AA employees were nowhere to be found. When an airport employee was asked what was going on, she said that AA typically doesn't arrive at the airport until 12:30 -- about two hours before their first flight boards.

We were there, inside the terminal, and heard lots of criticism of AA before anyone showed up, including the word "arrogance," "It may be American but it's USAir," "They don't care about customers," and others that weren't fit to print. Perhaps as a result of AA's slow service, there were also heavy lines in the passport check area, at Security, etc. — and that was what we observed on a Tuesday.

Quality service requires cohesive organization that delivers seamless processing of customers that meets or exceeds the expectations of passengers, regardless of who sets those expectations. American Airlines failed to do that during the processing of flight 1455 and other flights last week — and apparently it continues to do that on many other flights throughout the week simply by not providing the processing service it sets expectations for among its customers. If the airline wants to be respected by its passengers, it must have crews ready to process passengers when it tells them to be at the airport. Right now, it isn't doing that, and passengers aren't happy.

While we were at the airport, we also observed that jetBlue had several employees processing passengers quickly and efficiently at nearby check-in counters. Perhaps American Airlines could take a lesson from the younger, and perhaps more responsive folks at jetBlue.

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### 4. Midwinter Weather Hits SXM

While bitter cold battered much of the US and Canada last week and this past weekend, St. Maarten was living through its normal diet of winter Caribbean weather — daytime temperatures of about 83 or 84, with nighttime temperatures sometimes plunging to the low 70s. The only ice storms in SXM are in glasses which otherwise are filled with cold drinks of varying descriptions.

It's chilly stuff, but somehow we all manage to survive it.

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### 5. Parched Hills Show Dry Season's Early Effects

When we arrived in SXM early in November, which was still the rainy season, the island was as lush as we have ever seen it — green everywhere, especially beautiful in the hills and valleys on the French side headed toward the Orient beach and Grand Case areas.

Now, however, we're in dry season — and the principal evidence of that is in the parched hills now being seen across the island. It will get worse as dry season continues, despite occasional infrequent tropical downpours.

Please be cautious with smoking materials across the island; nobody wants any brush fires, which can be dangerous in such dry conditions.

## 6. See Current SXM Weather / Weather

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://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.

## 7. 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**



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

### **8. Two Huge SXM Timeshare Projects Imminent**

Although neither of the projects that are the subject of this article has been officially announced, both will have a profound impact on the competitive landscape of SXM against other islands.

SXM has long been one of the few islands that has a successful base of timeshare owners who can be depended upon to return to the island every year — by the tens of thousands.

Now, *SXM Weekly News* has learned exclusively of two major timeshare building projects that will come to fruition later this year. Since neither project has been formally announced either to current timeshare owners or to the public, we can't yet let you know which two existing resorts will see these projects launched this year.

What we can tell you, first, is that neither project involves resorts that have closed: neither Ocean Club nor Summit Resort is involved in this breaking timeshare news.

Instead, the two projects which we were made aware of last week involve two other major timeshare resorts that are currently open on the Dutch side of the island.

In one case, a timeshare resort will be doubling its capacity with all new construction.

In the second case, another currently open and equally well respected timeshare resort will add a number of new upscale condominium units to its existing campus. We are in contact with the management teams of virtually all SXM accommodations properties, and we will release further information immediately when properties are ready to formally announce it.

Bottom line, the timeshare business in SXM continues to be highly successful and it continues to attract many thousands of new visitors to SXM. These projects promise to bring substantial new tourism to SXM. Please also see article 18 which regards a new zipline project near downtown Philipsburg, which will be another major boon to SXM tourism.

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### **9. Oyster Bay Beach Resort Completely Reopened**

Oyster Bay Beach Resort, which reopened many of its rooms on a staggered basis toward the middle of last year, has now completed reopening its entire campus.

For the complete story, click [here](#).

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## 10. Towers at Mullet Bay: Progress?

The Towers at Mullet Bay timeshare resort has been ensnared in a web of financial intrigue involving Mr. Hushang Ansary and the ENNINA insurance group. The resort was originally supposed to reopen last November, but as a result of an assortment of financial issues, it is still not open.

The good news is this situation *could be* moving closer to resolution -- but note that observers are saying *could be*, not *is*. Please see [this story](#).

When we hear any more specific news, we'll holler. We will revisit the resort this week.

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## 11. Alamanda Resort Closed Up Tight

Alamanda Resort at Orient beach, which was severely damaged by hurricane Irma almost 18 months ago, is still closed, with no obvious information posted about its future.

There appear to be some people living in the complex, but other than the sign for the hotel — which we photographed last week — no new renovations appear to be underway.

If we find out more, we'll post it here in *SXM Weekly News*.

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## 12. 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. 5.]

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## 13. 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 [everythingSXM.com](#). Check them out.

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

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### SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

## 14. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- New Update

We're updating the site to reflect ongoing changes on the island.

**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!**

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**15. Jet Blue Round Trips FLL-SXM About \$220 March-May**

When jetBlue enters a new market, as it is doing with its nonstops between Fort Lauderdale and SXM effective Valentine's Day, it goes full bore to make a lasting impression and a permanent dent in the market.

Its competitors are American Airlines, which flies out of nearby Miami, and Spirit Airlines, which also flies out of Lauderdale. Of the three airlines, passengers today seem to be most loyal to jetBlue because of the quality of its service and its competitive prices.

JetBlue also has substantial service at its Fort Lauderdale focus city, enabling passengers from a number of cities across the country to make warm weather connections to SXM year-round.

JetBlue roundtrips between Fort Lauderdale and St. Maarten are currently on sale for as low as about \$220 round-trip for travel from March through May. We think this would make a dandy Valentine's Day present — don't you?

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**16. Jacky Rom Does It Again in *From Villainy To Vegas***

Noted author Jacky Rom, a frequent visitor to SXM where she does much of her writing, has done it again.

Her latest novel, *From Villainy to Vegas*, will be published and launched this coming May. Ilene, a voracious reader as well as a longtime fan of Jacky Rom's writings, received an early copy of the text and has already read it cover-to-cover -- but won't give away any details.

The book is the second in a series concerning Susan Bernstein, who is seen in wide-ranging locations (including a number of restaurants) in an always exciting, absorbing, and riveting lifestyle.

All we'll say is that Ilene started the book one afternoon, stayed up late, and finished it the following morning. "You really can't put it down. It gets going quickly... you're drawn into the story from the start and you can't wait to see what happens next. It's a very special book and I'm already looking forward to more from Jacky Rom soon."

More on Jacky and her newest book will be published soon here in *SXM Weekly News*.

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## 17. Mardis De Grand Case (Harmony Nights) Returns 2/5

Mardis de Grand Case, the street fair formerly known as Harmony Nights, returns to "the culinary capital of the Caribbean" tomorrow, Tuesday, February 5, 2019.

It involves an unimaginable array of street vendors, marching bands, art, trinkets for sale, souvenirs, food, and more. It gets very busy and quite noisy.

When Harmony Nights first began, we were quietly sitting in the Grand Case restaurant formerly known as L'Alabama enjoying a wonderful dinner when a booming marching band went by making talk impossible.

If you like street fairs, it's a hoot. If you like quiet dinners with someone you care about, Harmony Nights (every Tuesday night in Grand Case for the next several weeks) is a good night to do something else at someplace other than Grand Case.

The French side government has said that it would repave Boulevard de Grand Case, the main drag in the town, by the end of January; harmony nights will enable you to see what it has done. New street lighting also was promised.

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## 18. New Zipline Coming to Point Blanche

SXM currently has two Ziplines — one at Loterie farm between Marigot and Grand Case and the other, newer one, the steepest zipline in the world, at the Rainforest Adventures facility on the Emilio Wilson estate on the Dutch side.

The third and newest zipline will be in Philipsburg up the road a piece from Chesterfield's restaurant. It will provide breathtaking views of the entire Great Bay area, all while you're catapulting downward toward the shore at high speed.

Here is more information about [Loterie farm](#); [Rainforest Adventures](#); and the new zipline in Philipsburg. A post on our Everything SXM Facebook Site last week noted, "New zipline schedule to be opened at the end of February in Point Blanche, from the same building company that made the famous one in Labadee, Haiti and so far will have Mètre diving site next to it in the blue building. Also the site for the Promenade extension in front [Great Bay Beach Promenade (boardwalk) is being extended from Great Bay in Philipsburg all the way to the A. C. Wathey Cruise & Cargo Facility -Ed.] .

"In case anyone was wondering how they will get up there, you can rest assured that the hill will not be touched as the entrance is from the prison side in Point Blanche."

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## 19. L'Escargot Restaurant Hopes to Reopen in March

One of SXM's oldest restaurants, L'Escargot, located on front Street a few minutes walk westward from the center of Philipsburg, now says it expects to reopen some time during March, once its new chef arrives and is ready to go.

We'll have more on L'Escargot at that time.

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## 20. Mark's Place

Mark's Place in Philipsburg, located in the parking lot of the large Carrefour market near Cost-u-Less, has been a favorite of many island visitors and locals for just about as long as anyone can remember.

Although they serve many local Caribbean specialties, they also have the kind of fare that visitors seek — delicious, well prepared high-demand dinners which you are sure to enjoy.

For more information, look [here](#).

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## 21. Leisure Car Rental Gets Three Awards, Adds 40 Cars

Our only long-term car rental provider offering 15% discounts to JMB Website Supporters members, Leisure Car Rental, won three awards at a recent Caribbean tourism gathering. Our congratulations to Leisure on this achievement; they also received our *Everything SXM 2018-19 Award of Excellence* a few weeks ago. We'll define these awards in a future story.

Leisure is also making moves to accommodate increased demand due to the island's very rapid recovery after hurricane Irma; it has added 40 new cars in recent months.

For much more information, [look here](#). For info on our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program** and its roughly 300 discounts and other benefits, click the page curl at our main site, [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com).

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## 22. "Arts in the Park" Ready to Go

On Sunday, February 10, 2019, from 10 AM to 5 PM at the Emilio Wilson Park you can experience Art in the Park, an annual event featuring local arts, crafts, and more plus food, drink, and music.

The Emilio Wilson Park is a historic and cultural center on LB Scott Road in St. Peter's on the Dutch side, 1 mile east from the grand Marché roundabout (now Carrefour). For more information, you can call 721-544-5189, 721-526-1933, or 721-548-3723.

The admission of \$1 for parking is a donation to the Emilio Wilson Park. If you haven't done this before, give it a try.

**Emilio's Restaurant** is nearby with a great lunch menu including the much heralded Jeff Berger Burger, featuring 1/2 pound of beef, sweet potato fries, Gouda cheese, and more. Get your hands on one today and again next Sunday. The folks operating Emilio's are Norm and Su Wathey and legendary chef Dino Jagtiani, formerly of Temptation which was destroyed by Irma.

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## 23. Camera Surveillance System Live on Dutch Side

Over the last several years, the Dutch side has been able to achieve marked reductions in its crime rate. Now, it has launched a camera surveillance system to take an even greater bite out of crime. For details, look [here](#).

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## 24. Plate-Sharing Charges at Restaurants

Many restaurants in a spectrum of locations worldwide enforce plate sharing charges. For example, if six people go to a restaurant and buy three entrées to be shared with the remaining three customers, that's plate sharing.

Restaurants are able to make a profit only when they fill all their seats. Consequently, if customers who aren't buying

anything fill seats, they are costing the restaurant money that the restaurant must recover. That's why plate charges exist.

More stories are below.

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## -- 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.

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## 25. Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna

It has been more than a year since we featured Vesna Taverna as our restaurant of the week.

There is no other restaurant on SXM that offers more of a variety of dining options than Vesna Taverna. It has fresh, delicious American breakfasts and lunches every day, including fine salads and sandwiches at lunch; and great dinners every night except Monday, when the restaurant closes at 4 PM.

Vesna and Yannick are both highly talented chefs. Yannick was general manager at Fish Pot in Grand Case for a number of years before he and Vesna opened their own restaurant, then called the Bagel House.

When the restaurant moved into its expanded location a bit more than 100 yards north of the drawbridge in Simpson Bay, it became Vesna Taverna -- and its menu had expanded. Greek night debuted every Saturday while fresh salmon and mussels from Nova Scotia highlighted the menu every Friday night (salmon is available daily).

Their Greek salad is outstanding; Vesna is half Greek and half Macedonian. Yannick is French, which accounts for some of the outstanding continental dishes served by the restaurant. Desserts — all homemade by Vesna — are outstanding. When arriving for dinner, you might want to stroll by the dessert case before sitting down and order your selection: that dessert case gets emptied quickly.

Variety, large portions, delicious food, and reasonable prices along with excellent service are hallmarks of this very welcoming, couples- and families-oriented restaurant. If you haven't yet tried it, what are you waiting for? You're missing out if you haven't yet been to Vesna, which received our coveted *Everything SXM Award of Excellence* for 2018-19 a few weeks ago. For more information, see [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com).

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 2/4/19). Now open every day for through B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Sunday.

**Topper's** <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (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)** (1/7/19) 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**, <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](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 12/17/18) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

**Spiga**, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 12/10/18) New menu; redesigned. New bar, new bar snacks, same great staff, service, and wonderful food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed.

**Mario Bistro** [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://www.mariobistrot.com/en/) 12/3/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

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

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://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](http://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.

**Pineapple Pete**, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://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](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 6/12/17) Reopened.

**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.

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## 26. 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.

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## 27. SkyMed Sale Continues

**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](http://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.

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## 28. 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](http://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.

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**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](http://getskymed.com). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

**See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits**

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## 29. Are You Military?

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

Visit [everythingsexm.com](http://everythingsexm.com) and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership. We'll also need a DD214 with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you.

## 30. 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](http://getskymed.com).

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## 31. 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

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## 32. 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](#). Updating soon.

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

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

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

**That's what we do:**

**[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com)**

**In business since the web began --**

***a unit of JMB Communications.***

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

SXM Weekly News, our [everythingSXM.com](http://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](mailto: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.

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**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](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](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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

To unsubscribe, go here: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

**Privacy Policy** [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml) (Updated 5/25/18)

2/4/19 #V2-1188 0800 am PST 2/3/19 8.8

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