

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 4/15/19: 737 MAX; Summer Flying Cautions; LIAT; Low Fare Guide; Ocean Club; SXM on HGTV; Timesharing; Relocating to SXM; Big Fish Reopening; Calmos Cafe Update; Restaurant Changes; Vacation Giveaway Today; Ital Shack [29 News Stories]

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**Vol. 2, #1195 --- Monday, April 15, 2019**  
**News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**



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[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

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## **Member News**

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

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

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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

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**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.**

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- A Guide To Getting The Lowest Fares
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- Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com

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 Conditions Coverage by Buying Now  
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-- Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate

-- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors  
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 -- SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic

Please see our complete Table of Contents below.

**29 News Stories This Week**

**Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents**

**Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week**

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

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

**SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:**

**RENTAL** 12/21/2019 12/28/2019 week 51 **Simpson Bay Resort** Wk 51 Luxury 3-Br, 3-Ba Patio overlooks M Pool and docs. Private parking space Wk 51 (Christmas week) \$3,200 Charles 708-254-8444 [ceeck@lincolnmtg.com](mailto:ceeck@lincolnmtg.com)

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

**SALE** 11/23/2019 12/7/2019 Weeks 47 & 48 Sat. to Sat. **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Don't waste a day moving--stay in the same Unit for 2 weeks--Hard to find.** Sleep 4 Studio in lower "B" Building, 1st floor, parking at your front door. Close to 2 pools, short walk to beach, Casino, Deli and many restaurants. Week 47 usually occurs during Thanksgiving Week. Both weeks \$7000.00, will not sell separately. MF paid for 2019, ready for your November arrival! \$7000.00 for both weeks, will not separate Carol 631-724-7036 [Genduff@aol.com](mailto:Genduff@aol.com)

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

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

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

**St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):** [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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

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

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### **Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:**

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

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

**Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):**

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

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

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

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

[http://www.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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**St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)**

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- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).
- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THIS WEEK'S STORIES:**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

### **1. AA Takes 737 MAX Off Summer Schedule**

Apparently seeing no early resolution to the critical problems which caused two Boeing 737 Max aircraft to crash in the last several months, killing all aboard, American Airlines has now removed the 737 Max from its summer schedule. Other airlines also have removed it, for varying lengths of time.

The plane has been grounded worldwide.

It would seem logical to us that airlines would simply replace the 737 Max with older aircraft which they still own, many of which as we understand it were in mothballs at various desert airplane bone yards. It appears that the 737 Max is not headed for anything resembling a quick, simple, and painless fix.

We will continue to report effects that the 737 Max debacle has on air transportation to SXM and elsewhere. See next story.

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

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

**Reinstatement JMB memberships: Low Prices!**

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

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### **2. A Caution to People Flying this Summer...**

Since the Boeing 737 Max aircraft was grounded worldwide several weeks ago, thousands of flights have been canceled.

Because of the grounding, airlines have had to juggle their fleets to enable them to provide scheduled services. Even if your flights were not scheduled aboard a Boeing 737 Max, your flights could still be affected because other aircraft in most airlines' fleets are being juggled to execute scheduled flights. Bottom line: it is prudent to check with your airline frequently to make sure flights you have scheduled this summer will be flown as expected.

One airline that is 100% unaffected by the Boeing issue is jetBlue, since their fleet includes no Boeing aircraft. Most

of their planes are Airbus A320s or related planes, and their fleet of Embraer E190 aircraft is being replaced with Airbus A220 aircraft. Again, there is no concern over Boeing aircraft cancellations at jetBlue since jetBlue has no Boeing aircraft.

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### 3. LIAT May Be in Very Deep Trouble

Leeward Islands Air Transport, known popularly as LIAT, has reportedly been skating on thin financial ice for many months.

Now it appears that the ice may be getting thinner.

LIAT employees recently took a 6% pay decrease to try to save the airline they work for and keep their jobs. Now, the airline says that 6% cut didn't solve the problem; further cost-cutting is necessary.

Some observers have been predicting financial collapse for LIAT for a number of weeks. Unfortunately, LIAT's situation doesn't appear to be improving.

Here is [more](#) on this story.

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### 4. A Guide To Getting The Lowest Fares

If you're concerned about the cost of airfares, we have a few suggestions.

First, if you're a member of JMB Website Supporters, do check the Airfare Guidelines on our members-only secret website. Although the guidelines are about to go through an update, they still provide a valuable resource to help you determine whether airfares you see are actually competitive and worth buying.

Sometimes, the most cost-effective flights are not nonstops. Some connections offer far better pricing than nonstops.

In fact, you might see the best fares to SXM and back are available on flights with airlines you haven't considered or in connection cities you may also have never considered.

For example, jetBlue now flies nonstop from New York Kennedy, Boston Logan, and Fort Lauderdale, which it began using for SXM nonstops in February. All three airports are in jetBlue focus cities, which means the airline has created what others call a hub there.

Besides jetBlue, connections via Copa Airlines may well be worth your consideration.

Copa is the Panamanian airline with frequent flights to SXM from a number of cities connecting via Panama. It offers connections to SXM several times a week — and their pricing is highly competitive. Even after some passengers stay over for a night in Panama, their airfare on Copa often continues to be significantly less than what they would've paid for a nonstop — and it's almost as quick, without a stayover.

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### 5. jetBlue Starts London-NY-BOS Flights in 2021

jetBlue announced last week that it intends to introduce nonstop service between London and both New York Kennedy and Boston Logan in 2021.

In announcing the new flights, JetBlue Pres. Robin Hayes said that London was a perfect market for jetBlue flights, since pricing there is astronomical — something jetBlue has a habit of turning upside down. The exact date when service will be introduced has not yet been announced since the airline must first obtain slots at one of London's three major airports. Airline industry sources tell us the airline has no slots at this time, though clearly it expects to get them or it would not have made the announcement. The most desirable airports are both Gatwick and Heathrow, with Stansted a poor third choice according to industry people we spoke to.

jetBlue plans to serve this market with longer-range A321LR aircraft it has ordered. Those aircraft would also enable

jetBlue to fly to Hawaii for the first time.

Why is all this significant for SXM? The only flights to SXM from Europe on major carriers are currently flown from Paris and Amsterdam; there are no flights to SXM from London. These flights from London would enable New York or Boston connections to SXM, although there is currently no news about flight times or connection times: again, the flights are about two years away.

As always, we'll keep you posted. .

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## 6. See Current SXM Weather / Weather

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com), and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## **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](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)***

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

### **7. Is Ocean Club Dead?**

Ocean Club, the wooden timeshare resort on Cupecoy beach next to Sapphire Beach Club, was severely damaged / almost completely destroyed by hurricane Irma.

For whatever reason, its owners have left the remains of the resort standing, stark testimony to the power of Irma. It is believed that the resort was also hit by a small but powerful Irma-spawned tornado.

We normally don't print rumors, but in the last couple of weeks we've been hearing repeatedly that Eric Loor, the developer of this complex property, has declared bankruptcy. We have tried to contact him several times without any response.

Some of the buildings on this property are individually owned, and we have seen people who appear to be working on one or two of the structures inside over the last few weeks. We have no idea what they're doing. We have heard of no recent communications from Mr. Loor to his timeshare owners about whether the resort in fact still does have any future. Offers had been made to timeshare owners to go elsewhere but our belief is that most did not want to go anywhere other than SXM.

We are still hopeful that Eric Loor contacts both his timeshare owners and us so we can get definitive word out about the status of Ocean Club, one way or the other.

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### **8. SXM To Be Featured on HGTV**

Several months ago, we were made aware that HGTV was once again filming on SXM. Brenda Bot, who was the object of their cameras, just recently posted this on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), which now has nearly 23,000 members:

*We have exciting news to announce...after months of waiting to see when our show would air...Caribbean Life On HGTV will air April 28th at 9pm. The filming for the show was done last August here in St. Maarten with Tom, myself and Michele Warden as our real estate agent. We spent many long hot days filming for a 30 minute episode during our honeymoon no less...we were married not 5 days before. It showcases a lot of things around St. Maarten as well as some crazy adventures Tom and I did. We will have not seen it before everyone else, so it should be interesting....*

Our congratulations to Brenda and Tom; it will be interesting to see what HDTV chooses to air.

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### **9. Facebook Page Devoted to SXM Timesharing**

We in recent weeks have reenergized our Facebook page devoted to Timesharing in SXM, following on events at Caravanserai Resort/Alegria/"The Morgan"; Sapphire Resort; Flamingo; Royal Palm; Ocean Club; and the Towers at Mullet Bay.

It now appears that at both Flamingo and Royal Palm, timeshare owners are receiving bills without being able to use their timeshare units, the renovation of which is really just beginning.

At the Towers at Mullet Bay Resort, units are being offered to the general public / contractors for rental — but not to timeshare owners, many of whom are loudly unhappy about this turn of events.

If you own timesharing on the island and would like to communicate with other timeshare owners, nearly a thousand of them are now on our SXM timesharing page on Facebook. Please [click this link](#) to go there. Please don't forget to answer the vetting questions to join the group.

On our SXM Timesharing page on FB, we'll soon post how to make noise on SXM about what you're going through at the above resorts.

## 10. 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](mailto: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](#).

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## 11. SXM Relocation Seminar Now Available Online

Just before last Thanksgiving, working with Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team, we put together and conducted an SXM Relocation Seminar for dozens of attentive attendees at Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Philipsburg.

Many of you have asked whether it would be possible for you to see video we made of our relocation seminar.

Although we do intend to put on future relocation seminars, the video of our November seminar is now available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else.

See the video [here](#).

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## 12. 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.

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

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

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

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### SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

## 14. 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](#).

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### 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:**

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### **New JMB memberships: Low Prices!**

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_xsm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/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>

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## **15. Big Fish Plans Reopening in a Few Weeks**

Leslie Martina, the long-time owner of Big Fish restaurant near Oyster Bay Beach Resort in Dawn beach, says he plans to reopen his landmark restaurant in the next few weeks.

When he does, we'll be reporting it here — including info on planned menu changes.

Stay tuned.

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## **16. Calmos Cafe To Reopen by Year's End, Plus...**

Alex Bourdon, owner of Calmos Café in Grand Case, tells us that he is working to reopen his legendary restaurant later this year.

Some people believed that he was going to open a Calmos location on Orient beach, but that is not correct. He will be opening a new venture there but it will not be called Calmos; we'll have details on that property as soon as Alex is ready.

We'll also let you know when Calmos in Grand Case is ready to go.

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## **17. Big SXM Restaurant Changes Coming This Summer**

The only constant in the SXM restaurant business — especially since Irma — is change. That will become highly evident soon during Spring and Summer, when two bombshell changes in the restaurant business on SXM are set to be announced.

Sorry, folks, but that's all we can say (sworn to secrecy). As soon these changes are ready to be formally announced, we'll tell you here and also on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). Stay tuned... these are both major stories.

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## **18. Our SXM Vacation Giveaway Is Monday April 15**

During the Spring and Summer of 2017, we invited *SXM Weekly News* readers to enter our summertime vacation giveaway. We had planned to give away vacations in October, 2017, for use during the Summer of 2019.

Irma interfered. Some of those weeks were in fact at resorts that no longer exist — among them Summit Resort Hotel and the Westin Resort and Casino, which has yet to announce whether it will in fact reopen at all (Dawn Beach Club, its timeshare operation, has reopened).

[Simpson Bay Resort](#), which had given us a week to give away, has stuck to its agreement so one of the weeks will be at Simpson Bay. A second week will be at the beautiful [El Zafiro hotel](#) on the serene Western end of Simpson Bay beach. And a third week has been generously donated to us by the folks at the beautiful [Belair Beach Hotel](#).

All three weeks will be given away on Island92 radio **today**, Monday, April 15, between 930 and 10 AM Eastern time (EDT) live on the air on island 92 radio at 91.9 FM or Island92.com. Although we intend to phone all the winners, the winners have already been selected and will know by this morning that they will be called today live on the air. So, keep an ear to your phone so you can be notified if you are one of the lucky winners. We hope to speak with you live on the air on Monday morning, April 15. Congratulations — maybe..We had more than 40,000 entries to this giveaway.

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## 19. Dry Season: Be Careful Out There

We are in the middle of dry season on SXM — parched hills and grasslands abound.

If you smoke, be very careful with smoking materials, since one spark can set off a major fire. Also avoid parking your car on top of tall, dry grass. The catalytic converter, if your car has one, can become very hot and that can cause fires.

For more information on SXM weather, see our weather center at our main site, [everythingxsm.com](#).

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## 20. Restaurant of the Week: Ital Shack

Ital Shack, founded by Ras Bushman many years ago, may be the first Rasta restaurant you visit. Serving all natural food, this vegetarian / vegan spot is renowned for fresh, delicious, natural, unprocessed, non-packaged food that tastes wonderful and is actually good for you -- something we can all use.

There is nothing chemical here, nothing genetically modified, just 100% pure natural goodness. If you have any dietary restrictions, just tell them... it's all good. Try it and tell us what you think on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant**, [www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant](http://www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant) 4/15/19. Just go....

**Avantika Thai** [www.avantikaxsm.com](http://www.avantikaxsm.com) (featured 4/8/19) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

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

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

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

**Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly 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!

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

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

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

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

**Pineapple Pete**, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://www.pineapplepete.com) (featured 7/31/17) Reopened.

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

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

**Jimbo's**, [www.jimboscafe.com](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 6/12/17) Reopened.

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

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

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## 21. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com

Our SkyMed website is [www.getskymed.com](http://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 about 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 inquiries only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you. Customer stories are below.

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## 22. Traveling in July 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.* All you need to do is email us a copy of your welcome letter to SkyMed after approval at [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SkyMed.

Of course we'll be happy to answer your questions and we can 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](http://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.

Customer stories are below.

## 23. \*\*\*\*\*SkyMed Customer Stories\*\*\*\*\* **Protect Against Pricy Emergency Medical Evacuations by Getting 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:*

On a recent Thursday 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 a 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 short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**the**

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

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

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

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

### **More Info on SkyMed...**

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

If you're traveling more than three months into the future, 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](http://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.

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**Get The Current Low Price**  
**on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership**  
**and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.**



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

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

**See the [rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits](#)**

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## 24. Are You Military?

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

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

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## 25. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate

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

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

Our SkyMed website is [www.getskymed.com](http://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.

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## 26. 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.

**[Caribbean Gems](#)**

**Majesty Jewelers**

**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)**

**Pelican Bistro**

**Sale and Pepe (new)**

**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](http://blueparadiserealty.com).

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

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

Updated 4/15/19

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## **27. Use Our Weekly News Archives**

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published in the last four years, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and our *SXM Airport Special Edition*, which has a great deal of useful future information on what's going to happen at the airport.

Check it out [here](#). Updating soon.

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

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

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

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

SXM Weekly News, our [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — *are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.*

Our Sponsorships enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (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](mailto: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.

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

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

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

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

#### **Want to rent or buy a week?**

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

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

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

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

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret). Your username and password are required.

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

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)**

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

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

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

4/15/19 #V2-1195 0400 pm AST 4/14.

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