



MAURITIUS RESORT UPDATE

Want an escape? We vote Mauritius as one of the top getaway locations in the world. Here are two fabulous resorts to consider

ROYAL PALM

Perched on the north-west corner of Mauritis, **Royal Palm** is the deluxe version of being cast away. The five-star-plus, 84-suite hotel is set in picturesque surrounds, with swaying palm trees, thatched umbrellas and the crystal-clear Indian Ocean lapping at a crescent-shaped beach. Service is discreet, with a staff-to-guest ratio of two to one. Rooms are decorated in muted coffee, cashew and deep-gold tones

and have ocean views. Then there's the spaciousness – even the most junior suites are roomy with super-king-sized beds and deep spa baths set in seemingly endless bathrooms. Two dining experiences are available at **La Goélette**, which has a strong French influence, and **Natureaty**, which serves healthy cuisine and organic wines. And its oriental-style **Clarins Spa**, offers treatments including a body scrub using ground

rice mixed with aloe, and a sensational facial treatment with honey, cucumber and papaya juice. Royal Palm is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World and is part of the Mauritius-owned Beachcomber hotel group. We suggest you take advantage of Beachcomber's Double Destinations packages and add on an African safari or a visit to Cape Town or Kuala Lumpur after your stay at Royal Palm. Reservations through The Leading Hotels of the World, (02) 9377 8444 (Sydney), 1800 222 033 (outside Sydney, tollfree). Reservations through Beachcomber (see below).

RELAXATION & RECREATION

Imagine sitting on your balcony watching tiny ripples lap a white-sand beach below and being enveloped in the scent of vanilla, frangipanni and lemon grass brought to you on a warm sea breeze ... This daydream can be realised at **Dinarobin**, a resort located on the sheltered southern peninsula of Mauritius. The island is surrounded by coral reefs, so the elegant curls of beach open out to calm azure-coloured lagoons. The

fine-dining option, **Saveurs des Iles**, is a successful blend of Mediterranean cooking techniques using Mauritian ingredients, such as yellow-fin tuna, marlin, local venison and its spicy vanilla rum, a reminder of the island's wild pirate days. In the spa, a collection of tiny treatment bungalows are gathered around a tranquil pool, sheltered by sougning palms. The hotel's intimate atmosphere belies its size – there are 172 suites set on about 20 hectares of tropical gardens. If all that eating and lying around has your inner athlete in a state of rebellion, the tariff includes waterskiing, snorkelling and trips in its glass-bottom boats. Reservations through Beachcomber Hotels, call 1800 624 268 or visit www.beachcomber.com.au.



AIRLINE CHECK LIST 	<i>Business Class</i>	<i>Food + Drinks</i>	<i>Entertainment</i>	<i>Amenity pack</i>
<i>Qantas</i>	Marc Newson-designed sky-bed, power outlet for laptop connection, cocoon-style seat, mood lighting	Neil Perry-created seasonal menus, Charles Hiedsieck champagne 2000, premium Australian wines	18 video channels (12 new release movies, 6 TV), 16 audio channels, 10 on-screen games, 26.4cm screen	French L'Occitane products, shea butter moisturiser, plus practical items, such as a travel toothbrush
<i>Malaysia Airlines</i>	Sleeper seat, multi-colour lighting, fold-out work space, power outlet, LCD touch screen for livetext and email	Signature Malaysian satays, Asian dishes, Cuvee Royale 1999 champagne, premium Australian and French wines	350+ entertainment options, 40 movies, 200 CD titles on demand via an LCD touch-screen monitor, e-mail	Aigner kit with rehydrating night mask, lip balm, moisturiser, mouthwash, toothbrush, toothpaste, socks
<i>Virgin Atlantic</i>	Soft leather seats convert to the largest fully flat bed in business class, cosy duvets, proper pillows, laptop power	In-flight bar, fusion dishes by Luke Mangan on the Sydney/Hong Kong route, premium Australian wines	50 movies, video and audio entertainment, shoulder, back and scalp massages, beauty treatments	Ozward Boateng kit with socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, earplugs, eye mask, comb, moisturiser, lip balm
<i>Emirates</i>	Sleeperette massage seats, which recline almost flat, down pillows, window/aisle seats only, mood lighting	Menus created by top international chefs, wines from Europe and the new world, 1995 Dom Perignon	Extensive inflight entertainment system, over 500 channels of films, TV, music, and individual Game Boys	Clarins kits (female), Roger & Gallet kits (male) both with Bulgari towellettes, toothbrush, toothpaste and more

WE'RE INTO ... the island of Capri's 19th-century mansion called Villa Le Scale, which has been restored and filled with artworks by its Italian owner.