

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 2/7/22: The Future of SXM Airport -- Exclusive Interview With Airport CEO Brian Mingo; Westin Redevelopment May Finally be Imminent; "Hotel Beach Plaza" In Marigot In Major USD \$40-million Restoration Project; Same Shark that Killed a French Tourist About 300 Feet from Orient Beach in Nov. '20 Also Attacked Another Woman in Nevis, DNA Results Show; More Than 139 Sunken Boats Removed from Lagoon & Mullet Pond; French/Dutch Border Dispute to be Decided This Year [Issue #1334 -- 35 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1334 ---- Monday, Feb. 7, 2022
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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

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

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- **Vote for Your Favorite SXM Businesses in USA Today's "Ten Best of the Caribbean"**
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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 2/25/2022 3/4/2022 Week 8 Royal Palm Beach Resort 2 Bedroom 2 Full Bath Oceanfront Condo, Completely Remodeled 2021, living room w/sleeper sofa, full kitchen w/granite counter tops, dining area, cable TV in living room and each bedroom, breathtaking views from master bedroom, living room & balcony. Resort faces west for beautiful sunsets. Unit is on 3rd floor & sleeps six. Onsite restaurant and many more within walking distance. A supermarket is also located within walking distance. Activity desk to book your island excursions, boat trips, jet skis, scuba diving, snorkeling, etc. \$50 timeshare tax upon check-in. \$2,300 per week David 914-588-1897 djpartelow@gmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/5/2022 2/12/2022 Week 6 **Simpson Bay Resort** 2 Bedroom Unit. One bedroom third floor with connecting stairs to sleep 2 studio. Facing pool. Upper B Building. Week 7 also available in same unit. Studio can be rented separately. \$10,000 per week or BO Phil Chery956@aol.com

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

"Like" Our All-New ["Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group](#)

<https://mewe.com/join/jeffbergerseverythingsxmewegroup>

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingsexm.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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

GETTING HERE:

1. LEAD STORY: About The Future of SXM Airport

We recently conducted an interview with SXM Airport CEO Brian Mingo, covering a spectrum of topics. Here are his comments on many issues of importance to readers of *SXM Weekly News*:

On the Airport being busy: "As many tourists already know, the airport is far busier now than it has been since before Covid. In fact, Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA) serves as a hub for travel to many other islands, with Winair serving over 20 connecting flights every day to neighboring islands, particularly St. Barth. *Our recovery in air traffic volume from Irma and now from Covid has been far ahead of everyone's expectations.*"

On Building Back Better: "Prior to when I started here in 2019, the Airport had been almost totally destroyed by hurricanes Irma and Maria. The insurance company wanted to pay the Airport 25 cents on the dollar for its enormous losses caused by the storms. SXM Airport also had to spend a considerable amount of time applying for urgently required funding through the Kingdom and local government for World Bank and the EIB (European Investment Bank) capital. With the insurance proceeds finally paid after a court order and USD\$120-million from the banks, we were able to start the reconstruction plans.

"We started the final repairs on the roof, and the much-needed mold remediation and launched the complete reconstruction 'build back better' project. We remain on schedule to reopen the fully restored airport on a phased basis starting later this year followed by completing the project next year. Part of 'build back better' involves

increased use of automation to make the entire passenger experience at Princess Juliana as user-friendly and efficient as possible. The terminal was designed in 2005 for a maximum of 2.4-million passenger movements. We are now introducing better automation improving the overall logistics of the terminal for moving connecting passengers through the terminal quicker and easier to their final destinations."

On the Master Plan for the Future of SXM Airport: "Our airport and our island have been through two major catastrophes in the last 4 ½ years – first Irma and Maria, and the ongoing Covid pandemic. For years the Airport has had significant forward-looking plans for added services and facilities to better serve both our residents and our visitors as well as providing connecting services to neighboring islands for which we act as a regional hub, the second largest in the North East Caribbean beyond San Juan.

"Thanks to those catastrophes, however, we have been required to focus first on 'build back better.' The financial realities

we have faced in the last several years have been well beyond daunting, so we are flat out executing 'build back better' to do the best possible job for everyone in the short term. Some other projects which we would love to implement in the near term can't be done as soon as we'd like – that's the financial reality we face.

“As CEO we cannot forget the organization and the culture. The organization has suffered tremendously and had to endure a lot; this needed attention. Also setting the pace and the culture on the work floor is important to rebuild the business, the airport, and St. Maarten.”

On Preclearance for Passengers Flying to the United States: “Preclearance is something everyone wants – passengers, airlines, hospitality businesses here since it can help boost tourism substantially, many government officials, and all businesses across the island. It’s the goose that lays the golden egg, but it brings with it a tremendous initial investment of over USD\$60-million for a separate new addition to the existing terminal building, plus the US customs and border patrol agents and their families based here which is another cost, and so on. Given the economic impact of Irma, Maria, and Covid, we are limited on what we can do short term. Once we have rebuilt the airport terminal and have reopened our terminal in 2023, we can better see how and when we can move forward with these projects. US Preclearance will be looked at by a separate work group with Government to get a better idea of the numbers and market.

“Before we can move on preclearance... before we can enhance our position as a regional hub... before we can further expand the terminal to handle more departures and move more people efficiently... we must achieve a financially stable airport once we have completed ‘build back better’ next year. Financial stability is pivotal for achieving the other objectives that everyone wants.”

On Expanding FBO Operations: “Our Fixed Base Operations (FBO), serving private and corporate aircraft operations, badly needs new facilities. While FBO operations have expanded greatly, their growth demands larger and better facilities. This is another critical objective that we must address effectively but affordably -- this year we will start the plan to upgrade the FBO facilities to meet the demand for the coming years. Although we are in a recovering market the private jet numbers have rebounded beyond the 100% mark.”

On the Fuel Farm & on Catering: “We provide fuel for aircraft at a volume of over 50 million liters per year and that volume is growing rapidly. We need to move the fuel farm to the edge of the airport farther from the runway and increase its size. Tanker trucks are the only supply we can or will have, since other means of transport from the depots are impractical since they would have to be routed through beaches that are nesting sites for critically endangered wildlife such as sea turtles. That’s a non-starter. We also need to move the existing catering facilities to their new location. Timelines for this will be planned this year.”

Closing Comments: “We have been financially handicapped now since four years. We are moving thousands of people on Saturdays and many hundreds each day during the rest of each week. We are working hard toward continuous improvement and shortening queues and speeding passenger processing in both departures and arrivals is happening and passengers recognize that. We are not at the level of service quality we want but we are getting closer every day – and next year when our departure halls will be fully online, our ability to serve passengers quickly will give them an optimal experience which is what we’re all working hard to deliver. The accomplishments achieved by the airport are the result of the hard work and dedication of the workers, the organization, and stakeholders alike. Without them we cannot rebuild the airport, our economy, our island.”

2. Bird Striking jetBlue Flight from MIA to AUA Leaves Lasting Impression

A JetBlue flight took off from Fort Lauderdale for Aruba last week. At 5,000 feet, it suffered a bird strike and quickly returned to Fort Lauderdale airport. An examination of the plane there revealed a dent in the fuselage just above the front cockpit windows. but the plane did not suffer any other major damage. Nonetheless, the pilot and the airline elected to replace the aircraft, and the flight resumed not too much later.

After a thorough inspection of the impacted aircraft, JetBlue was able to place it back in service and it went on another flight to Aruba.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, there are approximately 10,000 bird strikes per year — averaging about 26 per day. Usually, the bird strikes are fatal for the birds but not particularly consequential for the aircraft or the people aboard; this was one of those instances. The "Miracle on the Hudson" — when Capt. Sully Sullenberger successfully landed his US Airways A320 in the Hudson River after a bird strike disabled both of its engines — could have been much worse, but thanks to the location and to great pilot training, everything was fine.

Pilots are trained for all kinds of emergencies, from tire blowouts on landing to unruly passengers and more. The likelihood of you being involved in a bird strike is very small and the odds of any danger to passengers are infinitesimal. Nonetheless, procedures exist to help ensure the safety of aircraft where birds are present -- just about everywhere near airports.

Here is [more](#) on this story.

3. Some Flight Cancellations Continue Due to Weather & Omicron

Recent outbreaks of severe weather across the USA have been problematic for flights in many locations. Even flights between warm weather destinations are affected since the equipment used for such flights may arrive from cold-weather airports affected by winter weather. Weather delays happen regardless of season and are caused by snowstorms, icing, thunderstorms, adverse winds, excessively high temperatures, wind shear, and more.

The impact of omicron on flight crew availability is likely on the decline, since omicron numbers in many areas are continuing to fall — good news for passengers and flight crews.

4. What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled Or Delayed...

What should you do if your flight is canceled or delayed — as happens fairly often now due to winter weather or omicron related issues?

This recently published [article](#) gives you exact answers.

5. Omicron Numbers Continuing Free Fall in SXM -- Great News Continues

The omicron numbers from both the French and Dutch sides of the island continue to drop like a rock. The high weeks ago was over 2600 active cases, but that number has dropped now to just over 400 and should continue to drop.

The vast majority of those cases are the omicron variant of Covid. As usual, people who are unvaccinated are faring worse than those who have been fully vaccinated and boosted. For your own safety, please continue to use all well-published precautions.

To return to the US, Americans must be tested, and that is where some omicron cases are discovered -- though those numbers are now low. For more information on what happens to people who test positive, please see our [Guide to SXM Entry Requirements](#) and returning home to the US. See our link below.

6. Our "Guide to Entry Requirements," Second Edition, Just Revised, Answers All Your SXM Travel Questions

Our completely new Guide to Entry Requirements — all new and completely different from the first edition — simplifies SXM Entry Requirements to make it easier for our readers to understand exactly what the island is looking for and to successfully navigate SXM's Electronic Health Authorization System EHAS website, through which visitors to SXM apply for the required preapproval. The Guide has been updated to include the new requirements effective since January 1, 2022.

To download the new second edition of our Guide to Entry Requirements, *which is free*, go to the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); you can get there [through this link](#) if you are a Facebook member. Otherwise, Facebook will prompt you to join, which is free. To join our group, answer the simple vetting questions. Once you go to the files area, search for Entry and you'll be able to download the PDF of our new second edition Guide to Entry Requirements -- **or just [go here](#)**.

*We always urge everyone to download the **Guide to Entry Requirements** directly from our files area, since that area enables you to ensure that you are downloading the latest available version. We do expect the Dutch side government to make more changes as the Covid Pandemic evolves and hopefully wanes. It was updated again recently, and will continue to be updated as necessary.*

WEATHER:

7. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

Here are four more sources of current weather info:

- 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.*

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***

Etc.

8. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees 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 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) any weekday. Thanks..

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

9. LEAD STORY: Westin Resort's Future Expected to be Unveiled Within 60 Days

Almost 4 1/2 years ago, hurricane Irma and hurricane Maria practically obliterated SXM. The U-shaped Westin St. Maarten resort, casino, and spa took it on the chin from sustained winds of 185 miles an hour and recorded gusts of about 240 miles per hour as well as a number of tornadoes and raging seas.

Owner Columbia Sussex has been notably uncommunicative about the future of the resort ever since. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Covid Pandemic played a major role in their decision to delay reconstruction, since much of their business was corporate groups and that business entirely vanished as a result of the Pandemic. Zoom took over.

Finally, in the last week, the resort has sent cryptic messages to some of its Dawn Beach Club members and others, certainly, telling them to watch for an announcement about the future of the resort within the next 60 days — the first such formal announcement of any kind about the future of the resort.

What happens next? Although it's anyone's guess, it looks like three things are likely:

First, the new property appears likely to be a Four-Star enterprise — top-of-the-line. That has been a slowly emerging trend on the island in recent years and that message has been communicated by lose-lipped employees over the last couple of years.

Second, it has been said repeatedly by a number of knowledgeable people that Marriott, which owns Westin, will decide what brand to apply to the property once it assesses the quality of the restorations. Both Ritz and JW Marriott nameplates have been mentioned as possibilities. There's a strong feeling that the "Westin" nameplate won't be back.

Third, we have a comment that is 100% speculative — but we don't hesitate to pass it along since Columbia Sussex has been so tight-lipped for so long. Twice in the last 2 1/2 months, aircraft owned by the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas have spent an extensive amount of time here in SXM. It could have been for an extended Thanksgiving vacation by some top executives or an off-site meeting. But the Westin complex is big, the hotel/casino is capable of being greatly expanded if someone with money decided to do so, and the island is growing substantially in appeal to large groups of upscale vacationers and business travelers/business meeting attendees. It is reasonable to speculate that there may be some connection between the visits of the Sands airplanes and the upcoming announcement about the future of the Westin property. Again, this is pure speculation but it's nonetheless an interesting thought.

10. LEAD STORY: Hotel Beach Plaza To Come Roaring Back as "Beach Hotel" With USD\$40-Million in Renovations

The Beach Hotel, formerly known as Hotel Beach Plaza just west of downtown Marigot before the Marigot drawbridge, is undergoing USD\$40-million in renovations and rebuilding designed to bring it to Four-Star quality.

The project, with an estimated completion date of October, 2023, will have 139 rooms and 17 Penthouses plus a conference center capable of accommodating up to 400 people and a sizable restaurant. It is expected to bring to Marigot an additional 80 to 100 permanent jobs.

The Beach 2.0 project, as it is being called, is the biggest shot in the arm for Marigot in many years and should bring new vitality to that area of the French side capital. The Beach Hotel is located on its own beach steps from the heart of downtown Marigot.

For more information, see this [link](#).

11. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Available This Winter

Dozens of new listings of timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale for 2022 have been added to our timeshare sales / rental page in our main SXM site, www.everythingsxm.com. If you're looking for a place to stay, that's where to find it. All of our listings are from members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program so you deal directly with timeshare owners — there are no middleman or agents or anything else charging commissions. Usually, timeshare owners charge close to their actual annual maintenance fee costs.

Dozens of new entries were posted over the last few days.

12. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help

A while 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*.

13. 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 package 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

14. Reminder: \$100 Jewelry Gift Card Emails Sent to All JMB Website Supporters Members: News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates (Updated 1/31/22) How To Get Your \$100 Gift Certificate to Caribbean Gems

One of the newest benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership is a \$100 Gift Card from Caribbean Gems. The Gift Card was sent last month by email to all members of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**, and will soon be added (for one-time use only) to our members-only passworded "Secret" Website. Details on its use accompany the card.

We are now working to further increase the already huge number of restaurants, jewelry stores, hotels, car rentals, and other businesses offering discounts or other incentives to members of our **JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program**. As these additions are made, they will be reported here in *SXM Weekly News* and will also be noted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). We hope to finish these updates late during Q1, 2022.

JMB Website Supporters currently offers roughly 300 discounts and other benefits to its thousands of members.

Want your own \$100 Gift Certificate to Caribbean Gems? Join JMB Website Supporters and we will send it to you. We will start sending Certificates to new members shortly.

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

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

15. Huge News About the '22 SkyMed Sale: Up To 22 Weeks FREE (PLUS Military/First Responder Free Weeks) with New Multiyear SkyMed Purchases ===Only \$1.64/day Gets You Guaranteed Renewable, Price-Guaranteed-Forever SkyMed Annual or Multiyear Medevac Protection

***IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SKYMED,
NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT***

**SkyMed Never Does Sales
-- Except Right Now:**

**Only \$1.64/day - *LESS THAN A CUP OF COFFEE* -- gets
you annual or multiyear SKYMED MEDEVAC protection for
your upcoming trips!**

***Buy it NOW, *BEFORE* you need it -- just like fire insurance.
Annual and multiyear memberships are GUARANTEED
RENEWABLE and PRICE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE, too and
You'll Get Up To ***22 FREE WEEKS***
added to new SkyMed purchases!***

IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SKYMED, ACT NOW:

***For info see the links below, for answers to questions or to
sign up by phone call 508-591-3483 (you can text to that
number & leave voicemail 24/7). NOTE: My prices for
multiyear memberships ARE MUCH LESS THAN YOU
WOULD PAY ONLINE.***

.....SKYMED's BEST SALE EVER IS NOW UNDERWAY!.....

For ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS in 2022:

22 FREE weeks added to all new 5-year ULTIMATES*

12 FREE weeks added to all new 3-year ULTIMATES*
22 FREE days added to all new Annual memberships

"Thank YOU for Your Service"
Bonus for US & Canadian Military Veterans
& FIRST RESPONDERS:

6 FREE months added to all new 5-year ULTIMATES*
3 FREE months added to all new 3-year ULTIMATES*

***What are "Ultimates"? See next story.**

16. DETAILS: Only \$1.64/day Gets You Guaranteed Renewable, Price-Guaranteed-Forever SkyMed Annual or Multiyear Medevac Protection:

WHAT IS SKYMED?

SkyMed is a medical evacuation membership company. "SkyMed Takes You Home®" when you become seriously or critically ill or injured when traveling anywhere throughout the USA, Canada, all the nations of the Caribbean, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Bahamas. Global protection is also available. SkyMed members pay nothing for SkyMed-arranged medical evacuation flights that would cost non-SkyMed members \$35,000 and up – payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that? Of course, you must get your SkyMed membership before you need it – just like fire insurance. You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services [here](#), and you'll find Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

LOW GROUP PRICING *LOWER THAN THE PRICES ON THE SKYMED WEBSITE*:

All of the SkyMed memberships we sell go to either members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program, to members of our various online SXM groups, or to readers of *SXM Weekly News*. The prices we charge for all multiyear Ultimate memberships are substantially less than the retail prices you will see online from SkyMed's website. Call or email us (contact info below) for details on all of our major-league savings on SkyMed Ultimate multi-year membership prices.

LIFETIME PRICE GUARANTEE:

All existing SkyMed memberships and new SkyMed membership purchases of one-year or longer are now price-guaranteed for life. The price of your membership will not increase if you buy during 2022 or if you already are a SkyMed owner of any annual or longer membership: this applies as long as your renewals are paid on time

HOW TO CONTACT US: Phone us ANYTIME at 508-591-3483 (new number, where you can also text us) for answers to questions or to sign up. When you call us directly, we get credit for the sale. You can also email us directly through SkyMed at jeff.berger@skymed.com.

My SkyMed website: <http://www.skymed.com/jmb>. But please call me directly with questions or to sign up.

When and Where SkyMed Protects You:

Basic SkyMed short-term and annual memberships protect you throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. In that SkyMed universe, SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured. Optional protection covering most of the rest of the world is provided by GETS, Global Emergency Transportation Services, a SkyMed company.

• **Key Differences Between SkyMed Short-Term & Annual Memberships:**

Many people who buy SkyMed memberships first request short-term protection. Is that the best solution for most people? That's a decision you have to make, but before you do, here's some important info. **First, short-term memberships** are available only for a specific defined short term. They protect you with SkyMed *Takes You Home*® membership that applies throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Short-term protection cannot be upgraded or renewed since you buy it for specific trip; it's temporary protection. There is no waiting period for any benefits. When you want protection for a future trip, you must make a separate application for it. It is economical if you seldom travel and if you take brief trips. The cost is \$9/day per person, or a maximum of \$15 a day per family (parents and kids 21 or younger). **We always tell people who are 50 or over about the most important advantages of SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships. The single most important benefit is that SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable, regardless of advancing age or declining health.** Details are in SkyMed's Member Services Agreement. We currently have members who are still traveling and are in their upper 80s and 90s. *The cost of annual memberships per family — far more economical than the \$15/day per family for short-term coverage -- is now only about \$1.64/day total.* Multiyear memberships are also about \$1.64/year and have more features; contact me for full information about features of each type of SkyMed membership. **Ultimate memberships protect you worldwide.** I can answer all your questions by phone in minutes, and can also take your application by phone (that way I get credit). Phone anytime at 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER). That's a direct line to Jeff Berger

*What is the SkyMed Ultimate?

The Ultimate is SkyMed's best - and least expensive (on a daily cost basis) form of medical evacuation membership. With SkyMed "Takes You Home"® services in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, plus Global Emergency Travel Services (GETS) almost everywhere else worldwide, the Ultimate is for people who visit Europe, Africa, Asia, and almost anywhere else your wanderlust takes you. It also delivers 18 critically important travel-related services as opposed to 12 with SkyMed annual memberships. **You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services including those provided with Ultimate memberships [here](#).**

• [SkyMed Frequently Asked Questions / FAQ](#)

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well or now WhatsApp, 721-588-4188 (through WhatsApp ONLY), or use our new office line, 508-591-3483. Or email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com (SkyMed inquiries only please). You can also send texts to that 508 line and leave voice messages. Please include your phone number, time zone, callback number, and email address.

--Jeff Berger
1/31/22

17. Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Really Do?

We've always said SkyMed **TAKES YOU HOME**® when you become critically ill or injured -- home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, and home where your health insurance works. ***In recent weeks as many of you have decided to resume traveling, you've asked us for examples of what SkyMed does.*** Several examples are right here:

For answers to questions or to sign up, email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com or call me at 508-591-3483. Open to Americans & Canadians & xPats only. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the last 33 years, SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is available. Cost for family membership is as little as \$1.64/day on annual and multiyear plans. IMPORTANT: Buy directly through me: our pricing for multiyear memberships is much lower than SkyMed's pricing published on the web.

On a recent Thursday at Mullet Bay Beach, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to a hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery.

A few days before, the woman had bought short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

An MD from Florida who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed which arranged and paid for an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works. That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.64/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger 24/7 at 508-591-3483 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. *You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.*

Anything can happen anywhere: Do it now, BEFORE YOU NEED IT. To learn more, visit www.skymed.com/jmb -- our new SkyMed site, now live. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's online pricing for all multiyear memberships, the BEST memberships for most people age 50 or over. More contact info is above.

Thanks for reading this.

18. Rare Shark Attacks in St Martin and Nevis in 2020/21 Were by the Same Animal, DNA Tests Say

Following the fatal bite by a tiger shark of a swimmer in December 2020 in Orient Bay, a team of scientists carried out investigations to understand the causes of the attack.

This type of fatal accident is extremely rare, on average five occur per year in the world, and it was the first in the Caribbean. The scientists therefore considered it interesting to carry out studies, especially since the region-wide database was empty. *For them, the hypothesis was that the animal responsible for the accident had adopted a deviant behavior, and could thus bite humans without reason.*

Doctor Eric Clua, a veterinarian by training and director of studies at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, [convinced-

Ed.] his colleagues to take DNA from the shark on the body of the swimmer, a totally innovative initiative which aims to be able to identify the animal. The most skeptical believe that these samples are useless because the DNA has been damaged by water, salt, etc. and is therefore of poor quality.

Thirty days later, another woman [was =Ed.] bitten by a shark in Nevis. She managed to defend herself with the help of her friends who pulled her out of the water; she survived but lost a leg. Doctor Eric Clua was authorized to take DNA from the member of the swimmer, which he sent to the laboratory where he works in Perpignan in the South of France, to be compared to that taken on the Orient Bay swimmer. The objective is not only to see if the two animals belong to the same family but to know if it is the same animal.

The research will prove to be extremely complicated because the DNA was damaged. "We worked on 22 markers and we had to do it twice," he confides. But after several months of analysis, the results matched. "The probability rate that the shark that bit in Orient Bay is the one that bit in Nevis is 95%," says Eric Clua.

Now the latter begins a new phase of work, that of locating the said shark in order to capture it. "We know that the tiger shark always comes back where it has been. We are therefore going to organize non-lethal fishing in order to be able to locate the animal that we know is potentially dangerous," he explains.

The first series will begin in February in Saint-Martin, others are also planned in St Kitts and Nevis, where the authorities have just given their agreement to the director of studies. The fishermen who will be entitled to participate will have to take DNA from the animals and mark them at the level of the dorsal so that the animals can be identified more easily. "We would also like civil actors to be involved."

These actions are part of a much broader shark research and monitoring programme. A public interest group has been created and is installed in the prefecture. €480,000 have been released to finance this work, which should also make it possible to identify the population of sharks in the West Indies and improve knowledge of this animal species. The prefect would like Saint-Martin to become a center of excellence for sharks in the Caribbean.

Reprinted with permission from the Soualiga Post.

19. Restaurant Reservations Essential as High Season is at its Height

Restaurants are routinely turning people away on all opening nights because we're at the height of high season. Make reservations -- and if you decide not to use them, be both fair and empathetic to the restaurant and cancel your reservation as far ahead as possible. Don't go anywhere, Valentine's Day or any other day, without reservations....

20. French side Curfew Now 1am; What Will Dutch Side Do?

Apparently satisfied that progress in reducing the presence of Covid on the French side of the island has been sufficient, the French side government has changed the curfew on that side of the island from 11 PM to 1 AM. The curfew requires everyone to be off the streets (home or in your hotel or villa) by 1 AM.

On the Dutch side, there is a requirement that restaurants and bars be closed by 11 PM, though there is no curfew requiring everyone to be off the streets on the Dutch side. Nonetheless, progress against Covid has been substantial and many people hope for some change in the restaurant/bar closing regulations in the near future. We will report on that as soon as it happens here in *SXM Weekly News* and also in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

21. Prefet: Border Dispute to be Decided by End of Year

For as many years as most people can remember, the Dutch and French sides have disagreed about where exactly the border is between the countries in the oyster pond area. Captain Oliver's bar/restaurant/hotel in Oyster Pond is at the border and has long been considered Dutch property by its owner and by the Dutch side but the French site disputes that.

Captain Oliver's was pummeled by Hurricane Irma and has sat in ruins ever since because of the border dispute, which has existed since long before Irma. Nonetheless, the Prefet (representative of the French state overseeing French St. Martin and St. Barth) says the dispute will be settled between The Hague and Paris by the end of this year.

We can't answer why Paris and The Hague think this must be settled in Europe and not between both sides of the island.... but now you know.

We'll keep you posted, as always.

22. 139 Shipwrecks Removed from Lagoon, Mullet Pond

The Dutch side has completed its project for removing some 139 sunken boats from both Simpson Bay lagoon and mullet pond. The removal of shipwrecks from the French side is proceeding separately by the company that handled the Dutch side project.

Here are [details](#).

23. Vote for Your Favorite SXM Businesses in USA Today's "Ten Best of the Caribbean"

Sail away and vote every day till Feb. 14, winners announced in all 7 categories on Feb. 25. USA TODAY 10BEST 2022 Readers' Choice Travel Awards for the Caribbean. To see all the SXM nominees in all categories, [click here](#).

24. Restaurant of the Week: Spiga, The Extraordinary Italian Kitchen in Grand Case

Spiga has long been one of the island's top restaurants: one visit early during your next trip will reinforce how exceptional it really is, and you'll be back soon....

Setting / Location: Spiga is at the Northern end of Boulevard de Grand Case in Grand Case, long the restaurant capital of the Caribbean, diagonally opposite Tijon Parfumerie. It's in a beautifully restored old Creole home. Chairs are spaced for proper social distancing and there's open-air seating on the porch if you prefer.

Offerings: Spiga is not one of those old-time red-and-white-checkerboard tablecloth places that serves spaghetti and meatballs with a side of nostalgia. Though they have many traditional entrees, the focus here is on creativity -- from appetizers to desserts. Seafood, outstanding steaks (their fillet mignon practically melts in your mouth), poultry, and vegetarian selections are all meticulously prepared and beautifully presented. The flavors here are very special and the presentation is beautiful. But remember, every course is amazing...so order what sounds best and be prepared to take home leftovers. This is a GREAT restaurant.

Summary: Regardless of your taste preference, Spiga is a MUST while you're visiting SXM. Just GO. Spiga is also a consistent winner of our Everything SXM Culinary Award of Excellence. .

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 2/7/22) Chef-co-owner **Ciro Russo & Lara Russo** haven't missed a beat here as Spiga continues to be simply the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case, where it has a lot of competition. Incredibly irresistible food, great staff, service, and beautiful ambiance. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Absolutely not to be missed.

SkipJacks Seafood Grill, Bar, and seafood Market (featured 1/31/22) is one of the largest seafood restaurants on the island, located in a remarkable site overlooking Simpson Bay Lagoon and many megayachts. With many types of fresh fish cooked to order, SkipJack's is best known for lobster, both the local spiny variety and even some flown in from Maine. Pick your own and have it prepared as you like it. Lots of other choices too for all kinds of appetites. Classic attentive service and delicious everything. It's a must.

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. Truly fine dining in one of SXM's most well known and respected restaurants. The property is rich in history, the owners and Chef Sidney are culinary perfectionists, and you will kick yourself if you don't go here early in your trip so you have time to come back. Sunday Brunch is a must but requires reservations as does dinner. Not to be missed.

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 1/17/22 Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have -- here in SXM or anywhere else. Go. Phenomenal dining. 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 essential. They do not use an answering machine, so call when they are open and let it ring.

The Coffee Lounge, (featured 1/3/22) **Simpson Bay next to Domino's and in Philipsburg at the head of town.** Great freshly roasted coffees, pastries, and sandwiches. Don't miss it.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 12/27/21). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 12/20/21) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more.

Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids & their parents.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (12/20/21) now combined with Pineapple Pete at the Pineapple Pete location, opposite IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay. GREAT sushi rolls and sashimi and much more.

Emilio's: outside Philipsburg (featured 12/6/21) offers extraordinary fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. **Not to be missed.** <https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/>

Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine (featured 11/29/21), **Simpson Bay** Leave your preconceptions behind! A 15-second walk to the side of the building from Republic Bank.. Outstanding dinners (and soon lunches a few days weekly) in Jai's, a fun new contemporary fusion restaurant operated by two young SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Super creative, artfully presented, phenomenally executed selections spanning a spectrum of flavors, aromas, textures, and tastes. You gotta try Jai's! Highest recommendation.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 11/22/21). Open for dinner starting at 5pm except Mon., when they're closed. Fantastic food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Astra Steak & Seafood (featured 11/15/21) is the newest creation of Anish Chugani, who also operates Avantika and Movida in the same area of Simpson Bay. It's new, beautiful, and has high-quality written all over it. We just went and loved it. See <https://www.astrasxm.com/>

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 10/25/21). 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

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 10/11/21) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, now in a beautiful new over-water setting at the Carousel building on Simpson Bay lagoon. Lunch, dinner, and late dining. Karaoke. Co-located with Toppers Rhum Distillery so have some rum (rhum is the French spelling) and rum cake when you dine. Open until late night. Sports on TV. From cops to billionaires, everyone loves Toppers.

Mandarin Pan Asian at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 9/27/21). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Highly recommended.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 9/13/21) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, 9/7/2021: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

Blue Bitch Bar www.bluebitchbar.com, formerly Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar, is THE bar/restaurant to visit on the Boardwalk in Philipsburg. (featured 8/9/21) Great open-air atmosphere, outdoor dining/drinking, entertainment. Their menu is extensive with excellent food, fun atmosphere, and beautiful ocean views. Located on the beach, at the Boardwalk....

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy & Oyster Pond, (featured 8/2/21) Big, outstanding pizza, and sizable portions plus reasonable prices on numerous other delicious Italian specialties. They also have a number of fresh fish entrees you should not miss. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, and on the main drag through Oyster Pond, French side. <https://www.facebook.com/Mamapizzaisthebest>

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 7/6/21) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai. Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by knowledgeable service. Go...you'll become a regular.

Pure Ocean Restaurant at Divi Little Bay Resort, Dutch side (featured 3/1/21) Fine new beachside restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and fine dining dinners. Excellent choices for everyone, innovative menu, beautiful presentation, and downright delicious. Great #Caribbean ambiance on their open-air beachside deck. Attentive service and responsive staff.

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

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?

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.

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

25. Watch for our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence, Being Distributed Now

Early every year for the last 10 years, JMB Communications has been distributing its **Everything SXM Awards of Excellence** to superior businesses throughout the French and Dutch sides of the island. We been working on our 2022 awards and will be distributing them over the next few weeks. Once we've distributed all of them, we will show you the list here in *SXM Weekly News* and also in our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#).

We highly recommend all of these fine establishments.

26. Six-Vacation Giveaway Entries Now Underway; Complete Prize List for "Eight Million Thanks"; Want One?

EverythingSXM.com will be celebrating 8 million visits to its suite of SXM websites by giving away SIX SXM vacations late this coming March.

Want one?

The vacations will be at:

Villa En Sea high on a hill overlooking beautiful Great Bay and downtown Philipsburg;

Colony Manor Golden Daze condo directly on Simpson Bay beach;

Simpson Bay Resort, Marina, & Spa in the heart of Simpson Bay, on its own private beach;

Belair Beach Hotel on its own private beach minutes from Philipsburg;

Divi Little Bay Beach Resort, on its own private beach with a gorgeous multi-level pool and lots of great restaurants on-site; and

Azure Hotel & Art Studio, a small family-owned hotel on the beach and within walking distance of many fine Simpson Bay restaurants.

In addition, there will be a car rental from **Leisure Car Rental** for the grand prize winner, several dinners for two at top island restaurants (see below), and a \$400 women's or men's watch from **Caribbean Gems** in Philipsburg.

Dinners for two will be at **Mario's Bistro; Emilio's Restaurant; Isola Restaurant; Vesna Taverna; Mama Pizza; Movida; IZI Ristorante Italiano** and **Spiga** in Grand Case. *All are subject to limitations set by the owner; if you exceed the limit, you are responsible for the excess.*

Our **GRAND PRIZE** winner will also appear live on **Island 92 radio with Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin** on his Fresh Air in the Morning Program.

ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN AND IF YOU RECEIVE YOUR OWN COPY OF SXM WEEKLY NEWS, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN BUT YOU STILL MUST ENTER. [ENTER HERE](#). If you do NOT subscribe, you must go to sxmweeklynews.com now to subscribe FREE before entering this giveaway. **ENTRIES FROM NONSUBSCRIBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN. PREVIOUS WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.**

27. Where to Park in Philipsburg (Revised 12/20/21)

From **Rakhee Sakhrani, Royal Jewelers, Philipsburg (Edited 12/20)**

Visiting Philipsburg but don't know where to park or there are no spaces available? Take a look at the map for road markings/names posted by Rakhee in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). [Use the Search feature in the group to find her posts; the maps are there.]

I added a few pictures for easy & convenient visuals of the parking spots! There are free & paid areas. It's approximately a 5-7 min walk to front street from these spots!

Free Parking: The Pondfill: Unmarked spots: As you drive into town, you can pull into a spot, it's usually unpaved/dirt/rock area.

Marked free parking spots: There are designated free parking lots on the Pondfill. These are usually full by 11am. If you are an early bird great, otherwise you may have to wait 'til a car pulls out.

New Government bldg free lot: Another free lot, but it's a decent walk to front street. Take the turn by the center roundabout and head toward the white/yellow/green(roof) building.

Paid parking: Center of town: The parking lots is literally in the center of town by the WIB Bank/KFC. This fills up very quickly. **The lot reopened on Monday, December 20, 2021.**

Old Library: This is a new area for paid parking. Very convenient. It is \$2.00 an hour. Easy walk to front street.

Bobby's Marina: This is a little farther down Philipsburg, however it is a great place to park. It's near the grocery store Fairway. Once parked, there is a pathway accessible to the boardwalk via Greenhouse restaurant. Takes you straight to front street. It is a nice scenic walk.

We hope this helps! Don't forget to visit us after you park. Royal Jewelers 44A Front Street (Across from Horizon view hotel)

Thanks Rakhee Sakhrani for this information!

28. Award-Winning Simpson Bay Restaurant For Sale; Pricing Options Offered

VERY WELL KNOWN, AWARD-WINNING SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE. Prime location with on-site parking; all-new kitchen; experienced staff. 100 seats -- indoors and outdoors. Great 6-year lease; motivated owner. TURNKEY OPERATION; SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY.. For information send your name, address, email address, qualifications for buying, and phone number VIA WHATSAPP TEXT ONLY to Jeff Berger; WhatsApp 721-588-4188. Jeff will pass the information to the owner. WHATSAPP TEXT INQUIRIES ONLY PLEASE. **Price including current N. V. concept, name, goodwill, fit-out and inventory, \$595K. Price for lease, fit-out, and inventory ONLY, \$395,000**

Note from Jeff: I have no involvement in this transaction; am just gathering inquiries for the owner, a long-time friend.

29. Important Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters & SkyMed Sales Inquiries

Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales:

Because of volume, email is not the best way to reach us. Here's what's best: First, a Suggestion: **Get the free WhatsApp app.** It lets you make free phone calls (including video calls) worldwide and send free texts, all for zero cost. It is very widely used around the world.

1. **SkyMed – Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone:** If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message; that is a NEW NUMBER.** (Our old numbers were knocked out by the recent Cape Cod storm and are still funky.)
2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters:** Use WhatsApp to send questions to Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's WhatsApp phone number, 721-588-4188, **but call or TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application only.** Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. **INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL,** since all responses are made by email.

30. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 2/7/22)

Our JMB SXM Web Media Sponsors help make it possible for us to research, write, produce, and email you *SXM Weekly News* every week. They also enable us to spend lots of hours making sure our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) fulfills its mission to be SXM's only authentically managed [by a seasoned journalist] interactive conversational SXM news and information portal on Facebook. And their help makes our JMB Website Supporters members-only Island Parties possible (resuming next year) as well as all the working going into enhancing our Island Discount Program now for its thousands of loyal members. Thank You for patronizing our Sponsors! (JMB Communications is based in Massachusetts, USA).

AMUSEMENTS

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

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson
Patty Meotti
Laura Fisher Saxon

AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

BOAT TOURS / BOAT CHARTERS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:
www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

Rumbelly Boat Charters Pleasure boats, motorized and catamaran (new)

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

SXM Beer Brewery

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

Caribbean Brewing

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

Tropicana Car Rental

CHILD CARE & MORE FOR VISITORS

Alisha Brookes

COFFEE / PASTRY & MORE (NEW):

Coffee Lounge & More: Head of town in Philipsburg and Simpson Bay near Domino's

COVID TESTING:

Medcare (near Avantika in Puerto del Sol)

Test-to-Fly (new 1/22)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

DOLLAR STORES

[All in One Place](#) (Near Carrefour and now in Simpson Bay near Domino's)

DUTY-FREE SHOPPING (NEW)

Great Deals on Watches, Bags, Wallets, Sunglasses and Fashion Jewelry:

<https://www.facebook.com/buy.sxm>

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.)

FASHIONS FOR WOMEN

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road, Simpson Bay, opposite Atrium Hotel. (New 1/22)

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](#)

Royal Jewelers (new)

Kay's Fine Jewelry (new)

Joe's Jewelry International (new)

Ballerina Jewelers (new)

LIVE MUSIC

Hole in the Wall, Maho Plaza, Dutch side

MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[Kasprowski Publisher](#)

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

PHARMACIES

Simpson Bay Pharmacy

Orange Grove Pharmacy

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*.

Jennifer's Vacation Villas

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.**

BrightPath Real Estate (new)

RESORTS:

Baker's Suites

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Mary's Boon (new 1/22)

RESTAURANTS & BARS

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

ISOLA

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Soggy Dollar Bar

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)

AVANTIKA (new)

MOVIDA (new)

ASTRA (new)

JAI'S CONTEMPORARY INDIAN RESTAURANT (new)

COFFEE LOUNGE & More, Head of town in Philipsburg & Simpson bay near Domino's **(new)**

RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE

Orders.sx

SOUVENIRS

Flamboyant on The Boardwalk, Philipsburg **(new 1/22)**

SPAS

Sunset Spa, Simpson Bay Resort (11/21)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

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

Villa Vijoux:

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

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

40Weeks (new)

Villa En'sea 5 bedroom Villa, overlooking Philipsburg bay (new)

Relocation / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Wedding Planners / Wedding Venues

[Fawnette Scott-Angelides - Azure Hotel and Art Studio](#) (Fawnette is a minister and she owns Azure, a venue on beautiful Simpson Bay Beach, where beach weddings are her specialty)

Sint Maarten Marry-Me Destination Weddings (new)

Updated 2/7/22

31. Join Our New Conversational Everything SXM Group on MeWe, the Facebook Alternative

For years, you have been able to obtain a great deal of SXM information and photos/videos in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Unfortunately, not everyone is a fan of Facebook, so we have started a new Everything SXM group on a platform that has become a strong competitor Facebook — it is called MeWe.

We urge all fans of *SXM Weekly News* to become members of MeWe and join our group there; [here is the link](#).

32. 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.

33. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll find about 28,000 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.

34. 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

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-591-3483. More info? See skymed.com/jmb or email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

Got a Radio While You're in SXM?

Want to Listen to SXM While You're Home?

Tune In Island92 at 91.9 FM

or On Your Internet-Connected Device

at island92.com ...

and hear Jeff Berger LIVE on the air every Monday

between about 9:45am and 10am island time

on "Fresh Air in the Morning" with Dr. Soc.

35. 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 Web 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 or phone us / text us on WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.)

Tourism is returning in a big way 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 in the months ahead. Contact us today for more information.



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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

"2022 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale" are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 11/22/21)

1. **SkyMed – Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone:** If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message; that is a NEW NUMBER.** (Our old numbers were knocked out by the recent Cape Cod storm and are still funky.)
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preferred) from within the WhatsApp application only. Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL, since all responses are made by email.

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)

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