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*****Double Issue*****

Vol. 2, #1148 --- Monday, April 23, 2018
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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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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at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 300,000 people around the world...**

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



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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

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

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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 Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 8/25/2018 9/1/2018 Week 34 Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Newly renovated one bedroom unit in the Marina building. Perfect view of Simpson Bay including sunsets. Unit sleeps 4 ~ Independent bedroom with King sized bed and 2 murphy beds in the living room. Extensive living and dining area with a fully equipped kitchen. Large balcony overlooking Simpson Bay. T.V., A/C, Wifi is free and accessible throughout the room and resort. Location is easy access to beach, deli, casino, pools, water sports and restaurants. Less than 10 minutes from the airport. Verified by Resort that unit is available. \$1,050 Frank 516-425-6714 f1leichtle@optonline.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/17/2018 3/24/2018 Week 11 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Unit D 20. Top floor, corner unit, closest to beach. Adjacent pool. Barbecue etc. two bedrooms, two private baths, front and rear patios. Outstanding views, straight over to Maho. King beds, rain showers. Full kitchen with breakfast bar, granite, stainless, appliances. Full dining room seats six. Two Murphy beds in living room. Accommodates six very comfortably. Parking in front of unit. Steps to beach pool, casino, shopping. Great access able unit. \$10,000.00 Karen 508-636-3926 Rinkydy151@aol.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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 / SXM" Facebook Site](#):



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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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- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

Section Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)
(Revised 8/2017)

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://everythingsxm.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 There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. How Will FAA Respond to 737 GE Engine Issues?

When Southwest Air flight 1380 suffered an uncontained engine failure last week, killing one passenger and injuring several others on a flight from LaGuardia to Texas, investigators focused on the plane's CFM56 engines -- the same engines that for years have reliably powered most Boeing 737 jets worldwide.

Those very engines had reportedly been inspected by Southwest technicians just two days before, and no problems were noticed. It is not known whether they actually inspected the engines' turbine blades.

The uncontained engine failure was caused when one of the turbine blades apparently tore loose from its base, causing a catastrophic engine failure — in the industry, it's called an uncontained engine failure, since it was not contained by the engine's nacelle, or external housing. Shrapnel from the "exploding" engine broke one of the plane's windows, causing the accident's most severe impacts, including the death of a young woman passenger, several injuries, and trauma for everyone on the airplane. .

The FAA and the NTSB have been investigating what happened. Southwest immediately started an inspection of all of the engines on all of its planes, since metal fatigue in a turbine blade or its base was initially suspected of causing the failure. Authorities had to check maintenance records to determine when the blades on that engine were last inspected or replaced. It has already warned all airlines to perform emergency inspections on any CFM56 engines approaching the same number of usage hours as the engine that failed (about 30,000) — or some lesser number of hours.

Travelers should not expect the huge worldwide fleet of Boeing 737 jets to be grounded. As soon as the airlines get the word about which jets need emergency inspections, they will perform them within the timeframe specified by authorities. Inspections are being carried out now, worldwide. Maintenance facilities usually have ample quantities of replacement parts on hand, should they be needed. Our understanding of the universe of jets that would be likely to require emergency replacement of any part of their turbine assemblies is that it is quite small.

Bottom line, air travel should not be affected adversely by these emergency inspections. It is already an extraordinarily safe mode of transportation.... But any flaw that allows uncontained engine failures to occur is not tolerable.

2. 787 Rolls Royce Engines May Be Limited

If you fly from Europe to SXM aboard a Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft with certain Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engines, or anywhere else on 787 aircraft with the same engine, you may find the 787 replaced with another aircraft or flying less overwater to stay closer to airports where it can stop should there be an engine problem. There have been some serious issues over many months with these engines, unrelated to the engine problems suffered by Southwest airlines.

The US is considering issuing a directive which would prohibit the planes from flying some of their ultra long current routes since those routes don't take the aircraft close enough to an airfield where it can make an emergency stop in case of an engine emergency. Whether your 787 aircraft for any long distance flights needs to be rerouted or replaced depends entirely on what kind of engines it uses. If it's a Rolls-Royce Trent 1000, flight changes may very well be in your future.

Note well, we know of no 787 flights currently flown from the US to SXM; this situation applies to some SXM flights from Europe.

3. Hurricane Season Could Begin Anytime: Crown Weather

Although hurricane season doesn't officially begin until June 1, mother nature may have other ideas about when she wants to start spinning up tropical cyclones, says Rob Lightbown, chief honcho at Crown Weather, our go-to source for tropical weather information throughout the hurricane season.

Lightbown recently said that this season could be front-loaded, meaning more storms earlier in the season and fewer later, as weather shifts from a La Niña pattern to a more neutral pattern on the way to a possible El Niño later.

It looks like that changeover is already starting to happen, since some near-term forecasting tools are already indicating that *tropical development is possible not just in May, but possibly before the end of this month.*

Please visit our everythingSXM.com and click on Weather to access our Weather Center, which contains a tremendous amount of tropical weather information. If you are ever in the path of approaching tropical cyclones, it will be highly useful for you to visit CrownWeather.com and sign up for their private tropical weather forecasts. The service is remarkably inexpensive and can give you priceless early warnings about approaching storms. We've had the service for years and recommend it highly.

4. Airline Schedules In a State of Flux

Normally, airlines serving the Caribbean begin to change their flight schedules during the next several weeks. High season has ended (despite the Carnival) and we're now in the shoulder season, when travel is lighter for several months through August.

For obvious reasons, winter travel to SXM over the last few months has been comparatively light. The island was down thousands of timeshare and hotel rooms. Although many have reopened, and there are lots of villas available, nonetheless most timeshare owners whose timeshares weren't available simply weren't able to travel to the island.

Although many timeshare owners would like to return to SXM this summer, many tourists feel that the island will not be ready until next winter and they can go on a summer vacation closer to home. We've made the argument here that summer is a great time to visit SXM because the weather is not sweltering like in the US Northeast; ocean water is warmer and more comfortable; restaurants are open and not particularly busy, so there are no crowds; and the weather, especially in June and July, might well be the best of the year.

The issue now is airline schedules, which have provided a stingy number of seats ever since Irma left and SXM Airport reopened. Airlines won't return to their normal schedules probably until the next high season begins: but worse, they will likely provide even less service this summer than normal, which is bad news for the island and for travelers.

If you want to make some noise — to make sure airlines get the message that SXM needs additional aircraft seats going to the island, that can easily be filled — [here's where to go online](#) to find out who to send those messages to.

It can't hurt and it might actually help.

Many more stories follow this message.

Our

JMB Website Supporters

+++ Anniversary Sale +++

Ends Soon...

JMB Website Supporters
is celebrating its
16th Birthday --
but you get the Presents!

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& Many Other Benefits Through Our Exclusive
JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program

Join, Renew, or Reinstate Today:
These Prices are Now In Effect

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Renewal JMB memberships: One year, \$35; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$99

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the **Membership Renewal Center**

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

One year, \$35; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$99

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

In Addition To Those 300 Discounts
& Other Benefits,
Your JMB Membership
helps keep

SXM Weekly News
Publishing for You Every Week!

Please Join Today!

5. Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com, and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops 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.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), which 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 and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming. They were knocked off the air by Irma but are now back.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

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

6. ***Guaranteed Lowest Rates*** for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals ***Around The World***

SkyMed Travel offers you a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide. You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up free and make your travel reservations directly through *SkyMed Travel*.

What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers & JMB Members):

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.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 110% 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 here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.**

You won't be disappointed.

[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: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc.

7. SXM Timeshare Condo & Villa Rentals

With several timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, and Atrium Resort, with Divi, Simpson Bay, and Oyster Bay Beach following quickly -- timeshare owners are now posting units available for rent on our [timeshare rental site](#) on everythingSXM.com and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on everythingsxm.com. Check them out: they are being heavily revised again this week.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

8. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates (Updated)

This section of *SXM Weekly News*, which appears weekly, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining JMB.

We now offer about 300 discounts (including some now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value. Please check this section in the coming months as we restart rolling out a number of entirely new discounts and benefits.

We expect to start adding new discounts and benefits in the next week or two. Please stay tuned; special special messages will be sent to all JMB Website Supporters members as the newest benefits are rolled out.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

Get Peace of Mind Protection
When You Travel
with SkyMed's Lowest Daily Cost
Five-Year SkyMed Ultimate
Medical Evacuation Membership,
SkyMed's best coverage!
Details on
What SkyMed Is and How It Works
are in story #20.

**Buy or Upgrade to a new Five-Year SkyMed Ultimate
Membership Through Us (their Best Membership
at their Lowest Daily Cost) & Get 5 Years
of membership in JMB Website Supporters
w/ About 300 SXM Discounts
as our Bonus!**

Plus you can get a 10-year
price guarantee on SkyMed!

Applies only to new or upgraded
Five-Year Ultimate memberships
bought directly through us
(including the original SkyMed purchase).
Not combinable with any other offer.
Available exclusively through us.

For details, contact
Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281
or email Jeff.Berger@skymed.com
with the Subject "SkyMed."

Do it now...
this offer could soon disappear.

9. Dutch Side Getting USD\$580-million for Recovery

The Kingdom of the Netherlands has concluded an agreement with the World Bank for USD\$580-million in funding for the Dutch side's recovery from hurricane Irma.

The funds are expected to be made available to help underwrite major projects by key employers in tourism and other industries. *A key element of the recovery efforts will be to help businesses ensure that they can engineer their rebuilding and renovations in such a way as to hurricane proof their businesses against any future Irma that may present itself.*

As more tourist-relevant details become available, we'll publish them here in *SXM Weekly News* and also on our [Everything SXM Facebook site](#), which we welcome you to join.

10. Club Orient Reiterates Intent To Rebuild

Club Orient this past week reiterated its intent to rebuild as it moves forward with demolition of what's left of what had been its naturist resort at the southern end of Orient beach.

Their situation is complex because different chalets belong to different people. Beyond that, the Collectivite (French side government) is prohibiting construction very close to the water — which means that Club Orient needs to construct additional units farther away from the shore to be able to make the project work.

They explained this quite fully in a recent article published by *The Daily Herald*; it's [here](#). They do need to come to an agreement with the Collectivite but, as they say, they believe they are closing in on it.

11. Why Roxxy on Kim Sha is Such a Big Deal

For years, the French side has been vulnerable to fluctuations in the value of the Euro, which is now strengthening against the dollar on an island where most tourists come from the dollar-focused US and Canada.

As the dollar declines in value against the Euro, it becomes increasingly difficult for many French side businesses to operate profitably — and this year is even tougher than most, for obvious reasons. That may be one of the factors behind the decision of yet another French side culinary stalwart to create a new business based on the Dutch side, where the dollars are.

If the names KonTiki and Dreams are familiar to you, you will be very much interested in the new Roxxy being built on Kim Sha beach, which is becoming a growing center for restaurants and bars on the Dutch side.

Here are [the details](#). More on Kim Sha beach is in the next story.

12. Is Kim Sha Beach The Next Orient?

When hurricane Irma obliterated every business on Orient beach on that dark day early last September, it was widely assumed that eventually, most of the bars and restaurants there would be rebuilt and that the crowds would return.

It's rather safe to assume that gawkers from cruise ships will come back to see what's going on at the Club Orient naturist beach at the southern end of Orient. But it's interesting to watch all the development that's going on now on

Kim Sha beach, on the Dutch side between Royal Palm Beach Hotel and Atrium resort.

Bus loads of ship passengers are being taken there every day to enjoy the calm, warm waters — and new bar/restaurants are starting to appear on the beach to serve them.

Topless bathing is allowed here, but naturists need not apply. Nonetheless, possibly because of the dollar/euro situation, *Kim Sha has the opportunity to be less expensive than Orient likely will be in the future and entrepreneurs are rushing there to open up new businesses.* It's like a second gold rush for Simpson Bay.

Is Kim Sha beach going to be the next Orient, a major Dutch side challenge to Orient's dominance? We don't know, but it sure looks like things are headed in that direction.

It will take a few years for all this to play out or sort out, and as usual, we'll be watching it for you.

13. Rainforest Adventures Holds Ribbon Cutting

Although it has been open somewhat informally for many weeks, Rainforest Adventures at the Emilio Wilson estate on the Dutch side had its formal ribbon-cutting just recently — hailing the official arrival of a major tourist attraction for both ship passengers and others.

Although it had been widely criticized when first proposed, and many people still believe it should never have been erected on what was supposed to remain a pristine area, nonetheless it seems to leverage the beauty of the area and the beauty of the island and give thousands of tourists a beautiful experience. Hopefully, that experience will make them interested in returning to SXM as an overnight tourist -- which is the objective.

When they return, they can also come to Emilio's, the large instant smash hit restaurant where Su and Norm Wathey oversee everything but where renowned CIA chef Dino Jagtiani, formerly of the Irma-destroyed Temptation, weaves his magic in flavors, aromas, and gorgeous presentations in their great new restaurant.

Although technically this was just a ribbon-cutting, a place for pictures to be taken of smiling people, it's more significant to the future of the island and right now, the island can use the good news Rainforest Adventures has brought.

Our

JMB Website Supporters

+++ Anniversary Sale +++

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JMB Website Supporters

is celebrating its

16th Birthday --

but you get the Presents!

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In Addition To Those 300 Discounts
& Other Benefits,
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helps keep

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14. Great Bay Erects Beach Fence -- & Creates Ire

The former Sonesta Great Bay Resort, sold to Sunwing airlines of Canada around the time of Irma, is expected to be torn down before long so it can be reconstructed after being bludgeoned by the hurricane. Recently, the owners erected a fence on Great Bay beach to keep people away from what's left of the resort. Supposedly it was erected for the safety of those nearby, but people wanting to use the beach find it irksome since there's less beach to enjoy now.

So, we want to show you the Dutch side's policy on beaches — and you can make your own decision about whether the erection of that fence is actually legitimate.

Here it is:

ST. MAARTEN BEACH POLICY (August 1994)

The Executive Committee of the Island Territory of Sint Maarten hereby makes known that they have established a policy concerning the use of beaches.

The policy states that:

1. the beaches must be useable for everyone, both local residents and tourists alike, for recreational purposes;
2. developments that, physically, have a negative influence on the recreational use of the beaches will be opposed;
3. the beaches will be protected against natural and human influences, that sever their recreational and natural function.

The policy covers:

The strip of sand with a width of at most 50 meters, of which the surface consists of natural sea sand situated along the sea, or, in absence of natural sea sand, the strip of land with a width of 25 meters from the high waterline, situated along the public waters. The consequences of this beach policy are that the Island Government will strive to ensure that:

1. the beaches are openly accessible for the general public, which means that there must be a wide access that is free from physical and mental barriers (levers, hotels etc.).
2. no construction works or activities that occupy the space on the beach in a way that restricts normal use of the beach for others, will occur on the beach. The Island Government's position is that construction works on the beach are annoying and disfiguring to the surroundings. It is not desirable for dwellings, hotels, businesses, etc. to be built or situated on the beach.
3. the beaches will be protected against pollution, disturbance, destruction, etc. and against erosion, hurricanes, etc.

In summary:

The main objective of the policy is protection of the recreational value of the beaches.

Also, the value of the beaches as a part of nature should be protected as much as possible. If necessary the value of certain beaches as a part of nature can - possibly temporarily - be placed above the recreational value.

Consequently, in the future the Island Government will not permit construction works or activities on the beach unless justified by special circumstances. These special circumstances must be in the general interest of the island.

The Executive Committee of the Island Territory of Sint Maarten.
The (Act.) Island Secretary, R. A. Boasman The Lt. Governor, D.L. Richardson

15. Ernest & Fidel's at Porto Cupecoy Closes

2018 will be remembered as one of the toughest years SXM businesses have ever faced. There was a high season in name only, during which comparatively few tourists have ventured down to the island simply because their timeshares were unavailable. They said that having to pay their maintenance fees despite the unavailability of their units on SXM made it necessary for them to take alternatives offered by their resort — usually off island.

With only a small percentage of the usual tourist numbers visiting, it has been tough on jewelers, restaurants, bars, and many locals whose jobs were lost because there is no place to work.(The Dutch Side has no unemployment

insurance.)

In that context, a number of restaurants have closed, some because they were washed away and insurance has yet to be paid and others simply because there was just not enough revenue coming in to make it work.

The latest of these is Ernest and Fidel's, named after Ernest Hemmingway and Fidel Castro, in Porto Cupecoy. It had a good location between two other popular restaurants including the landmark Mario's Bistro but alas, it no longer worked, and Ernest and Fidel's is no more.

16. Dutch Police Stay in SXM Extended

In what local residents and business people regard as welcome news, a contingent of Dutch police that has been on the island since shortly after Irma arrived will be staying there a while longer.

17. Be Glad You Aren't Flying Sun Country

Sun Country Airlines flies a number of flights from Canadian cities to vacation spots in Mexico, the Caribbean, and elsewhere.

We don't think Sun Country is likely to win any awards anytime soon from JD Power. They fly something like Spirit Airlines does — no frills, low prices, charges for everything, and sometimes reasonably low reliability.

Before last week, they had flown some people to Mexico but because of bad weather they couldn't send flights back to pick them up and bring them home. Its message to its passengers: sorry 'bout that, but you'll need to find another way home. It said it couldn't send airplanes to pick them up because then it would inconvenience other passengers who already bought tickets for other flights on the same airplanes.

In other words, it didn't have enough spare airplanes to run its airline properly — something that made Eastern Airlines Infamous before it finally went belly up years ago. (Eastern is back, but under different ownership / management.)

This is one time when you were lucky not to be flying on Sun Country to SXM.

18. Freedom of the Seas, Carnival Fascination Visit SXM After All

There was yet another dump fire last week, this time involving a number of vehicle tires — notorious for thick, acrid, noxious smoke. A number of businesses closed for a couple of days and so did the government building behind Philipsburg. People on the chairlift at the Emilio Wilson estate fortunately didn't inhale the fumes, but they had a Gangbusters view of the fire from the side of the mountain.

Several days later, heavy rains came and helped douse the still smoldering blaze. The island government is still trying to figure out how to stop this problem.

The island had suggested that the ships Freedom of the Seas and Carnival Fascination shouldn't visit, citing as the reason that they might get the wrong impression of the island. Interestingly, both ships did visit, but we're not sure of how their experience was on the island.

19. Unexpected Surprises End Several SXM Vacations

Think your vacations are full of eventful days? Look at these:

A recent 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 Cole 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.

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: big time.

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 took its members home 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 one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.35/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays 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 sign you up by phone. 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.

Nobody is immune: anything can happen anywhere. Do it today. To learn more, visit www.getskymed.com. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters at the beginning of this section.

20. Answers You Seek: What / How / Why About SkyMed

What it Is: SkyMed is a Scottsdale, Arizona, based medical evacuation membership company. It "Takes You Home" if you're a SkyMed member when you become critically ill or injured while traveling anywhere in the United States (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global coverage, offering services in the rest of the world (except where the U. S. State Department has issued [travel advisories](#)), is available as an option on annual memberships and is included in multi-year "Ultimate" memberships, through SkyMed company GETS, Global Emergency Transport Services. Americans, Canadians, and ExPats living in any of the countries named here are eligible to apply for membership.

What Medical Evacuations Cost Without SkyMed: At the low end, medical evacuation flights aboard private specially-outfitted and staffed "air ambulances" usually cost anywhere from \$35,000 to \$70,000 *payable in cash in advance, before anything happens.* Prices from Mexico and some distant parts of the world can cost far more. For SkyMed members, SkyMed arranges and pays for all the services it offers. There are no claims forms, no deductibles, no pre-payments for services by you with you waiting for SkyMed reimbursements -- no hassles. You make one phone call to SkyMed and SkyMed handles everything. *Medical evacuations are typically never covered by your health insurance policies.*

What it Covers: A complete, highly thoughtful spectrum of important evacuation-related services. Download the complete list with descriptions [here](#).

How It Works: As you would in any medical emergency anywhere, get to a hospital right away when you become critically ill or injured. You can call SkyMed at their toll-free number (or collect from outside the US) when you first

get to the hospital if you like, to make us aware of the situation. Once the medical staff has given you emergency care, call SkyMed from the hospital so we can talk with those handling the member's care. Critically ill or injured members must be stable for medical evacuation air travel to occur safely. SkyMed keeps you informed every step of the way, and SkyMed arranges and pays for the ambulance from the hospital to the airport; the medevac jet to your destination city; and the ambulance from that airport to the hospital. We will already have obtained and transferred your records to the destination hospital, where a bed will be waiting for you and a team will be ready to help you. We take you home where your support system is and where your health insurance works. All you pay is your SkyMed membership fee; SkyMed arranges and pays for all the services it provides for you.

JMB Website Supporters Members Get Discounts & Bonuses: Discounts are available on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. Ask Jeff for details; see the end of this story. Bonuses available give you additional years on your JMB membership when you buy a new multi-year SkyMed membership from us or upgrade a SkyMed membership bought from us to multi-year. After buying, simply notify support@jmbcommunications.com of your SkyMed purchase and you get an equal number of years added to your JMB membership.

Many Special Features:

- a) SkyMed Takes You Home®. Others in their fine print say they take you home or to the nearest appropriate facility, at their option; that could be thousands of miles from home.
- b) No age limit to apply. No age limit for services.
- c) Pre-existing conditions covered in full after only 90 days for one-year and longer memberships, and immediately for short-term memberships.
- d) Guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or health changes (applies to annual and multiyear memberships).
- e) No membership price increases due solely to advancing age or declining health. You pay what everyone pays.
- f) Ten-year price guarantee for five-year Ultimate SkyMed memberships: When you apply for a five-year SkyMed Ultimate membership and indicate "renew automatically" on your application, you are guaranteed the same price upon renewal that you paid when joining. The SkyMed Ultimate, which is prepaid for five years at inception, currently offers more features and benefits than SkyMed's annual memberships (see What it Covers, above) at a highly advantageous annual cost. SkyMed Annual memberships have no price guarantee (though their price has been unchanged for several years). Jet fuel price spikes can affect the cost of Annual memberships. But with the Ultimate's 10-year price guarantee, you're solid no matter what.

Where to Get Answers To Your Questions: Call SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger any daytime or evening at 508-747-8281. He can answer all your questions and even complete an application with you in about 10 minutes. Often, you'll have SkyMed's reply in one or two business days. You can also email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com or jeff@jmbcommunications.com (with the subject SkyMed); please include your phone number and area code.

SkyMed Takes You Home: What else matters?

21. May-Ling Chun Named Dir of Tourism

Great to hear that May-Ling Chun, an experienced tourism professional, is taking over as head of the St. Maarten Tourist Board. See the story [here](#).

22. Get the Latest Island Updates As They Happen

Between issues of *SXM Weekly News*, we send bulletins to members of our [JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program](#), and we publish updates on many things on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#). You can find out more about both by clicking their links.

When hurricane season starts (June 1), we'll be posting regular updates on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) and lots of forecasts, watches, and warnings, plus real-time satellite images and loops in the Weather Center on our main site, everythingxsm.com. Check them out.

23. JMB Anniversary Sale Now Underway!

JMB Website Supporters was founded 16 years ago, in April, 2002, after a month of testing. And JMB Communications was formed in June, 1990, almost 28 years ago: so it's time to celebrate with one of our most popular sales of the year:

New JMB memberships: One year \$39; Two, \$59; Our Best Offer: Four Years just \$99

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

Renewal JMB memberships: One year, \$35; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$99

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the **Membership Renewal Center**

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

One year, \$35; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$99

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

24. Restaurant of the Week: IZI Ristorante Italiano

IZI in Simpson Bay opposite Pineapple Pete is one of SXM's most popular restaurants of any kind -- and owner David Foini knows what he is doing, with a superb staff serving lunch and dinner.

All the recipes are David's, and he is a perfectionist. If you've been there you know exactly what we're saying. If not go soon and tell David we sent you. If you're a JMB member, see the Secret Site and use the discounts offered exclusively to JMB members. IZI is one of the best, most fun experiences you'll have in SXM.

Here is a rundown of the status of all restaurants featured in the last year or so in our *Weekly News* restaurant column. Dates below are when each restaurant was last covered.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 4/9/18) Reopened as Cafe Spiga, new menu; redesigned; also now serving lunch. New bar, new bar snacks, same great staff, service, and wonderful food.

Celine Too Motor Yacht, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Sunk by Irma. Neil has bought a new sailing yacht as big as Celine Too was and is readying it to enter service soon. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishxsm.com/ (featured 5/1/17). Big Fish has closed. We do not have any word on whether Mike and Teresa will be reopening.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 1/15/18) David is back and the restaurant has reopened. Now open for lunch as well.

Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 6/5/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution. Isola Ristorante Italiano (featured 5/29/17) Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano next to Hollywood casino in the middle of Simpson Bay Resort was one of the first restaurants to reopen soon after Irma struck, and it has been open ever since. It is now also fully enclosed and fully air conditioned - no street noise. Neat place.

Avantika Thai www.avantikaxsm.com (featured 2/6/17) Avantika is open. SXM's best Thai.

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 4/10/17) Canoa has established a gofundme campaign to help it rebuild. We have no information on timing, but our guess is probably late 2018, or later.

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 1/29/18 Mario's Bistro reopened a few weeks after Irma hit and looks forward to your return. Phenomenal dining.

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 7/17/17) Skipjack's main dining deck overlooking the lagoon was wrecked by Irma and is being rebuilt. They should be open late 2018.

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16). The Maho area was hit very badly by Irma and Pizza Pasta has closed and is not expected to reopen, not at that location anyway. Selena has moved to St. Kitts where her mom, Ilde, and dad, Dario, operate their Ciao restaurant.

Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachxsm.com (featured 8/14/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 1/30/17; added 1/17) La Patrona is open and has been for quite some time.

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.

The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16 Just got insurance settlement, not yet reopened.

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14) Stone is permanently closed.
Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.
Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15) Believed permanently closed and likely for sale. We'll post quickly if we hear anything else.
Temptation, <http://www.temptation-sxm.com/> (featured 7/5/17) Permanently closed. Dino has now relocated to Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, which will be featured here soon.
Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 7/10/17) Open now for lunch and dinner.
Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/26/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/19/17) Wrecked by Irma. The owners are awaiting insurance resolution.
Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 7/31/17) Reopened.
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.
Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path the turn near Shore Pointe to get there). (featured 4/17/2017) Reopened. Their sign blew away in Irma -- to Virgin Gorda's airport 192 miles away.
FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse Had closed permanently before Irma hit.
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge Reopened.
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) Recently reopened.
Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 1/22/18). Reopened. Now open Wed through Sunday B/L/D.
Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 2/27/17) Reopened quickly.
Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.
Bylbos, Simpson Bay Not yet known.
Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 2/13/17)
Closed permanently; see next item. Pierre ("Pete") Ferland has opened a new Japanese Restaurant next to Pineapple Pete...
Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great service.
Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate will be featured soon. It's the new property run by renowned chef Dino Jagtiani, whose Temptation Restaurant was wrecked by Irma.

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 Site](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

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25. Still Time: Enter Our SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway

Our Summertime SXM vacation giveaway is underway and you can now enter. *SXM Weekly News* readers (NOT pass-along readers) can enter up to 10 times per subscribed email address. The drawing has been deferred now until at least May, 2018.

Here is our current prize list. Since this giveaway promotes non high-season visits to SXM, most of these vacations are yours from mid April to mid December, 2018, though for obvious reasons those dates are subject to change. All vacations are subject to availability.

- an 8-day, 7-night vacation at La Vista Resort, May through December 2018.
- a 5 night stay (based upon availability April 10-Dec 18, 2018) in an ocean front room at the Westin St Maarten Dawn Beach Resort, Spa, and Casino.
- a 4-day, 3-night stay at the beautiful Oyster Bay Beach Resort.
- Dinner for Two at Davide Foini's legendary IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay (One winner)
- Dinner for Two at Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort. (One winner)
- Dinner for Two at Spiga, the highly acclaimed Italian Restaurant in Grand Case. (One winner.)

Enter here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

Dates for all vacations subject to change thanks to Irma....

26. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. Most issues for the past few years are now online.

[Get The Current Low Price](#)
[on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)
[and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.](#)
[That's a 10-year price guarantee.](#)
[More benefits... same price.](#)

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See getskymed.com.

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?

2017 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 every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from 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.*

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Contact Us (Revised 8/21/17)

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, contact ***support@jmbcommunications.com***

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to ***jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com*** with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

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