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## ISLAND INVESTOR

If you're looking to invest a cool few million rand in a stable and stylish investment home, look no further than Mauritius



Mauritius is the favoured holiday destination of millions of people, but a new breed of traveller is looking to the island as a base for stable, attractive investment options.

In SA, everyone from Lolly Jackson to Jo'burg's celebrity plastic surgeons have bought villas in the swanky collection going up as part of the Villas Valriche development

in the unspoilt, rugged south-west of the island.

The Mauritian government's Integrated Resorts Scheme (IRS), which allows foreigners to acquire full freehold ownership of the villas, was introduced in the wake of declining profits in the indigenous sugar and textile industries.

The IRS was one of several strategic policy interventions introduced by the state to sustain the island's GDP. A minimum investment of \$500 000 (about R3,7 million) is required to qualify for permanent Mauritian residency. Investors can also start a business on the island and qualify for significant taxation advantages.

Despite the global recession, the Mauritian economy has continued to grow by more than 5% during the past three years, making the IRS villas particularly attractive for investors. What's more, the island nation came out tops in the 2008 World Bank "Doing Business" survey.

There's a dizzying selection of plantation-style villas available and the first phase of 130 villas has already been completed. - SHEENA ADAMS

Visit [www.villasvalriche.com](http://www.villasvalriche.com) for more information.