

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 2/11/19: AA; \$220 jetBlue Round Trips; Weather; Planet Hollywood; Port de Plaisance Reopens; Frigadom; New Regatta; Handicapped Access; "Perfume Ladies"; Planning Summer; "Happy Harold"; Mama Pizza; SkipJack's [29 Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1189 --- Monday, February 11, 2019
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



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Member News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 315,000 people around the world...

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

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- First Multihull Regatta Underway in SXM
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---- Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed: Customer Stories

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-- SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

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29 News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL Now until 12/31/2019 **The Cliff at Cupecoy Beach** Our luxurious 4th floor condo is available as a 2 BR/ 2.5 bath or a 1 BR/ 1.5 bath. The master BR includes a king-sized bed in an over sized bedroom. The condo has two large balconies that look out over the Caribbean Sea and the French-side mountains. A spacious great room includes a dining area, full kitchen, and comfortable family room. Free WiFi. The Starz Casino complex (including restaurants) and beaches are within walking distance. The Cliff has two pools, an exercise room, saunas, steam rooms, a tennis court, and a full-service Spa. For more information: <http://www.VRBO.com/445200> from \$215 per night Paul - 941-306-2045 vsconsult@aol.com

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. Bartâ€™s. 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://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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Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. AA Blows It at SXM Airport, Is Mute to Criticism

For now, American Airlines seems totally mute to criticism of its contractors who operate the check-in area at SXM Airport.

Passengers are told by AA to arrive three hours before their flight. But if they do that for the 230 flight, they stand in a growing line for more than an hour before anyone bothers to man the AA counter. Only American Airlines has the responsibility to decide how far in advance its passengers should arrive and how far in advance its contractors should be at the desk to serve them.

There should not be a disconnect between the two; when passengers start arriving, AA contractors should be there to take care of them. They aren't, and passengers are not happy about that. We wrote about the problem last week in *SXM Weekly News* and also talked about it on Fresh Air in the Morning with Dr. Soc on Island92 radio last Friday, and we will bring it up again today on Fresh Air in the Morning at about 945 a.m. island time.

We messaged American Airlines on Twitter and received no response. We don't care if they respond — all we care about is that they serve their customers properly, and right now that isn't happening.

It's up to American to fix this.

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

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& Many Other Island Benefits,
& \(P. S.\) Invitations to Members-Only Island Parties:](#)**

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Today:](#)**

[New JMB memberships: Low Prices!](#)

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

[Renewal JMB memberships: Low Prices!](#)

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

[Reinstatement JMB memberships: Low Prices!](#)

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

2. Jet Blue Declares War on AA With \$220 Round Trips

JetBlue has gone head-to-head with its much bigger rival, American Airlines, in several markets, and it has a rather

good record against them.

Now, JetBlue appears to have declared war on American in South Florida, where it is launching nonstop flights from Fort Lauderdale to SXM for \$220 round-trip, a sale price effective March through May of this year.

The only other major carrier in the market serving the route between MIA/FLL and SXM is American, which frequent flyers tell us is charging about \$500 on the "same" route (the only difference is that JetBlue flies from Lauderdale and AA flies from nearby Miami). If American wants to prevent the loss of passengers to JetBlue, it is clearly going to have to reduce its prices. It can't keep profiteering like it does, for example, in Charlotte.

This will be interesting.

3. Current SXM Midwinter Weather

Except for a somewhat unusual Saturday morning thunderstorm two days ago, SXM seems to be experiencing normal midwinter weather, with daytime highs in the low to mid 80s and nighttime lows in the low 70s, though sometimes nighttimes feel a bit cooler.

That certainly beats the severe cold that chilled much of the US last month and is certain to return this month.

4. See Current SXM Weather / Weather

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

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

1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.

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

3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.

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

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

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

Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:

Years ago, before we were all saturated with weather information from cable TV to local (redundant and repetitive) news and forecasts plus weather updates and bulletins on our smart phones, gas stations and television stations offered printed hurricane tracking charts so people at home could try to figure out for themselves whether they were about to get slammed by the latest hurricane.

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

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

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

Around The World

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Planet Hollywood & Royal Islander Great Bay

As SXM Weekly News previously reported, a new Planet Hollywood Resort is to be constructed on the property formerly occupied by Sonesta Great Bay, which was destroyed by hurricane Irma in September, 2017.

Construction is still expected to start late this winter or early spring but it is not expected to be completed until late 2020 or early 2021.

The only part of Sonesta Great Bay that was not destroyed by Irma was the Royal Islander timeshare building at Great Bay, which is still standing. It is not known when that building will be rehabilitated or reopened.

When we have more details on Planet Hollywood, we'll publish them here in SXM Weekly News.

7. Port de Plaisance Timeshares Back in Business

The Princess Port de Plaisance timeshare resort is now back in business.

Effective at once, the resort has 31 rooms available for occupancy, with another 31 expected to become available by June 30, 2019.

The remainder of their 88 rooms are expected to be opened during December of this year, when the resort will have its full capacity available for reservations.

8. 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

9. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Revised 2/19)

With most timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, Atrium Resort, La Vista, Simpson Bay Resort, Port de Plaisance, and Oyster Bay Beach now open too -- timeshare owners continue to post units available for rent on our [timeshare rental site](#) on [everythingSXM.com](#) and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on [everythingxsm.com](#). Check them out.

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

10. 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:

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

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11. Frigadom Cold Storage Destroyed; French Side Effects

Towering plumes of black smoke rose from the Frigadom cold storage warehouse in Galisbay late last week. The facility was entirely destroyed by the fire, fought by firefighters from both the French and Dutch sides of the island.

Widely used by French side food wholesalers selling to French side and other restaurants, the property had a very large capacity for storing refrigerated and frozen foods and was heavily relied upon by many restaurants. In fact, initially, there was concern on the part of some restaurateurs that they would have to alter their menus to reflect unavailability of some items.

However, shipments of fresh and frozen food continue to arrive on the island and they continue to be in plentiful supply. Arrangements were quickly made to accommodate arriving goods and for the most part, there was no immediate change to the menus of any restaurants, from what we have been able to learn.

By early in the weekend, it began to look like aftereffects from the fire on the restaurants served by Frigadom may be less than restaurateurs originally feared.

We'll keep you aware of further developments.

12. First Multihull Regatta Underway in SXM

When the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta started decades ago, it began as a competition among only 12 vessels. In recent years, that number has been well over 100, with crews and vessels arriving from around the world.

So the news that the first Multihull Regatta here in St. Maarten began with only 16 vessels was taken with a shrug by most observers. So was the fact that the second day of competition, Saturday morning, began during a thunderstorm.

We are posting pictures of this Regatta on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) and we will do that as well for the upcoming Heineken Regatta, late this month.

13. For Handicapped, SXM Still a Challenge

Many countries around the world have been responding to the need for handicapped accessibility in buildings and public places. In most cities, ramps enhance accessibility for people in wheelchairs, and facilities open to the public are required by law to be handicap accessible.

Sadly, this appears not to be the case on Dutch St. Maarten. Although most multistory buildings have elevators, and sidewalks in Philipsburg have some ramps, they aren't everywhere. Neither are there ramps entering many restaurants, handicap accessible restrooms, etc.

A number of years ago, we published [a page on our Everything SXM site, www.everythingsxm.com](#), concerning handicapped accessibility on SXM. Sadly, not much as changed. You can see that information [here](#).

We know the island has a budget issue. But if it prioritizes tourism promotion as we have long advocated, it will have more than enough revenue to improve accessibility for everyone — and that's long overdue.

14. "Perfume Ladies" Backfire for Businesses

In many places around the world, so-called Perfume Ladies stand in front of businesses acting as hawkers to get people to come inside. Some SXM Perfume stores, Cigars stores, Jewelers, and new skincare establishments use these people who, according to an unscientific roundup of comments from tourists, are widely ignored and avoided by tourists.

Many people who commented about this in a recent thread on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) spoke negatively about the practice. There was no criticism of the people involved, just of what they are doing and how they're doing it.

Many people simply avoid any business that has such people hawking near their front door, which means that "Perfume Ladies" may well be backfiring for businesses using them.

Using tourist-focused social media might well be a more effective way to get their message across.

15. Midwinter: Perfect Time to Schedule Your Summer Vacation

If you are either on -- or looking forward to -- your 2019 midwinter vacation, we have a suggestion for you.

Besides escaping winter cold in St. Maarten, consider going to a place this Summer that has gorgeous beaches, great restaurants, lots to see and do, and even places for your kids and nighttime activity for you without the crowds you'll encounter at busy vacation spots in the US and Canada. If you're a grandparent taking your kids on Summer vacation, you may especially love the room you'll find here in St. Maarten during the Summer to spread out and relax without the crowds or the high prices you'd find at the Jersey shore, Cape Cod, by the lake, or anywhere else in North America during Summer.

Moreover, near constant tradewinds make SXM more comfortable than the sweltering high 90s you're accustomed to across the US every Summer.

Why swelter, overspend, waste time in traffic, and compete for reservations at restaurants that you may not really want to go to? It's time for you to enjoy a real vacation in SXM this summer. Make your reservations now at a wonderful little place on the beach like the [Azure Hotel and Art Studio](#), or a larger resort with all the amenities -- especially good for people with kids and grandparents taking their grandchildren -- [Simpson Bay Resort](#), or Baker's Suites, Belair beach, or any of many other fine resorts in SXM.

Don't forget that perhaps the most gorgeous month of the year on the island is July, with perfect weather, no crowds, no endless traffic jams, and quiet beaches. If you haven't tried it yet, this is the year.

If you've had it with inflated summer prices and long lines at traditional vacation spots in the US, St. Maarten is the answer. Do it!

16. For Tours, Dinners, Ladies Nights Out: "Happy Harold"

For years, one of SXM's most popular, knowledgeable, reasonable, and fun to be around taxi drivers has been "Happy Harold."

Once you've availed yourself of his services, you'll understand why he's called happy — he greets you with a smile which never goes away, and you are engaged in interesting conversation.

You can contact him either by cell at 721-550-5243, or at his home at 721-548-4492. If you're on Facebook, you can look up Laura (<https://www.facebook.com/laura.quesenberryboucher>) who can make the reservation for you. If you're arriving at the airport, she will also be standing outside with a sign to take you directly to Harold who will be nearby.

We used him for our recent trip from SXM to California and back and he was great, as always. We've recommended him for years. He is taxi number 87 and his taxi can be rented for the day for tours any place you want

17. "All in One Place" Store

If you stay on SXM for any length of time, chances are you'll need something and not know where to find it.

Formally called the Super Dollar Store, the All in One Place store is located on the road that heads north from the Carrefour supermarket near Philipsburg toward the Emilio Wilson estate, Emilio's restaurant, and the new zipline. It is on the right-hand side of the road a few hundred yards north of the Carrefour roundabout.

Although the store is small, it's packed with thousands of items -- everything from pads to picture frames to greeting cards, small gift items, some cosmetics, electrical extensions — you name it and they probably have it, at very reasonable prices. Alvin and Pam, the owners, are usually on hand to help you find whatever you need. They're from Toronto and have been here for many years and have a great little operation. Mention you heard about it from Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*, and they'll light up a smile.

We've shopped there for as long as we can remember and we highly recommend it. Off-street parking is convenient in front of the building which is brightly painted yellow and green.

18. Sugar Free Food in SXM

If you're a diabetic on SXM accustomed to buying sugar-free soda, blueberry muffins, ice cream other than vanilla, cookies, etc., you will find things on SXM in strictly limited supply.

Yes, there are sugar-free cookies in some places — but not much of a variety or much taste. The sugar-free ice cream you'll find will usually be vanilla, which is popular but monumentally boring. The old Le grand Marché used to carry Nestlé (parent of both Edy's and Dryers) Pistachio sugar-free ice cream but now, for some reason, doesn't, and butter pecan is not often available either. We know that many diabetics live on the island and many diabetics visit, so why supermarkets here don't cater more to them is not readily understandable.

-- 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.

19. Restaurant of the Week: Mama Pizza

After hearing about it for more years than we care to remember — and having the impression that "mama pizza" was just another pizza place — we finally visited them last Friday night at their relatively new location in Porto Cupecoy.

Now we see what all the fuss was about. Indian friends who love vegetarian food and who also had not visited this Mama Pizza suggested we go, so off we went.

Lactose intolerance has a way of dis-inducing me to desire pizza, so I was looking for something else. Everyone else had large pizzas which were very reasonably priced and left room for lots of leftovers. The appetizers were delicious (I had a chicken Caesar salad) and my main dish, chicken parmesan with spaghetti (often my default meal at many Italian restaurants) was excellent.

After dining, we asked Desmond, the owner, who had been working all night in the kitchen, whether Friday night was unusually busy, since the place was packed with families, extended families, friends, and everyone else imaginable. He said no, every night is like that. Many locals were attending along with lots of visitors from Italy and many tourists.

For dessert most of us shared a pannacotta with strawberry sauce. Prices were reasonable, the food was great, and the service was quite attentive.

As we've mentioned before, the Porto Cupecoy area now has a concentration of very good restaurants including Mario's Bistro, Altro, Thai Garden, Mama Pizza, Rendezvous Café, and others. Mario's Bistro, in fact, recently received our Everything SXM Award of Excellence -- the only restaurant in Porto Cupecoy to receive it.

Definitely make reservations at all of these restaurants or anyplace else you visit while on the island. Mama Pizza is well worth your attention.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mama Pizza & Pasta, featured 2/11/19, Porto Cupecoy.

Vesna Taverna, 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 Sushitto) (1/7/19) is the new name of Sushitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

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

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

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

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 12/10/18) 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/ 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.izistoranteitaliano.com (featured 11/12/18, David is back and the restaurant has reopened. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too. Now open for lunch and dinner.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured June 4 2018) is the new property run by renowned chef Dino Jagtiani, whose Temptation Restaurant was wrecked by Irma.

Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

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

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

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

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

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

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.

20. Update on SkipJacks

We were at this landmark restaurant on Saturday night, as were many other people. It is one of the island's top seafood emporiums, though it offers much more than seafood. Bottom line, it's open, busy, and offers the same great service and excellent food it always has. There were plenty of Caribbean lobsters on hand, though we didn't see any lobsters from Maine. We think Caribbean lobsters give you more meat, less work, and a better taste anyway. No offense, Maine. Do visit; the views are as excellent as ever, too.

Skipjack's is not far south of the Simpson Bay drawbridge. Reservations are highly recommended; see next story.

21. 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.

22. Traveling in May or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage by Buying Now

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 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](#).

By buying annual protection now at only about \$1.35/day, pre-existing conditions will be covered in full after a brief 90-day waiting period. SkyMed covers you in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global coverage is available as well. For answers to your questions, call us today at 508-747-8281.

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

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

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

Here are examples of SkyMed in action:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the

common thread in all these cases. *SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical*

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

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

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

More Info on SkyMed...

On its guaranteed renewable annual and multiyear memberships, SkyMed has a 90-day waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions -- everything else is covered in full as soon as your SkyMed membership has been approved, per SkyMed's member services agreement.

If you're traveling in January or later, you can beat that one-time 90-day pre-existing conditions exclusion by joining today. That way the 90-day exclusion period will be over by the time you travel -- so you're covered in full, including pre-existing conditions, at that time.

SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. There is no age limit to apply, and once you're enrolled you can renew without further medical checks regardless of your attained age or your health at the time of renewal. Without SkyMed, if you need an Emergency Medical Evacuation, you must pay for it in cash, in advance. No cash, no evacuation. And the cost without SkyMed can be astronomical. Why risk that?

By contrast, if you're a SkyMed member, you call SkyMed directly and they make all the arrangements for all the services they provide. SkyMed Takes You Home -- what else matters?

And there is *no age limit to apply*. Call us at 508-747-8281 and ask for Jeff; he'll answer your questions and can take your application by phone, usually in under 10 minutes.

It's available to Americans, Canadians, and ExPats from both countries. Short-term and annual coverage includes the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage is available on annual memberships for a \$99 additional yearly fee, but global coverage is standard on multiyear SkyMed Ultimate memberships, which are both SkyMed's best and its least expensive medevac memberships.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweekly.../SkyMedServices.pdf>

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

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

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

See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

24. 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 everything.sxm.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.

25. 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.

26. 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

Artistic Jewelers

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*.

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will be seeing her posts on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site](#).

Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

Bright Path is already posting on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site](#)

Updated 2/19

27. 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.

28. 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.

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

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

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

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

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

- A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

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