

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 2/28/22: Heineken Regatta Taking Over; Future of Westin St. Maarten Resort & Casino About to Be Announced (early details); Dutch Side Closing Time Now 3am; Entry Requirements Changes Appear Likely; Preclearance; French Side Homeowners Issues Finally Getting Attention; Front Street; Toppers Rhum "Best in Caribbean"; La Patrona; Letter to SXM Weekly News Readers from Jeff Berger [Issue #1337 -- 37 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Vol. 4, #1337 ---- Monday, Feb. 28, 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:**

- ***Changes Appear Likely in Entry Requirements; How We'll Notify You***
- ***SXM May Exempt US Customs & Border Patrol Personnel from Island Taxes to Make US Preclearance More Likely***
- ***What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled Or Delayed...***
- ***Where To Find Our UPDATED "Complete Guide to SXM Entry Requirements"***
- ***Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info***

## **SXM Accommodations:**

- ***Answers Finally Coming on The Future of the Westin St. Maarten Resort & Casino***
- ***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:**

- ***Heineken Regatta Set to Begin; Where to Find Our Daily Reports & Pictures***
- ***As Covid Number Plummet, Dutch Side Extends Bar & Restaurant Closings to 3 am***
- ***Webster Family, Victims of French Side Land Laws, Appears to Make Progress***
- ***Social Media Kicks Into Gear to Identify Alleged "Dine and Dash" Perpetrators***
- ***Front Street Repair Project Appears Largely Completed***
- ***Now, More Than Ever: Dinner Reservations Are Absolutely Essential***
- ***Toppers Voted Best Caribbean Rum Distillery for the Third Year in a Row***
- ***Letter To Weekly News Readers from Jeff Berger***
- ***Restaurant of the Week: La Patrona***
- ***Watch for our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence, Being Distributed Now***
- ***Parking in Downtown Philipsburg***
- ***First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits***
- ***Please Patronize JMB Sponsors***

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

## ***In This Issue: 37 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 3/19/2022 4/2/2022 Week 12 and Week 13 Simpson Bay Resort, Simpson Bay Resort, Marina & Spa**  
Two bedroom, two full baths, sleep-six beachfront Penthouse Unit overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Best location at the resort. Flamboyant Building on the beach. Spacious Penthouse unit has two balconies overlooking the water for sunning and spectacular sunsets. Two King size beds , two Murphy beds, sleeps six total. Full a/c, full kitchen, private jacuzzi, flat screen TVs, DVD players, free Wi-Fi and much more. Free parking spot just feet from your door. All amenities of SBR, two beaches, five pools, swim-up bars, several restaurants, beach bar/restaurant, sports bar/restaurant, bistro, casino, nightclub, deli, tennis, exercise facilities, spa. Full Marina with watersports, snorkeling, scuba, sailing excursions etc. A Five-Star, Resort of Distinction Award Winner. Convenient to airport, shopping, entertainment, attractions and restaurants. \$1700 per week, or \$3200 for both weeks rented together Gerald 856 392-7049 **[gwilliams6@comcast.net](mailto:gwilliams6@comcast.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 3/26/2022 4/2/2022 WEEK 13 FLAMINGO BEACH RESORT first floor studio, corner unit. Newly remodeled. Steps to the beach.** Outstanding view from patio. Full kitchen, sleeps 4. \$3,000.00 Wally-1-201-447-0079 [wajoleene@aol.com](mailto:wajoleene@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/jeffbergerseverythingsxmewegroup>

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. Changes Appear Likely in Entry Requirements; How We'll Notify You
2. SXM May Exempt US Customs & Border Patrol Personnel from Island Taxes to Make US Preclearance More Likely
3. What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled Or Delayed...
4. Our "Guide to Entry Requirements" Second Edition Answers All Your SXM Travel Questions

**Etc.; Weather**

5. Weather Seems SLIGHTLY Wetter Than Usual for Late February
6. Our Hurricane Center Has Been Updated for 2022
7. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Information
8. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

9. Answers Finally Coming on The Future of the Westin St. Maarten Resort & Casino
10. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Available This Winter & Beyond

11. 2023 Timeshare & Other Condo Rentals Now Being Accepted for Posting On Our Main Site
12. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help
13. 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--

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 Yours
15. Members May Now Advertise Both Timeshare Weeks They Own and Privately Owned SXM Condominiums for Both 2022 and 2023 On Our Site

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

**[16. Huge News from SkyMed: 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:**

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

**18. Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Actually Do?  
-----A Letter from Jeff Berger**

19. Heineken Regatta Set to Begin; Where to Find Our Daily Reports & Pictures
20. As Covid Number Plummet, Dutch Side Extends Bar & Restaurant Closing Times to 3 am
21. Webster Family, Victims of French Side Land Laws, Appears to Make Progress
22. Social Media Kicks Into Gear to Identify Alleged "Dine and Dash" Perpetrators
23. Front Street Repair Project Appears Largely Completed
24. Now, More Than Ever: Dinner Reservations Are Absolutely Essential
25. Toppers Voted Best Caribbean Rhum Distillery for the Third Year in a Row
26. Getting Answers to All Your Questions About SXM
27. Restaurant of the Week: La Patrona
28. Watch for our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence, Being Distributed Now
29. We're Giving Away SIX SXM Vacations - Want One?
- 30 . Where to Park in Philipsburg
- 31 . Important Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters & SkyMed Sales Inquiries
32. Who Our Sponsors Are, and Why You Should Patronize Them
33. Join Our New Conversational SXM Group on MeWe, the Facebook Alternative
34. First Responders / Military / MDs & Nurses Now Get Platinum Benefits
35. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
36. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
37. 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...**

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## 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. Changes Appear Likely in Entry Requirements; How We'll Notify You

We try not to "crystal ball" here, especially about Covid since it's a moving target. But Covid numbers here continue to fall, with currently only one individual hospitalized on the Dutch side. And, as you will see in another story, the Dutch side has extended opening hours for bars and restaurants to 3 AM.

So, it appears likely to us that some change may soon be forthcoming to entry requirements — perhaps something simpler. We can't say when or what the changes might be; this is more a sense than a prediction. Nonetheless, we urge you to stay tuned.

How will we notify you?

As soon as we hear that changes are forthcoming, we will publish them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as always and we'll also publish them here in the next available edition of **SXM Weekly News**. If the changes are profound, we will also publish a Bulletin for members of our [JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program](#).

## 2. SXM May Exempt US Customs & Border Patrol Personnel from Island Taxes to Make US Preclearance More Likely

As we have reported here before, SXM is taking deliberative steps toward fully analyzing and hopefully finding ways to implement preclearance for people headed to the US from SXM.

The cost to Dutch SXM of setting up this program has been estimated at USD\$60-million plus annual operating fees — a significant chunk of money for a small island. Exempting the customs and border patrol officers of local taxation may help to reduce that figure, and may help make Preclearance happen.

Preclearance, which would be accomplished in a separate departure building for people headed to the US, would enable Americans to go through customs and immigration for the US in SXM, eliminating the need for them to do this after landing in the US. It is a huge convenience especially for members of the US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) **Global Entry Program**, who breeze through quickly.

An additional huge benefit of preclearance is that airlines could fly from SXM to virtually any US city, regardless of whether that city has international arrival capability since flights arriving from SXM would be like local flights in the US without the need for customs and border patrol activity at the destination airport. **Southwest Airlines** some time ago, when declaring that it wants to come to SXM, strongly implied that it looks forward to doing so once preclearance has been implemented. The arrival of Southwest here in SXM could have a major impact on fares from all the cities where Southwest flies.

As always, we will continue to report on preclearance as it hopefully moves from concept to reality.

### 3. 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.

### 4. Our "Guide to Entry Requirements," Second Edition Answers All Your SXM Travel Questions

Our completely new **Guide to Entry Requirements** 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.

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***

### 5. Weather Seems SLIGHTLY Wetter Than Usual for Late February

During the last couple of weeks, weather here in SXM has been slightly wetter than usual. At this time of year, fields tend to be parched and weather tends to be dry, with very brief passing tropical showers. Whether continues to get dry until July, when tropical waves may begin to affect the Caribbean.

This February, however, showers seem to be slightly more frequent than usual, though there is still plenty of sun and lots of parched fields. It's not a big deal and is unlikely to continue; this part of the year is usually quite beautiful -- and far preferable to staying home and shoveling snow.

### 6. Our Hurricane / Weather Center Has Been Updated for 2022

Effective today, Monday, February 21, the hurricane/weather center in our main site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com), will have been updated for the 2022 hurricane season. All 2022 hurricane names will be posted by Monday and there will be other updates to the site. We suggest you bookmark the page so you have easy access throughout the coming hurricane season which starts June 1 and ends November 30.

### 7. 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.*

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## **Changing Your Email Address?**



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

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## **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](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***

## **9. Answers Finally Coming on The Future of the Westin St. Maarten Resort & Casino**

From what we are hearing, we will know the answer to the long lingering question about the future of the Westin St. Maarten resort and casino within the next couple of weeks, or so. Unconfirmed reports that we're receiving from people connected with the property indicate that the nameplate may change to a JW Marriott, one of the most upscale of all Marriott nameplates, converting the Westin to a five star resort.



It also appears that the resort is likely to become more exclusive:

The hotel will shrink from 350 to 150 rooms.

The other units will become part of the timeshare operation currently flourishing as Dawn Beach Club. Sources tell us that there will be two types of ownership; the first is Fractional, for those owning four weeks or more. Marriott will rent out your unit for you for 20% of the rental.

Unit pricing for buyers for building A on the beach or building D end unit will be \$95,000/week, we are told. Other units will be available for purchase at \$75,000/week.

The resort will also be selling full-year ownerships for prices in the millions.

As soon as we have the final confirmed announcement, hopefully including information about when the Resort will reopen, we will publish it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as always and we'll also publish it here in the next available issue of **SXM Weekly News**.

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## 10. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Condo Rentals Available This Winter & Beyond

**Dozens of new listings of timeshare (and soon other) 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 middlemen or agents or anyone else charging commissions. *Usually, timeshare owners charge close to their actual annual maintenance fee costs.*

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

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## 11. 2023 Timeshare & Other Condo Rentals Now Being Accepted for Posting On Our Main Site

Although the 2022 vacation season on SXM is busier now than the island was pre-Covid, there are already expectations that the 2022/2023 season will be even busier. That's why over the last week we have opened our listings to rentals/sales ad submissions for 2023, something we don't usually do until late March.

**Now, ads will be accepted not only from timeshare owners but also now from private condominium owners who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program.** Submit an ad by logging into the secret site using the orange login box below the masthead on every page of [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com). If you don't recall your password, use the forgot password link in the login box to recover it. Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. Before submitting, make sure your membership doesn't expire for at least three months into the future — that's required to enable you to post advertising. You can also renew your membership directly from the secret website.

**Want to submit timeshare or condo rental or sale ads for SXM even though you're not a JMB Website Supporters member?** Membership is required, so click the page curl in our main [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) site and you will find information on how to join JMB Website Supporters, our island discount program that in April will celebrate its 20th birthday.

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## 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*.

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## 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 everythingxsm.com.

The ability to post timeshare rentals on our site is limited to JMB Website Supporters members only, and is not available to any others at any price.

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### 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 recently sent Certificates to all JMB members.**

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

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## 15. Members May Now Advertise Both Timeshare Weeks They Own and Privately Owned SXM Condominiums On Our Site

In case you missed it, a story above tells you that we are now accepting advertising for both timeshare resort condominiums as well as privately owned condominiums on the island directly from their timeshare owners who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. This is effective immediately and includes weeks from both 2022 and now 2023.

For details, please see the story above in this section.

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

**16. Huge News from SkyMed:**

**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**

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

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**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.***

***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 PROMOTION 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.**

## **17. 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 is far more economical than the \$15/day per family for short-term coverage -- it's 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  
2/28/22

## **18. Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Really Do? ---A Letter from Jeff Berger to All SXM Weekly News Readers---**

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.

## 19. Heineken Regatta Set to Begin; Where to Find Our Daily Reports & Pictures

As always, SXM Weekly News will have extensive coverage both here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) of the [Heineken Regatta](#), which begins later this week. You will find extensive photography in our Facebook group, plus daily summaries of how the races went and who won.

More information about daily festivities will also be appearing in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) day-by-day. Because of Covid, the "serious fun" parties of the past are expected to be muted — we will also report on them.

Do expect lots of coverage every day, in words and pictures, as things are happening — in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

## 20. As Covid Numbers Plummet, Dutch Side Extends Bar & Restaurant Closing Times to 3 am

Active Covid cases as of late Saturday were in the mid 40s on the Dutch side, with only one person hospitalized. As a result of rapidly improving Covid numbers, the Dutch side has enhanced the closing time for bars and restaurants to 3 AM effective last Friday night.

See the related story on Entry Requirements in the first section of this edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

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## 21. Webster Family, Victims of French Side Land Laws, Appears to Make Progress

As we have published here during recent weeks, the French government some years ago decided to issue deeds for some properties without bothering to issue titles.

***In recent years, the government of the French state has decided that people without titles don't actually own their property, so it can be seized by the government and sold at auction even though families have been living on that deeded property for generations. That is part of what many French side citizens have been howling about especially in recent months.***

The Webster family became a poster family since their property was sold off by the government for a fraction of its value — and that auction took place off of this island. Large construction equipment was put on the main RN7 road, near the Cadisco gas station not far from Orient beach, in protest of that move. The protesters made their point and the Préfet — the representative of the French state for St. Maarten and St. Barth — took notice, though he decried the road blockage. He agreed to work on behalf of all the French side victims of potential land taking. A number of signs in that area of the French side near the Cadisco gas station illustrate that the land you're seeing may soon be "stolen."

The Webster's recently met in Paris with representatives of the French state, and a delegation should be arriving soon from Paris to examine this issue much more closely and hopefully resolve it in favor of the deeded property owners who don't have titles. Hopefully this will represent the beginning of the end of this kind of problem for thousands of people who own property on the French side of the island.

See more information on this [here](#).

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## 22. Social Media Kicks Into Gear to Identify Alleged "Dine and Dash" Perpetrators

After a couple finished their dinner at Astra roughly a week ago, the woman quietly got up, walked out of the restaurant, and sat in their car. A few minutes later, the man with her got up, walked to the car, and drove away. The process was entirely normal except for the fact that the couple allegedly did not pay their bill before leaving the restaurant — it was an apparent case of what is called *dine and dash*.

Practically every SXM restaurant has video surveillance and recording devices to catch people who do bad things in the restaurant. The restaurant owner immediately went to his security devices, found pictures of the couple and their car including its registration plate and posted all of that on his website. We saw it immediately and shared it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

In social media across SXM, thousands of people were quickly aware of this incident. It appears that it did not take very long for the couple also to be made aware of the fact that pictures of them and their rental car's registration plate had become quite famous — and that publicity was generating hundreds of not particularly complimentary comments from a broad cross-section of people including other restaurateurs.

The message hit home like a runaway freight train.

The next morning, the man showed up at Astra to settle his bill. The owner of Astra had elected not to involve police but was clearly not happy about the theft of services from his restaurant.

Some people suggested to us that we remove the post after the man had returned and finally paid his bill. We had posted the information not only for our audience of 32,000 plus people in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), but we also tagged a number of owners of other restaurants so they could watch for the same people in case anyone tried to pull the same stunt in another restaurant. **The event happened and in our view, there was no reason to remove the post since it served as both a heads up to restaurateurs that this kind of thing is happening and also a heads up to potential perpetrators that social media will swing into action to stop them should they be photographed doing something that isn't kosher.**

The post will stay up on our site.

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## 23. Front Street Repair Project Appears Largely Completed

We been patrolling various parts of the island following up on various stories for you for the last few months. Our route has taken us down Front Street multiple times per week. The good news: Front Street is pretty much back to normal, with most of the road depressions now repaired.

The street is built from what most people would identify as Cobblestones, so it's not a good idea to attempt to traverse it in high heel shoes. Sidewalks are made of a relatively smooth but similar material, so we don't recommend high heel shoes there either. But the bottom line is that Front Street no longer will remind visiting skiers of moguls....

## 24. Now, More Than Ever: Dinner Reservations Are Absolutely Essential

The busiest week on SXM during all of high season is the week of the Heineken Regatta, which is right now. Although dinner reservations have been absolutely essential for weeks, as we've been saying here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), this coming week will be the busiest in years on SXM and you will wind up being turned away if you don't have reservations at virtually every restaurant on the island with the possible exception of McDonald's.

SXM is paradise, not Utopia. We have been in a number of popular restaurants in Simpson Bay and across the island over the last few weeks and in every one of them, we saw the owners meet people at the door who did not have reservations and they had to tell the people who wanted to wait at the bar that **the restaurant was sold out for the night except to people with reservations.**

It is boom time on SXM so make sure you make reservations well in advance at your favorite restaurants — particularly for all week this coming week.

## 25. Toppers Voted Best Caribbean Rhum Distillery for the Third Year in a Row

Voters participating in the USA Today 10 best competition voted the Toppers Rhum Distillery the top Caribbean rum distillery for the third year in a row, a huge honor for the distillery. We will publish more on this in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) including some pictures.

**Toppers Rhum Distillery** told us: "Our family and staff are absolutely thrilled to have won this prestigious award once again. We are especially proud to win this competition in our new location. .We want to thank everyone for their support." Toppers is now located at the former Carousel building in Simpson Bay.

## 26. Getting Answers to All Your Questions About SXM

Regardless of what questions you have about SXM, you can find the answers to any questions either in the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) (where we post our current Guide to Entry Requirements) that answers many questions) or you can simply post a question on our site.

We have over 32,000 members, more than other active SXM Facebook sites combined. Our site is also a unique news and information portal, not typical social media where people post pictures of smiling cats, monkeys standing on their heads, and other pointless items. Our SXM site is strictly SXM focused with no drivel. Join it today at [www.facebook.com/groups/mySXM](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mySXM).

## 27. Restaurant of the Week: La Patrona

**Setting / Location:** On the Marina Plaza next to the new Bovin Steakhouse. La Patrona restaurant is at Simpson Bay Resort. Very scenic especially at sunset. Sofas are outside so you can lounge in comfort near gas heating stations, which usually aren't needed but are there just in case.

**Offerings:** La Patrona was conceived by the senior management of Royal Resorts which is based in Cancun. It was the brainchild of Julieta Sanchez, SBR co-owner and wife of SBR owner Richard Sutton, head of Royal Resorts Group. It is authentic Mexican fine dining (not Tex Mex) -- it's what Mexicans enjoy at upscale restaurants in that country. It is innovative, creative, delicious fine dining with superb service. The shrimp in half an avocado appetizer and the Chicken



Tampico entree are two of our favorites here.

**Summary:** Beautiful upscale ambiance, talented, experienced servers, experienced management, and outstanding food. La Patrona has a loyal following and just won our 2022 Culinary Award of Excellence Reservations are strongly recommended.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort** (featured 2/28/22) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

**Bovin Steakhouse at Simpson Bay Resort, Marina Plaza next to la Patrona** (featured 2/21/22) Upscale restaurant offering sumptuous dining, outstanding service, and more than just steak (though we expect lots of steak lovers will flock here).

**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.maribistrot.com/en/](http://www.maribistrot.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 (rum 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 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.

## 28. 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 distributing our 2022 awards and will finish that this coming week. 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.

## 29. 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.**

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## 30. 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!*

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## 31. 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.
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## 32. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 2/28/22)

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).

NEW TODAY: Navy Beach.

### **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)**

**NAVY BEACH**

**BOVIN STEAKHOUSE**

**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 2/21/22

## 33. 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](#).

## 34. 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](http://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.

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## 35. 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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## 36. 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.**

## 37. 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.

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

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

### 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.)
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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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