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TRAVEL AGENT EXPERT (SLEx) PROGRAM

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A Supplement to
recommend
Message from the Executive Chairperson of the Saint Lucia Tourism Authority

Dear Travel Planner,

Welcome to lush, tropical Saint Lucia, where you get the beach and so much more. It’s a sensorial experience that will feed your spirit with flavors she has gathered from the earth, the sea and her people. Born of volcanic origin, the island presents a burst of natural splendor with every turn. She will satisfy the appetite of the most discerning traveler, presenting a choice of world-class accommodations, exquisite dining and a whole range of unique and thrilling experiences.

Our small Caribbean island is big on personality and choice. Historically, Saint Lucia has always inspired a sense of wonder, awe and passion. The exotic location is brimming with natural beauty, cultural richness, and a warm and welcoming people ready to inspire a plethora of once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

As the perfect, memory-making destination the whole family will enjoy, Saint Lucia is suitable for most vacation budgets. Our family-friendly hotels are of a high standard and offer superb kids’ clubs. The island offers a wealth of activities perfect for families of all sizes, spoiling your clients with a bevy of choices.

Named the “World’s Leading Honeymoon Destination” nine times by the World Travel Awards, Saint Lucia is renowned for its resplendent natural beauty, romantic retreats and the highest levels of luxury, making the destination the ultimate location for your clients’ love stories.

The island also has a rich history of rejuvenating and restorative treatments, from the natural healing of the Sulphur Springs mud baths to its award-winning spas. Your clients can slip into relaxing infinity pools and rejuvenate with an Ayurvedic treatment, find their center in beautiful locations fit for yoga, meditation or general relaxation.

With her beautiful scenery, natural diversity, thrilling activities, world-class restaurants and rejuvenating spa experiences, the diversity of the destination is matched only by the imagination of the traveler. All major airlines offer nonstop service to Saint Lucia, making it very accessible. Come take advantage of the benefits of being a Saint Lucia Expert and earn amazing rewards when you sell our awe-inspiring destination.

Agnes Francis
Executive Chairperson
SAINT LUCIA
TRAVEL AGENT EXPERT (SLEX) PROGRAM

THE FAIREST ISLE

Think of all the things a Caribbean vacation used to engender—serenity, great natural beauty, crystal-clear waters, fine dining, and a slow-paced island ambiance where all your problems are days away. The influx of mega-resorts, mega-cruise ships and fast food venues has, on some islands, done away with that traditional image of the unspoiled Caribbean, but there’s at least one West Indies destination where the true, exotic Caribbean experience is alive, well and thriving—the beautiful and captivating island of Saint Lucia.

In this Saint Lucia Travel Agent Expert Program (SLEX), you’ll find all the information you’ll need to provide your clients with an enrapturing vacation. Indeed, it’s one of the most classic Caribbean vacation experiences that’s available today with resorts that run the gamut from all-inclusive to luxury villas, classic inns, as well as boutique hotels with spas and wellness programs in settings that will take your breath away and make you understand why Saint Lucia has become known as the premiere romance destination and an emerging family destination. In fact, as you’ll find in the destination wedding, honeymoon and romance section of this course, the French have left a lasting legacy of l’amour in this romantic paradise, making it one of the most popular destination wedding and honeymoon hotspots in the Caribbean.

Of course, nothing generates romance more than the beauty and the natural setting of this gorgeous island, with the splendor of the UNESCO World Heritage Piton Mountains reaching into the clear blue skies washed clean by the trade winds and framing this tropical Shangri-La in a pattern of lush greenery. This is all set off by the exploding colors of the tropical trees and plants, fed by gushing, natural waterfalls and crystalline streams. Clients will love the island’s palm-fringed black and white sand beaches and crystal-clear waters, not to mention its beautiful hiking trails filled with colorful and exotic bird life.

All of this natural beauty and romance has spawned an opportunity for unique adventures for both families and couples, with an endless list of recreational pursuits that range from mountain climbing and mountain biking, to ATV and jeep safaris, birdwatching and trekking, horseback riding and exhilarating ziplining in the rainforest. There’s also whale watching and turtle watching, deep-sea fishing and sailing, as well as some of the best diving in the Caribbean. Indeed, Saint Lucia is a truly unique eco-paradise—where else would you find a drive-through volcano listed as a major attraction?

Its history and culture, too, is as unique and fascinating as her natural beauty, stretching back thousands of years to the Arawak and Carib Indians, joined by pirates during the 1500s. The fractious colonial history began in the early-1600s with the French taking over in 1659. The British and French waged a 150-year seesaw battle for control, with the British finally taking possession in 1838, and leaving a colorful legacy of pirates, colonial intrigue and a unique mix of European influence.

It is this rich history that has created a vibrant, melange of cultural diversity and warmth—easily welcoming visitors with vibrant Caribbean music, the annual Saint Lucia Jazz Festival, regular street parties in Gros Islet, the weekly Dennery Fish Festival and the Anse la Raye Seafood Friday—all of which feature plenty of fun and music for visitors of all ages. But it’s the annual Saint Lucia Carnival that’s the big party of the year with costumes and musical competitions and big on island culture and fun.

All of this information is waiting for you in detail throughout Saint Lucia Expert (SLEX) Program, a course that has been developed specially for you, to support your becoming a Saint Lucia Travel Expert and increase your sales to this classic Caribbean vacation destination.

Sign up today and start selling Saint Lucia tomorrow.

Saint Lucia offers pristine white-sand beaches.
For such a tiny paradisiacal island, Saint Lucia packs quite a few options for the altar-bound. Many, in fact. The reason is simple: Saint Lucia offers the most stress-free of wedding requirements, many highly experienced wedding experts and a wide variety of locations that allow this Caribbean gem to shine.

One of the most attractive aspects to getting married in Saint Lucia is that there is no waiting period; couples can get married within hours of arriving. All they need to do is apply for a license (or a “special” one if they’re staying in Saint Lucia for less than 24 hours) and have original copies of the documentation we list on the following page, although if they marry in a hotel, the property will guide them through this. The island has many experienced wedding planners that are invaluable sources of information and assistance. Wedding planners can prepare the most basic or lavish of weddings, with everything from intimate candlelit dinners to fire-eaters at a big bash. They’ll hire the photographer, follow up on menus and pick up clients from the airport with limo and champagne. Even cruise ship visitors can tie the knot here with little effort, thanks to a dedicated staff and several options that let them choose their location and worry about little else.

Saint Lucia’s wedding planners are known for being at the top of their game. They offer a wealth of information and photographs, and guide clients through the planning process. They are always in touch with clients by e-mail. They understand that people need to
feel very comfortable because a lot of people have not visited the island before. There’s lots of contact before couples get to the island, and couples are encouraged to ask as many questions as they want.

Destination wedding planners recommend that travel agents find out what sort of wedding clients want. Some couples prefer to marry in the hotel where they’re staying, but some might want something a bit more unique where they are going to have a lot of personalization and a bit more privacy. They say it will definitely be a plus if travel agents encourage their clients to hire a wedding planner.

**Destination Wedding Venues**

Lush Saint Lucia has been blessed with a number of stunning locations that make for ideal backdrops for a wedding or vow renewal. There are those emerald UNESCO World Heritage Piton Mountains of course, or the incredible Toraille Waterfall, which is great for a small wedding party. No shoes? No problem—choose a barefoot experience by the shore. Another option is to marry at one of several gardens in Saint Lucia, including Diamond Botanical Gardens in Soufriere, home to the Diamond Mineral Baths built for French troops in 1784.

Many weddings in Saint Lucia take place in the island’s hotels, with properties outfitted with small armies of support for brides, a great variety of services and packages that mix and match all their needs. **Anse Chastanet** (pronounced ants-shas-nay) and its “resort within a resort,” **Jade Mountain**, have long been regarded as one of the world’s idyllic locations for romance, with an air of intimacy and personalization that is unique. Rather than having a dedicated area for a ceremony, guests are encouraged to explore the properties and choose their own location—and they have their share here. They can say “I do” on a strip of beach, of course, at **Kai Mer Cottage** overlooking Anse Chastanet Beach, or at the **Treehouse**, a hillside, intimate location embraced by treetops and looking out to the Caribbean Sea. Some couples love their premium or hillside deluxe room so much they choose to marry right there, with the views of the ocean and Pitons around them. There’s also the ruins at Anse Mamin Historical Plantation, which provide an added air of island charm. Couples and their party arrive by boat. Guests staying at Jade Mountain can marry on its Celestial Terrace or infinity pool sanctuary, surrounded by the natural beauty of Saint Lucia. The resort can also arrange underwater ceremonies—clients say their vows on land, then dive right in to “repeat” them using signs and sign language. Another option is to hop on one of Anse Chastanet’s boats and hold a small ceremony there, then jump in the water if they choose.

The resort’s vast experience in creating incredible memories means they’ve developed great relationships with vendors throughout the island and can help couples every step of the way—getting a saxophonist or band, putting together a variety of inspiring menus for the reception, whipping up cocktail parties...
An application for a marriage license can be made immediately on arrival. Fees are determined according to the expedition at which you require the license. Same day licenses are US$204; otherwise, the regular fee for a marriage license is US$127.

Standard documentation is required:
- Passport
- Birth Certificate
- Decree absolute (if one of the party is divorced)
- A death certificate of first spouse (in the case of a widow/widower)
- A deed poll (if a name has been changed)
- An authenticated translation if required documents are not in English
From its majestic, verdant mountain peaks to its serene, sandy coves, Saint Lucia seems naturally inclined to inspire romance. So it’s no wonder that the producers of the TV show “The Bachelor” chose the island as the setting for its final episode of the 14th season. What better place to declare your love than on its singularly pristine shores, fronted by a brilliant blue horizon?

But worry not, true romantics: the inspiring ambiance of Saint Lucia is far more enduring than reality show fame. With a landscape unmatched in beauty, accommodations built for passion and attractions ranging from the adventurous to the tranquil, there’s a legendary romantic getaway here for every couple, from honeymooners to lifelong loves—and enough to keep them returning for years to come.

Love in the Landscape
Saint Lucia owes much of its romantic appeal to its terrain: exotic, striking and uniquely picturesque. Even travelers familiar with the Caribbean are awed by the scenery of its Piton Mountains, rising to a height of 2,500 ft. and plummeting directly down into the Caribbean Sea. Couples can take in these spectacular attractions from a variety of venues in and around the Creole town of Soufriere, itself a romantic blend of French and Caribbean cultures. After they’ve explored Soufriere’s historic estates, many adventurous travelers take on the island’s many hiking trails in search of even more romantic views. The climb to the top of the Pitons is strenuous, but well worth it for clients with a passion for hiking, panoramic island views and, of course, each other.

Other, less difficult hiking trails let clients explore Saint Lucia’s rainforest, filled with lush vegetation, exotic animal life, and plenty of privacy. The Edmund Forest Reserve, set about 30 minutes from Soufriere, offers spectacular views of the Caribbean Sea and Mount Gimie, the island’s highest peak. The Enbas Saut Waterfalls Trail, meanwhile, comes with a sensual bonus: two tall waterfalls cascading into natural swimming pools, giving couples the chance to cool off in a secluded, exotic setting.

The island’s coastline is equal to its inland landscape in both diversity and uniqueness. Saint Lucia’s beaches rank among the best in the world, with Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort’s location between the Pitons making it a favorite for honeymooners. Anse Chastanet’s curved cove is lined with palm trees, and features a coral reef that...
makes it ideal for both sunning and snorkeling. And at the north end of the island, Pigeon Island National Park’s beach is often uncrowded, but no less scenic. All beaches in Saint Lucia are public, so couples are free to explore and find their own private place in the sun. One popular honeymoon upgrade is a tour of the beaches on horseback, adding a unique and romantic component to the traditional beach experience. Tours on horseback often include inland trails and traditional Caribbean lunch as well, giving couples the chance to have an authentic island experience together.

Built for Love
With romance literally surrounding them, it’s no wonder that Saint Lucia’s resorts tend to emphasize the romantic aspects of their accommodations and amenities. The island is home to some of the best honeymoon resorts in the world, including Jade Mountain, the exclusive, all-suite getaway set high in the mountains, and which happens to be the very place where “The Bachelor” himself proposed during the show’s 14th season. Every suite here is an ideal honeymoon suite, featuring views of the majestic Pitons from decks that include private plunge pools. Rumor has it that a honeymoon couple once spent five days in the suite before coming back out. Ladera offers the 1,700-sq.-ft. Villa at Paradise Ridge as well as four Suites at Paradise Ridge that are not only the height in Saint Lucia luxury, but ideal for couples.

Sandals Regency La Toc Golf Resort & Spa’s Millionaire Suites were also designed with couples in mind. Each stand-alone suite sits at the resort’s highest point, giving clients unobstructed 360-degree views of the picturesque island and sea below. Couples can soak up the sun on their private patio, or take a dip in their own plunge pool or whirlpool. And that’s just the beginning. Honeymooners at any of Sandals’ three properties can create a vacation registry through Sandals to enjoy private dinners for two, couples’ spa treatments and tours of the local area—all compliments of their wedding guests.

On the Water
Saint Lucia’s romance doesn’t end at the coast. Couples can choose an over-the-water chapel at Sandals Grande Saint Lucian Resort & Spa, or a picturesque sail from its shores—it’s an unmissable part of the island experience, particularly for honeymooners seeking idyllic sunset views. Just about every resort in Saint Lucia offers a sunset cruise; some even include champagne in the tour for an added romantic bonus.

But though sunset is the island’s most popular time for couples to sail, it’s far from being the only option. Clients can also book a whale watching tour during the day for a chance to see any of the more than 20 species that regularly make an appearance off Saint Lucia’s coast, as well as several species of dolphins and sea turtles. Clients who are just going a short distance may want to consider taking a water taxi, a scenic alternative to ordinary taxis on land. Couples headed to Anse Chastanet or Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort from Soufriere, for example, will find local water taxi operators at the jetty.

Inspiring Intimacy
What’s a romantic getaway without a little decadence? In Saint Lucia, couples find a vast variety of ways to pamper themselves and their partners. When it comes to spas, there’s no better destination in the Caribbean for state-of-the-art, unique and local treatments. Resorts like BodyHoliday Saint Lucia offer a spa-centric experience with treatments built into its all-inclusive pricing; most other resorts offer some sort of treatment, ranging from in-room massages to more involved procedures within large, modern spa facilities. At The Landings Resort & Spa, for example, couples can access a 7,000-sq.-ft. spa with “Shared Moments” rooms for couples, as well as wet therapy rooms and VIP rooms with private terraces and hydrotherapy tubs.

For anyone who believes that the stomach is the quickest way to a man’s heart (or a woman’s heart, for that matter), Saint Lucia is a foodie paradise. Local cuisine here features fresh ingredients grown or caught locally, including plantains, breadfruit and, of course, seafood. Weekly parties like Anse La Raye’s Seafood Fridays give couples the chance to fill up on the sublime daily catch and mingle with the locals.

For a more intimate experience, couples need only make a reservation at one of Saint Lucia’s romantic restaurants. Dasheene, at Ladera resort near Soufriere, is set high up in the mountains with an open-air balcony that offers spectacular views of the Pitons, particularly at sunset. Sugar Beach, a Viceroy Resort’s Bayside restaurant offers a casual yet intimate dining experience right on the beach.

But for a true indulgence, clients should book an exclusive, private dinner for just two. Several resorts in Saint Lucia, including the Sandals resorts, will set up private dinners on the beach, with service from a dedicated staff and lit only by torches and moonlight. Others, like Anse Chastanet, will set up more casual meals amid the ruins of centuries-old plantations that remain on their property. But perhaps Jade Mountain offers the most intimate dining experience in Saint Lucia: gourmet meals featuring locally farmed ingredients, all served in the comfort of couples’ private, spacious suites, to be enjoyed at the dining table, beside their private pool, or even in bed. The romance extends to the spa at Boucan by Hotel Chocolat’s chocolate-infused treatments or couples can walk the cocoa groves together, or join the chef in the kitchen to make their own chocolate bar, followed by a gourmet lunch where every course includes elements from the cocoa.

Both photos: Saint Lucia’s stunning scenery inspires romance.
Ancient Arawaks and Caribs inhabited Saint Lucia long before the arrival of the Europeans. Some archaeological finds have been dated back to 1000 B.C. The Caribs arrived around A.D. 800, conquering the peaceful Arawaks and assimilating them into Carib culture. The Caribs would live on Saint Lucia through the ferocious 16th century piracy period with Francois le Clerc. Even though their numbers dwindled, they lived in Saint Lucia until well into the 18th century. While local lore often points to Christopher Columbus having touched land here, actual records show that during his four visits to the New World, Saint Lucia was not on his navigational charts. However, 67 English settlers arrived here in 1605, blown off course on their journey to Guyana. Within a few weeks, the Caribs had massacred most of them, only allowing 19 survivors to leave the island in a dug-out canoe. Over the next two centuries, England and France battled over possession of Saint Lucia, with the island changing flags 14 times. It was the French, however, who secured the first lasting European settlement at Soufriere in 1746. Capitalizing on the area’s fertile soil, estates were swiftly established and slaves were brought in from Africa to work the land, starting with cotton and tobacco plantations and later adding sugar, which became the most profitable export. Today, bananas dominate the plantation landscapes.

Saint Lucia’s colonial history, however, continued to seesaw back and forth between conquering powers, as a British invasion succeeded in 1778, establishing naval bases at Gros Islet and Pigeon Island. England finally got the permanent upper hand in 1815, under terms of the Treaty of Paris. And under the British, the 1838 Emancipation freed the slaves, giving them the right to own their own property, although many families chose to remain at the estates as free men. Fast-forward over a century to 1967 when Saint Lucia gained internal autonomy, and then to February 22, 1979, when the island achieved full independence, with the official status of an independent state within the British Commonwealth.

Taking a close look at the Saint Lucia we know today—measuring approximately three times the land mass of Washington, D.C. or one-sixth of Rhode Island—we find that: while Great Britain contributed the official language, political structure, educational and legal systems, it is the French and African influence that dominates this island-nation’s cultural grass roots—it’s village names and villager surnames, its French patois created by African slaves, Catholicism, cuisine, music and the arts in general. Tune into the heart and soul of the country, and you discover a colorful and homegrown melange of English, French, African, Carib-Indian and East Indian cultures.

Consider an essential sampling:

✦ Jutting out from the northwest coast, **Pigeon Island** was used by the French in the mid-16th century as a base for raiding passing Spanish ships. Two centuries later, British Admiral George Rodney
fortified the island to use as a base for monitoring the French fleet on neighboring Martinique. And indeed the Admiral set sail from this island in 1782 for his most decisive military engagement, the Battle of the Saints. Joined in the 1970s to mainland Saint Lucia, Pigeon Island is now officially a national park, administered by the Saint Lucia National Trust; its attractions include the hilltop, well-preserved Fort Rodney.

✦ Sitting atop the 2,785-ft. Morne Fortune—Hill of Good Fortune—the fort was a source of fierce battles between these colonial contestants. Fort Charlotte has been renovated and given new life as the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, which today includes a small obelisk monument commemorating the 27th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers retaking control of Morne Fortune from the French in 1796. Halfway up Morne Fortune is Government House, the official residence of the Governor-General of Saint Lucia and one of the few remaining examples of Victorian architecture. By appointment, one can visit its Le Pavillon Royal Museum displaying artifacts, crockery, silverware, historical photographs and documents.

✦ Saint Lucia offers many chances to peek into the past for insight into the plantation world that dominated the country for so long. One of the earliest French estates established by land grant in 1745 was the 135-acre Fond Doux Estate near Soufriere. Still a working plantation, it produces cocoa, citrus, bananas, coconut and vegetables. A guided walk introduces visitors to various aspects of today’s cocoa, fruit and flower production, as well as the original plantation house and the estates military ruins. Also near Soufriere is the Morne Coubaril Estate, a working cocoa and coconut plantation that gives visitors the chance to see first-hand the processing of copra, cocoa and manioc. Additionally, the estate still has its historic buildings and the ruins of a water and sugar mill. Then along the southwest coast, you have the Balenbouche Estate, established in the 18th century by the French first as a coffee plantation, then adding a water-powered sugar factory to produce sugar and rum. Today, this heritage site includes an 18th century plantation house, surrounded by gardens, as well as jungle-covered ruins of a sugar mill, water wheel and ancient Amerindian potholes. Visitors are introduced to the history of the estate, including the present life and activities on the plantation, by the family-owned plantation and guesthouse. Located outside the town of Choiseul, the estate is a half-hour from Soufriere.

✦ Not much of 19th century Castries, the island’s capital, has survived the ravages of wind, rain and fire; however, around Derek Walcott Square, named in honor of the hometown poet who won the 1992 Nobel Prize in Literature, stand a handful of wooden buildings with gingerbread-trim balconies. Dominating the Square is the grand stone Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, built in 1897. Its interiors are splendid, painted with trompe l’oeil columns and brightly colorful biblical scenes, whose primary colors and Black Madonna and child incorporate a melange of Caribbean and African influences.
Wouldn’t you know it: it was the French—King Louis XVI, in fact—who introduced wellness through mineral baths to Saint Lucia. In 1784, the king provided funds for the construction of a dozen large stone baths for his soldiers after analysis of the waters found their curative properties to be similar to those of Aix-les-Bains in France. All this took place at the Soufriere Estate, a 2,000-acre land grant made by the Crown in 1713 to three brothers from Normandy in recognition of their services to France. Located in present-day Soufriere, the estate is still owned by their descendants who have restored the baths, part of the Diamond Botanical Gardens & Waterfall attraction. For a small fee visitors can slip into a bathing suit and bathe for 30 minutes in one of the outside pools; a private bath costs a bit more, although it was probably free to Empress Josephine Bonaparte who was said to have bathed in these very waters bubbling up from underground Sulphur Springs.

Today, it is Saint Lucia’s elegant resorts that are looking to the country’s natural sources to nurture the bodies and souls of their guests through restorative spa treatments inspired by indigenous ingredients—from volcanic minerals to rainforest plants. And in addition to heavenly spas, visitors discover other wellness options, including state-of-the-art-fitness centers and mountaintop yoga platforms.

At the Ladera resort, for instance, the Ti Kai Pose Spa (in local patois “little house of rest”) offers pampering treatments inspired by Saint Lucia’s volcanic history and the lush rainforest surrounding this peaceful retreat. Guests relax for the pre- or post-treatment period (or anytime during a stay) in the spa gardens in soaking tubs filled with black mineral-rich waters that draw their restorative waters from the source at the Diamond Mineral Baths.

The spas at Jade Mountain and beachfront Anse Chastanet, with the Kai en Ciel and the Kai Belle Spa, respectively, do not bring the “mud” from the mountain, but take their guests directly to the source at the Sulphur Springs to sit in the stream of dark gray volcanic water and cover themselves with mud—an experience shared with TV viewers of “The Bachelor.” At the spas, facial treatments, body treatments and scrubs benefit from a Tropical Fruit Wrap: coconut and papaya seeds combined for exuberant exfoliation and deep cleansing, then a wrap with banana, papaya and golden honey for skin renewal, followed by avocado lotion to moisturize. Complimentary yoga classes and fitness programs are available at both spas.

Mamma La Terre Spa caters exclusively to Fond Doux Plantation & Resort guests, and aims to nourish the body, and soothe the soul in its tranquil, therapeutic sanctuary. Mamma La Terre means “Mother Earth,” and the spa focuses on the powerfully restorative powers of nature. All of the products used in spa treatments are made from all-natural, organically grown ingredients of the purest quality. Cradled in the embrace of Saint Lucia’s World Heritage-
listed Pitons, it is hard to imagine a location more conducive to relaxation and rejuvenation than the Rainforest Spa at Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort. All-natural and chemical-free treatments utilize the bounty of the island’s natural world, unleashing beauty secrets Lucians have known for centuries: bananas—the local pride—to firm-up, tighten and smooth away wrinkles; coconuts to exfoliate; aloe vera to rejuvenate; and rich cocoa butter to heal and hydrate. Harnessing the nourishing properties of nearby volcanic springs and fertile cocoa plantation, the Rainforest Spa offers a range of signature treatments designed to connect guests to the Jalousie Plantation’s special location.

Travelers on a mission of wellness and well-being have come to the right place when they check into the award-winning, all-inclusive, adults-only BodyHoliday Saint Lucia resort. Here one indulges in aromatherapy, a dozen different massages, Ayurvedic treatments, wraps, yoga, and personal trainer services at the Oasis Spa. In the spa’s 33 treatment rooms, the staff of 35 massage and beauty specialists use only the most natural products: ocean wraps combine seaweed and massage to detoxify and release muscle tension; coconut and spice blend into a back, head, neck and shoulder massage; Lucian ginger and lime cleanse and polish the skin in a body scrub; skin-specific facials use herbal lavender for oily skin, while dull, lifeless skin is treated to a fruit active glow. Daily spa treatments, excellent meals, and activities galore are included in the rates.

Nestled alongside a cliff overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean on the west coast of Saint Lucia, Ti Kaye Resort & Spa offers a postcard-perfect view. Known as a haven of tranquility is the newly built Kai Koko Spa, which is set at the cliff’s edge offering dramatic views of the silver sands of Anse Cochon and the azure sea below. A variety of therapeutic massages are on offer including the Kai Koko Signature 4 Hands Massage. Special packages are available to guests wanting to reconnect with each other.

These are just some of the spas located throughout the island, with many other hotels offering spa facilities.
Saint Lucia offers a treasured collection of hotel and resort properties. Whether your clients are looking for an all-inclusive, kid-friendly resort or a charming intimate inn; a couples-only boutique property or stunning luxurious accommodations; a Sandals vacation or the home-like ambiance of a villa, there are plenty of accommodation options where your clients can have a legendary getaway.

**Adults Only**

**BEL JOU**: This property is set on a hilltop with tropical surroundings and views over Castries and the Caribbean Sea. The 64-room property offers guestrooms that look out to sea and the hotel’s gardens, as well as an onsite restaurant, cocktail lounge, pool, and rooftop sundeck. [http://travel.saga.co.uk/holidays/hotel-holidays/central-america-and-caribbean/bel-jou.aspx](http://travel.saga.co.uk/holidays/hotel-holidays/central-america-and-caribbean/bel-jou.aspx) [AI EP]

**BODYHOLIDAY SAINT LUCIA**: This wellness-infused property in Cap Estate, Castries, featuring 154 accommodations, focuses on eating right, getting in shape and going away with skills and insights that will enhance the rest of a guest’s life. Here, highlights are Ayurvedic treatments, yoga and a meditation temple. (800) 544-2888; thebodyholiday.com [AI EP EP]

**BOUCAN BY HOTEL CHOCOLAT**: The world’s only chocolate-focused hotel is perched 1,000 ft. above the Caribbean Sea, ideal for couples looking for quiet seclusion, honeymooners wanting a little privacy, a single traveler, or a group of friends in need of an escape. Guests can unwind in the Cocoa Juvenate Spa, sink into the infinity pool and watch the sun slide behind the Pitons. [hotelchocolat.com/uk/boucan.html](http://hotelchocolat.com/uk/boucan.html) [AI EP EP EP EP]

**CALABASH COVE**: Nestled on a gentle hillside along private Bonaire Bay, this property offers accommodations in four categories—Water’s Edge Cottages, Swim-up Jr. Suites, Sunset Jr. Suites, and Oceanview Jr. Suites, all with private jacuzzis. There’s a secluded white sand beach and custom-designed boardwalk that’s perfect for candlelit dinners or romantic sunset strolls. (800) 917-2683; calabashcove.com [EP EP]

**COCONUT BAY BEACH RESORT & SPA-HARMONY WING**: Located on the island’s south coast, the adults-only Harmony wing of this resort offers a tranquil ambiance with a palm-shaded pool and bar, the oceanfront Kai Mer Spa and long stretches of beach. (877) 252-0304; cbayresort.com [AI EP EP EP EP]


**JADE MOUNTAIN**: This property, located on Morne Chastanet, rises above the 600-acre, beachfront resort of Anse Chastanet, and offers superb, 3-walled accommodations that are deliberately tech-free—no telephones, radio or TV. Here, grand sweeping spaces and stunning views are the focal point. (800) 223-1108; jademountainstlucia.com [AI EP EP EP EP EP]

**LADERA**: The property is located in southwestern Saint Lucia, two miles from Soufriere, on a lush hillside of mango trees, with each of the nine villas and 23 suites having an open wall facing the surrounding rainforest, a private plunge pool or a villa pool. (866) 290-0978; ladera.com [AI EP EP EP EP EP]

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**SAINT LUCIA HOTELS LEGEND**

- RBV: Rodney Bay Village
- AI: All-Inclusive
- EP: European Plan
- $: Value
- Kids Camp
- Romance
- Singles
- Boutique Hotel
- Dive Clientele
- Waterpark
- Health & Wellness (includes yoga)
RENDEZVOUS: This couples-only, elegant property looking out over Malabar Beach offers 100 accommodations, including oceanfront cottages. Activities include tennis, golf, archery, volleyball, and scuba diving, the Spa in the Water Garden, two pools, and a jacuzzi.

(800) 544-2883; theromanticholiday.com

SANDALS GRANDE SAINT LUCIAN SPA & BEACH RESORT: Set on the island’s peninsula surrounded by the sea on both sides, this 300-room resort boasts ocean and mountain views. It features a variety of lavish suites—from breathtaking Over the Water bungalows to the Rondoal Suites, unique round suites complete with private pools, butler service and 24-hour room service. Amenities include eight restaurants; scuba diving and water-skiing; six bars; and the Red Lane Spa.

SANDALS HALLYCON BEACH SAINT LUCIA: This 169-room beachfront resort overlooks a serene bay with white sand beach and is nestled among tropical gardens. It features four gourmet restaurants, two pools, a scuba certification pool, a fitness center and nightclub.

SANDALS REGENCY LA TOC GOLF RESORT & SPA: Set along a half-mile crescent-shaped beach, this 210-acre, 327-room enclave offers a range of accommodations—from oceanview rooms to luxurious Villa Suites on Sunset Ocean Bluff featuring private pools, butler service and 24-hour room service. Amenities include rolling fairways, gourmet restaurants, Red Lane Spa and nine bars.

Sands offers an exclusive exchange program that allows guests to enjoy all the amenities and services of all three Sandals resorts. Roundtrip transfers are included.

(888) SANDALS; sandals.com

SERENITY AT COCONUT BAY: The new, all-inclusive, adults-only Serenity, located along the island’s south coast, offers 36 Plunge Pool Suites, fine dining and craft cocktails, butler service, and 24-hour room service. serenityatcoconutbay.com

STONEFIELD VILLA RESORT: Ideal for honeymooners, health & wellness or just simple seclusion, this 26-acre, 17-villa private resort is located just outside Soufriere, nestled in a dense tropical rainforest overlooking the Pitons and the Caribbean Sea. stonefieldresort.com

TI KAYE RESORT & SPA
This stunning boutique resort is made up of 33 cliff-side cottages set above the secluded cove Anse Cochon, moments from some of Saint Lucia’s best diving. Inspired by nature, each cottage is purposely built into the landscape, drawing from its lush natural surroundings, and equipped with modern amenities. It’s also home to an award-winning wine cellar. tikaye.com

Family
ANSE CHASTANET: The only resort on the island with a view of both the Petit and Gros Piton mountains, Anse Chastanet offers 49 individually designed rooms, 37 of which are scattered about a lush hillside, and 12 of which are nestled within a tropical garden at beach level. It spans over 600 lush tropical acres bordering two soft-sand Caribbean beaches with pristine coral reefs just offshore. The resort property includes the historic plantation of Anse Mamin and Emerald Estate where the resort grows its own organic produce. (800) 223-1108; ansechastanet.com

BAY GARDENS HOTEL: Nestled in the heart of Rodney Bay, this 71-room property offers several room categories, from standard—with either a pool or garden view—to superior rooms, jr. executive suites, and 1- and 2-bedroom Croton Suites Villas. baygardensresorts.com

BAY GARDENS INN: This is a cozy, 33-room property with spacious, modern rooms each with a private terrace. Access to the amenities at The Bay Gardens Beach Resort & Spa and the Bay Gardens Hotel. (877) 620-3200; baygardensresorts.com

BAY GARDENS MARINA HAVEN: This enchanting, 35-room, tropical oasis is designed with you in mind offering comfortable and affordable accommodations nestled in a beautiful garden setting.
Its incredible location is within minutes to local attractions such as Pigeon Island National Landmark, Reduit Beach, IGY Marina, Dive St. Lucia, casino, duty free shopping malls, specialty restaurants, hip bars and more. baygardensresorts.com

BAY GARDENS BEACH RESORT & SPA: This 72-room property showcases neo-classical Caribbean architecture and features 1-bedroom suite complete with full kitchen, living and dining areas, and deluxe rooms that are interconnecting to create a 2-bedroom suite option. (877) 620-3200; baygardensresorts.com

BLU, ST. LUCIA: This property offers 76 charmingly decorated verandah and jr. suites. Superior and standard rooms are selectively positioned for intimacy and privacy and all offer a fabulous view of the pools and jacuzzis. There are onsite restaurants, as well as a spa. harlequinblu.com

CAP MAISON: This property, located near Rodney Bay above Smugglers Cove Beach, features jr. suites and 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom villa suites, some with their own private pool or roof terraces with views of Pigeon Island. It’s a former sugar plantation that spans through 1,500 acres of rolling hills, with the Caribbean Sea on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. (888) 765-4985; capmaison.com

COCO PALM: Located in Rodney Bay Village, this property offers classic Caribbean French Creole decor and accommodation choices in 10 categories. Guests will have a personal concierge assigned to them upon arrival; there are two onsite restaurants; a spa; and Reduit Beach is only minutes from the resort. coco-resorts.com

COCONUT BAY BEACH RESORT & SPA-SPLASH WING: Located on the island's south coast, the family-friendly wing of this resort is ideal for kids with Saint Lucia's largest water park and a kids' club. (877) 252-0304; cbayresort.com

EAST WINDS: This all-inclusive property, located on La Brelotte Bay, is comprised of 30 rooms located in 15 single-story cottages spread among 12 acres of gardens. There’s a free-form pool with a swim-up bar and thatch and wood umbrellas on the golden sand beach. (758) 452-8212; eastwinds.com

GINGER LILY HOTEL: This 11-room hotel is spread over half an acre of tropical grounds and because of the few rooms, each guest here as ample room to lounge and relax. gingerlilyhotel.com

FOND DOUX PLANTATION & RESORT: Intimate, Private and Unique. Minutes from some of the best attractions, this 19th century eco-friendly colonial resort nestled in the heart of St. Lucia, best known for romantic, intimate, and private luxury cottages. The resort is situated amidst a 250 year old working plantation and features an assortment of 15 uniquely crafted cottages, two on-site restaurants, and a collage of outdoor swimming pools, as well as an organic spa. fonddouxresort.com

HARMONY MARINA SUITES: This is a unique, British colonial-style property set on Rodney Bay Lagoon, with 12 apartment suites with well-equipped kitchenettes, private balconies/patios with scenic views of the bay. (888) 790-5264; harmonysuites.com

THE LANDINGS RESORT & SPA: Located on 19 oceanfront acres on Rodney Bay, this property offers 1-, 2 and 3-bedroom villa suite accommodations, each featuring views of either the beach, harbor, or channel. There are three swimming pools and two hot tubs. (877) 227-9957; landingsstlucia.com

MARIGOT BEACH CLUB & DIVE RESORT: Uniquely situated in a stunning and secluded part of Saint Lucia that’s only accessible by boat, Marigot Beach Club and Dive Resort overlooks one of the world’s most beautiful bays. From the verandah of your studio or villa you’ll enjoy spectacular Saint Lucian sunsets, and within a few steps you’ll be on a palm-fringed white sand beach. marigotbeachclub.com

PAPILLON: This all-inclusive, 110-room resort is located on Reduit Beach, and features a landscaped garden, two restaurants and nightly themed entertainment. The four room categories are Seaside, Poolside, Garden View and Standard. (305) 471-6170; rexresorts.com
LEARN, EARN & GROW with SLEx

This program is designed to support your efforts and your business.

- Take our Course and earn your expert certificate
- Earn a listing on our consumer-facing website www.stlucia.org
- Record your bookings to achieve status and additional loyalty benefits
- SLEx has 3 levels of achievement — Gold, Platinum and Diamond

LEARN – By taking full advantage of modules and specializations such as Dive and Romance certifications. Engage and choose the most effective medium for your learning style given the variety of multi-media options available in one place. SLEx will constantly be updated with new resources including resort updates.

EARN – Make more commission as you learn the most beneficial and popular options on island and customization available to make you the rock star Saint Lucia Expert your clients need.

GROW – In confidence to sell Saint Lucia and in status as you climb the ranks to being among the best of the best in destination sales for Saint Lucia. Network with the best suppliers and get the connections necessary to boost your agency’s network and net worth. Having insider connections boosts your credibility with your clients and only serves to increase the value you add to client consultations.

Among the many benefits of SLEx are:
- Get requests for quotes from consumers via www.stlucia.org
- Customization of collateral including package flyers plus social media resources
- Special recognition and awards
- Discounted FAMs & agent rates with Saint Lucia Agent Months (SLAM)
- Special promotions and offers
- Own SLEx e-newsletter template
- Special recognition in SLTA press releases and stories — “Tell us about your client’s vacation experience in Saint Lucia”
- Invitation to attend The Piton Awards, SLTA’s premier event recognizing travel agents
- Logo for business cards and website
1) What year did Saint Lucia gain full independence?  
A. 1967  
B. 1979  
C. 1976  
D. 1867

2) What fort sits atop Morne Fortune?  
A. Fort Charlotte  
B. Fort Balenbouche  
C. Fort Doux  
D. Fort Lucia

3) What is the island's capital?  
A. Soufriere  
B. Micoud  
C. Castries  
D. Marigot

4) What two European powers battled over possession of Saint Lucia?  
A. England & France  
B. England & Spain  
C. Spain & Portugal  
D. France & Spain

5) What month does the Saint Lucia Jazz Festival take place?  
A. October  
B. May  
C. June  
D. August

6) Where does the Seafood Friday festivity take place?  
A. Gros Islet  
B. Marigot  
C. Pigeon Island  
D. Anse la Raye

7) What month is Carnival in full swing?  
A. June  
B. July  
C. August  
D. May

8) Is there a waiting period for couples wishing to get married in Saint Lucia?  
A. Depending on one's nationality  
B. Yes, one week  
C. Yes, a couple of days  
D. No

9) For couples wanting to get married on Saint Lucia, same day marriage licenses cost how much?  
A. $20  
B. $204  
C. $2,000  
D. $125

10) Which restaurant is located in Rodney Bay?  
A. Doolittles  
B. Tapas on the Bay  
C. The Coal Pot  
D. Dasheene

11) What resort's spa offers “Shared Moments” treatment rooms for couples?  
A. Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort  
B. Sandals  
C. The Landings  
D. Anse Chastanet

12) Which Saint Lucia Sandals property features Millionaire Suites?  
A. Sandals Regency La Toc Golf Resort  
B. Sandals Grande Saint Lucian Spa & Beach Resort  
C. Sandals Halycon Beach Saint Lucia  
D. All three Sandals properties

13) What resort in the north of the island specifically emphasizes wellness and spa treatments?  
A. Bel Jou  
B. BodyHoliday-Saint Lucia  
C. St. James’s Club Morgan Bay  
D. Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort & Spa

14) Approximately how many whale species can be spotted in Saint Lucia throughout the year?  
A. 2  
B. 35  
C. 20  
D. 10

15) Leatherback turtles can be spotted on what beach?  
A. Grand Anse Beach  
B. Savannes Bay  
C. Reduit Beach  
D. Sugar Beach

16) Where can one find the Diamond Botanical Gardens?  
A. Marigot  
B. Castries  
C. Soufriere  
D. Micoud

17) What is the island's national bird?  
A. Amazona Versicolour  
B. The Saint Lucia oriole  
C. The Saint Lucia black finch  
D. The Saint Lucia pewee

18) What hiking trail is part of the Old French Road?  
A. The Forstiere Rainforest Trail  
B. The Union Nature Trail and Mini-Zoo  
C. Barre d L’Isle Rainforest Trail  
D. The Enbas Saut Waterfalls Trail

19) Number of airports on the island.  
A. 1  
B. 2  
C. 3  
D. 4

20) Which UNESCO World Heritage site can be found on Saint Lucia?  
A. Black Hole  
B. Brimstone Hill  
C. Pitons  
D. Blue Mountains
**EXAM ANSWER FORM**

Please complete the entire form. Fax to (305) 826-6950 or detach and mail today (postage required) or complete the quiz online at edu.recommend.com/saintlucia

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Continued from page 16

ROYAL ST. LUCIA BY REX RESORTS: The luxurious 95-room property offers all-suite accommodations and a pampering spa amidst an elegant setting. It offers award-winning restaurants and well-appointed suites. (305) 471-6170; rexresorts.com

ROYALTON SAINT LUCIA: This 352-room and -suite resort features three distinct sections—a family-friendly vacation experience in the main resort; a Diamond Club experience with its exclusive pool, beach and dining areas; and the adults-only Hideaway. There’s an array of restaurants and bars, an onsite water park, a kids’ club and teen entertainment. (855) 744-8371; royaltonresorts.com

ST. JAMES’S CLUB MORGAN BAY: Located on the northwest coast of Saint Lucia, only three miles from the capital city, this 345-room resort covers a 22-acre expanse of hillside land sloping through countless palms to a pristine beach lapped by the waters of a secluded cove. Welcoming couples, singles, and families, this property offers accommodations in seven categories. (866) 830-1617; morganbayresort.com

SUGAR BEACH, A VICEROY RESORT: Located in the valley of the Pitons, this high-end property is nestled within over 100 acres of pristine rainforest on the site of an 18th century sugar plantation and sweeps down to Sugar Beach. The original vintage rooms and villas retain their French Caribbean charm while new luxury villas and villa suites boast elegant plantation styling. (800) 235-4300; viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/sugarbeach

VILLA BEACH COTTAGES: This property offers 20 colonial-style villa suites nestled among the coconut trees of Choc Bay on the northwest coast, just feet from the Caribbean Sea and only four miles from Castries. Here, guests can go kayaking, snorkeling, or exploring nearby Rodney Bay. Each villa offers a fully equipped kitchen. (866) 542 1991; villabeachcottages.com

WINDJAMMER LANDING VILLA BEACH RESORT & SPA: Located on Labrelotte Bay Beach, this 187-room property is set on 60 acres and offers picturesque, spacious and secluded hillside villas—many with private pools and terraces. (877) 522-0722; windjammer-landing.com

Incentives/Groups

THE HARBORCLUB CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON: With 115 accommodations including swim-up pool rooms, this new resort is situated in beautiful Rodney Bay and offers guests a relaxing Caribbean resort experience. It is ideal for business travel, including meeting and incentives groups with state of the art facilities. Guests can enjoy a world of relaxation, celebration, and adventure. From five world-class dining outlets, four sparkling swimming pools, to its first-class service. The property is adjacent to the recently completed Dive Saint Lucia, one of the Eastern Caribbean’s premier scuba diving centers.

theharborclub.com

MARIGOT BAY RESORT AND MARINA: This 122-room property—with single bedroom or 1-, 2- or 3-bedroom suites—is located on the island’s west coast on Marigot Bay. Surrounded by gardens, this resort offers a contemporary and stylish ambiance with a distinctive boutique feel. (877) 384-8037; capellahotels.com/saintlucia

Small & Private Properties

Saint Lucia’s Small & Private Properties are a precious collection of hotels, guesthouses, vacation apartments and villas with warm, friendly service at affordable prices. Ideal for clients looking for a unique Saint Lucia experience. For a complete list, visit stlucia.org/resorts.

Villas

TROPICAL VILLAS: The company offers villas and apartments throughout the island: from Soufriere in the south to Cap Estate in the north. They have a wide range of accommodations—from a large 6-bedroom villa, to a small 1-bedroom hideaway. tropicalvillas.net

For more information on accommodations in Saint Lucia, visit stlucia.org/resorts.

For more information on villa accommodations, visit stlucia.org/resorts/villas.
Saint Lucia counts among its natural wonders a drive-in volcano, a highly endangered parrot, and the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Pitons. Equally esteemed are its cultural “highs,” rooted in this Caribbean country’s special blend of things English, French and African. Its most modern asset is its welcoming people. Saint Lucia is the perfect destination for today’s traveler who is interested in new and involving experiences, getting to know the land, getting to meet the local folks. Let us point out just a handful of ways to enjoy the discovery of Lucian heritage and a colorful, homegrown Creole culture.

Cultural Highs

Come for a Festival, and All That Jazz

**JANUARY**

**New Year’s Day Celebrations**
Saint Lucia celebrates New Year’s with a giant fair held in Assou Square that marks the beginning of the new year. The fair highlights some of the island’s cultural activities such as Masquerade, Toes and Papa Djab, and there are rides and games.

**Nobel Laureate Week**
Per capita, Saint Lucia has more Nobel laureates than any other country. To celebrate Nobel Laureate Week, there are major lectures, panel discussions, plays, poetry, drama and music.
Multiple shows embrace straight-ahead jazz, and new age jazz, with acts originating from the United States, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and Europe. Past performances have included those of George Benson and Wynton Marsalis, to name only a couple. The annual festival forms part of the Soleil Suite of festivals and includes Jazz on the Square, a popular week-long event with St. Lucians and visitors alike. The Derek Walcott Square in downtown Castries becomes a central hangout spot where free concerts run from mid-day to tea-time, and continues from 6 p.m. on into the evening. This part of the Saint Lucia Jazz Festival offers Lucians and visitors a chance to meet, greet and listen to great music from local and other Caribbean artists. Additionally, Jazz at Pigeon Point National Park is a 2-day, open-air, picnic-style event that essentially is the highlight of the entire festival and stars many of the main stage artists and performers. For this big event, reserve well ahead. And for the Saint Lucia Jazz Festival dates and updates, visit stlucia.org/jazz-festival.

JULY

Carnival in Saint Lucia
Saint Lucia’s summer Carnival is one the island’s major festivals. Carnival lovers from around the Caribbean and North America converge in Saint Lucia during the second week of July. Actually, the Carnival season launches in June when the mas (bands) camps are formed and members begin to build their costumes; steel-bands practice in the streets; and calypso tents throughout
the island compete through a series of performances by local calypso and soca artists. Come July when Carnival is in full swing, there are competitions for beauty queens, as well as for the King of Soca and Calypso; and the mas bands compete for the coveted “band of the year” title. Right after the competitions (Monday morning), everyone heads off to the streets of Castries for the ultimate street party and Jouvert (pre-dawn “jump-up” that starts at 4 a.m.). A truly spectacular cultural affair worthy of watching and participation. For more information on Saint Lucia Carnival, visit stlucia.org/summerfestival/saint-lucia-carnival.

AUGUST & OCTOBER
Saint Lucia Flower and Creole Festivals
Saint Lucia’s local culture and traditions are showcased through two flower festivals during the months of August and October. The Feast of St. Rose de Lima is the festival of the Rose Flower Society, celebrated in August, while the Feast of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque is observed during October. Each year, the events are hosted by a number of selected communities throughout the island, and weekly festivities include religious services, as well as weekly parades in the streets with society members dressed as kings and queens, princes and princesses, doctors and nurses, policemen and soldiers. These weekly society meetings and festivities (called seances) culminate in the colorful Feast of the Rose on Aug. 30 and Les Marguerites on Oct. 17. On both occasions, there is a royal court presentation, feasting and dancing.

Creole Heritage Month
Creole Heritage Month includes the celebration of International Creole Day or Jounen Kweyol Entenasyonnal. Culturally oriented visitors or those interested in experiencing Saint Lucia’s traditional expressions by doing everything in Creole, will find the month of October packed with cultural activities, including an Arts & Heritage Festival. A fascinating display of folklore, traditional cuisine and authentic Creole customs that have been carried on for generations are on show during this village-based affair.

SEPTEMBER
Roots & Soul Festival
Part of the Soleil suite of “Summer Festivals” this celebration is dedicated to musicians who are setting new trends in reggae, conscious hip-hop, Afro-punk and R&B, with performances, master classes and encounters between artists and other actors in the music business. Like Saint Lucia Jazz, there will be free and paying concerts, in various parts of the island. stlucia.org/summerfestival/roots-soul

Saint Lucia Food & Rum Festival
This event celebrates the island’s unique culinary offerings derived from its French, British, African and Indian heritage combined with the finest rums of the Caribbean and the world. There are typically rum-infused menus at the many restaurants and street party events as well as exciting collaborations between the island’s national culinary teams and celebrity chefs. stlucia.org/food-rum-festival

Saint Lucia Dive Fest
Dive Fest showcases and celebrates the stunning underwater of Saint Lucia starring its unique marine life and biodiversity. It will feature an excellent mix of activities, a dive seminar and symposium plus daily dive odysseys at the best dive sites in Saint Lucia.
Join a Street Party

✦ The Gros Islet Friday Night Street Party, the longest running street party in Saint Lucia, is a hotspot for locals and visitors alike. This little fishing village really heats up on Friday nights when the weekly jump-up gets going. The streets are alive with pulsating rhythms emanating from speakers manned by island DJs. Dancing mixes easily with dining at a variety of bbq grills serving up chicken, pork and seafood, prepared Lucian-style. It’s known as the must-stop for people who love to party.

✦ Located on the west coast south of Castries, the sleepy village of Anse la Raye wakes up big time once a week for Seafood Friday. It has become one of the highlights for Saint Lucians from all over the island. Street stalls offer up the catch of the day, as well as delicacies such as squid, octopus, shrimp or lobster. And of course there is Caribbean music to keep everyone grooving most of the night.

✦ It’s Saturday night live at Dennery Fish Festival on the east coast of the island, which keeps its fish heritage alive with a myriad of dining options, from informal little venues to street food. Music goes hand in hand with fish feasting, and this town makes loud and clear its preference for soca, dancehall and reggae, mixed up with a bit of R&B.

Take a Heritage Tour

The Heritage Tourism Association of Saint Lucia (HERITAS) is a non-profit group dedicated to the marketing and provision of travel products to natural and cultural heritage sites that offer a unique Saint Lucian experience to the visitor. The group’s commitment has arisen out of broader efforts—including those of the Saint Lucia National Trust—to preserve the country’s heritage and to maximize benefits to Saint Lucia from eco and heritage tourism. Tours include visiting fishing villages, plantations, waterfalls, centuries-old estates and historic gardens. Consider this Heritage Tour sampling:

✦ Fond d’Or Nature Reserve and Historical Park: Located in the heart of the Mabouya Valley on the east coast, this park was first settled by the islands pre-Columbian Amerindian inhabitants, and was later used by European sugar planters. Within the park one finds historic sugar mill ruins and an Amerindian site, as well as various historic plantation buildings—a wind mill, a boiling house, a steam mill and two cattle barns—dating to between the 17th and 19th centuries. A guided tour includes a trail walk through the estuarine tropical forest, mangroves and dry scrub woodlands, as well as time on a broad white sand beach, which is a nesting site for leatherback turtles between April and October. A half-day tour includes lunch at the Interpretation Center and Museum.

✦ Lushan Country Life: Less than a 15-minute drive from Castries, Lushan Country Life is on display at Anthony’s Farm, at the traditional and historic residence at Morne-Du-Don/Balata, and at the 100-year-old family farmhouse. The tour includes birdwatching (27 identified species) in the tropical forest. Along the Garden Trail, one finds ginger, cocoa, cinnamon, mango and cashew nuts, and stops are made to taste seasonal fruits and identify many of the 134 plant species. Additionally, local guides share their knowledge of customs and herbal medicines, charcoal making, bee keeping and cassava making.
Saint Lucia’s incredibly diverse environment, combined with its jaw-dropping beauty and legendary history, makes for a wonderland of activities—everything from canopy tours, horseback riding, ATV and bike riding, diving, deep-sea fishing and sailing, to cultural and heritage tours.

All-Terrain Vehicle Riding
Clients can experience the wild side of Saint Lucia on an all-terrain vehicle riding through Saint Lucia’s lush countryside, over mountains and through banana plantations. Aanansi ATV Tours offers a 2-hour ATV tour that takes guests along working plantations, historical sites and rural communities. The tour is topped off with a bird’s-eye view of the surroundings at the Atlantic coast’s Debarras viewing point at Grande Anse Beach. Or, recommend the company’s moonlight rides.

Biking
Biking has also become a popular way to enjoy the island, and there are some excellent biking tours for beginners and the more experienced off-road riders. There are tours that head into Soufriere for an oceanside trail ride at Anse Chastanet where riders enjoy beautiful views of the world-famous Gros Piton and Petit Piton mountains. World champion biker Tinker Juarez designed the high-performance Tinker’s Trail, for those who want to feel the adrenaline rush of the Tour de France. Island Bike Hikes, founded in 1998 by Bryan Devaux, a native Saint Lucian whose family has lived on the island for over 250 years, also offers a variety of active tours.

Horseback Riding
A truly unique and even a traditionally historical way of experiencing Saint Lucia is on horseback and clients can select from a number of horseback riding excursions. The International Riding Stables offers an assortment of trail rides, including a ride winding through the countryside along the beach, with time for swimming and a beach picnic at Cas en Bas. Trim’s Riding Stables offers four riding sessions a day with a variety of treks including a carriage tour to Pigeon Point and Fort Rodney, as well as a group coastal tour that includes lunch. Atlantic Shores Riding Stables also offers an array of horseback riding tours, including along the beach, on a country trail and as part of private tours. Clients will love touring Saint Lucia on horseback because they can truly take in the sights and feel a part of the surroundings in both a safe and exciting way. At Morne Coubaril, clients can combine a visit to a family plantation, which is full of activities, with horseback riding while learning about the traditional ways of processing cocoa, copra and manioc.
Whale and Turtle Watching
Saint Lucia is recognized as one of the leading whale watching sites in the Caribbean. Over 20 species are regularly spotted throughout the year, including humpbacks, pilot whales, sperm whales and spinning and spotted dolphins. Incredibly, there’s more than an 80 percent chance of spotting these magnificent sea creatures on any one of a number of boat tours around the island.

Turtles are another fascinating thrill for nature-lovers. The abundance of these majestic reptiles on Saint Lucia is due to the protection provided by local environmental activists, who have ensured there is a permanent suspension on turtle hunting. A popular spot to enjoy turtle watching is Grand Anse Beach located on the east coast of the island, home to the leatherback turtles, among other species.

Culture & Heritage Tours
At Fond Latisab Creole Park in Babonneau, clients have the opportunity to truly experience the Saint Lucian way of life, with a tour that takes them to a community in Babonneau called Fond Assau. There, visitors experience the traditional Saint Lucian practices such as preparation of cassava bread, cooking on macambou leaves, catching crayfish in the river, collecting honey from a beehive and the very authentic display of woodsawing—all while a Chak Chak band plays traditional music in the background.

On the Castries Heritage Walk, knowledgeable tour guides take visitors through the historic buildings of Castries, as well as a tour through the architectural history of an old colonial island city. Pigeon Island, in fact, contains more history than any other part of Saint Lucia. It was once the home of the Amerindians and has also been a pirate hideout and military base. Visit Fort Charlotte, now a college but once the site of some of the fiercest fighting between the French and the British. Clients can also view the Choiseul Heritage site, a village rich in history, crafts and offering spectacular views.

For active-centric Heritage Tours, tell clients to take the Gros Piton Trail or the Desbarra Turtle Watch tours. The Piton climbing tour takes participants to the summit of Gros Piton for a panoramic view of the Choiseul village, Petit Piton, and the entire southwestern part of the island. The trail begins in the community of Fond Gens Libre, founded by runaway slaves and Black freedom fighters or Brigands as they were called in the 18th century. Gros Piton became a natural fortress for the Brigands, its numerous caves, tunnels and lookout points along the trail serving as Brigands’ retreat during the resistance. The hike is moderate to strenuous, and takes about four hours roundtrip. The turtle watch tour, meanwhile, takes a small group on an overnight camp to Grand Anse, on the east coast, one of the most important beaches in the region for nesting sea turtles. This ruggishly beautiful spot has never been developed, and the only signs of human habitation are the lights from the village of Desbarra, which twinkle up on the distant hillside once night falls. Most of the time the beach is empty, but from March to August a steady trickle of visitors make the dirt-track truck ride to experience a true natural wonder—the spectacle of leatherback turtles, the world’s largest living reptiles, coming ashore to lay their eggs. Specific information on Heritage Tours can be found at heritagetoursstlucia.org.

Sailing
With its warm trade winds, Saint Lucia is ideal for sailing aficionados who want to explore the deep blue waters that surround the island. On the island’s western coast, the Caribbean Sea is known to be more calm than the Atlantic Ocean on the east side of the island, and thus it’s a top spot among both avid and first-time sailors. Visitors to Saint Lucia will find two state-of-the-art marinas: the IGY Rodney Bay ➤
Volcano’s sulphur springs brings visitors up-close to more than 20 belching mud pools, multi-color sulphur deposits, and other assorted minerals such as iron, copper oxide, and magnesium baking and steaming on the surface. This black/greyish, mineral water is believed to have therapeutic qualities and it’s common to see people bathing in the springs in order to remove blemishes or to simply feel rejuvenated.

Next, it’s on to Fond Doux, the 19th century plantation where tour members walk along trails with breathtaking beautiful tropical flora to a local copra house where they will see coconut dried and later to be processed into oil, margarine and soap. They’ll also have the opportunity to taste the locally grown cocoa pods and see how they are sun-dried before being shipped out, later to be processed and served as delicious chocolate bars. After an onsite lunch, they climb aboard a catamaran for a relaxing return along the island’s beautiful coastline. They stop for a swim before cruising through spectacular Marigot Bay on their way to the dock and the waiting jeeps, which will take them back to their hotels.

On still another tour, clients can visit three spectacular waterfalls on the island. The first, the Piton Waterfall, gives them a chance to relax and soak in its warm water, in a natural outdoor setting. Next, they continue onwards to the Spyke Waterfall, with a walk along a brief trail through the natural forest before taking still another cool dip in the fresh cascading water of this glorious waterfall. Finally, it’s on to the Toraille Waterfall. Tour members enjoy another dip at the base of this waterfall and a cold beverage in this amazing garden before heading back to the hotel.
Deep-Sea Fishing
There’s probably nothing more exciting than hooking on to a fighting fish on a deep-sea fishing adventure, whether you’re an experienced angler or a newbie. Saint Lucia has a number of charter boats available for deep-sea fishing where clients can go after wahoo, tuna, sailfish, barracuda, dorado, blue marlin, long bill spearfish, king fish, Spanish mackerel, cavali and snapper from the “fighting chair.” A rotating chair method is used to ensure everyone gets a chance at landing the “big one.” Most charters also throw in the beers, sodas and water.

Ziplining
On the Rainforest Canopy Adventure, the tour takes visitors on a drive along the east coast, then inland to the zipline welcome center situated in the heart of the rainforest. This is a thrilling adventure, with visitors zipping along 500 ft. of cable at heights ranging from 30 ft. to 50 ft. They’ll truly get bird’s-eye views as they zip through nine platforms, glide over the treetops, across rivers and feel the thrill of “flying” through lush tropical vegetation. At the Rain Forest Aerial Tram rides attraction at the nature site, guests will be treated to breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. It’s interesting to note that 60 percent of the species living in the forest canopy never come down to the ground.

Rodney Bay Marina
You’ll find plenty of tours and activities for clients at Rodney Bay Marina, where there’s access to dozens of sea, land, and combination charters and tours.

Here, you’ll find deep-sea fishing charters, whale watching safaris, sailboat sightseeing, as well as barefoot or skippered yacht day trips. Clients can join in a seafaring excursion to the volcanic Pitons sea islands, relax on a romantic sunset cruise, enjoy some serious partying on a “party” catamaran to Soufriere, or enjoy swimming, snorkeling, or scuba diving day trips.

In addition, tour companies and travel agencies located at Rodney Bay Marina offer a wide variety of opportunities to hike, bird watch, and explore Saint Lucia’s outstanding natural attractions, from horseback riding and hiking, to rainforest adventures and high-flying helicopter tours. For more information on tours and activities, visit stlucia.org.
Your clients can maximize their Saint Lucia vacation fun with a wealth of things to see and do throughout this lush, diverse, straight-out-of-a-fairy tale island—from meandering beautiful botanical gardens, to hiking, shopping and dining.

**Natural Wonders**

**SOUFRIERE:** A good place to experience some of this diversity is in Soufriere with the beautiful Diamond Botanical Gardens and its mineral baths, along with the absolutely stunning Diamond Waterfall. There’s a host of other things to see and do around Soufriere—much of it thanks to the area’s history as a major sugar plantation—in addition to the Diamond Falls, which is actually the lowest of the six waterfalls that tumble down the mountain from the volcano. Nearby are some historic plantations that include Soufriere Estate, Morne Coulbaril Estate and Fond Doux Estate, all of which are open to the public. In fact, the privately owned Diamond Falls and Mineral Baths, less than a mile east of Soufriere, are part of the Soufriere Estate dating from 1713. The Baths, originally built in 1784, were restored in the 1980s, with some of the original 18th century baths still in use. At the entrance, a narrow path edged with tropical flowers and shaded by stately palms leads to the bathhouse and a series of pools, each a different temperature. Beyond are the falls roaring out of a mineral-streaked gorge and spilling through the gardens into the pools.

**SULPHUR SPRINGS:** Two miles south of Soufriere, clients can explore the drive-in volcano, which is what’s left of a volcanic crater, now protected by the Saint Lucia National Trust. Visitors actually drive down to the edge of the volcanic activity to join a park guide who points them toward the seething pools of boiling mud and the clouds of steam that shoot 50 ft. in the air. One of the world’s most legendary natural spas is created from rain water falling year-round into the boiling crater where it’s heated and saturated with residues of sulphur, iron, copper, magnesium and zinc. The rich mineral pools and riverlets, which satisfy beauty aficionados who know the pools’ immeasurable value, flow down the mountainside and into the six amazing waterfalls.

**MICOUDE:** Still another beautiful botanical paradise located across the island from Soufriere on the eastern side at Micoud—a charming seaside village of about 2,700—is the Mamiku Gardens, a 22-acre botanical garden that’s part of the original 400-acre Mamiku Estate owned by a French nobleman, Baron de Micoud, in the 18th century who was a French governor of the island. After the
English re-captured the island, he willed the property to his wife, a Saint Lucian, knowing that according to British law, the property could not be taken away from her. Mrs. de Micoud was called Ma Micoud by the locals, and gradually the estate was referred to in Creole as “Plantasyon Ma Miku” until it was simply called Mamiku. Mamiku Gardens, which opened to the public in 1998, boasts over 400 flowers and trees, plus a special garden of traditional medicinal herbs. In addition to the garden, there are original plantation ruins as well as an ongoing archaeological dig that has already uncovered a variety of artifacts currently on display in the Interpretation Center.

Hiking and Birdwatching

There’s no better way to enjoy the incredible beauty and bio-diversity of Saint Lucia than by taking advantage of its myriad hiking trails around the main island and Pigeon Island. Much of it is not too strenuous, although some hiking areas do demand a certain amount of stamina. But it’s well worth the effort with trails meandering through the island’s rainforests where clients will experience stunning waterfalls, occasional startling views of the Caribbean and the Atlantic or get bird’s-eye views of the Pitons. They’ll be able to hike past old plantation grounds, spot indigenous birdlife such as the country’s national bird, the Saint Lucia parrot—the Amazona Versicolour; the Saint Lucia oriole; and the Saint Lucia black finch. Here’s a comprehensive list of hiking areas your active vacation clients should visit.

✦ Just 15 minutes from Castries is the Union Nature Trail and Mini-Zoo, which is rated as an easy hike and is comprised of land owned by the Union Agricultural and Research Station that had been set aside for the then Forestry Division to be used as a nursery, which eventually constructed a hillside trail, a garden trail and a medicinal garden as parts of its ecotourism products. Today’s Union Nature Trail runs through that land where non-native tree species such as teak, mahogany, and blue mahoe were introduced. The hike itself starts from the Visitor Center next to the mini-zoo just beyond the forest nursery and traverses in a wide loop. The Visitor Center provides visitors with information on the forest and wildlife in general, while the Mini-Zoo showcases a number of indigenous as well as exotic species such as the Saint Lucia parrot, Saint Lucia iguana and more. It’s a great place for a family outing.

✦ Still another hiking spot near Castries is the Forestiere Rainforest Trail, part of an Old French Road that runs through an exotic rainforest. Visitors start at the heritage trust cottage where they’re assigned a guide who will work out a route for travelers based on their abilities. The overall hike is ranked as moderate and the 3-mile-long trail begins as a gentle slope through natural dense foliage meandering among l’encens trees that produce a white sap with a highly pungent smell, as well as a number of large spectacular fig trees, epiphytes and fens. Clients will also like the idea that much of the flora is identified by signs and the fact that the knowledgeable guides are there to point out the highlights.

✦ There’s a moderate hike located at the Barre de L’Isle Rainforest Trail along the highway between Castries and Dennery, only about 30 minutes from Castries. The Barre de L’Isle ➤
Forest Reserve gets its name from the fact that it sits on a ridge dividing the eastern and western halves of Saint Lucia, providing panoramic views of certain parts of the island from four lookout points along the trail. It takes approximately one hour to walk the 1-mile trail and another hour to climb to the top of Mount La Combe. From there, hikers can see Cul-de-Sac Valley and the Caribbean Sea on the west and the Mabouya Valley and Fond d’Or Beach on the Atlantic coast on the east.

✦ Birdwatchers won’t want to miss the Millet Bird Sanctuary Trail located in the heartland of Saint Lucia, 45 minutes from the city of Castries and 15 minutes from Marigot Bay. Here, they’ll find over 30 species of birds, including five endemic species such as the Saint Lucia parrot, the Saint Lucia black finch, the Saint Lucia oriole, the Saint Lucia pewee and the Saint Lucia warbler. The trail also provides a breathtaking view of the Roseau Dam, the largest in the Eastern Caribbean with an output capacity of 6.3 million gallons of water daily. It takes approximately two hours to complete the 1.73-mile walk, which is moderate to strenuous, located about 1,000 ft. above sea level.

✦ More experienced hikers will want to try out the Enbas Saut Waterfalls Trail located within the 19,000-acre Central Forest Reserve, six miles east of Soufrière at the foot of the highest mountain, Mount Gimie. The Enbas Saut Waterfalls Trail is a strenuous 2.5-mile trail situated in a remote, but unbelievably scenic area combining rainforest, cloud forest and elfin woodlands. The backdrop is equally lovely set off by the nearby peaks of Piton Canarie, Piton Troumassee and Mount Gimie. Enbas Saut means below the falls and the trail is most famous for its two cascading waterfalls and pools at the head of the Troumassee River, where hikers can bathe in pure rainforest water. Here, too, they’ll be able to enjoy rich birdlife including the blue hooded euphonia and the mountain whistler.

✦ Hikers not ready for the strenuous demands of the Enbas Saut Waterfalls Trail, can still trek in the forest reserve where the waterfall trail is located at a more moderate pace enjoying the reserve’s numerous plants such as bromeliads, orchids, mushrooms, lianes and others attached to large buttress dangling on the sides of the trail. Here, too, hikers will enjoy occasional long-distance views of the Caribbean and at one point along this trail, they emerge out of the forest and walk right into a magnificent view of the island’s highest peak. Great photo opportunities on this hike.

✦ The Des Cartiers Rainforest Trail has the reputation of being Saint Lucia’s most pristine rainforest, a verdant botanical paradise, mesmerizing in its mystical beauty. Located about 30 minutes from Vieux Fort in the south, tell clients to exit the highway at Mahaut of Ti Rocher gap, then they’ll drive six miles inland from the east coast highway along a secondary road. It’s worth the drive because as they walk the 2.5-mile trail, they have a definite possibility of seeing rare birds, especially the Saint Lucia parrot, as well as a variety of Saint Lucia’s wildlife.

✦ Finally, tell clients to explore the Rainforest Reserve on a 3-hour trek with a guide from the Forest and Lands Department. Here—just 30 minutes from Rodney Bay—they’ll trek past indigenous tree species and along paths lined with bromeliads, orchids and mushrooms. Throughout the tour, they’ll see beautiful, multi-colored birds including the indigenous Saint Lucia parrot, as well as a magnificent view of Mount Gimie. You can contact the Forest and Lands Department for more information.

Shopping

Shopping is an integral part of leisure travel, and needless to say, Saint Lucia has an enormous variety of shopping options for visitors. Some of its most popular are the art and crafts products...
that are produced right on the island. Here’s a comprehensive list
of where clients can find those items and what’s being offered.

**SOUFRIERE:** The crafts market is on the north side of the dock.
Here, clients will find a wide array of items including island-made
hand-woven baskets, straw hats, local spices and clay pots.

**CASTRIES:** Visitors will find a livelier party atmosphere with
probably the largest number of authentic island-made souvenirs
at the Craft Market on Jeremie Street. In addition to the baskets
and clay pots descending from Amerindian and African traditions,
they’ll also find some beautiful and authentically crafted wood
carvings. There’s also a colorful produce market here that’s great
for photographs, as well as shopping for spices. There’s a big
outdoor market on Peynier Street called the Vendors Arcade,
where clients will find a huge collection of souvenirs including
T-shirts, jewelry and locally made handicrafts.

**CHOISEUL:** This community is known as an arts center where
many of the island’s crafts people and artists live and work. As
a result, at the Choiseul Arts & Crafts Centre in the La Fargue
neighborhood, visitors will find plenty of quality hand-made
products such as clay pottery, hand-woven baskets and
placemats, and unique chairs and woodcarvings.

It’s not too surprising, given the number of cruise ships that
visit Saint Lucia, that a large number of shopping outlets are
located near the piers where travelers can find a much broader
array of items beyond the souvenir category, much of it duty free.
So, as a major cruise port, Castries has a good portion of those
shopping outlets.

La Place Carenage, for example, is a one-time cargo shed that
is now a 2-level waterfront duty free complex with a variety of
boutiques selling everything from fine china, crystal and jewelry,
to clothing stores selling batik and island fiber-made clothing,
as well as duty-free liquor. Pointe Seraphine, built specifically for
cruise ship passengers, has probably the most comprehensive
collection of shops on the island right next to the berthing area.
However, you have to show a cruise pass or an airline ticket to
the shopkeeper when purchasing duty free goods. Purchases,
except liquor and tobacco, will be delivered either to the airport
or to the cruise ship. So if your clients are traveling by air, tell
them to wait until the last day.

Just about two miles north of Castries in Gros Islet, is
Gablewoods Mall, a modern mall with 35 shops and a number of
restaurants. Here, visitors can find everything from beachwear
and books, to electronics and jewelry stores. There’s also the
Rodney Bay Mall and the Vieux Fort Plaza in the south, as well as
the Bay Walk Mall in Rodney Bay.

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**GROUPS – Big Business in Saint Lucia**

When your clients need the “devil is in the details,” Saint Lucia
is an excellent choice with superior Destination Management
Companies, team-building competence, varied transportation
elements and the savoir-faire to suit the peculiarities, nuances
and preferences for any group. Saint Lucia offers it all—from a
custom catamaran transfer from airport to resort, helicopter
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**SAINT LUCIAN DMC’s**

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  Website: www.serenitytvl.com

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+ **Spice Travel & Tours**
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  Website: www.spicetravellucia.com

+ **Solar Tours & Travel**
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Lucian Cuisine 101
✦ Saint Lucia’s cornucopia of tropical fruit and vegetables includes bananas, mangoes, passion fruit, cassava, dasheen taro, plantains, breadfruit, okra, avocados, limes, pumpkins, cucumbers, guavas, pineapples, papayas, soursop, yams, chayote and coconuts.
✦ For an overview of local produce, visit the Castries Central Market, the largest on the island and packed with stalls of fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers and spices. (For handicrafts and clothing, cross the street to the Vendors Arcade.)
✦ The French influence on local cooking is strong, and most chefs cook with a Creole flair.
✦ Standard among Caribbean dishes are callaloo (soup made from leafy green, similar to spinach), stuffed crab back, pepper-pot stew, curried chicken or goat, and lambi (conch).
✦ Soups and stews are prepared in a coal pot, a rustic clay casserole on a clay stand that holds hot coals; one of the culinary landmark restaurants is called Coal Pot (in Castries).
✦ Jump-ups and street fairs are the places to eat grilled fish or chicken legs and bakes (fried biscuits)—accompanied by rum or beer (the local brand is Piton).

Dining Options
There’s no doubt that the sheer number of internationally flagged resorts and all-inclusives have broadened the selection of dining options on Saint Lucia, with international dining selections increasing each year. But exotic fusion fare and true Creole cuisine are the cornerstones of this legendary culture, with bars and restaurants serving up more than their fair share of a wholesome, natural exploration for the taste buds—a true culinary heaven. Here’s a list of just a few of those eateries selected at random and ones your clients will love.

**SOUFRIERE**
- **Bayside Bar & Grill:** (758) 459-7666
- **Boucan Restaurant:** (758) 459-7969
- **Dasheene:** (758) 459-6612
- **Fond Doux Plantation & Resort:** (758) 459-7545
- **Mango Tree Restaurant & Bar:** (758) 459-7037

**Orlando’s:** (758) 459-5955; orlandosrestaurantstl.com/contact-us.html

**MARIGOT BAY**
- **Chateau Mygo Restaurant & Bar:** (758) 451-4772
- **Doolittles:** (758) 451-4974
- **The Mangrove at JJ’s Paradise:** (758) 458-3259
- **Masala Bay:** (758) 451-4500

**CASTRIES**
- **Brown Sugar Restaurant and Bar:** (758) 458-1931
- **The Coal Pot:** (758) 452-5566
- **The Pink Plantation House:** (758) 452-5422

**RODNEY BAY VILLAGE**
Rodney Bay Village is a mixed residential and tourist mecca loaded with fun shops, restaurants and bars. It’s about as lively a place as you’ll find anywhere on the island and it’s a great place for visitors to interact with Saint Lucians. The restaurants run the gamut.

- **Big Chef Steakhouse:** (758) 450-0210
- **Buzz Seafood and Grill:** (758) 458-0450
- **The Cliff at Cap Maison:** (758) 457-8681
- **Jade Terrace:** (758) 453-2222
- **Matthews Restaurant:** (758) 572-0202
- **Memories of Hong Kong:** (758) 452-8218
- **Razmataz:** (758) 452-9800
- **Tapas on the Bay:** (758) 451-2433
- **Spice of India:** (758) 458-8243
- **Spinnakers Beach Bar and Restaurant:** (758) 452-8491

Saint Lucia’s *Dine Around* program is an initiative created by the Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association (SLHTA) to entice the palates of visitors staying at hotels around the island. Visitors have the opportunity to dine on a 3-course meal at 16 award-winning restaurants for $55. Cuisines vary from French to Indian, and *Dine Around* vouchers can be purchased at participating DMCs: Barefoot Holidays; Cox & Company; Serenity Vacations & Tours; St. Lucia Reps; and Spice Travel & Tours. dinearoundstlucia.com
Useful Information

LOCATION
Saint Lucia is an island in the Caribbean Sea. It is one of the Windward Islands, which is situated between Martinique and Saint Vincent and to the northwest of Barbados.

CLIMATE
A subtropical climate, kept mild by cooling trade winds, makes Saint Lucia a year-round delight. From June to November, be prepared for sporadic tropical showers.

TIME ZONE
Saint Lucia lies in the Atlantic Standard time zone and is four hours behind Greenwich Mean Time, five hours during daylight savings time. It is one hour ahead of Eastern Standard Time, except in the summer, when the time zones are the same.

LANGUAGE
English is the official language, but Saint Lucians also speak a French-Creole commonly called Patois, which is used in day-to-day affairs.

AIRCRAFT
Canada: Air Canada, Sunwing, Transat and WestJet. Please check stlucia.org for updates.

AIRPORTS
Hewanorra International Airport in Vieux Fort is located 40 miles south of Castries, the capital city. George F. L. Charles Airport is an inter-island airport located just outside Castries.

GETTING AROUND
Minibuses and Taxis Minibuses serve as the main ground transportation for the island. These buses run on varied times depending on the route. Fares range from EC$2.50 to EC$8.00. All minibuses have a green number plate with an M prefix. Taxis are easily available at taxi stands or by telephone. All authorized taxis have a light-blue number plate with a TX prefix. Fares vary by destination and nature of trip. Before you hire a taxi, confirm the fare. From Hewanorra International Airport to Castries takes around an hour. Automobile Rental Cars, 4-wheel-drive vehicles and scooters can be booked in advance or locally at the airports, hotels or car rental offices.

A temporary driver’s licence is required for visitors and may be obtained upon presentation of a valid driver’s license on arrival at the airport, the police station in Castries or the car rental offices. Remember to drive on the left side. Ferries: Those who prefer to do much of their traveling on the water will find that Saint Lucia is well serviced by ferries, making it easy to include Saint Lucia on any island-hopping tour. Several ferry lines connect Saint Lucia with Martinique, Dominica and Guadeloupe. Visit express-des-iles.com, which operates a ferry service between Saint Lucia and Martinique. Other ferry services are available on stlucia.org. Helicopters: Spectacular aerial tours of Saint Lucia are possible, and helicopter transfers between Hewanorra and George FL Charles airports reduce the travel time between the south and north of the island (visit stluciahelicopters.com).

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS
The duty free allowance for arriving passengers is 200 cigarettes or a half-pound of tobacco or 50 cigars; 40 fluid ounces of wines or spirits. Duty free shopping is available at Pointe Seraphine, La Place Carenage, the shopping malls and the departure lounge at Hewanorra Airport.

CURRENCY
The currency of Saint Lucia is the Eastern Caribbean dollar, which is linked to the U.S. dollar at the exchange rate of US$1 to EC$2.70.

ELECTRICITY
220 Volts, 20 cycles AC (a few hotels are 110 Volts, 60 cycles). Adaptors are generally available at the resorts.

DIAL CODE
The international dialing code for Saint Lucia is 1 (758).

SERVICE CHARGES AND TAXES
There is a value added tax of 10% on hotel and restaurant bills. A service charge of 10% is also applicable. In some instances, these charges are included in prices quoted so it is best to clarify. The prices on labels in shops and supermarkets may attract value added tax.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Foreign nationals visiting or entering Saint Lucia are required to have a valid passport from their country. Passports should be valid for 3 months upon entering Saint Lucia. Visas are not required where the visitor is a U.S., UK or Canadian citizen or where there is an agreement for exemption between home country and Saint Lucia. Some countries do require visas (see www.govt.lc/faqs for list).

DEPARTURE TAX
Departure tax is included in the price of the ticket for all passengers over 12 years old leaving the island via air travel. For passengers leaving via sea travel, the departure tax is EC$33 or US$13 to be paid at the time of the departure.
For additional information on Saint Lucia, contact one of our representatives:

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