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Merry Christmas --- #1024 --- Monday, 12/21/15 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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## St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source  
for 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)

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This format has been further narrowed so it is now easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of all recent editions here:

[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.

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#### TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News*, published every Monday all year long (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). You're receiving this because you subscribed or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

*In This Week's SXM Weekly News:*

- A Tale of Three Restaurants: Sushiitto, Big Fish, and the All New Mario's Bistrot**
- New Orient Beach Bars / Restaurants / Shops Go To Tenants Tomorrow (Tuesday)**
- Early Reservations a Must for Christmas & New Year's**
- Ninth Vacation Giveaway Added To Our Celebration of 4.5 Million Site Visits**
- Star Wars' SXM Connection**
- Holiday Membership Sale Ends Very Soon: Low Prices on 240+ SXM Discounts & Benefits**
- "Mardis de Grand Case" Returns January 12**
- Boston's North End / Providence' Federal Hill Don't Beat This Pizza Made In SXM**
- Some Restaurants Instituting No-Show Charges: Why It's a Good Thing**
- Great Holiday Gift Specials Available Now from Zhaveri Jewelers**
- JMB Members: Don't Forget to Use Your Discount Vouchers & Bring Your JMB Membership Card**
- Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Revised 12/15)**

**31** news stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

## Timeshare Rentals and Sales 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, at no charge, 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 237+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

### **SXM Timeshare Rental / Sale of The Week:**

RENTAL: January 16 to January 23, 2016 (week 3) Sapphire Beach Resort on Cupecoy Beach, sleep-four unit faces sunny Cupecoy Beach and the Caribbean Sea. Includes a genuine Jacuzzi whirlpool hot tub on the balcony, king size bed, full a/c, cable TV, DVD player, refrigerator with ice maker, marble bath, beautiful furnishings throughout. Resort has shops, restaurants, mini-mart, plus a large pool, whirlpool, and bar -- all on the ocean. Close to Starz Casino (formerly Atlantis World), many great restaurants including Dino Jagtiani's multi award-winning Temptation, plus Mullet Bay Beach, the Cupecoy clothing-optional beach, Baie Longue, and Baie Rouge on the French Side, with famous Orient Beach not much more than 20 minutes away. And did I say incredible restaurants? Now reduced to only \$849 for rent or reduced to only \$2499 to buy or make an offer. We will walk away from this if not sold this month. Photos available. Phone Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com)

### **SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:**

Returns next week.

### **Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

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

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

## This Week's Stories

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

"Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Facebook Site:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook SXM Timesharing Group People for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection in St. Maarten

[http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_205834172765083](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083)

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

**Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):**

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

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

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

Get a growing list of 210+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

[http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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6. Where To Safely Rent Out Or Buy Timeshare Weeks in SXM

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

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- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

**Section Five:** Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (**For New Readers**)  
(Revised 12/31/14)

How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 230+** 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 total of a growing list of 200+ additional major travel benefits, including reduced-cost access to

Not a member yet? See [http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 200+ benefits... and more coming soon.

## Contact Us:

[Revised 2/24/15]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only \*secret\* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject \*Free Newsletter Recipient,\* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not be able to respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

\*\*\*\*\*  
**All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***  
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This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members (including \*Low Airfare Bulletins\*) 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 There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather**

#### 1. Air France Does Two Round Trips / Day on Saturdays

We watch "everything" going on in SXM including flights from overseas, a plurality of which happen on Saturdays. A site called FlightAware shows live flight activity 24/7/365 for almost any airport including SXM/TNCM. One thing we noticed is two Saturday nonstops on Air France -- one early, one late. We don't know whether it's to accommodate December's high demand or whether it's for all of high season -- but there are a lot of French and European folks on SXM right now.

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#### 2. KLM 747s Continuing, For Now

KLM is changing some of its long-distance flights to new Boeing 787 Dreamliners. That process is ongoing, since KLM only received the first of about 20 ordered Dreamliners one month ago. Tui Airlines (formerly Arkefly), a KLM competitor, already flies 787s to SXM. KLM is expected to convert its flights to 787s later on.

The good news is that this gives photographers an ongoing opportunity to shoot 747s landing and leaving from SXM -- one of the most popular shots at the airport. Look: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SC1J0F62og4>

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#### 3. A Great Source of Low Airfares & More Available Free to JMB Members

JMB Website Supporters now gives you access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on packages not just to the Caribbean, but worldwide.

Retail travel sites — the ones whose names you know very well — are heavily regulated. But private travel clubs



like this, which normally charge their members for membership/admission, are regulated differently and consequently, can offer much better pricing.

The organization providing these travel benefits has been traveling under the radar for 25 years and is only now making its travel reservations prowess publicly known. It's SkyMed Travel Club and it is entirely separate from the [SkyMed "takes you home" medical evacuation service](#) we've been recommending to you for years.

SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found the pricing to be exceptional — even on the wildly popular river cruises that are a tourism phenomenon throughout Europe and are gaining popularity in the US.

Normally, this organization charges you \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Go to the members-only Secret Website and click on the Low Airfare Grid for details on the SkyMed Travel Club. Log in through the orange login box below the masthead at [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com). Your username is the email address you have registered with Membership Services. If you forgot your password, click "forgot password" in the login box.

Do join the SkyMed Travel Club and use them to make all your travel reservations; you will not be disappointed once you've booked through them.

Not a JMB member? See the lead story in Section 3: *prices increase this month, so this is the time to join.*

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#### 4. Available to All: FlyTravelGo Is The Easiest-to-Use Travel Reservations Website

Check it out; it's remarkably fast and easy. All profits from our [www.flytravelgo.com](http://www.flytravelgo.com) site help support *SXM Weekly News* and our SXM island discount program, JMB Website Supporters.

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### **SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares**

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#### 5. Is Timesharing for You?

SXM is the Caribbean island most highly developed with timeshare resorts. Well in excess of 100,000 timeshare weeks were sold, mostly to North Americans, since timesharing started in SXM in the 1980s.

If you buy from the secondary market (owners selling their units), you can pay short money for good units. You'll quickly learn what the current maintenance fees are, too.

Timesharing entitles you to occupy the unit you buy during the same week yearly. You can sell it, trade it for a week elsewhere, or rent it. It gives you a dependable cost structure (usually, a set week (internal trading may be possible), and a specific unit.

Disadvantages... if you buy at retail / full price from the resort, you are unlikely ever to recoup your cost upon selling. Units, except after major renovations, usually decrease in value over time.

Want to discuss this with others? Go here: <https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

See next story (important).

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#### 6. Where to Safely Rent Out or Buy Timeshares in SXM

We have hundreds of rentals directly from JMB members [here](#).

## SECTION 3: Island

### 7. Holiday Membership Sale Almost Over: Low Holiday Prices on 240+ Discounts & Benefits Across SXM

#### What You Get:

- A growing list of 242+ discounts for restaurants, shopping, hotels, car rentals, activities, jewelry, art, and tons more
- Benefits including free ads to rent out or sell timeshare or other condos you own in SXM and worldwide
- Low Fare Guidelines to help you know what fares are worth buying -- and which are just too high
- Big Discounts on SkyMed, the world's premier provider of medical evacuation services for Americans, Canadians, and ex-pats virtually anywhere you travel, including Cuba (see stories in this section).
- Buy Now: Holiday Sale Prices Now In Effect

#### Holiday Sale New memberships:

3 yrs. \$75; 5 yrs. \$109; 7 yrs. \$139

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

#### Holiday Sale Renewal memberships:

One year \$33; 3 yrs. \$64; 6 yrs. \$107 -- our best offer by far

[www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

#### Holiday Sale Membership Reinstatements:

One year \$39; 4 yrs. \$88; 6 yrs. \$107

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

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### 8. Syrian Nationals Here Illegally Sent Back Where They Came From

The three Syrian men who attempted to get into SXM illegally a month ago by using fake Greek passports have been sent back where they came from -- back to Haiti aboard Insel Airlines. After thorough background checks which found no connection to terrorism, the court gave them suspended sentences and threw them out of the country.

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### 9. A Tale of Three Restaurants: Sushiitto, Big Fish, and the All New Mario's Bistrot

Three restaurants on our to-do list this week were Sushiitto, Big Fish, and Mario's Bistrot at its new Porto Cupecoy location.

Sushiitto is perfection in Japanese fine dining. Maitre d' Ivan knows his stuff and makes sure things go perfectly across the restaurant. We did hibachi cooking this time and Guadelupe knew what he was doing, right down to special dietary requests. Great food, superb service, and very reasonable pricing. Went last year too and will be returning soon. Sushiitto is located at Port de Plaisance Resort, Cole Bay, and is a winner of our coveted Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence.

Under new management for a number of months, Big Fish is hitting home runs every night. Despite its name, it offers a number of non-fish and vegan dishes so is suitable for a spectrum of palates, very much like the neighboring Canoa, one of the very best restaurants on SXM. We had sushi and extra-spicy hurricane shrimp to start at Big Fish, delicious fresh-caught yellowtail flounder, and perfectly cooked vegetables. Chef here is Wendell Laurence, formerly at iZi, who's spreading his wings and doing lots of great stuff. Definitely try Big Fish and Canoa, next door. (Don't forget Daniel's by the Sea -- all three are about 20 yards apart... a mini culinary center on the road to Oyster Bay Beach Resort.)

Mario's Bistrot moved this summer from Marigot, a town with unresolved issues, to the waterside plaza at Porto Cupecoy in Cupecoy Beach, not far from the French border. The location is gorgeous and we can tell you that Mario is delighted with the move. More important -- so are all his customers. Mario's has amazing food embracing

all palates -- our barely seared tuna was amazing, and was accompanied by perfectly prepared baby green beans with roasted almond slivers. The crab trio appetizer could have been a meal in itself (we shared it). The main course was Mahi with spicy sauce, crisp and delicious veggies and some garlic mashed. Our only disappointment was not enough room left to order more... it was so, so very good. If its former Marigot location kept you away, go to Mario's at Porto Cupecoy: a great restaurant from every perspective and well worth your visit. By all means tell them we suggested you go. Magnificent... (Credit cards are not yet accepted, but there's an ATM in the parking area.)

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## 10. Hats Off to Patty Meotti's Caribbean Art, On Display at Spiga & Vesna Taverna

Italian artist / long-time SXM resident Patty Meotti is now showing her artwork at two outstanding SXM restaurants -- Spiga in Grand Case opposite Tijon Parfumerie, where it's in the lower-level dining room, and at Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay just north of the Dutch Side drawbridge.

Patti does a broad array of work but is best known for putting straw hats on her caricatures. More: <http://fineartamerica.com/profiles/patty-meotti.html>

Advertisement:

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## 11. Early Reservations a Must for Christmas & New Year's

With fireworks scheduled on New Year's Eve in downtown Philipsburg, in the Simpson Bay lagoon near the causeway, and now also at Porto Cupecoy, New Year's Eve and Christmas Eve / Christmas Day will be a very busy time on SXM. This is the busiest week of the year on the island outside of Heineken Regatta Week and the island is already packed. So - make reservations *now*.

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## 12. Ninth Vacation Giveaway Added To Our Celebration of 4.5 Million Site Visits

The all-new El Zafiro Boutique Hotel, operated by a couple from Boston, is about to open on beautiful Simpson Bay



Beach. It also will offer the ninth vacation in our upcoming giveaway to celebrate our SXM site reaching 4.5-million visitors early in 2016. We toured it; it's quite a beautiful property with the beach right outside the door of every room.

Here's a complete list of everything we're giving away as of now:

Vacation prizes (almost all are eight days / seven nights):

- [Mary's Boon Beach Resort](#);
- [Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#);
- [La Vista or La Vista Beach](#)
- [Summit Resort](#)
- [Baker's Suites](#)
- [Club Fantastico](#)
- [Hotel L'Esplanade](#) OR [Le Petit Hotel](#) OR [Blue Pelican](#)
- [Simpson Bay Resort](#)
- El Zafiro Boutique Hotel, Restaurant, and Bar, Simpson Bay

Here are our newest items:

- Dinner for two at [Mario's Bistro](#), Porto Cupecoy
- Dinner for Two at [Temptation](#), Cupecoy Beach
- Dinner for Two at Big Fish, Oyster Pond
- Dinner for two at [Spiga](#), Grand Case
- Dinner for two at [Le Pressoir](#), Grand Case
- Dinner for two at [Beau Beaus](#) (Oyster Bay Beach Resort)
- Dinner for two at Infinity (OBBR)
- Dinner for two at Sushiiitto
- Dinner for two at [Pineapple Pete](#)
- Dinner for two at [Daniel's by the Sea](#)
- Dinner for two at Lal's Curry In a Hurry
- Dinner for two at [Toppers](#)
- Dinner for two at [Toppers By The Sea](#)
- Dinner for two at [Vesna Taverna](#)
- Dinner for two at [Fusion Restaurant](#), Simpson Bay
- Dinner for two at [iZi Ristorante Italiano](#), Simpson Bay
- Massage from [Tricia Altenau of AIA Massage Therapies](#), the island's most sought-after massage therapist

To enter, see story #28.

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### 13. New Orient Beach Bars / Restaurants / Shops Go To Tenants Tomorrow (Tuesday)

For those who haven't been following the news, all Orient Beach restaurants and shops between Pedro's and Kon Tiki were demolished last June and replaced by entirely new structures. The objective was to upgrade the appearance of the beach and add to available beach space.

Tomorrow (Tuesday) the structures are scheduled to be turned over to their tenants, a list of which wasn't provided -- but most old tenants will be back.

When will they open? The businesses need to bring in equipment, hook everything up, and get going. Our guess at this point is early January but it could be only a matter of days for businesses that are really aggressive about starting.

As always we'll keep you posted. Also see our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

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### 14. A SXM Pharmacy You Can Depend On...

Sometimes you need a good pharmacy. CVS and Walgreen aren't here, and neither are many common US-brand prescription drugs. Many of the drugs on the Dutch Side are sold with Dutch directions; French directions and European drugs are on the French Side.

We've used several pharmacies in SXM and our favorite is Orange Grove Pharmacy off the Union Road in Cole Bay. Franklin, the pharmacist, is very friendly and helpful. Last year I wound up with tennis elbow (too much typing) and he offered a brace that solved the problem. This year, he had solutions that worked for a bad cold / sore throat. Prices are very reasonable. He also has cosmetics, orthopedic devices, and more. Give him a try and tell him we sent you.

Orange Grove Pharmacy received our Everything St. Maarten Award of Excellence last year. Great place.

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## 15. The Star Wars SXM Connection

Of course Yoda is in Star Wars 2015 -- and if you love Star Wars, you ought to visit "The Yoda Guy" on Front Street, Philipsburg. Once inside, pay to enter the museum -- absolutely fascinating for any movie buff. As the owners explain:

"The museum's relics span six decades of movie making... items used during the making of Star Wars, Superman, Highlander, Alien, Terminator, MIB, Krull, Lifeforce, DVDs discussing the items in the collection, Pinhead from Hellraiser, even The Maltese Falcon from 1941 and lots more."

Very much worth a visit. Requires a walk upstairs.... Neat souvenirs in their store, too.

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## 16. "Mardis de Grand Case" Returns January 12

Originally called "Harmony Nights" when it started 15 years ago, "Mardis de Grand Case" starting January 12 transforms that town every Tuesday into a giant street fair with performing artists, arts and crafts stands, delicacies, music, and weekly carnival parades. Shops, restaurants, and galleries usually stay open late to accommodate the crowds.

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## 17. Boston's North End / Providence' Federal Hill Don't Beat This Pizza Made In SXM

If you've had the good fortune to visit Boston's world-famous North End or the storied Federal Hill area of Providence, you know what great Italian food is all about. Pizza from either place traditionally is thin, crisp, loaded with toppings, and a wonderful meal by itself.

That's why it has been so surprising to us that Island Pizza at Dawn Beach has been able to capture those flavors, textures, and aromas so magically in its signature pizza offerings.

Island Pizza is in the same complex as Mr. Busby's Beach Bar and Daniel's by the Sea, with Pier Grocer across the street. The pizzas are hot and delicious and loaded with great flavors. Definitely give it a try. Tell them Jeff Berger suggested you visit.

Island Pizza, Busby's, and Daniel's by the Sea all offer discounts to JMB members. See the Secret Site for details. If you're still not a member, see story #7. Our Holiday Membership Sale is almost over....

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## 18. Why You Should Buy & Use Mosquito Milk

Mosquito Milk has been used for years by locals to repel mosquitoes and other noxious pests. It comes in a spray or a roll-on; I prefer the latter because it wastes less. It contains lemongrass which mosquitoes don't like. Available at virtually all pharmacies and larger supermarkets.

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## 19. Great, Reasonable Italian Food in Maho Village

There are three clear reasons we've been recommending Trattoria Pizza Pasta in Maho for almost 20 years: first, the food is great and you get plenty of it; second, the restaurant is one of the most consistent anywhere (no surprises on any visit); and third, it's very reasonable price-wise. Park in the paid lot across the street in Maho Plaza and relax -- but make reservations first. Great food, great people.

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, like dozens of other SXM restaurants, gives discounts to our JMB members. Bring your JMB membership card and your discount voucher from the members-only Secret Site and enjoy... but come hungry. Vegan options, too.

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## 20. Some Restaurants Instituting No-Show Charges: Why It's a Good Thing

If you make reservations at any SXM restaurant and can't go, cancel your reservation as early as possible. It's unfair to the restaurant to do otherwise.

In part at our urging, an increasing number of SXM restaurants are requiring that a credit card be supplied when large-party reservations are taken. If the party fails to cancel and doesn't show, the card is charged a fee per no-show.

In one case, a very popular larger restaurant held 50 seats for a party that never called and never showed. They arranged special menus in advance as well. Cancel in advance if you can't come; it's ridiculous to do otherwise and there's an increasing likelihood you'll wind up paying.

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## 21. Great Holiday Gift Specials Available Now from Zhaveri Jewelers

Great rates for *SXM Weekly News* readers and even better low rates for JMB Website Supporters members on these special items you can give now or on Valentine's Day. Check them here:

<http://www.jmbcommunications.com/zhaveri/>

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## 22. Get Inexpensive Last-Minute On-Island Gifts from Alvin & Pam at Super Dollar Store

If you realize on-island that you need to get a gift for someone and you don't want to pay much for it. try the Super Dollar Store. At the roundabout near the Bush Road Grand Marche, take L. B. Scott Road to the left of the Texaco Station instead of following Bush Road toward Philipsburg. The store is about 200 yards ahead on the right. Look around...

The store has a special offer for JMB members; show your JMB membership card and a photo ID. Not a member yet? See story #7.

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## 23. Restaurant of The Week: Spiga

About 13 years ago, Lara Bergamasco Russo and Ciro Russo opened their dream: their own new restaurant at the quiet northern end of Grand Case, long known as "the culinary capital of the Caribbean."

Although it was exceptional from the beginning, somehow the restaurant still finds ways to grow and improve every year. It is easily one of the island's top restaurants, with amazing food for all palate preferences and their always-reasonable 1:1 Euro/Dollar pricing (even when elsewhere you paid \$1.48 per Euro a few years ago) always helps.

Go once, and you'll be sold. High creativity, a panoply of delightful flavors, textures, and aromas, attentive service, great attention to detail, and the boss is in the kitchen. These are all hallmarks of a well-run restaurant and they're at the heart of Spiga's operations. Just go.. bring your JMB Website Supporters Membership Card for something special - and enjoy.

See past Restaurant of the Week selections below. Most of the listed restaurants offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details. We'll cover another restaurant here next week. Sill not a member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits at great Holiday Sale prices: see story 7 for details.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 12/14/15)

Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://www.canoasxm.com) (featured 3/23/15)

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 6/15/15)

Cugini (12/7/15)

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 5/11/15)

Daniel's By The Sea, [www.dawnbeachsxm.com](http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com) (featured 11/16/15)

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 8/11/14)

Spiga, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 12/21/15)

Fusion, [www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com](http://www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com) (featured 1/26/15)

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 4/28/14)

Stone Restaurant, [www.thestonerestaurant.com](http://www.thestonerestaurant.com) (featured 9/2/14)

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15)

Temptation, <http://www.rareandtemptation.com/EN/temptation/>

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 1/19/15)

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 2/23/15)

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 5/18/15)

Pineapple Pete, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://www.pineapplepete.com) (featured 2/2/15)

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/4/15)

Coconut Grove (formerly SPN Cafe), <http://www.pineapplepete.com/sport.html> (featured 8/18/14)

Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path from the far side of Ocean Club to get there). (featured 4/27/2015)

FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge

Jimbo's, [www.jimboscafe.com](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 4/13/15)

Vesna Taverna, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 11/10/14)

Topper's / Topper's By The Sea <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 6/29/15)

Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15)

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 1/12/15)

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## 24. JMB Members: Don't Forget to Use Your Discount Vouchers & Bring Your JMB Membership Card

JMB members who don't have their valid JMB Website Supporters membership card will not be able to get any discounts in St. Maarten or St. Martin. We've told this to our partners across the island and we're also nearly finished modifying all of our discount vouchers to reflect that *they must be used with a valid JMB Website Supporters membership card*. Bring your card *and* your vouchers: no discounts without them.

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## 25. Short-Term SkyMed Memberships Cover Your Pre-Existing Conditions

Short Term SkyMed Medical Evacuation memberships -- lasting a few days and ideal for short trips -- cover your

pre-existing conditions *but are not renewable*, which means you must reapply for future trips. It's always wiser to buy SkyMed annual (one-year) or multiyear memberships which renew when you pay the standard renewal fee regardless of your health or age at the time of the renewal. *They also cover your preexisting conditions after a short 90-day waiting period*. See more on SkyMed below. It's time....

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## 26. Questions & Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 12/12/15)

Here are newly updated questions and answers about SkyMed, the folks who fly you home on an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. *It's a life-saving flight that could easily cost you upwards of \$45,000 in cash in advance without SkyMed. Thousands of you have bought it through us*. To learn more, see [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com).

### **Q. What's so special about SkyMed? Aren't these companies all the same?**

A. *Not by a long shot*. Most other programs take you to "the nearest appropriate facility," *not* home like SkyMed. If you're in SXM, that means *SkyMed competitors* would likely take you to Puerto Rico. Some others also raise prices after you reach a certain age. Or they cancel you on a particular birthday, or cancel your membership when you get sick. *SkyMed does none of that*. Sign up for SkyMed today and when you reach age 109 you pay the same price as everyone else. Once your a member, there's no age or health discrimination -- as long as you pay your membership fee you're good to go. (Applies to all annual and longer memberships. Short-term memberships, lasting only a few days, require medical requalification when you buy another.)

### **Q. What other evacuation-related services do you offer besides the evacuation itself?**

There are 18 other services, some of which you've never even thought about but all of which are quite important. You'll find them on our downloadable SkyMed Benefits PDF, now on our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#) page.

### **Q. Wait - you mean they don't cancel me if I get really sick?**

A. *No, they don't*. Once you're a member, as long as you continue to pay your membership fee your membership continues regardless of your health or age, if you buy an annual or multiyear membership and keep it in force. SkyMed does not throw you out if you get sick. If you allow your membership to lapse, you will need to reapply to determine if you're still medically acceptable -- so just don't let it lapse.

### **Q. I have a few medical issues and I'm in my 70s. Does SkyMed only accept people in phenomenal health?**

A. In its brief application process, completed online or by phone or in person with a rep, SkyMed asks for your name, DOB, current Rx medications, medical conditions, and hospitalizations in the last six months. It also asks where you want to be transported when you need an emergency medical evacuation. It now also requests your passport number to help expedite customs / immigration should you require an international medical evacuation flight. *The vast, vast majority of applicants are readily accepted*. You do not have to be in "phenomenal" health at all. By the way: if you travel very little and only for short periods, you can apply for SkyMed's short-term memberships. They cover all pre-existing conditions without exclusion.

### **Q. We stay away for weeks at a time. Do we have to tell SkyMed where we're going?**

A. No, you don't. As long as you're home in the US or Canada more than six months per year, you're fine. If you spend more than half of each year away (in aggregate), then you're considered an expatriate (ex-pat) and would need a program custom-tailored for ex-pats because you're away a majority of the time and that means you represent increased exposure. That program is called X-Pat - the program for American and Canadian expatriates living overseas. Even as an ex-pat living in SXM, you can still be transported back to your city of choice in the USA or Canada.

### **Q. Does SkyMed cover pre-existing conditions?**

A. Yes, right away for short-term memberships and after just a 90 day waiting period for all memberships lasting a year or longer. To make sure you're covered for everything when you travel, including pre-existing conditions, just buy your annual or multi-year Ultimate SkyMed membership more than 90 days ahead of your initial date of travel.

### **Q. Do you require a physical exam for renewal or when I reach a certain age?**

A. No, SkyMed requires neither. Once you join and buy an annual or multiyear membership, we'll renew it every year upon payment of your renewal fee. No physical exam is required regardless of your age or health if you've paid your membership on time. You can be age 109 and still be protected by your SkyMed membership.

**Q. I seldom travel now. Do you have short-term plans?**

A, Yes, at about \$18/day per family or about \$9/day for singles. Since they only last a specified number of days, they end when the term of coverage ends. If you want another short-term plan later, you must apply again and medically requalify. Annual plans cost roughly \$1.30/day for your entire family (parents and minor kids); plans for singles are less. *Annual* and multiyear plans are renewable without medical requalification, assuming they haven't lapsed.

**Q. I'm from Canada. May I join SkyMed? I have to get back to my province if I'm seriously ill or my health insurance won't work.**

A. Both Americans and Canadians are eligible to join SkyMed. American and Canadian ex-pats living overseas also are eligible.

**Q. What types of policies are there?**

A. SkyMed Memberships (often called policies by members though they actually are memberships) come in several flavors: short term, for people who travel little and for short durations; "annual" for people who want full-year protection that is guaranteed renewable for life when you pay the membership fee on time regardless of age or health at the time of renewal; and Ultimate multiyear memberships which offer low annual cost, maximum benefits, and global coverage and are also renewable for life regardless of age or health when membership fees are paid on time.

**Q. Which membership gives the biggest bang for the buck?**

You clearly get the most for the least with our three-year or five-year Ultimate memberships. Coverage is global, guaranteed renewable, and can not be cancelled due to increasing age or declining health - ever. You'll also pay the same fee as all other members -- there's never an increase related to your personal health or advancing age. Annual memberships are upgradeable to Ultimates at any time.

**Q. Is there a best time to buy?**

A. Yes -- exactly like fire insurance, buy it before you need it! Now is a particularly good time because JMB is offering special benefits and discounts; see next story. Those incentives won't be around forever.

**Q. Where does SkyMed provide service?**

A. SkyMed plans are focused on members' needs. Most members travel within about 34 countries so SkyMed's basic plans cover all those countries: the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba, plus Belize and Costa Rica.

On annual plans you can buy a \$100 annual rider to cover the rest of the world. SkyMed's "Ultimate" plans, available in three- and five-year version, include coverage worldwide except for places you'd probably not want to visit anyway -- such as Iran, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, North Korea, and Afghanistan, to name some.

SkyMed *Takes You Home*<sup>TM</sup>; What else matters?

For more, see [skymed.com/jmbspecial](http://skymed.com/jmbspecial) (JMB members) or [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com) (non-JMB members) or email Jeff Berger directly at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SkyMed. If you include your phone number, he'll call you about SkyMed as well, to answer any questions you may have including all pricing options. You can also call SkyMed directly (in Scottsdale AZ, Mountain standard time year round.) Their number is 1-800-475-9633; ask for Nan. If you're a JMB member, say so and have your membership card ready, *All multiyear plans offer major discounts to JMB members.*

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## 27. Our New \*Triple\* SkyMed Bonus

----- SkyMed On Sale: Lots of Life-Saving Benefits, Low Cost -----



If you've been thinking about buying SkyMed but just haven't done it, this is the time.

SkyMed takes you home when you become critically ill or injured while traveling — home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust. With rare exceptions, your medical insurance from the US or Canada isn't valid in St. Maarten. Credit Card evacuation programs take you to the nearest appropriate facility; what good is that? There is also no trauma center in SXM, and the sophisticated medical care available at leading US and Canadian hospitals is not present in St. Maarten / St. Martin. So if you become critically ill or injured, you really do need to get home to the US or Canada and that's exactly where SkyMed takes you.

*Thanks to this sale, that has now become a whole lot easier. Here's why:*

First, for every year of SkyMed medical evacuation protection you buy from us during the sale, you get an equivalent year of JMB Website Supporters membership free, on us, which brings you an increasing spectrum of benefits and discounts, soon to number close to 250. If you are already a JMB member, we will extend your membership on us for a number of years equal to your new or upgraded SkyMed membership. If you are not a JMB member and buy SkyMed through us, we will establish a JMB Website Supporters membership for you equal to your new or upgraded SkyMed membership's duration of one year or more. See below for how this works.

SkyMed costs next to nothing when you buy it for a few days (less than \$18/day per family), or it costs \$499 for a family plan covering an entire year. *The critically important advantage of buying yearly coverage is that you are covered for as long as you continue to renew your membership regardless of your age or health at the time of the renewal.* Buy a "short term" plan for a week or so, and you must requalify medically every time you re-apply for another short-term plan.

That same crucial benefit also applies if you get a SkyMed three-year or five-year "Ultimate" membership, the best they offer. (It's also what Jeff has had for a number of years).

The SkyMed Ultimate normally sells for a three-year or a five-year term. One critical advantage of the Ultimate — besides the fact that it covers you around virtually the entire world — is that you are covered in case the price of crude oil makes a U-turn and starts skyrocketing again; jet fuel is a big part of the cost of a medical evacuation. A five-year Ultimate membership will cost you either \$59 per month per family, or much less in total if you prepay it and are a JMB Website Supporters member.

For a five-year SkyMed Ultimate, non JMB members pay \$3495 in advance; JMB members pay only \$2495 through us (or \$59/month) — and remember, because of the bonus we mentioned above, when you sign up we will also give you a five-year JMB membership *enabling you to save that \$1000 on a five year Ultimate membership. That discount is not available to non JMB members.* So... the #2 advantage of buying through us is low cost, no matter how you buy.

For contact info (answers to questions about SkyMed), see the last paragraph of the previous story.

*Third: When you sign up for the bonus SkyMed memberships shown above, email [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com) and tell us. We'll verify the signup and that it is through us, then process your JMB membership extension bonus. But do it soon... this won't last forever.* The third benefit: a dream vacation. Email us after you're signed up through us and for a limited time SkyMed will give you a vacation for a small fraction of its usual cost. (Oyster Bay Beach Resort is one of their vacation sites.)

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## 28. We're Giving Away Nine SXM Vacations... and Tons More

There has been a huge increase in what you can get in our nine vacation giveaway, which occurs next March and celebrates us surpassing 4.5 million visits to everythingSXM.com. Details are above.

We'll draw the vacation winners live on the air on Island 92 radio in March. After we give away all nine vacations, we'll call the winners back randomly. The first person picked gets our selection of some of the prizes above; that will be our first-runner-up prize. The second person called at random will get our Grand Prize, which has our selection of dinners and other prizes.

As always, anyone who doesn't answer loses and will not be called again.

Enter here:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting\\_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml)

Full rules are on that page.

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## 29. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page

Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which has been around for several years, covers SXM happenings in words and pictures from its thousands of users and enables people to ask questions, get answers, post trip reports, etc. We also post things there between issues of *SXM Weekly News*.

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## 30. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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## 31. Tech Talk: We Welcome Your Suggestions

In the nearly three months since we've been publishing Tech Talk, we've covered a number of critically important topics. Now we have a simple request: let us know what PC-related topics you'd like to see covered in 2016. We'll make your suggestions the heart of what we do. Email us at [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject Tech Talk.

Index of all past Tech Talk stories (alphabetical):

- Backing Up #1010
- Defragmentation #1006
- Malware: Stopping Malware in its Tracks #1011
- Power Options #1022
- Shutdown: #1020
- Slow Systems - How To Fix Them #1012
- System Maintenance Programs (Free) #1021
- System Restore #1019
- Travel Protection #1023
- Uninterruptable Power Supplies #1007
- Windows 10 #1005

Access these stories in the issue # noted above in our *SXM Weekly News* PDF Archives pages, here:  
[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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### 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\\_xsm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml) .

Want to rent or buy a week?

\*2015 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

### Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13) Returns Next Issue

### **SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)**

- 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) .

## **SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)** Updated 10/18/15

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

## CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) , for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at support[at]jmbcommunications.com. If you have misplaced your password, you can get a new one by clicking the orange "forgot password" link below the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

### About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 9/7/13)

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> 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 <http://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> , select \*2015-16 St. Maarten Weekly News\* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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