
A new Head Sommelier at the Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury

Since September 14th, the Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury has welcomed a new artisan : Julien Laugier has joined the F&B team as the new Head Sommelier.

With 10 years in wine waiting and 15 years in the hospitality sector, Julien boasts an impressive track record of collaborations with prestigious restaurants and hotels. "First, I was interested in cookery, but I eventually turned to wine waiting and learned the art of wine pairing," he explains.

A native of the Luberon, the capital of candied fruit in the south-east of France, Julien earned his first stripes in the kitchen of the "Auberge du Luberon" in 2001, before integrating Paul Leunard's iconic restaurant, "La Côte de Bœuf". When he later discovered the art of wine tasting and savouring, he decided to expand his knowledge and trained as a sommelier. Between 2007 and 2010, he further developed his skills as a trainee, commis wine waiter, cellarman and sommelier trainer at the "Maison Pic", then gathered international experience at the Ritz Carlton in China, Dubai and the Maldives.

As a member of the Union des Sommeliers de France, Julien was appointed Principal Advisor and Senior Teacher for the Diplôme Consulaire Supérieure en Sommellerie, a graduate degree course in Sommellerie in the French town of Avignon, between 2014 and 2017.

At only 30, Julien becomes the new Head Sommelier of the Royal Palm. His primary mission will be to create and renew the hotel's wine list. "We want to create a versatile wine list, bring in some new features, work on the harmony of flavours and offer guests an experience tailored to their preferences," he ensures.

For his first professional encounter in Mauritius, Julien is delighted to be an artisan of the Royal Palm. He is looking forward to sharing his passion for wines with the rest of the team.

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About Beachcomber

Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels is the pioneer and leader of the Mauritian tourism industry. Since the creation of Park Hotel in 1952, a collection of 11 resorts have emerged over the years, including the mythical Royal Palm Mauritius in 1985, considered by everyone as the reference in hospitality for luxury holidays in Mauritius.

Beachcomber has exported the tradition of Mauritian hospitality beyond the shores of the island, with the launching of Sainte Anne Resort & Spa in Seychelles, in 2002.

The Group is presently expanding its collection, with the integration of the Beachcomber French Riviera Resort & Spa, situated on the Côte d'Azur, in France.

The collection of 10 resorts affords a choice of accommodation options ranging from rooms and apartments to suites and villas. Each hotel is imbued with a particular history and cachet, embodying an image of discrete luxury.

Social responsibility – Fondation Espoir Développement (FED), by Beachcomber

Set up and financed by Beachcomber since 1999, with the participation of hotels and employees, this foundation takes care of these main projects:

- Projet Employabilité Jeunes (PEJ): professional insertion of school drop-outs through a training programme and industrial attachments.
- Collaboration with NGOs, schools and associations
- Regional projects – youth mentoring: the “Amour et Espoir” NGO; IT initiation; youth monitoring via the “Duke of Edinburgh International Award” programme, participation of regional sports clubs in the organisation of the Beachcomber UTRB Trail 2015

Social responsibility – Local Hands

Programme launched in 2006 to support small local artisans by providing them with training and guidance as they embark upon the process of creation, production, marketing and sales.

Sustainable development – our environmental actions – EarthCheck label

Sustainable development and environmental protection constitute real considerations within the Group, which has set up, amongst other initiatives, practices that ensure energy savings and favour renewable energy sources. These initiatives in favour of sustainable development have been recognised and rewarded, with two of our hotels recently obtaining the EarthCheck Benchmarked Bronze accreditation for their ongoing commitment to environmentally responsible practices.