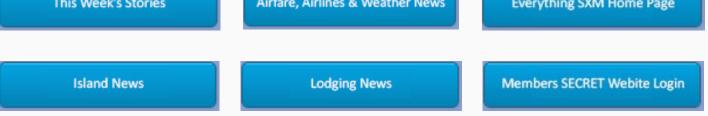
From JMB / SXM Weekly News 2/18/19: Jet Blue Expands Service; \$220 Round Trips; SECRETS Resort; Anse Marcel Beach Resort; New Orient Construction; Caribbean Climate Change; Regatta; Roland Richardson; Sailing Yacht "A"; Tourist Airlift; Island Parties; New Zipline; IZI Tasting Menus [31 News Stories]

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

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

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

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

#### **Important Note:**

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

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



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



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

#### Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

#### **TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:**

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

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

#### Weather; Getting Here:

-- JetBlue's Inaugural Nonstop from FLL Gets Big SXM Reception -- \$220 Round Trips from FLL; \$313 Round Trips from ATL

#### SXM Accommodations:

- -- Update on New SECRETS Resort...
- -- Úpdate on Anse Marcel Beach Resort
- -- Get Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Worldwide
- -- Meet Surprise Mystery Guests at Belair and Simpson Bay...
- -- Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Updated)

#### Island Headlines for Tourists:

- -- Orient Beach: Construction Starts for New Stores Near Club O
- -- Caribbean Unites in Fighting Climate Change
- -- Part of Roxxy Beach To Be Demolished; Royal Palm Should Be Watching Closely
- -- Excitement Grows As Heineken Regatta Approaches
- -- Worlds Largest Sailing Yacht Visits SXM
- -- Roland Richardson Gallery/Museum Set To Reopen Feb. 28
- -- Heads Up About Mosquito Repellents
- -- US Tourist at Beach Suffers Broken Leg; Airlifted Home
- -- JMB Holds Island Party at Toppers Rhum Distillery
- -- Next Island Party March 14 Celebrates Dawn of New SXM
- -- Island's Third Zipline Opens Soon
- -- Restaurant of the Week: iZi Ristorante Italiano Tasting Menus!
- -- Restaurants Very Busy; Reservations Essential

#### 

#######

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

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

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

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

-- SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

Please see our complete Table of Contents below.

### **31** News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

#### **Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week**

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at <a href="http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml">http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml</a> and features them here.

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

#### SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

**RENTAL** 3/30/2019 4/6/2019 Week 13 **The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort 4th Floor unit close to the marina building**, One large master suite with king bed, full kitchen, huge balcony, 2 Murphy beds, and 2 flat screen TV's. Lock off unit has efficiency kitchen, 2 full beds, private balcony, and flat screen TV. Entire unit is a

sleep 6, the balcony has full afternoon shade with an amazing view, laundry is one floor below, lobby is one floor above. See resort website for all amenities available at the resort. Additional weeks available rent. \$2250.00 plus \$50 timeshare fee due at check out Deborah 412-952-7577 <u>d\_henle@msn.com</u>

#### SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

**SALE** 7/20/20**19** 8/3/20**19** Weeks 29-30 **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** One bedroom Deluxe with King Size bed in the Marina building, newly renovated unit, full bath, fully equipped kitchen, dining room and large living room, 2 pull down Murphy beds, large screen tv, in room safe, patio overlooking panoramic Simpson Bay. Olympic size pool, with swim up bar. Tennis courts, bakery, casino, restaurants, Marina, water sports, shopping, beautiful beach. Week 29- \$5,000 Week 30 \$4,000 Greg. 413-454-4548 <u>glitt@comcast.net</u>

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

See them all at <u>http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/timeshare\_rent\_sale/index.shtml</u>

#### Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

#### "Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Site:

Find us on Facebook

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

#### "Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

#### Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

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- 1. JetBlue's Inaugural Nonstop from FLL Gets Big SXM Reception
- 2. \$220 Round Trips from FLL; \$313 Round Trips from ATL
- **3. See Current SXM Weather Info**

Section Two: Accommodations (Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas, Etc.) Go To This Section

- 4. Update on New SECRETS Resort...
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- 7. Belair Timeshare Owners Hear About Everything SXM
- 8. Meet Surprise Mystery Guests at Belair and Simpson Bay...
- 9. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Updated)

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): Click to access our recommended real estate agents Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits Go To This Section **10. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates** Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features Go To This Section 11. Orient Beach: Construction Starts for New Stores Near Club O **12. Caribbean Unites in Fighting Climate Change** 13. Part of Roxxy Beach To Be Demolished; Royal Palm Should Be Watching Closely 14. Excitement Grows As Heineken Regatta Approaches **15. Worlds Largest Sailing Yacht Visits SXM** 16. Roland Richardson Gallery/Museum Set To Reopen Feb. 28 **17. Heads Up About Mosquito Repellents** 18. US Tourist at Beach Suffers Broken Leg; Airlifted Home **19. JMB Holds Island Party at Toppers Rhum Distillery** 20. Next Island Party March 14 Celebrates Dawn of New SXM **21. Island's Third Zipline Opens Soon** 22. Restaurant of the Week: iZi Ristorante Italiano - Tasting Menus! 23. Restaurants Very Busy; Reservations Essential ========== 24. Traveling in May or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions **Coverage by Buying Now** \_\_\_\_\_ 25. Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed: \*\*\*\*\*\*Customer Stories\*\*\*\*\*\* ========== 26. Are You Military? 27. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate 28. SXM Vacation Giveaway Drawing Coming 29. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors **30. Use Our SXM Weekly News Archives 31. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic Section Five:** For Members Only (Revised 8/2017) A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website

Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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

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

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

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

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

### All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\*

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

## THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

## 1. JetBlue's First Nonstop from FLL Gets Big SXM Reception

**ST. MAARTEN** – **Feb. 14, 2019 -** JetBlue (NASDAQ: JBLU) is set to launch new daily service from its Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) focus city to St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) on Thursday, Feb. 14, just in time for Valentine's Day. *The new service will connect more customers from destinations across JetBlue's route map.* 

[We published pictures of the festivities on our Everything SXM Facebook Site. -Ed.]

In Fort Lauderdale, JetBlue's South Florida focus city plays a key role in supporting the airline's growing route map and offers flights to nearly every corner of the airline's network from Lima to Los Angeles. It is one of JetBlue's fastest-growing focus cities, serving customers throughout South Florida and offering a fast and convenient alternative for Miami-Dade travelers. JetBlue has committed to up to 140 daily departures in the coming years and recently expanded its operation to new gates in Terminal 3 and began utilizing Terminal 1 for additional international arrivals to help support future growth. JetBlue is also the only airline to offer a premium, lie-flat seat on domestic routes in Fort Lauderdale with its Mint flights to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and San Francisco International Airport (SFO). [Connections to SXM are now available on jetBlue from cities throughout its network via the new daily flights from FLL.-Ed.]

JetBlue will celebrate the launch of the new service from Fort Lauderdale alongside partners, including St. Maarten Minister of Tourism Stuart Johnson and Princess Juliana International Airport Chief Executive Officer Brian Mingo. The celebration will begin gate side in Fort Lauderdale, and will continue during the flight with a special Valentine's Day giveaway for customers, and one lucky customer winning a return trip for two to St. Maarten, courtesy of JetBlue and the Oyster Bay Beach Resort. The festivities will continue upon arrival in St. Maarten, and on board the return flight from St. Maarten to Fort Lauderdale, with more treats and prizes for customers.

"The launch of JetBlue's new service between Fort Lauderdale and St. Maarten is very much a reason to celebrate with our customers, crewmembers and partners. This new route is testament to the resiliency of the market and how it is recovering," said Giselle Cortes, director of international airports for JetBlue. "We're also pleased to resume seasonal service from Boston, while also introducing Mint in this route, and resuming Mint service from New York JFK, all of which will bring more tourists to visit St. Maarten."

According to Minister Johnson, "The addition of the Fort Lauderdale-SXM route by JetBlue and the return of its original flights allows for the further diversification of St. Maarten's Tourism Market." He said, "The new flight signals St. Maarten's commitment to its responsibility of ensuring Airlift to the destination is sustainable and grows not only for traffic to SXM Airport, but also branching out to hub islands, Anguilla, St. Barths, Tortola, Nevis and Anguilla as we continue to rebuild the hub function of our destination." [Thanks to bad weather, Minister Johnson was stuck in Canada, where he had attended a tourism conference.-Ed]

JetBlue is relaunching its popular seasonal, twice-weekly service from Boston to St. Maarten on Feb. 16, and will introduce new Saturday Mint service on the route. Additionally, Saturday Mint flights from New York-JFK will resume on Feb. 16. JetBlue's new Fort Lauderdale service and Mint flights to St. Maarten are part of the airline's broader commitment to the destination as it increases capacity in the market. JetBlue has continually restored service to hurricane-impacted markets in the Caribbean as facilities have permitted, and as demand for travel has returned.

#### New Daily Schedule between Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood (FLL) and St. Maarten (SXM) Beginning February 14, 2019

FLL - SXM Flight # 2761 SXM - FLL Flight # 2760

8:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.

#### Seasonal Schedule between Boston (BOS) and St. Maarten (SXM) Featuring Saturday Mint Service Beginning February 16, 2019

BOS - SXM Flight # 77	SXM - BOS Flight # 78
7:12 a.m. – 12:26 p.m.	1:51 p.m. – 5:33 p.m.

## Saturday Mint Schedule between New York (JFK) and St. Maarten (SXM) Beginning February 16, 2019

JFK – SXM Flight #1487	SXM- JFK Flight #1488
11:10 a.m. – 4:11 p.m.	5:15 p.m. – 8:47 p.m.

All JetBlue flights feature award-winning service with comfortable seating; complimentary and unlimited name-brand snacks; more than 100 channels of free SIRIUSXM® radio programming and 36 channels of free, live DIRECTV® programming on personal seatback televisions; free Fly-Fi high-speed wireless Internet (a), and the most legroom in coach (b).

#### **About JetBlue Airways**

JetBlue is New York's Hometown Airline®, and a leading carrier in Boston, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood, Los Angeles (Long Beach), Orlando, and San Juan. JetBlue carries more than 40 million customers a year to 102 cities in the U.S., Caribbean, and Latin America with an average of 1,000 daily flights. For more information please visit jetblue.com.

- Fly-Fi is not available on flights operating outside of the contiguous U.S. For flights originating outside of the contiguous U.S., Fly-Fi will be available once the aircraft returns to the coverage area. Fly-Fi is available on all JetBlue-operated flights.
- 2. JetBlue offers the most legroom in coach based on average fleet-wide seat pitch for U.S. airlines.
- 3. Schedules subject to change.

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

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

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

New JMB memberships: Low Prices!

#### http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

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

# 2. \$220 Round Trips from FLL; \$313 Round Trips from ATL

From March through May, jetBlue is offering \$220 roundtrips from Fort Lauderdale to SXM, a sharp contrast to current fares between Miami and SXM offered by American Airlines. Those AA fares are often in the neighborhood of \$500 round-trip, but JetBlue is expected to grab much of the non-connection traffic that formerly went to Miami by virtue of the sharp competitive difference its \$220 roundtrips bring to the market.

Meanwhile, roundtrips from Atlanta have recently been offered for a fare of \$313. Details are <u>here</u> -- these flights also involve jetBlue.

## 3. See Current SXM Weather / Weather

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:**

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

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

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

## **Changing Your Email Address?**

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

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

## 4. Update on SECRETS Resort, New French Side All-Inclusive

The new SECRETS Resort in Anse Marcel, formerly RIU Palace (and before that Radisson Blu and L'Habitation) was severely damaged by Hurricane Irma in September, 2017, as RIU, but it's swarming with rebuilding activity now. Officials on the scene last week told us that its transformation "must" be complete by the end of 2019, meaning a reopening by early 2020 at the latest.

This article from which these excerpts were taken was published by Travelweek magazine, which serves the travel industry. Though it was originally published last fall, its info on SECRETS will be of interest to many of our readers. - Ed.

TORONTO — A new resort in the Caribbean may seem like run-of-the-mill news at first. But for AMResorts' new allinclusive property in French-speaking St. Martin, three interesting tidbits give this new opening far more weight: it marks AMResorts' entry into the island; it gives the destination (which has a limited number of all-inclusive properties) a new player in the all-inclusive market; and it's coming at a time when the island needs it most, post-Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Owned by Sole Resorts, a long-standing partner of AMResorts' parent company Apple Leisure Group (ALG), the yet-to-be-named resort (formerly the Riu Palace St. Martin) will undergo a US\$20 million renovation prior to its reopening in 2019 under the Secrets brand. It will reemerge as adults-only, with 350 rooms, a rooftop pool with direct views of Anguilla, luxury swimout suites and the largest pool in the Caribbean, all situated on a private and protected enclave.

Considering the timing of the announcement, travel agents, vacationers and local tourism officials have all welcomed the news....

"Every cloud has a silver lining, which is exactly what the Secrets resort brand means to the island," says St. Maarten Minister of Tourism Stuart Johnson, adding that the new resort will help further target wedding couples and honeymooners. "The arrival of the new Secrets resort will help change the trend for the island and attract other luxury push resorts and amenities that are expected with this niche market."

AMResorts' entry is exactly the kind of tourism boost that the destination is working towards. In fact, just this past July, the governments of the French and Dutch sides of the island signed a one-island agreement to redevelop cooperative tourism and marketing initiatives. And it's high-profile developments like Secrets that will reiterate the message to travellers and the world at large that St. Maarten/St. Martin is open for business.

"While the hurricanes may have devastated the island, it also presented us with the chance to rebuild better and stronger and allow for new opportunities such as attracting the Secrets brand to our island," says Johnson....

Upon opening [this] year, the new Secrets resort will join a handful of other all-inclusives on St. Martin/St. Maarten, including Divi Little Bay Beach Resort, which has been offered as an all-inclusive option through Canadian tour operators for a couple years now; Sonesta Ocean Point and sister property Sonesta Maho Beach Resort; and the upcoming Planet Hollywood (formerly Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort) opening [later] under new owner Sunwing Travel Group.

You may think a handful of all-inclusive properties sound paltry in comparison to other Caribbean islands like Cuba and Jamaica, but the truth is it's a good amount for a destination that's only 37 square miles from end to end.

That said, any new all-inclusive to arrive on the island, especially on the French side, will create major buzz in the industry, as the new Secrets has clearly done.

"St. Martin has a limited all-inclusive offer as it stands now, so the addition of our five-star Secrets Resort & Spa property will truly be a standout," says Jan LaPointe, Vice President, Strategic Planning Retail Sales North America, AMRewards, Sales & Marketing Canada. "There is nothing like it on the island, creating a great opportunity for agents with clientele seeking a true luxury, all-inclusive resort in St. Martin."

... although there's no such thing as a 'sure thing' in the travel industry, St. Martin, with its blissful beaches, beautiful resorts and array of fine dining restaurants, comes pretty close. Says Coll, "We believe in the island's potential to become a top high-end destination that is the perfect fit for our Secrets brand."

## **5. Update on Anse Marcel Beach Resort**

Anse Marcel Beach Resort, a close neighbor of the to-be-completed SECRETS resort, is also under reconstruction thanks to the effects of Irma. Its beach bar and all of its beach facilities are already open to the public, as is a restaurant on the beach which is upscale and quite attractive.

Officials told us the resort itself is currently scheduled to be completely renovated and ready for business by the end of 2019.

# **6. Get** *Lowest Rates* **for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals** *Worldwide*

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

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

## 7. Belair Timeshare Owners Hear About Everything SXM

We've heard that the Belair Beach Hotel, a timeshare resort in business for many years, is giving its timeshare owners information about our main website, everythingSXM.com, which will also refer them to *SXM Weekly News* and to our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>.

<u>We welcome timeshare owners and all other SXM visitors to all of our publications and to our multiple web</u> <u>presences, all designed by St. Maarten tourists for St. Maarten tourists</u>. We've been visiting the island for 42 years and we are enjoying sharing news and information about SXM with millions of people through our website (which has now had almost 6 million visits) and our other media. Thank you for coming on this extraordinary journey with us.

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

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

#### **SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits**

## **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:

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

file:///C|/Users/jmbcomms.000/Documents/JMBSXMWEEKLYNEWS/\_SXM%20Weekly%20News/V2\_1190Feb182019.html[9/7/2019 3:13:09 PM]

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

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

## **11. Orient Beach: Construction Starts for New Stores Near Club O**

Only a couple of years after the venerable, ramshackle and somewhat honky-tonk old restaurants that had been near the southern end of Orient beach for many years were largely destroyed by hurricane Gonzalo and replaced with new structures, those same buildings were blasted to kingdom come by hurricane Irma in September, 2017.

As we reported here within the last few months, owners of those properties protested loudly that the government of the Collectivite was ignoring them while it was rebuilding the much larger restaurants closer to the central part of the beach, that pay higher rents.

Now, construction has begun to replace the Irma-stolen buildings that were just north of the also-destroyed Pedro's restaurant. Site preparation is underway; the entire property has been fenced off; and a sign has been erected that says construction begins this month and will be finished in three months — by this May.

We hope they're right about the completion date — the businesses that had been there have suffered an unimaginable emotional and financial ordeal for the last year and a half. Hopefully they'll be able to pay modified rentals since they'll start business during the shoulder season and then have to endure low season / hurricane season.

Some time ago, the French side government had said that it wanted new construction on the beach to be capable of being folded up and trucked away should another monster storm like Irma threaten the island. Whether that has been realized with the construction already completed strikes us as doubtful — as does the possibility of it happening with this new project.

In any case, it will be good for all concerned, especially for the French side economy and the people who live on the French side, for this important project to be completed and reopened, the sooner the better.

## **12. Caribbean Unites in Fighting Climate Change**

Politics notwithstanding, it appears painfully obvious that our planet's icecaps and glaciers are melting at rates far faster than previously imagined; that the planet is warming; that the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere is growing and largely being absorbed by our oceans, where its long-term effects can only be imagined; and sea levels are rising worldwide.

In such an environment, the nations of the Caribbean could become an enormous loser over the next hundred years.

Consequently, those nations have united under the CARICOM banner to fight climate change and its potentially devastating impacts on the people and the islands of the region. Much more on that is <u>here</u>.

# **13. Part of Roxxy Beach To Be Demolished; Royal Palm Should Be Watching Closely**

The SXM Nature Foundation received a tip not long ago concerning Roxxy beach, the new beach club/nightspot being erected just south of Royal Palm beach resort on Kimsha beach.

The upscale-looking beach club, which looks for all the world like it might be just a few weeks from opening, was visited by government officials who determined that a small patch of concrete laid at the property's northern end was not covered in its permitting. It is expected that either that patch will be ordered removed and proper permitting completed, or that some other agreement will be reached with government officials.

In any case, we would doubt that this situation would have any material impact on the near-term opening of the new facility.

Much more about this project is here.

The people who should be watching this are Diamond Resorts, which played its cards wrong on rebuilding Royal Palm Beach Resort, and Royal Palm timeshare owners. Some observers of the timeshare business on SXM allege that Diamond Resorts deliberately delayed reconstruction so its "aging" timeshare owners would walk away, giving it an entirely new resort (for all practical purposes) to resell to a new, possibly younger demographic. What it appears not to have counted on is the development of a beach bar right next door — a beach bar which could be playing very loud music into the wee hours, a pattern of some of the bars now located on what was supposed to be a parking lot farther down the beach. If all that happens, the timeshare owners who left Royal Palm or sold their units may actually be the winners — and Diamond Resorts, which could be stuck with a very noisy neighborhood after it reopens, could wind up the big losers.

## **14. Excitement Grows As Heineken Regatta Approaches**

The St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, the largest warm water Regatta on the planet, is by far the largest event of the year on the island, attracting well over 100 boats in a now further expanded calendar of events involving waters around the entire island.

This year's 39th Regatta begins on February 28 and ends March 3. We will be publishing many pictures related to the Regatta in future editions of *SXM Weekly News*. For much more information on Entries, Courses, Competitions, Prizes, etc., please see <u>www.HeinekenRegatta.com</u>.

If you will be on the island during the Regatta, be prepared for slower than usual traffic around the Simpson Bay drawbridge, since all of the boats moored in the lagoon that are participating in the Regatta must leave through early bridge openings, and return through late-day openings. Relax and enjoy it.

Bear in mind that some restaurants in the area will be opening early to accommodate many sailing crews (we know Vesna Taverna, in the heart of the lagoon area, will be doing this, for example). The Regatta is also an unforgettable photographic opportunity. Many charter boats will take hundreds of passengers near the race courses — don't miss the photographic opportunities.

The Jacksons will be part of a long list of featured entertainers at this year's 39th Regatta. Again, for much more information, see <u>www.heinekenregatta.com</u>.

## **15. Worlds Largest Sailing Yacht Visits SXM**

Sailing yacht a, the largest sailing yacht in the world quietly cruised into St. Maarten waters during sunset last Monday, and has been moored off Simpson Bay ever since.

Nearby are Supermegayachts Eclipse and le grand Bleu. Both Eclipse and sailing yacht a are owned by Russian billionaires. The grand Bleu had been owned by Eclipse owner Roman Abramovich but is now owned by his friend, X. Andrey Melnichenko, another Russian billionaire who reportedly outclasses Abramovich with his balance sheet, is the owner of sailing yacht a.Pictures of all three vessels have been recently published on our everything SXM Facebook site.

### **16. Roland Richardson Gallery/Museum Set To Reopen**

The Roland Richardson Gallery/Museum in Marigot will be reopening Feb 28, after heavy work to restore it to its pre-Irma state.

Laura Richardson writes, "We're planning a very special show debut of Roland's regatta paintings, all done from life, over the past 10 years. Opening February 28, Marigot Gallery Museum. Included in the exhibit will be award-winning artworks from the Heineken Regatta's children's art competition which we are helping sponsor."

Sir Roland is the world's foremost Caribbean plein air impressionist painter. You will find hundreds of his works at the gallery/museum and much information on his website, <u>www.RolandRichardson.com</u>.

## **17. Heads Up About Mosquito Repellents**

On our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>, you will find an important video about mosquito repellents — important to have even in relatively quiet mosquito seasons like SXM has experienced recently. You'll find the video <u>here</u>.

# **18. US Tourist at Beach Suffers Broken Leg; Airlifted Home**

Several days ago at Mullet Bay Beach, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to the Dutch Side hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery.

A few days before, the woman had bought individual SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge to her for the jet: \$0. *Without* SkyMed, had she needed a medevac air ambulance jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance. But *with SkyMed*, she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day.

**Fact:** Anything can happen anywhere. Isn't it time you got SkyMed? Guaranteed renewable annual family plans cost only about \$1.35/day. See <u>getskymed.com</u> or call us at 508-747-8281. We usually call back within one business day.

## **19. JMB Holds Island Party at Toppers Rhum Distillery**

Our second JMB members ISLAND PARTY at Toppers Rhum Distillery was last week. Plenty of food for everyone (by Toppers of course), free tastes of many types of rhum (French spelling of rum), plus open bar, homemade rhum cakes (out of this world), mini-tours, and more. The party lasted more than two hours. THANK you Topper, <u>Melanie</u> <u>Daboul</u>, <u>Marni Daboul</u>, <u>Dave Herbert</u>, <u>Contessa Aiello</u>, Ilene, and everyone on the Distillery staff and of course all the 100+ JMB members and their guests who attended. THANK YOU for your JMB membership. We will do another at the distillery, date TBA.

# 20. Next Island Party March 14 Celebrates Dawn of New SXM

Our next JMB members Island Party in SXM is March 14 in Phillipsburg at the all-new Zhaveri Luxury. Wait until you see something of the DAWN OF THE NEW SXM at Zhaveri!

Invitations coming soon! Preregistration required as usual. JMB Website Supporters always get first dibs. Watch for details.

## -- 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.

## **21. Island's Third Zipline Opens Soon**

Early March is when SXM's third zipline will open -- in Point Blanche, close to the cruise port and providing commanding views of the SXM countryside, Great Bay, and Philipsburg. We'll have details and directions before it opens. Expect to see pictures on our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Site</u>.

# 22. Restaurant of the Week: iZi Ristorante Italiano - Tasting Menus!

## Have you ever had an occasion so special that it demanded its own ultra-special menus, plus wines that were truly rare and exquisite?

In addition to its regular lunch and dinner menus, iZi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay, across Welfare Road from Pineapple Pete, offers -- with as little as one-day's notice -- exquisite tasting menus with wines to match from owner David Foini's incredible wine collection.

A few years ago, a long-time friend brought into David's restaurant a number of bottles of fine wines and asked David to identify not only the types of wines, but the country of origin and the vineyards. David's performance was amazing. He is a bona fide wine expert and an award winning chef who is a total perfectionist. His food and service are among the best you'll find anywhere,

So if your group has a special occasion coming up -- or any occasion where you truly want the best there is -- call the restaurant, talk to David, and set up your own tasting menu dinner or luncheon. See their <u>website</u>.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**IZI Ristorante Italiano,** <u>www.iziristoranteitaliano.com</u> (featured 2/18/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

\*SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News\*

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

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

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

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

**Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto)** (1/7/19) 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**, <u>http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/</u> (featured 12/24/18) SkipJack's main dining deck overlooking the lagoon was wrecked by Irma and is being rebuilt. They should be open early in 2019.

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

**Spiga**, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u> (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** <u>www.mariobistrot.com/en/</u> 12/3/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

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

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

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

**Domino's Pizza** <u>https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338</u> (featured 9/16) Open. **The Hideaway**, <u>http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html</u> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

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

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

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

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

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

Taloula Mango http://www.taloulamango.com/ (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our <u>Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site</u>. Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

## 23. Restaurants Very Busy; Reservations Essential

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.

## 24. 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.

## **25. Protect Against Emergency Medical Evacuation w/ SkyMed:** \*\*\*\*\*\*Customer Stories\*\*\*\*\*\*

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

#### Here are examples of <u>SkyMed in action</u>:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

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

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

#### More Info on SkyMed...

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

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

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

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

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

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

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here: 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 <u>getskymed.com</u>. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

## See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

## **26. Are You Military?**

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

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

## 27. 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 <u>getskymed.com</u>.

## 28. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 2/19)

#### 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 / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News\*

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:** 

<u>IZI</u>

<u>SPIGA</u>

**VESNA TAVERNA** 

Melange (new; Port de Plaisance)

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

### VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at **Island Real Estate Team**. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent

\*SXM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News\*

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 <u>Everything St.</u> <u>Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site</u>.

#### **Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies**

Bright Path is already posting on our Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Site

Updated 2/19

### 29. 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.

### **30. 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.

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

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

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. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email <u>susank@jmbcommunications.com</u> with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly.Winter 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 2020. Contact us today for more information.

Updated 2/19.

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

#### **SECTION 5:** For Members Only

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

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

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

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

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

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

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