

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 3/11/19: Preclearance; Travel Visas; AA Troubles; "Secrets" Resort; Mullet Bay Beach; Sheer; Regatta, SXM w/ Disabilities; Rima Returns; Zhaveri Grows: Upscale Handbags; Tricia in Montpelier; iZi [33 News Stories]

Can't see this newsletter? Go [here](#) for our SXM Weekly News PDF Archives.

**Vol. 2, #1193 --- Monday, March 11, 2019
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

Member News

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

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

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2019. See [Legal](#) for reprint requests, page bottom.

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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

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 320,000 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:

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

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 SXM Weekly News:

Weather; Getting Here:

- **When Exactly is Preclearance Coming to SXM?**
- **Will Americans Need a Visa to Visit SXM?**

- **More Troubles at AA: Shrinking Seats & Grounded Planes**
- **\$220 Round Trips from FLL; \$313 Round Trips from ATL**

SXM Accommodations:

- **New "Secrets" Resort on French Side Opens March 2020**
- **Get That Condo on the Beach You've Been Dreaming Of**

++++++

- **Ready to Own an All-New SXM Beach Condo?**

++++++

- **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:

- **Be Careful In The Water at Mullet Beach**
- **Mullet Bay Fourteen Nixes Hotel; All Luxury Condos**
- **Sheer Restaurant Makes Things Easy w/ Free Valet Parking**
- **Heineken Regatta Recap; Looking Forward to #40**
- **How Is SXM for People With Disabilities?**
- **Miss RIMA? It's Back...**
- **Zhaveri:: The Jewelry Store That Sells Luxury Handbags**
- **New Simpson Bay Store for Zhaveri Jewelers/Luxury**
- **Caribbean Gems: The Place for One-of-a-Kind Jewelry**
- **Tricia Altenau (AIA Massage) Now in Vermont**
- **Restaurant of the Week: iZi; Tasting Menus**
- **Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com**

#####

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

#####

#####

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

#####

- **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.

33 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 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 d_henle@msn.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/16/2019 3/23/2019 Week 11 **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** This newly renovated 2 Bedroom Deluxe unit right on the Beach (Flamboyant) sleeps 6, has two bedrooms, two baths, wall safes in closets, kitchen, dining area, 2 Murphy beds, living room, free Wi-Fi, flat screen TVs, and two large balconies overlooking the beautiful Caribbean. Resort has restaurants, casino, gym, tennis courts, mini market, bakery, Olympic pool and swim up bar, Marina, water sports and a beautiful beach \$21,000 Greg. 413-454-4548 gliitt@comcast.net

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](#)

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:



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

Section One: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather [Go To This Section](#)

- 1. When Exactly is Preclearance Coming to SXM?**
- 2. Will Americans Need a Visa to Visit SXM?**
- 3. More Troubles at AA: Shrinking Seats & Grounded Planes**
- 4. \$220 Round Trips from FLL; \$313 Round Trips from ATL**
- 5. See Current SXM Weather Info**

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

6. New "Secrets" Resort on French Side Opens March 2020
7. Get That Condo on the Beach You've Been Dreaming Of
8. Get Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Worldwide
9. Meet Surprise Mystery Guests at Belair and Simpson Bay...
10. 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](#)

11. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features [Go To This Section](#)

12. Be Careful In The Water at Mullet Beach
13. SXM To Host Conference on Disaster Medicine, Hurricane Resiliency
14. Mullet Bay Fourteen Nixes Hotel; All Luxury Condos
15. Sheer Restaurant Makes Things Easy w/ Free Valet Parking
16. Heineken Regatta Recap; Looking Forward to #40
17. How Is SXM for People With Disabilities?
18. Miss RIMA? It's Back...
19. Zhaveri: The Jewelry Store That Sells Luxury Handbags
20. New Simpson Bay Store for Zhaveri Jewelers/Luxury
21. Caribbean Gems: The Place for One-of-a-Kind Jewelry
22. Tricia Altenau (AIA Massage) Now in Vermont
23. Restaurant of the Week: IZI, The Classic...
24. Restaurants Very Busy; Reservations Essential
25. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com

=====

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

=====

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

=====

28. Are You Military?
29. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate
30. SXM Vacation Giveaway Drawing Coming
31. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors
32. Use Our SXM Weekly News Archives
33. 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 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://everythingxsm.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. When Exactly is Preclearance Coming to SXM?

Over the last few months, as SXM Airport continues its recovery from hurricane Irma, we've been watching closely government actions concerning customs and immigration preclearance for Americans returning to the US from SXM.

At a recent tourism conference in Jamaica, an SXM tourism official said that preclearance would be a reality during 2020. When pressed by a savvy reporter, that official said it might be by the end of 2020, a comment echoed by both another tourism official and an airport official during recent interviews. However the delay in finalizing airport recovery funding by the Dutch side government and squabbles between the Dutch side and the Kingdom of the Netherlands have added a large amount of confusion and disagreement to the timetable for preclearance. The lack of funding isn't helping.

The government also seems to have a problem recently in getting a quorum to arrive at some of its meetings, further delaying some government activity related to the airport. Within the last few days, we have sent questions both to the minister of tourism and to the head of the airport to get some clarity for our approximately 325,000 readers worldwide on when exactly they should expect preclearance to become a reality.

As soon as we have their answers, we'll publish them here in *SXM Weekly News*. We do know that officials are in agreement that they want preclearance to be available to passengers as soon practicable.

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

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

**[Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership
Today:](#)**

[New JMB memberships: Low Prices!](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

[Renewal JMB memberships: Low Prices!](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml)
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Reinstatement JMB memberships: Low Prices!

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

2. Will Americans Need a Visa to Visit SXM?

According to [this article](#) from NBC news in Miami, the European Union is considering requiring Americans to obtain visas for travel to European countries effective about two years from now.

We expect bloggers and others to run with this and to assume — falsely — that this will also apply to European islands in the Caribbean.

We spent a considerable amount of time on Saturday looking into this and what we found, with the help of an experienced reporter in SXM, is that *the draft proposal would be effective only in nations on the European continent*, not in the Caribbean. So, for now, it's not something to be concerned about. At the same time, we'll keep an eye on it since proposals may change and so may decisions, though SXM has significant autonomy in making decisions about items like this itself.

Even if visas were to be required, it looks to us like the process would be simple — online, at a cost of about \$8 per person with a visa that would last three years. As of now, it's not happening to Americans (or Canadians, we believe) who travel to the Caribbean, but again, we'll keep our eye on it for you.

If you know of other individuals who are interested in this story, please suggest to them that they subscribe to *SXM Weekly News* online at www.sxmweeklynews.com.

3. More Troubles at AA: Shrinking Seats & Grounded Planes

Apparently blissfully unaware of growing discontent among its passengers, American Airlines is proceeding with plans to further increase seat density on its 737 800 aircraft but is running into trouble doing so. By increasing seat density, which is bound to cause howls of discontent from already uncomfortable passengers in its cabins, American at the same time has had to increase the size of its overhead bins. Trouble is, once the renovations are completed, the new bins sometimes don't close.

Consequently, the airline has been forced to cancel a number of its flights recently, further exacerbating the PR debacle it is experiencing with dissatisfied passengers.

When will this ever end? Were AA to start paying attention to customer satisfaction instead of its bottom line, its bottom line would inevitably get better. By paying attention to its bottom line first, its service has continued to worsen and its customer satisfaction has all but disappeared. Despite the size of the airline, many other big airlines have disappeared thanks to their own incompetence in the past — and American is certainly not immune.

More is [here](#).

4. \$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 [here](#) -- these flights also involve jetBlue.

5. 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.

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: www.sxmweeklynews.com

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

6. New "Secrets" Resort on French Side Opens March 2020

On the site of the former Riu Palace Hotel in French St. Martin, construction crews are hard at work creating something new out of what Irma left behind — SXM's first "Secrets" branded hotel, which we have now learned is expected to open in March 2020.

As was the case with its recent predecessors, the resort will boast one of the largest free-form swimming pools in the Caribbean, along with a beautiful saltwater beach. It will also have a number of different on-site restaurants, which we'll describe in a future issue of *SXM Weekly News*. Room rates upon opening will be unexpectedly low in dollar terms, especially compared to its predecessor.

We'll be watching Secrets as millions are spent getting it ready for occupancy a year from now. Again, if you have friends who are interested in this brand, suggest they subscribe to *SXM Weekly News* at www.sxmweeklynews.com.

7. Get That Condo on the Beach You've Been Dreaming Of

Spacious New Townhouses on Simpson Bay Beach:

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

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

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

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

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

If you'd like detailed information directly from the developer (whom you may well already know), email Jeff at jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com. Include your email and phone number with the subject **Drake Residences**. We'll put you in direct contact with the developer himself so he can tell you all the details. This is the most attractive, incredibly durable beachfront property we've seen in SXM in many years, and it is brand-new construction. Photos have been posted on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

8. Get Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Worldwide

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

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

9. 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 this month.

If you see someone there that you know; introduce yourself

10. 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 [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

11. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- New Update

We've recently updated 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:

Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership Today:

New JMB memberships: Low Prices!

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

Renewal JMB memberships: Low Prices!

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

Reinstatement JMB memberships: Low Prices!

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

12. Be Careful In The Water at Mullet Beach

In the last several weeks, there have been about three drownings and one broken leg suffered at Mullet Bay beach. Unlike US beaches, beaches and SXM have no lifeguards. Surf can get rough and drop-offs may not be as clearly visible. So please swim with others or stay near shore — but in any case please be careful out there.

13. SXM To Host Conference on Disaster Medicine, Hurricane Resiliency

The American University of the Caribbean medical school on SXM, with its partner, Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians, a unit of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, is hosting a conference on disaster medicine and hurricane resiliency in SXM.

Here is the [full story](#) on the conference.

The two organizations have been working together for a number of months. Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) is a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School in Boston, perhaps the most prestigious medical school on the planet. From all perspectives, it's a wonderful partnership for the island and certainly for every student at the AUC medical school.

14. Mullet Bay Fourteen Nixes Hotel; All Luxury Condos

The twin 21-story tower Mullet Bay 14 condominium development/boutique hotel in Cupecoy has changed.

Demand for condominiums in the area has been so high that the developers have decided to make both towers condominium structures, without the boutique hotel that had been previously announced.

Complete information on the revised twin tower project is [here](#).

15. Sheer Restaurant Makes Things Easy w/ Free Valet Parking

Valentin Davis has been in the restaurant business for years — first over on neighboring Anguilla (his place there was called Frangipani, a familiar name to many), now at a remarkably beautiful new Dutch side restaurant that offers free valet parking.

We had heard of Sheer within the last couple of years, when Sir Roland Richardson exhibited some of his breathtaking artworks in the adjoining small museum. But we had never visited Sheer until last week, when we took a long loving look inside. Their extensive menu shows great attention to detail and the interior setting is classic and gorgeous. In fact, their wine cellar has stone walls that are 300 years old and were part of the original estate located on that property.

We will soon be visiting Sheer and are looking forward to using their drive up free valet parking right in downtown Philipsburg and enjoying what we hear is a real classic find in the heart of town. You can learn more [here](#), and see their menu there as well. Don't forget to tip the valet...

16. Heineken Regatta Recap; Looking Forward to #40

The 39th Heineken Regatta has now concluded.

Always the top event on the island's annual calendar, the Regatta drew thousands of spectators and more than 100 boats from around the world. It was exciting to watch, as always — and many spectators enjoyed meeting participants at area restaurants each evening during the Regatta.

Complete race results including top winners are posted [here](#), and many photographs are there as well.

Although details about next year's 40th Heineken Regatta have not yet been announced, it promises to be an even bigger event, with the island fully recovered from Irma and even more boats expected. Its dates are March 5-8, 2020 — a bit later than this year's Regatta. Officially called the *St. Maarten Heineken Regatta*, it is the largest warm water Regatta in the world — and of course, your attendance is respectfully requested in 2020. Come on down.

17. How Is SXM for People With Disabilities?

A number of years ago, we ran an article on our main site, everythingSXM.com, about getting around on SXM with disabilities. At that time, the island wasn't easy for the disabled — and it still has its challenges.

But to our surprise and delight, when we asked readers on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) to send us private messages about their experiences dealing with disabilities on SXM, we were happy to hear that things apparently have improved to a significant degree.

If you make arrangements with your airline and are in need of a wheelchair both arriving and departing from SXM airport, those arrangements are readily available. That's not an unusual situation, of course; but the people in SXM Airport are very good at their jobs and very attentive at taking care of people who need their help. Other airline passengers aren't as considerate, as you'll see below.

Here are a few stories with more about experiences for disabled people on SXM:

Susan C. R. wrote...

My husband has had a stroke. He can walk but cannot use one arm/hand. We had a fantastic time in SXM. We had wonderful experiences on Aqua Mania. They were so helpful on assisting getting on and off that he got to enjoy the full experience. We used them to visit Saba, Anguilla, St Barts and to do the tour/snorkel around SXM. Most restaurants had easy access. We used the "bus" to go to and from Philipsburg and that worked great. We stayed in the Simpson Bay area.

Kevin L. wrote...

Jeff, We visited in late January and I was in a wheelchair. The arrival at the airport was flawless. The chair was

waiting at the base of the stairs, and they patiently waited as I crept down. Helped me with luggage and found our rental car van. Helped to load me in, and we were off. Stayed at Simpson Bay Villas. My wife would drop me at reception and I could roll to our unit. Every restaurant took extra pains to accommodate. I was surprised that Front Street was open so it was easy to get to the places where we wanted to shop. Departure was a different story. The drop off is pretty far away from the terminal, and it took 20 minutes to find some help with a wheelchair. Then they seated me at the departure end and took the chair away with a promise to get me closer to departure time. Of course we were left to the last minute, but we were expedited through the security.... AA announced that they were ready for preboard passengers. People were jockeying to charge the gate, but we were first and boarded the shuttle. Then all Hell broke loose as the first class and high status folks stormed into the shuttle with us. Typically swinging their back packs around banging me in the face. The preboarders were supposed to have first access to the stairs, but that was not to be! The "ritzy" crowd rushed up the staircase and seemed offended that I had to crawl up to the plane. I really felt bad for the person that had to be lifted up the steps. So the natives of the Friendly Island lived up to the island's reputation, whilst the ugly Americans lived up to theirs.

Amy M. wrote...

Hello Jeff, I am responding to your request from Everything SXM regarding the handicap/disability message you left. I have recently been diagnosed with ALS – Lou Gehrig's disease and continue to travel to Saint Martin. My last trip was my first one where I had to use a wheelchair to get around the airport and on the plane and off the plane. The airport staff was very helpful and amazing. Very attentive. I am looking forward to their assistance again when I return in 19 days. Also, I stay at the Royal Islander la plage And the rooms are pretty much handicap accessible, the staff is very helpful in getting around – including the security guards. There are ramps and rails to help get in and out of the pool. I would also like to say that several restaurants were also very helpful with me getting around as I have difficulty walking [and] now need a walker.

18. Miss RIMA? It's Back...

Remember Rima?

Until a few years ago, Rima on the pondfill was SXM's headquarters for T-Shirts, Sweats, and Souvenirs of every description. The store was packed with thousands of goods of all sizes and was also packed with tourists. It was Rima-manufactured articles that were sold by vendors across the island and in fact, on many other islands throughout the Caribbean.

As we mentioned since Rima closed, their online site and their manufacturing continue — and they continue to offer discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members both online and in their store.

In their store? Yes, there is a retail store on the island offering outstanding prices on virtually the entire range of Rima items — clothing for adults and kids, souvenir items of all descriptions including playing cards with the name St. Maarten on them, hooded sweatshirts for just \$10 (a temporary special), and pretty much everything you remember about Rima's from back in the day.

The retail operation is now on Front Street, Philipsburg, roughly 125 yards West of the center of town on the shore side of the road. *If you are lucky enough to be a JMB Website Supporters member, bring your membership card and you will get a nice surprise discount from Kenny, the owner.*

The store is called Kenny's, but it is the official Rima store. If you visit without a JMB Website Supporters card, you won't get our discount but Kenny will most likely greet you warmly anyway. [Join our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program and get roughly 300 discounts across the island; you'll find information about JMB Website Supporters by clicking the page curl at www.everythingsxm.com.]

Rima/Kenny's is your answer for virtually everything you can imagine in island ware, souvenirs, etc. The store is truly packed and the prices are excellent. Bear in mind that they also carry all of the same Rima-manufactured beach bags that the vendors sell but at Rima / Kenny's, the prices are really excellent.

19. Zhaveri: The Jewelry Store That Sells Luxury Handbags

About 50 yards closer to the center of town than Kenny's Rima store, on the opposite side of the street from Kenny's, you'll find Zhaveri Luxury/Jewelers at its new location, four times the size of their prior location.

Zhaveri is the first of a new genre of jewelry stores that also offer high-end designer handbags [Armani, Hugo Boss, etc.] in addition to their vast selection of jewelry for men, women, kids, and a huge selection of watches. On your next visit to Philipsburg, make it a point to check out their store. They also have a great selection of wallets.

See next story.

20. New Simpson Bay Store for Zhaveri Jewelers/Luxury

If you're in Simpson Bay or the rapidly growing Cupecoy area and need a jewelry item but don't want to go into Philipsburg, you now have a new choice: one of Philipsburg's most popular jewelry stores, Zhaveri Jewelers/Luxury, now has a store right in Isle de Sol yacht club, the main home of megayachts in Simpson Bay lagoon.

The store is open convenient hours from 2 to 7 PM, but you can call to make an appointment earlier if you like; the number is 721-543-1075. When calling, be sure to specify your call regards the new Isle de Sol store.

When you go to the gate at Isle de Sol, just tell the guard that you are visiting Zhaveri jewelers. Drive straight ahead. The road will bear to the left and then to the right, and you will find Zhaveri in the large building ahead to the right. Either Henna or Harish will be there. This bright new store is well worth your visit.

For more about Zhaveri, see www.zhaveri.com.

21. Caribbean Gems: The Place for One-of-a-Kind Jewelry

One of the first jewelers to locate in Philipsburg was Caribbean Gems, decades ago. Manu Budhrani founded Caribbean Gems and operates both of their current stores, located on the eastern side of Front Street in Philipsburg. His family (brother Deepu) operates a seasonal Caribbean Gems in Ketchikan, Alaska, during the main tourist season there.

Customer satisfaction is king at Caribbean Gems, where Manu himself often works directly with customers. When you visit the store, you will discover many one-of-a-kind items offered only at their locations. Their long-standing reputation for quality and excellent customer service has made them a standout among jewelers in the Caribbean. Definitely try them on your next visit. See their site, www.caribbeangems.com.

22. Tricia Altenau (AIA Massage) Now in Vermont

Many of you will remember Tricia Altenau of AIA massage on SXM, who for more than 20 years was undisputedly the best massage therapist on the island.

People on the French side of SXM where she was based thought she was native French, since her French language skills are perfect, but she was actually from Cincinnati and had relocated to SXM many years ago.

After Irma, there wasn't much massage business available on SXM, and with tourism pretty much shut down then, in 2017 she elected to make a major move and relocated to Vermont. She is now in Montpelier.

Vermont is gorgeous year-round, renowned for its skiing this time of year, for its beauty in summer, and for its brilliant fall colors in October. If you remember Tricia, take a look at her new website, www.aiamassage.com and contact her in Montpelier. It's well worth a trip whether you're skiing, hiking, or just enjoying the color. Ben & Jerry's manufacturing plant is here in Vermont, too. And there are many quaint bed and breakfasts throughout the state, a fantastic place to visit. We're sure that Tricia's former clients would love to see her again.

Check her website and give her a call.

23. Restaurant of the Week: iZi

iZi Ristorante Italiano is a great restaurant disguised as a mild-mannered, fun place to eat — but owner David Foini is downright fanatical about making sure that every aspect of your culinary experience is exactly as it should be.

You'll find proof of this from the way you're greeted through the following couple of hours you spend there. The food is downright spectacular, from their delicious appetizers through to their main courses (check especially the daily specials) and dessert.

On Friday night, they had Chilean Seabass, lobster ravioli, and beef tenderloin all as specials — each of them grand slam home runs in my experience. I couldn't make up my mind between the tenderloin and the lobster ravioli, so I had the beef with a side portion of the ravioli. Just spectacular.

While I was there, a few of David's visitors were experiencing his incredible expertise at tasting menus — several courses of smaller portions enabling people to taste a variety of spectacular appetizers, entrées, and more. Increasingly, David is entertaining groups during the day and at night, with 24 hours notice, with his extraordinary tasting menus — something he also did years ago when he was at the former La Gondola, his extraordinary landmark restaurant that was at the former Atlantis Casino in Cupecoy.

Like we said, iZi is a spectacular restaurant aptly disguised as a fun place to dine. His wine list is also extraordinary. Regardless of whether you're going for special occasion or just a great night out, make reservations and go to iZi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay, opposite Pineapple Pete. You will not be disappointed.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/11/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 3/4/19) New menu; redesigned. New bar, 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/ 2/25/19 Mario's Bistro is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining.

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 triumphantly reopened with an entirely new dining deck late in January, 2019. Great place - go!

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

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, 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.

24. 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.

25. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com

Our SkyMed website is www.getskymed.com: please be sure you bookmark **getSkyMed.com** and not any other site. *When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone.* It takes under 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently and effectively; that way we also get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you.

SkyMed calls only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you.

26. Traveling in June 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 now 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.

Our SkyMed website is www.getskymed.com: please be sure you bookmark **getSkyMed.com** and not any other site. *When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone.* It takes under 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently and effectively; that way we also get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you. SkyMed calls only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular

office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you.

27. ******Customer Stories****** **Protect Against Pricey Emergency Medical Evacuations w/ SkyMed:**

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.

Our SkyMed website is www.getskymed.com: please be sure you bookmark **getSkyMed.com** and not any other site. *When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone.* It takes under 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently and effectively; that way we also get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you. SkyMed calls only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you.

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

28. 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.

29. 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.

Our SkyMed website is www.getskymed.com: please be sure you bookmark **getSkyMed.com** and not any other site. *When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone.* It takes under 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently and effectively; that way we also get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you. SkyMed calls only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you.

30. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 2/19)

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Starlite Car Rental (Belair Resort)

Sax Car Rental

CIGARS HAND-MANUFACTURED ON SXM:

[Das Cigars](#)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

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 find her at blueparadiserealty.com.

Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Updated 3/5/19

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. 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. (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 susank@jmbcommunications.com 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):

[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://everythingSXM.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://everythingSXM.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?>

LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2019. World rights reserved. Excerpting, quotation, and republication, in any form, print, electronic, or archival, is expressly prohibited without written advance permission. You can forward this newsletter in its entirety only to your friends. For reprint permission, email us. JMB vigorously defends its copyrights. *Everything St. Maarten*, *Everything SXM*, and *Everything St. Martin* are service marks of JMB Communications. *JMB Communications* is a trademark of JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

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)

3/10/19 #V2-1193 0500 am AST 10.1

| [Terms of use](#) |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2019. World rights reserved.

###