

## LUX\*GRAND BAIE, MAURITIUS

Everything at the Grand Baie is larger than life. As soon as you step into the multi-level lobby, you're forced to look up and out – at the gargantuan lampshades, the looming pillars, the ceiling designed to look like a boat's sail and the breathtaking view of glittering water beyond.

This new-build hotel only opened in 2021, designed in collaboration between Mauritian architect Jean-François Adam and the iconic British interior designer Kelly Hoppen. Her elevated neutral aesthetic is found in all 116 beautiful villas, suites and residences – with no detail left unattended to – and even the common areas waft with the hotel's signature scent (tropical but woody).

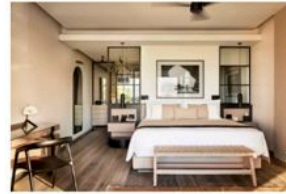
I'd describe this place as a peaceful playground. There's so much to do – from stand-up paddle boarding and glass-bottomed boats to the rooftop outdoor gym and daily fitness activities – yet it never feels busy or remotely chaotic. Even when fully-booked, there's ample space; you can easily find a sunlounger on the pristine-white beach or one of the French Riviera-style red-and-white cabanas by the beachfront pool. Whatever kind of pleasure you seek, it's here. Craving calm, I spent a lot of time in the tranquil spa, complete with a hydrothermal bath journey, hideaway outdoor pool and a stony path designed for reflexology. Feeling re-energised, I head to the adult-only rooftop restaurant, Bisou, to listen to live DJs, sip cocktails and eat Levantine tapas. The infinity pool, complete with an Ibiza-style swing, is the cherry on top of the decadent cake.

In the mornings, I feel like a kid in a candy shop in Beach Rouge (the main all-day restaurant) with endless kombucha options, choose-your-own smoothies and work-of-art pastries to go alongside hot dishes served à la carte. In the evenings, the signature Asian restaurant Ai Kisu is the place to be. Chefs cook succulent meat dishes on a traditional Japanese *Wabayaki* straw fire, to accompany some of the best rice and sushi dishes I've ever eaten. There's a reason why this relatively new hotel is attracting honeymooners, families with young kids

and returners who are already booking annually. When a place feels this good, why would you want to be anywhere else?

ARIELLE STEELE

TRIP NOTES: A JUNIOR SUITE STARTS FROM £350, [LUXRESORTS.COM](https://www.luxresorts.com)



The hotel is the epitome of modern luxury

Each villa has been lovingly designed by Kelly Hoppen



There's always space to lounge beside the hotel's luxurious pool



PHOTOGRAPHY: NICK SMITH, ALEX LAY, KATE BELL, ANNA MAUMBERG, LAURA PRIMA, TOM TALLON, KEVIN LENSIEK, LANNETONNE, TYPEO

