

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 6/3/19: Rain; Hurricane Season; jetBlue Changes; Sonesta Announcement; SXM's Economy; Medevac at 1.35/day; [32 SXM News Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1201 --- June 3, 2019
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



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Member News

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

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

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

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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.

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 330,000 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

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- Get That Condo on the Beach You've Been Dreaming Of
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- Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / GetSkyMed.com

 --Traveling Anywhere? SkyMed's Guaranteed Renewable Annual Membership is Just \$1.35/day; Global Coverage Available
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 ---- *****SkyMed Customer Stories*****
 Protect Yourself With Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed
 #####

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

Please see our [complete Table of Contents](#) below.

32 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 2/1/2020 2/15/2020 Week 5,6 **Villas at Simpson Bay** 5th floor unit! Sleep 2 guests in this ultra deluxe studio with 2 standard double beds, full bath with double sinks and hair dryer, in-room safe, kitchenette with refrigerator and microwave, high speed internet access, private balcony and a superb ocean view (On the Water!!) Full featured resort ! Timeshare tax (approximately \$50) not included. \$1,100 per week tavie @ 716-310-4504 tavie@sxm-time.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/22/2020 3/14/2020 Week 8, 9 and 10 **The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** Both "A" and "B" sides. Sleeps 6. "A" side has full kitchen, dining area, living room (tv) with 2 Murphy beds, king bed in master(tv) and full size/double vanity bathroom. "B" side, aka Junior lockout, has 2 full beds(tv), full bath/double vanity, small kitchen with mini fridge, toaster, microwave and coffee maker. Each has own balcony overlooking Simpson Bay, where you can enjoy the Regatta. \$23,500.00 per week Camille 540-207-0337 camijammer@aol.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

<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

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

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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 . 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. Much Needed Rain Relieves Parched SXM

Mother nature was kind to SXM this past week, showering the parched island with much-needed rain late in the week and during part of the weekend. Not all tourists were happy, but after months of dry weather the relatively heavy rain that at times fell on the island was welcomed with smiles from just about every local.

See story number 7 for information on how to obtain current island weather information. If you're looking simply for current weather observations, visit our main website any time — everythingxsm.com, where we show current observations around the clock.

About Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

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***LAST CALL* - FINAL WEEK - MUST END SUN. JUNE
9**
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**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: 6 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$79; 1 yr., \$33
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: 6 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$69; 1 yr., \$29
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

**Reinstatement JMB memberships:
6 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$69; 1 yr., \$29**
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

2. Hurricane Season Starts With a Bang

What now promises to be a slightly busier than usual hurricane season started with a bang this week (June 1) as the National Hurricane Center pointed out an area of concern in the Bay of Campeche. It said that the area might develop into a tropical system but even if it doesn't, it could move North into Texas and the midsection of the country which has already been deluged with more than its share of flooding rainfall. You will find current satellite images and more posted in the Weather Center on our main site, everythingxsm.com.

For comprehensive weather information geared to the needs of people who may be in the path of storms both in the Caribbean and along the US Gulf and Atlantic coasts, we strongly recommend the private forecasting services of Crown Weather, headed by Rob Lightbown. His services are very inexpensive, but extremely comprehensive, intelligible, and very valuable for personal planning purposes. See much more at his site, crownweather.com.

3. About Our Weather Center on Everythingxsm.com

The Weather Center on our main site, www.everythingsxm.com, during this season will be delivering current national hurricane center forecasts, along with satellite images and radar loops of all key areas of interest to our readers.

Later this week, we expect to complete an update which will enable us to post all current significant forecasts and Advisories from the National Hurricane Center as they are issued — in real time. We are also reposting images of all storm tracks from the last several years, to give readers a valuable historical perspective on what's happening.

Please feel free to share this information with your SXM friends by forwarding this entire copyrighted email to them. They can also subscribe free to SXM Weekly News at sxmweeklynews.com.

4. Gov't Orders Airport to Hire Dutch Interim CFO

As regular readers will recall, the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has made available funding in the amount of \$100-million (from various sources) to facilitate the completion of the rebuilding of the main terminal at Princess Juliana airport. Although the terminal is open, services are currently provided on one floor only — a reality which makes the place very busy on high-traffic days. The roof has been completely replaced and greatly strengthened, but substantial work is required to restore the second floor departure areas fully, including all of the jetways which were destroyed by hurricane Irma.

Although the airport was asked previously to accept the offer, starting several months ago, it has not yet done so and consequently, it has not yet received any of the \$100 million. It has done a substantial amount of work by spending its reserves and through limited additional funding. Why the continued delay, we don't know — and apparently the island government doesn't either. Now, government officials are telling the airport to accept the offer and hire an interim chief financial officer with in-depth experience in airport financial operations — at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam; it is widely expected that they will comply.

The completion date for airport reconstruction originally was expected to be November, 2019, but now the date is expected to be delayed until some time next winter. US customs/immigration preclearance facilities are not part of the current construction activity, but will be a later priority, officials have said.

More info is [here](#).

5. SXM Named "Best Cruise Port"

Travelers participating in a recent survey have named the A. C. Wathey cruise and cargo facilities in SXM the best Caribbean cruise facility. Here are the [details](#).

6. Caribbean Aviation Conference Starts Next Week in

SXM

A conference that is focused in part on increasing airlift into the Caribbean begins next week in St. Maarten. The conference is held in various Caribbean locations each year and was held last year in Nassau.

Here is [more information](#).

7. See Current SXM Weather / Tracking Serious 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.

5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

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:

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

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

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. Activity has started, 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.

8. Sonesta SXM Debuts New Entertainment Program

An increasing number of all-inclusive resorts is coming to SXM, as we have previously reported here in *SXM Weekly News*.

Whether the announcement from Sonesta Ocean Point and Sonesta Maho this week is a response to that upcoming increase in competition doesn't really matter: what matters is that the entertainment package Sonesta will be offering going forward adds more benefits to the already very attractive package that Sonesta will be offering to its guests.

Here's much more on [what Sonesta will be doing](#).

9. 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](#).

10. 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](#).

11. 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.

12. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick (Updated 6/19)

With most timeshare resorts, hotels, and villas now back online — and several new hotels and timeshare projects under construction or about to launch -- timeshare owners continue to post units available for rent on our [timeshare rental site](#) on [everythingSXM.com](#) and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on [everythingxsm.com](#). Check them out.

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

13. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updated

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:



***LAST CALL* - FINAL WEEK - MUST END SUN. JUNE
9**



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Reinstatement JMB memberships:
6 years, \$129 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$69; 1 yr., \$29
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

14. Jet Blue Expanding SXM Service on A320 & A321 Aircraft

As we have already reported, jetBlue is expanding its Mint Airbus A321 service to SXM from Boston; that premium service already exists from New York.

In addition, the airline continues to roll out a number of A320 aircraft with reconfigured cabins every month, adding all-new thin but very comfortable seating, all-new greatly expanded entertainment systems, plus two additional rows of seats, increasing the capacity of each aircraft from 150 to 162 passengers. By sometime during 2020, all of its mainstream A320 aircraft will have 162 seats, enabling the airline to bring increasing numbers of passengers to SXM on its existing flights from Boston, New York, and Fort Lauderdale. Its increased Mint service from Boston is aboard larger A321 aircraft with significantly more seating. Bottom line, JetBlue will be taking more people from more cities to SXM... and we're convinced they'll be adding more flights next winter, too.

15. Jet Blue A320s To Get 2nd Entertainment System Makeover

JetBlue's fast-moving makeover of its entire A320 fleet includes rather remarkable new entertainment systems with big, bright screens and lots more entertainment options than had previously been available.

There's one problem with the new systems, however: their push-button controls are still located on airplane armrests which is also where arms and elbows go — and therein lies the problem. You or the person sitting next to you can easily and inadvertently turn up or turn down the volume level or change the station or your or your next-seat neighbor's entertainment system, a highly annoying situation.

We've learned that JetBlue already has planned an upgrade for its new entertainment systems. We're told that the upgrade is called Avant, and that it will eliminate the armrest controls altogether, and replace them with touchscreen controls.

In fact, the screens that are being installed already are touchscreens, though the software to put everything on screen at your fingertips isn't expected to be installed until all the makeovers have been completed. That information came to us through an unofficial source at jetBlue. It's good news. On the way home from SXM, we watched Bohemian Rhapsody on the new systems, and both the sound and images were outstanding. The reconfigured cabins are very comfortable and the second change in the entertainment systems will certainly be a welcome solution to an ongoing issue.

16. SXM Economy Continuing Brisk Growth

As we reported in recent weeks here in *SXM Weekly News*, SXM businesses are very optimistic about the outlook for a significantly better than usual summer vacation season on the island.

Anecdotal comments from business owners last Winter suggested that the Winter was better than the island has experienced in years — and recent comments from the government seem to back up that contention.

Here is [that story](#).

17. SXM Must Ban Single Use Plastics: Nature Foundation

A number of Caribbean nations already are moving to ban single-use plastics on their islands. Although some SXM supermarkets are now charging for bags, plastic bags, plastic straws, and other single-use plastics continue to be used on the island.

The Nature Foundation, an environmental watchdog group, isn't happy about this, and has formally urged SXM to do the same. Here is [that story](#).

18. How To Treat Jellyfish Stings

Jellyfish live in the ocean. Although you may never have seen any in SXM, they are around throughout the tropics and beyond. If you hit an ocean beach anywhere this summer, regardless of its location, you may well encounter jellyfish.

Generally, jellyfish bites aren't dangerous, but they can be quite uncomfortable. Here are [detailed instructions](#) about what to do to minimize that discomfort.

19. Carol & Ron Zenaro Expand Cancer Campaign

As we reported last week, Carol and Ron's and Zenaro lost their son Scott several years ago to cancer, and have been on a personal fundraising crusade ever since to raise money for the [Lazarex Cancer Foundation](#) which helps victims fight the disease. Last week, in a story about Carol and Ron, we announced that they had reached their goal of raising \$100,000 for the Lazarex foundation. In the wake of that, they have decided to set a higher goal and continue their fundraising with new bracelets. [More information can be found here](#). The bracelets are beautiful; get some for your friends and family.

20. Where to Get The Best SXM Map (Repeat)

Michal Kasproski developed it, and today Rafal Kasproski carries on the tradition. The map they produce is oversized and printed on durable, heavy paper to last for years. It is fit to be used as an attention-getting wall hanging, which we do in our office, or in everyday use as you move around the island. It is constantly updated, with the latest versions distributed as they are produced. It is the most detailed, most reliable, and most authoritative map of SXM. If you're looking for maps of other islands in the Caribbean, midok.com, their company, also produces equally detailed and accurate maps of many other countries of the Caribbean. You can contact them through midok.com and tell them you read about them in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

21. *Last Call* -- JMB Membership Sale Must End June 9

Our big Spring JMB Website Supporters membership sale ends June 1, later this week. Don't miss it — it offers you the best pricing of the year on our membership, pricing you are unlikely to see again. Multiyear memberships are available at Unheard-of low price points:

GOOD: One year new memberships, \$33 (our reg. \$59)

BETTER: Three-year new memberships, \$79 (our reg. \$99)

BEST: Six-year new memberships \$139 (not normally offered, but by far our best buy)

Great renewal & reinstatement prices are offered too. To take advantage of these offers, click the page curl at everythingxsm.com to join or renew/reinstate your JMB membership now.

22. Major SkyMed Promo Now Underway

A major promo has begun on SkyMed memberships. Not only are all multiyear SkyMed memberships heavily discounted for JMB members, but *when you buy a new multiyear SkyMed membership through us or upgrade your annual SkyMed membership bought from us to a multiyear membership, we will extend your JMB membership on us for the number of years you buy SkyMed.*

Example: Upgrade to or buy a new five-year SkyMed membership through us, and we give you a free five-year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership. All you need to do is forward us a copy of the acknowledgement you receive from SkyMed after you buy new or upgrade through us. For info, see skymed.com/jmb (that new website goes live soon), but to qualify for these bonuses, you must buy by phoning us at (508) 747-8281 or email Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SkyMed. Give us your phone number and time zone and we'll return your call as quickly as we can. Available exclusively to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats.

23. Restaurant of the Week: Spiga

If you're thinking about the absolute best restaurants on SXM, one that consistently rates high is Spiga, at the Northern end of Grand Case, French Side, opposite Tijon Parfumerie.

Owned and operated by seasoned restaurateurs Chef Ciro Russo and Lara Bergamasco Russo, Spiga is what truly fine dining is all about. Simple things like pumpkin ravioli or lobster ravioli starters are flat out exquisite. The main courses, painstakingly sourced, perfectly prepared, and delightfully presented, run the gamut from fish to beef to poultry and of course there are also vegetarian options. You must (somehow) save room for desert -- they are so good.

By all means go, make reservations, and tell them we sent you. You will not be disappointed.

Next week, you'll learn about Mandarin Pan Asian, new at Port de Plaisance. Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 6/3/19) New bar, new menu, same great staff, service, and incredible food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 4/29/19). Now open every day for through B/L; dinner is offered

Tuesday through Sunday.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured 4/21/19) is the new property run by renowned chef Dino Jagtiani, whose Temptation Restaurant was wrecked by Irma.

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant 4/15/19. Just go....

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 4/8/19) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

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.

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. Superb pizza, great chicken parm, lots more. Packed nightly. Reservations a must.

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

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

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (1/7/19) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

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

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 12/24/18) SkipJack's 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.

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

Our new SkyMed website is www.skymed.com/jmb, going live soon; please bookmark that 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; that way we get credit. 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; that way we do 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.

25. Going Anywhere? SkyMed's Guaranteed Renewable

Annual Membership is Just \$1.35/day; Global Coverage Available

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 from SkyMed after approval to 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.

Again, our new SkyMed website is www.skymed.com/jmb: please be sure you bookmark that and not any other site. Thank you.

Customer stories are below.

26. *****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 X-Pats 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.skymed.com/jmb, our new SkyMed site, going live shortly.. 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 X-Pats 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.

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; 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 www.skymed.com/jmb SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

27. 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 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.

28. 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 www.skymed.com/jmb, our new site, going live shortly.

29. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated)

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)

BRILLIANT TOURING INNOVATION:

[Island Pedals](#)

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 6/3/19

30. 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 this week.

31. 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.

32. 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.

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

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

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

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

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 Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.**

SECTION 5: For Members Only

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

6/3/19 #V2-1201 6/2/19 8pm EDT 8.8

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