

From JMB / SXM Weekly News DOUBLE ISSUE - 3/28/22 & 4/4/22: Airline Cancellations; jetBlue Stops FLL-SXM Flights; US Customs & Border Patrol Preclearance; Planet Hollywood; Westin Announcement; Villa Daffodil; Mama Pizza; Time for You to Get Married Again; Enter Our Six-Vacation Giveaway; Letter to SXM Weekly News Readers from Jeff Berger [Issue #1341 -- 44 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1341 ---- DOUBLE ISSUE --- Monday, March 28 - Monday, April 4, 2022
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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Important Note:

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

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

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

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Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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:

FLOATING WEEK RENTAL ♦♦♦ 3/26/2022 12/17/2022 Dawn Beach Club at the Westin Let us know when you want to go and we'll confirm availability. The rate includes all resort fees, hotel taxes, Wi-Fi and mid-week cleaning service. This luxurious 3 bedroom/2 bath residence sleeps 6 and has spectacular ocean views and is appointed with modern furnishings and finishes including granite counter-tops, fully equipped gourmet kitchen, private laundry room with washer and dryer, flat-screen TVs in every room, indulgent beds and what has got to be the most spectacular sunrises! This unit is completely furnished and includes linens for bedrooms and bathrooms, cooking and dining essentials, ironing equipment, and hair dryers. \$2500 USD/week Kevin 215-499-8614 kswan53@hotmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/6/2022 3/27/2022 weeks, 10, 11, and 12 **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** Three weeks in the same unit with Sunday to Sunday check in: TWO BEDROOMS each with king bed, TV and closets with safes. Two bathrooms, one with a double vanity, living room with 2 single Murphy beds and TV, a full kitchen (granite counters, stainless steel appliances) dining area with table that seats 6. Sliders in the front bedroom and living room open onto a large patio with 2 chaise lounges and a large table with 6 padded chairs. You park your car right in front of the unit. The resort offers a beach, pools, restaurants, piano bar, convenience store, casino, gym, tennis courts, spa and water sports. \$15,000/week Jane 508-221-8181 jbehlke@comcast.net

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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"Like" Our All-New "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group

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

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

GETTING HERE:




1. Why The Surge in Air Travel Demand Makes Things Even Worse for Airlines

When the depth of the Covid Pandemic hit the United States, airlines were hit hard. They had to continue paying their employees or lose them, but they had little passenger revenue coupled with enormous debt to pay on recently modernized aircraft fleets.

In response, some airlines retired older, less efficient aircraft more quickly than they had planned, while others flew active aircraft to southern Arizona, where they could be parked in the desert until conditions warranted returning them to service. News reports during the depth of the recession indicated that many airlines didn't expect a recovery from the pandemic for three years or more. Some airlines gave older employees big incentives to retire early.

Given those experiences and expectations on the part of airlines, you can see why they were caught flat-footed when demand started increasing last fall and went through the roof during the winter, when their business returned to levels not seen since 2019. Indeed, the outlook for spring and summer in SXM is for a continued busy economy as people who love the island can't wait to return.

The problem is that despite the surge in demand, airlines can't respond and are having difficulty meeting very ambitious schedules. The Covid Pandemic followed by the omicron surge, now largely over, left airlines with inadequate staff to fly scheduled flights. The demand for seats on American-based airlines is huge but many airlines simply don't have crewmembers to fly all the flights for which passengers have purchased tickets.

It gets worse, as you will see in the next article   

2. Airline Employees Are Quitting -- And Why Some Are Regretting It

On top of the problems cited in the previous article, many airlines are now faced with another enormous issue. Surging demand throughout the economy means the need for truck drivers, diesel fuel, and jet fuel are all surging but many truck drivers, like many airline employees, have quit in the last couple of years, tired of the demands inflicted on their lives by their jobs. (That is one of many causes of global supply chain issues people in many industries quitting jobs they can't stand in hopes of moving on to other jobs that are more appealing.)

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the rapid escalation of oil prices in much of the world has caused the price of jet fuel to skyrocket and the result is a perfect storm which continues to royally screw up airlines even after the Covid Pandemic seems to be seriously waning.

Some people are calling it the Great Resignation millions of people quitting jobs they can't stand including truck drivers, pilots, flight crews, and others. Widely publicized unpleasant encounters with passengers unwilling to wear facemasks on passenger airline flights, though very rare, plus other factors have motivated many flight crew members to resign and move on. That fact is directly causing many airlines to cut schedules even between city pairs where service has been profitable simply because they don't have enough people to be fly the planes for which they have paying passengers, as noted above.

That's the root cause of many recent cancellations: those cancellations have virtually nothing to do with Covid other than the fact that the Covid Pandemic has led many people to go through significant introspection and life-altering career change decisions.

The only good news for airlines is that some employees who have quit look forward to the possibility of mask mandates being lifted before long -- and they often think about the perks of airline employment including almost free travel to many destinations. The fact that some airline employees are regretting leaving the business doesn't solve the immediate problem but it does give a glimmer of hope that a percentage of them may return in time to help during the busy summer travel season.

In the meantime, we will keep watching this situation with the hope of making everyone aware of what's going on and what to expect.

3. JetBlue Cancels ALL FLL/SXM "Direct" Flights Effective May 1 -- Possibly Resuming in October

Thanks to some of the reasons cited in the previous two stories, JetBlue has canceled all of its nonstop flights between Fort Lauderdale FLL and SXM effective May 1. The airline has not stated when exactly the flights will be resumed but it has said that its target is around October 1.

We believe this schedule change was not due to lack of either current or anticipated demand but rather to the staffing situations described in the previous two articles. We know the passenger load on these flights has been good and anticipated demand through the summer has also been good. Like other carriers, JetBlue needs more people to be able to execute its schedule and meet passenger demands. It's a serious issue for all airlines and it is unlikely to be solved quickly.

4. Numerous Flights Canceled This Past Weekend Due to Severe Weather

JetBlue and Southwest air were two airlines hit hard this past weekend by severe weather that cause the cancellation of numerous flights on those airlines and others. One of the administrators of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) spoke with an official of JetBlue, which issued the following statement concerning their cancellations:

"Over the past several days, severe weather in the southeast and multiple air traffic control delay programs have created significant impacts on the industry," a spokesperson for JetBlue said in a written statement. "We have unfortunately had to cancel flights this weekend, and today cancellations will help us reset our operation and safely move our crews and aircraft back into position."

5. Why to Expect Flight Cancellations To Keep On Coming...

Taken together, all the factors listed in the previous four articles in this edition of *SXM Weekly News* have created a perfect storm for the airlines. Severe weather can be a reality for many weeks every spring in the US, and that is

already happening. Jet fuel prices have increased markedly thanks to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. There is a shortage of employees among all US airlines, from small regional carriers to legacy carriers flying around the world. And thousands of airline employees have resigned in recent months thinking that the grass is greener elsewhere. The current low unemployment rate throughout the US, which in March was 3.6% nationally, means that there are many jobs open across many industries with difficulty filling them. A key reason airlines are short-staffed and canceling flights. It's also a situation which by its very nature is unlikely to be solved in short order, as noted in our stories.

6. Why US Customs & Border Patrol's Recent "Preclearance Annct" is Meaningless to SXM

Several weeks ago, *SXM Weekly News* published an exclusive interview with Brian Mingo, the Chief Executive Officer of Princess Juliana SXM Airport. Among the wide range of topics covered in that interview was preclearance, which would enable Americans returning home to the US to be cleared in advance by US customs and immigration personnel based in SXM.

Mr. Mingo told us at the time that the cost of starting up this program would be in the vicinity of USD \$60 million, and that the first step in the process of possibly moving preclearance from concept to reality is getting the airport fully operational again (scheduled to happen iteratively between later this year and late 2023) and determining how the airport can move toward preclearance while maintaining the level of fiscal responsibility that is essential for the profitability of its ongoing operations. That is the track which SXM Airport is taking, as our story explained.

The statement that was run in the *SXM Daily Herald* a couple of weeks ago stated that the US customs and border patrol wasn't currently considering adding any new preclearance sites because of border issues in the US (Mexican border) and the situation in Ukraine, both of which are straining the resources of customs and border patrol (CBP).

For the record, that situation and that information are both irrelevant to the future track of preclearance for SXM, since the move forward on the part of SXM is a few years away thanks to the fact that it hinges on financial stability and other factors. Chances are high that US customs and border patrol will be finished with its temporary hiatus from preclearance well before SXM is actually financially prepared to go ahead.

SXM Weekly News does not want anyone to be misled by what customs and border patrol has said concerning the near term because it is not relevant to the future of preclearance in SXM for the reasons stated above.

7. Changes in SXM Entry Requirements But Not Yet in Return-to-US Requirements

There was one minor change to SXM Entry Requirements effective April 1. It's explained in a revision to our Guide to Entry Requirements being posted later today in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

There have been no changes yet to requirements that the US has placed on American citizens returning from overseas (such as Americans returning on flights from SXM to the US). Such a change seems to be widely expected but it has not yet materialized. The mask mandate on US flights is also widely expected to be discontinued before long but that also has not been formally announced.

We will continue to monitor this situation and update you as soon as we have new information.

Our **Guide to Entry Requirements** (Second Edition, just updated) 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 access the just-updated 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 directly [through this link](#) if you are already a Facebook member.

Further updates appear likely as the number of hospitalizations on the island stays very low (currently just one on the Dutch side).

8. How Long Can Canadians Stay in SXM?

The length of time Canadians can stay in SXM differs substantially from how much time Americans can spend there. Americans can stay just under six months. Staying longer requires applying for and receiving official permission.

[Here are the details](#) concerning how long Canadians can stay in SXM. This information is from our friends at Bright Path Caribbean who are the experts in this area.

9. Got a Spare \$45,000? You May Need That, In Cash in Advance, to Get a Medical Evacuation Jet Home in a Medical Emergency

\$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance could be what you need to pay out-of-pocket should you need an emergency medical evacuation while traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or anywhere in the Caribbean. By contrast, SkyMed Takes You Home® for zero dollars when you become critically ill or injured in any of those countries if you are a SkyMed member. All it takes is one phone call and SkyMed does everything.

That \$45,000 you would spend assumes that you can make all the arrangements, find and hire the jet, make sure it is properly outfitted for the specific medical problems you face, staff it with appropriate medical professionals who are cleared to travel back home to the US or Canada, and take care of customs, immigration, and loads of other paperwork including ambulances and getting your medical records to the destination hospital.

It sounds complicated because it is and having to do all this in a medical emergency is a daunting task for anyone who has never done it. For about \$1.64/day for an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership, SkyMed will do all of this for you once you make that single quick phone call.

For more information, call us today at 508-591-3483 or Jeff.Berger@skymed.com.

10. 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.

Etc./Weather

11. Unusually Windy Conditions Continue

During the past few weeks, unusually windy weather conditions have been evident across SXM. The wind conditions have been reminiscent of what is usually seen here in December, when weather is transitioning from its normal Fall rainy season pattern to the winter pattern of relatively dry weather.

Although there have been showers, they have been of short duration and are relatively infrequent which explains why many fields and hills are parched.

Residents and visitors alike have been reminded not to use open flames outdoors and to be careful about extinguishing smoking materials to prevent brushfires, which do normally happen in SXM over the next few months.

12. 2022 Hurricane Season Forecasts -- and Why They Really Don't Matter Much to SXM

Accuweather, one of America's most well respected private forecasting organizations, expects another above-average year for hurricane formation. [You can see all of their specifics for 2022 here](#).

Although we cover hurricane season predictions annually from Colorado State University, the National Hurricane Center, and our own chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather in Massachusetts, we remind everyone that it is not the number of storms that matters to any individuals who live or travel in any areas affected by hurricanes. What matters is whether one of those storms hits an area that matters to you personally something that Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin has said repeatedly over the years on his radio station, Island 92

We expect detailed forecasts from Rob Lightbown sometime soon and we will publish important excerpts here in *SXM Weekly News*. We have relied on Rob for many years as does Dr. Soc. [See much more about Crown Weather here](#), where you can also subscribe to their private forecasting service for a very small fee it's worth every penny if you live, work, or play in any area that may be affected by hurricanes. Rob is the guy that other meteorologists regard as the go-to person for accurate, dependable hurricane information.

Of course, no one can predict the movements of every storm with 100% accuracy so do take that into account. But in our experience, Rob's forecasts have been uncannily accurate and useful.

13. Our SXM Weather/Hurricane Center Has Been Further Updated for 2022

See our constantly updated satellite images live 24/7 plus tropical weather forecasts / advisories / watches and warnings as the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially begins June 1, but activity could easily start during May... You'll find it all by visiting the Weather Center our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

Here are four more sources of current weather info:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) **On or off the island, listen to Island 92** -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once so you'll 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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for your SXM Weekly News subscription
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at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com***

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

14. What's Going on Where "Planet Hollywood" Was Supposed to be Built?

It looks like something is soon to be built at the former site of the Sonesta Great Bay Beach Hotel on the land that was formerly supposed to be used for a Planet Hollywood Resort.




For whatever reason, the future of this property has been a closely guarded secret. However, quite a bit of site preparation work was recently done in this area: we photograph heavy equipment on the property several weeks ago



and published those photographs in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). We have seen workers and surveyors on the property and on the street next to it. It does look to us like something is coming but it also appears that the government organizations responsible for permitting such things are staying tight-lipped about exactly what's going to happen.



What we have heard is that a new resort hotel is coming to the property, but we don't know what chain may be involved. We have heard a couple of well-known names of all-inclusive resorts or resort hotels that may be coming to the property, and we have even heard that construction could begin as early as this June.

As always, we'll continue to watch this for you and we'll let you know what happens.

15. Westin Developer's Promised Big Announcement Still Another Big Secret



A few weeks ago, people close to the developers of the Westin St. Maarten Resort and Casino said they would have a formal announcement in 10 days to two weeks about the future of that resort. The only thing we know for sure at this point is that the Dawn Beach Club, which is part of the Westin complex, is thriving but its timeshare owners don't seem to know what is causing the delay in a formal announcement.

We have published information in earlier editions of *SXM Weekly News* regarding the future of the timeshare portion of this development so we won't repeat that information here, but you can see it in our [archives](#).

Regardless of what the nameplate is, it appears that the new resort is going to be an upscale property with fewer rooms, greater exclusivity, and five-star ambiance. Whether it will continue to have a Westin nameplate or be called JW Marriott or something else, we don't know but those two nameplates apparently have been discussed by some resort personnel with Dawn beach club timeshare owners.

We will publish all the final details as soon as we have them. We hope to publish some photography as well in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

16. Extraordinary Villa Daffodil Kept Its Promises During The Downtimes



Almost exactly five months from today, SXM will observe the fifth anniversary of hurricane Irma, the second most powerful tropical cyclone in the history of the world's tropical oceans and the most powerful in Atlantic basin history. The storm battered the entire island and changed many lives in the process.

Irma also spawned its share of heroes across the island -- two of whom are Mary and Phil Beuth, owners of the exquisite Daffodil Villa at Pelican Key on the Dutch side.



Despite hurricanes and pandemics, for 25 years Daffodil Villa, an upscale spot on pelican beach, has survived, providing full pay every day to both long term staff. Totally restored, it is now experiencing a return of most families that have rented over the years. Our warm kudos to Phil and Mary Beuth...true long-time supporters of SXM.

For more on Villa Daffodil, see <https://bestcaribbeanvilla.com/>

17. Reminder / Heads Up Concerning Major Websites Offering SXM Villas/Condos

If you've made the decision to rent a villa here in SXM, we urge you to do so from a reputable local company not some far off website where no one has ever laid eyes on the property let alone verified that it actually exists. We have had many complaints about properties offered on mass-market villa or condo rental sites that turned out to be nothing like what was advertised or that were in deplorable condition.

There are several courses of action here. First, see our Sponsors list in this issue of *SXM Weekly News*, below. The realtors listed there are experienced local companies that know the territory and have a reputation to protect. We've been dealing with them for years and have had zero complaints about their products or services.

Second, a few villas and several villa rental agencies advertise directly on our pages we have had zero complaints there as well.

Third, if you'd like a condo on SXM to rent or buy see our timeshare and other condo rentals, hundreds of them, on our main site, everythingSXM.com. It is generally updated weekly and we have already started to accept rentals or 2023. Rentals were recently added for the Christmas holidays at the end of this year.

18. 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. 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.

19. 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 last month we 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. 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 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.

20. 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*.

21. 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.

22. 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 $\diamond\Delta\diamond$ doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. *If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.*

You won't be disappointed.

Not a SkyMed member? Learn more about it at www.skymed.com/jmb, then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) any weekday. Thanks.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

23. 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](#).

24. 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.

25. Full Discount Update Project Expected to Complete This Summer

As members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program may recall, we have been working with our partners on the island to update and expand our program of discounts and other benefits for our members. That effort is continuing to be developed and is now expected to be completed sometime during this Summer. We have already introduced some aspects of the expanded program including a new \$100 Gift Certificate for Caribbean Gems, explained below; for those who have not yet used it, we recently emailed a link to that certificate to all JMB Website Supporters members. It has proven itself to be a prized addition to the spectrum of benefits already offered to all our members.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

26. 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

***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.

***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.**

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

• **WHAT IS SKYMED?**

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

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

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

• **LIFETIME PRICE GUARANTEE:**

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

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

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

- **When and Where SkyMed Protects You:**

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

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

Many people who buy SkyMed memberships first request short-term protection. Is that the best solution for most people? That's a decision you have to make, but before you do, here's some important info. **First, short-term memberships** are available only for a specific defined short term. They protect you with SkyMed *Takes You Home*® membership that applies throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Short-term protection cannot be upgraded or renewed since you buy it for specific trip; it's temporary protection. There is no waiting period for any benefits. When you want protection for a future trip, you must make a separate application for it. It is economical if you seldom travel and if you take brief trips. The cost is \$9/day per person, or a maximum of \$15 a day per family (parents and kids 21 or younger). **We always tell people who are 50 or over about the most important advantages of SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships. The single most important benefit is that SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable, regardless of advancing age or declining health.** Details are in SkyMed's Member Services Agreement. We currently have members who are still traveling and are in their upper 80s and 90s. *The cost of annual memberships per family 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 (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
4/4/22

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

---An Important Message 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.*** (There were three more calls for SkyMed services by members vacationing in SXM in just in the last few weeks).

Several examples are right here:

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

On a recent Thursday at Mullet Bay Beach, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to a hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery. A few days before, the woman had bought short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger 24/7 at 508-591-3483 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. *You're eligible to*



apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.

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

Thanks for reading this.

29. SXM Staying Busier Than Usual

SXM restaurateurs, hoteliers, and jewelry store owners, along with car rental companies, have been reporting that brisk business has been continuing during the last several weeks. Equally if not more important, they are seeing advance reservations that reflect high pent-up demand for vacations by people who were forced to stay home due to Covid over the last few years and a want to head now to SXM.

"We'll take it, we need it, it has been a tough few years," an owner of two jewelry stores told us. That particular store has many repeat stayover tourist clients, but also caters to cruise ship visitors and local residents. Like other business owners we spoke with over the last several weeks, all are very grateful for the increased business that 2022 has brought them   and they look forward to a busier than usual summer.

Based on reservation information given to us by some hoteliers, the summer of 2022 is looking better from a reservations perspective than SXM has seen in several years. A director at one hotel told us, "we still have quite a bit of space this summer and we look forward to doing the best possible job of filling that space." **Hoteliers are offering significant low season bargains to entice people to come this summer who may not have thought of a vacation in SXM at that time of year.**

"SXM is a smart place for a summer vacation since near-constant trade winds mitigate the temperature, and humidity is far lower than the steam baths experienced in US cities from the East Coast throughout the Midwest. SXM summer temperatures are up in the 80s with soothing breezes and less humidity which make a summer vacation in SXM far more desirable and much less costly than one on the Jersey shore, Long Island, Cape Cod, the Carolinas, or Florida plus *virtually all of our restaurants remain open throughout the summer serving their world-famous cuisine to discriminating people who know what fine dining is all about,*" said widely read SXM travel writer Jeff Berger.

Hotel rates and car rental rates are significantly below their normal winter levels as well. For much more information and answers to questions, please see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), and check our Files there for hundreds of articles or ask your questions of our nearly 33,000 other lovers of SXM."

30. It's Time to Get Married Again on SXM

There are two entirely distinct but equally important messages here:

First, if you've been thinking about planning a destination wedding, SXM is open for business and is the ideal place on the planet for your destination wedding. It is easily reachable from most everywhere with frequent flights from throughout the USA and Canada, and it has people with wide-ranging experience at planning and executing sophisticated weddings at beautiful locations indoors or on beaches with incomparable reception options for small, intimate groups or for gatherings of 150 people or more. **Other people are planning their weddings now, so this is an ideal time to get started whether you want to get married this summer or next winter or later: start planning now.**

Second, SXM is also an ideal site to get married "again" if you're looking to rekindle your vows.

We can recommend two experienced planners. First, Brenda Wathey of [Sint Maarten Marry-Me](#) has been planning weddings of all sizes in a spectrum of locations for many years and knows all the intricacies of planning and completing every detail to perfection. You can contact her through her website.

If you have several dozen guests or just a handful, consider a beach wedding using Fawnette Angelides, a minister who also owns the Azure Hotel and Art Studio on quiet, beautiful Simpson Bay beach. They have deep experience planning all kinds of Beach Weddings and are ready to personally guide you through the entire process. You can [email Fawnette here](#).

31. We're Giving Away SIX SXM Vacations - Want One?

EverythingSXM.com will be celebrating 10 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 now to subscribe FREE before entering this giveaway. **ENTRIES FROM NONSUBSCRIBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN. PREVIOUS WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.**

32. Don't Forget Your Free \$100 Gift Certificate from Caribbean Gems - Yours With Our Compliments

If you haven't yet taken advantage of the \$100 gift certificate we have available for you from Caribbean Gems, plan to do so on your next trip to SXM. Whether you're buying something for \$150 or \$5000, that \$100 savings is still in your pocket.

This offer is exclusively for members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program, which currently offers about 300 discounts and other benefits across the island. If you are not yet a JMB Website Supporters member, know that the program is undergoing a significant metamorphosis/upgrading now to add still more benefits to our "Benefits Master Index", a process which we hope to finish this summer.

If you're currently a JMB Website Supporters member and don't have your certificate, email us with your membership number at JMBCOMMS@Gmail.com and will be happy to send the certificate to you by email if your membership in JMB Website Supporters is current. If it isn't, you must renew it before visiting the island, since the current, active membership card is required to use the certificate. We will email you a certificate once your membership has been renewed. Don't ask for or attempt to present a certificate unless you have your current, valid JMB website supporters membership card in hand   it is a strict requirement to use the \$100 gift certificate and Caribbean gems   either store in Philipsburg on Front Street.

33. The Next Big Thing on SXM: The 2022 Dutch Side Carnival




Easily rivaling the Heineken Regatta in anticipation but likely surpassing it in pure unadulterated fun this year will be the 2022 St. Maarten carnival. Carnival related events begin on March 30 and end early in May. We posted the complete schedule for the 2022 carnival last Friday in our everything SXM Facebook group; see that post for specific information.

For more, go here: <https://www.facebook.com/sxmcarnival>

34. Sargassum Seaweed Reappears; How It's Dealt With

Toward the end of March, some Sargassum seaweed reappeared off the East coast of SXM. The island - both on the Dutch and French sides -- has sophisticated techniques for gathering and removing it without endangering sea turtle nesting sites, common this time of year. Most of the removal is done early to give beachgoers ample time to enjoy the sun.

35. Flying This Summer? Here's Something You Should Know: (three month exclusion)

If you are traveling anywhere this summer, there is a way you can inject tremendous peace of mind into your travels   /strong>

For the first three months of any new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership, SkyMed excludes coverage of pre-existing conditions; after three months, those conditions are covered in full. So...to AVOID ANY IMPACT on your travel plans this Summer or Fall, buy your new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership NOW, at least three months ahead of your planned Summer/Fall travel -- then the 90-day exclusion period for preexisting conditions will end before you travel...

Why get annual or multiyear memberships? SHORT-TERM family memberships (for a week or two) are \$15/day, while guaranteed renewable for life, price guaranteed for life annual and multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day -- less than a decent cup of coffee. Call me at 508-591-3483 or jeff.berger@skymed.com for answers to questions or to sign up by phone.

Available exclusively to Americans and Canadians. SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME(R) when you become seriously ill or injured while traveling in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is also available through GETS, Global Emergency Travel Services, part of the SkyMed group.

36. Restaurant of the Week: Mama Pizza

Setting / Location: Mama Pizza has two beautiful locations, one at Oyster Pond just over the French side border overlooking Oyster Bay and the second at Porto Cupecoy. Both have ample parking nearby and both have stunning views and pleasant tropical breezes.

Offerings: Despite the name "Mama Pizza," these are two full-scale Italian restaurants with not only great pizza loaded with your favorite toppings, but also many traditional Italian favorites. Because of owner Desmond Cuthbert's friendships with local fishermen, he also frequently has "fresh catch" offering of a variety of local fresh fish -- great stuff. Something for everyone here. How about Mahi Mahi parmesan? Not on the menu but of he has the ingredients, he'll serve what you request - no problems. Pricing is reasonable for SXM and the quality of the fish is very fresh and delicious.

Summary: Great dining (takeout available), excellent portion sizes, experienced servers, reasonable prices. Plus, they are a winner of our Culinary Award of Excellence for 2022 for both locations. Lots of easy parking nearby.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy & Oyster Pond, (featured 4/4/22) 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>

Mandarin Pan Asian at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 3/21/22). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Highly recommended.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 3/14/22). 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.

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 3/7/22). 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

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 (featured 2/14/22) Avantika is flat-out wonderful; SXM's best 4hai Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by seasoned service. Go...you'll become a regular.

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

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

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/> . [Featured January 2022] Truly fine dining in one of SXM's most well known and respected restaurants. The property is rich in history, the owners and Chef Sidney are culinary perfectionists, and you will kick yourself if you don't go here early in your trip so you have time to come back. Sunday Brunch is a must but requires reservations as does dinner. Not to be missed.

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 1/17/22 Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have -- here in SXM or anywhere else. Go. Phenomenal dining. Formerly on the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, they are now at the Cliff. Open every day but Monday, they serve both lunch and dinner six days a week. Traditional and highly creative Continental dinners, with Tapas and other selections at lunch. Do not miss it. Reservations essential. They do not use an answering machine, so call when they are open and let it ring.

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

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

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 12/20/21) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids & their parents.

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

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.

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/>

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.

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

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

Located on the beach, at the Boardwalk....

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

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

Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

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

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

37. 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.

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

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

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

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

39. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 3/14/22)

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

AMUSEMENTS

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

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson
Patty Meotti
Laura Fisher Saxon

AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

BOAT TOURS / BOAT CHARTERS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:

www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

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

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

SXM Beer Brewery

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

Caribbean Brewing

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

Tropicana Car Rental

Thrifty Car Rental

SixT Car Rental

CHILD CARE & MORE FOR VISITORS

Alisha Brookes

COFFEE / PASTRY & MORE (NEW):

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

COVID TESTING:

Medcare (near Avantika in Puerto del Sol)

Test-to-Fly (new 1/22)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

DOLLAR STORES

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

DUTY-FREE SHOPPING (NEW)

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

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

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

SkyMed International (Covers the entire USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the #Caribbean Global protection available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats living in these countries.)

FASHIONS FOR WOMEN

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

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Oro Diamante

[Majesty Jewelers](#)

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[Alpha Jewels](#)

[JN Jewelers \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#) NEW!

Jewels & Beyond (Maho) NEW!

[Shoppers Haven](#)

Royal Jewelers (new)

Kay's Fine Jewelry (new)

Joe's Jewelry International (new)

Ballerina Jewelers (new)

LIVE MUSIC

Hole in the Wall, Maho Plaza, Dutch side

MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[Kasprowski Publisher](#)

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

PHARMACIES

Simpson Bay Pharmacy

Orange Grove Pharmacy

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

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A long-time JMB Sponsor, they offer both residential and commercial real estate in every price range. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles what you seek: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Jennifer's Vacation Villas

Century 21 St. Maarten

Sunshine Properties

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

BrightPath Real Estate (new)

RESORTS:

Baker's Suites

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Mary's Boon (new 1/22)

RESTAURANTS, BARS, & BEACH 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)

BUCCANEER BEACH BAR

RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE

Orders.sx

SOUVENIRS

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

SPAS

Sunset Spa, Simpson Bay Resort (11/21)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

VILLA RENTALS / RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.🔗🔗

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

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Vijoux:

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

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

40Weeks (new)

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

Villa Kimon

[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 3/14/22

40. 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](#).

41. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

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

42. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll now find over 32,300 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.

43. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring 2014, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and many Special Editions.

Check it out [here](#). It has just been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few days after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

[Get The Current Low Price on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)

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

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

Got a Radio While You're in SXM?

Want to Listen to SXM While You're Home?

Tune In Island92 at 91.9 FM

or On Your Internet-Connected Device

at island92.com ...

and hear Jeff Berger LIVE on the air every Monday

between about 9:45am and 10am island time

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

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

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

Our [JMB SXM Web Media Sponsorships](#) enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and

want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". **Or PM us on FB for an even faster response.** We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger or phone us / text us on WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.)

Tourism is returning in a big way and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases in the months ahead. Contact us today for more information.

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

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

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

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret. Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsexm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 4/4/22)

1. **SkyMed Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone:** If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message; that is a NEW NUMBER.**
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 .

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

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