

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 2/17/20: '20 Hurricane season; SECRETS Delays; Royal Islander G/B; "14" Towers; Regattas; Jack Jagtiani; Toppers Rhum / Vodka; Below Deck; Global Entry; Drones; Airport Recovery Funds [38 News Stories]

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**Vol. 3, #1236 --- Monday, Feb. 17 2020**  
**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](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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**This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member.**

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On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

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**38 News Stories This Week**

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**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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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** 2/29/2020 3/7/2020 9 **Villas at Simpson Bay Resort and Marina 2 bedroom lock off Saturday to Saturday** the A side is 1 bedroom 1 bath with king size bed and 2 Murphy beds fully equipped kitchen large balcony with ocean and pool views swim up bar close to the beach and amenities the B side has 2 full size beds 1 bath efficiency kitchen balcony renter pays the resort fee of 50.00 dollars it is Heineken Regatta week 2,800.00 Susan at 848-210-

1155 [granprix66@aol.com](mailto:granprix66@aol.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](mailto:camijammer@aol.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

<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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***  
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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. The 2020 Hurricane Season: What's Coming?

The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season begins in a bit over three months. At this early point in 2020, hurricane forecasters can't really say what direction the season will take: it's like morning weather in SXM these days — will it be beautiful or showery? We don't know until the day progresses.

Although ocean temperatures are warmer than usual — which can often lead to a busy season — other indicators are not so clear. That's why this year, it will be important to read the latest developments from Meteorologist Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather, our go-to source of reliable hurricane information for many years. Rob is widely regarded as *the* expert in private hurricane forecasting.

The current situation could deviate toward busy or not. Trends will become much clearer over the next few months and we should know before the season begins what's most likely to happen.

If you live in any area where hurricanes can affect you or your vacations, you can benefit greatly from an inexpensive membership in Rob's huge online presence. It has not only an enormous reservoir of current storm information, but also accurate, to-the-minute forecasts saying what's going to happen where and when. It's good not only for hurricane forecasts, but also for day-to-day weather across the Caribbean and North America. See much more at [www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com).

## 2. Recheck The Timing of Upcoming Flights

Every year at this time, airlines are adjusting their upcoming schedules to accommodate current and projected loads by changing aircraft, timing, and frequency. For some airlines, the 737 Max global groundings continue to play a role. For others, like JetBlue, their continued expansion and fleet growth are contributing to schedule changes.

Regardless of which airline you use to make reservations for SXM or anywhere else, it's important to frequently check the schedule of your flights directly on airline websites. For example, JetBlue recently changed the schedule of Boston bound nonstops so some of them are leaving *from* Boston to SXM an hour earlier (or thereabouts) and returning to Boston also an hour earlier than had previously been scheduled.

And as always, we strongly recommend that in high season and through the year you get to the airport in SXM a full three hours ahead of your scheduled flight. It's better to be an hour early at your gate rather than two minutes late -- after your flight closes and the plane's door is shut.

## 3. Cautions About Flying During Winter

Regardless of what airline you fly or what your destination is, flying during the winter aboard busy airliners exposes you to whatever germs were left behind by lots of prior passengers.

Airlines take trash out of their planes and clean the floor, but they don't disinfect cabins, seatback tray tables, seatbelt latches, etc. You might want to take some disinfecting wipes with you to clean all of these spots before you settle into your airline seat: it can make a difference.

## 4. We'll Get The Airport Info You Need to Know...

With SXM Airport still recovering from the devastation it suffered in hurricane Irma two and one half years ago, our readers want to know when things will be back to normal and when all of the advancements being built into the reincarnation of SXM Airport will be completed. They also want to know what those advancements are and when other major changes —

including preclearance — are coming.

We are continuing to work to get all that information for you, and make it available right here in *SXM Weekly News*. This is one of the stories we're actively working on for you so please stay tuned to *SXM Weekly News* and definitely tell your friends about this free tourist-focused SXM newsletter. They can subscribe free on our SXM Weekly News subscription site, [SXMWeeklyNews.com](http://SXMWeeklyNews.com).

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## 5. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

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

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

- 1) **[Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.**
- 2) Our "Weather" page at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook 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](http://www.island92.com). They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 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.

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## **Changing Your Email Address?**

***Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email  
and Sign Up Your New One  
for your SXM Weekly News subscription  
Quickly and Easily  
at our Site: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)***

## 6. 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281 any weekday. Thanks...

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

## 7. SECRETS Resort: More Construction Delays -- and Still-Unanswered Questions

Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) has a single main thread concerning SECRETS Resort. Since AMResorts and SECRETS appear to have a long-standing history of being late on new hotel development projects (a list of allegedly late projects is in our Facebook group), no one should have been surprised that the St. Martin SECRETS Resort has been later in coming to fruition than AMResorts said it would be.

A number of SECRETS fans sharing information in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) have been taking pictures from outside the construction perimeter of the building and posting them on the site, and AMResorts has complained to its partners about such "unauthorized" photography appearing online. Perhaps if it did a better job of forecasting and communicating, neither of which has apparently been happening, they wouldn't have to deal with their own customers trying to figure out what's going on.

There appears to be the beginning of what we in our newsroom have dubbed The SECRETS Debacle. The resort has thousands of reservations starting March 1 and it has continued to say that it will be open March 1 although the appearance of the resort tells a seriously different story.

We've had a number of questions for the resort which were supposed to be answered this past weekend. However, José Castillo, Dir. of Sales, abruptly canceled a meeting with us and a number of travel planners and also canceled a resort tour — doing both cancellations by email, one of them late at night. Many people had flown in for the meeting and Mr. Castillo chose to ignore their calls and emails through the weekend.

Even an off-site meeting could have been remarkably informative and productive, but that didn't happen and was never even offered.

With thousands of people having SECRETS St. Martin reservations — including weddings with dozens of reservations and many other arrangements early in March — thousands of SECRETS customers have been left in limbo about whether there will even be a place for them to stay when they arrive in SXM. Mr. Castillo's sudden unavailability has only added to the frustration of SECRETS Resort fans and customers. We expected to get the answers our readers want. Any normal customer-focused company works by an unwritten rule: under-promise and over-deliver. That appears not to be the way SECRETS St. Martin is currently operating with Mr. Castillo as Dir. of sales — for whatever reason.

[These questions and many others all remain unanswered:](#)



*What accommodations, services, amenities, restaurants, and facilities will NOT be available for use if/when you "open" as announced March 1? What is the exact timetable for making all of these entities available to SECRETS Resort St. Martin guests?*

*How exactly will you refund funds paid for SECRETS Resort features that will be unavailable for guests due to the Resort not being finished when they have paid fully in advance for occupancy/use?*

*How are you compensating customers' flight changes made necessary by Resort unavailability?*

*How are you handling immediate, on-time execution of replacement facilities, flights, etc. for weddings and other major events which SECRETS St. Martin cannot accommodate due to its incompletion?*

***Tune In Island 92 Monday Morning 2/17 between 9:30 and 10 a.m. for additional important coverage of the SECRETS situation, 91.9 FM & island92.com.***

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## **8. Royal Islander Great Bay Progress Continues**

The small Royal Islander resort at Great Bay, formerly part of the Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort, was mauled but not destroyed by hurricane Irma, which destroyed the entire rest of the Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort.

As we reported, the property was sold by Sonesta and is now being developed as a Planet Hollywood Resort with well over 450 rooms. Construction of the project has begun but so far, has been primarily focused on rebuilding of the comparatively small Royal Islander timeshare at Great Bay.

Based upon what we've seen of the project, it should be ready for occupancy by late fall of this year. But whether it will actually open then is another question, since construction of the mammoth Planet Hollywood Resort is literally right next door.

SXM's head of Tourism, May-Ling Chun, told us recently that she expects the project to be finished by late 2022, in time for the 2022 – 2023 tourism season here. We will continue to keep an eye on it and expect to publish photography construction likely starting next fall.

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## **9. First "14" Tower Half Way to 21 Stories**

When the "14" twin tower project in Cupecoy, Dutch side, was first announced a few years ago, it was billed as half hotel, half condo. But demand for condominium accommodations was so heavy that the developer chose to quickly change course and build both 21-story towers as full condo developments. We've been watching construction ever since.

The first tower is now approaching half its ultimate height, closing in on story number 10. It's expected that once construction of the building's cement shell has been completed, other crews will be working inside and construction of the second tower nearby will then get going. It would be logical for the first tower to be move-in ready as construction of the second tower's cement shell continues.

In any case, as always we will keep you posted on this and many other major tourism-related construction projects across SXM.

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## **10. Reserving Places to Stay in SXM**

Some people think that since some resorts closed after being destroyed by Irma, and some buildings at certain resorts disappeared once Irma had swirled away, there are no places to stay in St. Maarten. That's a dead wrong conclusion.

Check our main St. Maarten website at [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) and on the timeshare rentals page, you will find hundreds of rentals across the island. [Check the Sponsors list in every issue of SXM Weekly News and you will find the latest listings of SXM businesses whose mission it is to provide you with perfect vacation accommodations.](#) Each one of those sponsors offers hundreds of villas, condos, and other accommodations.

Yes, some timeshare buildings are gone and there is still quite a bit of building going on here in SXM. But there are plenty of places to stay — and now, you know exactly where to look.

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## 11. 2021 Timeshare Rentals May Be Submitted by JMB Members

Every year, usually starting in March, we begin to accept timeshare rental listings for the following year from our JMB Website Supporters members. Members can submit ads by clicking "Submit an Ad" on the homepage of our members-only "secret" website.

The demand for accommodations keeps increasing and even with new hotels opening on the island or nearing their opening during 2021 and 2022, it's clear that demand for 2021 will be high. For that reason, we have decided to enable our JMB Website Supporters members to start placing ads for timeshare rentals with 2021 dates effective immediately. The next update of our timeshare listings, which will take place in the next few days, will include initial 2021 (as well as 2020) timeshares offered by our JMB Website Supporters members.

Bear in mind that these are direct rentals that buyers purchase directly from our JMB Website Supporters members. There is no middleman, there are no rental fees, and there is nothing else to get in the way of you making your best possible deal directly with the timeshare owner. That's why our timeshare rental ads on [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) are among the most popular means for tourists to rent SXM timeshare weeks directly from owners.

Again, you will find those weeks on our main SXM website, [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com).

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## 12. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main [everythingSXM.com](http://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](http://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](http://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 [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.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.

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## 13. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

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*.

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

**14. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updates Underway**

Jeff is working this winter 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](#).**

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**SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features**

**15. Dad "Jack" Jagtiani Passes Away**

For many people, the first time they met Jack Jagtiani was when they wandered into his swimsuit business on Front Street, Philipsburg. Though they liked the variety, color, and product knowledge they encountered, most of all they remembered something else — the friendliness, courtesy, and respect that Jack show them during their experience in his store.

For most people, the memories are more recent. Jack Jagtiani was the father of two very well-known SXM sons — Dino Jagtiani, SXM's first Culinary Institute of America (CIA) graduate who for years owned both the Temptation and Rare Restaurants at Atlantis World Casino, later renamed Starz casino, where for many years he was the gentleman/father/official greeter of the remarkable award-winning Temptation restaurant. Later he was also seen at Emilio's, while Dino was there; -- the face of that great restaurant.

Jack's other son is equally well known: Arun Jagtiani, SXM's top realtor and the head of Island Real Estate Team (IRETeam), the big Kahuna of all SXM real estate businesses.

Jack apparently suffered a hip injury a few weeks ago and quietly passed away early last week. The entire EverythingSXM family offers Arun, Dino, and the Jagtiani family our most profound condolences.

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**SIGNUPS END TODAY, MON. 2/17 4PM AST:**  
**Your Invitation To Our Vodka / Rhum Tasting Island Party**

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**JMB Website Supporters invites all JMB members to our first 2020 TOPPERS RHUM AND VODKA TASTING PARTY at Toppers Rhum [and now Vodka!] Distillery in Cole Bay 6-9 pm Wed. February 19.**

**PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

*Delicious free appetizers, FREE Rhum tasting, FREE pre-launch Toppers Vodka tasting, plus a cash bar for those not into Rhum or Vodka. You may bring two*

guests but ALL must be preregistered.

**LIMITED SPACE. NO ONE UNDER 18 ADMITTED.**

To register, email [susank@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com)  
SUBJECT - VODKA, give us the names of all attendees  
plus your email address and phone number. You may  
bring a maximum of two guests WHO ALSO MUST  
BE PREREGISTERED. We will reply with an  
acknowledgement and directions. REGISTER NOW!

You CAN NOT register by replying to this article; all  
registrations must be sent to the above email address.  
Note deadline above which will be strictly enforced.

P. S. More parties are coming. Join JMB Website Supporters now - it's our Island Discount Program with about 300  
discounts & other benefits. See details by clicking the page curl at our main site, [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com).

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## 16. Toppers Rhum Distillery 2-Time "Best of the Caribbean"

Every year, *USA Today* invites readers to vote for various candidates for best of the Caribbean. This year, for the second year in a row, the Toppers Rhum distillery was named best of the Caribbean. It's a particularly happy situation for them since they are celebrating the birth of their newest product — vodka, in addition to all their rum products sold in dozens of countries including the USA.

Visitors to their 6,000-square-foot facility in Sint Maarten gain insight into the history of rum-making while seeing the blending and bottling process firsthand. Visitors also get to sample new flavors in development, along with the full lineup of artisan rums, in the tasting bar. Those who'd like to take some Topper's home can even bottle their own.

For much more on the Toppers rum distillery, please see [www.toppersrhum.com](http://www.toppersrhum.com).

**More info about this award is [here](#).**

## 17. Original BELOW DECK Returns to Caribbean

Bravo's Below Deck family of "reality shows" concerning crew interactions aboard charter yachts started out right here in St. Maarten a number of years ago with the original Below Deck program under skipper Capt. Lee. It was an immediate hit, taped on or near SXM until 2017.

That year, after the series had been shot in March and before it was slated to air that fall, hurricane Irma struck SXM. Capt. Lee began the first post-Irma episode with a poignant comment about SXM having been "our home" for several years and how sad it was to see what Irma had done to the island.

In the aftermath of Irma, in both 2018 and 2019 the original Below Deck was shot outside the Caribbean. Below Deck Mediterranean was airing as well, covering crew life aboard yachts in the Mediterranean. And Below Deck Sailing Yacht recently premiered on Bravo, for the first time focusing on crew life aboard a Sailing Yacht which differs markedly from a traditional megayacht.

We learned from people close to the Below Deck franchise last week that the original Below Deck has returned to the Caribbean and has just started shooting in nearby Antigua (Ann - TEE - guh). Some people from the crew have been seen in SXM as well, most notably the chef whose parents are from here.

Here are some pieces of info about the now in production 2020 version of Below Deck, expected to air this fall.

Capt. Lee Rosbach, skipper since the Below Deck franchise began, continues to be in charge of the megayacht this year. Kate, with her "resting bitch face" that was the subject of some early episodes, is not in the crew this year. Brooke, from Below Deck Med, the young British woman who had dark hair when she was working in the Mediterranean for Capt. Sandy, is now aboard in Antigua — newly blonde; she is now chief Stew. Deck crew member Eddie Lucas, whose dimples

set some female audience hearts fluttering before, has returned to Below Deck as bosun.

The boat they're using this year is *My Seanna*, a name that will be highly familiar to people who have spent any time yacht-watching here in SXM — it's normally a winter fixture here.

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## 18. No Signs of Work at Starz Casino

Starz Casino in Cupecoy beach, formerly Atlantis World Casino, was pretty much destroyed by hurricane Irma in 2017. Within the last year, the exterior of the entire complex has been redesigned and rebuilt, but since that was completed there is little sign of worker activity inside. When we know more about the future of the casino, we'll report it here.

Starz has opened a small casino at nearby Porto Cupecoy though it seldom appears busy. It's in the same area as the Porto Cupecoy Hotel, the new property mentioned here recently.

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## 19. 2nd Multihull Regatta Held Between SXM, St. Barth

The second edition of the Caribbean Multihull Challenge regatta was held late last week and this weekend in the waters between SXM, St. Barth, and Anguilla. Racing was exciting and at some points rather challenging thanks to occasional heavy showers, rough surf, and windy conditions. Some boats were damaged, though we are not aware whether weather conditions were the cause.

See the next story for information concerning the much bigger St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

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## 20. Our Heineken Regatta Info Center Is Now Live (Effective Mon.)

The much bigger fortieth edition of the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, the largest warm water Regatta in the world, happens early next month. We have now launched our Heineken Regatta Info Center in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), giving you a library of all the significant news releases issued about this remarkable Regatta.

If you're lucky enough to be here, have your telephoto lens ready and fresh batteries — it will be a busy few days. As always, we'll be posting race pictures, race results, and hopefully festivities pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), as well as links to results here in *SXM Weekly News*.

*Info Center goes live Monday, Feb. 17.*

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## 21. Despite Amsterdam Visit, Airport Cash Status Unclear

SXM officials a number of weeks ago signed papers in the Washington area with the World Bank to obtain the funds promised to SXM Airport for completion of reconstruction of that facility. More recently, SXM officials spent time in Amsterdam supposedly crossing T's and dotting i's to wrap this thing up and finally get the money they need to move forward.

There has been a lot published here in SXM in recent months about the need for stakeholders to be on board with this project. We don't get what stakeholders seem to be objecting to. If they want to get their bonds paid back, restoring SXM Airport to a level of competence beyond what existed in 2017 before Irma struck would seem to be a wonderful way to do it.

Hopefully the new government will put things in gear and floor it to give the restoration project the momentum it so badly needs and appears to have never had. We don't think the airport has any of the funds that it supposedly signed for weeks

ago. That needs to happen now; we wish the new government profound success in succeeding with this critical project.

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## 22. NY State Sues DHS Over "Punitive" Trusted Traveler Moves

As we reported last week, and as was widely reported in national US media, US Department of Homeland Security last week said it would no longer accept any applications for trusted traveler programs such as PreCheck and Global Entry from applicants in New York State and that it would not renew the memberships in any of those programs after they expire from members with New York State addresses. It did this in response to New York State blocking access to certain critical databases of New York State drivers license holders, some of whom are undocumented aliens.

New York State has filed suit against the Department of Homeland Security to get this program overturned. Meanwhile, Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York said he was to meet with officials in DC to try to come to some kind of an agreement to avoid the shut off of New York State citizens from the trusted traveler programs, which would deliver huge inconvenience to hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers.

More on this is [here](#).

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## 23. Drones Banned at Regatta

About bringing a drone to SXM during the Heineken Regatta or at any other time, please leave it at home. Drones are highly regulated on the island and are not allowed in wide swaths of island lands — anywhere near the airport, anywhere near Philipsburg, anywhere near boats competing in the Heineken Regatta, and elsewhere. We have published the regulations concerning drones here previously and also in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). *The best remedy is simply not to bring drones to SXM.*

**More news stories follow the important SkyMed Q&A below.**

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## 24. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ (New)

**SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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### Answers to Common Questions

*This document* contains general SkyMed information in answer to common questions. SkyMed's services are defined by its Member Services Agreements – plain English documents that tell you what you get and how it works (see much more info below). As always, SkyMed offers a 30-day "Free Look period," so if for any reason you're not satisfied with your unused SkyMed protection before 30 days have expired, SkyMed will refund your money.

#### Q1. Does it cover my trip to...?

1. Basic short-term and annual "SkyMed *Takes You Home*®" protection applies throughout the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global Emergency Travel Services (G.E.T.S., a subsidiary of SkyMed) protection is available outside the USA, CANADA, MEXICO, BAHAMAS, BERMUDA, and the CARIBBEAN (the rest of the world), however neither SkyMed nor G.E.T.S. covers trips to nations on the U. S. State Department's then-current "Do Not Travel" list – North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela currently, for example, and several others. Before planning a trip, check that list if you have any question about whether protection is provided for your destination – or call SkyMed directly during normal office hours (Mountain Standard Time) at 480 946 5188 or 1-800-475-9633.

#### Q2. Who is protected?

1. "Single" protection is available for individual travelers. "Family" protection includes your spouse or domestic partner and your young children up to 18 or 24 if they are full time students.

**Q3. Do I need to call SkyMed before traveling outside my home country?**

1. If you're traveling during the normal high season for travel to your destination, no. If you're traveling to your destination during its low season, do call SkyMed Member Services at the 800 number in the first question and let them know.

**Q4. What if I'm going to a country not listed above in question 1?**

1. Then you'll need (G.E.T.S) protection. If you have one of our Ultimate multiyear memberships, (G.E.T.S.) protection is included. On Annual (one-year) memberships, "G.E.T.S." protection is an inexpensive option.

**Q5. What's the difference between "short term" and "Annual" or multi-year protection?**

1. Short-Term protection is intended for brief trips, say a week or two. Like Annual protection, it "Takes You Home®" to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. Preexisting medical conditions are covered from day one with the short-term plan. It's inexpensive, only \$15/day for family protection. Remember, though, that Annual and Multi-year Ultimate memberships cost much less – only about \$1.35/day for family plans. Plus, they're guaranteed renewable without regard to advancing age or declining health. If you get a short-term plan, once it has expired, it is done, and you must reapply and requalify for another when you next travel. With Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, all you need do is renew before the renewal deadline – no need to reapply unless your membership has lapsed and the grace period has ended.

**Q6. Is there an age limit for applications?**

1. There is no age limit to apply. There's no age limit on renewals, either.

**Q7. Can you cancel my protection at a certain age or if I get really sick?**

1. Annual and multi-year Ultimate memberships are guaranteed renewable, as noted above. They will not be cancelled simply because you're a certain age or because your health has changed.

**Q8. Will you raise the price of my membership at a certain age or if I get sick?**

1. Once you're a SkyMed member, at renewal time you'll pay the same low renewal fees that everyone else with your type of membership pays. If you join at age 75 or older and purchase the X-Pat plan because you live in Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, or the Caribbean, the X-Pat plan is more expensive than the standard traditional (Annual or multiyear Ultimate) plan.

**Q9. What exactly does SkyMed cover? Is it health insurance?**

1. You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:  
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

This is the same list you'll find on the back of our current membership applications. SkyMed provides up to 18 benefits related to medical evacuation if you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. It is not health insurance – in the "SkyMed universe," SkyMed *Takes You Home®* to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, where your health insurance works.

**Q10. What about pre-existing conditions? Are they covered?**

1. Yes: for short-term memberships, medevac protection (including items listed in the answer to Q9, above) is included for critical illnesses or injuries related to pre-existing and non-pre-existing conditions. For Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, pre-existing conditions are covered after a brief 90-day waiting period.

**Q11. I want guaranteed renewable protection because of my age, but I'm going on a trip sooner than 90 days. What can we do about that?**

1. Get our inexpensive short-term membership to cover your near-term trip, including medical evacuations for serious or critical illnesses or injuries due to pre-existing conditions. At the same time, apply for an Annual or Ultimate membership, to kick in once your near-term trip ends.

**Q12. I'm not traveling for a while. When should I apply?**

1. Get SkyMed before you need it – just like fire insurance. Since you don't know when you'll need it – and since health can change in a heartbeat thanks to falls, accidents, or other issues – it's always better to do it sooner rather than later. Beyond that, if you have pre-existing conditions and get SkyMed Annual or multiyear Ultimate medevac protection now, that 90-day exclusion period for pre-existing conditions protection may well be finished by the time you travel.

### **Q13. What kind of questions do you ask in your application? Do you send somebody to do a medical exam?**

1. There's no medical exam. Our application is simple, asking about hospitalizations in the last six months, your current medical conditions, and your prescriptions – and on the prescriptions, all we need is their name, not dosage info. If you have a complex medical history, SkyMed may ask for a “HQ” (health questionnaire) to be completed by your doctor and submitted to SkyMed by fax. You should also have your passport number handy; we record it so it's there in case you need help outside your home country.

### **Q14. How long does it take before I hear whether I'm accepted?**

1. Generally just a few business days, but it's always best to do your application early to ensure sufficient time for processing.

### **Q15. I have more questions. Where do I find the answers?**

1. SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger, located in Massachusetts, will be happy to answer your questions. Call his private line at 508-747-8281.

### **Q16. Can I sign up online?**

1. For fastest results, we always suggest you contact us directly. We've done thousands of applications and can whisk you through the process in minimal time and with minimal bother. To get additional information first and see some customer stories, check our site, [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb). But to sign up, always call 508-747-8281. The process normally takes about 10 minutes, if that.

### **Q17. Who can get SkyMed?**

1. SkyMed is available to residents of the USA and Canada, and to X-Pats living in the countries listed in Q1. X-Pat protection is necessary if you live outside the US or Canada for six months or more, in aggregate, in any 12-month period. Always notify SkyMed if you move.

### **Q18. I have a rather deep medical history. Will SkyMed still accept me?**

1. Although SkyMed accepts the vast majority of applications, others do get health questionnaires (see Q13) and occasionally some do not qualify. There is no cost to apply if your membership application cannot be accepted. A history of a heart attack or cancer several years ago or other maladies does not automatically signal any issues for SkyMed. Apply – there is nothing to lose (again, no charge if you're not accepted). And as we noted in Q6 there is no age limit to apply and no age limit to renew.

### **How to Contact Us or Sign Up**

Jeff is a SkyMed Ambassador. Reach him directly at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. You can also find him in Facebook Messenger through [www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm) or you can email him at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483. It is always best to sign up by phone directly with Jeff at the numbers above – it's fast & easy.

From:  
JMB Communications  
Membership Services  
[support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

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## **25. Never Put Prescriptions in Checked Luggage**

Checked luggage can be delayed or lost. Neither happens very often, but if you put valuables or prescription medications in your checked luggage there is a possibility you will lose them.

We always recommend that no one ever put prescriptions or valuables in checked luggage. Put them in carry-ons that go under the seat in front of you or in the overhead bin above your seat....

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## **26. Keep Valuables Out of Your Rented Car's Trunk**

We've seen many people do it as they prepare to venture from their car to go into Philipsburg, to stroll on beaches, to head



to nightspots, etc. They put valuables in the trunk of their rented car. That's never a good idea: if we see them do it, so do people who want what you're hiding. Valuables should stay in your hotel safe and never be left in your car trunk....

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## 27. Want an SXM Vacation? How to enter our Vacation Giveaway

**During our "Paradise SXM" Event**, we'll 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 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 - all to be announced soon.

**Here is more on our Paradise SXM vacation giveaway.** To enter the giveaway, go to our home page at [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com). That's the only place & the only way you can find the link to enter our giveaway. All winners \*MUST\* be subscribers to SXM Weekly News (required); it's free. We will verify that all winners are subscribers.

**Paradise SXM** will be one of our biggest Giveaways ever. Several people will be winning vacations from us. Why not you?

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## 28. 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](http://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.

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## 29. Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna

Vesna Taverna is already gearing up for the Heineken Regatta. Their location on Simpson Bay Lagoon is convenient to sailing crews in addition to anyone staying at any Dutch Side resorts. They serve breakfasts and lunches 7 days a week and are open for dinner Tuesday through Saturday. They are often sold out in advance on Friday and Saturday nights. Vesna is Greek & Macedonian and her husband Yannick is French -- their food is an eclectic mix of American and Continental dishes with some Greek flavors. Greek night - with a full, authentic menu of Greek specialties in addition to their full regular menu - is every Saturday.

Stave room for dessert -- especially their homemade Strawberry cake and their chocolate mousse. Almost all desserts are made by Vesna herself.

Vesna Taverna has great food, very reasonable prices, and a seasoned staff led by vivacious Vesna herself. Not to be missed. Advance reservations essential. See their website, [vesnataverna.com](http://vesnataverna.com).

For more, search "Vesna Taverna" in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

**Here are recently featured SXM restaurants (most recent first):**

**Vesna Taverna, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 2/17/20).** Open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday.

**Sale & Pepe (featured 2/10/20)** Cool location among breathtaking megayachts, cool decor, knowledgeable staff, and great menu, service, and food. Sale & Pepe is hitting its stride. Chef Davide Zagami stays mostly in the kitchen ensuring things go just right.

**SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 2/3/20)** SkipJack's triumphantly reopened with an entirely new dining deck late in January, 2019. Great place - go! Great staff and superb food in a picture postcard lagoon setting.

**La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, 1/27/20:** Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. [www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html](http://www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html)

**Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, 1/6/20.** Italian. Excellent food, many choices, busy, good specials. Many folks from Simpson Bay Resort dine here as well as many locals and lots of casino high-rollers.

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

**Avantika Thai [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 12/30/19) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.**

**Izi Ristorante Italiano, [www.izirestaurant.com](http://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/](http://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](http://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.

**Pineapple Pete**, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://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](http://www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant) 4/15/19. Just go...

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

**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's Smooth 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## 30. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll find about 25,000 SXM tourists who love SXM as much as you do.

Our site is the best place around to ask questions and get answers about SXM -- around the clock. Check it out.

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## 31. 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).

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## 32. 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](http://skymed.com/jmb) but to qualify for these bonuses, you must buy by phoning us at (508) 747-8281 or email Jeff at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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.

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### 33. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / SkyMed.com/jmb

Our new SkyMed website is [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://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.

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### 34. Going Somewhere? Get Guaranteed Renewable Annual SkyMed 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 \$25,000 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 5 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](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SkyMed.**

Of course we'll be happy to answer your questions and we can tell you about everything SkyMed offers. Totally up to you what type of coverage you select. Much more info about SkyMed is in the next story.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits [here](#).

**By buying 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb): please be sure you bookmark that and not any other site. Thank you.

Customer stories are below.

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

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

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

## **35. Are You Military?**

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

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

## **36. 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), our new site, going live shortly.

## **37. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 2/17/20)**

### **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**

### **CUBAN CIGARS:**

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

### **DOLLAR STORES**

[All in One Place](#)

### **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](#)

[JN Jewelers \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#) NEW!

Jewels & Beyond (Maho) NEW!

[Shoppers Haven](#)

### **PARFUMERIE / PERFUME**

**Tijon Parfumerie**, Grand Case, [www.tijon.com](http://www.tijon.com)

### **REAL ESTATE COMPANIES:**

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A long-time 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** (new)

**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**

**Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar**

**Nowhere Special**

**ROXXY Bar / Restaurant (NEW)**

**LA ROSA (NEW)**

**NONNA ROSA (NEW)**

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

### **[GoBeach Vacations](#)**

**Sunshine Properties** has just joined us.

**Monte Verde / Belle Vue (new)**

### **[Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies](#)**

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

Updated 2/17/20

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**Your Business  
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused  
Website That Works.**

**That's what we do:**

**[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com)**

**In business since the web began --**

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

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

SXM Weekly News, our [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook 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](mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete



information to you quickly.

Winter is here and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases throughout this year and beyond. Contact us today for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 5: For Members Only**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

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

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

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

2/17/20 #V3-1236 6:00 am AST 2/16

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