



The Belle of Belle Mare

Mauritius is a happening place at the moment. Economically it is booming, tourism has always been its biggest keepsake, and now, those looking for a private and relaxed getaway – look no further. LUX Belle Mare's standalone villas are über-exclusive and discreet bungalows nestled among one of the island's top luxury resorts.*

LUX* Resorts Belle Mare really is a jewel perfectly set on the island of Mauritius. Just a four-hour flight from Johannesburg aboard Air Mauritius, pristine, white-sand beaches, and warm, tropical waters invite you into a place where you are guaranteed to leave your stresses behind. It has everything you would expect from a five-star resort – the luxury spa, dining aplenty, superior accommodation and sports and leisure activities. But, nestled among this holiday heaven lies a

little piece of paradise, perfectly reserved for the discerning few who are looking for just that little bit more when it comes to luxury leisure and unequivocal privacy.

The LUX* Villas are 12 beautiful, free-standing units, situated in a secluded part of the resort with little foot traffic, and the only disturbance you may have from time to time is the remarkable

birdsong and occasional whizzing by of a golf cart delivering haute cuisine room service. Two Beachfront Villas are perched a hop away from the calm beach, with the remaining Ocean Villas an enjoyable short walk away. Each villa is privately walled; ensuring guests may relax at ease in the comfort of their own garden, lounge on their recliners or take a refreshing dip in the pool.

Interior designer, Kelly Hoppen has recently refurbished the villas, as part of a general and rather expansive refurbishment project of the entire resort – and the results have paid off. Contemporary, clean and simple interiors fill almost every space, taking advantage of as much natural light as possible at every turn and ensuring the breathtaking views of the azure waters are capitalised on at every glance. Each villa comes with its own heated plunge pool, private garden and terrace, lounge, dining room and small, designer kitchen. However, as beautifully homely as the villas are, guests still have access to all of the resort's facilities, including the seven restaurants on the property, the spa and wellness centre, the largest pool on the island of Mauritius, and all of the activities, places to go and things to do.

An endearing touch, and one I indulged in quite frequently, is the ICI ice-cream parlour that stocks a wide range of scrumptious flavours from locally sourced ingredients, as well as the Café LUX* coffee station that grinds its own beans on site, ready to serve your freshly brewed cuppa – warm or cold – at any time of the day.

Duck Laundry is the resort's premier eating spot, serving Asian fusion cuisine from al fresco dining to more formal settings; your table can be structured in any way you wish. The setting is beautifully moody, with low light and a charming atmosphere – perfect for an anniversary celebration dinner. And the cuisine takes you on a culinary journey through various Asian flavours, paired with an impressive wine list.

Fitting perfectly into the LUX* Resorts & Hotels portfolio, Belle Mare's villas are an offering to those seeking a cut above in luxury leisure. A private, idyllic setting, coupled with all the modern necessities makes these villas a must-visit this year. ■ Kevin Taylor

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