

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 2/14/22: Ultra-low Fares; Three New Restaurants; Future Hotels; Oceans Resort; Simpson Bay Bridge To Go Bye-Bye; Bar/Restaurant Closings Now 1am; How to Enter Our 6-Vacation Giveaway [Issue #1335 -- 40 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Vol. 4, #1335 ---- Monday, Feb.14, 2022  
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

## [Member News](#)

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

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

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**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:**

- ***Fleeting Ultra-Low Fares Seen for January 2023***
- ***Delta Proposes No-Fly List for Unruly Passengers***
- ***Spirit & Frontier, Two Ultra-Low-Cost Carriers Serving SXM, Seek Merger***
- ***JetBlue Voted Readers' Favorite Major Airline Serving SXM***
- ***American Airlines Voted Readers' LEAST Favorite Major Airline Serving SXM***
- ***Where To Find Our UPDATED "Complete Guide to SXM Entry Requirements"***
- ***Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info***

## **SXM Accommodations:**

- ***Oceans Resort at Divi Little Bay Debuts This Saturday***
- ***Questions Surround Some Future Hotel Plans***
- ***A Word of Caution Concerning Villa Rentals / Cancellation Policies***
- ***Dozens More Timeshare Condo Rentals Added to Our Listings***
- ***Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help***
- ***How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units***

## **Other Island Headlines for Tourists:**

- ***French and Dutch Side Bars, Restaurants Now Both Closing at 1am***
- ***Reservations Essential as High Season is at Its Height***
- ***Simpson Bay Bridge Needs Replacement, Authorities Say***
- ***Mark Yokoyama on The Importance of Biodiversity in SXM***
- ***Philipsburg Promotional Board Issues Spruce-Up Recommendations***
- ***Caribbean Multihull Challenge Review & Results***
- ***Three New Restaurants Coming from Three Seasoned Heavy-Hitter Restaurateurs***
- ***Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Actually Do?***
- ***Vote for Your Favorite SXM Businesses in USA Today's "Ten Best of the Caribbean"***
- ***Restaurant of the Week: Avantika***
- ***Watch for our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence, Being Distributed Now***
- ***Parking in Downtown Philipsburg***

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- ***Award-Winning Simpson Bay Restaurant For Sale***

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- ***First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits***
- ***Please Patronize JMB Sponsors***

***Please see our [complete Table of Contents](#) below.***

## ***In This Issue: 40 News Stories***

**[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](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](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** 3/26/2022 4/2/2022 Week 13 Divi Little Bay Beach Resort 2-Bedroom lock out, 2 king beds & 3 queen sofa sleepers. Sleeps a total of 10. Faces Little Bay, gorgeous view of the water. Washer & dryer in room. Full kitchen. Just steps from the beach. Resort has 3 pools, 1 with a swim up bar. Multiple restaurants on-site. Excellent swimming beach for all ages, variety of water toys for rent on property. About 1 mile walk to Philipsburg. \$1,150 Paul 1-715-897-5634 [pkapla@charter.net](mailto:pkapla@charter.net)

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

### **SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

**SALE 3/5/2022 3/19/2022 Weeks 10-11 Simpson Bay resort and Marina Two one bedroom units,back to back, no moving.** Looking to sell together but may consider separating. Unit has no stairs,convenient for loading and unloading suitcases, groceries etc. Direct beachfront location. Flamboyant bldg. close to pool with pool bar as well. Close to Peli Deli,restaurants, bakery,casino etc. Great views, listen to the ocean from your patio. King bed,en suite bath, AC,granite and stainless kitchen with all furnishings. Living room with 2 Murphy beds for guests, 2 TVs, blue ray player, (sleep 4). \$8500.00 per week Karen. 508-636-3926 [Rinkydy151@aol.com](mailto:Rinkydy151@aol.com)

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

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

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

### **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 All-New "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group**

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

### **Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:**

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

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Complete Table of Contents**

**Section One:** Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Going Home, Etc./ Weather --Scroll Down To This Section--

### **Getting Here:**

1. SXM Looking Forward to Future Transition from Pandemic to Endemic for Covid
2. Fleeting Ultra-Low Fares Seen for January 2023
3. Delta Proposes No-Fly List for Unruly Passengers
4. Spirit & Frontier, Two Ultra-Low-Cost Carriers Serving SXM, Seek Merger
5. JetBlue Voted Readers' Favorite Major Airline Serving SXM
6. American Airlines Voted Readers' LEAST Favorite Major Airline Serving SXM
7. What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled Or Delayed...
8. Our "Guide to Entry Requirements" Second Edition, Is Again Updated; Answers All Your SXM Travel Questions

**Etc.; Weather**

9. Preliminary '22 Hurricane Forecasts Call for Another Above-Average Year
10. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Information
11. **SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals**

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

12. Oceans Resort at Divi Little Bay Debuts This Saturday
13. Questions Surround Some Future Hotel Plans
14. A Word of Caution Concerning Villa Rentals / Cancellation Policies
15. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Available This Winter & Beyond
16. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help
17. 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--

18. 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 Yours

**Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features**

--Scroll Down To This Section--

**19. Huge SkyMed '22 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;**

## THIS WEEK'S TOP ISLAND NEWS:

**20. DETAILS On What SkyMed Is, How It Works, and More**

**21. Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Actually Do?**

22. French and Dutch Side Bars, Restaurants Now Both Closing at 1am
23. Reservations Essential as High Season is at Its Height
24. Simpson Bay Bridge Needs Replacement, Authorities Say
25. Mark Yokoyama on The Importance of Biodiversity in SXM
26. Philipsburg Promotional Board Issues Spruce-Up Recommendations
27. Caribbean Multihull Challenge Review & Results
28. Three New Restaurants Coming from Three Seasoned Heavy-Hitter Restaurateurs
29. Vote for Your Favorite SXM Businesses in USA Today's "Ten Best of the Caribbean"
30. Restaurant of the Week: Avantika
31. Watch for our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence, Being Distributed Now
32. We're Giving Away SIX SXM Vacations - Want One?
33. Where to Park in Philipsburg
34. Important Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters & SkyMed Sales Inquiries
35. Who Our Sponsors Are, and Why You Should Patronize Them
36. Join Our New Conversational SXM Group on MeWe, the Facebook Alternative
37. First Responders / Military / MDs & Nurses Now Get Platinum Benefits
38. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
39. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
40. 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

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

## THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

### SECTION 1: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Covid, & Weather; Etc.

#### GETTING HERE:

## 1. SXM Looking Forward to Future Transition from Pandemic to Endemic for Covid

With the number of active Covid cases on the Dutch side dropping to just over 200 this past weekend, officials involved in setting Entry Requirements are looking forward to the not-too-distant future when, hopefully, they can transition those Entry Requirements from Pandemic to Endemic regarding Covid. No immediate changes to Entry Requirements have as yet been announced. But in many countries around the world, mask mandates appear to be starting to decline. If caseloads and (more important) hospitalizations continue to decline, a slow return to normalcy should be expected.

SXM does not want to make any mistakes that could increase Covid numbers or make the island's residents or its visitors vulnerable. It is looking ahead to changes it may soon be able to make that would represent judicious progress in the return to normalcy while simultaneously avoiding any significant risk of a resurgence of Covid. They've done a great job of managing Covid here in SXM so far, so the likelihood of them doing it right seems to be quite high.

Stay tuned — just as soon as we hear of forthcoming changes, we will publish them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as always and will also publish them here in the next edition of **SXM Weekly News**.

## 2. Fleeting Ultra-Low Fares Seen for January 2023

When they have been out there, they have lasted about an hour to an hour and 1/2 at the longest, not even long enough to allow us to write about them and notify our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program members. We have posted a couple of them in our everything SXM Facebook group....

What we're talking about here is quickly disappearing very low fares by major carriers to SXM from major East Coast cities. Regardless of whether you fly JetBlue, American, Delta, United, or someone else, make sure you sign up for their fare alerts. *That way, you'll receive the news as it happens and will be able to react quickly to it.* One person writing in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) reported that she bought one ticket, called to tell her spouse about the deal, and then was planning to go back to the site to buy the second ticket but the fare had disappeared. So, when you see these great fares, pounce on them — before they have a few seconds to disappear. The fares we saw were only a bit over \$200 round trip per person — quite extraordinary.

### 3. Delta Proposes No-Fly List for Unruly Passengers

Delta airlines wants to make it easier for America's airlines to deny seats to people placed in an unruly passenger no-fly list by the US Federal government. No such list currently exists and that is exactly Delta's point — it wants the Federal government to aggregate information from all airlines flying in the US to make sure that unruly passengers are denied airline seats.

Here are the [details](#).

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### 4. Spirit & Frontier, Two Ultra-Low-Cost Carriers Serving SXM, Seek Merger

Experts don't view it as a slam dunk for approval, but ultra low-cost carriers Spirit and Frontier are seeking to merge in a marriage being pursued proactively by the Chairman of Frontier, William Frankie, for \$2.9-billion. Frankie first expressed his desire for the two to merge when he was Chairman of Spirit almost a decade ago.

A *Wall Street Journal* article on the merger said, "High fees, packed planes with extra rows of seats jammed in, poor customer service, and unreliable schedules are also part of Mr. Franke's legacy, said Joe Brancatelli, editor of JoeSentMe.com, a business travel site.

"He is seminal to what airlines are now. You have to give him that," Mr. Brancatelli said. "Everything that's wrong with air travel—everything that people hate about air travel—is Bill Franke's fault."

Here is the complete [Journal](#) article on the proposed merger - including Mr. Franke's response to the above accusation.

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### 5. JetBlue Voted Readers' Favorite Major Airline Serving SXM

For the third time in the last few years, readers of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) in an unscientific poll picked JetBlue as their favorite major American airline serving SXM. Delta airlines came in second place and of the two other major US airlines serving the island, United and American, American came in last.

It was the third time a similar survey has been run on the site, intending to give prospective visitors to SXM an indication of what kind of service they should expect from the major US airlines serving the island. JetBlue was far ahead of all others in the "favorite" category. It has nonstop flights to SXM from multiple East Coast cities.

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### 6. American Airlines Voted Readers' LEAST Favorite Major Airline Serving SXM

For the third time in the last few years, readers of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) in an unscientific poll picked American Airlines as their least favorite major American airline serving SXM. All other carriers in the survey, which included Delta, JetBlue, and United, were far behind American Airlines as our readers' choice for least favorite carrier.

It was the third time a similar survey has been run a site, intending to get prospective visitors to SXM an indication of what kind of service they should expect from the major US airlines serving the island. American was far ahead of all others in the choice as "least favorite airline." It has nonstop flights to SXM from a number of US cities, plus connections from many more.

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### 7. 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.

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## 8. 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.*

### ***Etc./Weather***

## 9. Preliminary '22 Hurricane Forecasts Call for Another Above-Average Year

Although official full-blown preliminary forecasts for the 2022 hurricane season are still about a month away, hints are being dropped by forecasting authorities that their early estimations are leaning toward yet another above-average season for Atlantic hurricanes. These comments are very preliminary from all concerned, but at this point there does appear to be unanimity -- though all forecasts are subject to change depending on evolving conditions.

As always, we will publish official upcoming seasonal predictions from our own chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather; experts at Colorado State University; and experts at the National Hurricane Center. That information will be published right here in *SXM Weekly News* some time next month.

The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1 and ends November 30. These are the 2022 hurricane names: Alex Bonnie Colin Danielle Earl Fiona Gaston Hermine Ian Julia Karl Lisa Martin Nicole Owen Paula Richard Shary Tobias Virginie and Walter.

## 10. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

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

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



## [Changing Your Email Address?](#)

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

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### 11. 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) any weekday. Thanks..

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

### 12. Oceans Resort at Divi Little Bay Debuts This Saturday

The newest section of the Divi little Bay beach hotel near Philipsburg is being called the Oceans Resort at Divi Little Bay — and it debuts this Saturday, February 19

Their website reads: "Divi Resorts is pleased to announce a new addition to our brand called Oceans. Situated on a private peninsula surrounded by turquoise waters, our exclusive 98-room Caribbean oasis is located within Divi Little Bay Beach Resort and is nestled right next to our expansive pureocean pool and bar.

"The Oceans brand will deliver an upper-tier level of service and ambiance with superior room amenities like plush robes and comfy slippers, VIP check-in, personal concierge services, room only or all-inclusive options, and special touches to make every Oceans guests feel pampered from the moment they arrive."

For much more, look [here](#).

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### 13. Questions Surround Some Future Hotel Plans

Sometimes, things don't happen quite as planned. There have been many instances on SXM were planned hotel or condo developments never happened.

The most recent of these — and the best known — is the **Planet Hollywood Resort** that was planned for Great Bay

beach, on the site of the former Sonesta Great Bay Beach Hotel that was sold just before hurricane Irma came and blew it away.

Although in recent days some construction equipment is being seen on that property, there is no indication that any resumption in construction of a Planet Hollywood Resort or anything else on that site is imminent. Nonetheless, we will keep an eye on the property and let you know whatever we learn.

The **Adonis Hotel** in Cupecoy beach, a very modern low-cost vacation/business travel property within walking distance of Mullet Bay Beach and a number of local restaurants, was to be one of three Adonis hotels on the island — with another near the port in Philipsburg and a third on the French side. Covid has not necessarily scuttled those plans, but it hasn't helped them get going either.

There was **another hotel** scheduled for the port as well, but we've heard no news of it — although a large tract of property has recently been cleared next to the Chesterfield's restaurant.

As always, will continue to keep you aware of all new hotel developments on both sides of the island. Last week, we published two lead stories in this section concerning both the **Beach Hotel** in Marigot just east of the French side drawbridge, undergoing \$40 million in redevelopment, plus the impending announcement (due within 60 days) on the reconstruction and probable renaming of the **Westin Dawn Beach Resort and Casino** in the Dawn beach area.

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## 14. A Word of Caution Concerning Villa Rentals / Cancellation Policies

If you use major online villa rental sites, you may not get what you expect. Worse, their cancellation policies in some cases are very strict and regardless of what problems you run into, a refund from the seller may not be forthcoming.

All of that is why we continue to strongly recommend the Villa rental companies you will find in the Sponsors list in this issue of *SXM Weekly News*. These are local SXM companies that know the market, know the villas, know the owners, and can give you precise, accurate, complete information on what you're getting and on cancellation policies. These are firms with integrity that we recommend.

Nonetheless, things can happen on your end which make it impossible for you to go on vacation — and you may need to cancel your villa rental. For that we suggest you get trip cancellation insurance from your insurance agent. That can reimburse you for the cost of some cancellations.

See also stories 20 and 21.

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## 15. 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](http://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.

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## 16. 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*.

## 17. 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

## 18. 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 this past week sent Certificates to all JMB members.**

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

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

## 19. 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.**

### **20. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## 21. 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](mailto: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](http://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.

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## 22. French and Dutch Side Bars, Restaurants Now Both Closing at 1am

Thanks to the rapidly decreasing numbers of Covid cases on both sides of the island, the French side recently extended its closing hours to 1 AM nightly. The Dutch side followed this past Friday by extending its closing hours to 1 AM as well.

Previously, the French side closure represented a curfew, when no one could remain on the roads. The Dutch side was merely a business closure required of bars and restaurants. Now, both sides are doing 1 AM business closures with no curfews.

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## 23. Restaurant Reservations Essential as High Season is at its Height

Restaurants are routinely now 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 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....**

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## 24. Simpson Bay Bridge Needs Replacement, Authorities Say

Officials in the Dutch side government are now saying that the Simpson Bay drawbridge near Royal Palm Resort has passed its useful life span and needs to be replaced — not good news for motorists, who face delays when the bridge

opens for boat traffic between Simpson Bay and lagoon yacht slips. The matter is being studied to figure out how to handle the situation. Consideration will also be given to further widening the channel to enable even larger yachts to enter the lagoon.

Any replacement bridge would likely cost millions of dollars and today the government is strapped for cash after the 2017 hurricane and the impact of the Covid Pandemic. Nonetheless, this project is inevitable.

We'll keep you posted.

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## 25. Mark Yokoyama on The Importance of Biodiversity in SXM

**Mark Yokoyama** is an American naturalist, author, photographer and wildlife educator residing on Saint Martin. He has a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University and is a former President of the Oregon Entomological Society. He has spent the last twelve years documenting terrestrial biodiversity in the Lesser Antilles. He has published two editions of *The Incomplete Guide to the Wildlife of Saint Martin*, the first book of its kind on the island.

He is co-founder and Treasurer of the non-profit association *Les Fruits de Mer*. *Les Fruits de Mer* activities include public wildlife events, books on wildlife subjects, short documentary films, and *Amuseum Naturalis*, museum of natural and heritage on St. Martin. The association has published a dozen books in English and ten in French. Mark has collaborated with a number of scientists and conservation organizations. Mark does all kinds of nature photography, including wildlife, plant, macro, underwater, drone and microscopy. His photographs have been published in dozens of books and publications, including *The New York Times* and *The Economist*.

The island of St. Martin is rich in unique nature. It is home to species that live nowhere else in the world, including lizards, insects and plants. If these plants and animals disappear from St. Martin, they are lost to the world.

Over 70% of the biodiversity of Europe is actually in overseas territories like St. Martin. Europe and France have committed to protecting unique habitats and the species that live there. These include the preservation of habitat, the restoration and sustainable management of habitat, preventing the extinction of threatened species, integrating biodiversity values into national and local planning and poverty reduction strategies, and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems. These commitments are all outlined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the last 50 years, St. Martin has experienced very rapid development and population growth. Many wild spaces have been lost. There is much less land remaining where St. Martin's unique nature can be preserved. During this same period, dispute over the land owned by the Beauperthuy family have kept significant parts of this land undeveloped. Although this dispute has been a heavy burden on these local families, it may provide an opportunity to preserve and protect local nature.

We recommend an immediate pause in the sale and development of these properties in order to assess the ecological value of this land. The secondary forests on these hillsides may harbor unique species found only on St. Martin or new species unknown to science. This habitat could also be important to threatened species. Biodiversity surveys should be funded to better understand the value of these habitats. It is possible that such a pause might also create an opportunity to come to a more just solution to the underlying land dispute.

In the long term, much more land should be preserved on St. Martin. This should be done to preserve biodiversity. It should be done fairly, so the interests of land owners are respected. All levels of government, the Collectivity and the Prefecture, will need to work together to make this a reality for the benefit of the planet and the local population. It is an obligation that has already been accepted by the EU and France. It should be honored.

The preservation of wild spaces has many benefits to the people of this island. It preserves natural beauty and provides natural protection against hurricanes. It can create jobs in science, conservation and eco-tourism. Wild spaces often include sites of historical and cultural value that should be preserved. Funding is available from Europe that can support preservation on St. Martin while also boosting the local economy. Time spent in nature improves individual health and mental health. The natural heritage of St. Martin is a priceless legacy that belongs to all St. Martiners.

Along with hundreds of other people, we have been working as volunteers to develop a free museum, *Amuseum Naturalis* at The Old House. We have no financial stake in this project, but we have a deep love for this irreplaceable heritage site and the lands that surround it. We have hosted scores of school visits for thousands of local students there. We have seen their reaction to spending time in nature there. We have hosted biologists there as they work to better understand the unique nature of St. Martin. We don't own this site, but we know it, and we know St. Martin can't afford to lose it.

Mark Yokoyama  
Jenn Yerkes



## 26. Philipsburg Promotional Board Issues Spruce-Up Recommendations

The Philipsburg Promotional Board, headed by Valentin Davis, has put together a series of proposals to help revitalize and spruce up downtown Philipsburg at night.

This [article](#) appeared in the *Daily Herald* based upon an interview with Mr. Davis; you will find it interesting.

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## 27. Caribbean Multihull Challenge Review & Results

Although it's tiny by comparison to the giant Heineken Regatta that follows it in early March, the Caribbean Multihull Regatta recently completed its fourth edition amid weather that was sometimes squally but which seemed to add to the excitement presented by this newly minted Multihull event.

Complete results, the full story, and some great pictures are [here](#).

For those looking forward to the Heineken Regatta early in March, we will as usual have complete coverage of that as well as much photography in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), with daily summaries from the Regatta headquarters. For more on the Heineken Regatta, go [here](#).

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## 28. Three New Restaurants Coming from Three Seasoned Heavy-Hitter Restaurateurs

There is lots of restaurant development activity on the Dutch side of SXM. Some of it we've talked about before, but here is a summary — and we will also talk briefly about one new restaurant that's already open.

Here goes:

a) At the former site of **Cheri's Café** in Maho, work is underway totally redeveloping the property. We don't have an opening date, but it looks like these folks want to have the property open sometime during this current high season. The developer is a well-known individual who has developed properties in the Maho area. The new development, we are told, will incorporate multiple small establishments selling different types of food and drink; from that perspective it sounds somewhat similar to the 721 development already open near Pineapple Pete and the new Toppers at the former carousel building.

b) We're told work is now underway at a **property not far from the Simpson Bay pharmacy** to transform it into Jimbo's (James Morris) new restaurant. We know Jimbo originally wanted to open his new place late last year, but that project like many others was affected by nonstop supply chain issues. As soon as it is ready to open, we will let you know more about this new restaurant, who Jimbo's partner is in the project, and much more about the restaurant itself. We do know it's an entirely different concept from the old Jimbo's Mesquite Grill and will not be called Jimbo's.

c) The third new restaurant, being built next door to Mama Pizza in Porto Cupecoy, will be called **Le Mediterranean** (yes, that is the correct spelling). It will offer Mediterranean dining and is being spearheaded by Desmond Culbert, the same chef/owner who currently operates both Mama Pizza locations in Porto Cupecoy and Oyster Pond. We looked inside the construction site last week and can only tell you that it looks quite beautiful.

As you've read here and possibly elsewhere, the new **Bamboo House** restaurant recently opened with a commanding view from the Eastern hill overlooking Simpson Bay lagoon and the causeway. We've given it a bit of time to hit its stride after opening but will visit soon and let you know more. It, too, is a project by a seasoned restaurateur -- Jim Goldman.

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## 29. 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](#).

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## 30. Restaurant of the Week: Avantika Thai

Avantika has long been SXM's top Thai restaurant. The menu is extensive, offering a spectrum of delicious selections with almost infinite variations available. The food is consistently delicious and if you're thirsty, there's a full bar and lounge steps away -- and they know what they're doing.

**Setting / Location:** Avantika is on the second floor of Puerta del Sol, upstairs (elevators available) from Movida Restaurant. The setting offers dining outdoors on the roof or inside, and it's in the heart of Simpson Bay near the Kim Sha part of Simpson Bay Beach.

**Offerings:** If you like lots of choices, this is your place. Avantika offers meat, poultry, and seafood, plus vegetarian selections. Our favorite here is jasmine rice with cashews, chicken, pineapple, raisins, and loads of great taste. We always use chopsticks -- way easier to pick up rice & cashews. For the appetizer -- lots to choose from here as well, but we keep returning to their legendary coconut shrimp. Everything is cooked to perfection and attractively served. They also cater to your cravings for spiciness -- hot-hot-hot or no spice at all, and a spectrum in between. It's all quite delicious and you get ample portions. We get two meals from each dinner there.

**Summary:** Regardless of your taste preferences, Avantika caters to what you seek. Lots of choices and an experienced staff, so the restaurant operates like clockwork. Avantika is also a consistent winner of our *Everything SXM Culinary Award of Excellence*.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Avantika Thai** [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 2/14/22) Avantika is flat-out wonderful; SXM's best Thai. Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by seasoned service. Go...you'll become a regular.

**Spiga**, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html)

**Blue Bitch Bar** [www.bluebitchbar.com](http://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>

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

**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.

## 31. 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.

## 32. 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 Spring.

**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](http://sxmweeklynews.com) now to subscribe FREE before entering this giveaway. **ENTRIES FROM NONSUBSCRIBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN. PREVIOUS WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.**

## 33. 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!*

## 34. 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](mailto: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.

## 35. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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

## **36. 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](#).

## **37. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts**

*If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the*

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

**And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day.** We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit [everythingxm.com](http://everythingxm.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.

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## 38. 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.

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## 39. 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).

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## **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](http://skymed.com/jmb) or email Jeff at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

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**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](http://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.**

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

SXM Weekly News, our [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — *are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.*

Our **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](mailto: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://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingSXM.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://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingSXM.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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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](mailto: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.

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

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

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