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**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 1/15/24: *Grounding of Boeing 737 MAX 9 Jets Continues; Boeing Asks for Exemption from Safety Rules it Says it Can't Meet; Winair Expands Routes, Flight Frequencies; Features in the New SXM Airport Check-In Area, Now Opening; New Hotel Being Built Draws Fire from St. Maarten Pride; Underwater Statues Will Kill Brown Pelicans, Pride Charges - We Check their Claim With an Expert; Secret Site Nearing Post-Migration Updates Completion; The GEBE Mess; New Hotel in Marigot Using Particleboard for Some Walls; Mardis de Grand Case Returns; Enter Our 7-Vacation Giveaway -- Details Inside [#1423 - 55 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]***

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



Vol. 5, #1423 ---- Monday, January 15, 2024  
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

\*\*\*\*Our Largest Issue -- 55 Stories\*\*\*\*

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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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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

Add [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) to your address book  
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For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#)  
at the end of this newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\***Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter.**\*\*\*\*\*

**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.***

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**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](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

### TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

## TOP STORIES in today's *SXM Weekly News*:

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- **Boeing Plans New Twin-Engine 747 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nC6tKqhWLY8>**
- **Photos Being Posted of New SXM Airport Check-In Area**
- **JetBlue / Spirit Court Decision Still Expected Any Day**
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- **BrightPath Offers \$200 Off to JMB Website Supporters Members, \$100 Off to Everything SXM Members (Details Below)**
- **Simplified New Contact Info for SkyMed Inquiries & JMB Website Supporters Members**

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- **SkyMed Welcomes All Couples, Singles to Apply**
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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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

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

#### **SXM Timeshare (or Condo) RENTAL of The Week:**

**RENTAL 1/27/2024 2/3/2024 Week 4 Flamingo Beach Resort Flamingo - Hilton Diamond Completely renovated deluxe studio with King size bed, one bath, full kitchen, pull out couch (full bed), 4th floor (One of best beach bay views on the island). Studio apartment has two (2) TVs, free wi-fi, safe. Resort has one (1) restaurant, beautiful pool, 2 jacuzzi hot tubs, elevators and is within walking distance to grocery store, casino, and MORE great restaurants. \$1850 per week +(\$50). James 860.573.9255 [jaclark13@gmail.com](mailto:jaclark13@gmail.com)**

**See them **\*\*ALL\*\*** at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)**

#### **SXM Timeshare (or Condo) SALE of The Week:**

**SALE 3/16/2024 3/23/2024 WEEK 11 Simpson Bay Resort Studio sleep 4 Saturday to Saturday check in. Two queen beds and fully equipped kitchen in unit. Located on crystalline Simpson Bay and view of the clear blue Caribbean sea. Close to beach & resort includes tennis courts, numerous swimming pools, watersports, mini market and fine restaurants to temp your pallet. Will find amenities for your every need. \$5,000.00 Bonnie 603-321-7631 [sxmdream@hotmail.com](mailto:sxmdream@hotmail.com)**

**See them **\*\*ALL\*\*** at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)**

### **Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too!**

**St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): 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](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.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.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](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 Grounding of Boeing 737 Max 9 Aircraft Won't End Until Safety is Assured: Buttigieg; UA, Alaska Air are Primary Affected Airlines**

US Transportation Sec. Pete Buttigieg says the grounding of Boeing 737MAX9 aircraft in the wake of the explosive decompression of a cabin door plug a week ago on an Alaska Air flight will not be lifted until safety is assured -- however long that takes. Both Alaska Air and United have been canceling flights and will continue to do so as long as necessary.

Various 737MAX versions are used on flights to SXM; they can be identified by their unique dual winglets. We believe the only airline serving SXM with 737MAX9 aircraft may be United on some flights.

Investigators trying to find the cause of the incident, which fortunately happened at low altitude shortly after takeoff, have been hampered by the erasure of critical information from the cockpit voice recorder. The CVR devices begin erasing prior data after only a couple of hours. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which is doing the investigating, wants the FAA to require 25 hours of recordings but the FAA says it would be "too expensive" and pilots union lawyers who don't want recordings released to the public also are opposed.

Here is more on what's going on from The [New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com).

**2. Astonishingly, Boeing Asks for Exemption to Safety Rules for Its Problem-Plagued 737 MAX Jets**

There is yet another problem with another member of the 737 MAX family, the MAX 7, the smallest of the MAX jets that is still unreleased. Boeing is telling airlines to hold back on using engine anti-icing technology that could cause part of the engine covering (the nacelle) to break off in flight and possibly damage the wing or the tail or puncture the fuselage - all with potentially disastrous consequences. Boeing's solution: *exempt the plane from safety rules*. Heads up: after reading [this story](#), you may not want to fly anything from Boeing.

### 3. SXM-based Caribbean Airline WINAIR to Expand Routes, Frequencies

WINAIR has announced a significant expansion of its flight services effective January 15th, 2024. In addition to the increase of flights between St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius, starting January 15th, 2024, WINAIR also introduces more direct flight routes ...

#### ST. KITTS

Winair will connect:

- St. Kitts to St. Maarten; two to three times daily
- St. Kitts to Antigua; 3 flights a week,
- St. Kitts to Dominica; twice a week,
- St. Kitts to Tortola; twice a week.

#### TORTOLA, BVI

Winair will have the following connections from:

- Tortola to St. Maarten; two to three times daily
- Tortola to Antigua; every day,
- Tortola to St. Kitts; twice a week.

#### DOMINICA

Winair will connect:

- Dominica to St. Maarten; two to three times daily
- Dominica to Antigua; 5 flights a week,
- Dominica to St. Kitts; twice a week.

Winair says these route expansions reinforce WINAIR's commitment to enhancing regional connectivity and facilitating convenient travel options for customers between its key destinations.

### 4. Boeing Plans New Twin-Engine 747

In an astonishing recent comment, the head of Boeing reportedly said that the company is planning to reengineer its venerable 747 into a two-engine version. Doing that would require years of re-engineering of the wings and practically all other design aspects of the big jet and it comes at a time when the airframe manufacturer is still bogged down with an assortment of MAX troubles and is having its lunch eaten by Airbus which offers hot-selling narrow-body aircraft such as the A321 XLR which Boeing can't match. Boeing dropped its former plan to develop a clean-sheet new single-aisle plane to better compete with Airbus but scrapped those plans when it was in the middle of its earlier disastrous 737 MAX debacle.

We'd be surprised if the twin-engine 747 project ever gets off the ground -- literally or figuratively. [See video here.](#)

### 5. Photos Being Posted of New SXM Airport Check-In Area

SXM Airport is now launching its new reimagined check-in area. With the help of our friend Marco Croes, photos of the area were posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) on Saturday. More will be posted soon.

Among the key features of the new check-in area: lots of kiosks where you can get boarding passes and baggage tags for 9 major airlines serving SXM Airport. If you prefer, you can go to the counter where plenty of agents are ready to assist. See more about how this is working in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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**NOTE: *Subscribing is required to make you eligible to enter our enormous 7-vacation giveaway!* Publishing every week, as always!**

### 6. JetBlue / Spirit Court Decision Still Expected Any Day

The judge's decision on the Dept of Justice suit to stop the merger between jetBlue and Spirit is still expected any day. It was said last month that the decision would be handed down early in January -- but nothing has happened so far. We will publish the news quickly both here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Both Spirit and JB serve SXM so the decision matters here.

### 7. JetBlue CEO Robin Hayes to Step Down Next Month, Following Dr's Orders

The Hayes' family decision is unrelated to the proposed merger between JB and Spirit or any other aspect of JB operations -- it relates directly and solely to Mr. Hayes' health. [This story](#) gives details. Joanna Geraghty, 51, a long-time JB executive, will become jetBlue's new CEO.

### 8. Conga Line of Big Storms Affecting Airports from the Midwest Eastward

Midwestern blizzards and howling winds in a gigantic system moving eastward promise lots of excitement in the next few days for Jim Cantore and other Weather Channel meteorologists and their cohorts in the central and eastern parts of the US. On the heels of this big storm will be frigid temperatures likely to send thousands to their phones or computers to make reservations for SXM, where the high temperature this time of year is usually around 85 degrees. Come soon...

The bad news: this storm and others following it may well cause a significant number of flight cancellations and delays. Stay in touch with your airline if you're planning flights to SXM in the days ahead.

### 9. Passport Renewals Taking Just a Few weeks, But...

Allow about 6 weeks now, though renewals could take more or less time. If you're in a hurry, opt for expedited service. Get a readout on current turnaround times by asking folks who have renewed in the last month in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

### 10. Airlines for America wants Feds to Help Stop Flight Delays Caused by Private Planes

The proliferation of "private" flights through America's airspace by businesses and well-to-do people is impacting commercial airline flight schedules, and the airlines aren't happy about it: it costs them money and hurts their performance ratings. [This story](#) tells you what they're doing to try to reduce the impact of private jet flights.

## 11. MEDICAL EVACUATION COSTS SOAR; Got \$55,000++? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a Medical Evacuation 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](mailto: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.

## 12. WINTER WEATHER IS HERE: 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***

## 13. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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## **Changing Your Email Address?**

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

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

### **14. New Hotel Being Built on Simpson Bay Road Draws Heavy Fire from Sint Maarten Pride Foundation**

The new hotel now being constructed next to the Simpson Bay police station puts a large property on a small piece of land in Simpson Bay, on a barely passable one-way road with one travel lane and heavy parking. It will add congestion to that road and possibly impede the ability of emergency vehicles to go down that road to respond to medical emergencies, fires, and more. We don't know if the hotel plans sufficient on-premises parking for its guests, employees, or visitors. Pictures of the property make one wonder how well it would survive another Irma-class storm.

Now that site preparations are underway and construction is starting, Sint Maarten Pride Foundation is howling about this project. Their comment: "We just saw this monstrous project being advertised. Is this really the type of development we want for Sint Maarten? Ministry of VROMI Government of Sint Maarten, who signed off on the permits for this monstrosity? How does this relate to the draft zoning plans for Simpson Bay? Simpson Bay Residents for the Safeguarding of our Heritage, are you aware of this? Is this what you want for Simpson Bay?"

With the project approved and being built, their objections may be falling on deaf ears.

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### **15. 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

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## 16. 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](http://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.

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## 17. 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](http://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](http://everythingSXM.com).

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## 18. 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](http://www.everythingSXM.com), our main SXM website.

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## 19. 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.

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## 20. 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](mailto:blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com)

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

**Villa Acropole:**

[www.acropole-stmartin.com](http://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](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com); include your callback number & time zone please. Protect your family TODAY with SkyMed®!**

## **21. 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com). All the details you need are there. Processing takes several days. You can contact Membership Services at [jmbcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jmbcomms@gmail.com).

## 22. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

**Not a SkyMed member?** Learn more about it at [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281; don't forget to tell us your time zone. Thanks.

### SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

## 24. Secret Site Updates Nearing Post-Migration Completion

Our Everything SXM passworded "Secret" Website for members of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program** has been live on our new server for several weeks. We promised members that every page of the Secret Site would be given a final close edit & update, a process that is now nearing completion and should be fully finished later this month. It's our top priority. You may encounter a few older (placeholder) pages until we finish this process. Completing the updates of all benefits pages is our top priority.

## 25. BrightPath Offers \$200 Off to JMB Website Supporters Members, \$100 Off to Everything SXM Members & Weekly News

## Readers (Details Below)

BrightPath Caribbean is the go-to authority for full-bore help navigating and executing the entire Dutch side residency process. Your choice is simple: do it yourself (kind of like doing brain surgery on yourself) or hire BrightPath, the recognized experts in doing this right.

BrightPath now offers both members of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program** and members of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) discounts on this process: JMB Website Supporters members (with their current, valid JMB membership cards) get \$200 off; readers of *SXM Weekly News* and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) get \$100 off.

*To join JMB Website Supporters and get this and hundreds of other benefits and discounts, click the page curl at [everything.sxm.com](#) (our main SXM site) and buy a new membership or reinstate / renew your existing membership. Do it now, while it's fresh in your mind. To prove you are eligible for the \$100 discount, copy this story, tell BrightPath the Volume number and issue number of this edition of Weekly News -- that info is above in the masthead.*

## 26. Simplified New Contact Info for SkyMed Inquiries & JMB Website Supporters Members

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

Here's what's best:

1. **SkyMed Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone:** If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone or text Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message. (Updated 1/14/24.)**
2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters:** Please use WhatsApp to send questions to Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's **WhatsApp number, 721-588-4188, but TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application ONLY**. Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. **INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL and time zone**, since most responses are made by email. You may also phone Membership Services directly at 508-591-3483 which also accepts texts.
3. **Our new email is [jmbcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jmbcomms@gmail.com); use it freely for JMB Website Supporters membership questions. PLEASE USE THE SUBJECT "JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS".** Thank you.

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

### **27. 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](mailto: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.**

## **28. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## **29. 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](mailto: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](http://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

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## 30. ===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.]

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## 31. SkyMed Welcomes All Couples, Singles to Apply

SkyMed, the medical evacuation membership company, has always welcomed all couples / partners as well as singles to apply for memberships. Family memberships offer significant savings over single memberships. For details on what SkyMed offers, call, text, or email SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger at 508-591-3483 or [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com).

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## 32. 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](mailto: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.

## **33. 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 1/6/23**

**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;  
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](http://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](http://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.....**

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## 34. 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.

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## 35. Sint Maarten Pride Foundation Says Underwater Sculptures Could Endanger SXM Brown Pelicans

From Sint Maarten Pride Foundation:

*Dear friends at Divi Little Bay Beach Resort, St. Maarten, can you please stop referring to the so called "Underwater Sculpture Park" as eco-friendly?*

*As described in our previous post this project threatens the very survival of our National Bird the Brown Pelican. There is therefore nothing eco-friendly about this project, it is merely another tourist attraction which took advantage of the fact that our Minister of TEATT and our Minister of VROMI of Government of Sint Maarten have no understanding of or regard for the protection and proper management of our natural environment and heritage.*

*In fact, this project is an ecological disaster in the making and as such calling it an eco-friendly attraction is just greenwashing. We encourage you to refrain from doing so. Read more [here](#): Survival of Sint Maarten's National bird the Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*) under severe threat. Visit our Facebook or Instagram pages for more information.*

**Tadzio Bervoets, former Nature Foundation chief honcho and renowned environmental expert, noted this exclusively to *SXM Weekly News*:** "Hey Jeff. Well as with so many developments on the island there was no Environmental or Social Impact Assessment done to determine what the impacts of the development will be. But considering the proximity to the largest pelican nesting site it may well be. But because of a lack of impact assessment requirements in our laws we can't be sure. Same story with having the structures built on concrete bases put on top of seagrass. Negative impacts do exist but due to the lack of an assessment that answers these questions based on data it will be conjecture."

***SXM Weekly News Comment:*** With a new government emerging, SXM is in dire need of legislation requiring environmental impact assessments of all future development projects. Not doing that is a gamble SXM can ill afford.

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## 36. New Hotel Being Built on Simpson Bay Road Draws Fire from St. Maarten Pride Foundation; see Story 14

Wanted you to see this important story in our Accommodations section, above; story 14. Please scroll up the page to see it.

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## 37. GEBE Issues Gobbledygook Excuses for "Preventive

## Maintenance" Blackouts Before the Election

GEBE is the Dutch side electric and water company, which has been the subject of decades of criticism for its renowned lack of dependability. Before last Thursday's Dutch side election, GEBE announced rounds of "preventive maintenance" throughout its system which it claimed required what it euphemistically called "load shedding", or blackouts across various sections of the Dutch side for two or three days before the election. It said given that "preventive maintenance", it felt that dependable power could be expected on Election Day.

If it expected a unanimous declaration of Whoopdie-Doo across the Dutch side, that never happened. GEBE's dependability is said to rank with such bad systems as Zimbabwe so nobody believes any GEBE promises.

We posted this in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#): "One wonders how much longer Dutch side residents will continue to tolerate the unimaginably overwhelming incompetence and lack of concern or empathy for its customers that is so obvious in the senior management of GEBE. "Load shedding" is a euphemism for turning off customers willy nilly because you don't have anything remotely resembling the competence required to run an electric company. The government owns it; it should find competence to run and fix it after decades of incompetence; then it should seize it and replace the people currently running it. Isn't enough truly enough?"

Two days of "preventive maintenance" are nothing compared to decades of poor planning and lack of both preventive and routine maintenance. The government is supposedly changing thanks to the election. Hopefully the new government will grab this wayward bull by the horns and get it to operate with competence for a change. This island deserves nothing less.

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## 38. La Vista Founder Passes Away

The following is from La Vista Resort:

***"It is with profound sadness we announce the passing of La Vista's founder Peter Scherzinger. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 5th in Bremen, Germany. Peter came to St. Maarten in 1978 and always had a dream to one day own a hotel. In 1986 that dream came to fruition and La Vista opened in December of 1986. In 2000 La Vista Beach was added.***

***"He leaves to mourn his wife Renate Scherzinger, his daughters Andrea Bartlett and Family, Martina Rabbani and family, the staff at La Vista, his friends and all who knew him.***

***"He will be laid to rest in Germany, with more details to follow at a later date."***

The JMB / Everything SXM Family expresses its most sincere sympathies to Peter's family and associates. He was a true leader who will be deeply missed.

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## 39. Free Online Seminar Coming on Buying Property in the Caribbean

Several knowledgeable folks from South Florida -- attorneys and others -- along with an associate from BrightPath Caribbean as emcee discuss this often-asked question in a free online seminar early next month. **WE URGE EVERYONE WHO HAS INTEREST IN BUYING PROPERTY / ESTABLISHING RESIDENCE IN SXM TO LEARN MUCH MORE ABOUT THIS TOPIC BY REGISTERING FOR THIS IMPORTANT SEMINAR.** Click [this link](#) to register.

Many of your questions will be answered by this highly focused group.

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## 40. \$200 and \$100 Discounts Offered on BrightPath Services Through our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program, our Everything SXM Facebook Group, and SXM Weekly News

These discounts are for first-time BrightPath customers and apply only to specific services including:

1. New business incorporation
2. Private Fund Foundation
- 3. Residency permits for first-time applicants**
4. Business bank account opening

Offer is valid **one discount coupon per client** and is valid and applied to new service invoices issued between January 15, 2024 to March 31, 2024. The \$200 discount applies exclusively to current members of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program** (current membership card is REQUIRED and is subject to verification), and \$100 discount applies to *SXM Weekly News* readers and [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) members. *SXM Weekly News* readers should print this article and send it to BrightPath on Request. Other details may apply. Much more information is available on our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Details will be posted shortly in our JMB Website Supporters Secret Website.

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## 41. New Hotel in Marigot Using Particle Board For Some Outside Room Walls

We were surprised in the last couple of weeks to see construction of the new Beach Hotel (formerly Beach Plaza Hotel) in Marigot includes the use of particleboard in some street-facing walls on the upper floors. That is where we saw it, later covered by other materials; we don't know if it is being used elsewhere in the structure.

There are materials designed for use specifically in hurricane-prone areas. We have not seen the regulations that were applied to this construction, but it is hard to imagine that they allow such materials as particleboard.

The project was originally scheduled for completion last October. Work continues; it is not yet open and doesn't appear to be close to opening. The 2022 product [announcement is here](#).

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## 42. Mardis de Grand Case Resumes Tuesday Jan 23

For More than 20 years, Tuesdays in Grand Case or "Harmony Nights," now called Mardis de Grand Case, has been a huge hit in Grand Case. It's a giant street fair with many activities, street vendors, marching bands, etc. It is a highly active time of week with lots going on (think three ring circus -- not an insult) and noise. If you want a nice quiet night for dining, this ain't it. Our recommendation: Go, but prepare to park at Grand Case Airport and be bussed in. Much more [is here](#). Mardis is BUSY.

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## 43. Club Fantastico IS CLOSED

Fans of Club Fantastico, the naturist retreat / villa in the hills off Orient Beach, were temporarily elated about a week ago when they received a marketing email saying plan your trip now for all of 2024.

Wait, what?

Long-time managers Chloe and Thierry had previously announced that the place was closing in January. Had that decision changed? Were they actually staying back in business? Excitement flared -- then depression returned when Thierry and Chloe said the letter from their marketing company was wrong, they ARE closed and aren't coming back. In fact we later saw a French side realtor was already advertising the property for sale.

Best wishes to Chloe & Thierry for their next adventure. They won a number of our **Everything SXM "Awards of Excellence"** for their great service to guests over many years.

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## 44. Caribbean Guilder Coming Next Year; Dollarization Idea Disintegrates

Although the Netherlands Antilles ceased to exist 10/10/10, the Antillean Guilder has persisted -- but it will be going away during 2025. There had been talk of "dollarisation," making the US dollar their official currency, but that



disappeared. So the new currency will be the Caribbean Guilder.

One dollar is worth about Fls1.80 Antillean or Caribbean guilders. That will continue, so in places where pricing is in Guilders, you'll owe \$10 for ever 18 guilders you spend. That's one reason many Americans buy gas on the French side, where some Cadisco gas stations still charge the same in Euros and dollars -- which are close to parity anyway. Dutch side pumps always charge by liters and use guilders.

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## 45. 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 (negotiable) and \$5K monthly rent. Contact [sxmrestaurantforsale@hotmail.com](mailto:sxmrestaurantforsale@hotmail.com) and INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, owner will return your call. NO REALTORS. Location: Welfare Road, Simpson Bay.***

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## 46. JEWELER OF THE WEEK: Returns 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)
- 6) **Royal Jewelers** (Vince and Rakhee Sakhrani)
- 7) **Ray's Jewelers** (Stephen & Monisha Jandial)

Next week: Stay tuned.

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## 47. Restaurant of the Week: Secret Seafood is No Secret

Secret Seafood on Simpson Bay Road *on the water* around the corner from the Simpson Bay police station is a simple, beautiful restaurant selling seafood and much more from 11am until about 10 pm or after. The fish mostly comes directly from boats owned by the restaurant's owner, Keith Joseph, assuring the freshest catch (he also supplies many leading SXM restaurants) of fish and lobster, which is what we had this time. At two lbs., it was big and loaded with meat. We had coconut shrimp for starters which was also a large portion and delicious. Ilene had a salad with fresh avocado and skewered shrimp. There is so much food here, you may turn away dessert -- we didn't, it was delicious rum raisin ice cream. There is also a full bar and every seat lets you overlook the many sailboats and yachts in Simpson Bay, whose waters lick the deck here at Secret Seafood.

There is parking both in their lot across the street and on the street. We suggest reservations since the "Secret" is out; you'll find the restaurant easily just a few hundred yards up the road from the Simpson Bay police station. Lots of food for everyone (including pasta and salads for vegetarians), very generous portions, and among the lowest prices on the island (we suspect Keith's wn boats help pricing). Just go and say hi to witress Asagna, plus many others and bartender M&M. Keith is usually overseeing everything. He came here not long ago after selling real estate in New York City for several years. You will love this very neat new venture. Tell them we sent you!

**Next week:** Another fine SXM restaurant.

### **Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:**

**Secret Seafood** (featured 1/15/24) on Simpson Bay Road a few hundred feet north of the Simpson Bay police station right on Simpson Bay Beach, has a huge lobster tank (hundreds are looking forward to meeting you) plus a spectrum of fish freshly caught in local waters by owner Keith Joseph's own boats. Excellent food, great service, generous portions, and very reasonable prices. See their site [here](#).

**ROMA at Oasis, Maho, (featured 1/8/24)** offers Italian Fine Dining (and authentic brick oven pizza) 7 days a week. Reservations are essential during high season since ROMA is busy every night. Led by Italian-born chef Marco

Ferrante, the restaurant is busy, the staff is attentive, and the food is outstanding. Convenient valet parking at Casino Royale next door. Highly recommended.

**La Rosa Restaurant**, Maho Plaza, (featured 1/1/24): Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. [www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html](http://www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html)

**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](http://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/](http://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. (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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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!**

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

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

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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## 48. 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.

## 49. 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](mailto: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.

## 50. 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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mySXM).

## 51. Important Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales (UPDATED 1/15):

Here's what's best: First, a Suggestion: **Get the free WhatsApp app**. It lets you make free phone calls (including video calls) worldwide and send free texts, all for zero cost. It is very widely used around the world.

1. **SkyMed Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone**: If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-747-8281 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](mailto:jmbcomms@gmail.com); use it for JMB Website Supporters membership questions.**  
Thank you.

## 52. 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](http://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](mailto: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**

**Diamonds International**

## **Brilliant Jewelers / Ocean Jewelers**

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com)

**GoBeach Vacations**

**Sunshine Properties**

**Villa Acropole:**

**[www.acropole-stmartin.com](http://www.acropole-stmartin.com)**

**Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)**

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

**Villa Kimon**

**Daffodil Villa**

**40 Weeks**

## **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 1/8/24**

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## 54. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

**CALL US at 508-747-8281.**

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## 55. 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...

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### **[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](http://skymed.com/jmb) or email Jeff at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

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**Got a Radio While You're in SXM?**

**Want to Listen to SXM While You're Home?**

**Tune In Island92 at 91.9 FM**

**or On Your Internet-Connected Device**

**at [island92.com](http://island92.com) ...**

**and hear Jeff Berger LIVE on the air most Mondays  
between about 9:45am and 10am island time  
on "Fresh Air in the Morning" with Dr. Soc.**

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

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

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

**Want to rent or buy a week?**

"2024 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale" are posted at [http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

### SECTION 5: For Members Only

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

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

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

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

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website:

[www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

Privacy Policy [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml) (Updated 5/25/18)

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

1/15/24 #V5-1423 700 am AST 1/14 | [Terms of use](#) |

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