

News on Sunday 21st to 27th October 2005

BLACK RIVER has its paradise

Another cosy, intimate corner that will appeal to the tourists, and even the locals, on the look-out for peace is now nestled in the heart of a rainforest that plunges precipitously down the Black River mountain range. Its name *Les Chalets en Champagne*.

Mr. José Hitié, one of the creators and director, affirms the Chalets are designed to enhance the splendour of the surrounding rainforest.

The Chalets form part of a resort "*A Coeur Bois*", conceived and designed as a hypothetical forest village, also comprising *Varangue Sur Morne*, a favoured place with connoisseurs of good food and visiting celebrities; the *Nid-Jo* (the Conservator's Mansion – 'a celebration of wood'); *The Traveller* (the helipad); *La Roche-Qui-Rit* (the monument); *Eden Talao* (the lake); *le Pont des Oliviers* (the bridge); *Atma*, a space for meditation; and many other nature-friendly surprises.

A Coeur Bois will soon also feature the Eco-Gallery - *Touche du Bois* and the *Summum Haveli* – a Health and Relaxation Corner (with Hammam / Sauna, Massage, Musical / Heated Pool, Gym, Home Cinema, Fireplace, Library and a Wine Cellar).

Les Chalets en Champagne is located in the heart of an evergreen forest adjoining the National Park, in the very lap of *Piton de La Petite Rivière Noire*, the highest peak of Mauritius. It is the only forest in the island featuring a unique variety of endemic and indigenous trees struggling for survival amidst luxuriant and exotic vegetation.

The scenery is spectacular, with the verdurous forest canopy clambering up undulating mountain slopes and soaring peaks. From this incomparable vantage point, the *Morne Brabant* seems to emerge from the sea like the head of a gigantic tortoise, hauling on its back the *Piton Chamarel*, the *Piton de Gouges*, *Mont sur Mont* and *Montagne Canon*...

"*Les Chalets en Champagne*" derives its name from the area in which it is located - Plaine Champagne - some 10 km from Curepipe and Vacoas.

The complex consists, as at today, of three chalets, namely:

- Two Chalets Montagnards: *Bois canne* and *Bois bigaignon*, which comprise two double bedrooms of 12 m² with AC, one living / dining of 20 m² with TV, DVD player, fireplace and mini-Bar, a kitchen corner with kettle, toaster, micro-wave fridge / freezer and tea / coffee making facilities, and one bathroom / toilet. *Bois bigaignon* additionally offers a Sun deck of 20 m².
- One Lodge Champenois: *Bois de rivière*, comprising three bedrooms (with AC, attached bathroom and toilet), the master bedroom of 35 m² on the groundfloor having special features like a patio Jacuzzi in an indoor garden, and two bedrooms (of 30 m² each) on the mezzanine with a connecting lounge between the rooms. Additionally the Lodge includes a spacious living / dining of 40 m² with TV/DVD, Hi-Fi player, fireplace and mini-Bar, a kitchen of 9 m² with kettle, toaster, micro-wave, fridge / freezer and tea / coffee making facilities and an indoor leisure corner.

The chalets are tropical in design and built entirely of exotic local timber, *Tecoma and Cedar*, as well as imported noble timber species such as *Palissandre* from Madagascar, *Iroko* from Ivory Coast, *Daru Daru* from Indonesia, *Balau* from Malaysia, *Sapelli* from Central Africa, *Oak* and *Beech* from America. The roof is made of cedar shingles and the walls are clad with semi-log timber from South Africa while the furniture is made up mainly of *Oak* and *Beech*, *Sapelli / Kiaat* and *used railway sleepers*.

The architecture and design bestow an aura of warmth and romance to the chalets that is unrivalled...

Les Chalets en Champagne also features a helipad named “***The Traveller***”, which makes it discreetly and conveniently accessible to tourists from the various parts of the island or from the airport.