

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 12/21/20: Feature Story: Surging Condo Sales Reflect Desire to Get Away Longer; French Side Beaches Reopen; New Super-Easy Covid Insurance Reqt. Coming; Cuisinart Resort Sold to American Entrepreneur; Heinken Regatta Still On, but Different; Georgina's Nails; Tijon Parfumerie; Vesna Taverna; Guide to SXM Entry Requirements [46 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

Can't see this newsletter? Go [HERE](#) for our *SXM Weekly News* PDF Archives.

Vol. 3, #1278 --- Monday, 12/21/20
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 Website Login

[Member News](#)

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

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

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 jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book
to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored **send-only** email address.
For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#)
at the end of this newsletter.

********Unsubscribe info is 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.*

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 346,000 people around the world...

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

http://everythingxm.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 SXM Weekly News:

Weather; Getting Here; Covid:

-- ***On SXM's New Covid Insurance Requirement: Easy Peasy***
-- ***737 MAX Back In The Air, Uneventfully***
-- ***Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info***
--> ***Our Complete Guide to SXM Entry Requirements (Updated)***

SXM Accommodations:

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

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

-- ***Feature Story:***
Surging SXM Condo Sales: SXM's Top Realtor, Arun Jagtiani, Offers Insights Into Covid's Impact on Snowbirds
-- ***French Side Reopens to Swimming, Watersports Effective Saturday 12/19***
-- ***French Side: Tiger Shark Believed Responsible for Rare Fatal Attack on Tourist***
-- ***Anguilla's Cuisinart Sold to Owner of US Best Buy Stores***
-- ***Might the Dutch Side Accept Proof of Covid Vaccination for Entry?***
-- ***Heineken Regatta Plans Still Moving Forward***
-- ***Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna***
-- ***Treat Yourself With Perfection, Story #1: Georgina's Nails***
-- ***Treat Yourself With Perfection, Story #2: Tijen Parfumerie***
-- ***Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna***
-- ***First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits***

-- ***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.

46 News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:

RENTAL 12/26/2020 1/2/2021 52 **Simpson Bay Resort 2 bedroom apartment in the Allamanda Building** (can be used as two separate one bedroom units since it has a lockout feature). One bedroom unit on the first floor with king size bed and with Murphy bed in the LR and a separate lockout one bedroom unit on the second floor with king bed and sofa bed.- Each unit, upstairs and downstairs, has full kitchen and AC with TVs in each room. There are very few units at Simpson Bay Resort that have the lockout feature so it offers a great alternative to a traditional two bedroom unit. Week 52 rental is \$2,200 and we have a Week 51 for \$2,000. For both 51 and 52 rate is \$4,000 (resort taxes are paid by renter). \$2,200 Joseph 508-277-7702 orgdims@aol.com

RENTAL 2/12/2021 2/19/2021 Week 7 Diamond Royal Palm Beach Resort Awesome brand-new 3rd floor 2 bedroom unit sleeps 6 in this completely renovated resort. Located on the side end by the inlet entrance & drawbridge to Simpson Lagoon. Watch those beautiful mega yachts entering when that bridge opens! Large kitchen and dining room. Wall of windows in living room and on the patio fully open to enjoy an unobstructed view of the ocean and sunsets. Hang by the pool or have free use of pool and beach lounges at the Flamingo Beach Resort a short walk away along the sandy beach! Many Simpson Bay restaurants, convenience stores, casinos, night clubs, movies. This President's week vacation in paradise is a bargain over the resort's rates. Renter pays \$50.00/week timeshare tax and any additional resort fees. \$2,400.00 Jeannie 610-888-6106 jdisante@gmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

SALE 3/20/2021 3/6/2021 Week 8 and 9 The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort and Marina 5th floor villa. 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. \$21,750.00 per week Camille 540-207-0337 camijammer@aol.com

SALE 10/23/2021 10/30/2021 43 Atrium 1 bedroom corner unit on 5th floor overlooking Kim Sha Beach. \$3,000.00/ OBO Joe 631 929-8231 jbi@justice.com

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

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

"Like" Our ["Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Group:](#)



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

<https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Complete Table of Contents

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

Getting Here:

1. On SXM's New Covid Insurance Requirement: Easy Peasy
 2. Another Major Passenger Care Screw-Up by United Airlines
 3. 737 MAX Back In The Air, Uneventfully
- See **COVID-19 / Entry Requirement Information, below**

Weather:

4. Unusually Good December Weather Continues
5. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

COVID-19 - General:

6. Details on Signing Up for Covid Insurance (Way Fast & Easy)
7. Reminder: New Rapid Antigen Test Added to Approved Tests list by Dutch Side
8. Got Holiday Flights? Re: EHAS, Rest Assured
9. What to Do If One of You is Denied & The Other Accepted
10. Double-Check Everything Before Submitting Your Pre-Approval App!

COVID-19 - Guide to Entry Requirements

11. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements (REVISED 12/20/20)
12. What RT-PCR means; (It is Not "Real-Time")
13. Finding and Taking RT-PCR or Antigen Tests in Your Area
14. Applying Online for Admission to SXM: What & How, w/ Advice
15. About The New COVID Insurance Requirement
16. ***VERY Important***: Avoiding Common Mistakes That Cause Denials
17. What to Take With You When You Go (An Important Checklist)
18. What to Expect When Arriving at SXM Airport
19. Reporting Your Condition to EHAS for 14 Days

Etc.:

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

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

21. Surging SXM Condo Sales: SXM's Top Realtor, Arun Jagtiani, Offers Insights Into Covid's Impact on Snowbirds
22. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info
23. New Rentals for 2020, 2021 Available at Everythingsxm.com
24. 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--

25. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

26. French Side Reopens to Swimming, Watersports Effective Saturday 12/19
27. French Side: Tiger Shark Believed Responsible for Rare Fatal Attack on Tourist
28. Anguilla's Cuisinart Sold to Owner of US Best Buy Stores
29. Might the Dutch Side Accept Proof of Covid Vaccination for Entry?
30. Heineken Regatta Plans Still Moving Forward
31. Surging SXM Condo Sales: SXM's Top Realtor, Arun Jagtiani, Offers Insights Into Covid's Impact on Snowbirds
32. Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna
33. Treat Yourself With Perfection, Story #1: Georgina's Nails
34. Treat Yourself With Perfection, Story #2: Tijon Parfumerie
35. Get an All-Over Tan This Wednesday on a Clothing-Optional Day-Long SXM Cruise
36. Going Home? Check Your State's Return Policies
37. SXM Entertainment Calendar Now on Our Site
38. Help Us Celebrate 7 Million Visits To our SXM Site...
39. First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits

#####

40. SkyMed FAQ / More Information

#####

- 41. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
- 42. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
- 43. Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?
- 44. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate
- 45. Please Patronize our Sponsors
- 46. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

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

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

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather, and COVID-19

GETTING HERE:

1. On SXM's New Covid Insurance Requirement: Easy Peasy

As we describe in story 6, SXM is instituting a new requirement for travelers arriving through SXM Airport to have Covid insurance purchased through the EHAS portal.

The process will be remarkably fast and simple:

- **No application.** There is no application; you simply indicate on the portal that you want the insurance, provide very basic personal information (they'll need your name etc.), and...
- **Guaranteed acceptance.** Your acceptance is guaranteed.
- **Lightning Fast Turnaround.** It is expected that the online sign-up process will take substantially less than one minute, and issuance of your policy will be almost instantaneous.
- **Very low cost.** The cost for adults is only \$30 per adult for trips lasting from a few days through 180 days; it, there are no added or hidden costs.
- **Substantial coverage.** Coverage is rather substantial — more substantial than you would think: details are coming shortly.

Purchasing of this insurance will be required for people arriving here on SXM after a date that is about to be announced. People who are already on the island will also be able to sign up, though it is not required of visitors already here. For more, see story 6.

2. Another Major Passenger Care Screw-Up by United Airlines

United Airlines seems to have a unique ability to display enormous arrogance and a lack of empathy toward its passengers in a way that earns it national recognition in the press for each incident.

You probably recall incidents involving them in the past, but if not, you will find them easily on Google.

In the current case, passengers with a two-year-old child who were to fly from Denver to New Jersey were ordered to get off the plane when their two-year-old would not comply with repeated requests by her parents to wear a mask. The World Health Organization, by the way, says children under age 5 should not be required to wear masks — but apparently United sees things differently. Worse, they seem to have no knowledge of the lack of cooperation two-year-olds sometimes express in response to a multiplicity of logical arguments.

Initially, the airline refused to refund the cost of the family's airline tickets and also refused to return their car seat and some other possessions. But when the story suddenly hit the media, United Airlines somehow saw the light and did offer to refund the tickets and return the family's possessions.

United now says it is looking into the matter.

Instead of looking into the matter after making yet another of its enormous and unnecessary blunders, perhaps United should make a real attempt to alter its policies and orient them toward passenger safety and total customer satisfaction. It seems to have ignored the latter for a long time, based upon its pattern of repeated arrogance toward passengers.

A recent media story about this incident is [here](#).

3. 737 MAX Back In The Air, Uneventfully

The Boeing 737 Max airliner, which had been grounded since March of 2019 after two fatal crashes had killed 346 passengers, is now slowly returning to the air around the world. Planes are being upgraded and pilots are being trained to handle new software, and planes are being ferried back to airlines worldwide, a process which is expected to take months to complete.

It's inevitable that at some point the 737 Max will return to service on airlines flying to St. Maarten.

As we reported before, Boeing may change the name of the airliner. If it does that, we will let you know the new name so, if you desire, you can contact the airline to make sure it reschedules you to a different kind of aircraft if that's your request.

We will continue to watch the Boeing 737 Max's return to service and keep you aware of how the process unfolds.

WEATHER:

4. Unusually Good December Weather Continues

Whether it's climate change or just mother nature doing her thing, unusual December weather is continuing in SXM. Although there have been some cloudy days recently, the overall weather pattern seems to be more reminiscent of February — with clear skies and comfortably hot weather — rather than customary December St. Maarten weather, which tends to be windy with occasional heavy showers. Those showers normally tend to simmer down through the first half of January, when the weather normally gets lovely to greet winter migrants from the cold north who make the decision to vacation here.

If you are already growing tired of Tundra-like weather, come on down. Relief is a quick airplane trip away.

5. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com, and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

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

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) **On or off the island, listen to Island 92** -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

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

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

Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:

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

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

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

More stories are below.

Changing Your Email Address?

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

COVID-19: General

6. Details on Signing Up for Covid Insurance (Way Fast & Easy)

The Dutch side is expected to soon issue its official announcement concerning mandatory Covid insurance which begins soon for all passengers arriving at SXM Airport.

We'll publish their announcement in a special email to JMB Website Supporters members upon its issuance, then to both our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and here of course in SXM Weekly News.

7. Reminder: New Rapid Antigen Test Added to Approved Tests list by Dutch Side

The expanded list of acceptable rapid antigen tests now includes the Abbott (CGIA Panbio COVID-19 Ag rapid test), Becton Dickinson (CGIA BD Veritor COVID-19 test), Roche (SD Biosensor F test) and Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card.

8. Got Holiday Flights? Re: EHAS, Rest Assured

We want to repeat a note we published here last week to reassure people who are traveling during the holidays that the turnaround of their preapproval will not be impacted by holiday vacations in SXM.

EHAS is part of SXM Airport which does not close or alter its hours for holidays; it just keeps on ticking.

Consequently, if you submit an application for approval to visit SXM during the holiday period, your application will not be impacted by vacations. However, it is extremely important that once you have the negative results from your Covid test, you submit your application for approval to visit the island through the EHAS portal at once, thoroughly checking everything you send (see Covid section, below). Give them as much time as you possibly can to ensure wiggle room in case there is some kind of delay.

EHAS is the organization that processes applications to visit SXM that are filed online. See complete information about all entry requirements in our **Guide to Entry Requirements** in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

9. What to Do If One of You is Denied & The Other Accepted

Although the EHAS system has already been staffed up (and staff continues to be augmented due to rising demand), EHAS is manned by humans, not computers, and in rare instances these humans may make mistakes. Although it seldom happens, in some cases husband-and-wife or other partners may submit identical applications with identical negative Covid test results both of which meet all requirements — and one may be approved and the other denied.

If this happens to you, check your application completely to make sure it meets all of the requirements described in crisp clear details in our Guide to Entry Requirements published in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). If it does, and if time allows (for example, if your flight is at least a day or two away), resubmit your application after checking it very thoroughly. We have had people submit applications three times, receiving their approval after two denials. Incidences are rare but they do happen.

If you are within a day of your flight and have received multiple denials after carefully checking your application to make sure it meets all qualifications, PM Jeff Berger directly in Facebook messenger and give him all the details and copies of all the PDFs of all your forms. Do not send images either to EHAS or to us — you must send PDFs, which are clearer and more usable (that's what we instruct in our Guide). JPEGs (photographic images) are a rather sure way to get a rejection. Jeff will see your message within a few hours at the most and will try to help everyone in this situation, with priority attention given to members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program through its Ombudsman benefit. We do work as quickly as possible to help you but cannot guarantee any results -- but we do have a pretty good record.

10. Double-Check Everything Before Submitting Your Pre-Approval App!

Although our complete **Guide to SXM Entry Requirements**, which begins below, tells you everything you need to know to navigate the requirements successfully, the bottom line is that you must double check everything you are submitting to the EHAS portal very carefully before hitting the submit button. In most instances, when applications are denied, the cause is traveler error — either incorrect or incomplete information is being submitted or information is not being submitted in the proper format. That's why it is so imperative to ensure that you double check everything before submitting your preapproval application to EHAS.

COVID-19: Guide to Entry Requirements - Please Read and Retain - REVISED 12/20/20

11. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements

See the Major News Story in our Island News Section about the new requirement on SXM for Covid Insurance, coming very soon.

Effective November 25, SXM began to accept rapid antigen tests taken within 48 hours of departure in addition to RT – PCR tests taken within 120 hours of departure. Full information, updated to reflect this major change and listing the types of antigen tests accepted, is in the Covid area of the FILES in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) (and is also below). That file has been completely updated to reflect the newly revised testing requirements.

Antigen tests are the widely discussed "rapid" tests previously not accepted in SXM. Specific reliable tests will now be accepted, and they are spelled out in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) article on Covid in the Files area.

For current information on exactly what the entry requirements are in SXM, please see [this Dutch-side government 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 or Antigen test negative 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.

That site is also where you will be able to sign up for the soon-to-be-required Covid insurance. Stay tuned for details on that.

12. 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 types of test for Covid-19 currently acceptable to the government of SXM are both RT-PCR and the Antigen test, which has been added effective 11/25.

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 above article and click the link for exact current government requirements.

13. Finding & Taking RT-PCR or Antigen Tests in Your Area

You must have a negative RT-PCR test taken less than 120 hours before your departure to SXM, or your Antigen test taken less than 48 hours before your trip. 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 the required 120 or 48 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.

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 or Antigen), your name, and the result of your test. Once you get the PDFs for 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.

14. 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 or Antigen test.

Go to the same website where you learned about entry requirements 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 or 48 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 (48 hours for Antigen test). 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 asked to reply to a specific email from EHAS. Overall, though you may be put off by the thought of having to do this process, it's quick, simple, and easy — and as we said the responsiveness is outstanding. Just do it — not a big deal at all.

15. About the New COVID Insurance Requirement

As soon as they are issued by the government of the Dutch side of the island, we will publish specifics concerning the new Covid insurance requirement in this section for our readers. We will also publish a special edition of *SXM Weekly News* after sending a Bulletin to our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program members with all of these important specifics.

We do know SIGN-UP will be remarkably easy and will not require any application or medical information. All you do is click the link to get the insurance, provide your name and credit card information and the dates of your travel, and we are told approval will be immediate. We will publish all of the program features and benefits as soon as they are released in detail by the government.

16. ***VERY Important***: Avoiding Common Mistakes That Cause Denials (Updated 12/20/20)

There is often a common thread influencing denials. But since it is a human process, in rare cases human error can occur.

First, we'll deal with the common threads.

When submitting your negative PCR or antigen test in PDF format, make sure it is done in PDF format — not a picture or JPEG. JPEG's can be very difficult to read and that could be the basis of a denial. All of the required information is, of course, required information.

So, create a checklist from the information you see in this Guide and follow it religiously when submitting your data. In fact, it is wise to find out what format your report will be in before you take the test, to ensure that the report will contain all the information SXM requires. That's not as difficult as it may appear, since most laboratories now are accustomed to issuing negative reports containing all information required for travel. Just be sure in advance that your report does include everything SXM requires. We often see prospective tourists send us applications they have submitted that were denied --many containing handwriting which is not allowed according to the requirements. No handwriting means no handwriting.

Second, sometimes you don't receive a response within several hours of submitting your application. If that happens to you, double check your application very closely to make sure that it conforms to all applicable requirements. Then and only then, resubmit the application — and double check the email address to make sure it is spelled correctly since obviously, incorrect email addresses don't work. Check your passport number too as you wrote it in the online application -- if it's one digit different from your actual passport number, you aren't going to SXM.

Third, as we said, in rare cases human error can play a role in denials. EHAS has been staffing up further to help ensure its ability to provide quick, responsive, and accurate service to all applicants, something it is trying to do expeditiously.

Fourth, sometimes you and your spouse will take tests at the same time from the same people and receive the same negative results. One of you will submit an application which is approved and the other may be denied. If time allows, resubmit the declined application after making absolutely sure that it is accurate and complete and meets all requirements. However if time does not allow that PM Jeff Berger through Facebook Messenger (not by email or phone) and give him all the information you sent to the government including that an identical application had been sent in and approved. There are no guarantees but we will try to help. If you don't have Facebook, get it — that's the only way we can handle these situations expeditiously. (We get just under 5000 emails a day and have filters for them so we can't guarantee we would receive your email inquiry, which is why we are requiring you to respond to us by Facebook messenger.) N. B.: We do NOT check it every two minutes, so don't expect an instant reply.)

17. 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); this provision is not yet active.
- 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.

18. 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, above. 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.

19. 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 is 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 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.

20. 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 15% 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

21. Surge in Condo Purchases by North Americans: How SXM Is Responding to Demand

In this issue, in our main news section, we publish a major story from top SXM realtor Arun Jagtiani concerning the Caribbean-wide surge in condo purchases by North Americans. That surge is being felt strongly here in SXM and is reflected by many condo construction projects now underway or, in some cases, now coming online.

If you are considering purchasing a condo in SXM or if the thought is in your head now for the first time, see story #31 — and suggest to your friends who are similarly interested in possibly buying a place here in SXM that they subscribe to [SXM Weekly News](#) so they will receive this issue automatically.

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

Not long ago, 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*.

23. 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.

24. 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

25. 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

Anything Can Happen Anywhere...

SKYMED Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. Get it BEFORE You Need it for as little as \$1.35/day (annual plans) guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or declining health. Without SkyMed, you'll need to pay the current price of an evacuation in cash, in advance -- and that could easily be \$35,000 to \$50,000. Why risk that? See these important links:

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

You'll find **Frequently Asked Questions** [here](#).

My SkyMed website is <http://www.skymed.com/jmb> and you can phone me daytimes 8am to 8pm EST at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only please).

Feel free also to contact me via Facebook Messenger.

--Jeff Berger

.....:Breaking News:.....

26. French Side Reopens to Swimming, Watersports Effective Saturday 12/19

Two weeks ago last Thursday, as most *SXM Weekly News* readers are aware, a French tourist who was just starting a year-long sabbatical on the island was attacked by a shark over 300 feet from the shore of Orient beach near the Watersports trampoline off Bikini and quickly succumbed to severe injuries. Shark attacks here are very rare and this fatal attack was unprecedented.

The French side quickly shut down all swimming and water sports on French side beaches effective at once, but late last Friday they had announced that both were being reinstated effective this past Saturday, December 19.

Here is the story from the French side government: (Note: our complete story of the shark attack was published last week in *SXM Weekly News*; you can see it shortly in our Archives.

FRENCH SIDE RETURNS SWIMMING & WATERSPORTS TO FRENCH SIDE BEACHES EFFECTIVE SATURDAY 12/19 (from the French Side Govt.):

Lifting the swimming ban and resumption of nautical activities:

Following the shark bathing accident on December 10, 2020 at Oriental Bay, measures were quickly implemented:

- Prohibition of bait fishing and feeding fish;
- Checking the conditions of disposal of waste water from restaurants;
- Removal of floating buoy items, which can act as Pisces Concentration Devices (DCP).

Therefore, the Prefecture and the Community inform the public of the lifting of the swimming ban and the resumption of nautical activities, starting this Saturday, December 19, 2020, throughout the territory of Saint-Martin.

Several actions will be taken tomorrow to ensure a higher level of security:

- Overflights of coastal borders of the territory from 11 to 12 and from 14 to 15, through drones and over 15 days;
- Nautical patrol monitoring of the National Gendarmerie, Reserve and SDIS for 15 days;
- Dissemination of recommendations to sea users.

On the other hand, it is recommended to prefer swimming hours between 9 and 16

The territorial waters of the French Antilles will also receive special attention from French scientists through the establishment of a programme in collaboration with all the actors of the Caribbean community. This one is designed to improve everyone's knowledge of squally behavior in our waters through studies, and can be used to inform a shared database.

The action of this scientific group will be set up quickly via:

- The creation of a network of sensitized observers: professional fishermen, seafarers, professionals of watershoring activities for the transmission of shark observations to the Nature Reserve and the Scientific Expert Group;
- Implementing a protocol for non lethal fishing for tiger sharks: shark identification, sampling and marking. This procedure will be piloted by the Scientific Group with the local actors.

In order to ensure an enhanced level of security, the Prefecture and the Community remind that the involvement and vigilance of every citizen remains essential.

[Untouched info from French Side Govt.]

27. French Side: Tiger Shark Believed Responsible for Rare Fatal Attack on Tourist

As the investigation into the fatal shark attack continued last week, French side authorities and scientists involved with the program said that the attack was likely by a tiger shark 3 to 4 m long. Some people familiar with the behavior of tiger sharks and bull sharks, which are also common in this area, suggested that the attack was by a bull shark since the animal's behaviors differ. (For more on bull sharks, see *Wikipedia*.) We won't belabor that here, but we will report any additional significant nonmedical findings as they are announced by the French side here in *SXM Weekly News*.

The entire JMB Communications organization and its readers share in our profound condolences to the family and friends of the victim of this attack.

28. Anguilla's Cuisinart Sold to Owner of US Best Buy Stores

The owner of the thousand-store Best Buy chain of electronics emporiums has bought the Cuisinart resort on the neighboring island of Anguilla. He has announced lofty plans for improvements in that prestigious resort. As we previously reported here in *SXM Weekly News*, renowned CIA chef Dino Jagtiani who for years owned both the Temptation and Rare restaurants here in SXM has now moved to Cuisinart Anguilla as head of culinary there.

Here is [the Cuisinart story](#).

29. Might the Dutch Side Accept Proof of Covid Vaccination for Entry?

People constantly ask us all sorts of questions concerning SXM entry requirements, which were expressed above in the Covid section of this newsletter and are also shown in detail in the Guide to Entry Requirements we publish in the Files section of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Currently, the most frequently asked question is whether the Dutch side might accept proof of Covid vaccination as a simplified entry requirement. As evidenced by recent changes to entry requirements, all elements of this entire topic

are clearly under constant review by government authorities. It stands to reason, in our view, that the Dutch side government is watching as vaccination programs rollout across North America, the biggest market for Dutch side tourism and a very major market for French side tourism. We aren't going to guess about whether or when they might make a decision about accepting proof of vaccinations as a main entry requirement.

However ... some airlines are doing rapid testing at airports to make sure that people who are there are healthy at the time of boarding — not four days ahead of time as the Dutch side government currently allows. If SXM were to require proof of vaccination plus rapid Covid testing at airports for those who have already been vaccinated, it would solve all the ongoing problems related to people being unable to get tested in time for their trips to SXM and it would, we think, eliminate the need for preapproval. People who test positive at the airport and/or have not been vaccinated would not be allowed on the plane to go to SXM. It all sounds simpler than the current system — but it is at least several months into the future, if it happens at all, since the vaccination program is just starting to roll out and currently involves only some first responders.

The government is busy enough dealing with lots of issues so we don't plan to ask them any of this. But we do speculate that there is we think an excellent chance of this happening — just don't expect it anytime soon.

30. Heineken Regatta Plans Still Moving Forward

Last week, Michelle Korteweg, the woman in charge of the Heineken Regatta and much more, said in an interview on Island92 radio here that plans for the 2021 Heineken Regatta are continuing, and that a number of contingency plans have been created to ensure that the Regatta can be carried off in a safe, entertaining way late this winter.

This Regatta will be different than any other due to Covid, she said. But there will still be a Regatta, even if the number of boats involved is significantly less than usual — and that is still to be determined by world conditions.

The land portion of the Regatta is usually the biggest social event of the year on SXM, other than carnival. There is no question that the land portion will be affected because of Covid, because again, Regatta management is determined to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone involved in this and of course all spectators as the event unfolds.

As usual, we do expect to be able to report fully on the Regatta as it happens, and we plan to post many pictures and all daily results in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). We will also be publishing all the news released by the Regatta in advance of the event right here in *SXM Weekly News*, as always.

PS: Ms. Korteweg says there will be music.

*****Feature Story*****

31. Surging SXM Condo Sales: SXM's Top Realtor, Arun Jagtiani, Offers Insights Into Covid's Impact on Snowbirds

by Arun Jagtiani. *head of Island Real Estate Team*

In the past year, practically every person on the planet has had a chance to reevaluate his or her living conditions. The experience of a social lock down due to a global pandemic puts a lot of things into perspective. All over the world real estate markets are experiencing trends directly related to Covid 19; this is because people who are in a position to upgrade or change their living conditions have been motivated to take action. The most obvious real estate trend of 2020 is of course the exodus from major cities to nearby suburbs. "Social distance is the new luxury," has become the most common phrase used by realtors in every market, and here in Sint. Maarten we are no different.

Sint Maarten experienced a "lockdown" from March to May of 2020. The real estate market was one of the first sectors of the economy to start rolling as soon as free movement was allowed again. The initial wave of real estate activity post-lockdown came primarily from full time residents who were eager to improve their living spaces. This included long-term rentals and residential sales.

As we come to the end of 2020, a new real estate wave seems to be heading towards the islands shores. In the past few weeks several local realtors are reporting a noticeable increase in buyer inquiries coming from abroad, especially the Northeast United States and Canada. Sint Maarten has always been a popular destination for buyers from this region, but this winter feels a little different. Perspectives have changed, and

for many the urgency of owning a piece of warm island life is more of a priority than it ever was.

Purchasing a property in St. Maarten is considered to be a pretty safe investment that will hold its value and appreciate over time, but the real motivation to buy in St. Maarten is not about return on investment. If one is only focused on ROI, there will always be a better deal out there than owning a vacation home in the Caribbean. *Buying a property in St. Maarten is about enjoying quality of life. It's about owning a piece of paradise where you will spend quality time with your loved ones and create lasting memories for generations to remember. These are things you can't really attach a dollar amount to, but this will be your real return on investment.* A perfect storm of sorts has been brewing for Sint Maarten real estate... with all that has been happening in the past year it's no surprise that more people are prioritizing quality of life investments.

To properly understand the best opportunities available for your wish list and budget, it's best to contact a local realtor. If you are not already familiar with the island, here is a short summary of what you can expect to discover when you start your home buying search.

French Side - The northern half of the island boasts some of the most impressive luxury private estates and also a few smaller and charming vacation properties. Terre Basses is recognized as the most exclusive neighborhood on island; this is where Donald Trump owns an 11 bedroom beachfront estate. Other popular areas on the French Side include Orient Bay, Anse Marcel, and Grand Case.

Dutch Side – The Dutch Side of Sint Maarten can be described as having two very distinct characteristics. The Eastern Side or Sunrise Side of the island tends to appeal to those who are seeking a more private experience. This side has more freestanding homes while the Western Side of the island or the Sunset Side has the majority of the condo inventory on island, specifically between Simpson Bay and Cupecoy. This stretch is sometimes referred to as the Gold Coast of St. Maarten Real Estate, and is also where most of the nightlife is concentrated.

For more information about purchasing real estate in Sint. Maarten [check out this link for Frequently Asked Questions](#).

All things considered, Sint Maarten is a pretty good place to be right now, as it has been for all of 2020. Current travel restrictions have limited the amount of arrivals on island, but local realtors have been adapting. Virtual showings have become somewhat of a norm within the industry. It is expected within the coming months for showings to normalize as people become more comfortable with traveling, and that's when St. Maarten's real estate market will experience a boom. For the most updated information about travel requirements to the island please visit the governments official website at: <https://stmaartenehas.com/>. [Also see our complete **Guide to Entry Requirements** in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).-Ed.]

My team and I welcome the opportunity to assist anyone who is interested in purchasing on our beautiful island or if you are looking for the perfect property to rent for your vacation. Please visit our websites at:

www.ireteam.com

www.irevacation.com

32. Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna

Several years back, I wandered into the original location of what was at the time Vesna Taverna and Bagel house in Simpson Bay, seeking a Sunday morning cup of coffee for my wife. The young blonde woman sitting near the back of the tiny restaurant said, "You're my Facebook friend!" and introduced herself as Vesna. I brought the coffee to the car and along came Vesna, and there began a long friendship between Vesna, Ilene, Vesna's husband Yannick, their restaurant, and me, punctuated with great admiration for what they've done inside the restaurant's current, larger location in Simpson Bay, across the street from where they had been originally.

From its humble beginnings as a Bagel house, Vesna has blossomed into a three-meals-a-day restaurant. Its chef/co-owner Yannick years ago had been GM at the near-legendary Fish Pot restaurant in Grand Case, one of the two very best restaurants there at the time.

Both Vesna and Yannick are full-fledged chefs. Today Yannick stays in the kitchen and creates the culinary magic each evening while Vesna works during the day and sometimes the previous night creating a beyond-marvelous spectrum of delicious desserts. She also is the lady-in-charge every night in the restaurant's dining room.

Today, Vesna Taverna is open for breakfast and lunch seven days a week, and is normally open in high season Tuesday through Saturday evening for dinner (sometimes Mondays too). Daytime manager Sally handles things at breakfast and lunch, though Vesna and Yannick may well wander in if their restaurant is closed that evening. A new

kitchen staff arrives by 6 PM and dinners start flowing every night. Saturday is Greek night with lots of Greek specialties plus their full regular menu, consisting of French, American, and a spectrum of other wonderful surprises brought back from their trips during vacation — culinary explorations that usually take them to far points of the planet from which they return with more wonderful dining ideas for their thousands of loyal clients.

Vesna Taverna is unlike any other restaurant we've ever been to, with an eclectic fusion of delightful flavors perfectly prepared and nicely presented — along with outstanding desserts. The one thing you won't find here is high-end pricing like you'll find at some Grand Case restaurants, despite Yannick's years of Grand Case restaurant management.

Vesna Taverna probably is the biggest bargain you will find anywhere on the island. The pricing is surprisingly low, the food quality is great, and the textures, tastes, aromas, and flavors are wonderful. And as we've also said many times, Vesna herself is a hoot. Come early in your vacation so that you will return often, along with a wide selection of other loyal clients.

Don't forget to have a shot of Yannick's homemade banana rum after you finish dinner and dessert: you might just want to take home a bottle or two, and there usually bottles available for purchase. It's quite potent stuff with great flavor.

Next week: **iZi Ristorante Italiano (which has undergone major changes centered around renowned new chef Antonio), followed in January by Isola Ristorante Italiano.**

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 12/21/20). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 12/11/20 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 now at the Cliff. Open every day but Monday, they 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 required.

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 12/7/20) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy (featured 11/28/20) Excellent pizza, and sizeable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 11/23/20). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

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/>

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 7/27/20). 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

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

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, 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.

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

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (7/8/19) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) Closed permanently.

Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar <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.

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

33. Treat Yourself With Perfection, Story #1: Georgina's Nails

If you're looking for a place to have nails done on SXM, there is one place that everybody who is anybody goes to: Georgina's Nails. Pre-Irma, Georgina's was located in Simpson Bay not far from the Palapa Marina; now, she has relocated to Miss Lallie's Commercial Center, a big U-shaped orange building on Bush Road not far from the *Daily Herald's* main office, on the second floor.

The place is absolutely immaculate as chief honcho Liddy passionately requires. Her nail salon not only does all kinds of creative nail treatments but also manicures, pedicures, and lots of other services for both women and men (the vast majority is women). Don't bring kids -- they are verboten.

Reservations here are an absolute must. The business is open from Tuesday through Sunday and is closed on Mondays.

If you have been coming to the island for a number of years, it's highly likely you'll see friends when you come for your appointments here. Last year, Georgina's Nails won our prestigious **Everything SXM Award of Excellence** which is proudly displayed in the salon. All we'll say about this year is that 2021 awards will be given out in the coming weeks. Stay tuned....

For more information and pictures, go [here](#). For reservations, call: (721) 543-2499.

34. Treat Yourself With Perfection, Story #2: Tijon Parfumerie

If you missed our past stories about Tijon Parfumerie in Grand Case diagonally opposite Spiga restaurant at the far northern end of Boulevard de Grand Case, you're in luck: this is the time of year when it makes even more sense than usual to become really familiar with Tijon.

First, Tijon is a genuine Parfumerie with a complete lab where it's fragrances are manufactured. One of the great features and benefits about Tijon Parfumerie is that you can design your own fragrances here, something that's tremendously enjoyable for both men and women. Moreover, after you create your own fragrances Tijon records the formula so you can reorder it whenever you want and have it shipped to you if you like. The cost is minuscule compared to the pure fun you'll have and the lasting memories of creating your own personal fragrances.

Second, Tijon offers a shop with hundreds of tropically oriented items including many of its own special fragrances — a number of which you'll want to take home. There are even collections of CDs from their tropical music collection available for purchase — the music will remind you of the island not only while you're here in your car rental, but also when you're home dealing with bad traffic or worse weather and thinking about your next trip back to the island.

Treat yourself to a visit to [Tijon Parfumerie](#) on your next island trip. Always call ahead to be sure they are open when you plan to go; because of Covid, they often operate by appointment.

Tijon is not to be missed regardless of when you visit SXM.

35. Get an All-Over Tan This Wednesday on a Clothing-Optional Day-Long SXM Cruise

Admit it: tan lines are ugly. Why go home with any? Not only does SXM have wonderfully freeing nude beaches (see the list and descriptions in the Beaches section of our main website, [everythingSXM.com](#)) but it also has nude cruises.

Nude cruises? Yes; as soon as you're out of sight of gawkers you can feel free to put your clothes in a bag and sit on your towel with a cold drink or two or...

Details:

FABULOUS FULL DAY CLOTHING-OPTIONAL GROUP CHARTER 12/23

48' LUXURY CATAMARAN

Gourmet Lunch on board & full Open bar included

Departure 8:30am until 5:30pm

from Bobby's Marina Philipsburg

[www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net](#)

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g147347...](#)

145\$/pers

Contact zouzou

Whatsapp

+590690397457

E-mail

[zuzu97150@yahoo.com](#)

See you soon !!!!

My email address

[zuzu97150@yahoo.com](#)

or PM on Facebook

36. Going Home? Check Your State's Return Policies

It's essential for visitors returning home to the US to know their home state's policies and procedures for passengers returning from overseas flights well before they head to the airport.

We suggest at least a couple of weeks before your return date that you visit your state's main web portal to see exactly what its requirements are regarding Covid. Some states may require a negative test be taken X number of hours before your return flight; others may require some degree of quarantine, and others may require nothing.

If a Covid test is required prior to your return home, you may ask about testing locations on SXM that you can use — to do that, go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Please do not ask questions there about your state's requirements — our group is SXM centric and will not accept such posts. Your state's web portal is certainly the best source of current, accurate information about requirements related to returning international passengers.

37. SXM Entertainment Calendar Now In Our SXM FB Site

We have long published the island92 SXM entertainment calendar in our main site, [everythingSXM.com](#) effective in November, however, we transitioned it to our Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group. It offers you a look at venues for live music across the Dutch side with some on Anguilla.

The list is compiled by Island92 and we simply run it. We don't have the bandwidth to create such a list ourselves, but we do invite owners of local venues who are not listed in the entertainment calendar to contact Jeffrey Sochrin at Island92 concerning advertising opportunities in the calendar and on the station, which has an enormous listenership both on the island and among SXM tourists from around the world. Readers can also listen live to Island92 at

www.island92.com. The entertainment calendar is also frequently broadcast on their two radio stations.

38. 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.

Here is more on our Paradise SXM vacation giveaway. To enter the giveaway, go to our home page at 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. If you're a pass-along or PDF reader, subscribe now at sxmweeklynews.com.

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

39. 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 everythingxsm.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.

40. 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 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. 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.

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 www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html

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. 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

41. 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.

42. 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 just been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few days 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.com/jmb. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

43. 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 everything.sxm.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.

44. 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.

45. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 12/20/20)

AMUSEMENTS

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

BOAT TOURS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:

www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

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](#)

LIVE MUSIC

Hole in the Wall, Maho Plaza, Dutch side

MAPS

[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

Sunshine Properties

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

RESORTS:

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Baker's Suites

RESTAURANTS & BARS

[IZI](#)

[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

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

LA ROSA

NONNA ROSA

LAZY LIZARD

RANCHO (new)

SUNSET CAFE (new)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

SWIMWEAR:

Endless Summer Swimwear, Philipsburg & Simpson Bay

VILLA RENTALS / 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 **Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Updated 12/20/20

**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.

46. 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". Or PM us on FB for an even faster response. We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger.)

Tourism has started to 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. *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?>

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)

12/21/20 #V3-1278 6pm AST 12/19/20 | [Terms of use](#) |

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

###