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From JMB / SXM Weekly News 12/25/23: Airport Pre-Christmas Arrivals Crunch; New Upscale Boutique Hotel Coming to Simpson Bay; Diego Matarano (Carousel) Passes; New SXM Airport Check-in Facilities to be Unveiled; Download the Ultimate Guide to Relocating to SXM; Important About SXM Dinner Reservations; Our Belated Thank You to Ilene Berger; Enter Our 7-Vacation Giveaway -- Details Inside; Restaurant of the Week [#1420 - 54 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

Go [HERE](#) for our SXM Weekly News PDF Archives.



Vol. 4, #1420 ---- Monday, December 25, 2023
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

*****MERRY CHRISTMAS!*****

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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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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored send-only email address.
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at the end of this newsletter.

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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.*

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by over 385,000 people around the world.

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



twitter

Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership

Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

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

Download PDFs of recent editions here in our [**SXM WEEKLY NEWS PDF ARCHIVES:**](#)

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in

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-- Restaurant of the Week:

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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 (or Condo) RENTAL of The Week:

RENTAL 2/17/2024 2/24/2024 Week 7 Villas at Simpson Bay Resort (Junior Suite) (B unit). The unit has 2 full beds, small refrigerator, toaster, microwave, coffee maker, flat screen TV, DVD player, wireless internet, room safe, large bathroom with separate dressing area. Watch the sunset from your private balcony overlooking Simpson Bay. Great location-walk to beach or pool, tennis courts, restaurants, deli, casino & fitness center. \$50.00 Timeshare tax to be paid at check-out. \$1,100 Greg 413-454-4548 glitt@comcast.net

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

SXM Timeshare (or Condo) SALE of The Week:

SALE 6/24/2023 7/1/2023 Week 26 Simpson Bay Resort, Marina, and Spa Two bedroom penthouse unit directly on the Pelican Beach with spectacular views of the Sandy beach, Coco Beach Bar, glorious sunsets, and more. Both bedrooms have king size beds. The kitchen is fully equipped. Patios up and down stairs, security lock boxes, and many resort amenities including a gym, several pools, restaurants, tennis courts, and a casino. \$20,000 Pam. 7578686001 pam_falls@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): Scroll down this page to see our recommended Real Estate companies, listed under "Sponsors."

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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

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

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

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

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

Not a member yet? See http://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. LEAD STORY: Friday Before Christmas Yields Arrivals Crunch at SXM Airport; Good News, Solved on Saturday

For the last several weeks, both departures and *arrivals* had been generally smooth or tolerable at the new temporary outdoor arrival facility at SXM Airport.

But last Friday, the wheels came off that scenario. The normal crew of immigration personnel at Arrivals is 8 on weekdays at the airport but on Friday, the busy last Friday before Christmas, that crew shrank for that day only to four -- an unplanned change.

Airport Chief Honcho Brian Mingo vowed to us early on Saturday morning that it would be "*all hands on deck*" on Saturday, one of the airport's busiest days all year, to help make sure Friday wasn't repeated on Saturday. His vow was carried out, with Saturday arrivals much smoother.

The good news is that the final element of completing the long process of building-back-better at SXM Airport finishes in Q2 of 2024, just a few months away, when the completely reimagined new Arrivals area inside the terminal is scheduled to open. Saturdays will always be busy, especially around major holidays, but passenger experience will be orders of magnitude better once the terminal is fully open. For the moment, things are fairly labeled "Under Construction" -- and the days before major holidays will continue to be very busy here, as they are at airports throughout North America.

2. Near-Record Numbers of Private Jets Slow Travel for Scheduled Carriers

When any planes land on SXM Airport's only main runway, they must turn around and taxi back up the runway to the terminal area- whether they are big commercial jets or private jets. There is no parallel taxiway here to offload traffic and enable other takeoffs and arrivals to happen expeditiously. Past long-term airport plans had included a parallel taxiway as well as an expansion of the terminal building (toward the east), perhaps in part for US "preclearance," but Irma did a great job of blowing such plans out the window.

So a succession of arrivals in advance of Christmas, both commercial and private, has slowed some commercial arrivals. All this will be addressed, but the solution isn't imminent. We will continue to watch all airport developments that matter to tourists here in *SXM Weekly News*.

3. Major Airline Executive Suggests Solution for SXM Airport's Incoming Traffic Woes

An executive for a major US airline believes he has a solution for problems like those that happened with arrivals at SXM Airport last Friday. Here are his comments, abbreviated:

Until airport renovations have been totally completed, the airport should implement a landing slot which allows one

[large commercial] aircraft to land every 10 minutes, which is about how long it takes on average for about 150 passengers to be processed. Instead, SXM Airport is currently allowing all flights to land behind each other -- and this causes the long lines.

If you are flying on the 7th aircraft to land (one after the other) and there are one or two flights before you with 200+ passengers each, expect at least a 1hr or longer wait.

In the US or other places, the wait is in a more comfortable situation; in SXM passengers are, for the moment, in the heat outside with only the top of the passageway giving shade. Landing slots as described here should eliminate passenger delays. On Tuesday of last week, SXM Airport planned 13 aircraft arrivals when their aircraft parking capacity is only 9 aircraft. One flight had to waste fuel and irritate passengers by staying in a holding pattern for over 45 mins before it could land.

4. Soon, We'll See The All-New Check-in Facilities at SXM Airport

This happens next month and we plan to photograph the new facility for our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and for a story here in *SXM Weekly News*. We'll let you know what's new, different, and better about the new facility and when you'll be using it for your departures.

5. Jet Blue / Spirit Merger vs. DOJ Court Decision Expected Early Next Year

The no-jury trial that pitted the DOJ against JetBlue and Spirit Airways in Federal opposition to their proposed merger concluded a couple of weeks ago and a verdict is expected early next year.

We have no crystal ball here (or anywhere), but our hunch is that the judge will approve the merger but require JB to make more divestitures along the lines of ones it already offered to make the deal more appealing to the US government. We also believe that JetBlue had anticipated this possibility and planned for it. Spirit is financially wobbly now and its pricing appears unsustainable. Major carriers now (UA, AA, SW, and DL) have 80% of the US market, and a JB/SP merger would make them the country's fifth largest carrier and enable them to better compete with the majors. We do think this merger will happen.

6. Global Entry and Mobile Passport Speed Processing on Returning to the US

Global Entry is a US government program that enables passengers on US commercial flights to get expedited security screening in US airports and expedited passport processing when returning home from overseas.

Mobile Passport Control (MPC) allows eligible travelers to submit their travel document, photo, and customs declaration information through a free, secure app on their smartphone or other mobile device. The use of MPC streamlines the traveler's entry process into the United States by reducing passport control inspection time and overall wait time. Use of MPC does not require pre-approval. Travelers who successfully use the MPC app will no longer have to complete a paper form and may be provided a designated queue. As a result, travelers may experience shorter wait times, less congestion and efficient processing.

More on these programs is [here](#).

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-- SXM's ONLY PROFESSIONALLY WRITTEN WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER FOR TOURISTS.**

Subscribe free at www.sxmweeklynews.com

NOTE: *Subscribing is required to make you eligible to enter our enormous 7-vacation giveaway!*

7. MEDICAL EVACUATION COSTS SOAR; Got \$55,000++? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a Medevac Jet Home in a Medical Emergency

\$55,000 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 \$50,000 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 508-747-8281 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.

8. WINTER WEATHER IS STARTING: What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled or Delayed...

What should you do if your flight is canceled or delayed? This [article](#) gives you answers.

Etc./Weather

9. Where to Find SXM / Tropical Weather Updates

If you're interested in knowing what the latest watches and warnings are from the National Hurricane Center and from authorities like Rob Lightbown, one of the foremost go-to experts in hurricane forecasting in the USA, see www.crownweather.com and subscribe to his inexpensive year-round forecasting service which tells you everything you need to know about tropical weather and your local severe weather forecasts year 'round..

Check out the hurricane/weather center in our main SXM website, www.everythingSXM.com. The site contains a weather/hurricane center which publishes all the latest watches and warnings for all storms around the clock, even if there are multiple storms being watched simultaneously. We are finishing an upgrade of that site to include more satellite images, radar loops, and other useful tropical weather information. You can get to our Weather Center by going to www.everythingSXM.com and clicking the weather link in our horizontal navigation bar. 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 FIVE 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.

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.

Changing Your Email Address?

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

SECTION 2: Accommodations / Buying SXM Condos or Villas: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Private Condos, Villas Etc.

10. New Upscale Boutique Hotel Coming to Simpson Bay

A couple of weeks ago, we wrote about several new hotels coming to both sides of the island. This one was not on that list, and it is not the one currently under construction a short walk from the Simpson Bay Police Station, near the drawbridge.

The land under a popular business in Simpson Bay has been sold to a group of developers/investors. The business, still open, will stay open until April then shut down. The structure it operates in will disappear and on this waterfront property, a boutique hotel will be built by these experienced developers -- and we expect it will be upscale.

We can't tell you more than that since this information was obtained through unofficial channels. But when we can say more, we will. Thousands of people drive by this site every day and it is a beautiful location for a boutique hotel.

11. NEW: The Ultimate Guide to Relocation in SXM

Moving to Sint Maarten: The Ultimate Guide

Discover everything you need to know about relocating to the stunning island of Sint Maarten with this comprehensive new guide. From how to obtain residency to the best neighborhoods, lifestyle, and culture, we've got you covered.

[Use this link](#) to access the Ultimate Guide

12. Where to Rent a Beach Villa for Your Family

Some people decide to look at AirBnB or other villa rental outfits online. We have two very different suggestions.

First, a timeshare condo may be all you need. See the next article. We have hundreds of timeshares for rent and for sale on our main site, everythingxsm.com. You rent directly from timeshare owners who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program -- not strangers.

Second, if you still want a villa, we strongly suggest you contact the people who know the island best -- the Realtors listed below in this section. They actually know the properties they're renting and their owners. That's an enormous difference.

See the stories below for all the info you need.

13. Hundreds of Timeshare Condos For Rent / Sale Directly From Owners Available Now on Our Main Site

Updated again recently, our hundreds of listings of timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale come directly from SXM timeshare owners; you'll find them on our main SXM site, www.everythingsxm.com, which was extensively updated a couple of weeks ago, after our server migration completed. There are no middlemen or other third parties involved in the sale of these units, so you will talk directly with the owner who is personally responsible for setting the rental or sale fees. The link to our timeshare listings is just below the masthead in our main SXM site, everythingSXM.com.

14. Why Our Rental Ads are Different - And Superior

There are many places where you can find ads for timeshares for rent — however, we only know one exactly like ours. *What makes us different is what makes us remarkable — and desirable.* We accept ads only from members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. Consequently, our member database contains info about these individuals — we know who they are. They routinely exchange their detailed contact information with buyers during the course of the rental process.

By contrast, many people place ads in various online locations anonymously (we don't allow that on our site). So if you buy from rental/sales sites other than ours, you are essentially buying from strangers.

Our information about timeshare owners is private — it is never sold or bartered to anyone. The only exception would be police exercising a warrant (for example, FBI seeking out cyber criminals among timeshare rental advertisers). We are happy to report we have never had any such request from any police organization since we first started publishing timeshare rental and sale ads in 2002. So, you can rent with confidence that you will get exactly what you are looking for.

You will find all our ads on www.everythingSXM.com, our main SXM website.

15. Looking for a Private Condo or Villa in SXM? Our Everything SXM Facebook Group Brings You SXM's Top Realtors

If you're looking to rent a privately owned condominium or villa on SXM, see our listings of the top SXM realtors in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). This week that list also appears in the next story.

16. Best 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 **#Blue Paradise Real Estate Agency** Owner/Broker of Blue Paradise Real Estate company. +590 690 22 18 22 blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

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

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

A more comprehensive list appears in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), under Sponsors.

Updated 4/17/23

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 508-747-8281 or email us at jeff.berger@skymed.com; include your callback number & time zone please. Protect your family TODAY with SkyMed®!

17. 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 current, active members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. This is effective immediately and includes weeks from 2023 and now 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. Processing takes several days. You can contact Membership Services at jmbcomms@gmail.com.

18. 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 everythingxm.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.

19. 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 508-747-8281; don't forget to tell us your time zone. Thanks.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

20. Heads Up Concerning Full Updates Underway Now on Our Passworded "Secret Site" for JMB Website Supporters Members

Our Everything SXM passworded "Secret" Website for members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program is now live on our new server. Every page of the Secret Site is being given a final close edit & update now, a process we expect to complete by approximately mid January. It's our top priority. You may encounter some older pages (not current) until we finish this process.

21. 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 38,000 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](#).

22. Newly Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters Discounts and SkyMed Medevac Sales Inquiries (UPDATED 11/18/23)

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 508-747-8281 and leave a message. (Updated 4/17/23.)**
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 508-747-8281.
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

23. PREVENT MEDICAL BANKRUPTCY -- 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 global SKYMED MEDEVAC protection for virtually all your upcoming trips -- and it protects you AT HOME, too.

Buy it NOW, *BEFORE* you need it -- just like fire insurance.

For info see the links below, and for answers to questions or to sign up by phone call 508-747-8281 or email jeff.berger@skymed.com. NOTE: My prices for SkyMed's best ULTIMATE memberships ARE MUCH LOWER 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.**

24. THE FULL SKYMED STORY: What SkyMed Medevac Protection Is, Where & How It Works, and More

• 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 otherwise cost non-SkyMed members \$50,000 and up payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that? Of course, you must **get 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 in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean - plus an additional suite of 26 services to help you in most of the rest of the world. They are offered in monthly-pay (minimum payment period two years), three-year, and five-year versions -- the five-year delivers the lowest cost per day available for Ultimate memberships (about \$1.64).

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 508-747-8281 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 (those 26 additional Ultimate global services mentioned above) is provided by GETS, Global Emergency Travel Services, a SkyMed company.

- **Key Differences Between SkyMed Short-Term & Annual or Ultimate 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: \$18/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 \$18/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 \$12/day per individual, or a maximum of \$15/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. This is KEY: SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable, regardless of advancing age or declining health - and they are also price guaranteed forever -- your price will not go up as long as you renew your membership on time.** 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 \$18/day per family for short-term coverage -- it's now 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, including AT HOME.** 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 508-747-8281 or email jeff.berger@skymed.com. That's a direct line to Jeff Berger. *Updated 5/8/23.*

Final Word About 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 -- *plus another suite of 26 services around the world.* 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 office line, 508-747-8281. Or email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com (SkyMed inquiries only please). When contacting us **PLEASE** include your phone number, time zone, and email address.

--Jeff Berger
5/8/23

25. 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 months as many of you have decided to resume normal worldwide travel, you've asked us for examples of what SkyMed does.*** Here you go:

For answers to questions or to sign up, email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com or call me at 508-747-8281. Open to Americans & Canadians & xPats only. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the last 34+ 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 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 508-747-8281 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.

Updated 5/8/23

26. ===Heads Up Re: Vacation-Ruining Slips & Falls=====

Slips and falls -- always unexpected-- often cause broken hips or broken legs on vacations, cruises, and business travel -- suddenly necessitating an emergency medical evacuation costing at least \$55,000, payable in cash in advance before anything happens.

Got a spare \$55,000 ready for a sudden medical emergency?

For \$1.64/day, SkyMed *TAKES YOU HOME*® when you become seriously or critically ill or injured while traveling. *Don't risk \$50K or more ripped from your life savings.* Call today for answers to questions, more details, or to sign up: Jeff Berger, SkyMed Ambassador, 508-591-3483.

[\$1.64/day is for SkyMed's guaranteed-renewable-for-life, price-guaranteed-forever annual memberships and its five-year Ultimate memberships; Ultimates provide services around the world. Call us today to learn more.]

27. Make Sure Your SKYMED Membership Is Serviced Directly by SkyMed Rep / Ambassador Jeff Berger

Jeff Berger is the long-time Sky Med "Ambassador" serving thousands of Americans and Canadians who visit the Caribbean, Europe, and other destinations around the clock, around the world. The best way to learn more about SkyMed, get your questions answered, and apply is by phone with Jeff. You can arrange this directly by emailing, texting, or phoning him at jeff.berger@skymed.com and 508-591-3483 (also accepts texts). People using the 100% free WhatsApp program can also call or text Jeff via WhatsApp at 721-588-4188. SkyMed is Arizona-based and Jeff's office is in Massachusetts.

N. B.: If you signed up for SkyMed online instead of directly with Jeff, he may not be your servicing rep. To remedy that, call SkyMed toll free at 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Member Services. They can make sure your membership is transferred to Jeff Berger for management; he is rep number 391330. SkyMed never closes, but their business office operates regular hours and works on Mountain Standard Time year-round.

27A: BULLETIN: Diego Montanaro Passes Away

Many of you will remember Diego Matarano, known for his Gelateria at the Carousel for many years and for his years at La Gondola and at IZI in Simpson Bay. He has passed away after a battle with lung cancer, leaving behind his 10 year-old daughter. Our condolences to his family and his very much beloved daughter.

28. Enter Our Newly Expanded 7 SXM VACATION Giveaway; Where The Vacations Are & How to Enter

Our **EXPANDED 7-SXM VACATION GIVEAWAY** - Complete prize list and how to enter! Revised 12/4/23!

For SXM WEEKLY NEWS DIRECT (Not Pass-Along) SUBSCRIBERS EXCLUSIVELY, & JMB Website Supporters Members!

All prizes are subject to reasonable limitations for dollar value and availability from the businesses providing them. No purchase necessary to win.

UPDATED 12/4/23

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL READERS:

Our still-underway server migration (see story above) temporarily prevented some SXM Weekly News Subscribers from entering the giveaway. The migration has progressed as planned and the entry system is usually operating perfectly. Read the prize list and you should be able to enter now through the link in this story. If you have any issues, try again tomorrow, when another phase of our Migration will have been completed.

Our 7 SXM vacation giveaways are:

Azure Hotel & Art Studio;
Belair Beach Hotel;
Cocovaa Beach Resort (formerly El Zafiro);
Colony Manor Golden Daze beach villa;
Mary's Boon Beach Resort;
Orient Beach Hotel; and
Simpson Bay Resort.

Dinners for Two:

Amore American Italian, Simpson Bay;
Bamboo House, Cole Bay;
Bistrot Caraibes, Grand Case;
Bold Buddha Restaurant, Philipsburg (Boardwalk);
Emilio's Restaurant, Philipsburg, at Rainforest Adventures;
Freedom Fighters' Ital Shack, Philipsburg, Vegetarian/Rastafarian Cuisine;

IZI Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay;
Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine, Simpson Bay (\$120 limit, drinks included);
La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza;
Mario's Bistro, Cupecoy;
NOLA Bayou Bistro, Simpson Bay;
Roma Cucina Italiana, Oasis at Maho;
The Chef's Table, Simpson Bay;
Secret Seafood, Simpson Bay;
Topper's Restaurant, Simpson Bay;
Vesna Taverna, Simpson Bay

Car Rental for our Grand Prize Winner:
Leisure Car Rental

Concierge Services (to expedite your trip through SXM Airport, arriving or departing)
Xcellence Concierge Services

Deep-Sea Fishing Charter (Half Day)
Taylor-Made Charters, Simpson Bay (Capt. Dougie)

French Bakery
La Sucriere French Bakery, Simpson Bay (Gift Certificate)

Gelateria – Ice Cream
Topper's Gelateria – Two Big Full Hand-Packed QUARTS of their amazing homemade ice cream

Jewelry Prizes:
Caribbean Gems
Majesty Jewelers
Oro Diamante
Ray's Jewelry
Shoppers Haven (\$250 Gift Certificate for fine jewelry)
Zhaveri Jewelers

MAPS - SXM MAPS
Our *two* top prize-winners will each receive the SXM street map from **Kasprowski Publisher** AND their map of the entire Caribbean. See more at www.midok.com . Also available on Amazon.

Massage Services
Patty Healing Hands; Patty goes to your location.

Media Recognition:
The Grand Prize winner will be invited to appear with "Dr. Soc" on Island 92 radio during their visit. She or he (first name and last initial only) will also be the subject of a news release to local media from our parent company JMB Communications of Plymouth Massachusetts.

Parfumerie – Tijon Parfumerie
Perfume-Making class for two!

Rum Distillery Topper's Rhum Distillery,
Simpson Bay, Tour & Free Samples

T-Shirts - Life is Good
\$100 Gift Certificate at the Front Street
Life is Good Store

If you are a direct subscriber to *SXM Weekly News*

(NOT a passalong reader), you qualify to enter the giveaway. Subscriptions are free, as always; subscribe at sxmweeklynews.com. Grand prize and First prize winners will each get separate Dinner & Jewelry prizes.

Enter [here](#). (Best time to enter would be late this evening.)

NOTE: In March we plan to announce yet another giveaway -- it will be JEWELRY ONLY.....

29. We Welcome Your Comments on Our Stories; How & Where to Comment

If you ever have comments on any stories published here in *SXM Weekly News*, please post them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), to which many *Weekly News* readers also belong. We welcome your comments.

30. Repeating Long-Time, Sage Advice: If You Can Travel to SXM During The Week, Do it -- and Avoid Saturdays

Despite the fact that the entire reimagined SXM Airport will be fully open by Q2 of 2024, Saturday will remain the busiest day of the week at SXM Airport. The more people there are, the longer it will take to process them, regardless of leading-edge technology. The vast plurality of visitors go to timeshare resorts here, and most timeshare weeks run Saturday to Saturday. That is a key reason Saturdays are busiest.

Sxm Airport will be significantly more efficient when it is 100% finished and that is fast approaching. But if you'd like to go through the airport when it's less busy, fly any day but Saturday.

31. Forces Gathering to Combat Noise in Beacon Hill

A new bar/restaurant at a small Beacon Hill hotel condo property blared music late at night recently in that staid neighborhood, next to which jet blast is heard much of the day. But at night, folks in Beacon Hill expect to sleep and a new bar has been blaring loud entertainment across the neighborhood at night. These are determined folks and loud noise at night is a non-starter for them. We'll keep you posted on the success of their fight against loud music in this heavily residential area.

32. Sunday/Monday East Coast Storm a Week Ago Snarled Eastern Air Traffic

Fortunately temperatures were generally well above freezing so this big, windy rainstorm didn't drop feet of snow anywhere, but there was damage from high winds and flooding rains which delayed or canceled many flights. In winter, when temperatures plummet and snow flies, it will be a different story.

Our partners in the weather department at crownweather.com know all about this -- their services can be of great value to you when storms threaten travel disruptions. Check them out; the fee is tiny and the rewards in accurate, timely weather information are enormous.

33. Eastern Air Lines Still Isn't Dead

Back in the 1980s and earlier, Eastern airlines flew millions of people across the USA and into the tropics. Only a few

short years ago, I shook my head when I saw an EAL plane glide into SXM Airport. When I checked, I found out that a private company had bought the EAL name and was contemplating offering charter service and freight services, in hopes of resurrecting the Eastern name.

Since then, we've heard little about the carrier...but we recently found out that indeed, Eastern Airlines still isn't quite dead. You can read the latest about it [here](#).

Looking for a new way to get to SXM? Don't count on EAL coming back any time soon.

34. Southwest Air Hit by \$140-million Federal Fine for Massive Flight Cancellations

Southwest air suffered a massive failure of its kludge-like flight reservations computer system a while back, stranding passengers across the country and infuriating both them and government officials. Though SW does not yet serve SXM, it has said in the past that it wants to -- once SXM deploys preclearance. Unfortunately, there is still no timetable for that to happen.

Here is [more](#) for those still interested in SW.

35. SXM Weather Slowly Transitioning Toward Normal Winter

Chances are that winter here in SXM is warmer than wherever you are. Nonetheless, December winds here are starting to give way to calmer conditions and hopefully, the heavy rains that marked the rainy season will soon become distant soggy memories. January tends to become drier and a bit cooler at night (still mid 70s, with 80s in daytimes).

Ah, Caribbean winters. Gotta love 'em.

36. When You Might Want a Sweater in SXM

It is rare that you need a sweater at night here, though some women find capes or scarves handy on windy nights. It also makes sense to bring them with you to air conditioned restaurants, where they help when you feel the breeze of a/c hitting your back. That does happen.

37. Tell Restaurateurs WHEN ORDERING of Your Food Allergies

We've been in restaurants twice recently where people who had not told servers of food allergies complained when items they were allergic to appeared on their plate. That wastes the restaurant's time, justifiably irritates and wastes the time of servers, and also doesn't get you fed when expected. Solution: be very clear about your food allergies. If your server seems unsure of ingredients for any dishes, ask for the manager. Most restaurants take food allergies with great seriousness since food allergies can create health-challenging situations.

38. Our Guide to Tipping in SXM

Basically, here's what you need to know:

1. On the French side, by law gratuities are included in the cost of the meal. If you feel like giving your server something additional, feel free.
2. On the Dutch side, some restaurants add a "gratuity" or a "service charge." Most likely in both cases, those charges are spread among all employees. In some cases, the owner decides who gets what (and an unscrupulous owner in a few places may keep it all).
3. You can ask your Dutch side server if she/he gets most of the service charge and the answer is usually No. When

service is excellent, we always provide additional cash for the server. They are always grateful.

We also have two FILES on this topic in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). You will find our FILES [here](#). (To join that group, you must answer a few quick, simple vetting questions.)

39. Visit The Observation Deck at Baie Locas / Embouchure

If you have a map from Rafal Kasprowski of Kasprowski Publisher (on Amazon), you have the best SXM island map and will easily find the observation deck on the coast between Embouchure and Baie Lucas. **You can also buy directly from the publisher at www.midok.com.** They ship very quickly.

40. Finally, Ilene Gets The Recognition She Deserves:

We started publishing *SXM Weekly News* as a family project in 1992. Although the writer is Jeff Berger, many of the story ideas are from Ilene Berger, Jeff's wife who until her retirement several years ago was a Regional Director of Tourism in Massachusetts, responsible for promoting the southeastern part of the state including Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. She was a renowned source of tourism marketing savvy across the country and was often sought by major travel destinations for her sharp advice and counsel. *In doing everything we do for St. Maarten / St. Martin, which we have been touting on our own for over 30 years, Ilene has been the source of many keenly informative stories, including many you see in this issue. We should have recognized that decades ago but nonetheless, we are very grateful for all she does to help promote SXM. She is a highly contributory member of the team.*

-----EXTRA: Making Dinner Reservations and Failing to Cancel Them Can KILL Your Favorite SXM Restaurants-----

In the last few days, just one of this island's ABSOLUTE BEST restaurants had a total of twenty seats of reservations WHO DID NOT CANCEL AND DID NOT BOTHER TO SHOW UP. That is thievery, since they buy supplies to make sure they have the right quantities of food to serve visitors and they TURN AWAY OTHER PEOPLE who would have helped their business. When people do this they are gut-punching ALL the best restaurants because *THIS IS HAPPENING ACROSS THE ISLAND*.

- Decide where you want to go, make reservations, and GO THERE. Enjoy your dinner.
- NEVER MAKE MULTIPLE RESERVATIONS THEN PICK WHICH ONE YOU WANT AND IGNORE THE REST. Doing that ought to result in a heavy fine (theft of services) and other stiff penalties.
- Restaurants depend on a short high season to stay in business. Don't screw around with their livelihood by making FALSE RESERVATIONS.
- If the restaurateur asks for your credit card # when making a reservation, give it -- and expect a stiff charge if you don't cancel & don't show up.

41. SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE:

SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE -- 100 seats (inside and covered terrace), award-winning, great reputation, everything in like-new condition, off-street parking, experienced staff. \$395K and \$5K monthly rent. Contact sxmrestaurantforsale@hotmail.com and INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, owner will return your call. NO REALTORS. Location: Welfare Road, Simpson Bay.

42. Restaurant Variety: Take Another Look at Our "Restaurant of the Week" Selections

See "Restaurant of the Week" below. It always picks fine restaurants, but the "fine restaurants" dining does NOT mean they're all a single shade of restaurant *types*. There are all kinds...all genres. Check recent selections and you'll see what we mean...a world of choices.

43. JEWELER OF THE WEEK: (The sixth story in this series appears here next week)

Previously featured in this series:

- 1) **Caribbean Gems** (Manu, Neelam, & Krish Budhrani)
- 2) **Oro Diamante** (Raju & Jenny Budhrani)
- 3) **Zhaveri Luxury** (Deepu Budhrani)
- 4) **Shoppers Haven** (Vishnu Thadhani)
- 5) **Majesty Jewelers** (Ashok Aswani)

Next week: Stay tuned.

44. Restaurant of the Week:

Quick overview: Emilio's Restaurant is named for Emilio Wilson, on whose estate the property is located. Owners Norman and Su Wathey have preserved this historic plantation artfully and Norman will be happy to show you around. You'll see pictures of Norman and Emilio taken years ago ... and learn all about the property, which is a part of SXM's rich history.

Today it is a gorgeous site for this superb restaurant run by the Watheys with Chef Sidney at the helm. There is a broad selection of dishes here to satisfy all appetites and the Chef will prepare something special (given notice) to prepare special dishes to meet dietary or food allergy challenges. This is a superb restaurant in a gorgeous, historic mountainside location. Make reservations and GO...Emilio's has our highest recommendation.

Next week: Another fine SXM restaurant.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured 12/25/23] 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. Absolutely NOT to be missed!

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 12/16/23). Now open every day but Monday for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining, excellent service, unpretentious setting.

Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road Northwest toward Shore Pointe and turn left before Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 12/11/2023) Parking, drinks, great lolo food, camaraderie, chairs and umbrellas, and an all-over tan on this traditionally clothing-optional beach. What could possibly be better? ***It's our favorite beach on the entire island -- and the famous Lemondroppers arrive in early January and stick around until mid February. Come and meet them and enjoy Dany's....***

Bamboo House (12/4/23), 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.

More: <https://www.bamboohouse-sxm.com/>

LaPlaj Beach Bar at La Samanna Resort, a Belmond Hotel (featured 11/27/23)

<https://www.belmond.com/hotels/north-america/caribbean/st-martin/belmond-la-samanna/dining>: Extraordinary service, an innovative and creatively superior menu, and a gorgeous setting on the Caribbean are the reasons for going. This is an unparalleled experience, with a fine dining version of a beach bar. Great place. Call for reservations.

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff www.mariobistrot.com/en/ (featured 11/20/23) 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.

L'Oursin Restaurant at La Samanna, a Belmond Hotel: Truly extraordinary fine-dining dining under the watchful eye

of master Chef Dino Jagtiani. Collaborating with top Caribbean Chefs, L'Oursin delivers a thoroughly memorable panoply of flavors, aromas, and textures -- and the presentation is truly artistic and photo-worthy. Orders of magnitude beyond ordinary deliciousness! Reservations are essential: [+590 590 87 64 00](tel:+590590876400). (featured 11/13/23)

The French Touch on Old Street, off Front Street in central Philipsburg (featured 11/6/23). Great breakfasts and lunches in a quiet, attractive setting. Very reasonable prices, substantial menu. Under the direction of Jean-Pierre, formerly head of Antoine. **We loved it...**

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izisxm.com (featured 11/1/23). Open for dinner starting at 5pm except Mon., when they're closed. Fantastic food from one of SXM's absolute best restaurants -- in fact it has been voted **BEST RESTAURANT OF ANY KIND ON SXM by readers of TripAdvisor**. Fun atmosphere, too. **Go and tell them we recommended it.**

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 10/23/23) 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.

Freedom Fighters Ital Shack (featured 10/16/23) is a unique vegan restaurant that delivers freshness beyond what you might expect. If you're looking for dining that is tantalizing, healthy, memorable, satisfying, and totally unique on SXM, this is your place. Highly recommended. More: www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant

The Chef Table (featured 7/31/23), is the new restaurant from award-winning chef Wendell Laurence. Located across the street in Simpson Bay from The Mailbox, it has just opened, and it offers a spectrum of culinary delights aimed at satisfying the most demanding set of taste buds. Chef Wendell has been serving delightful dishes across SXM for more than 15 years and this is his first time as an owner. See much for information and pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Highly recommended.

The Coffee Lounge, (featured 6/5/23) **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.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 5/22/23) 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.

Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine (featured 3/20/23), **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/jaissxmresto>

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured 3/6/23] 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.

Amore American/Italian Restaurant and Amore Lounge, Simpson Bay on the first floor of the Avantika building, Puerta del Sol. Highly recommended. Opened late February, 2023. Their [website](#) is now up. **Go!**

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, (featured 2/20/23): Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

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>

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.

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

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.

[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.

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 (rhume 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.

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..

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45. 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.

46. Flying in Winter or Spring? Here's Something Else You Should Know

If you are traveling anywhere this Winter or next Spring, 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 or Summer or Fall, 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 now \$18/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 508-747-8281 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.

47. 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 now have over 36,000 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.

48. Important Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales (UPDATED 4/17):

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 508-747-8281 and leave a message.**
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.

49. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 11/13/23)

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).

The following are all new Sponsors (same family): Bistrot Caraiibes; Sunshine SXM Studios; Bistrot Immi Development; Studio Orient Bay; SCI Sea & Sun. Secret Seafood House & Joseph Fun Boat Charters are both now Sponsors (same owner, Keith Joseph; 40 weeks).

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson
Patty Meotti

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;
Life Is Good®, Philipsburg.

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

Tropicana Car Rental

Dollar/Thrifty Car Rental

SixT Car Rental

[Starlite Car Rental](#)

CHILD CARE & MORE FOR VISITORS

Alisha Brookes

COFFEE / PASTRY & MORE:

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

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>

ELECTRONICS (Cell Phones, TVs,. REPAIRS, Computers, Peripherals)

Smart Electronics, Simpson Bay (new 3/23)

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.) **CALL 508-747-8281 or email jeff.berger@skymed.com.**

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

Rudy's Deep-Sea Fishing

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](#)

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

Jewels & Beyond (Maho)

[Shoppers Haven](#)

Royal Jewelers

Kay's Fine Jewelry

Joe's Jewelry International

Ballerina Jewelers

Alpha Jewels

MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[Kasprowski Publisher](#)

MASSAGE

Patty Healing Hands WhatsApp number:+1(721)5230368 E mail: pattyhealinghands@gmail.com

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

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*.

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

Jennifer's Vacation Villas

Century 21 St. Maarten

Sunshine Properties

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **Blue Paradise Real Estate**, Ms. Candie Billant
Owner/Broker of Blue Paradise Real Estate company
+590 690 22 18 22
blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com

BrightFuture Realty

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

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Topper's Restaurant, Gelateria, & Rhum Distillery

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

BOVIN STEAKHOUSE

NOLA Bayou Bistro (James "Jimbo" Morris)

The Chef's Table (new 7/31), Chef Wendell Laurence

At Oasis:

--ROMA (Marco Ferrante)

--Mr. Chow (Ivan)

--The Deli

Emilio's

Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar

ROXXY Bar / Restaurant

LAZY LIZARD

RANCHO del SOL

SUNSET CAFE (Grand Case)

AVANTIKA

ASTRA

AMORE

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)

La Rosa, Maho Plaza

La Sucriere

RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE

Orders.sx

SOUVENIRS

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

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

Nick Malley, Front Street

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Martin Like St. Maarten (Maarten Leon)

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 **#Blue Paradise Real Estate Agency**
Owner/Broker of Blue Paradise Real Estate company
+590 690 22 18 22
blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

Villa Acropole:
www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

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 11/13/23

50. 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.

CALL US at 508-747-8281.

51. 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 will soon be thoroughly updated (we're several months behind). Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few days after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday). We do have some catching up to do...

Get The Lowest 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.

52. 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?

"2023 and 2024 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.)

12/25/23 #V4-1420 800 pm AST 12/25 | [Terms of use](#) |

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