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From JMB / SXM Weekly News 1/22/24: Judge Shoots Down JetBlue - Spirit Merger, But This is Not Over; The Full Story on the Boeing 737; The Surprise Waterfall at SXM Airport; Mardis de Grand Case Postponed; Best Places for Kids; Kite Surfing; Buying Caribbean Real Estate; The Safety of Plane Watching; How to Enter Our 7-Vacation Giveaway -- Details Inside [#1423 - 51 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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



Vol. 5, #1424 ---- Monday, January 22, 2024
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

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Important Note:

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- **A Full Explanation of How The 737 Got Where It Is**
- **Unexpected New Feature in SXM Airport's Departure Area: Ceiling-to-Floor Waterfall**
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===Heads Up Re: Vacation-Ruining Slips & Falls=====

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- **We Welcome Your Comments on Our Stories; How & Where to Comment**
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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare (or Condo) RENTAL of The Week:

RENTAL 8/4/2024 8/11/2024 31 Royal Islander La Plague 3rd floor 1br 1bath sleeps 4. Full kitchen. Great beachfront balcony view. Great location. Right in Maho. Very safe area. Close to the airport. Casino across the street. Plenty of nightlife on same street as the resort. Food market across the street. Popular and beautiful Mullet Bay Beach half mile away. \$1,000.00 Brian 856-625-4622 bsch1016@aol.com

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

SXM Timeshare (or Condo) SALE of The Week:

SALE 11/9/2024 11/23/2024 Weeks 45, 46 Simpson Bay Resort & Casino Fixed & deeded weeks Marina PH, spacious, approx. 1700 sq. ft, 1 of only 5 suites on top floor overlooking Simpson Bay;, incl. parking space; Sleeps 6 w. 2 BRs, king beds and 2 twin Murphy beds; 2 full baths & 2 convenience safes; fully equipped kitchen w. stainless steel appliances, granite counters, 4 bar stools; dining table seats 6 comfortably; enclosed patio w. wet bar, convertible sofa, table/chairs seats 4 large balcony spans apt. from LR to MBR, includes hot tub; TVs in each BR and living room; Internet access available; easy access to beaches, multiple pools, tennis courts, gym, restaurants; walking distance to restaurants in Simpson Bay; willing to negotiate multiple purchase; deeply discounted from Resort resale price \$10,000 per week Pat (347)387-2294 patc4226@gmail.com

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too!

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): Scroll down this page to see our recommended Real Estate companies, listed under "Sponsors."

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

"Like" Our All-New ["Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group](https://mewe.com/join/jeffbergerseverythingsxmmewegroup)

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

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

http://www.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 . 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. Judge Says NO to JetBlue / Spirit Merger -- But the Story Seems Far from Over

Although the judge in the Boston non-jury trial that pitted the DOJ against merger-wannabes jetBlue and Spirit said NO to the merger, the merger proposition is far from disappearing. The judge had said earlier that his "courtroom is open" to different proposals of an association between the two carriers. Even if JB and SP decide against that, they could still appeal the decision, which was based on 100 year-old antitrust law that preceded the existence of today's airlines.

Beyond that, Spirit is hemorrhaging money and may not survive another year in its current state. Yes it is a low cost carrier, but its costs are greater than its revenues and that must stop if it is to survive. So the "low fares" the court preserved are diaphanous and are bound to disappear. About 80% of all US airline revenue goes to AA, UA, DL, and SW; the rest goes to everybody else. A combined JB and SP would bring new competition to that market (not preserve unrealistically low fares which will soon disappear on their own due to pure unsustainability).

An appeal seems likely. If JB waited for SP to go bankrupt, what's left could be little pieces -- not a sizeable airline that, after a merger with JB, can bring real competition to major carriers.

We'll keep watching this. SP shares dropped by about 50% after the decision...SP needs this to happen and so does JB if it wants strong future growth. This story is definitely not over.

LATE BREAKING NEWS from jetBlue: JetBlue Airways Corporation ("JetBlue") (NASDAQ: JBLU) and Spirit Airlines, Inc. ("Spirit") (NYSE: SAVE) today (Friday) reported that they have jointly filed a notice of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, consistent with the requirements of the merger agreement.

2. FAA Grounding of Boeing 737 Max 9 Remains Open-Ended

FAA's grounding of the 737 Max 9 after an emergency exit plug on an Alaska Airlines flight blew out in flight is continuing until there is certainty they are fit to fly, and both safety and quality assurance procedures by Boeing and its suppliers are what they must be. There is no target date for lifting the grounding. UA is the airline most affected, and the result continues to be cancellations on Max 9 flights. If you are flying UA, keep reconfirming your flights.

3. A Full Explanation of How The 737 Got Where It Is

This is the best explanation we've seen about how the legendary 737 has changed from a golden-egg laying goose to something of an albatross for Boeing -- though some would argue it isn't. It's [fascinating reading](#).

4. Unexpected New Feature in SXM Airport's Departure Area: Ceiling-to-Floor Waterfall

It may sound like a beautiful design idea -- akin to the window waterfalls that IZI has had for years in their legendary Simpson Bay restaurant.

But [this waterfall](#) wasn't designed as an architectural feature. Rather, it was a sprinkler in one of the stores in the upstairs departure area that went haywire and briefly sprayed the floor. Video quickly went on Social Media but the best news is that crews quickly stopped it and hopefully found what went wrong so it can't happen elsewhere. No passengers were affected.

ASK ALL YOUR SXM FRIENDS TO SUBSCRIBE TO SXM WEEKLY NEWS

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

Subscribe free at www.sxmweeklynews.com

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

5. 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](#).

6. 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. 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.

7. 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

8. January Update to 2024 Hurricane Season Forecasts Due Soon

...and as soon as these pivotal forecasts have been issued, we will post them both here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Stay tuned...earlier forecasts predicted a much busier than usual season.

9. Where to Find SXM / Tropical Weather Updates

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

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

Here are FIVE sources of current SXM weather info:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather Center / Hurricane Center" at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops 24/7/365 and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page. *That page also includes real-time or near-real-time satellite images and radar loops.*
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) **On or off the island, listen to Island 92** -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once so you'll know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

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

[Changing Your Email Address?](#)

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

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

10. NEW: 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

11. Where to Rent a Beach Villa for Your Family

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

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

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

See the stories below for all the info you need.

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

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

13. Why Our Rental Ads are Different - And Superior

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

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

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

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

14. 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.

15. Best Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas

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

VILLA RENTALS / RENTAL COMPANIES:

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

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

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

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

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

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

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

Updated 4/17/23

Get your SKYMED MEMBERSHIP *BEFORE* you need it. Air ambulances are now more costly than ever: when you become seriously or critically ill or injured while traveling, SKYMED TAKES YOU HOME® to doctors and hospitals you know & trust. Otherwise you must pay tens of thousands of dollars in cash in advance to get a medevac jet -- if you can even do it (NOT easy or fast if you don't know how). SkyMed annual or multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day, and they're guaranteed renewable regardless of age or medical condition at renewal and they are PRICE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE. Why wait? CALL today 508-747-8281 or email us at jeff.berger@skymed.com; include your callback number & time zone please. Protect your family TODAY with SkyMed®!

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

We are now accepting advertising for both timeshare resort condominiums as well as privately owned condominiums on the island directly from their owners who are current, active members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. This is effective immediately and includes weeks from 2023 and now 2024. Submit your ads through the members-only "Secret" website.

Not a member? Join us by clicking the page curl on our main site, www.everythingsxm.com. All the details you need are there. Processing takes several days. You can contact Membership Services at jmbcomms@gmail.com.

17. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

19. 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 this month. It's our top priority. You may encounter a few older (placeholder) pages until we finish this process. All benefits pages are our top priority.

20. 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 everythingxsm.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.

These discounts are for first-time customers only and they apply only to specific services such as

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. Contact Brightpath directly with your current, valid JMB Website Supporters membership card to receive any discount. See <https://www.facebook.com/brightpathcaribbean> and mention where you saw this. If you do not have a current JMB membership card, get a new JMB Website Supporters membership card at: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml.

21. 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:

Because of volume, email is not the best way to reach us. [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. 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; use it freely for JMB Website Supporters membership questions. PLEASE USE THE SUBJECT "JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS".** Thank you.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

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

Only \$1.64/day - *LESS THAN A CUP OF COFFEE* -- gets you global SKYMED MEDEVAC protection for virtually all your upcoming trips -- and it protects you AT HOME, too.

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

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

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

**"Thank YOU for Your Service"
Bonuses for US & Canadian Military Veterans
& FIRST RESPONDERS:**

**6 FREE months added to all new 5-year ULTIMATES*
3 FREE months added to all new 3-year ULTIMATES*
*What are "Ultimates"? See next story.**

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

WHAT IS SKYMED? WHERE DOES SKYMED WORK?

SkyMed is a medical evacuation membership company. "SkyMed Takes You Home®" when you become seriously or critically ill or injured when traveling anywhere throughout the USA, Canada, all the nations of the Caribbean, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Bahamas. Global protection is also available. SkyMed members pay nothing for SkyMed-arranged medical evacuation flights that would otherwise cost non-SkyMed members

\$50,000 and up payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that? Of course, you must **get SkyMed membership before you need it -- just like fire insurance.** You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services [here](#), and you'll find Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

• **WHAT ARE "ULTIMATES"?**

SkyMed Ultimates are SkyMed's best memberships and also its **LEAST EXPENSIVE** on a cost-per-day basis (about \$1.64/day for family protection). They offer a suite of 18 services in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean - plus an additional suite of 26 services to help you in most of the rest of the world. They are offered in monthly-pay (minimum payment period two years), three-year, and five-year versions -- the five-year delivers the lowest cost per day available for Ultimate memberships (about \$1.64).

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

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

• **LIFETIME PRICE GUARANTEE / GUARANTEED RENEWABLE MEMBERSHIPS:**

All existing SkyMed memberships and new SkyMed membership purchases of one-year or longer are now price-guaranteed for life. The price of your membership will not increase if you buy during 2023 or if you already are a SkyMed owner of any annual or longer membership: this applies as long as your renewals are paid on time. SkyMed annual and longer memberships are also Guaranteed Renewable when annual or multiyear fees are paid on time -- guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or declining health.

• **HOW TO CONTACT US: Phone us ANYTIME at 508-747-8281 for answers to questions or to sign up. When you call us directly, we get credit for the sale. You can also email us directly through SkyMed at jeff.berger@skymed.com.**

My SkyMed website: <http://www.skymed.com/jmb>. **But please CALL ME DIRECTLY with questions or to sign up - that way I get credit (number above).** Or jeff.berger@skymed.com

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

Basic SkyMed short-term and annual memberships protect you throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. In that SkyMed universe, SkyMed *Takes You Home*® when you become critically ill or injured. Optional protection covering most of the rest of the world (those 26 additional Ultimate global services mentioned above) is provided by GETS, Global Emergency Travel Services, a SkyMed company.

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

Many people who buy SkyMed memberships first request short-term protection. Is that the best solution for most people? That's a decision you have to make, but before you do, here's some important info. **First, short-term memberships are the most expensive product SkyMed sells on a per-day basis: \$18/day.** They're available only for a specific defined short term. They protect you with SkyMed *Takes You Home*® membership that applies throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Short-term protection cannot be upgraded or renewed since you buy it for a specific trip; it's temporary protection. There is no waiting period for benefits. When you want protection for another future trip, you must make a separate application for it and qualify again. **Although at \$18/day per couple SkyMed short-term protection is the most expensive product SkyMed sells on a cost-per-day basis,** short-term protection is economical if you seldom travel and take very brief trips. The cost is \$12/day per individual, or a maximum of \$15/day per family (parents and kids 21 or younger). **We always tell people who are 50 or over about the most important advantages of SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships. This is KEY: SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable, regardless of advancing age or declining health - and they are also price guaranteed forever -- your price will not go up as long as you renew your membership on time.** Details are in SkyMed's Member Service Agreement (MSA). We currently have members who are still traveling and are in their upper 80s and 90s. **The cost of annual memberships per family is far**

more economical than the \$18/day per family for short-term coverage -- it's now about \$1.64/day total.

Multiyear memberships also have more features; contact me for full information about features of each type of SkyMed membership. **Ultimate memberships protect you worldwide, including AT HOME.** I can answer all your questions by phone in minutes, and can also take your application by phone (that way I get credit and **you pay my unique low Association rates. not available online at SkyMed's website; there you pay retail.**) Phone 508-747-8281 or email jeff.berger@skymed.com. That's a direct line to Jeff Berger. *Updated 5/8/23.*

Final Word About the SkyMed Ultimate:

Again, the Ultimate is SkyMed's best and least expensive (on a daily cost basis) form of medical evacuation membership. With SkyMed *Takes You Home*® services in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, plus Global Emergency Travel Services (GETS) almost everywhere else worldwide, the Ultimate is for people who visit Europe, Africa, Asia, and almost anywhere else your wanderlust takes you. It also delivers 18 critically important travel-related services as opposed to 12 with SkyMed annual memberships -- *plus another suite of 26 services around the world.* **You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services including those provided with Ultimate memberships [here](#).**

- [SkyMed Frequently Asked Questions / FAQ](#)

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well or now WhatsApp, 721-588-4188 (through WhatsApp ONLY), or use our office line, 508-747-8281. Or email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com (SkyMed inquiries only please). When contacting us **PLEASE** include your phone number, time zone, and email address.

--Jeff Berger
5/8/23

24. Answering Your Questions: What EXACTLY Does SkyMed Do? --- from Jeff Berger

We've always said SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become critically ill or injured -- home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, and home where your health insurance *works*. **In recent months as many of you have decided to resume normal worldwide travel, you've asked us for examples of what SkyMed does.** Here you go:

For answers to questions or to sign up, email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com or call me at 508-747-8281. Open to Americans & Canadians & xPats only. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the last 34+ years, SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is available. Cost for family membership is as little as \$1.64/day on annual and multiyear plans. IMPORTANT: Buy directly through me; our pricing for multiyear memberships is much lower than SkyMed's retail pricing published on the web.

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

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

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about

a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger 24/7 at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also take your application by phone in about 10 minutes. *You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.*

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

Thanks for reading this.

Updated 5/8/23

25. ===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.]

26. 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.

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

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

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

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

Our EXPANDED 7-SXM VACATION GIVEAWAY - Complete prize list and how to enter!

Revised 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 . Also available on Amazon.

Massage Services

Patty Healing Hands; Patty goes to your location.

Media Recognition:

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

Parfumerie – Tijon Parfumerie

Perfume-Making class for two!

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

T-Shirts - Life is Good

\$100 Gift Certificate at the Front Street

Life is Good Store

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

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

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

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

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

30. Mardis de Grand Case Startup Postponed

"Mardi," the big Harmony Nights street fair in Grand Case, was set to start tomorrow night (Tuesday) in Grand Case, but for unannounced technical reasons it has been postponed.

No reason was announced by press time, but there has been construction underway on Blvd. de Grand Case and we suspect that's why. Slips and falls are common in Grand Case (see story 25, above) and having those during a street fair would not be great PR....

31. Is Caribbean Real Estate a Wise Investment? Your Invitation to Register Online

Several knowledgeable folks from South Florida along with BrightPath Caribbean's Vivian Chamas as Moderator 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 Florida-based group!

32. What to Expect for the Height of High Season

SXM is getting busier by the day: the height of high season starts now, in the second half of January. Beaches are busier, traffic is heavy (esp. in Simpson Bay afternoons after 3pm), better restaurants are packed (reservations are a smart move), and when lots of cruise ships are in town Front Street is for pedestrians only.

Contact your favorite Jewelers: chances are they have special programs to get you to Town or make parking easier. If you want to see how many ships are in town, search "cruise ship schedule" in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

33. Newest Forecasts for the Coming Hurricane Season

Crown Weather, our go-to source for the most accurate tropical weather forecasts, as well as other weather services usually issue their winter updates for the next hurricane season by late January, which is rapidly approaching. We will bring those updated hurricane season forecasts to you here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) -- watch for them soon.

34. Crown Weather Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary

Crown Weather of Massachusetts, which for years has been our major source of private forecasting for hurricane season and year 'round, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Many of you subscribe to its remarkably INEXPENSIVE private forecasts year-round for life-saving weather information no matter where you live in the USA, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, or Bermuda. See their story [here](#). Congrats to Rob Lightbown for his great work.

35. Best Places for Young Children

Parrot Ville....Friars Bay Beach....Seaside Nature Park near GEBE (lots of animals, horseback rides, and much more) are among the many places on SXM that are great for kids. Check our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) for many more suggestions including restaurants that may be ideal for your children or grandchildren. If you are bringing grandchildren with you to SXM or elsewhere, also [see this for something you should know](#).

Other great suggestions: **Toppers Gelateria**, Simpson Bay; **Le Galion Beach** (weekends), shallow and calm; **AllInOnePlace** store (see their Facebook page), lots of great ideas for young kids & their parents; and of course the **La Sucriere** French pastry shop, Simpson Bay, whose deck is frequently visited by docile iguanas (fierce looking vegetarians).

36. Where to See (or Do) Kite Surfing

Near the WAI Plage restaurant (on either side of it) are kite surfing places on Orient Beach. Fascinating to watch folks of all ages (20s to 60s) surfing at high speed, sometimes going around Green Key or even toward Pinel Island. Lessons available. These kites aren't cheap...can cost up several thousand dollars. Some users are highly acrobatic in their aerial turns with the kites. Check it out.

37. Will the New Coalition Government Finally Turn Lights on and Finally Fix Potholes?

The just-finished parliamentary elections on the Dutch side will result in a new parliamentary government. These folks are legislators but they do have power to direct government activity (or request actions). They should do that to stop sidewalk parking in P-Burg, fix the lights on Rhine Road through Mullet Bay (many of which have been out for close to 16 months), and permanently fix all the remaining Dutch side potholes. If they did all that in their first few weeks that would be a great start to their terms.

38. Plane Watching: Heads Up About Beacon Hill Road and Maho Beach

The road between the SXM Airport fence and Maho Beach is Beacon Hill Road, a public highway. It is in constant use by taxis, buses, private cars, police, trucks, etc. No matter how much you may want to stand in the road to take pictures, GET OUT OF THE ROAD. It is very dangerous to be on that narrow road even for a few second for pictures or any other reason. DON'T flag down taxis there since they have no authorization to pick up or leave off passengers on that active road. This is a dangerous area due to jet exhaust which can blow you and your family and all your stuff into the water. Be very careful here, if you go at all.

39. Toppers Wins Nod as "Best Caribbean Rum"

If there is one thing the Caribbean is known for as much as its beaches, is its rum. The spirit was first distilled on the islands during the 17th century when sugar plantation owners discovered molasses, a byproduct of the sugar refining process, which could be fermented into alcohol. Caribbean rum producers have spent centuries since perfecting the process of distillation, aging and blending.

Many of the world's best rums come from the Caribbean. USA Today awarded the Best Caribbean Rum to St. Maarten's Topper's Rhum. This prestigious competition is amongst some of the most famous rum brands in the world such as Bacardi, Brugal, Angostura, Cruzan, Mount Gay, Appleton Estate, and Barbancourt. USA TODAY's 10Best.com, provides travelers with original, unbiased, and experiential travel content around the world. At its core is a team of well-traveled and well-educated experts who in their fields are known for their discriminating tastes.

Topper's Rhum, a truly locally made product, is a world-class, multi-award winning, premium rum that is handmade, bottled, and packaged with precision right here in Cole Bay, St. Maarten. Topper's Rhum only uses all natural premium ingredients and no preservatives. They are committed to producing the world's best tasting rum and flavored rum spirits, using the highest standards of quality. They are re-inventing rum by continually innovating and delivering unique products to their customers worldwide. Through their tours and their continuing expansion overseas, they are notably promoting St. Maarten internationally.

Topper's Rhum Distillery is one of the top unique places to visit on St. Maarten, according to the St. Maarten Tourism Bureau. Topper's is family owned and operated and is set in a gorgeous landmark waterfront location directly on the Caribbean's largest Lagoon. This iconic building, a 16-sided structure studded with Italian cerulean blue tiles, marble floors, and a majestic chandelier, stunningly accommodates not only the rum distillery but also their famous international restaurant, Karaoke bar, authentic Italian gelateria, and gift shop.

Enjoy a tour or stop by for tasting and shopping daily from 9:00 am- 10:00 pm. Tours are available daily at 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, and 5:30 pm. After you are greeted with Topper's refreshing rum punch, a knowledgeable guide will give you a fun hands-on tour where you will learn a little history of rum and get a behind-the-scenes look at how Topper's ferments, distills, blends, ages, and expertly bottles its handcrafted rums and ensure their products meet the highest quality standards.

During your tour, you'll be treated to over 20 samples of their 100 different flavored rums, rum cake, rum-infused Italian gelato, and waffle cones, and you get to cook and taste food prepared with Topper's Rhum. This official St. Maarten rum is the only international multiple award-winning spirit produced and exported from St. Maarten. They currently export to 7 countries and 27 states in the USA and their products are also sold online throughout the world at buyrum.com. *Provided by Toppers.*

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 FB 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 [here](#).

40a. 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 and INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, owner will return your call. NO REALTORS. Location: Welfare Road, Simpson Bay.

41. JEWELER OF THE WEEK: Returns Soon

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.

42. Restaurant of the Week:

This feature returns next week. See many prior restaurants featured here in the last several months:

Next week: Another fine SXM restaurant.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Secret Seafood (featured 1/14/24) 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

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured 12/25/23] Truly fine dining in one of SXM's most well known and respected restaurants. The property is rich in history, the owners and Chef Sidney are culinary perfectionists, and you will kick yourself if you don't go here early in your trip so you have time to come back. Sunday Brunch is a must but requires reservations as does dinner. Absolutely NOT to be missed!

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

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

Bamboo House (12/4/23), located high on a hill in Cole bay has spectacular island views and equally spectacular dining and service. Exquisite sushi, steaks, and lots more. Vegetarians welcome; people with special dietary needs are well cared-for here too. Jeff rates Bamboo with one huge WOW -- go; you will absolutely be visiting more than once.

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

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

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

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff www.mariobistrot.com/en/ (featured 11/20/23) Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have -- here in SXM or anywhere else. Go. Phenomenal dining. Formerly on the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, they are now at the Cliff. Open every day but Monday, they serve both lunch and dinner six days a week. Traditional and highly creative Continental dinners, with Tapas and other selections at lunch. Do not miss it. Reservations essential. They do not use an answering machine, so call when they are open and let it ring.

L'Oursin Restaurant at La Samanna, a Belmond Hotel: Truly extraordinary fine-dining dining under the watchful eye of master Chef Dino Jagtiani. Collaborating with top Caribbean Chefs, L'Oursin delivers a thoroughly memorable panoply of flavors, aromas, and textures -- and the presentation is truly artistic and photo-worthy. Orders of magnitude beyond ordinary deliciousness! Reservations are essential: **+590 590 87 64 00. (featured 11/13/23)**

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

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izisxm.com (featured 11/1/23). Open for dinner starting at 5pm except Mon., when they're closed. Fantastic food from one of SXM's absolute best restaurants -- in fact it has been voted **BEST**

RESTAURANT OF ANY KIND ON SXM by readers of TripAdvisor. Fun atmosphere, too. **Go and tell them we recommended it.**

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 10/23/23) Avantika is flat-out wonderful; SXM's best Thai; Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by seasoned service. Consistently excellent. Go...you'll become a regular.

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

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

The Coffee Lounge, (featured 6/5/23) Simpson Bay next to Domino's and in Philipsburg at the head of town. Great freshly roasted coffees, pastries, and sandwiches. Don't miss it.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 5/22/23) Chef-co-owner Ciro Russo & Lara Russo haven't missed a beat here as Spiga continues to be simply the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case, where it has a lot of competition.

Incredibly irresistible food, great staff, service, and beautiful ambiance. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Absolutely not to be missed.

Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine (featured 3/20/23), Simpson Bay Leave your preconceptions behind! A 15-second walk to the opposite side of the building from Top Carrot. Outstanding dinners (and lunches a few days weekly) in Jai's, a fun new contemporary fusion restaurant operated by two young SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Super creative, artfully presented, phenomenally executed selections spanning an ever-growing spectrum of flavors, aromas, textures, and tastes. You gotta try Jai's! Highest recommendation. See

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

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured 3/6/23] Truly fine dining in one of SXM's most well known and respected restaurants. The property is rich in history, the owners and Chef Sidney are culinary perfectionists, and you will kick yourself if you don't go here early in your trip so you have time to come

back. Sunday Brunch is a must but requires reservations as does dinner. Not to be missed.

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

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

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

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

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

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43. 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.

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

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

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

Why get annual or multiyear memberships? SHORT-TERM family memberships (for a week or two) are now \$18/day, while **guaranteed renewable for life, price guaranteed for life annual and multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day** -- less than a cup of coffee. Call me at 508-747-8281 or jeff.berger@skymed.com for answers to questions or to sign up by phone.

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

45. 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.

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

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

1. **SkyMed Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone**: If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-747-8281 and leave a message.**
2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters**: Use WhatsApp to send questions to Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's WhatsApp phone number, 721-588-4188, **but call or TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application ONLY**. Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. **INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL**, since all responses are made by email.
3. **Our new email is jmbcomms@gmail.com; use it for JMB Website Supporters membership questions.** Thank you.

47. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 1/8/24)

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

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

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson
Patty Meotti

AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

BAKERIES / DINE-IN & TO GO

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

BARS

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

BOAT TOURS / BOAT CHARTERS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:

www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

Rumbelly Boat Charters Pleasure boats, motorized and catamaran

BOUTIQUES

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road opposite Atrium Resort;

Life Is Good®, Philipsburg.

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

Tropicana Car Rental

Dollar/Thrifty Car Rental

SixT Car Rental

Starlite Car Rental

CHILD CARE & MORE FOR VISITORS

Alisha Brookes

COFFEE / PASTRY & MORE:

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

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

DOLLAR STORES

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

DUTY-FREE SHOPPING

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

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

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

Smart Electronics, Simpson Bay (new 3/23)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

SkyMed International (Covers the entire USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean; Global protection available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats living in these countries.) **CALL 508-747-8281 or email jeff.berger@skymed.com.**

FASHIONS FOR WOMEN

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road, Simpson Bay, opposite Atrium Hotel.

FISHING CHARTERS

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

Rudy's Deep-Sea Fishing

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

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

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Oro Diamante

[Majesty Jewelers](#)

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

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

Jewels & Beyond (Maho)

[Shoppers Haven](#)

Royal Jewelers

Kay's Fine Jewelry

Joe's Jewelry International

Ballerina Jewelers

Alpha Jewels

Diamonds International

Brilliant Jewelers / Ocean Jewelers

MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[Kasprowski Publisher](#)

MESSAGE

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

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

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

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

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

Jennifer's Vacation Villas

Century 21 St. Maarten

Sunshine Properties

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **Blue Paradise Real Estate**, Ms. Candie Billant

Owner/Broker of Blue Paradise Real Estate company

+590 690 22 18 22

blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com

BrightFuture Realty

RESORTS:

Baker's Suites

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Mary's Boon Beach Hotel

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

[IZI](#) (See their new website)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Topper's Restaurant, Gelateria, & Rhum Distillery

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

BOVIN STEAKHOUSE

NOLA Bayou Bistro (James "Jimbo" Morris)

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

At Oasis:

--ROMA (Marco Ferrante)

--Mr. Chow (Ivan)

--The Deli

Emilio's

Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar

ROXXY Bar / Restaurant

LAZY LIZARD

RANCHO del SOL

SUNSET CAFE (Grand Case)

AVANTIKA

ASTRA

AMORE

JAI'S CONTEMPORARY FUSION CUISINE

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

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

BUCCANEER BEACH BAR

BAMBOO HOUSE (new 5/16/22)

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

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

La Rosa, Maho Plaza

La Sucriere

RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE

Orders.sx

SOUVENIRS

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

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Martin Like St. Maarten (Maarten Leon)

VILLA RENTALS / RENTAL COMPANIES:

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

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

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

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

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

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

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

48. 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 everything.sxm.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.

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

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

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

Get The Lowest Price on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership

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

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

Got a Radio While You're in SXM?

Want to Listen to SXM While You're Home?

Tune In Island92 at 91.9 FM

or On Your Internet-Connected Device

at island92.com ...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

- A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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www.everythingsxm.com .

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

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

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