

- Experience the marvels of Mauritius

Fantasy Island

BY REBECCA WALLWORK



Located in the Indian Ocean, the One&Only Le Saint Géran in Mauritius offers unparalleled serenity.



GETTING THERE

One&Only Le Saint Géran is located about 40 minutes from Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius. It's one hour from Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport (MRU), which is located near Plaisance in Plaine Maginen in the southeastern part of the island. Air Mauritius services a number of European and Asian cities. Air France flies to Mauritius from Paris Charles de Gaulle and British Airways flies from London Heathrow.

You may have to travel to the end of the earth to get there—the middle of the Indian Ocean, 1,118 miles off the east coast of Africa and 560 miles east of Madagascar, to be precise—but as soon as you step onto the sandy-white beaches of the One&Only Le Saint Géran in Mauritius, you will be rewarded for your intrepidity.

Mauritius' two primary seasons are a warm, dry winter from May to Novem-

ber and a hot, wet, humid summer from November to May. And while English is the only official language of the island nation, most of the newspapers and television programs are in French. The One&Only Le Saint Géran resort's 162 suites and one villa sit under layers of coconut palms, and manicured gardens wind down to the beach on the property's private Belle Mare peninsula, itself surrounded by a protective coral reef. If you need to practice your serve away from

prying eyes, you could do worse than on one of five north-facing courts situated next to a palm-fringed lagoon. The courts are synthetic grass and can be flood-lit for night play. Open from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., the tennis center offers private and semi-private lessons with a pro, a four-lesson package available on weekdays and weekly doubles tournaments held on Wednesday afternoons. More casual players may opt for the complimentary 30-minute group class instead.

As a destination resort that offers no compelling reason to leave, Le Saint Géran serves up a wide range of active pursuits, including badminton, croquet, cycling, parasailing, scuba diving and windsurfing. Golfers will find their own slice of paradise in the Gary Player-designed nine-hole course, with instruction available through the One&Only Academy.

Rewarding yourself for a hard-won triumph on the course or court? Spring

for a couples treatment in the garden spa pavilion. Yoga, massages and other treatments are available at the ESPA spa, which has its own 59-foot lap pool in addition to the standard sauna and steam-room amenities. Education is even on tap, with massage training sessions offered three times a week. La Terrasse and Rasoi by Vineet, both with ocean views, highlight the fine dining options—the Pool Bar and Golf Club Bar cater to daytime grazing and a thirst for cocktails.

All One&Only Le Saint Géran suites have the ability to accommodate three people, and they are equipped with all of the technological, iPod-docking, WiFi-connecting comforts of home. With any luck, however, the island views and ocean breezes on your private terrace will end up rendering all of those amenities superfluous.

Visit oneandonlyresorts.com or call 1-866-552-0001 for more information.