

LUXURY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

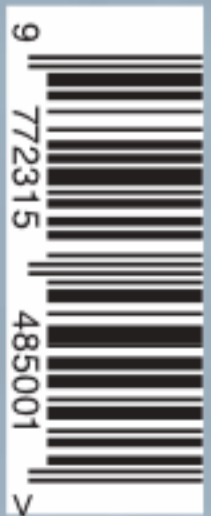
Robb Report

SINGAPORE



LUXURY GOES GREEN

The myriad ways brands are putting the ethics in aesthetics



10/2019



Enjoy European, Asian and African fare at Island Cafe.

Eco Luxury

Live out a conscientious castaway fantasy on the private island of Félicité, Seychelles.

THE SEYCHELLES ARE hardly lacking in stunning private island paradises, but the bar has been nudged up a notch with the introduction of Africa's first Six Senses resort.

Renowned and respected for its dedication to sustainability and wellness that doesn't come at the expense of luxury, Six Senses Zil Pasyon was crafted with a light touch and daily operations follow suit. Water is purified and bottled on-site, fresh food is grown at the organic garden and single-use plastic is non-existent.

The 30 chic, high-ceilinged villas and handful of refined residences meld with the dramatic landscape of the private island of Félicité as if organically sprouted after a passing tropical shower. The resort only occupies one-third of the wild island, piled high with granite boulders and heaving green forest; the other two-thirds remain feral – a castaway's beachy wonderland to explore. An hour's hike with one of the expert Seychellois guides from the in-house Experience Team through the tangles of wet jungle will result in a face-to-face encounter with mystical

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coco de mer palm trees. With nuts topping out at over 30kg – and a shockingly seductive shape, which you can Google in your own time – the coco de mer is endemic to the Seychelles but still exceedingly scarce.

One of the property's environmental initiatives is an intensive island restoration project to remove all the invasive species, like the coco plum tree that arrived care of human interference during the island's previous iteration as a plantation, and then to reintroduce native species. Over 40,000 trees have been planted thus far and the reinstatement of indigenous birds, like the Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher and the Seychelles White-eye, is next.

With wellness also being a major defining philosophy for the brand, the spa at Six Senses Zil Pasyon is clearly the jewel of this treasure island. There's a sophisticated almost Nordic, natural vibe to the 1,765 sq m space that snakes over and under heaping stacks of towering, sun-hot granite boulders, the domain of the skittering Seychelles bronze geckos. Cross the rope bridge and stroll down the lightweight timber planks to an infinity-edge saltwater pool with never-ending views of the warm, rippling Indian Ocean. For a real treat, you can ask your guest experience manager to book the pool at sunset so you can watch the sky turn purple while sipping on a well-chilled glass of Ruinart champagne.

Holistic, free-spirited treatments with organic Terres d'Afrique products – and often crystals – are carried out in five double treatment villas: the Ocean Villa, Hanging Villa, Rock Villa, Nature Villa and Cave Villa. Each has unique features. For example, the glass Rock Villa is squeezed between boulders and has a cliff-edge shower, and the spectacular Ocean Villa

dangles above the waves with theatrical, 180-degree sea vistas.

There are also dedicated signature spa treatments to correspond with the treatment villas, like the Hanging Villa's uplifting Floating Journey, which is inspired by its elevated location. The 120-minute treatment, which focuses on the crown chakra, uses a polychrome jasper crystal and includes a smudging ceremony, where African products like *omumbiri* (tree resin) and *impepho* (incense) shoo away negative energy and lift



Drinks and snacks are served throughout the day at Island Cafe.



The spa's five double treatment villas reflect the island's ecosystem, colours, textures and themes.

the spirit. African instruments and Tibetan singing bowls also make an appearance in this treatment, which includes a stress-relieving massage and facial.

Though the length of the spa menu rivals the wine list of a Michelin-starred restaurant, the spa also hosts a rotation of visiting experts such as Ayurvedic practitioners. The spa is also kitted out with a salon, sauna, hammam and yoga deck, hosting plenty of fitness and wellness classes, not to mention a separate, state-of-the-art gym located outside the spa.

The wellness philosophy doesn't dissipate when you leave the spa buffed, polished and crystal-healed. Restaurant menus have helpful designations like 'detox', 'fitness' and 'sleep' alongside corresponding dishes to extend the wellness journey beyond the spa. There are two main eateries: the all-day Island Cafe serves everything from house-made samosas to buffalo mozzarella salad, and Ocean Kitchen, the only meat-

free restaurant in the Seychelles, dishes out a preset menu of fresh catch-of-the-day served in a local spicy Creole fashion. The hours between dinner and bedtime should be dwindled away in the laid-back Lakanbiz bar, a polished pirate's tree house bar with a booty of barrels of aged rum and herb-infused tipples. Try the Vieux Care cocktail made with local Seychellois Takamaka rum (aged for eight years), Grand Marnier, Dolin Rouge Vermouth and bitters.

This secluded, exclusive island paradise is accessible via a speedboat transfer from the nearby island of Praslin. Or arrive James-Bond style via private helicopter, which takes just 15 minutes from the main island of Mahé.

Rates at Six Senses Zil Pasyon start from €1,426 per night based on two people sharing a Hideaway Pool Villa including breakfast. www.sixsenses.com



The sitting room of the four-bedroom residence sparkles from natural light filtering through the transparent base of the pool above.



The stunning double treatment Ocean Villa offers dramatic ocean views.