



Maradiva Villas Resort and Spa Hotel, Mauritius

Peaceful
seclusion



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The first sound I hear when I arrive at Maradiva Villas Resort and Spa Hotel is birdsong. As the porters take my luggage, I can't help but flit my eyes around to find the source. The symphony is so sweet and in tune that I'm convinced it must be some kind of soundtrack. Then I spot it; a lime-green parakeet, welcoming me into its Mauritian home after a 12-hour flight. In my jet-lagged fog, I smile at my silliness. Of course, the song wasn't artificial – nothing here is.

Located in the seaside town of Flic en Flac, Maradiva has been known as one of Mauritius's top resorts since its 2004 opening. The property underwent a major refurbishment in 2024, with its 65 villas transformed to accommodate the needs of the modern traveller. It also expanded its dining options with the addition of the Beach House Grill, and upgraded its back-of-house facilities for staff.

Even before this glow-up, Maradiva was in a league of its own. The property is the only hotel on Mauritius's west coast to exclusively offer villas, making it a

GOOD TO KNOW

- Butler service is available on request for all villas except the Presidential Suite, which has it built into its services.
- Maradiva offers a number of unique services and experiences, including eco-luxe airport transfers, culinary masterclasses and watersports.
- There are four villa categories at Maradiva – 31 Luxury Suite Pool Villas, 15 Family Luxury Suite Pool Villas, six Exclusive Suite Pool Villas and one Presidential Suite Villa. It is also possible to stay in a Family Beachfront Suite Pool Villa or Beachfront Luxury Suite Pool Villa.
- There are two handy Departure Suites for guests who have checked out, ensuring the VIP treatment continues to the very last minute. With rainforest showers and luxury toiletries, they're the perfect space to freshen up ahead of the journey home.



no-brainer for clients who value privacy and space.

I stayed in one of the Luxury Suite Pool Villas, the most common category among the resort's 64 villas. At 163 square metres, they are far larger than your average luxury hotel room and, arguably, far swankier. Highlights include the standalone tub with Bvlgari toiletries and the huge dressing room with its own mini fridge.

The private garden, however, is the real star. A wooden-beamed veranda covers almost the entirety of the patio, where you'll find a pair of sun loungers, a pillowy sofa and a four-seater dining table. In the centre of the terrace is the pool, which provides the perfect respite from the scorching heat.

For larger groups, the Presidential Suite Pool Villa is ideal. Tucked into the nook of the resort's crescent beach, this two-bedroom house boasts immediate access to the sea as well as gorgeous ocean vistas. It also has an indoor and outdoor dining area that can host up to six people, a fully equipped kitchenette, a living room with a home cinema and 24/7 butler service.

For food, Cilantro is Maradiva's gourmet Indian restaurant and by far its best. The menu spotlights cuisine from the country's northern region, offering dishes like tandoori scallop curry and potato tikka with dhal velunte. Next door you'll find

Haiku, offering Japanese teppanyaki at the sushi bar, or the Washoku menu on the seated side of the restaurant. Breakfast, lunch and dinner is served daily at Maradiva's main restaurant, Cassine, which specialises in Mauritian fare with a Mediterranean twist. Its a la carte menu has been designed by Michelin-star chef Yannick Hochet, who prides himself on creating dishes that are fresh and locally sourced. Guests can look forward to fish caught that same morning, and succulent vegetables grown in the resort's own herb garden.

For a more casual meal, the newly added Beach House Grill offers charcoal-grilled seafood and tender meats served alongside breathtaking views of Tamarind Bay. After clearing their plate, guests head to Lantana, the hotel's indoor-outdoor bar, for an evening tippie and live music.

In the wellness arena, Maradiva doesn't play around.

The resort boasts a holistic spa with a resident Ayurvedic doctor, who meets every guest for a private consultation before their treatment. The spa menu offers a wide range of treatments, including traditional Indian therapies such as Champi and Abhyanga massages, as well as a hair, nail and beauty salon. There's also an adults-only outdoor pool, a steam room, sauna and a laconium.

On the other side of the resort lies the fitness centre, where you'll find a gym divided into two separate units for cardio and weights.

There's also complimentary bicycles for adults and children, two floodlit tennis courts, amenities for boxing and table tennis. For younger guests, the Peter Pan Kids' Club, which is open from 9am to 6pm daily, boasts a ship-inspired pool and an indoor padded playroom.

Tel: 00 23 0403 1500

maradiva.com

How to book it

Carrier offers seven nights from £6,705pp including half-board upgrade, flights from Heathrow, private transfers in-resort and airside departure service at Heathrow. Price based on two adults sharing a Beachfront Luxury Suite Pool Villa with 21 April departure (valid for travel until 31 October and must be booked by 30 April).

Tel: 0161 492 1354

carrier.co.uk