

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 4/25/22: Condo & New Restaurants Special Edition; Mediterranean, Bamboo, Bovin, Emilio's, Mario's, Spiga, IZI, and More; The Real Reason DOJ is Appealing the Court Ruling Against the Mask Mandate; Immuno-Compromised, Young Children at Greater Risk Due to Mask Mandate Decision; Seeing Rising Covid Numbers, CDC Urges Continued Use of Masks; See Our "Guide to Entry Requirements"; Message to SXM Weekly News Readers from Jeff Berger [Issue #1344 -- 42 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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RESTAURANT & CONDO SPECIAL EDITION!

Vol. 4, #1344 ---- Monday, April 25, 2022
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

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

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

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



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

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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:***

Getting Here; Weather:

- ***The Real Reason the Department of Justice Is Appealing the Court Ruling Striking Down the Mask Mandate***
- ***Lack of Mask Mandate Makes Travel for Immuno-compromised & Young Children More Dangerous***
- ***As US Covid Numbers Rise Again, CDC Still Urges People to Wear Masks***
- ***Exactly Where to Find Our "Guide to SXM Entry Requirements / Return to US Requirements"(Updated)***
- ***What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled Or Delayed...***
- ***Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info***

SXM Accommodations:

- ***Reminder / Heads Up Concerning Major Websites Offering SXM Villas/Condos***
- ***Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Available for '22 and Lots for 2023***
- ***Condo Projects Booming As Many Visitors Seek More Time on SXM***
- ***Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas***
- ***How Long Can You Spend on SXM?***
- ***Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help (including Residency)***
- ***How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units***

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

- ***An Introduction to Our Restaurant Special Edition***
- ***"Mediterranean" Restaurant Opens Next to Mamma Pizza in Porto Cupecoy***
- ***Jim Goldman's New BAMBOO on the Hillside Overlooking the Lagoon Brings Upscale Japanese Dining to SXM***
- ***Jimbo's New Restaurant in Simpson Bay Inches Closer to Reality***
- ***Multifaceted Restaurants Take Shape at the Old Cheri's Location***
- ***Bovin Steakhouse (With More than Steak) Offers Great Options for Carnivores***
- ***IZI Ristorante Italiano's Renaissance Brings New Fame to Seasoned SXM Restaurateur David Foini***
- ***Don't Forget Mario's, Emilio's, & Spiga -- NOT Just for Special Occasions***
- ***Message To Weekly News Readers from Jeff Berger***
- ***Restaurant of the Week:***
- ***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: 42 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 and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 12/17/2022 12/24/2022 51 Flamingo Beach Resort Lockoff unit, available as a 1 br or 2 br. Great unit at a great resort. Each unit has a terrace, fully equipped kitchen, washer and dryer in the units. Weeks 51-7 available. \$1000 for regular 1 br, \$1300 for larger 1 br, \$2250 or 2 br. For other dates please send me an email S1000 Joe 647-227-3434 jgarro55@gmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/19/2022 3/26/2022 12 Royal Islander La Terrasse 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath unit, sleeps 4. Located on the fourth floor. Enjoy a panoramic view extending from beautiful Maho Bay towards the hills leading into Philipsburg. Watch the planes land and take off from the comfort of your extra large balcony or, for a closer look, from the special viewing area alongside the runway, steps from the pool. It's just a short walk to Maho Beach, Sunset Beach Bar and Driftwood Boat Bar. Great restaurants and shops, casino, entertainment and grocery store are steps away. Underground parking garage on site. Very well maintained property. Management and Staff are the best! Buyer pays transfer fee of \$285. \$3,500 Dotty 609-242-0782 philip.damore@yahoo.com

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

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

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



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

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

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

Search the *SXM Weekly News Archives*:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

Complete Table of Contents

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

Getting Here:

1. The Real Reason the Department of Justice Is Appealing the Court Ruling Striking Down the Mask Mandate
2. Lack of Mask Mandate Makes Travel for Immuno-compromised & Young Children More Dangerous
3. As US Covid Numbers Rise Again, CDC Still Urges People to Wear Masks
4. Exactly Where to Find our Guide to SXM Entry Requirements
5. Got a Spare \$45,000? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a Medevac Jet Home in a Medical Emergency
6. What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled Or Delayed...

Etc.; Weather

7. Getting Closer to Hurricane Season - Where to Find The Latest SXM Weather Information

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

8. Reminder / Heads Up Concerning Major Websites Offering SXM Villas/Condos
9. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Available for '22 and Lots for 2023
10. Condo Projects Booming As Many Visitors Seek More Time on SXM
11. Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas
12. How Long Can You Spend on SXM?
13. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help (including Residency)
14. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units
15. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

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--

16. 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
17. Reminder: JMB Members May Now Advertise Both Timeshare Weeks They Own and Privately Owned SXM Condominiums for Both 2022 and 2023 On Our Site
18. JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Major Update Expected to Complete This Summer...
19. Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters Members

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

20. 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:

21. THE STORY: What SkyMed Medevac Protection Is, How It Works, and More

22. Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Actually Do?

-----An Important Message from Jeff Berger

23. An Introduction to Our Restaurant Special Edition
24. "Mediterranean" Restaurant Opens Next to Mama Pizza in Porto Cupecoy
25. Jim Goldman's New BAMBOO HOUSE on the Hillside Overlooking the Lagoon Brings Upscale Japanese Dining to SXM
26. Jimbo's New Restaurant in Simpson Bay Inches Closer to Reality
27. Multifaceted Restaurants Take Shape at the Old Cheri's Location
28. Bovin Steakhouse (With More than Steak) Offers Great Options for Carnivores
29. IZI Ristorante Italiano's Renaissance Brings New Fame to Seasoned SXM Restaurateur David Foini
30. Don't Forget Mario's, Emilio's, & Spiga -- NOT Just for Special Occasions
31. Enormous Library of SXM Information is On The Web
32. Flying This Summer? Here's Something You Should Know
33. We're Giving Away SIX SXM Vacations -- Want One?
34. Restaurant of the Week
35. Getting Answers to All Your Questions About SXM
36. Important Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters & SkyMed Sales Inquiries
37. Who Our Sponsors Are, and Why You Should Patronize Them
38. Join Our New Conversational SXM Group on MeWe, the Facebook Alternative
39. First Responders / Military / MDs & Nurses Now Get Platinum Benefits
40. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
41. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
42. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

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

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

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

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

GETTING HERE:

1. The Real Reason the Department of Justice Is Appealing the Court Ruling Striking Down the Mask Mandate

The US Centers for Disease Control doesn't particularly care whether the courts reinstate its current mask mandates, recently overturned by a federal court. That appeal is likely to be tied up in the courts for months — far beyond the early May expiration date of the current mandate. So, why has the CDC asked the Department of Justice to appeal the ruling striking down the mandate?

The answer is that *the CDC believes it has legal authority to impose mandates should they be necessary to preserve the nation's health, and it wants to underscore the validity of that authority so it has the agility and authority to impose mandates in the future should that become necessary to stop a public health menace.* It is exactly that elegantly simple.

Please see the other articles in this section concerning mask wearing.

2. Lack of Mask Mandate Makes Travel for Immuno-Compromised & Young Children More Dangerous

Although immunocompromised individuals and families with unvaccinated children under age 5 had made travel plans for this summer based upon the existence of mask mandates, many of those individuals are now forced to reconsider their travel plans because of the danger they see being posed by unvaccinated people potentially sitting next to them — maskless.

"The danger is very real," one said to us during a recent phone call. "I'm immunocompromised because of medical conditions and I was planning to take my three-year-old daughter to see her grandparents across the country for the

first time since she was born before the beginning of the Pandemic. I can't risk my health and hers by traveling across the country in a plane possibly sitting next to someone who is unvaccinated and not wearing a mask."

Two new strains of Covid are killing people every day in the US — and they are both highly contagious. While it's true that hundreds of millions of people worldwide have been vaccinated, it's also true that nearly 1 million people in the US alone have died from Covid since the Pandemic began. Yet, herd immunity still doesn't exist and may not be obtainable since millions of people in the US are still not vaccinated, by choice.

Nobody likes masks with the possible exception of surgeons, who must wear them for the protection of their patients and for their own protection during surgery. Yet, masks have been proven to work throughout the Pandemic — as have all the approved vaccines.

Wearing masks has now become a matter of personal choice. While some people may toss them away, many others will choose to use them to protect themselves and other people around them. We will continue to report on this topic as news warrants.

3. As US Covid Numbers Rise Again, CDC Still Urges People to Wear Masks

Despite the fact that wearing masks is no longer required aboard most US airliners, the US Centers for Disease Control still urges people to wear masks when they are in crowded areas including airplanes.

Although as we have previously reported, the airflow aboard passenger jets is from the top of the cabin to the bottom and not side to side, nonetheless airplanes still present a danger of communicability of Covid and other viruses to their unmasked and especially to unmasked and unvaccinated passengers. Consequently, the CDC is urging people to continue to wear masks while Covid continues its unrelenting march across the planet. Numbers in SXM continue to be low — but you can't be too careful.

4. Exactly Where to Find Our Guide to SXM Entry Requirements / Return to US Requirements (Updated)

Tens of thousands of tourists will be visiting SXM this summer and fall, with hundreds of thousands coming next winter. Planning for all of these visits is well underway.

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 must still apply for the required preapproval.

To access the just-updated second edition of our Guide to Entry Requirements, *which is free*, go [through this link](#) (revised) to the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). You should be able to access the file easily if you are already a Facebook member.

Further updates may happen as the number of hospitalizations on the island stays very low. See next story.

5. Got a Spare \$45,000? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a MedEvac Jet Home in a Medical Emergency

\$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance could be what you must pay out-of-pocket should you need 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 might have to spend without SkyMed 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 records to your Destination hospital.*** By contrast, SkyMed does all of that and its members pay \$0 for the evacuation or ambulances.

Setting up medical evacuations 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 stuff once you make that single quick phone call.

For more information, call us today at 508-591-3483 or Jeff.Berger@skymed.com. Include your phone number and time zone so we can call back and get all your questions answered. We can also take your application by phone in roughly 10 minutes.

6. 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

7. Getting Closer to Hurricane Season - Where to Find The Latest SXM Weather Information

Here are SIX sources of current SXM weather info:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather Center / Hurricane Center" at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops 24/7/365 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](#) 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.
6. 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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***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***

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

8. 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.

9. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Condo Rentals Available for 2022 and Now 2023

Dozens of new listings of timeshare and other condominiums for rent and for sale for both 2022 and 2023 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 couple of weeks.

10. Condo Projects Booming As Many Visitors Seek More Time on SXM

As we have been reporting regularly here in *SXM Weekly News*, condo projects across the Dutch side of the island have been booming in recent years and have created a city-like skyline in the strongly booming Cupecoy area. We have also reported about the boom in restaurants there — you will read about some in our main island news section below, this week.

It seems that as soon as condo projects are announced and presales begin, sales boom. The two twenty-one story Fourteen towers in Cupecoy, which now dominate the skyline there and offer extraordinary visibility across the island and to neighboring islands, are pretty much sold out, despite the fact that the initial tower is only now just about ready for full occupancy (we've already been inside it) and its sister property next door is only about half constructed.

The Hill commercial and condominium property near IZI is quickly selling, and the smaller Drake condominium project near El Zafiro has sold quickly as has virtually every other condominium project on the island.

Please see the next article.

11. Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas

The following list of our sponsor realtors tells you how to contact SXM's best sources of condos and villas across the island:

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 SXM Vacation Rentals (new)

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

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

12. How Long Can You Spend on SXM?

Americans, who dominate tourism in SXM, can spend just under six months on the island legally. Spending six months or more would require residency.

BrightPath Caribbean, a company whose entrance is located across the hall from the entrance to the Avantika restaurant in Puerto del Sol, Simpson Bay, specializes in immigration/residency, purchases of property in SXM, business startups in SXM, and allied endeavors. It also has a sister company, **BrightFuture Realty**, through which it sells SXM real estate.

If you are contemplating buying a condominium or villa on SXM, it will pay you to contact BrightPath Caribbean. Their services will save you an enormous amount of time — and their up-to-the-minute, unwaveringly accurate information will save you copious aggravation in the process of establishing residency on the island should you want to stay for six months or more per year in Paradise. If that's what you're considering, we urge you to contact them [here](#).

13. 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 Caribbean 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. Tell them you heard about BrightPath through Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

14. 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.

15. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

SkyMed Travel offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 15% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for Weekly News readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330   doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. *If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.*

You won't be disappointed.

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

16. 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](#).

17. Reminder: Members May Now Advertise Both Timeshare Weeks They Own and Privately Owned SXM Condominiums On Our Site

We are now accepting advertising for both timeshare resort condominiums as well as privately owned condominiums on the island directly from their owners who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. This is effective immediately and includes weeks from both 2022 and 2023. Submit your ads through the members-only "Secret" website.

Not a member? Join us by clicking the page curl on our main site, www.everythingsxm.com. All the details you need are there.

18. JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Major Update Expected to Complete This Summer...

The huge update we have been working on for some time of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program — which coincides with a major server upgrade and upgrades to two mission-critical programs for our new servers — is taking longer than we had originally hoped.. Unfortunately, this seems to be a common theme among many businesses dealing with personnel shortages among their principal contractors. In any case, we believe this major upgrade should be finished sometime this coming summer. We will keep you aware of program changes and apologize for the delay.

19. Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters and SkyMed Sales Inquiries (UPDATED 4/18/22)

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.**
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.
3. **Our new email is jmbcomms@gmail.com**; use it for JMB Website Supporters membership questions. Thank you.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

20. 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.**

*****These MILITARY benefits are IN ADDITION TO the**

benefits for all new members!***

21. 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](#).

- **WHAT ARE "ULTIMATES"?**

SkyMed Ultimates are SkyMed's best memberships and also its LEAST EXPENSIVE on a cost-per-day basis (about \$1.64/day for family protection). They offer a suite of 18 services and protect you worldwide -- almost everywhere. They are offered in monthly-pay (minimum payment period two years), three-year, and five-year versions.

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 **DIRECTLY** (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 - that way I get credit.**

- **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 Travel 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?**

Again, 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
4/25/22

22. 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.** Several examples are right here:

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

Here are specific examples of how SkyMed works for its members:

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 when serious or critical injuries occur in the "SkyMed universe" , 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 about \$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 take your application 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. 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.

23. An Introduction to Our Restaurant Special Edition

SXM is going through an extraordinary period of growth in restaurants, many of them conceived, launched, and managed directly by seasoned SXM restaurateurs.

This special edition of SXM Weekly News is devoted to two areas of focus: the huge growth in condominium ownership by tourists here in SXM (covered earlier in this issue), and also the major surging growth among restaurants. That growth started months ago and is continuing now. You will read about the new restaurants — or at least as much as we can currently say — in the stories below.

24. "Mediterraneen" Restaurant Opens Next to Mama Pizza in Porto Cupecoy

Serial culinary entrepreneur Desmond Culbert owns both Mama Pizza locations — Porto Cupecoy and Oyster Pond, French St. Martin. A week ago, he opened a completely new Mediterranean restaurant next door to the Mama Pizza location in Cupecoy. All the restaurants are currently open seven days a week.

The Mediterranean restaurant is called Mediterraneen. It serves a very appealing menu of Greek and Mediterranean specials which will be especially appealing to people who either like that style of food, or who want to try something new that is not currently offered on the island, or who are looking for selections of a vegan or of a vegetarian nature. (It offers a spectrum of foods for all tastes.)

Desmond has already posted the complete menu for Mediterraneen in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); simply do a search there for Mediterraneen (with two e's near the end) and you will easily find the menu.

At his Mama Pizza restaurants, Desmond serves not only fabulous pizza but also a full Italian menu frequently complemented by fresh-catch fish. He knows what he's doing, so our expectation of the new Mediterraneen restaurant is that it will be another major success for him.

25. Jim Goldman's New BAMBOO HOUSE on the Hillside Overlooking the Lagoon Brings Upscale Japanese Dining to SXM

People don't necessarily come to SXM seeking Japanese food. But the fact is that SXM is a culinary Mecca, attracting people who love all kinds of international dining to the island — served by renowned, award-winning chefs from around the world.

Jim Goldman has been known on the island for many years. His latest venture is Bamboo House, an extraordinary new upscale Japanese restaurant located on the side of the hill to the east of Simpson Bay lagoon. Much more on the restaurant is [here](#).

To get to the restaurant (for which reservations are strongly recommended), simply follow the directions on their site and park your car in their lot. A shuttle then takes you to the restaurant. The restaurant itself is unlike any other on the island in terms of layout and it offers a unique perspective on Japanese cooking.

To be sure, SXM does have its share of Japanese fine dining restaurants, including both Ginger locations, Alina, Mandarin Bistro, and the sushi bar formerly known as Wasabi Charlie now located at the Pineapple Pete's in Simpson Bay. Bamboo House is new and it is different and we urge you to give it a try on your next visit to the island. You can expect to see more about Bamboo House in coming issues of *SXM Weekly News* as well as in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

26. Jimbo's New Restaurant in Simpson Bay Inches Closer to Reality

Ever since James "Jimbo" Morris closed his namesake Jimbo's restaurant a few years ago, Jimbo's fans have been wondering when he would return to the SXM culinary scene.

After relaxing for a while and appreciating his good fortune at shutting down his restaurant not long before Covid hit, Jimbo spent some time thinking about what type of restaurant did not exist in SXM that he could gather the expertise to develop and run on the island. With a partner who has become very well known over the last few decades, Jimbo has been painstakingly developing his new restaurant in the heart of Simpson Bay while coping with various supply chain issues and the lingering impact of the Covid Pandemic as he completes the development of his new concept at his new central Simpson Bay location.

We won't spoil Jimbo's fun because the announcement will be his to make when he sets the day his restaurant will actually open to the public. The location will be not far from where he was previously and it will have a unique design, a unique menu, a unique pair of co-owners, and we expect it will quickly develop a uniquely fascinated audience of fans of great dining and of Jimbo in SXM.

Watch for much more information on this new restaurant coming soon here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

27. Multifaceted Restaurants Take Shape at the Old Cheri's Location

This past winter, work began in earnest to repurpose and re-imagine the site of the former Cheri's restaurant in Maho,

expected to open soon as an entirely new concept by a seasoned local restaurateur.

Some people have characterized this project as something similar to the 721 bar/nightclub/etc. near the Fedex building in Simpson Bay. While it is true that this facility will house multiple culinary concepts (or so we have been told), we don't expect it to have any controversial noise issues as the 721 project has had since soon after its opening. There is already music in the area, just down the street at the very popular Hole in the Wall bar/restaurant which offers nightly entertainment seven nights a week in a small, intimate location.

The new restaurant on the former site of Cheri's will be larger than the "Hole" and we believe more varied in its culinary offerings — but we have not heard whether it will be offering live music, though that seems a likely next step.

We will provide more information on this new restaurant as it becomes available.

28. Bovin Steakhouse (With More than Steak) Offers Great Options for Carnivores

Despite its name and its positioning as a steakhouse, Bovin has much wider appeal than you might imagine.

First, it has great salads including the Argentinian salad which is almost a meal in itself: it is one of the best salads the vegetarian in our party has had in decades of visiting SXM, she said.

Second, their large portion of salmon is perfectly seasoned and ideally cooked — just the right temperature and prepared painstakingly to your liking.

Third, Bovin offers a mind blowing spectrum of steak entrées. Regardless of which kind of steak you decide to try, we suspect it is highly likely that your eyebrows will go up when you're tasting it. It is just that good. Discriminating steak lovers have been flocking to Bovin during the last several months.

Good steaks don't come cheap — and the stakes you will get it Bovin are clearly among the best you will find on this or any other nearby island. Definitely try Bovin.

29. IZI Ristorante Italiano's Renaissance Brings New Fame to Seasoned SXM Restaurateur David Foini

Anyone who has visited SXM during the past 25 years no doubt has heard of David Foini. David started here in the 1990s after a legendary career as top Chef on one of Royal Caribbean's ships. It was as a result of port visits to SXM that he decided to move there from his home country of Italy about 25 years ago.

In his first job, he had a pasta making business located in Sandy ground called La Raviolina. He soon decided to open a tiny restaurant next door to that site and he called it La Gondola. Working in a neighborhood that was not particularly upscale, he would meet customers who parked in a small lot across the street, accompany them across the street to his tiny restaurant, take their orders, go cook in the kitchen, bring it to them, and do the same for several customers per night — all while still manufacturing pasta for his many discerning SXM customer restaurants.

After a few years, he opened the now legendary La Gondola restaurant at Atlantis casino, serving fine dining Italian specialties to a broad spectrum of discriminating island visitors, including thousands of tourists, billionaires, music, film, and TV notables, prime ministers, governors, and lots of others. It was several years later, just before the beginning of the Great Recession, when he sold La Gondola and opened his current Izi Ristorante Italiano opposite Pineapple Pete in Simpson Bay.

Although the ambiance at Izi was entirely different from the very upscale La Gondola, there has been no mistaking the quality of David's culinary skills. Although there are lots of other Italian restaurants across SXM, some of which are quite spectacular, the one mentioned most often on TripAdvisor and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) especially over the last couple of years has been David Foini's Izi Ristorante Italiano. Over the last year and 1/2 or so, David brought in new chefs from Italy and a number of local assistants and trained them thoroughly on every nuance of his painstakingly developed recipes.

Izi is now better than ever and it continues to win accolades from every direction. In fact, TripAdvisor has selected Izi as the top Italian restaurant on the entire island, and has named it the second best restaurant of any kind on all of SXM (the top restaurant is a French restaurant in Grand Case).

Although David continues to painstakingly work on new and exciting special entrées and his exclusive Tasting Menus,

which are themselves quite spectacular, he has dozens of recipes that are offered every night including his legendary homemade tiramisu for dessert, widely regarded as the best on SXM.

For Izi, now celebrating about 20 years in business, this new Renaissance /culinary love affair means that thousands of fans of Italian fine dining have rediscovered Izi and are spending more and more time there — and that goes for fans of all David's specialties, from his delicious Osso Bucco to his tuna appetizer, flatbreads, hot hot hot sauce, and so many more.

We can't mention Italian fine dining without mentioning two other locations which might be of interest — the multi-award-winning Spiga fine dining restaurant in Grand Case, which remains quite extraordinary, and Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano at Hollywood casino, which offers not only an expansive menu of Italian fine dining dishes but also a great variety of pizzas and related dishes you can have when dining in the restaurant or for takeout.

30. Don't Forget Mario's, Emilio's, & Spiga -- NOT Just for Special Occasions

We have mentioned a number of fine dining restaurants in this edition of *SXM Weekly News* — some new, some not so new. We want to remind you, however, of three exceptional restaurants which should remain at the top of your list not just for special occasions, but for frequent dining simply because they are so exceptional.

Those three restaurants are Mario's Bistro at the Cliff in Cupecoy; Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson plantation near Philipsburg; and Spiga in Grand Case.

Each of these restaurants is reviewed in our Restaurant of the Week feature which you will find below; we won't duplicate here what we have already published there. Suffice it to say that these three restaurants, beyond several that we have already mentioned in this issue, are quite exceptional. Very brief descriptions of each are here:

Contrary to what you might think, **Mario's Bistro** is not an Italian restaurant. Mario is Mario Tardif from Québec, Canada who probably has more experience with Super cold-weather than anyone else living on SXM. He is very widely renowned for his continental fine dining expertise. His restaurant is flat out extraordinary and a long-time winner of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence.

Emilio's, at the site of the former Emilio Wilson estate not far from Philipsburg, is the enterprise of Su and Norman Wathey, long-time culinary standouts on SXM. The building in which the restaurant is housed is a historic landmark on the island, in a beautiful stone structure. Chef Sidney knows his stuff and welcomes culinary challenges. Emilio's is another quite outstanding restaurant and is also a consistent winner of our Everything SXM Culinary Award of Excellence.

Ever since its founding about 20 years ago, **Spiga** has been a standout among all Grand Case restaurants. In our opinion, it is the best Grand Case restaurant of any kind; Ciro Russo and Lara Bergamasco Russo do highly creative things with Italian fine dining in this exceptional restaurant at the northern end of Grand Case Boulevard.

Please don't forget to mention Jeff Berger's ***SXM Weekly News*** when you visit these fine restaurants. Reservations are strongly recommended. See our Restaurant of the Week feature for more.

31. Enormous Library of SXM Information is On The Web

Regardless of what kind of SXM information you need, our sites deliver it.

Here are three examples:

a) our **SXM Weekly News PDF archives** include every edition of SXM Weekly News since 2014 – now approaching 9 years of editions and hundreds of thousands of words of SXM information. Our PDF archives are searchable by keywords to make it easy for you to find whatever information you seek quickly and easily on your computer. (A link to the Archives is in every edition of *SXM Weekly News*.)

b) our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) is a repository for an enormous amount of SXM information posted during its more than 10 years of existence. You can search all posts ever allowed, for any SXM topic — and you will find hundreds of posts on virtually any specific topic. If you don't find what you're looking for, you can always post a question on that site that will tap the brains of nearly 33,000 members — not counting their friends and spouses. The vast majority of our members are tourists who have spent years visiting SXM and who have a wealth of information available.

c) we have a **Files** area in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) with another enormous reservoir/library of island information. Our files are also searchable directly from our everything SXM Facebook group. They are also frequently updated by our admins and moderators, particularly Contessa Aiello who has written most of them.

Take advantage of these resources — and don't forget to thank those who have made them possible.

32. Flying This Summer? Here's Something Else You Should Know

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

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.

33. 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.

34. Restaurant of the Week:

This feature returns next week. This week is our Restaurant Special Edition.

Setting / Location:

Offerings:

Summary:

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Melange International Grill, Port de Plaisance (next to Princess Casino entrance). (featured 4/18/22) A spectrum of delightful offerings from Europe, the USA, and South America. One of the most eclectic menus on SXM. Delicious dining.

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 (rhums 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.

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.

35. 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.

36. Important Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales (UPDATED):

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.**
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.
3. **Our new email is jmbcomms@gmail.com; use it for JMB Website Supporters membership questions.** Thank you.

37. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them

(Updated 4/25/22)

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)

BOUTIQUES

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road opposite Atrium Resort

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

Dollar/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)

FISHING CHARTERS

Taylor Made fishing charters, Captain Dougie. Full day or half day Call WhatsApp # 721-524-7510

Immigration (SXM Residency) / Relocation / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

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.**

BrightFuture Real Estate (new)

My Net Immo (French Side)

40Weeks SXM Vacation rentals

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

NAVY BEACH

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 SXM Vacation Rentals (new)

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

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

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 4/25/22

38. 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](#).

39. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

40. 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.

41. 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 most Mondays
between about 9:45am and 10am island time
on "Fresh Air in the Morning" with Dr. Soc.

42. 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://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. Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 11/22/21)

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