

The jewel in Kingdom's crown

By SAMER ABU AYASH

HEAD OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND REAL ESTATE, KINGDOM HOTEL INVESTMENTS (KHI)



SAMER ABU AYASH holds an MSc in civil and environmental engineering from Imperial College, London and a Bachelor of Engineering degree in civil engineering from the American University of Beirut. He has been Head of Design, Construction, and Real Estate at Kingdom Hotel Investments since 2008 in which capacity he has overseen all global design and construction activity for new builds as well as all refurbishments relating to the company's US\$3 billion international hotel portfolio.

Hotel villas
nestled on the
hills overlooking
Anse Takamaka

Kingdom Hotel Investments is a leading international hotel and resort real estate investment company focused on emerging markets. To date we have invested in 18 operating hotels across 13 countries, with a balanced portfolio mix of urban hotels and resorts across the upscale, upper-upscale, and luxury market segments.

Among our resort properties, we are particularly proud of the Raffles Praslin, an all-villa resort spread over 30 acres of land on the magical island of Praslin in the Seychelles archipelago.

The decision to develop a world-class luxury resort on Praslin was a strategic one for KHI, with the island being only fifteen minutes by plane or helicopter from Mahé island (or a scenic fifty-five minutes by ferry), and a million miles from the ordinary. The resort construction was overseen by KHI's award-winning design and construction team, who made sure the highest standards of safety and environmental preservation were maintained.

Today, the Raffles Praslin stands as a paradise oasis composed of eighty-six architecturally exquisite villas ringed by the sublime beauty of white powdered sands, opal-hued oceans, and lush green hills. Since its opening, the resort has received numerous prestigious awards including Forbes Travel Guide's top 10 beach

resorts around the world, Condé Nast Traveller Hot List 2012, and the Seychelles' Leading Hotel at the World Travel Awards 2012.

The service at Raffles Praslin Seychelles is second to none. In addition to the selection of superb restaurants and the dramatic rooftop lounge, the resort offers tailor-made culinary experiences from the sunset cruise apéritif to the fishing excursion with the Chef and the private island barbecue. The resort boasts the first signature Raffles branded spa, themed around the jewel-of-the-sea, the pearl, symbolizing the wellness philosophy of transformation. It features 13 spa treatment pavilions, all with outstanding views across the water. Raffles Butlers, adept in various languages, offer welcoming service and thoughtful assistance around-the-clock.

Adjacent to the Raffles Praslin Resort are a selection of three and four bedroom private residences available for immediate freehold purchase. Located along a gentle hillside that commands breathtaking views over the Indian Ocean, these luxury residences feature private infinity pools, expansive decks, and state of the art fittings. In addition, owners will have the opportunity to include their villa into the hotel rental program when not in use. All owners will have direct, uninterrupted access to all the facilities and amenities of the Raffles resort including special privileges reserved for the owners of these exclusive homes.

With the marked increase in the number of tourists making their way to the beautiful shores of the Seychelles from all over the world, the Raffles Praslin is positioned to become a luxurious anchor among the exquisite islands of the Seychelles. As an active and engaged owner, KHI is committed to constant investment in the resort to maintain the luxurious build quality and lush landscapes that contribute to the unforgettable guest experience. **F**

