From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/9/20: Entry Requirements; Airport Status; New Condo Projects; Mario's Moving to The Cliff; Toppers, Toppers Rhum Moving to the Carousel (The Gelato Stays); Towers at Mullet Bay Update; La Samanna Closed for the Season; French Side Hotels Fiasco [44 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

Can't see this newsletter? Go here for our SXM Weekly News PDF Archives.

Vol. 3, #1272 --- Monday, 11/9/20 News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

WEAR YOUR MASK!
WE WANT YOU BACK SAFELY IN SXM!



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Webite Login

Member News

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

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

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2020. See Legal for reprint requests, page bottom.

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored <u>send-only</u> email address.

For Contact info, see <u>#Contact Us</u>

at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

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

<u>Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by about 347,000 people around the world...</u>

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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml
On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Top Stories in Today's <u>SXM Weekly News</u>:

Weather: Getting Here:

- -- All The Details on Current SXM Entry Requirements
- -- Airport Work Continues, But Is It Fast Enough?
- -- Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info
- -- Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart

SXM Accommodations:

- -- More New Condo / Hotel Developments On The Dutch Side
- -- For Big Families / Friends, Villa Vijoux Prepares to Open
- -- For Those Serious About Moving to SXM, Three Superb Condo Choices -- Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

- -- Guidance on Buying Property in SXM
 -- How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units
- -- Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

- -- Rumors Swirl About Fate of Mullet Bay Beach Resort
- -- La Samanna Ultra-Luxury Resort Will Not Reopen for High Season
- -- Mario's Bistro's Move to The Cliff at Cupecoy Now Underway
- -- Toppers Rhum / Toppers Restaurant Moving to "Carousel" Site -- Why You Can't Currently Stay at Any French St. Martin Hotel -- Restaurant of the Week: Isola
- -- First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits
- -- How to Put Incredible Caribbean Colors in Your Home
- -- "Plus One" JMB Membership Promotion Final Week is NOW

- -- Get SkyMed Medevac Protection BEFORE You Need It
- -- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors #######
- -- 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://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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 Rentals of The Week:

RENTAL 1/30/2021 2/13/2021 Week 5 & Week 6 Divi Little Bay Resort One bedroom suite, full kitchen, 1 king size bed in Master Bedroom, Queen sofa bed in living area. Air conditioning, flat screen TV with DVD player, private balcony with views of Great Bay. \$1,500.00 per week Gail 732.306.3933 gail@gallatravel.com

RENTAL 3/21/2021 3/28/2021 Week 12 DIVI Little Bay Beach Resort 2 Bedrooms on the beach, 2 full baths, 1 jacuzzi tub, 2 king beds, 1 queen pull-out in living room, washer & dryer, 3 decks overlooking Little Bay. Close to multilevel Pure Ocean pool with swim-up bar. Resort has 3 pools and 4 restaurants plus a gym, spa, deli, market watersports, & other stores. Close to Phillipsburg. \$1,500 Paul 715-897-5634 pkapla@charter.net

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

SALE 1/31/2021 2/7/2021 5 **Diamond-Flamingo Beach Resort Building Seven**, 5th floor ocean view over looking the swimming pool, fixed and deeded week just fully renovated, deluxe studio sleeps four Highly discounted from current resort retail resale cost 3000 Richard 815 236-0642 cubsqo100@gmail.com

SALE 4/3/2021 4/10/2021 14 Simpson Bay Resort One bedroom unit on the 3rd floor of the Marina Building. Unit has been completely renovated and upgraded with beautiful views of the Marina from your private terrace. \$5,500 Lloyd (718)483-5122 <u>LSABATELLI@MSAINS.COM</u>

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

http://everythingsxm.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

Complete Table of Contents

Section One: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather, COVID-19

--Scroll Down To This Section--

Getting Here:

1. Airport Work Continues, But Is It Fast Enough? See COVID-19 Section

Weather:

- 2. Storm "Eta" Doesn't Want to Quit
- 3. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info
- 4. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart

COVID-19:

- 5. SXM Entry Requirements
- 6. What RT-PCR means; (It is Not "Real-Time")

- 7. Finding and Taking RT-PCR Tests in Your Area
- 8. Applying Online for Admission to SXM: What & How, w/ Advice
- 9. What to Take With You When You Go (An Important Checklist)
- 10. What to Expect When Arriving at SXM Airport
- 11. Reporting Your Condition to EHAS for 14 Days

Etc.:

- 12. Watch Flight Reservations Closely: Airlines Keep Changing Them
- 13. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals

Section Two: Accommodations (Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas, Etc.)

- --Scroll Down To This Section--
- 14. More New Condo / Hotel Developments On The Dutch Side
- 15. For Big Families / Friends, Villa Vijoux Prepares to Open
- 16. For Those Serious About Moving to SXM, Three Superb Condo Choices
- 17. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info
- 18. Winter Reservations Continue to Grow
- 19. 2020 and 2021 Rentals Available at Everythingsxm.com
- 20. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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

-- Scroll Down To This Section --

21. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

-- Scroll Down To This Section --

22. Starting Next Monday 11/16: Our Biggest Ever Black Friday / Cyber Monday Sale

- 23. Rumors Swirl About Fate of Mullet Bay Beach Resort
- 24. La Samanna Ultra-Luxury Resort Will Not Reopen for High Season
- 25. Mario's Bistro's Move to The Cliff at Cupecoy Now Underway
- 26. Toppers Rhum / Toppers Restaurant Moving to "Carousel" Site
- 27. Why You Can't Currently Stay at Any French St. Martin Hotel
- 28. Looking for An Extraordinary Private Chef for Special Occasions?
- 29. Starting a Business in SXM
- 30. Ilene's Choice for SXM's Best Nail Salon
- 31. Why You Should Stop In At Blue Point in Philipsburg
- 32. For Cameras, Go to Klass
- 33. Our Choice for Car Rentals
- 34. Our Choice for a Local Phone on SXM and Why You Need One
- 35. Help Us Celebrate 7 Million Visits To our SXM Site...
- 36. Restaurant of the Week:
- 37. First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits

38. SkyMed FAQ / More Information

##################

- 39. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
- 40. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
- 41 Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?
- 42. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate
- 43. Please Patronize our Sponsors
- 44. 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 <u>GROWING LIST of 300+</u> 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://everythingsxm.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 Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather, and COVID-19

GETTING HERE:

1. Airport Work Continues, But Is It Fast Enough?

A recent article in the SXM *Daily Herald* talked about renovations currently underway there but it did not address the two questions that are foremost in tourist minds: when all the work will be finished and the airport returned to full, normal, two-story operation and also when preclearance for US-bound travelers will be completed and in full operation. We will soon hopefully interview key airport officials and ask those two questions that are of most importance to our readers.

It is now more than three years since the hurricane hit. The roof has been fixed and the airport is still doing mold remediation inside the terminal, and the second floor seems to be nowhere near the level of completion passengers might expect. The global economy hasn't helped -- and neither has Covid 19. But we will do our best to get reasonably firm dates for you as soon as we can.

WEATHER:

2. Storm "Eta" Doesn't Want to Quit

When it slammed into Nicaragua and Honduras last week as a major hurricane, Eta caused tremendous damage, went inland, then turn Northeast and at this writing is now back over the ocean re-intensifying and heading toward the Caymans, Western Cuba, and a possible future landfall in the Florida keys and South Florida.

Although this system is nowhere near SXM it is not expected to affect SXM weather, hurricanes have been known to affect SXM in November in the past. November 30 is the official end of this record-breaking hurricane season but Mother Nature sometimes ignores calendars — so meteorologists like our go-to source Rob Lightbown won't stop keeping an eye on things going forward.

We will keep on posting any significant weather information in our <u>Everything SXM Facebook Group</u> as we have for years, and all current watches and warnings as well as many satellite images will continue to be posted in real time in

the weather center in our main website, everythingSXM.com

3. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>, 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 <u>Everything SXM Facebook Group</u>, 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

4. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart

Blank hurricane tracking charts similar to those that have been used by the National Hurricane Center for many years are now available for download here (that's the NHC download site). Also noted above; republished in case you missed it.)

COVID-19: Please Read and Retain

5. Exact Current SXM Tourist Entry Requirements

See them in the Covid area of the FILES in our **Everything SXM Facebook Group** or:

For current information on exactly what the entry requirements are in SXM, please see this site. It's operated by the SXM government and it also includes individual forms you must fill out online in advance to get advance approval to enter the country, and where you also are required to upload your RT PCR negative test results. If you don't do that, or if you send results in a form that is not acceptable to the island, you will not be allowed to board your flight.

6. What RT-PCR means; (It is Not "Real-Time")

"PCR" is an acronym for **polymerase chain reaction**, and "RT" refers to **reverse transcription** -- NOT "real time". The only type of test for Covid-19 currently acceptable to the government of SXM is RT-PCR.

Although it is the case That RT-PCR testing is being turned around faster now than it has been, do not confuse it with real time tests which are not the same. When in doubt, see the second paragraph of article 8 and click the link for exact current government requirements.

7. Finding & Taking RT-PCR Tests in Your Area

You must have a negative RT-PCR test taken less than 120 hours before your departure to SXM. If you're on a connecting flight, this requirement relates to the departure of the final leg of your trip.

Where do you find a test in your area that will be able to deliver results to you within 120 hours? There are a number of ways to find out. You can ask friends who travel from your area; you can ask people on the site in your community where local people discuss local goings-on (that often works well); and you can also ask your primary care physician. Covid tests taken for travel purposes are not always paid for by insurance. You might ask your PCP to send an order in to a local laboratory for test for you — those will often be covered by insurance and results are very often posted at once when ready on the lab's or hospital's portal, you can download the results in PDF format. Although the requirements from SXM specify what information must be in these reports — things like the name of the lab, lab location, date and time of test, type of test (RT-PCR), your name, and the result of your test. (Look here for complete specifics.) Once you get the PDF you and all of the people traveling with you, print them out and keep them with all the trip documentation that you will be taking with you — you will need them.

More on the application for entry into SXM and how the PDF relates to that application is below.

8. Applying Online for Admission to SXM: What & How, w/ Advice

The government of SXM wants to keep out people who are sick with Covid — that's what all this is about. You must apply online for admission to SXM once you have negative results back of your PCR test.

Go to the same website where you learned about entry requirements, here, to apply for admission. It is absolutely required and if you are not preapproved for admission you will not be able to get on your plane to go to SXM. The application will take you only a few minutes to fill out. It asks for your name, email address, the usual questions about whether you have any Covid Symptoms or have been near anyone diagnosed with Covid Recently, plus where you plan to stay on the island. It also asks you for the airline and flight number of your flight departing to SXM. (Remember the

120 hour requirement.) And then submit the application form from the website to EHAS by clicking a button. You will usually hear back in a few hours or overnight if you submit the form fairly late at night.

To make sure you get the paperwork approved as quickly as possible, we suggest you get your test taken several hours below the 120 hour threshold ahead of the time of your departure to SXM. That should give the laboratory plenty of time to get things to you so you can immediately file the application and get the information to EHAS, giving them as much time as possible. Their responsiveness is usually excellent. If two or more people are going, we strongly suggest that you send them each using a different email address — that way, when you are asked to report your temperature every day, you will know which person in your party is being asks to reply to a specific email from EHAS. Overall, though you may be put off by the thought of having to do this process, is quick, simple, and easy — and as we said the responsiveness is outstanding. Just do it — not a big deal at all.

9. What to Take With You When You Go (An Important Checklist)

Everything on this list is essential for you to get on your airplane and fly to St. Maarten. You may wish to print this and use it as a checklist before leaving for the airport:

- a) Your passport and boarding passes (per usual);
- b) printed negative test results on laboratory stationery (this is the PDF form at the lab should send you to inform you of the results of your test; the test results form must include the information specified as required by Sint Maarten EHAS)
- c) the travel Pre-Approval form emailed to you by Sint Maarten EHAS in response to your submission of the negative Covid test (assuming your application was preapproved);
- d) a thermometer, which you will need to take your temperature and that of your traveling companions during the first 14 days of your trip.

10. What to Expect When Arriving at SXM Airport

The second floor of SXM Airport, where the jetways go, is still not open, but the airport says the work on them is progressing. It's our intent to get with the people of the airport to obtain the latest information about the status of the jetways in the second floor as well as preclearance — and to find out when the airport will actually reopen as it was before hurricane Irma hit more than three years ago. For now, all services continue to be conducted on the first floor of the airport — both departures and arrivals.

Unless your arriving plane parks a very short walk from the current arriving passenger entry to the terminal, you'll exit your plane and walk directly to one of the shuttle buses that will take you to the terminal entry. Wear your mask, of course: there is no such thing as social distancing aboard the bus — but the trip is only about two minutes long and everyone is required to wear a mask anyway. People should maintain social distancing on their way through immigration and into the baggage claim area.

It is essential for you to have all of your documentation in hand when you go to immigration. We explain what that documentation is in the Covid section, immediately below. Keep it handy because you will be asked for it. Your temperature also will be taken by a touch-free monitor and you will be asked the usual health questions to which you will be accustomed by the time you get to immigration.

Although it may or may not be mentioned to you as you go through immigration, you will be receiving email daily or thereabouts from Sint Maarten EHAS, requiring you to report your temp and to indicate whether you have any symptoms of Covid. You then click the appropriate button to send the documentation back to the island government. Filing these reports for 14 days is required by all visitors regardless of whether you receive the email from Sint Maarten EHAS. Consequently, it's important for you to save the emails you receive from the government and reply to them first thing every morning: you can use the first email you receive for subsequent replies even if you don't receive daily emails. The form you fill out online will nonetheless change to reflect the day of your vacation (day one, day two, day three, etc.) Your finish filling out and sending the form within about seven seconds — and a thermometer is shown in our list of things you must take to St. Maarten to record your temperature. EHAS expects you to take your temp and submit your info daily first thing — before breakfast.

11. Reporting Your Condition to EHAS for 14 Days

Once you have arrived in St. Maarten, EHAS will email you a notice with a link to their site. You are required to click the link which takes you to a very brief online form which asks you to record your temperature and whether you have flu like symptoms that morning before having breakfast. You then click a button in the online form to send its results back to EHAS. The form specifies what day of your vacation the report is for — day one, day two, etc. If you receive an email the following day, follow it just as you did the first day. If you don't, however, go back to the email you had received the first day and click that link again — it will take you to the form you can use for day two or subsequent days.

You must take your temp each day, which is why we said to take a thermometer with you. The current requirement is that you do this for 14 days. It takes less than 30 seconds each time and is simple, easy, and fast. During a global Pandemic, SXM is doing everything possible to ensure everyone's good health.

Etc.

12. Watch Flight Reservations Closely: Airlines Keep Changing Them

Again we remind all passengers to watch your flight reservations very closely since they can change overnight. If airlines have flights with a lot of open seats and they can move people to other available flights in their system, they are highly likely to cancel less-full flights. The airport on weekends recently has been busier than it had been since last March, though still well below normal. We expect things to get busier particularly during the second half of November; significant numbers of people are now returning to SXM.

Check your flight reservations closely and call the airline for new reservations if your flight is canceled.

13. 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...

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

14. More New Condo / Hotel Developments On The Dutch Side

There are at least three or four new condo/hotel developments pending on the Dutch side of the island. The condo portion of each project has not necessarily yet been announced — but that won't stop us from telling you a little bit

about each.

The area behind Toppers current location in Simpson Bay extending southward toward the Atrium resort is expected over time to be developed as a major beach resort hotel. We know who the developer is but we don't know the brand that is likely to appear on it, though it is expected to be upscale.

Second, a small condo-type project is expected to go into one of the lots near the old Taste Factory building in Simpson Bay, which for now has been transformed into a small supermarket.

Third, a new beach condo project by a well-known developer is expected on the beach at Burgeaux Bay near the Airport. The same developer has two other projects nearby in various stages of construction.

Fourth, a construction project already underway in Simpson Bay will include some condos on its top floors as well as a penthouse -- in the middle of Simpson Bay.

Much more on these projects will be coming soon as they move toward reality.

15. For Big Families / Friends, Villa Vijoux Prepares to Open

Upscale Villa Vijoux, a new from the ground up multistory villa on the hill overlooking oyster pond just over the French border in the Dawn beach area, is just a few weeks away from becoming a stunningly beautiful reality. It has two stories with four bedrooms each plus full kitchens on each floor plus 8 full bathrooms and two half baths.

Built for extended families or small groups of friends, the entire villa can be rented out by one party or split by two parties. Marble is used throughout as well as upscale appliances, furniture, and professional interior decoration.

Last construction details are now being completed and we will publish photography in our **Everything SXM Facebook**Group as soon as possible once photography has been completed — soon.

Here is much more on Villa Vijoux:

Perched on the hillside overlooking Oyster Pond on the island's East Coast near the French-Dutch border, totally new-from-the-ground-up Villa Vijoux, opening soon, offers eight bedrooms on two levels – all with King Size beds, 4.5 bathrooms per floor, and all the features visitors expect in luxury villas. It easily accommodates family groups, friends, and even small parties for guests. Private swimming pool with cabana and BBQ, plus fully equipped kitchens on each level featuring all high-end Bosch appliances. Spectacular panoramic views of Oyster Pond and St. Barth.

Detail: Villa has two levels and the flexibility to split into two separate units. Each level has 4 King bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms. Perpetual breezes mean you won't need to turn on air-conditioning most of the time. Located on the hill off the main road in Oyster Pond very close to the French & Dutch border, making both sides of the island easily accessible. A few minutes walk to Dawn Beach, 10 minutes by car to Orient Beach, and 15 minutes to Grand Case, known for fine dining restaurants. Downtown Philipsburg is 15 minutes away.

Phone: 1-646-491-2332; 721-520-8700

https://www.facebook.com/Villa-Vijoux-103353744875273/

16. For Those Serious About Moving to SXM, Three Superb Condo Choices

A long-time friend who has been developing condominium projects over the last several years now has three such projects under construction or in the works.

One of them is on Simpson Bay beach; another is nearby, not on the beach but just a short walk away; and the third, not yet formally announced, will be on Burgeaux Bay beach, close to the airport and just a few minutes drive from all the activity in Simpson Bay.

We can connect you directly to the developer himself, who can tell you about all three projects which are in a spectrum of price ranges. Just call the office for Jeff at 508-747-8281 or call him on Skype at 508 591-3483; you can leave a message at either number. Please include your email address as well as your daytime phone number and time zone. Will get the information to the developer pronto.

17. 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 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.

18. Reservations for Late Fall, Winter Are Rising

Anecdotal evidence we are hearing from business owners on the island implies that reservations for this winter may be a bit better than the dismal level many had been expecting. Tourism levels certainly won't be near normal numbers, but our hunch is they will be significantly better than people here on SXM appear to have been fearing, and that is some very welcome good news.

19. 2020 - 2021 Rentals Available Now at Everythingsxm.com

SXM timeshare owners who are members of JMB Website Supporters are posting 2021 timeshare rentals on our main SXM website, everythingSXM.com. Much more information about available rentals is on our timeshare rentals and sales page on that site. It is certainly not too early to start making reservations for 2021.

20. 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 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 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.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

21. NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Once the island reopens to tourism, we will be working 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 in SXM Weekly News and will also be noted in our Everything SXM Facebook Group.

JMB Website Supporters 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. Please see the next story.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

22. Starting Next Monday 11/16: Our Biggest Ever Black Friday / Cyber Monday Sale

GET A FULL YEAR OR TWO FREE OF JMB WEBSITE
SUPPORTERS MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU HELP US
CONTINUE PUBLISHING SXM WEEKLY NEWS BY JOINING /
RENEWING / REINSTATING A MULTIYEAR MEMBERSHIP IN
OUR JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS ISLAND DISCOUNT
PROGRAM:

WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW TO KEEP PUBLISHING SXM Weekly News every week:

***THIS OFFER MUST END 12/5 ***

We know readers / JMB members have uncertainties -- for clearly obvious reasons. <u>Our business has been adversely affected by Covid-19 as have most businesses worldwide and we need your help now to continue be able to research, write, produce, and distribute <u>SXM Weekly News to you, its more than 346,000 worldwide readers every week as we have since 1992</u>... That's why we're giving all readers who do multiyear new, renewal, or reinstated JMB memberships from 11/16 through 12/5 <u>at least one "Plus One" additional full year of JMB membership</u>. That's our thanks to you for helping us make it through this challenging period.</u>

You'll certainly return within a year (possibly way sooner), since an effective vaccine appears likely to be available during the winter or spring. So, take advantage of this unique, about-to-end offer and sign up for, renew, or reinstate today.

Military / First Responder memberships are included.

a) New Memberships Get Great Benefits:

All our *new membership* rates except one-year new memberships will have this same "Plus One" enticement, but it must end 12/5. Here are our low regular new membership prices:

- 1 year \$59 (no "Plus One" one-year bonus)
- 3 years \$109 plus you get an additional full Plus One year free.
- 5 years \$139 plus you get an additional full Plus One year free.

Sign up by going to everythingsxm.com and clicking the page curl, or phone us. **OUR NEXT ISSUE TELLS YOU WHEN YOU CAN SIGN UP AND GET TWO YEARS FREE WITH SOME PURCHASES**.

b) Here are all the multiyear renewal / reinstatement rates for all current or former members: remember, you get "Plus One" in all of these – a full year (or two - details next week) on us in addition to the years stated:

- The **one-year** renewal or reinstatement does not offer "Plus One"... it remains \$49.
- Three-year renewal/reinstatements, \$89, plus you get an additional fourth year free. Offer ends 10/12/20.
- Our Best Offer: Six-year renewal/reinstatements, \$149, plus you get an additional seventh year free.

You can do both renewals and reinstatements right here, in our membership reinstatement center (prices are

identical to renewals). For new memberships, click the page curl on our main site, everythingsxm.com, for info or to sign up. Your renewal begins when your current subscription ends. Reinstatements of expired memberships take just a few days to process. You can reinstate an old membership regardless of how many years ago it expired, too, We email you a new membership card once processing has been completed.

c) Military and First-Responder memberships offer you the usual four years for just \$67.96 (at \$16.99/year paid at inception) plus you get an additional fifth year free. That is the best deal we have ever offered anyone for any memberships, on a yearly basis. DD214 or other proof of US military or first-responder service required. Additional year offer ends 12/5/2020, so please ACT NOW. (See next week's issue to learn how to get two years free).

We hope you are having a pleasant Fall, but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today to get that additional full-year Plus One bonus before it goes away 12/5; starts 11/16.

Don't want to use PayPal to sign up or renew (even though you need not be a PayPal member)? Just call our office any day from 8am to 8pm EDT at **508-830-3456** and we'll be happy to take your info by phone. If lines are busy and you get our answering system, you can leave your info on our secure line. We'll appreciate anything you can do to help.

If you already did this and have not yet received your membership materials, we're moving as quickly as we can with a temporarily reduced staff. We hope to be fully caught up shortly

THANK YOU!

Jeff Berger / Tracy / Susan / Michael / Greg and the entire JMB team. JMB Communications P. O. Box 1812 Plymouth, MA 02362-1812

23. Rumors Swirl About Fate of Mullet Bay Beach Resort

Three years and two months after hurricane Irma ravaged SXM, the Towers at Mullet Bay resort remains closed to its timeshare owners. Although the Towers was seriously damaged, it was certainly repairable but as far as we know, repairs were never completed. There was concern from a financial perspective regarding the status of the company that owns the Towers and because of that, the situation at the towers has been stalled ever since hurricane Irma swirled away.

What happens next? Today, and in recent days, rumors here are swirling that the Towers at Mullet Bay will not be allowed to reopen for its timeshare owners. Reopening would enable the resort to resume revenue operations and enhance its liquidity from current highly depressed levels — but after three long years, that doesn't seem close.

We contacted some government officials and others close to the situation late last week and during the weekend and have as yet received no reply, but we did not want this provocative rumor to be heard by timeshare owners without any response from the media. Bottom line, we have no substantiation of the rumor but are still attempting to find out what the fate will be of the Towers at Mullet Bay Resort — one way or the other.

The timeshare "sector" of the St. Maarten economy has had its share of problems over the years. The bankruptcy of the old pelican resort and its emergence as Simpson Bay resort, part of Royal Resorts, gave an early rough ride to timeshare owners going through the bankruptcy process -- but in the end delivered one of the best timeshare properties in the industry.

The Caravanserai Debacle caused extensive losses to thousands of timeshare owners who have never been properly compensated. Ocean Club was totally destroyed by Irma and its owners have yet to demolish its ruins in Cupecoy, where derelict buildings are an invitation to would-be trespassers while its timeshare owners still sit waiting, three years later.

We will continue to watch the situation at Towers at mullet Bay and let you know what is actually happening. We urge timeshare owners to sit tight until we are able to unearth the actual facts in this situation and to not assume anything.

24. La Samanna Luxury Resort Won't Reopen for High Season

La Samanna, the island's only true exclusive ultra-luxury resort located in the French lowlands, will not be reopening during the coming high season, according to announcements from both the French side government and the resort itself. This is what we received:

"According to an announcement from the Collectivité of St. Martin, the tourism club intervenes at the table of the Territorial Council and ANNOUNCES a catastrophic economic situation for tourism actors and all the enterprises living in tourism in St. Martin. Samanna announces it will not reopening for the coming season."

Ironically, the Belmond property's sister resort in Anguilla will be opening. Long story -- and an unnecessary conclusion -- thanks to the French Republic's total ineptitude at dealing properly with its overseas territories. An island (French SXM) with lots of healthy American tourists is losing jobs and businesses thanks to massive blunders by the French Republic's government. See story 27.

25. Mario's Bistro's Move to The Cliff at Cupecoy Now Underway

Breathtaking ocean views will be just one aspect of the romantic ambience of the new location of Mario's Bistro, soon to be called Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, as the venerable, near-legendary fine dining restaurant makes its November move to new guarters in the luxury condominium property on Cupecoy beach.

Expected to reopen toward the end of this month, the new Mario's Bistro will feature both the restaurant, a completely new lounge with music and a separate menu, and the quality of dining that has kept Mario's among the top three SXM restaurants for close to 30 years, since they first became a smash hit at their original location next to the drawbridge in Marigot. We will be visiting the new location late this week and hope to be able to post pre-opening photographs of it in our Everything SXM Facebook Group sometime next weekend.

This story is just beginning.

26. Toppers Rhum / Toppers Restaurant Moving to "Carousel" Site

As *SXM Weekly News* readers learned here several weeks ago, both the Toppers restaurant from Simpson Bay and the Toppers Rhum distillery from Cole Bay are now relocating to entirely new quarters at the former location of the Carousel, in Simpson Bay.

Before we continue here, one assurance: the Gelato which made the Carousel so famous will continue to be produced on the site.

The Carousel itself, the only one on the island, has been donated to the Port of St. Maarten and this coming week will be disassembled, moved to the port, and reassembled there as a greeting to cruise ship tourists when they first arrive at the island.

The main floor of the carousel, which had been the retail end of its operations, is already being converted to the main floor of the distillery. Distillery and bottling operations are in one of the long rooms alongside the main floor, and the store — selling rhum and numerous souvenirs, will be on site as well.

The circular room where the carousel itself had been located is actually much larger than it looked when the carousel was in it. It is where the main dining floor of the restaurant will be located.

Most people don't know that there are a couple of floors atop the carousel. Condominiums are there, and those condominiums will be sold by the Toppers organization. It's an interesting concept — living on top of a rhum distillery/restaurant that will give residents the opportunity to come downstairs whenever they're hungry or thirsty, then go back home by taking a very short walk.

We will continue to publish more information as the new location comes closer to its formal opening. Meanwhile, you can still buy Toppers rhum at the current Toppers restaurant in Simpson Bay, which for now continues to operate. We will be letting you know the actual dates of the switchover to the new location as soon as they're announced.

Based on the beehive of activity that's occurring right now at the carousel, that switchover should occur very soon.

27. Why You Can't Currently Stay at Any French St. Martin Hotel

The border between the French and Dutch sides of the island has been open for weeks, enabling island visitors — most of whom are Americans and were tested for Covid before coming to the island — to cross freely from the Dutch to the French side of the island and to visit French side restaurants and buy whatever they want at French side stores.

But by edict from the French Republic, they can't stay overnight at hotels on the French side of the island (guesthouses, villas, etc. are fine — just not hotels).

Most people agree that the decision is idiotic on the face of it and the French side government is trying to get the French Republic to allow it to function as it has since the treaty of Concordia was signed about 370 years ago. We've known about the situation for days but have been expecting it to be resolved, which hasn't happened.

As always, we'll keep an eye and the situation and let you know when it is resolved, which everyone hopes will be quite soon especially with the big new SECRETS resort now opening.

28. Looking for An Extraordinary Private Chef for Special Occasions?

For years, Le Pressoir in Grand Case was one of the finest French restaurants on the entire island, receiving numerous awards for its chef, Franck Mear.

After the hurricane, Franck moved on and has now recently announced that he is offering exclusive private chef services for families, events, celebrations, and so on. It is rare that such a distinguished and honored (and extraordinary) chef is available to come to your condo or Villa or your yacht (or private jet) and offer these amazing services.

We dined many times at Pressoir and can tell you that this is a quite extraordinary dining experience now available to vou.

Here is Franck's contact information.

29. Starting a Business in SXM

Starting a business in a foreign island — either on the Dutch side of the French side — requires Americans to go through processes with which they may be entirely unfamiliar. Owning a business would also enable you to become a resident of the island and that, too, requires lots of paperwork.

As we've occasionally noted here, a company was formed several years ago to expedite and facilitate all of that activity. We know the owner and we know her capabilities. People who have used her services tell us she is highly efficient, very informative, incredibly helpful, and knows the ins and outs of all legal requirements for starting a business in SXM.

She is Vivian Chamas of BrightPath SXM. You can reach her directly through her website or by calling 721-526-2771.

30. Ilene's Choice for SXM's Best Nail Salon

When it was located in Simpson Bay, Georgina's Nails had become the most sought after nail salon on the island. It was a magnet for people seeking their huge variety of services, including all kinds of nail services, manicures, pedicures, massages, care for eyebrows and eyelashes, and more.

After Irma, the business moved to 26 Bush Road inside Miss Lalie's commercial center on the second floor. There is plenty of parking right next to the stairs. They are closed Mondays; make a reservation by calling them at 721-543-2499 or 721-522-1976 or go to their facility. Be sure to tell them that you read about them in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

llene (Jeff's better half) has been using them for years and recommends them highly.

31. Why You Should Stop In At Blue Point in Philipsburg

It's fair to say that millions of people normally visit SXM every year — and of that number, many take cell phones, iPads, laptops, and related devices.

Sometimes you need to make purchases related to these items on the fly. For example, this year we suddenly found ourselves in need of an external keyboard and a long Ethernet (networking) cable. The blue point on the Pondfill in Philipsburg is even open on Sundays, so that's where we headed. We bought a Logitech keyboard and mouse combination for under \$25 — a good price and a very convenient purchase. We've actually never gone to Blue Point and not come out with a solution to whatever our needs were -- and we highly recommend them.

32. For Cameras, Go to Klass

When our mainline Sony camera passed away a while back, we ultimately made a decision on what camera we wanted — it was a new Nikon that was to be formally introduced early in 2020. We checked various places for buying it (including Amazon) but it wasn't available before we left for the island, so we were stuck with another Nikon as our temporary camera. We were talking to a close friend who knows a lot about electronics and he recommended Klass at number 40 Front Street.

We went there and to a couple of other places and told them exactly what we wanted and exactly what we were willing to pay and how they could get our business. Paul at Klass, referring to the owner, came up with exactly what we were looking for including delivery in time for us to use it on the Heineken Regatta this past year. The service was excellent, the package was perfect, and we have been very happy with the camera.

In addition to cameras, Klass also sells computers, smart phones, tablets, and more. We recommend them — and again, they are just east of the center of town at number 40 Front Street, Philipsburg.

33. Our Choice for Car Rentals

You will find many fine local companies that we recommend for a variety of products and services in our Sponsors list, below in this copy of SXM Weekly News.

You'll also see a number of fine car rental companies there as well.

Our choice among all these companies for the last several years has been Jacqueline and Jimmy Fitzpatrick's Leisure Car Rental, very close to the airport and extremely convenient. Their service has been exemplary, the quality of their vehicles excellent, and their pricing has also been highly competitive. Definitely consider Leisure Car Rental when you are making reservations for your next trip to the island — which we hope will be soon. We're here now and everything is beautiful with lots of smiling faces across the island.

34. Our Choice for a Local Phone on SXM - and Why You May Need One

If you spend a significant amount of time on SXM, it makes sense to make sure your phone is unlocked and that you have a local SIM for local calls — something we've done for years.

In addition to using WhatsApp four long-distance calls (which is pervasive across SXM), a local number makes it easier

for you to make calls on the island or when you have people call you. Plus, you can readily change SIMS when you're traveling between SXM and home.

We've been using the UTS / Chippie office in the plaza behind iZi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay. The people there are highly experienced and answer even the dumbest of questions quickly, factually, and helpfully (we know because we've asked them). They also have special rates including data when you buy a month at a time, which can save you significant costs.

Tell them Jeff Berger referred you....

35. Help Us Celebrate 7 Million Visits To our SXM Site...

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.

The giveaway celebrates JMB SXM Media surpassing 7,000,000 visits. Most of the weeks we give away will be handed out to randomly picked entries late in March. All are subject to seasonal limitations and availability.

In addition to vacations, we expect to give away dinners for two, gifts at jewelry stores, day sails, 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 everythingsxm.com. That's the only place & the only way you can find the link to enter our giveaway. <u>All winners</u> *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?

36. Restaurant of the Week: Isola

Seasoned chef / restaurant manager Marco Ferrante, who we've known for about 20 years, is GM at one of the largest and busiest of all SXM Italian restaurants, Isola, (pronounced EEE sole uh), whose entrance is next door to Hollywood Casino in the Simpson Bay Resort complex.

Marco has been at Isola about three years and has rebuilt the entire restaurant physically, culturally, and culinarily. If you ask for something not on the menu and he has the ingredients, consider it a done deal unless the place is crazy busy. The food is great, the menu is a spectrum of the Italian culinary arts (including lobster, pizza, and way more), and just about everybody goes hone very happy. Go -- you won't be disappointed.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 11/9/20). Italian. Excellent food, many choices (pizza too), busy, good specials. Lively; busy; entertainment some nights. Many folks from Simpson Bay Resort dine here as well as many locals and lots of casino high-rollers. www.isolaristorante.com Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 11/2/20). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

Mario's at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 9/14/20 Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining at very reasonable prices. Formerly on the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, they are relocating effective in late October to the Cliff. Open every day but Monday, they will serve both lunch and dinner six days a week. Traditional and highly creative Continental dinners, with Tapas and other selections at lunch. Do not miss it. Reservations are required.

Emilio's: outside Philipsburg (featured 8/10/20) offers fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. Not to be missed. https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/

Sale & Pepe (featured 7/20/20) Cool location among breathtaking megayachts, cool decor, knowledgeable staff, and extensive menu, good service, and delicious food. Chef Davide Zagami stays mostly in the kitchen ensuring things go just right. https://www.facebook.com/saleandpepemarina/

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, 7/13/20: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 7/6/20) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, <u>www.izirestaurant.com</u> (featured 6/15/20). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

White Swan Chinese Restaurant (featured 3/16/20) SXM's very best, delicious, authentic food, attentive service, generous portions, and reasonable prices. We loved it...

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.

Spiga, <u>www.spiga-sxm.com</u>(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, <u>www.pineapplepete.com</u> (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.... 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'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, <u>www.sailstmaarten.com</u> (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) Closed permanently.

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.

37. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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.

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit everythingsxm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

38. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 <u>serious or critical illness</u> 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 <u>and requalify</u> for another when you next travel. With Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, all you need do is renew <u>before the renewal deadline</u> – 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 <u>age 75 or older and purchase the X-Pat plan</u> 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 <u>not</u> health insurance — in the "SkyMed universe," SkyMed <u>Takes You Home</u>® 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?

 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?

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. But to sign up, always call 508-747-8281.
The process normally takes about 10 minutes, if that.

Q17. Who can get SkyMed?

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 12month period. Always notify SkyMed if you move.

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

Although SkyMed accepts the vast majority of applications, others do get health questionnaires (see Q13) and occasionally some do not qualify. <u>There is no cost to apply if your membership application cannot be accepted</u>.
 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.

SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:

We are following the White House Coronavirus Task Force '15 Days to Slow the Spread' guidelines released March 16th, 2020.

We have team members fully functional and working from home. We are all connected on line and have access to all programs

necessary for efficient operations. We have a seamless business operation whether employees are working in the office or from home.

We are on duty 24 SEVEN for our members.

SkyMed Travel reservation # 1-800-568-8994 is open during regular business hours 8am to 5pm (MST). Messages can be left

off hours.

Resources to help you:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov/travel

Canadian government updates <u>www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html</u>

National Institutes of Health (NIH) www.nih.gov

US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) www.cbp.gov

US State Department emergency assistance coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int

SkyMed Travel reservations www.skymedtravel.com or email info@skymedtravel.com

SkyMed Member Services 1-480-946-5188 or 1-800-475-9633 or memberservices@skymed.com

Please do not hesitate to call or email us with your questions or concerns. We are here to help as much as we can. Regular member

services are being conducted everyday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in the SkyMed Member family wherever you are in this time of uncertainty.

Eleanore Klein, President SkyMed Group of Companies

From JMB:

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 or you can email him at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483. lti:jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483. lti:jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483.

From:

JMB Communications
Membership Services
support@jmbcommunications.com

39. 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.

40. 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 <u>here</u>. It will shortly again be thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few weeks after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

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 is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

See the <u>rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits</u>

41. Are You Military, First Responder, or Nurse?

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.

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit everythingsxm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

42. 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.

43. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 10/25/20)

MAPS

XM / St. Maarten / St. Martin Weekly News*
AMUSEMENTS
Island Pedals Beer Cycle (Philipsburg)
BOAT TOURS
Celine Charters (Enigma)
BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES
SXM Beer Brewery
Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery
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 protection available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats living in these countries.)
JEWELERS:
Zhaveri Jewelers in Philipsburg.
Caribbean Gems
Oro Diamante
Majesty Jewelers
Ray's Jewelers
Alpha Jewels
JN Jewelers (Maho under Jax, open late) NEW!
Jewels & Beyond (Maho) NEW!
Shoppers Haven

Kasprowski Publishers

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES: (See also VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES, below)

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

<u>IZI</u>

SPIGA

VESNA TAVERNA

ISOLA

Frenchy Ludo's

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Soggy Dollar Bar

Sale and Pepe

Avantika Thai

Topper's Restaurant

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)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

Nick Malley, Front Street

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 <u>Island Real Estate Team</u>. 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

Monte Verde / Belle Vue (new)

Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

Bright Path is already posting in our Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group

Updated 11/9/20

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.

44. 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 **JMB SXM Media 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. Or just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger.

Tourism will soon return 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 beyond the shutdown. 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml.

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret . Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

To change your email address, visit www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address for continued Secret Site access.

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

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

LEGAL:

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

11/9/20 #V3-1272 6am EST 11/8/20 | Terms of use |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2020. World rights reserved.

###