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BELLE MARE PLAGE HOTEL

With so many extravagant destinations across the globe, natural marvels in abundance and a plethora of beautiful locations, there are but a few intricacies that separate the truly memorable locations from the mild and utterly replaceable. Keagan Lamb looks at one such intricacy - original and authentic design, and a well-designed hotel should enhance its setting, rather than hinder or even overpower it. The Belle Mare Plage Hotel has a duo of expert interior designers at the helm of their quest for design perfection, Marc Hertrich and Nicolas Adnet. The inspiring design brief represents an idea of getting back to one's roots by enhancing existing architectural and historic aspects and mixing traditional local elements with the new and contemporary. The design idea of modern luxury exudes refined grandeur combined with welcoming simplicity to find equilibrium.

Drawing from the local artisanal talents in Mauritius and other Indian Ocean regions, everything from the sandblasted wooden cladding in the entrance lobby - a reference to the old creole hut - to the black tortoise shell mosaic path, adds a touch of style and elegance. Marc and Nicolas opted for a simple layout inspired by a harmonious connection with nature and the environment, and evoke the neighbouring sea with drops of blue, contrasting a black and white dominance. The interior is made more extravagant by harnessing the natural light, transparency and bright tones to bring to life the furniture, lights and decorative objects specifically designed for the Belle Mare hotel.

Like in the lobby, the wooden beams in the bar were kept in their natural state with a fresh new layout emphasising its ethereal features in the heart of the resort. Black marble resin and dust were used in the design of the room, somewhat emulating the design of a ship silhouette. The counter-height bar stools are made from wood and leather and are roomy and comfortable, and the design of the wall lamps is largely inspired by antique lanterns manufactured on the island.

The beautiful restaurants including La caze - designed to look like a restyled creole hut, The indigo restaurant - homage to miraculous colour, La Spiaggia - with a uniquely red centred colour theme, Blue penny cellar - with the ambiance of a lavish wine cellar, and Deer hunter restaurant - overlooking the golf course, all offer differing design perspectives while capturing the intrinsic theme which is to allow the marvellous Mauritian setting to serve as a centre piece for it all.

The redesigned rooms sport exquisite materials like upholstered leather headboards, cotton print fabric with turquoise-coloured patterns, ceramic bedside tables and a warm colour palette which all comes together to create a calming atmosphere.

As if the picturesque beaches of Mauritius were not enough to tantalize even the most cynical travellers, the chic new design of the Belle Mare Plage Hotel makes it a destination which we should all add to the bucket list.

