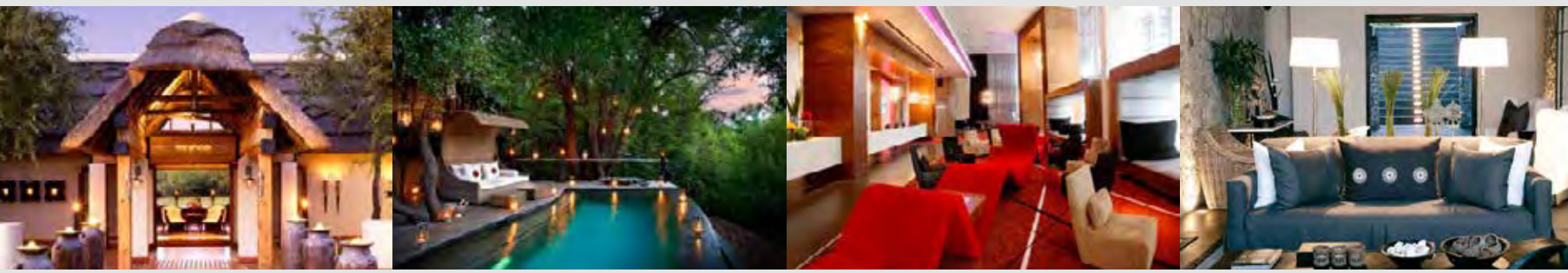


# Opulent Living

VOLUME 1



FROM THE COFFEE-TABLE MAGAZINE FOR THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE

Long Beach Mauritius

*An island getaway a  
long way from ordinary*



It's time to sunbathe, swim and simply sloth on the beautiful east coast of Mauritius, where sandy white beaches slope down to shimmering blue lagoons and coral reefs teeming with fish. Offering relaxed resort living and fine dining in this superb island setting, what's not to love about the fabulous new Long Beach resort? Dive in – the water's just fabulous!

The spacious, light and airy rooms all have ocean views, while the spa has a relaxed setting overlooking the lagoon.



**B**elle Mare Plage and Le Touessrok have a glamorous new neighbour. Welcome to Long Beach, Mauritius's sophisticated new five-star destination, which combines a culture of green living with a lifestyle of pampering and pleasure.

The Mediterranean-style resort blends so seamlessly into its tropical gardens, complete with an array of large palm trees swaying gently in the soft ocean breeze, that a visitor would be hard-pressed to believe that it hasn't always been there.

The high-end resort is situated on the site of that former Mauritian favourite, Le Coco Beach, and boasts the longest and widest stretch of sandy coastline of any hotel complex on the island. It has capitalised on this magnificent location and all of its 255 rooms – arranged in three 'crescents' with no long corridors – have a view of the ocean.

Long Beach is affordable luxury at its best. The larger-than-average suites, tucked into their tropical landscape and with direct beach access, have everything a well-heeled traveller would expect of a deluxe retreat. There are 42-inch LCD flat-screen TVs, Wi-Fi internet access, iPod stations, well-stocked mini-bars and plenty of cupboard space. The feel is both contemporary and airy with high ceilings and restful soft furnishings in tones of apple green, pastel blue, white, grey and the odd splash of bright coral. The result is a modern space that combines a sense of place and breezy open-air island living with welcome privacy.

An establishment that prides itself on being far from ordinary needs a leader who is dynamic and charming, and the ebullient General Manager of Long Beach, Nicolas de Chalain, previously GM at La Pirogue, is enthusiastic about his latest project: 'We have really listened to our guests when it comes to what they want when going on holiday. And, more importantly, we've given them a wide variety of choices – whether it's what they are going to do when on vacation here, or what they are going to eat. It is this that sets us apart from other resorts.'

De Chalain explains that the family market is big in Mauritius: 'Worldwide more and more people are going on holiday with their children – be they toddlers or teenagers – and so we offer facilities and activities for everyone. We have both kids and teens clubs, and we have 29 family rooms and 172 interconnecting rooms.'

There has also been tremendous attention to detail. All the interconnecting rooms link up through a lobby and not through the two bedrooms, which helps with noise and privacy when you don't have family next to you.

The resort respects and complements the natural beauty of its setting and the guest experience is focused on a connection with the environment. De Chalain is proud that Long Beach is a 'green hotel' that not only complies with modern standards but is, he believes, leading the way in setting new standards.

Demolishing a 333-room hotel and replacing it with a completely new and modern resort might not seem a particularly 'clean' project. However, long before Long Beach saw the light of day, project design was in the hands of a very environmentally aware group of people. Just before demolition work started on the old Coco Beach, almost 3400 plants were moved to a temporary nursery so they could be replanted when Long Beach was completed. The extensive gardens surrounding the fabulous new buildings now contain more than 500000 plants, including 26 endemic species.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the Long Beach Hotel is eco-friendly, with the implementation of programmes to conserve natural resources and energy, manage and minimise waste production and use environmentally friendly products. Hot water on the premises is produced with solar panels, sun protection frames have been used to reduce the need for air-conditioning and eco-lighting features throughout the cleverly conceived resort.

There is one noticeable feature that is by no means purely aesthetic. The roofs of buildings are covered in plants, pebbles





The Kids Club provides plenty of entertainment for young children, so parents can relax next to the ocean or around the pool.



and special materials, all of which can reduce the impact of exposure to the sun. It means that rooms remain cooler and need less air-conditioning. Another clever architectural feature are the adjustable 'wind breaks' that modulate the offshore breezes and add to guest comfort.

The focus of the resort's layout is an urban-style piazza with restaurants, shops and bars flanked by two pools, both of which are ozone treated. At mealtimes visitors are spoilt for choice. There are five restaurants in all, each providing a different eating experience - from the theatrical buffet-style Le Marché with its seven open kitchens, to the feet-in-the-sand Tides offering fresh fish fare. At the typically Italian Il Sapori feast on the risotto cooked with porcini mushroom and fresh asparagus, served in a large sea urchin and topped with succulent steamed lobster - it's both a visual work of art and an experience for the tastebuds. At Japanese-inspired Hasu try the deep-fried salmon nourimaki accompanied by green tea noodles flavoured with sake and bonito flakes, or opt for classic and contemporary Chinese at Chopsticks. Best of all, four of these five restaurants are included in the half-board option. So you



can enjoy eating out at different venues knowing there's no supplement to pay. The philosophy at Long Beach is that you can do everything or nothing. With all you need to pamper both body and soul provided, it's the kind of place that you can simply check into and not leave for the rest of your holiday. Hang out at the quiet adult pool or lie at the edge of the infinity pool, where the only interruption is a waiter bringing you a signature cocktail and the only exercise you get in a day is feasting on fine food and wine. Or visit the Equa Spa, which offers a range of specialised treatments designed around the theme of marine wellness. However, there are enough activities on offer to keep even the most energetic of beach bunnies happy. Almost everything is available, from tennis, gym, volleyball and archery to a five-a-side football



From Chinese and Japanese through to Italian and French, Long Beach's five restaurants cater for every taste.



pitch, putting course, cycling and skating tracks. There's even wall climbing for the fit and adventurous. Crystal clear waters and beautiful coral reefs make snorkelling a must and most watersports - with the exception of scuba diving, big game fishing, parasailing and catamaran sailing - are inclusive. Long Beach guests also have preferential access to

the nearby Le Touessrok golf course. 'We haven't cut any corners when it comes to the construction of Long Beach and we've gone the extra mile when it comes to green issues,' concludes De Chalain. 'I believe that in future people will copy us. We are not ordinary and we look forward to showing visitors what is unique about this little piece of paradise.'

PHOTOGRAPHS: LONG BEACH MAURITIUS

Long Beach Mauritius



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The five-star Long Beach resort is situated on the east coast of Mauritius, known for its beautiful beaches and coral lagoons. It is part of Sun Resorts, which also owns and operates Sugar Beach, La Pirogue, Le Touessrok and Ambre in Mauritius and Kanuhura in the Maldives.

