## Sustainable luxury

## BY MAXIMILIAN LENNKH

VICE PRESIDENT EMEASA, HOTEL OPERATIONS, BANYAN TREE GROUP

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e are celebrating our twentieth anniversary in 2014 and Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts is proud to have launched one of the first luxury resorts in the Seychelles - Banyan Tree Seychelles, a resort that after nearly two decades continues to impress with its attention to detail and commitment to creating a "Sanctuary for the Senses" for its guests.

Tucked at the end of a road on the beautiful sandy beach of Anse Intendance on the main island of Mahé, the architecture at Banyan Tree Seychelles varies from the formal, colonial-style Plantation House of the main building, with its whitewashed verandas overlooking the turquoise sea and its plush interior furniture, to the modernist treatment rooms of the spa and the contemporary, Asian-influenced villa décor. Each aspect of the resort is well-appointed, imaginatively designed and constructed with carefully chosen materials. The 60 villas at Banyan Tree Seychelles are divided into various categories and are scattered amongst the cool natural wetlands, the beach and the steep, rocky jungle. Banyan Tree Seychelles' villas combine contemporary, colonial and 'plantation' décor to create a unique style, redefining Seychellois architecture, with its high sloping ceilings, airy verandas and louvered doors alongside paintings by local artists. The eclectic villa interiors provide a true sense of place - allowing you to experience Banyan Tree's signature blend of romance, rejuvenation and exotic sensuality in luxury.

The resort has also earned international media recognition for its Spa. Banyan Tree Seychelles currently boasts eight treatment rooms nestled between the granite glacis and indigenous trees on the hillside. These individual open-sided hideaways allow guests to enjoy sea-views and bird song during their massage, scrubs, wraps and beauty treatments. The staff are all extremely professional, well-trained Thai therapists, the products used are all Banyan Tree's ownbrand signature oils and the treatment menu is suitably extensive and exotically-themed.

Europe is still the main feeder market for visitors, although the resort is attracting growing numbers of travellers from Asia and the Middle East. Another change noticed over the last decade is that guests are opting for shorter stays. When the resort first opened, on average, visitors stayed for between 10 to 14 nights; now they visit for about half that time due mainly to Middle Eastern and Asian guests who tend to stay for shorter periods.

I would like to send our infinite thanks to all of our guests that have honoured us by staying at Banyan Tree Seychelles. Travellers that choose our property are the reason for our success. It is because of their trust in our continued dedication to personal service that we remain fully committed to offering the ultimate travel experience.

At the same time, we are indebted to the government of Seychelles for its can-do attitude and helping the Banyan Tree Group with our ambitious project. We knew from the start that we wanted to create a low-impact, environmentally-friendly hotel, and this fitted in with Seychelles' sustainable approach to its tourism industry.



Sundown at Anse Intendance Bay