

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 1/16/23: DELTA to the Rescue for SXM After FAA Computer Glitch Snarls Air Traffic; Fewer Hurricanes Possible, but...; 90+ to Attend our SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon in SXM This Week; The Billionaire Who Wants Mullet Bay Beach Resort Back; Mullet Bay Towers Still Stuck in Neutral; Megayacht Sideswipes Drawbridge Control Booth (Again); King & Queen Coming; NOLA is Coming; Repaving [Issue #1379 - 45 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1379 ---- Monday, January 16, 2023
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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Member News

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

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

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

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://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 (or Condo) Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 3/11/2023 3/18/2023 Week 10 **Villas at Simpson Bay Resort Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath suite on the fourth floor of the 5 star rated Villas. Master suite has a large bedroom with king bed, open kitchen fully equipped, dining area, living area, two Murphy beds in living room. Junior suite has two full size beds, small kitchen with half size refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker. Both units have private balconies with amazing views of Simpson Bay, deluxe bathroom with double sinks, free WiFi, flatscreen TV. On premises: great fitness center, pools, beach, water sports, grocery store, nightclub, casino, restaurants. Renter responsible for \$50 timeshare tax at checkout. For more info see: <http://www.simpsonbayresort.com/the-villas.asp>. Entire Villa \$2500 or \$1600 Master Suite, \$1100 Junior Herman 609-954-3669 hkummler@yahoo.com**

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

SXM Timeshare (or Condo) Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/11/2023 4/8/2023 Weeks 10, 11, 12, 13 The Villas at Simpson Bay Simpson Bay resort Sleep 6 unit on the 4th floor closest to the marina building. Master suite can be used as sleep 4 , junior suite sleeps 2 as lock off unit. Stay in one unit and rent out the other! Beautiful view of Simpson Bay with restaurants, jewelry store, casino, pools, and grocery available on the resort and other restaurants available within walking distance. Balconies have full afternoon shade, perfect way to end your day on the beach. Unit was completely refurbished in 2020. Will offer discount if purchasing multiple weeks. \$12,000 per week Deborah 412-952-7577 d_henle@msn.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](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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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. FAA Computer Glitch Inconveniences Thousands Across US

An FAA computer glitch occurred last Tuesday night — but it wasn't until Wednesday morning that the FAA decided it was sufficiently significant to stop all domestic flights until 9 AM, a deadline which was later changed to 1030. The cause of the computer outage is still being investigated. Fortunately, two of the first airports returned to service were Newark and Atlanta, each of which had nonstop flights scheduled to SXM. But thousands of domestic flights were delayed, and consequently subsequent flights using delayed aircraft also were delayed through the day.

For some Delta passengers who didn't make it to Atlanta in time to catch the Delta nonstop to SXM, their problems didn't last long; see next story.

2. DELTA to the Rescue, Orders Extra Flight to Bring Stranded Passengers to SXM

One of the best airlines on the planet is Delta. Their responsiveness in setting up evacuation flights from SXM back to the US when the island was closed down due to Covid almost 3 years ago made a serious positive impression on thousands of passengers who were helped.

On Wednesday, 60 passengers bound for SXM arrived at Atlanta after their SXM flight already had departed; they arrived late to Atlanta thanks to delays caused by the FAA system outage.

But Delta solved the problem. Delta station manager for SXM, St. Kitts, and other Caribbean islands Marco Croes told us, "With the issues today, there was a large group that misconnected in Atlanta. With no options to get them here in the next few days, flights being heavy booked, *Delta opted to operate an extra flight to accommodate 60 passengers to still come and enjoy their vacation here.* It landed at 8:20 [Wednesday night] and flew back empty to Atlanta. Glad we were able to assist this large group to enjoy SXM."

Delta's reputation for excellence was earned by great customer-oriented decisions precisely like this.

3. Reminder: SXM Has No Covid Entry Requirements

SXM's Covid entry requirements were discontinued effective November 1. There is no reason to expect any similar requirements to be reinstated.

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4. MEDICAL EVACUATION COSTS SOAR; Got \$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 related to it.

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.

GET SKYMED NOW FOR THEIR BEST OFFERS! SEE more stories in our main news section.

5. 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 weather or staffing shortages?

This [article](#) gives you answers.

Etc./Weather

6. Fewer Hurricanes in 2023? But...

Preliminary forecasts from some sources are indicating that there could potentially be fewer than normal hurricanes during the 2023 hurricane season, which begins June 1 and ends November 30.

That would be good news, but the counterpoint of it is that *it only takes one storm to screw up a season.* Therefore, as

always, when hurricane season starts, we will be watching the tropical Atlantic very closely and will publish all watches and warnings along with satellite views and more in the weather center in our main site, everythingSXM.com.

Here is [more](#).

Get your SKYMED MEMBERSHIP *BEFORE* you need it. Air ambulances are now more costly than ever: when you become seriously or critically ill or injured while traveling, SKYMED TAKES YOU HOME® to doctors and hospitals you know & trust. Otherwise you must pay tens of thousands of dollars in cash in advance to get a medevac jet -- if you can even do it (NOT easy or fast if you don't know how). SkyMed annual or multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day, and they're guaranteed renewable regardless of age or medical condition at renewal and they are PRICE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE. Why wait? CALL today 508-591-3483 or email us at jeff.berger@skymed.com; include your callback number & time zone please. Protect your family TODAY with SkyMed®!

7. Weather Starts to Morph into Normal January Pattern

SXM weather seems to be ever-so-slowly starting to morph into a more normal late January pattern, which features shorter, lighter tropical showers and more sun than was witnessed during the rainy season over the last few months. As usual, we will keep you posted, especially through our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

8. Where to Find The Latest SXM Weather Information

Although hurricane season officially begins June 1, nonetheless it's best to be prepared before then. In recent years, tropical activity has begun around mid-May. Stay in touch with any or all of these sources of tropical 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. *That page also includes real-time or near-real-time satellite images and radar loops.*
- 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.*

In addition, when storms form or pass near SXM, we expect to run the latest forecasts, watches, warnings, and observations in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), and we will post all of that material directly in the weather center of our everything SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

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at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com

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

9. Establish Residency FIRST if You're Buying a Condo or Villa in SXM

Despite the somewhat curious global economy, sales of condominiums here in SXM continue to roll ahead.

If you plan to buy an SXM condo and spend several months a year here, it is to your advantage to establish residency early. With 10 years of experience, BrightPath Caribbean has the knowledge, expertise, and infrastructure to help you do that with the minimum inconvenience and minimum time spent shepherding the process.

In other words, they know their stuff, they know the latest wrinkles in the law, and they can simplify and expedite the process for you. Mention that you heard about them from Jeff Berger's **SXM Weekly News** and call them toll-free from the USA and Canada at 1-855-203-0050 or in SXM call 1-721-554-8900 to get started.

10. For SXM Condo Buyers, Some Critically Important Advice

Moving to the Caribbean requires a multi-step procedure that involves different citizenship programs. While territories in the Caribbean region have made relocation to the Caribbean easier for people, it's still a meticulous process. It's best to go through the application with seasoned immigration consultants.

Our partner [BrightPath Caribbean](#) is an expert immigration agency that has helped countless people move to their slice of paradise in the tropics. Investors, retirees, and skilled workers who were assisted by the BrightPath team now enjoy life in the land of sun, sea, and sand.

By working with BrightPath's immigration consultants, you don't have to deal with the nitty-gritty of the complicated immigration process. Plus, you avoid delays and increase your chances of approval.

Moving, retiring, and opening a business in Sint Maarten (country abbreviation SXM) all involve complicated, multi-step processes. So leave the nitty-gritty to professionals who are well-versed in immigration and the business climate in this Caribbean country.

BrightPath Caribbean makes your move to Sint Maarten smooth-sailing and fuss-free. You no longer have to deal with complicated paperwork or complex immigration, incorporation, or retirement procedures. Our consultants in Sint Maarten will oversee everything so that you can focus on the important thing -- your new life in paradise.

Moving to St. Maarten

BrightPath Caribbean provides various services to prepare for your relocation, retirement, or venture in Sint Maarten.

Immigration Services

Our team handles immigration matters for individuals who want to relocate to St. Maarten. Moving to this country is no easy task, but the effort is more than worth it. Its beautiful beaches and scenery make it seem like you're on vacation all year round.

BrightPath immigration consultants in Sint Maarten:

- Walk you through the various immigration avenues in Sint Maarten, including investment, employment, family reunification, cohabitation agreements, and more
- Collect required documents based on the avenue for immigration and review them for completeness and accuracy
- Oversee the entire application process and guide you every step of the way

Business Incorporation Services

Our business incorporation consultants see to it that you start your company on the right legal footing. You'll get expert-level guidance in:

Business License. Our experts deliver reliable advice about the right business license for your company if you haven't applied for one yet. We also guide you in applying for the license in St. Maarten.

- Name Search. BrightPath consultants check if your chosen business name is available. If not, we can work with you to form a cleared name.
- Preparing the Articles of Incorporation. Our team prepares and makes sure the paperwork is complete and error-free. We'll also be the ones to file the articles of incorporation.

Business Banking Services

Our team opens bank accounts for existing or planned businesses in SXM to make sure your company starts on the right financial footing. You'll be assisted as you:

- Choose Your Bank. Our consultants review your business banking needs, as well as your in-person and online banking preferences, to help you choose the right bank. Our goal is to find a bank that provides scalable solutions and day-to-day banking convenience.
- Gather Requirements. Our team helps you collect the required documents and review them for accuracy and completeness. We'll also be the ones to submit them and set an appointment with your chosen bank in Sint Maarten.
- Sign Forms. You simply attend the appointment and sign the forms.

Retirement Planning Services

You'll develop a personal retirement planning strategy that takes into account your personal financial goals, the financial risks you face, and the kind of life you want to lead during your golden years in the Caribbean. Our retirement service consultants in Sint Maarten:

- Help you set clearly defined goals for your retirement in St. Maarten
- Improve tax efficiency and help you maximize your benefits
- Plan your legacy in case you want to leave something to your grandchildren or a charitable institution

Sint Maarten Awaits:

There's more to Sint Maarten than beautiful beaches and breathtaking landscapes. The culinary scene is rich and diverse, representing over 100 nationalities, including French cheeses and Mediterranean wines. The shopping experience is divine, and the festivals are spectacular.

If you're eyeing St. Maarten for your retirement or new venture, then you've made the right choice.

11. 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](#). (Link is being updated).

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*.

12. 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

13. Many More 2023 SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Now Available

Dozens of new listings of timeshare and other condominiums for rent and for sale for 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 again over the last couple of days.

14. Reminder: JMB 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 2023 (and starting in March, 2024). 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.

15. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our main site, everythingSXM.com and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting there.

For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of everythingSXM.com. As a member, you will have access to a growing package of about 300 discounts and other benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at everythingsxm.com.

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

16. 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) anytime; don't forget to tell us your time zone. Thanks.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

17. TWO \$100 Jewelry "Gift Cards" NOW FINALLY LIVE (Really): Where to Find Them

They're now LIVE! Your 2023 Caribbean Gems \$100 Gift Certificate is now ready for downloading from the bottom of the home page of our Secret Site. Log in using the orange login box below the masthead at everythingsxm.com. Not only can you download that cherished Caribbean Gems Gift Card, but you will find on our home page a surprise from another business...valued at \$100. These coupons are now LIVE at the bottom of the home page of our Secret Site. Available exclusively to current members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program; you must use them in person on SXM and your current, valid JMB membership card IS REQUIRED along with a government-issued photo ID. For more info on JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on our main site, www.everythingsxm.com.

18. Got Favorite SXM Restaurants / Jewelry Stores? Want Discounts or Other Incentives to Go There? Here's How:

The major update of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program is nearly complete -- but we want even more new discounts & benefits for our members, especially at your favorite restaurants and jewelry stores. You can help make that happen.

HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN: Log in to the Secret Website and check the Discounts Master Index and specific listings for the type of business you like. Then, see if we already offer discounts for your favorite businesses. If not, use Messenger and send us the name of the business and its Manager after you have contacted them asking if they'd be willing to post a discount offer for our members; there is no charge to offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members. If they react positively and join us to offer a new discount, we will extend your active JMB membership by a full year for every business you give us that goes forward with a discount for JMB Website Supporters.

19. Adding Discounts/Benefits Continues; "Updates" Almost Complete

In the next week or two, we expect to finish adding a number of additional new discounts and benefits to our secret site, beyond several referred to in recent editions of *SXM Weekly News* and some that already have been posted in our secret website. We will let you know when the updates are complete and we will spell out some of the most significant ones. Note also that more new benefits are expected to continue to be added to our JMB Website Supporters island discount program in the coming months. As noted above... **if you are familiar with businesses that you believe should be offering discounts or other benefits to our members, please tell them to contact us directly through WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.**

20. Own a Business in SXM? Offer Our Members a Discount or Incentive to Visit You!

If you own a St. Maarten or St. Martin business that caters to tourists, we have a free program that we like you to join: it's called our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. By participating in the program, you will offer our over 30,000 JMB Website Supporters members some kind of discount or incentive for visiting your establishment. We are especially looking for restaurants, bars, beach bars, and related businesses. There is currently no charge for this program.

There are also separate opportunities for SXM businesses to promote what they offer to the over 35,000 members of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) (about 98% tourists); for information on that program, please PM any admin of the [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

21. Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters and SkyMed Sales Inquiries (UPDATED 10/17/22)

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** on which you can also leave text messages
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. You may also phone Membership Services directly at 508-591-3483, which also takes texts.
3. **Our new email is jmbcomms@gmail.com; use it freely for JMB Website Supporters membership questions**. Thank you.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

22. Get SKYMED Global "Ultimate" Medevac Protection for \$1.64/day (Cheaper Than a Cup of Coffee):

Only \$1.64/day - *LESS THAN A CUP OF COFFEE* -- gets you annual or multiyear SKYMED MEDEVAC protection for virtually all 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) or email

jeff.berger@skymed.com. NOTE: My prices for multiyear memberships ARE MUCH LESS THAN YOU WOULD PAY ONLINE.

.....PLUS THIS:.....

**"Thank YOU for Your Service"
Bonuses 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!*****

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

- [WHAT IS SKYMED? WHERE DOES SKYMED WORK?](#)**

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 \$45,000 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 / GUARANTEED RENEWABLE MEMBERSHIPS:**

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 2023 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. SkyMed annual and longer memberships are also Guaranteed Renewable when annual or multiyear fees are paid on time -- guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or declining health.

• **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 (number above). Or jeff.berger@skymed.com

• **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 the most expensive product SkyMed sells on a per-day basis: \$15/day.** They're 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 a specific trip; it's temporary protection. There is no waiting period for benefits. When you want protection for another future trip, you must make a separate application for it and qualify again. **Although at \$15/day per couple SkyMed short-term protection is the most expensive product SkyMed sells on a cost-per-day basis,** short-term protection is economical if you seldom travel and take very brief trips. The cost is \$9/day per individual, 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 Service Agreement (MSA). 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 also 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 and **you pay my unique low Association rates. not available online at SkyMed's website; there you pay retail**). Phone anytime at 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER). That's a direct line to Jeff Berger that also accepts text messages. Updated 1/8/23.

*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, and email address.

--Jeff Berger
1/8/23

24. Answering Your Questions: What Exactly Does SkyMed Do? --- [from Jeff Berger](#)

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 retail 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.

25. 90 Set to Attend Our SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon in SXM; See You There

Thank you to the approximately 90 SkyMed members and others interested in learning more about SkyMed who have registered to attend our January 20 SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon in SXM, which we've written about here frequently over the last few months. The luncheon, with key SkyMed executives in attendance, promises to deliver interesting SkyMed news and updates in a beautiful setting overlooking the Caribbean and Simpson Bay.

We'll be reporting after the event right here in *SXM Weekly News*. Thanks again to everyone who has registered to attend; registration closed January 6.

26. Billionaire Hushang Ansary Says He Owns Sunresorts, Mullet Bay; Why It Matters

According to press reports, billionaire Hushang Ansary is going to fight [the court decision](#) that declared he does not own Sunresorts or the Mullet Bay property, which has been left undeveloped since it was destroyed by hurricane Luis in 1995.

[Here is what he is disputing:](#) The security of many pensions held by residents across the island hinges on the

outcome of this appeal.

27. Towers at Mullet Bay Situation Unresolved 5+ Years After Irma

The saga regarding the status of the land on which the Mullet Bay Beach Resort once stood is only one of two stories regarding the Mullet Bay area. Mullet Bay Beach Resort had been a thriving property until hurricane Luis destroyed it in 1995. It had many rooms scattered over the entire property in bungalows connected by roads and its own bus service. It had many restaurants of all descriptions and its own casino which was the largest and most opulent and popular on the island. The check-in area for the resort was on your right as you enter the Mullet Bay area from Maho, after the first turn to the left. Only a bit of the flooring outside the reception area remains. The property is still totally undeveloped — probably the most valuable piece of beachfront property anywhere on the island.

Meanwhile, the Towers at Mullet Bay timeshare resort has been embroiled in the controversy between Hushang Ansary and the Ennina insurance company. As a result, its timeshare owners have nothing; all the thousands of dollars they had spent to buy timesharing there remains inaccessible, as it has been since hurricane Irma struck in 2017.

Hopefully, when this latest court case has been resolved, the logjam can be loosened and perhaps timeshare owners can finally get access what they spent their hard-earned money on.

SXM is still in serious need of Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection with real teeth. The island has talked about it for years but nothing significant has resulted.

28. Megayacht Sideswipes Drawbridge Control Booth; No One Hurt, But Booth Seriously Damaged (Again)

Not too many years ago, a large megayacht left one of its hatch doors open as it was gliding through the channel at the Simpson Bay drawbridge. Recognizing that he was about to be sliced in half by the open hatch that was quickly approaching his control booth next to the channel, the operator fled in a hurry — probably saving his life. Sometime later, the control booth, which had been turned into the equivalent of toothpicks, was replaced.

A couple of weeks ago, another megayacht sideswiped the new control booth. Fortunately no one was injured but the control booth was severely damaged, government sources claimed. It was removed last week. The bridge continues to be operable from a separate location. It is not known when the control booth will be replaced or how future events like this can be prevented.

29. King & Queen of Netherlands to Visit SXM

The story is [here](#). Because of security, when they are traveling around the Dutch side, traffic may be impacted. From the story though it appears their travel may be limited.

30. "NOLA" Bayou Bistro Sign Goes Up; Jimbo's New Restaurant

There is now a new sign in Simpson Bay for Jimbo's new restaurant, Nola, which is the expression used in the New Orleans area for New Orleans Louisiana. The sign describes the restaurant as a Bayou Bistro, the only one of its kind in SXM. Jimbo formerly operated Jimbo's Mesquite Grill only a few steps away from his new location on the water of Simpson Bay lagoon.

For an interview with Jimbo about the new restaurant, please search the term Jimbo in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

31. French Side Paving Resumes: Why It Had Stopped

The paving project on the French side, announced several weeks ago, completed paving in multiple areas in and near Marigot — then it suddenly stopped, due to supply chain issues. Now apparently those issues have been overcome and paving activity is resuming in Marigot and apparently in the RN 7 highway area around the French side. Don't be surprised to see some delays as a result of this activity.

32. Unusual Things That May Appear on SXM Roads...

Driving in SXM is totally unlike driving in the USA or Canada.

There are no superhighways here — just mostly two-lane roads that at some point get you where you want to go. Expect the unexpected here.

For example, it is not unusual for motorists to stop their car to talk to someone coming in the opposite direction, blocking traffic both ways. Private buses, of which there are many, sometimes think it is perfectly fine to stop in the middle of the road to pick up or discharge passengers — or to talk to someone standing on the sidewalk.

More disconcerting are the animals that you might find on SXM roadways.

Over the years, we have seen numerous iguanas (most of whom don't make it across the road), cows, oxen, horses, uncountable numbers of goats, widely scattered peacocks, donkeys (do not feed them; they will surround your car and stick their snorting faces in your window), occasional piglets or giant hogs, and we have also seen a raccoon (there are wild raccoons here).

But probably the most surprising thing you may see on some roads are wild Vervet monkeys, which may be seen on both sides of the island. They seem to be the most wary of animals and usually get out of the way quickly for approaching cars.

During butterfly season you may also see thousands of butterflies in some roads (late October and parts of November usually).

Then there are also the mongoose and tarantulas (but they are usually seen only on hilltops)...

33. Why Using Credit Cards, Not Debit, is Wise on SXM

It was in the 80s that debit cards truly became the rage. People thought it was better to have money for purchases taken directly from their checking account instead of some credit card, so they didn't rack up a sizable credit card balance.

But bankers we've spoken to don't advise doing that. If there is a problem on your debit card, it is your money that is then tied up — and resolving that situation can take some time during which you may not be able to get funds from your debit card. An executive with a major national bank strongly suggest using credit cards instead since any dispute regarding those cards involves the bank's money, not yours — and your ability to access funds through an ATM is not impeded.

Of course, the other reason is that many credit cards today deliver airline miles, a significant consideration. It is never wise to take a lot of cash to SXM. The only thing you need cash for is gratuities, and you can withdraw money from ATMs using your debit card if you need more cash. It's also significant that in an era of "tap," you can simply touch your credit card to a wireless terminal — so the card never leaves your hands and the opportunity for a third party to read all its useful information is almost totally eliminated.

34. No Public Underground Parking at Royal Islander in Maho

If in the past you may have used the large underground parking garage under the Royal Islander in Maho for parking while you visited nearby Maho businesses, you can now forget that option unless you are a guest at the Royal Islander. Parking is now limited to guests only, although no sign proclaiming that is at the entrance to the parking garage. We've seen a number of people having to back out of the garage in the face of incoming traffic since there is no sign.

There is ample parking in the main Maho garage, the entrance to which is down a short access road next to SXM Cigars in Maho Plaza. The garage is decently lit at night and the people there are friendly and helpful. You pay at the exit when leaving — and the prices are low.

35. How to Watch Planes at SXM Airport Without Being Blown Into the Water or Sandblasted

If you like the idea of watching planes fly into SXM Airport only a few feet above your head, Maho beach next to Beacon Hill Rd. is where you want to go. Often, though, it becomes a sea of humanity crowding to watch planes come and go. In addition, if you stand in the road or on the beach lined up against the middle of the runway, you are very likely to get sandblasted or blown into the ocean when planes take off over the mountains.

People have been injured doing this and there have been injuries resulting in death. In addition, Beacon Hill Rd. is busy, serving residents and visitors of the Beacon Hill residential community, guests at nearby hotels and guesthouses, and buses bringing in tourists for nearby bars and restaurants or plane gawking. Stay out of the road to avoid being an object of derision by drivers who want to get where they're going.

How can you watch the planes without all this confusion? Go [here](#) instead.

36. POPULAR DUTCH SIDE RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Prime location in Simpson Bay... 100 seats... Interior and terrace... Fully equipped... In excellent condition... Good lease... Correct rent. Off-street parking.

Price including current N. V. concept, name and good will, fit-out and inventory, \$595,000. Price for the lease, fit out, and inventory only, \$395,000. For further information please contact SXMrestaurantforsale@gmail.com

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37. Restaurant of the Week: Bold Buddha

What/Where: Located on the Boardwalk at the Horizon View Hotel, Bold Buddha (by the same folks who operate both Coffee Lounge locations here) delivers great tapas and an eclectic spectrum of other edibles in their attractive Boardwalk location near the center of town (49 Front St.).

Particulars: An assortment of snacks, sushi, sandwiches, and more, with delicious drinks. Open for lunch and dinner; entertainment is also offered at times. A great respite from shopping in town.... I grabbed a burger and it was thick and delicious.

Next week: Another fine SXM restaurant.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Bold Buddha Bar/Restaurant, 49 Front Street at Horizon View Hotel, Philipsburg (featured 1/16/23) Cool new place with seasoned service, very good tapas / Caribbean / Asian and other food, a superb location, and a perfect concept. Highly recommended; something new and different. Ideal place to cool off with a delicious drink and make your taste buds happy.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy & Oyster Pond, (featured 1/9/23) Big, outstanding pizza, and sizable portions plus

reasonable prices on numerous other delicious Italian specialties. They also have 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>

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured 12/26/22] 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.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 12/19/22). Now open every day but Monday for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining, reasonable pricing.

Mandarin Pan Asian at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 12/12/22). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Delicious food and excellent service. Highly recommended.

Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine (featured 12/5/22), **Simpson Bay** Leave your preconceptions behind! A 15-second walk to the opposite side of the building from Top Carrot. Outstanding dinners (and 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 an ever-growing spectrum of flavors, aromas, textures, and tastes. You gotta try Jai's! Highest recommendation. See

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

Astra Steak & Seafood (featured 7/25/22) is the newest creation of the organization that also operates Avantika and Movida in the same area of Simpson Bay. It's new, gorgeous, constantly evolving, and has highest-quality written all over it. We go often and love it. See <https://www.astrasxm.com/>

Bamboo House (11/21/22), located high on a hill in Cole Bay has spectacular island views and equally spectacular dining and service. Exquisite sushi, steaks, and lots more. Vegetarians welcome; people with special dietary needs are well cared-for here too. Jeff rates Bamboo with one huge WOW -- go; you will absolutely be visiting more than once.

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 11/14/22 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.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izisxm.com (featured 11/7/22). Open for dinner starting at 5pm except Mon., when they're closed. Fantastic food from one of SXM's absolute best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 10/31/22) Avantika is flat-out wonderful; SXM's best Thai; Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by seasoned service. Consistently excellent. Go...you'll become a regular.

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, (featured 5/23/2022): Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

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.

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).

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.

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.

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 Rum 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.

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..

38. Enormous Library of SXM Information is On The Web (Updated)

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 -- 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.

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 35,000 members, not counting their friends and spouses. The vast majority of our members are tourists who have spent years visiting SXM and 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.

39. Flying in Spring or Summer? Here's Something Else You Should Know

If you are traveling anywhere this Spring or 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 Spring or Summer, buy your new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership NOW, at least three months ahead of your planned 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 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® 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.

40. 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 33,000 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.

41. 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.

42. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 1/16/23)

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 Sponsors' help makes our JMB Website Supporters members-only Island Parties possible (resuming next year) as well as all the work 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).

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson
Patty Meotti
Laura Fisher Saxon

AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

BAKERIES / DINE-IN & TO GO

Le Sucriere, Dutch side near Fedex (new 11/22)

BARS

Juggie's "The Smallest Bar In The World," Philipsburg

BOAT TOURS / BOAT CHARTERS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:
www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

Rumbelly Boat Charters Pleasure boats, motorized and catamaran

BOUTIQUES

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road opposite Atrium Resort

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

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

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.

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 \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#)

Jewels & Beyond (Maho)

[Shoppers Haven](#)

Royal Jewelers

Kay's Fine Jewelry

Joe's Jewelry International

Ballerina Jewelers

LIVE MUSIC

Hole in the Wall, Maho Plaza, Dutch side

MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[Kasprowski Publisher](#)

MASSAGE see Spas

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 Realty

My Net Immo (French Side, **Muriel Lemoine**)

RESORTS:

Baker's Suites

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Mary's Boon Beach Hotel

RESTAURANTS, BARS, & BEACH BARS (see also BAKERIES)

IZI (See their new website)

SPIGA

VESNA TAVERNA

ISOLA

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Soggy Dollar Bar

Topper's Restaurant, Gelateria, & Rhum Distillery

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

BOVIN STEAKHOUSE

Emilio's

Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar

Nowhere Special

ROXXY Bar / Restaurant

LAZY LIZARD

RANCHO del SOL

SUNSET CAFE (Grand Case)

AVANTIKA

ASTRA

JAI'S CONTEMPORARY FUSION CUISINE

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

BOLD BUDDHA Restaurant, Great bay beach Promenade at Horizon View Hotel (new)

BUCCANEER BEACH BAR

BAMBOO HOUSE (new 5/16/22)

LE PERLE BLEU Restaurant Simpson Bay & **Le Perle Bleu Beach Bar** (Welfare Road) (new 11/22)

FLEUR DE SEL Hope Estate / **French Side** (new 11/22)

RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE

Orders.sx

SOUVENIRS

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

SPAS

Sunset Spa, Simpson Bay Resort (11/21)

Patty's Healing Hands Massage (7/22)

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 1/16/23

43. 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.

44. 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.

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

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

Our **JMB SXM Web Media Sponsorships** enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". Or PM us on FB for an even faster response. We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger or phone us / text us on WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.)

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

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)

CONTACT US by WhatsApp Texts only at 721-588-4188 (WhatsApp is 100% free and is highly encrypted for privacy.)

1/16/23 #V4-1379 800 pm AST 1/15 | [Terms of use](#) |

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