PRESS KIT – **JUNE 2023**

Unveiling the Royal Palm's rejuvenation

ROYAL PALM
BEACHCOMBER LUXURY



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About Royal Palm

‘True novelty always comes from going back to your roots.’ *

There’s no better way to describe Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury’s recent makeover.

The ‘Grande Dame’ has been waiting a long time for this renovation and has embraced it with calm confidence. If you’re expecting change, or a new direction, this is a million miles from that!

This jewel of the Mauritian hotel industry and a member of the Leading Hotels of the World since it was founded is giving itself the extra impetus to reaffirm its defining characteristics: elegance, excellence and exacting standards.

While the emphasis is placed on the beauty that surrounds it, a new and refined lifestyle factor is being instilled, rewriting the true definition of ‘hospitality’ in all its wonder, with the same enduring passion.

In other words, the changes at Royal Palm are simply a fabulous pretext to polish its existing shine.

Isabelle BOUVIER
GENERAL MANAGER

** Edgar Morin, Amour, poésie, sagesse*
(Love, poetry, wisdom, published by Seuil, in 1997).

Royal Palm's new style suites

The art of hosting is Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury's signature. From the excellence of its service to the comfort of its 69 suites, the hotel's exacting standards and its innate sense of detail serve its guests and their well-being.

The refurbishment of the suites highlights this objective and emphasises the natural beauty of the setting.

A welcoming home from home on the other side of the world

Feel at home, here. This was the overarching vision behind the redecoration of Royal Palm's suites, along with the three keywords: lightness, softness, warmth.

A magic trick has been performed, from the living room to the bathroom and dressing room, adding warmth and light to the spaces, bringing a glowing summery atmosphere. Inspired by the lush beauty of the hotel's tropical gardens and the abundance of life in the neighbouring lagoon, this subdued refurbishment allows guests to feel at home on the other side of the world at Royal Palm.

Mauritian-inspired decor

Ochre sand, green vegetation, orange hues of the coral and ocean blue – the soft, natural shades of Royal Palm's suites are an extension of the colourful natural world that surrounds them. The light-infused decor opens out onto the tropical gardens with the sea as a backdrop, creating tranquil cocoons to unwind or enjoy a break.

A feeling of peace that is reinforced by the books placed in the suites for guests to leaf through in the comfort of the living room or on the shaded terrace: Yves Pitchen's black-and-white photographs and Florent Beusse's watercolours in a book entitled *Regards sur Maurice* encourage guests to dreamily immerse themselves in everything that goes to make up the authentic charm of Mauritius: fragrances and flavours, local life, traditions and nature

An ode to craftsmanship

Woven and textured wallpapers, Belgian silk and wool rugs, linen and velvet lampshades, Italian greige stone and solid kiaat wood: Royal Palm suites are a pleasure to behold as well as a journey for the senses. By choosing only the finest natural materials, they pay tribute to traditional craftsmanship.







Royal Palm teamed up with some big names: Vorster & Braye Ceramic Design from South Africa for the sophisticated ceramic vases, Lelièvre Paris and Casamance for the wallpapers, local craftspeople with an instinctive sense for woodwork and Mauritian artists who reveal the best kept secrets of their island, conferring on each suite its own personality thanks to the expertise of the different local trades that worked with the hotel to bring about this beautiful renovation.

And because every stay is unique, every suite is unique too. Whether in the choice of decorative vases – unique handcrafted pieces – or the pattern on the wallpaper, all Royal Palm suites have their own identity, just like the guests who stay in them and enjoy returning year after year to their suite like a second home on the other side of the world.

The main bar gets a stylish new look that lives up to its reputation

The Bar, an iconic venue

With its panoramic view over Grand Baie, the ocean as far as the eye can see and the stunning daily spectacle of the sunset, Royal Palm's main bar is the sociable place to gather in the hotel.

Its discrete background music, expertly prepared cocktails and attentive service, as well as its elegant comfortable interior make it an inviting place to meet for an early evening aperitif or a romantic after-dinner drink.



That is why it absolutely had to be included in Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury's makeover to emphasise the unique character of this legendary venue.

A subdued renovation

From the thousand shades of blue in the lagoon to the violet and orange reflections of the setting sun: the view from the hotel's main bar is dazzling to say the least. The redecoration of this 'viewpoint' emphasises this extraordinary beauty by focusing on making the atmosphere warmer and accentuating the sociable feel.

The woodwork has been brightened up thanks to the expert work of local craftspeople, following on from similar work carried out in the suites. Cosy plump cushions with an eclectic range of fabrics and rugs in natural colours grace the different areas in the bar. These new additions reflect the beauty of the landscapes around Royal Palm and are an ode to the raw beauty of Mauritius and its legendary hospitality.

Ischia is living La Dolce Vita, now more than ever!

27 October 2022. The kitchens at La Brezza, Royal Palm's legendary Italian trattoria overlooking the ocean, are buzzing with excitement. And there's good reason for that: today sees the start of the planned six-month partnership with top French Chef Cyril Lignac and Ischia, his restaurant in Paris.





An unprecedented partnership

Six months later, the partnership was extended by a further year until 30 April 2024! A real success story.

William Girard, Executive Chef at Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury, and Cyril Lignac, the internationally renowned head chef and pâtissier, had the same goal: combining their talents across borders to promote the art of gastronomy through simple, lavish and inventive cuisine. The launch of the now iconic Ischia Mauritius at Royal Palm allowed it to become a reality.

'I am delighted to join this wonderful adventure! Through this collaboration, I would like to pay tribute to the multicultural identity of the island by combining French and Mauritian terroirs with the Italian influences of my restaurant in Paris, Ischia. I hope that this invitation to gourmet eating will convey the pleasure it gave me to bring this project to life,' said Cyril Lignac when the project was launched.

A nod to the mythical island of the Gulf of Napoli, Ischia Maurice is an invitation to discover a cuisine that is universal, stimulates the senses and is above all distinctive. Chef Cyril Lignac offers his personal contemporary interpretation of Italian cuisine: pizzettes to share, vitello tonnato; osso bucco confit; tiramisu... He has also imagined some exclusive creations featuring Mauritian flavours, such as rock lobster linguini; grilled catch of the day, tomato and Modena vinegar, as well as local lemon sorbet and strawberry tartar.

'We are absolutely delighted with this unprecedented partnership with Chef Cyril Lignac,' says Isabelle Bouvier, General Manager of the hotel. 'His innovation, audacity and immense talent will undoubtedly allow us to offer our guests new gourmet experiences, while maintaining the Mediterranean inspiration behind our restaurant, La Brezza.'

A menu full of surprises



The restaurant is proud to bring these exclusive new dishes to its menu, ensuring a renewed dining experience, something particularly appreciated by its local clientele as well as the Royal Palm guests who return to the hotel year after year.

So as from May 2023, the restaurant offers a brand-new menu: grilled baby calamari, Calbrese tomatoes and salami, parmigiana, vanilla, mango and pineapple panna cotta...

Chef Ivan, who heads up the restaurant's kitchens, has also worked with Cyril Lignac's Parisian teams to create new dishes, served as a weekly special: braised osso bucco ravioli with orange condiment, risotto al limone and Apulia burrata, crunchy vegetables and jalapeno condiment.

Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury is reinventing itself in keeping with its identity and tradition of excellence, creating a unique experience to allow guests to (re)discover the true meaning of La Dolce Vita.





Spa: Royal Palm partners up with Valmont

An exceptional partnership

A visit to the spa is essential for a complete rejuvenation experience.. And Royal Palm is no exception to the rule! As part of the maison's renaissance, the spa is also being transformed, combining its reputation for excellence with the cutting-edge expertise of the Swiss brand Valmont.

The official launch of this exciting and promising partnership took place at Royal Palm on 25 October 2022 in the presence of Sophie Vann-Guillon, CEO of Valmont, Gilbert Espitalier-Noël, CEO of Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels and Isabelle Bouvier, General Manager of Royal Palm.

The treatment list

Valmont specialises in cellular cosmetics and is working in partnership with the tranquil and welcoming haven of the Royal Palm spa to offer clients the ultimate well-being experience, tailored to their every desire. An exclusive treatment list utilizing all of Valmont's cellular and tissue knowledge and based on signature massages has been devised to help the skin become the most beautiful version of itself.

An exclusive signature treatment emerged from this partnership: the Royal Valmont. An all-over 80-minute ritual to rejuvenate and reinvigorate face and body. It incorporates revitalising massage techniques for a reinvigorating, oxygenating and detoxifying effect.

Five other 60 and 75-minute treatments have been rigorously designed to bring health and beauty to the skin:

- *Bisses mountain water hydration* to quench even the thirstiest of skins;
- *Glacier energy* to revitalise the skin;
- *Ice luminosity* for a radiant, even complexion;
- *Peak lift* for intense skin smoothing;
- *Hill firming* to reinforce the skin's firmness;

Finally, tailor-made protocols using specific products have been designed to offer targeted treatment: *Purity of the Alps* (a 45-minute purifying treatment), *Reflections on a Frozen Lake* (to erase fine lines, puffiness and dark circles) and *L'Elixir des Glaciers* – Majestic Treatment (face, cleavage and hand beauty treatment).

About Valmont

Valmont is a Swiss company specialising in cellular treatment. It believes that the secret of eternal beauty is healthy and naturally radiant skin. For over 35 years, it has drawn on science, medicine, nature and art to develop anti-aging solutions that act on the cellular level and offer immediate and long-term results. Its rare ingredients are grown high up on glaciers or extracted from the depths of the ocean to help bring out the skin's full radiance.











Le Comptoir awakens the senses

The pleasure of treating others and yourself

A new style store, halfway between a concept store and a traditional boutique, has opened its doors at Royal Palm. This 45m^2 shopping space combines authenticity and sophisticated charm, offering a wonderful experience with the purpose of inviting Royal Palm guests to treat others and themselves.

Showcasing a selection of exceptional products, ranging from lovely souvenirs and decorative objects to flower bouquets and pastries, it celebrates the beauty of the ephemeral and provides a treat for all the senses.

Its unique creations, which will change over time, are mostly designed in association with local artisans to reflect the rich craftsmanship of Mauritius: model boats fashioned by Historic Marine, Michel Abad household linen, seasonal bouquets imaginatively assembled by Royal Palm florists as well as guest bathrobes and towels to prolong your holiday when you return home.

Gourmet treats take pride of place

At Le Comptoir, pastries are a treat to be enjoyed at any time of day – in store or to take away. The deliciously creative sweets and desserts are prepared by Royal Palm's Executive Pastry Chef, Stephan Baptiste, who aims to showcase local ingredients through unexpected combinations, lending a new dimension to the art of pastry-making in Mauritius.

Unique creations are unveiled for every special occasion. The theme for Mother's Day was love, for which Cyril Lignac devised a dessert called Le Valentin. Accompanied by a bouquet arranged in Le Comptoir, it captured the hearts of guests at Royal Palm.

Open from Tuesday to Sunday from 11 am to 7.30 pm, Le Comptoir is more than just a store. This boutique celebrates life's little everyday pleasures and truly defines the idea of treating yourself and others.

What’s new at the fitness centre

In the firm belief that a holiday on the other side of the world can have a real regenerative effect, Royal Palm has chosen to completely renovate its fitness centre to better support guests in their quest for wellness.

A new lease of life

The new, fully refurbished fitness centre at Royal Palm combines fitness with pleasure. Equipped with the latest generation Technogym machines, the sports room is the daily go-to place for experienced athletes and holiday-makers looking to make the most of their stay by focusing on themselves or making a personal change.

From weight machines to cardio exercises, everyone is free to go at their own pace and choose what they want to do. Private coaching sessions can be booked with our sports coaches to give you the best possible support for improving performance.

Royal Palm’s sports manager has set up two specific programmes: Wellness and Fitness that offers zen and sports activities to suit everyone, and a special Teens programme offering youngsters sports and discovery activities to spice up their stay.

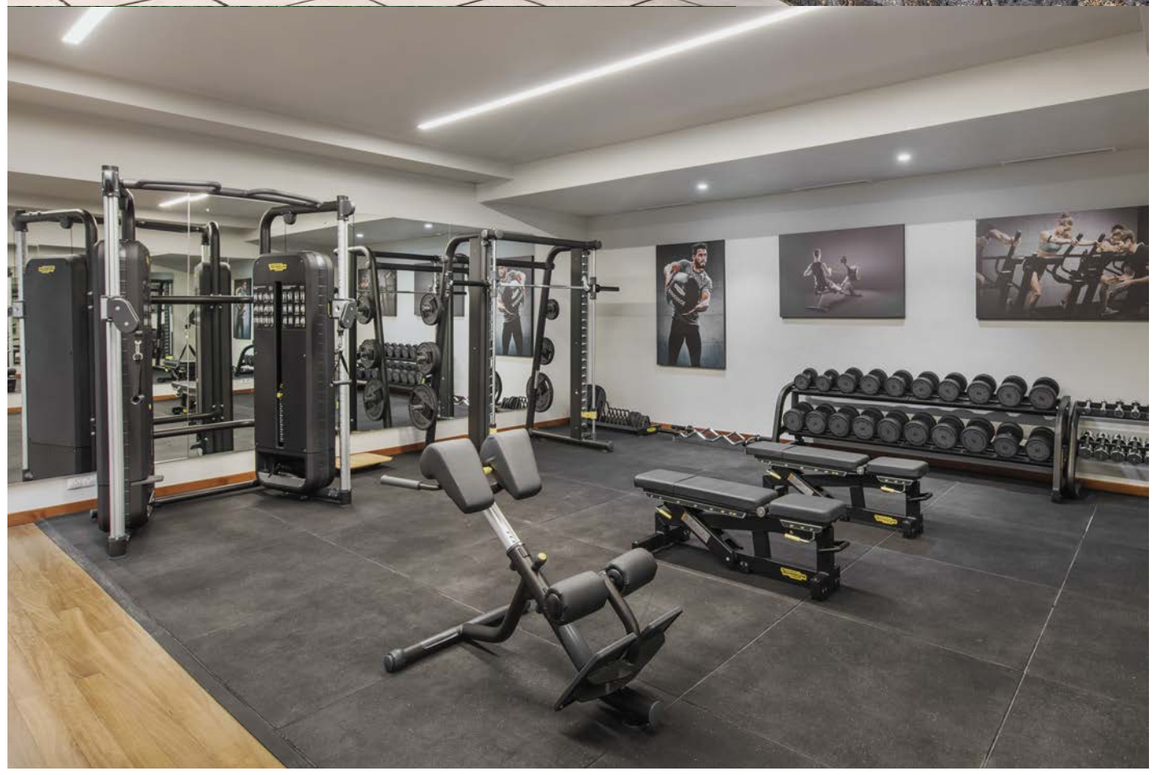
Focus on the new programmes

Every day brings new pleasures: that’s the philosophy behind the design of the Wellness and Fitness and Teens programmes.

The Wellness and Fitness programme offers exercises designed to help you take care of yourself from morning to night: meditation sessions to beauty classes, targeted cardio exercises, Vinyasa yoga at sunset. Everyone is free to choose whatever they want to re-discover a state of profound relaxation.

The Teens programme offers teenagers something to brighten up their day: diving, beach volleyball at Mont Choisy Beach, mocktail-making workshop, tennis or an outing to discover the north of Mauritius. Activities they’re sure to love!









In Royal Palm's kitchens

Perpetuating Royal Palm's gastronomic excellence

A breath of fresh air is blowing in the kitchens at Royal Palm. The hotel always endeavours to surprise guests with creative top-notch cuisine and as such was pleased to welcome two new names to head up its brigade in 2022: Executive Chef William Girard and Executive Pastry Chef Stephan Baptiste.

United by their desire to perpetuate the establishment's characteristic excellence, the two chefs will pool their skills and experience to bring gastronomic excellence to Royal Palm's three restaurants: La Goélette, Ischia and Le Bar Plage. 'Their experience and vision are undeniable assets for perpetuating the tradition of gastronomic excellence at Royal Palm,' says Isabelle Bouvier, General Manager of Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury.

William Girard, Royal Palm

Executive Chef

'It's an honour to take up the challenge'

Chef William Girard took over the running of the Royal Palm's kitchens on 1 February 2022.
With a 25-year career in the restaurant trade and a brilliant track record in Michelin-starred restaurants alongside the great names of French cuisine, William Girard is a graduate of the École Hôtelière in Biarritz. He has managed kitchens in prestigious establishments such as the Barthelemy Hotel in St. Barts, Sofitel Paris Le Faubourg, Burj Al Arab in Dubai as well as Le Taillevent and L'Elysée, two Michelin-starred restaurants in Paris, with chef Alain Solivérès.

Chef Girard now heads up Royal Palm's three restaurants, to which he has brought his extraordinary passion and his experience of culinary and lifestyle arts. 'I'm delighted to join this wonderful and talented brigade. Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury has a distinguished reputation and it's an honour to carry on what great chefs such as Michel de Matteis have started. My goal is to continue the work already begun to raise the profile of haute cuisine at Royal Palm,' he says.

He and his new brigade are devising new signature dishes. The menu features such creations as lamb fillet in a black garlic crust, green courgettes with ginger and a chicken curry jus; steamed toothfish with seaweed butter, shellfish and crunchy palm heart, salsa verde sauce; faye faye crabmeat and vegetables with ginger, sweet and sour daikon and duck foie gras ballottine, passion fruit jelly infused with Chamarel coffee. A combination of delectable and surprising flavours to be discovered at La Goélette.

Stephan Baptiste, Royal Palm

Executive Pastry Chef

"A trendy and healthy gourmet menu"

Stephan Baptiste trained at the Sir Gaëtan Duval Hotel School in Mauritius and was mentored by the best at Le Chalet de la Forêt, the two Michelin-starred Belgian restaurant. Back then, he already stood out for his bold pairings and the freshness of his compositions.

Since he became the new Executive Pastry Chef at Royal Palm, on 8 July 2022, he has created the signature sweet dishes for its three restaurants. He draws his inspiration from his childhood memories alongside a father who was also a chef as well as from the riches of the local terroir and the spirit of Royal Palm. This results in daring gourmet creations that bring out the best in local ingredients, from Royal Palm's honey produced in its gardens to the island's emblematic vanilla and lime as well as its tropical fruit.

'I am happy to join the prestigious brigade at Royal Palm,' says Stephan Baptiste. 'The new dessert and pastry menu will be trendy and healthy, without compromising on indulgence. I'm keen to create a seasonal menu that showcases local produce.'

His creations can be enjoyed in Royal Palm's three restaurants, as well as in the new boutique, Le Comptoir, for those who fancy a sweet treat at any time of day.



Royal Palm, a legendary hotel

The iconic Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury is located in Grand Baie on the north coast of Mauritius. It first opened in 1985 and was the first in the country to become a member hotel of the prestigious *Leading Hotels of the World*.

In this legendary establishment, sophistication becomes a lifestyle art. No need to wish for anything: every detail has already been thought of, and attentive, discreet staff are available to look after guests whether it's in the shade of a thatched canopy, next to the pool or on a terrace adjoining a suite. Every experience, every decorative element, every moment spent in this grand house is imbued with elegance, making every stay a powerful experience for the senses.

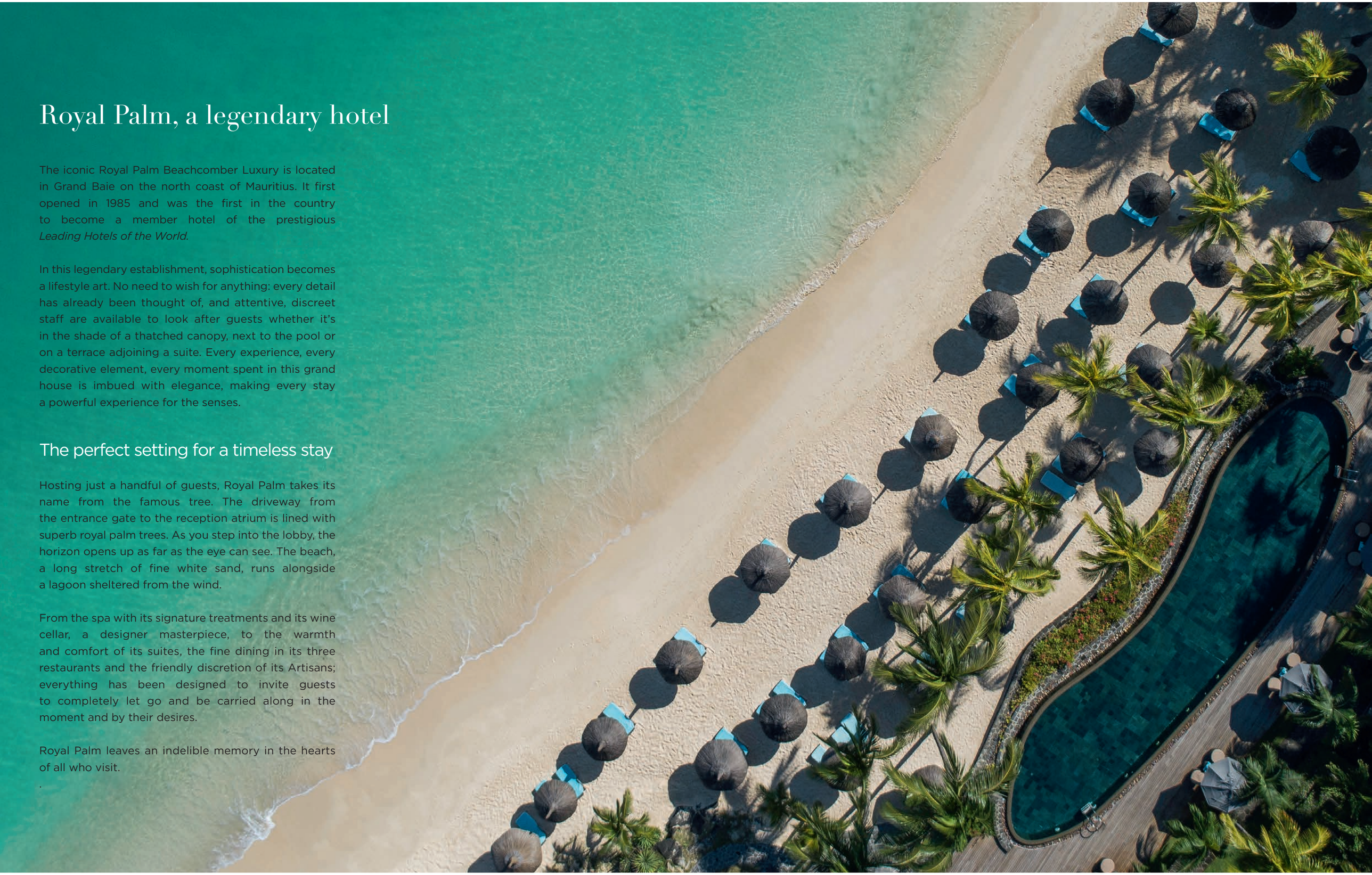
The perfect setting for a timeless stay

Hosting just a handful of guests, Royal Palm takes its name from the famous tree. The driveway from the entrance gate to the reception atrium is lined with superb royal palm trees. As you step into the lobby, the horizon opens up as far as the eye can see. The beach, a long stretch of fine white sand, runs alongside a lagoon sheltered from the wind.

From the spa with its signature treatments and its wine cellar, a designer masterpiece, to the warmth and comfort of its suites, the fine dining in its three restaurants and the friendly discretion of its Artisans; everything has been designed to invite guests to completely let go and be carried along in the moment and by their desires.

Royal Palm leaves an indelible memory in the hearts of all who visit.

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About Beachcomber

Beachcomber, creating happiness since 1952

Beachcomber is a hotel group with deep roots in Mauritius, and has been the byword for legendary hospitality since 1952. A pioneer in the hotel trade on the island, it boasts a collection of eight 4* and 5* establishments.

Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury (5*+)
Dinarobin Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa (5*)
Paradis Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa (5*)
Trou aux Biches Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa (5*)
Shandrani Beachcomber Resort & Spa (4* superior)
Victoria Beachcomber Resort & Spa (4* superior)
Canonnier Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa (4*)
Mauricia Beachcomber Resort & Spa (4*)

Each of its resorts nestles in the kind of enchanting sites for which Mauritius is renowned: in the shadow of a mountain that is a UNESCO World Heritage site, on the shores of turquoise creeks that teem with life or along pure white sandy beaches.

As the leading hospitality provider in Mauritius, everything that Beachcomber does every day is guided by the desire to prove itself worthy of this gift. The group shares this heritage with the world, inviting families in search of escape to enjoy outstanding experiences.

Behind Beachcomber's desire to create beautiful things and to see happy and flourishing guests and Artisans is a single watchword: excellence. This value unites teams around a common vision: to be the guardians of Mauritius' authenticity and lifestyle, and to do so with sincerity.

The Art of Beautiful*

Beachcomber is a name imbued with magic and evocative of beauty. This beauty is the essence of what Beachcomber represents. It is what drives Beachcomber's commitments and mission: to create fabulous experiences synonymous with authenticity, togetherness and caring. To be worthy of such beauty is more than a duty; it is a vocation.

The Art of Beautiful, nurturing beauty in every moment. The beauty of a place which inspires the beauty of the heart.

Beachcomber has a long history in the hospitality sector in Mauritius, and its sense of welcome and service stems from a long tradition of generosity, which its Artisans have inherited from their forebears. They embody beauty through their kindness and allow guests to relish the present moment through exceptional experiences.

And because heartfelt kindness can't exist if we don't think of tomorrow and of future generations, the Group sets great store by maintaining the beauty of the sites it has inherited, taking care to reduce its impact, to help its staff grow, and to give back to the society and nature that have provided so much.

This is The Art of Beautiful. A particular definition of the hospitality industry, beautiful and bountiful, borrowing from past traditions and the purity of nature, while resolutely looking to the future.

Beachcomber's 52 commitments

Beachcomber was convinced that the development of the tourism sector was intrinsically linked to the protection of its country's heritage, and was one of the first local hotel groups to implement concrete actions for the sustainable and inclusive development of Mauritius.

This commitment from the Group has earned it the EarthCheck accreditation - the world's leading program for environmental and social certification in the tourism industry. Six of the hotels hold the EarthCheck Silver certification, while Paradis Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa, Dinarobin Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa, and Beachcomber House (the Group's headquarters) have achieved EarthCheck Gold status.

In 2021, the group reaffirmed these convictions with a charter outlining 52 commitments based on eight themes of action. It specifies the measures Beachcomber is taking at its head office and in each of its hotels to reduce its carbon footprint and contribute to a cleaner, safer and more sustainable planet.

The eight areas of action:

- efficient use of water;
- choosing greener energy;
- responsible waste management;
- improving the environment and biodiversity;
- helping communities to flourish;
- sustainable procurement;
- the involvement and commitment of the Artisans; and
- encouraging guests to contribute.

ROYAL PALM

BEACHCOMBER LUXURY

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