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**Villas
Valriche**



Words: Kirsten Hill

Mark Twain was on to something when he stated: 'You gather the idea that Mauritius was made first and then heaven, and that heaven was copied after Mauritius.' Now, Villas Valriche, an exclusive luxury residential estate set amid lush, tropical, landscaped grounds in the island's naturally magnificent Bel Ombre region, is aiming to bring heaven just that little bit closer to would-be investors and immigrants.

Villas Valriche, which takes its name from the neighbouring world-renowned national Valriche Nature Reserve, will be developed

on 106 hectares of land near the Le Morne peninsula on the southwest coast of Mauritius. It is being jointly developed by Secondlifestyle and Bel Ombre Sugar Estate, an entity controlled by the Rogers Group, one of the largest listed companies on the Mauritius Stock Exchange.

Bel Ombre Sugar Estate has diversified away from sugar production to the hospitality sector, and Villas Valriche forms part of its broader plan to shape the Bel Ombre area into a high-profile residential and tourist destination. Other aspects of this re-engineering include upmarket hotels and signature golf courses, some of which are already operational. Bel Ombre Sugar Estate is committed to developing world-class infrastructure, which explains its partnership with Secondlifestyle. The latter has a proven track record in developing luxury residential golf estates, hotels, shopping centres, office buildings and apartment buildings both in South Africa – including Dainfern Golf and Residential Estate and Pecanwood Estate – and in Europe.

Anton de Waal, chief executive officer of Villas Valriche, says: 'The Bel Ombre area is proving to be a popular choice for immigrants due not only to the world-class lifestyle it affords, but also because of its close proximity to good schooling and medical facilities. There are fantastic French and English private schools in Curepipe and Floréal, which are about half an hour's drive from Bel Ombre. The best clinic on the island also happens to be located in Floréal, and we are setting up an emergency support service linking to the clinic. They have a new ICU [intensive care unit] and cardiac centre, which is said to be the best private facility on the island.'

Villas Valriche Estate will ultimately comprise 288 freehold Mauritian plantation-style villas set in a splendid natural amphitheatre of over 200 hectares of flourishing grounds and rolling hillsides, and will offer spectacular, uninterrupted views of the azure Indian Ocean. With a choice of 22 different villa designs constructed along a colour and design palette of natural stone, sand, sea, and the hint of tropical afternoon thundershowers, these villas blend harmoniously with their surrounds. Homes are available in both single- and double-storey configurations, from two-bedroom villas of 250m² to three- or four-bedroom villas in excess of 400m², while plots vary in size from 700m² to over 2 000m².



Most villas will offer uninterrupted panoramic views of the golf courses and the ocean. Based around the concept of an outdoor lifestyle, the open-plan villas will all boast infinity pools, large verandas, air-conditioned bedrooms, state-of-the-art communications facilities and landscaped tropical gardens. They will be built to high standards and come with top-quality finishes. A wide range of options and interior design packages are available to suit all tastes, and a full interior finishing and furnishing package will be offered for the convenience of owners. Two-bedroom villas are priced from US\$900 000, three-bedrooms villas from US\$1-million and four-bedroom villas from US\$1,3-million.

Villas Valriche fully embraces its colonial and sugar plantation heritage. Amid the immaculately preserved grounds of the estate sits the majestic Chateau de Bel Ombre (now a focal point of the estate), which has been faithfully restored and now houses an elegant restaurant, providing the ultimate in island fine-dining experiences.

An on-site spa promises a sanctuary of calm where guests will be able to relax and recharge in secluded surrounds. For the more active, there's the sports club, which includes a fully equipped gym, tennis courts, a swimming pool, croquet, boules, and hiking or quad biking in the nature reserve. The estate also features a children's playground.

Alternatively, guests will be able to spend their afternoons at the estate's private beach club and enjoy the many water sports of offer, including windsurfing, kayaking, scuba diving and snorkelling, or heading out beyond the white, sandy beaches and the reef for some deep-sea fishing, or sailing. Golfers and villa residents will have access to a completed 18-hole, par-72, championship Peter Matkovich-signature golf course, which is set against one of the world's most spectacular backdrops.

Villa Valriche's unique range of benefits combined with the exceptionally high standard of features that are fast taking shape on the estate make it a natural destination in which to own a home and enjoy political and economic stability, as well as the ultimate in idyllic island living.



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