

Les Salines Beachcomber Resort & Spa

Beachcomber unveils its 9th resort

Les Salines Beachcomber Resort & Spa will welcome its first guests in late 2020. Upon its opening, the 4-star of the Beachcomber Group, built at a cost of Rs 2.5 billion, will be the largest in its category on the west coast. It will have 338 rooms, 56 apartments (Integrated Hotel Scheme), three restaurants, a salt-based spa, an indoor salt-water lagoon, a 2000 m² swimming pool, a sports centre, and a spacious kids' club. The hotel, which will afford magnificent views of Le Morne, was designed by the Mauritian architect Jean-François Adam, who pays tribute to the exceptional beauty of the surrounding area. *'Les Salines Beachcomber is a hotel project that aims to be as eco-responsible as possible. It will be the first resort in Mauritius to be built without affecting the sea and the marine ecosystem,'* says Mathieu Rivet, Group Engineering Manager. To ensure the guests have a place to swim, we are building an 18,000 m² artificial salt-water lagoon inside (roughly 4 acres).

In line with the Group's commitment to sustainability and in an effort to protect the environment, the hotel will use the latest water and energy management technology and will comply with EarthCheck environmental benchmark BPDS (Building, Planning, Design Standards). Solar energy will account for 25% of total energy consumption at Les Salines Beachcomber, with 600 kilowatts of solar panels installed on the roof of the future resort. A desalination plant will be built to cover all the hotel's drinking water needs, thus eliminating any impact on the public drinking water supply.

Les Salines Beachcomber will be a family resort, offering a wide variety of leisure activities in the region's magnificent landscapes. One strong point will no doubt be a walk in the bird sanctuary that the Group intends to build. *'Beachcomber will create a new wet zone behind the hotel. Our ambition is to make it into a bird sanctuary which guests will be invited to visit.'*

The hotel will boast one of the finest gardens in this part of the island. It will be designed by the landscape architect Patrice Marchal in collaboration with Eric Grenouille, Garden Superintendent at Les Salines. *'The aim is to give Les Salines Beachcomber a garden that is as local as possible. This will retain all the charm of the region and also require minimal irrigation, thereby reducing our water consumption,'* explains Mathieu Rivet. Les Salines nursery is preparing the endemic and exotic plants destined for the hotel garden. Created in 2010, it cultivates some 60,000 endemic and exotic plants of 270 different varieties, and supplies all the gardens in the Group.

Construction of Les Salines Beachcomber will maintain and preserve the old stone buildings already on the site. The six salt sheds will be rehabilitated and remarkably showcased. Three of them will be converted into craft houses for use by the craftspeople at Beautiful LocalHands. The other three will be used to store salt from the salt marshes that are still in operation.

The hotel industry is based primarily on courtesy and hospitality. At Beachcomber this art is taken to a new level by the Group's 5000 artisans, who, day in day out, prove their skill and politeness to ensure our guests have a wonderful experience. When the new resort opens, the Group will create 600 direct jobs and 2000 indirect ones. A Job Fair held in February in Rivière Noire enabled residents of the nearby villages to register for employment. Those who have no experience in the profession will attend a training course given by Projet Employabilité Jeunes (Beachcomber's

youth employability project), which will begin shortly. This training in hotel and catering work aims to give them the skills required to work at Les Salines Beachcomber.

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