

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 12/9/19: Airport Funding; Preclearance; The Cliff; SXM Vacation Giveaways; #6.5-million; Sky Dinner; Baki's Art; Soggy; Tasting Menus; La Patrona; Pineapple Pete [44 Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1227 --- Monday, December 9, 2019
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

Member News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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Important 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.

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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.

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:

Weather; Getting Here:

- ***Airport Loan Docs. To Be Signed in DC This Week***
- ***Airport's Future Discussed by Member of Parliament***
- ***SXM Prime Minister's Thoughts on Airport's Future***

SXM Accommodations:

-- *Cliff Condos Reopen w/ Hoopla*

Island Headlines for Tourists:

-- *Our Cyber Monday / Holiday SXM Membership Sale Ends Soon*
-- *Thank You From Scott Berger - National Brain Tumor Society*
-- *Vacation Giveaways Coming*
-- *Will Our 6.5-millionth Site Visitor be You?*
-- *Will "Sky Dinner" Fly?*
-- *French Court Tells Baki Arbia His Art Wall is Too High*
-- *"Soggy" Doing Lots of Events For Adults*
-- *Announcing "Atrium Lake"*
-- *"Tasting Menu" Getting Wows at IZI*
-- *Someplace Unique for Lunch: La Patrona*
-- *Lobster Thermidor? Pineapple Pete*

-- *Traveling Anywhere In March or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage by Buying Now*
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---- ***** **Customer Stories** *****

Cover Yourself With Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed
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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.

44 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 12/14/2019 12/21/2019 50 **The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort. 2 bedroom unit (sleeps 6) features a large master suite** with king bed, full kitchen, living room, 2 Murphy beds, and 2 flat screen TV's. and a huge balcony, overlooking Simpson bay. The Jr. suite has an efficiency kitchen, 2 full beds, private balcony, and flat screen TV. \$2000.00. A \$50 timeshare tax due to resort at check out. Will consider renting units separately 1 bedroom, \$1500, jr suite \$1000. I also have 3 nights available before the week starts (12/11, 12 & 13). Since this is a replacement week, the unit will be assigned by the Resort. Judy Ronshagen@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/6/2021 2/13/2021 Week 6 **Sapphire Beach Club One privacy bedroom, Pull out couch which**

makes it a sleep 4 unit. Full kitchen. Balcony looking over ocean. Parking garage underneath or parking in front of building. Bar-restaurant on premises. Also have a convenient store & salon for all your needs. \$13,995.00 Susan 609-476-4166 slzang1@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](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

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

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



<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.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

1. Airport Loan Docs. To Be Signed in DC This Week
2. Airport's Future Discussed by Member of Parliament
3. SXM Prime Minister's Thoughts on Airport's Future
4. Heads Up: Evac Slide Drops from Delta Jet Approaching Boston
5. Public WiFi Live at Airport
6. JB Nonstops Coming From US to Anguilla
7. JB Expected To Complete Cabin Makeovers in 2020
8. LIAT Still Flying - But for How Long?
9. See Current SXM Weather Info
10. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals

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

- 10a. Cliff Condos Reopen w/ Hoopla
11. Plenty of Condo Rentals, Villa Rentals Available on SXM
12. A Very Unique Dec-Jan Rental Opportunity at Belair...
13. Want to Rent Out Or Sell Timeshare Units You Own?
14. SXM Relocation Seminar Is Available Online, Free

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential

Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits [Go To This Section](#)

15. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits News & Update Coming

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

- 16. Don't Miss Our Holiday SXM Membership Sale -- Ends Soon
- 17. Thank You From Scott Berger - National Brain Tumor Society
- 18. Vacation Giveaways Coming
- 19. Will Our 6.5-millionth Site Visitor be You?
- 20. Time for You to To Get Down Here
- 21. Will "Sky Dinner" Fly?
- 22. French Court Tells Baki Arbia His Art Wall is Too High
- 23. "Soggy" Doing Lots of Events For Adults
- 24. Announcing "Atrium Lake"
- 25. "Tasting Menu" Earns Wows at IZI
- 26. Someplace Unique for Lunch: La Patrona
- 27. Lobster Thermidor? Pineapple Pete
- 28. Simpson Bay Lagoon vs. Simpson Bay
- 29. '20 Destination Magazine Well Worth Reading
- 30. Get SkyMed Now For All Upcoming Trips: Member Stories
- 31. Where Are They Now?
- 32. Restaurant of the Week
- 33. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
- 34. Your Invitation: SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon 1/3
- 35. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
- 36. Major SkyMed Promo Now Continues
- 37. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / skymed.com/jmb

=====

38. Going Anywhere?

SkyMed's Guaranteed Renewable Annual Membership is Just \$1.35/day; Global Coverage Available

=====

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

=====

40. Are You Military?

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

42. Please Patronize our Sponsors

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

Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Airport Loan Docs. To Be Signed in DC This Week

The government of St. Maarten formally reported late last week that its representatives will meet with representatives of the World Bank and others this week in Washington, DC, to sign the all-important SXM Airport loan documents which will ultimately release upwards of US\$120-million for completion of all of the necessary renovations of the entire SXM Airport terminal..

When this happens, we will report it at once in our [Everything SXM Facebook group](#).

Please read the following stories which also concern the future of the airport.

2. Airport's Future Discussed by Member of Parliament

Rolando Brison, a member of the St. Maarten Parliament who is currently running for office in the new government for which elections will occur early next month, last week made these comments about SXM Airport:

Today was the FIRST meeting we have had where ALL documentation including contracts, term sheets, full conditions, reports, communications, meeting notes were given to all members of parliament. This is what I had been asking for since April of 2018. NOW we are armed to make informed decisions about the airport.

My presentation was based on 4 key assurances given to me by the government, which I adequately received:

- 1. That there is room for construction to begin by Early 2020 as opposed to late 2020 that the previous government was aiming for*
- 2. That plans for pre-clearance cannot be hampered by the signing of this agreement, as pre-clearance is the most viable long term competitive advantage St. Maarten can have, particularly over neighboring islands who continue to expand their plans for airlift.*
- 3. That the agreements do not infringe on the ability of the airport to seek further financial options, such as buying our bond holders, pre-clearance facilities or other financing needs*
- 4. That all airport employees are to be retained, and that all salaries and other employee benefits can be paid in full and on time.*

A motion is presented to clarify to all that the motion of no confidence never intended to stop any progress of the airport. Now that is clarified, the airport construction can begin, and as I said, not late 2020 as the previous government had, but MUCH earlier as is needed to save our tourism industry..

3. SXM Prime Minister's Thoughts on Airport's Future

Silveria Jacobs, Prime Minister of the current caretaker government on the Dutch side of the island, said the following concerning the future of SXM Airport. These comments are from the SXM *Daily Herald*:

In response to a question on how much money PJIAE will have to use for reconstruction and whether the new building will able to withstand Hurricane Irma wind speeds, Jacobs said the total obligations are estimated at US \$159.5 million and total funds available are US \$171.9 million. The EIB/World Bank package will give the Airport

access to US \$101 million for reconstruction and US \$21 million as potential liquidity support. The remaining funds will come from the insurance proceeds. Once rebuilt, the Airport should be able to withstand Irma wind speeds, the prime minister noted.

She said the plan is to have the entire Airport reconstruction completed by the first quarter of 2022. The reconstruction will be done in phases. For example, if the first floor is completed this will go online while the other phases are being executed.

She said the airport has a very poor liquidity status with numerous liabilities. "Without the release of insurance proceeds, the Airport can no longer fulfil its financial obligations in December."

On the issue of pre-clearance, Jacobs said the first step that needs to take place is the conclusion of a legal agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands on behalf of St. Maarten, and the United States. There is other homework to be done as well by the Airport and government, including a financial feasibility study which includes a business case. "At this moment, there is no clear timeline until implementation, but ... as Prime Minister I will do everything in my power to finalise the necessary agreements."

The current reconstruction plan of PJIA is fully compatible with US pre-clearance, which means that all upgrades and new installations will conform to US pre-clearance specifications. It can be added once financing is available for pre-clearance.

4. Heads Up: Evac Slide Drops from Delta Jet Approaching Boston

A nonstop Delta Airlines flight from Paris to Boston Logan airport dropped an uninflated evacuation slide in suburban Milton, Massachusetts, just south of Boston on its final approach.

A homeowner there was working in his yard when the slide careened to the ground, knocking some branches off his Japanese maple tree. In an interview with local media, the homeowner said he was lucky — only his tree was slightly damaged and no one was hurt. He knew it was from an airplane when he saw the word Boeing on the slide.

It was not known what type of Boeing aircraft lost the evacuation chute, but on flights from Paris to Boston it is known that Delta uses Boeing 767 and 777 aircraft.

Here's [more](#).

5. Public WiFi Live at Airport

Public Wi-Fi is now again live at SXM Airport. In fact, we reported that it was turned back on a number of weeks ago.

Current reports say that the signal is spotty and not particularly strong in the gate areas currently.

6. JB Nonstops Coming From US to Anguilla

Press reports from neighboring Anguilla this week say that JetBlue Airways is about to sign an agreement with the Anguillan government to provide weekly jet service from Fort Lauderdale nonstop to Anguilla starting as soon as four months from now aboard 80-seat aircraft.

There are some facts missing from this report, however. First, JetBlue doesn't own any aircraft that seat just 80 people: all of its current aircraft seat more. Even the new A220 aircraft it has ordered — which have not yet arrived — will seat well more than 80 people.

Second, although the Anguilla Airport is known to be able to accommodate some Boeing 737 aircraft, JetBlue's plans don't include 737s — the airline doesn't fly anything from Boeing, but it does fly narrow-body twin-engine Airbus

A320 and A321 aircraft but those will not be used on these flights because of their excess capacity and higher operating costs.

Either JetBlue is going to make another acquisition of different aircraft to use on the route, or it will codeshare with a smaller airline. There's also a question about who it might codeshare with, since the airline said it plans to expand nonstop service to Anguilla later, as demand warrants, from both New York and Boston, which would require jet aircraft.

We'll watch this and keep you posted.

7. JB Expected To Complete Cabin Makeovers in 2020

More than a year ago, JetBlue started a major makeover of its A320 cabins. Thanks to thinner but just-as-comfortable seating, it has been able to add two new rows of seats — 12 more seats per A320 -- without compromising its generous legroom. It also greatly upgraded its seatback entertainment systems and will complete another upgrade of those same systems this year, converting them from armrest controls to touchscreen controls. The new entertainment systems offer much bigger screens, many more stations, and superior sound. The airline has said it expects the upgrades to be completed by the end of 2020.

The airline is also expected to start flying some A220 aircraft on a number of new routes possibly as early as this year if it acquires some used A220's as is now expected. The cabins of those aircraft will likely mirror those of the upgraded A320 fleet.

8. LIAT Still Flying - But for How Long?

LIAT Airlines, Leeward Islands Air Transport, is still flying, although many attempts at financial resuscitation of the ailing carrier have not been successful.

Owned by several Caribbean nations, the airline has a genuinely mediocre reputation; its acronym has sometimes been perverted to read, "leave island any time," incorporating criticisms of its on-time performance.

When considering where to make airline reservations, if you choose LIAT, use a respected credit card so you can hopefully get a refund if the status of the airline worsens.

9. 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 Group](#), 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:

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.

More stories are below.

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***

10. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

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.

SkyMed Travel offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 115% 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 there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.

You won't be disappointed.

Not a SkyMed member? Learn more about it at www.skymed.com/jmb, then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281 any weekday. Thanks...

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See additional Airline Stories in our main NEWS section, Section IV.

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

10a. Cliff Condos Reopen w/ Hoopla

The Cliff condos on Cupecoy beach reopened last week amid much hoopla — fireworks included. Like many other structures on the island, the Cliff tower had been hit hard by hurricane Irma and required major renovations inside and out which have now been completed. It's great to see this "new" property once again available for use as high season 2019 – 2020 begins.

11. Plenty of Condo Rentals, Villa Rentals Available on SXM

Many Timeshare owners at both Flamingo resort and Royal Palm beach resort, the diamond resorts referred to in the previous story, in the last couple of years have made arrangements to stay at nearby Simpson Bay resort. Though Simpson Bay lost some buildings during hurricane Irma, it quickly completed renovations throughout the property and never closed after the hurricane.

The reactions of Flamingo and Royal palm owners to Simpson Bay have been very positive — and in fact a number of renters from those diamond properties say they have walked away from diamond and signed up with units at Simpson Bay.

If you are looking for timeshare condos to rent for future SXM island vacations, please see our main SXM website, everythingSXM.com. It contains hundreds of rentals for 2020 as well as dozens of units for sale on the island. 2021 rentals will begin to appear on the site early in March, 2020. Our high-quality sponsors/partners offering villa rentals across the island also have a variety of properties to offer you. Here they are. We have also listed three hotel properties below that have rooms available for future stays in all seasons.

12. A Very Unique Dec-Jan Rental Opportunity at Belair...

We wanted to make you aware of the very unexpected availability of a large chunk of Winter weeks during December and January that are now available at Belair Beach Hotel.

Here are the details:

Special opportunity December 2019 and January 2020 Two Bedroom, Two Bathroom, Second Floor, Belair Beach Hotel unit available for December 2019 and January 2020. This is the first time this unit has been available during this timeframe in many years. Once in a lifetime opportunity. Weekly Rate: \$1710, plus any applicable taxes; Special Monthly Rates available upon request. Email: info@island92.com to inquire.

Want to get away with family or friends for an extended vacation? This is your chance to do exactly that.

13. Want to Rent Out Or Sell Timeshare Units You Own?

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our main site, everythingSXM.com and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting there. For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of everythingSXM.com. As a member, you will have access to a growing pallet of about 300 discounts and other benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at everythingxsm.com.

The ability to post timeshare rentals on our site is limited to JMB Website Supporters members only, and is not available to any others at any price.

14. SXM Relocation Seminar Is Available Online, Free

Just before Thanksgiving 2018, 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 '18 seminar is available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else. Lots of outstanding info was communicated during this excellent seminar, and another is now in the early planning stages.

See the video [here](#).

Please check this link to [BrightPath](#) in SXM, a company that can help provide very deep and expeditious help in completing residency requirements for people buying a second home, income property, or a new business in SXM, or relocating there. They're located in the Puerta del Sol building opposite Avantika, Simpson Bay, Dutch side. Ask for Vivian Chamas and let her know you heard about BrightPath through Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

15. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updates Underway

Jeff will be working in December & January to further increase the already huge number of restaurants, jewelry stores, hotels, and other businesses offering discounts or other incentives to members of our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program.

As these additions are made, they will be reported here in *SXM Weekly News* and will also be noted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which currently offers roughly 300 discounts and other benefits to its thousands of members.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

16. Don't Miss Our Holiday JMB Membership Sale - ENDS SOON

Our biggest sale of the year for our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program is now underway. Both new and renewal pricing are the lowest of the year. We have few sales, so take advantage while this is offered; it ends soon.

Make sure your new JMB membership or your renewal/reinstatement is in force well ahead of your next visit to the island: do it today. Sale pricing is shown below.



Holiday Membership Sale --- **Our Biggest of the Year --**

ENDS SOON!

Get 300+ SXM Discounts
& Many More Island Benefits
& (P. S.) Exclusive First-in-Line Invitations
to Our Famous Members-Only Island Parties...
Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership
Today:

New JMB memberships: 5 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$109; 1 yr., \$59
http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: 6 years, \$149 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$89; 1 yr., \$49
<http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Reinstatement JMB memberships:
6 years, \$149 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$89; 1 yr., \$49
<http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

17. Thank You From Scott Berger - National Brain Tumor Society

This message came this morning from Ilene & Jeff Berger's son, Scott Berger: "I wanted to thank each and every person on this site who contributed to the National Brain Tumor Society Phoenix brain tumor walk which took place last Saturday, December 7. When I was in my twenties, I had the first of two brain tumors. Since recovering, fighting the scourge of brain tumors and helping advance treatments has been a passion of mine that has long been shared by my family. We are all grateful to you for your support of the Phoenix brain tumor walk, an event of the National Brain Tumor Society.

"Although we exceeded our team goal of \$5000, every donation helps and goes in the fight against brain tumors. So if you have not donated and would like to do so please go [here](#)."

18. Vacation Giveaways Coming

SXM Weekly News will be the focal point for your entries into our brand-new 2019 – 2020 vacation giveaway, **Paradise SXM** which we will be formally introducing shortly. SXM is back in force and 100% ready for tourists. Is everything absolutely perfect? No, but there's no place on the planet where everything is perfect -- and SXM is paradise!

Paradise SXM will be giving away several SXM vacations, including weeks at Simpson Bay Resort, Belair Beach Hotel, Adonis Cupecoy hotel, Azure Hotel and Art Studio on Simpson Bay beach, and El Zafiro hotel and restaurant on Simpson Bay beach -- and other properties to be announced.

The giveaway celebrates our site surpassing 6.5 million visits. Most of the weeks we give away will be handed out to randomly picked entries late in March. Some others — particularly at villas and condominiums to be announced — will be given away a bit later. All are subject to seasonal limitations and availability.

In addition to vacations, we will give away many dinners for two, gifts at jewelry stores, day sails, probably zipline trips, a car rental, and possibly some major gifts on one or two neighboring islands.

The link for entries should be live in the next edition of *SXM Weekly News*, where it will be repeated, along with an updated list of prizes, every week from now until we draw the initial prizes late in March.

Paradise SXM will be one of our biggest Giveaways ever — and there will also be a vacation prize for our 6.5-millionth visitor -- see next story.

Several people will be winning vacations from us. Why not you?

19. Will Our 6.5-millionth Site Visitor by You?

Special rules for the giveaway involving our 6.5-millionth visitor will be published in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) probably in the next couple of days so be sure to join that group and participate in that specific vacation giveaway.

Once **Paradise SXM** has been completely rolled out, we will have at least seven vacations to give away, starting at the end of March.

20. Time for You to To Get Down Here

Superb weather... perfect tropical beaches... amazing world-class dining... top-notch jewelry shopping... and resorts, villas, and intimate beach hotels make **Paradise SXM** the perfect antidote for the winter blues and a cure for Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

It's time for you to be down here. Check our site, everythingSXM.com, where you'll find hundreds of timeshare weeks for rent, many for sale, plus villa rentals through our partners, the best Villa rental sources on the island. You'll also find them listed in story number 42 here in *SXM Weekly News*.

21. Will "Sky Dinner" Fly?

Sky Dinner is a novel, quirky, and highly unusual tiny restaurant suspended high above Princess Port de Plaisance Resort & Casino by a crane. It's off the union road in Cole Bay.

In an announcement concerning the launch of the project last week, its promoters wrote:

Here's the news you've been waiting for: WE ARE READY!

Starting Friday December 6th, at 4pm we will be doing preopening cocktail-flights every night until we open the kitchen. Everybody's welcome.

NO RESERVATION. Come early in our beautiful lounge and bar, with a magnificent view on the Yacht Club of the Port De Plaisance, on Snoopy Island, on the Causeway Bridge and the Airport. The SKY DINNER platform will be going up and down all night.

You can watch from the lounge or be a part of the "ELITE" for our preopening price of only \$60/person for a 25 minute "flight" including 2 cocktails.

Come alone or come with your friends, we can accommodate up to 22 persons at a time. Be the first ones on the island to be part of the "fifty-meter-high-club". This will be CRAZY!

Take good note of this:

Starting Friday December 6th
4 pm till midnight, 7 days a week

(End of their post)

We posted this information along with photography supplied with the announcement in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). We had posed a number of questions to these folks through social media over the last few months but none were ever answered, and they still have not been.

Our questions -- related to items we felt readers would want more information on -- included whether the project was reviewed and approved by SXM Airport, which could have some concerns about it since the crane hoists the restaurant far above the ground near the water of Simpson Bay lagoon close to a route sometimes taken by arriving small planes approaching via the lagoon. They never specifically answered. We asked other questions about medical emergencies, mechanical failures of the crane, and more, but their answers were general and not specific.

Some of the approximately 24,000 members of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) responded to the announcement negatively. The post remains in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); you can find it by searching for "sky dinner" in that group.

Here are their comments in response to our specific questions. We requested specific proof of approvals from the Airport and they refused to provide it:

This concept was born in Belgium, it is now franchised in about 40 countries. We wouldn't have invested all that money without having had clearance from the Airport authorities. This kind of crane has all sorts of redundancies in case of an unlikely mechanical mishap. The crane is brand new and along with every other crane on the island has to go through periodical inspections. That's without talking of the meticulous maintenance that is planned for every one of these systems all around the world according to a very detailed charge book. And that's without talking that these cranes are built to lift, day in and day out, weight that are 5 times what we use it for. in conditions that are less than ideal. The lounge downstairs has all the bathrooms needed. If there is a medical emergency, the crane can lower the whole platform in a minute and a half. If there is a toilet emergency it's the same thing, but everybody on board is warned that the "cocktail-flight" lasts 25 minutes and the dinner is 55 minutes. I think it is the a reasonable amount of time to hold it in if you forgot to go beforehand. Everywhere around the world, hundreds of thousand of satisfied passengers have lived with that. [Spelling corrected -Ed.]

We still sought documentary evidence of airport review and approval and told them repeatedly who SXM Weekly News is. This was their reply:

We have all the approvals from the airport Authorities, Economic Affairs, the Fire Department and the Health Office and we are associated with one of the biggest casino, hotel and marina on the island. We wouldn't have been allowed to finish this project without it...

And we are not obligated to show official documents to whomever asks for them. If I say we have it it's because we have it. That project has started a year ago and the first people we met was the Airport Authorities. We had to change the original location on the property to meet their requirements, we installed all the warning lights and flags that they asked and our crane is allowed to go as high as 150 feet, not more but this is enough for us. We have been inspected left and right for the last 6 months and have met all requirements from all departments of government.

We don't need to show any of this to just anybody who asks for it and is not an authority. Call the Civil Aviation and they will tell you we are up to code with them and that we do have all the approvals. We're not building a skyscraper here, this is a crane that is lower that a communication tower. {Sic -Ed.]

The proof we requested was never provided. Saying something and it being true are not necessarily the same thing. No mention here of sudden brisk winds which happen in the tropics seconds before squalls move through. Our comment online about them one week ago was: "We asked whether the airport approved this. No answer [and no proof]. (It may be on the flight path of approaching East-to-West small planes going to the airport) We asked what happens if there are mechanical issues. No answer. Medical emergencies. No complete answer. Food sent back. No answer. No bathrooms." We deferred publishing this article for one week to give them a further opportunity to further answer in detail all our specific questions. They did not.

If you feel like you should pay them to dangle from a crane over Port de Plaisance, enjoy yourself... but if you have any questions about safety or emergency plans, and want detailed information and want to see actual approval documents (which we asked them to email to us) they probably won't answer you in detail, either.

If they do send more proof or details of what they do in mechanical or weather emergencies, we'll happily publish that information or a link to it. We wish them well -- but our advice is that they should answer consumer concerns, not brush them off.

22. French Court Tells Baki Arbia His Art Wall is Too High

Baki Arbia Owns and operates what was formerly known as the Mercure St. Martin hotel in Nettle Bay, west of Marigot on the French side.

During the property's recovery from hurricane Irma, he flew in artists from across the seas to paint many murals on the fence at the perimeter of his property along the main road to the lowlands. The work is beautiful and an uplifting sight for many people in that area, which was devastated by Irma.

Now, in what many are interpreting as another roadblock to progress toward normalcy posed by the government of the French side, Baki Arbia is being told that his fence is too high, that he will be fined, and that the problem has to be fixed over the next few months. Hopefully the government will see fit to give him whatever obscure permission is required to leave the murals as they are, which is a bright, enthusiastic, forward-looking vision toward the future of the French side once it fully recovers from hurricane Irma.

As a tour of the French side will clearly show, French red tape has greatly affected French side recovery attempts by private, tourist-oriented businesses. In this case, overregulation is hurting French side businesses, employees, and tourism revenue for the entire island....

23. "Soggy" Doing Lots of Events For Adults

You may think that the Soggy Dollar Bar behind Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay about 100 yards north of the drawbridge is a place for kids and young adults — but the fact is that it has an increasing number of attractions focused on the interests of mature adults who are also interested in having some nighttime entertainment.

For example, every Tuesday Night is Latin night during which you can get very low-cost salsa lessons — why not do it? There are also occasional oldies nights — but perhaps of the greatest interest to tourists is that very well known Caribbean performer **Percy Rankin** appears at Soggy Dollar Bar every Sunday at 9 PM to a large, mixed crowd of enraptured tourists and locals. He sings a lot of Bob Marley and a whole lot more.

Check out **Soggy Dollar Bar** and the entertainment they offer seven nights a week — you might just find several entertainment nights of interest during your visit to SXM.

24. Announcing "Atrium Lake"

When there is a heavy rainstorm on the island, it appears you can now count on a small lake forming on Billy Folly road in front of Atrium Resort. Thanks to poor drainage, the "lake" lasts for several days.

We're sure that local business people and a number of others who live in the Pelican Key area have already asked the government to solve this unwelcome lake in front of Atrium Resort. It affects hundreds of tourists and hundreds of locals every day and needs to be eliminated.

25. "Tasting Menu" Earns Wows at IZI

If you like fine dining, it's time you made reservations for David Foini's tasting menu at iZi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay.

Tasting menu reservations need to be made a few days in advance and are required — and totally worth it. David frequently served tasting menus to discriminating groups who visited his high-end Italian restaurant La Gondola a number of years ago. He has now brought back and further refined those superb tasting menus, offering a great

spectrum of flavors and textures in his multicourse tasting menu selections, paired with very fine wines.

Again, advance reservations are a must and you do need to specify tasting menu; it's best to talk to David personally when making reservations. Groups welcomed. More is [here](#).

26. Someplace Unique for Lunch: La Patrona

La Patrona is the authentic Mexican restaurant on the water at Simpson Bay Resort — definitely not your typical Tex Mex eatery. But at lunch — when you're seated outdoors overlooking beautiful Simpson Bay (the Bay itself, not the geographic section of Dutch SXM) it's even more beautiful than at night, when you're appreciating the fine dining Mexican food and thoroughly authentic surroundings.

There are salads, seafood dishes, and much more. We had red snapper fish and chips which offered a generous portion of delightfully spiced fish. Want something spicy? No problem: Ivan is usually there (pronounced EE-Vahn) and he knows exactly what to do.

La Patrona may be an alternative for lunch that you haven't thought about — but it certainly is time to try it. Very scenic with great service; we loved it.

27. Lobster Thermidor? Pineapple Pete

Pineapple Pete is Pierre "Pete" Ferland's venerable lunch and dinner spot in Simpson Bay serving a huge spectrum of his own brand of great comfort foods at reasonable prices. For those who prefer Japanese dining, right next door you'll find Wasabi Charlie, with hibachi style cooking as well as traditional roll and Nigiri sushi. The quality is consistently excellent: remember, Pierre used to run the former Sushiito restaurant on the other side of the lagoon, closed after Irma. Wasabi Charlie has some of the same staff members and a similar menu with the extraordinary service that you expect from every Pierre Ferland enterprise on the island.

But here's the kicker: Pineapple Pete serves what is arguably the best lobster thermidor on the island. There are times at night when a conga line of lobster thermidor dishes is coming out of the kitchen headed for the palates of discriminating guests. If you love lobster thermidor, Pineapple Pete is absolutely the most popular place to get it. .

28. Simpson Bay Lagoon vs. Simpson Bay

Tourists sometimes get confused between Simpson Bay lagoon, Simpson Bay, and Simpson Bay (yes, there really are two Simpson Bays). Were going to solve the problem.

First, Simpson Bay lagoon is the inside-the-island body of water on the Dutch side that stretches from the airport southward to Cole Bay. During high season, dozens if not hundreds of small boats and yachts moor here, entering through the Simpson Bay drawbridge.

On the ocean side of the Simpson Bay drawbridge, you'll find Simpson Bay itself, which extends off the coast from South of the airport all the way down to the beginning of pelican key and is one of the island's largest, most peaceful and serene beaches (Simpson Bay beach). Shhhh -- it's a quiet local treasure that's vastly underutilized, so don't tell anybody.

The other Simpson Bay is really the dining and entertainment center of the Dutch side, with more concentrated restaurant and nightclub activity than the rest of the island combined. The main road through this area is Welfare Road, which extends from South of the Simpson Bay drawbridge to Cole Bay which begins at the bottom (Southernmost part) of Simpson Bay lagoon. Locals sometimes spell Simpson Bay as one word.

We should add a quick word here about Kimsha beach. As we previously reported here, geographically there is no such place as Kimsha beach. However, the name Kimsha is commonly applied to the Simpson Bay beach section between Royal Palm beach resort and Atrium resort. Why? There was a Chinese restaurant here decades ago and the area came to be known affectionately by the name of that restaurant — Kimsha. Legally, though, it's simply part of Simpson Bay beach.

But it is, quite commonly and frequently, referred to by locals and an increasing number of visitors as Kimsha, either

as a single word or two (Kim Sha)

29. '20 Destination Magazine Warrants Reading

Both American Airlines and United Airlines offer passengers headed for SXM a copy of *Destination St. Martin* magazine, also found at hotels and timeshares across SXM -- an eye-opening look at island attractions through the seasoned eye of an editor who lives on the island and several freelance writers.

One of those freelance travel writers is Jeff Berger, who also publishes *SXM Weekly News*, everythingSXM.com, his [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), and who recently visited, researched, and wrote the entire St. Maarten, St. Martin, Statia, Anguilla, and St. Barth sections of the all-new 2020 *Fodor's Essential Caribbean directory*, the 2020 version of which was published last month and is at leading bookstores, both online and bricks and mortar.

The *Destination* article takes a close look at medical evacuation services and offers some criteria for travelers to consider in selecting the best programs.

You'll find many other articles of interest in the new 2020 *Destination* magazine and we urge you to take a close look at it during your next trip to SXM.

30. Get SkyMed Now For All Upcoming Trips: Member Stories

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.

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.

31. Where Are They Now? Daniel Jurczenko

This is the 8h in a series of articles about where the people are who served you in the past at extremely popular SXM restaurants. If you've been going to SXM for any length of time — or, in fact, if you're an ex-pat now living there — you will find interesting information right here. Since they moved on from their original restaurants, many SXM restaurateurs and restaurant employees have stayed in the business on the island. In this series, we'll tell you where some of them are and where you can get those recipes you thought you'd never taste again.

Known widely as the public face of both Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and the iconic Daniel's by the Sea on Dawn Beach - both obliterated by Hurricane Irma, Daniel Jurczenko kept his eyes open after the storm, looking for culinary opportunities in Simpson Bay while temporarily working in construction, as did hundreds (or perhaps thousands) of other St. Maarteners post-Irma.

He found that opportunity next door to the new Republic Bank (formerly Scotia Bank) in Simpson Bay, where "Where's Ivan" and an Asian wok restaurant had been. His new place is Reveil Matin, "Alarm Clock" in English, a highly creative breakfast / brunch / lunch restaurant with, we're told, excellent pricing. The restaurant is just in its soft opening now but will be ready for high season soon.

Once we've had a chance to visit, we'll tell you more -- but now you know where to find Daniel Jurczenko....

If you have suggestions for future "Where Are They Now" articles, please email them to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject where are they now.

Featured so far in this series:

Daniel Jurczenko **Busby's, Daniel's by the Sea** (article #8)
Karin Mikitz and Pascal Potin, **L'Alabama** (article #7)
Mario Tardiff, **Mario's Bistro, Marigot on the Channel** (article #6)
Vesna **Sunshine Cafe** and Yannick **Fish Pot** (article #5)
Livio Bergamasco / **Da Livio** (article #4)
Gray & Jason & "Lulu" / **Busby's / Daniel's** (article #3)
David Foini, **La Raviolina / La Gondola** / iZi (article #2)
Al & Lillian Wathey, **Turtle Pier / Nowhere Special** (article #1)

32. Restaurant of the Week:

We'll resume this series next week.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 12/2/19). 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/ **11/26/19** Mario's Bistro is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining at very reasonable prices. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 11/18/19) New bar, great staff, service, and phenomenal food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy (featured 11/11/19) Excellent pizza, and sizeable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 10/28/19). Now open every day for through B/L; dinner is offered Wednesday through Sunday.

Isola next to Hollywood Casino in Simpson Bay Resort, 7/13/19. 100% redesigned, inside and out, floor to ceiling and everything inside. Just go.

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 7/8/19) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (7/8/19) 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.

Mandarin Pan Asian, Port de Plaisance (featured 6/10/19) Excellent Pan-Asian dining including Japanese, Thai, and Chinese. Nice setting near the casino at Port de Plaisance.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured 4/21/19) is as stupendous as it ever was, with spectacular dining in an equally spectacular restored building on the Emilio Wilson Estate. Ask to see the wine cellar and the museum. Open for lunch and dinner: not to be missed.

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.

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?

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!

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.

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 Group](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

33. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Regardless of what time it is, people are always interacting with our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — asking questions, answering questions, getting answers or suggestions or recommendations from other people, posting thousands of pictures, etc.

With almost 24,000 participating members (more than twice that including their partners and friends), there's just about always a number of people around to answer any question or to offer recommendations. *You will also find some of the best businesses on the island occasionally posting information about what they offer, too — jewelers, car rentals, points of accommodation, restaurants, pharmacists, swimsuit retailers, and others.* The best place to get your questions answered quickly is our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) -- check it out.

34. Your Invitation: SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon 1/3

If you are either a SkyMed member or are interested in learning more about SkyMed, the medical evacuation membership company we've been recommending since 2001, you are invited to our first SKYMED MEMBER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON in SXM on January 3. [Please see details here](#); registration is required.

Bring friends who should also hear this information, but ALL must be preregistered. Looking forward to seeing you there!

35. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring 2014, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and many Special Editions.

Check it out [here](#). It has recently been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added just hours after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

36. Major SkyMed Promo Now Underway

A major promo continues 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.

37. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / SkyMed.com/jmb

Our new SkyMed website is www.skymed.com/jmb, now live; 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.

38. Going Somewhere? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion

of Pre-Existing Conditions by Buying Guaranteed Renewable Annual Protection Now, Only About \$1.35/day

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 guaranteed renewable annual or multiyear protection now at only about \$1.35/day, pre-existing conditions will be covered in full after a brief 90-day waiting period. SkyMed protects you in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection 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.

39. *****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 skymed.com/jmb. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

40. 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 everythingssxm.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.

41. 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.

42. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 12/2)

AMUSEMENTS

[Island Pedals Beer Cycle](#) (Philipsburg)

BOAT TOURS

Celine Charters (Enigma)

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental (new)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

[SkyMed International](#) (Covers the entire USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global coverage available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats living in these countries.)

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Majesty Jewelers

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[Alpha Jewels](#)

Art of Time

Artistic Jewelers

Oro Diamante

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 Group*.

Century 21 St. Maarten (just joined)

Sunshine Properties (new)

RESORTS:

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Baker's Suites

RESTAURANTS & BARS

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

ISOLA

Frenchy Ludo's

SNOOPY'S

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Soggy Dollar Bar

Sale and Pepe

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

Pineapple Pete Restaurant

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant

Emilio's (NEW)

Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar (NEW)

Nowhere Special (NEW)

SWIMWEAR:

Endless Summer Swimwear, Philipsburg & Simpson Bay

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 Group*. 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 Group*.

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at blueparadiserealty.com.

GoBeach Vacations

Sunshine Properties has just joined us.

Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Updated 12/2/19

**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.

43. 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 Group](#) — 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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Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

12/2/19 #V2-1226 12/1/19 6:00 pm AST

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