



Château Mon Désir
[F I N E D I N I N G]

Balaclava - Mauritius

TURTLE BAY AND BALACLAVA



It is more than a bay... more than a restaurant...
It is a journey through 300 years of history!

“Turtle Bay” known to old seafarers since centuries as a safe and secure anchorage where they could replenish fresh water and food on their voyages to and from the east.

Between 1598 and 1710, the Dutch tried several times to establish a colony. The captains of the Dutch East India Company gave it the name "Schildpatt's Baai". The abundant ebony forests which covered the northern part of Mauritius provided best ship building material to repair broken masts or damaged vessels.

In 1735, the first Governor of the French East India Company, Mahé de Labourdonnais, decided to establish Port Louis as the main harbour of the island, instead of Grand Port. Turtle Bay then became more significant.

Around 1740, a naval arsenal was built, as well as an iron foundry and a gun-powder factory. In order to procure water for the workshops, a dam was built across the 'Rivière Citron' in 1743. This dam is still existent today.

8th May 1748, Admiral Boscawen anchored in Turtle Bay with a fleet of 23 British ships, in an attempt to take over Mauritius from the French. However, they got under heavy fire from the cannons of the Turtle Bay and Tombeau Bay batteries and never managed to land. After 4 days the fleet left, anxious to reach India before the monsoon season.

28th September 1774, a terrible explosion occurred. All buildings, with the exception of a sawmill, a flour mill and the building sheltering the ironworks were blown up.

Early in the 19th century, Mr. Joseph Dioré took over the property at Turtle Bay.

29th November 1810, a British fleet of 74 ships arrived in Mauritius carrying 16,000 men in all to take over Mauritius. The French surrendered and signed a negotiated capitulation on the 3rd December 1810.

In 1856, the estate was acquired by Mr. Georges Courson de la Villeneuve, who became the mayor of Port Louis from 1859 - 1861. He renamed the property “Ville Vallio”, enjoyed a grand life style and became famous for his brilliant receptions.

Mr. Pierre Adolphe Wiehé, a merchant from Port Louis, took over the estate and increased the capacity of the flour mill. A country-house was set in beautiful gardens overlooking the bay and was named appropriately ‘Mon Désir’.

During the 2nd half of the 19th Century, Turtle Bay was also a favourite seaside "resort" for the wealthy citizens of Port Louis. The region around the estate was very lively. There was even a restaurant.



“Turtle Bay” has again come back to life with the opening of **MARITIM** Hotel. In 1973 **MARITIM** Hotels of Germany became the owner of the land and then a new history of “Mon Désir” began. In 1990 a restaurant opened originally within the hotel. Now, 20 years later, the circle will be closed, Mon Désir is back at its historical place. Back into the “Château Mon Désir” and still appropriately named.

The well preserved ruins of the old flour mill, the distillery and the dam built by Mahé de Labourdonnais have been declared National Monuments and form part of the National Heritage of Mauritius. Conservation of the natural environment of Balaclava and Turtle Bay is a priority of the hotel management since the start of the project. Turtle Bay is the first official Marine National Park of Mauritius.





Kitchen - Menu

Gastronomic Restaurant • Haute Cuisine • Fine Dining

"Château Mon Désir" uses the highest quality ingredients and combines them with elegant attentive service in the tradition, earning the restaurant the right to be assessed for the Michelin Guide.

Top quality seasonal products contribute to the authenticity of the preparations and aromas. Simple, tasty dishes are fundamental. Based on time-honoured recipes, you will relish dishes with subtle flavours that always emphasise the quality of the original products. We welcome you for a gastronomic experience and find out this world of flavours.

Our gourmet restaurant puts at your disposal the talent and the experience of its chef and offers you the opportunity to sample delicate culinary innovations. You will enjoy a delicious experience thanks to the Chef, creative master of his craft, in pursuit of the highest standards in an innovative cuisine, delightfully accompanied by selection of wines from near and far generating concentrates of savour that explode on the palate, engendering sensations that transcend gustatory pleasure.

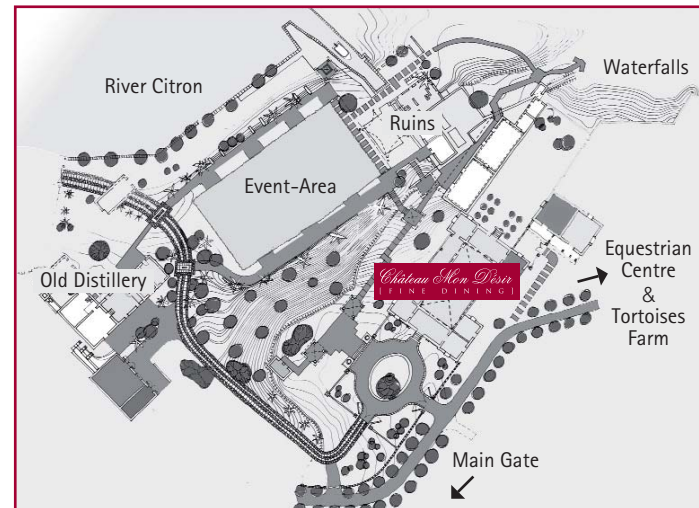
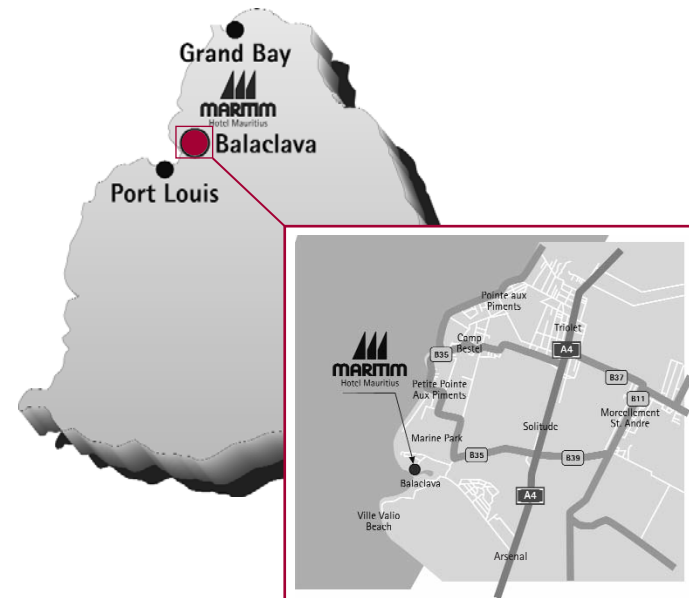
Culinary traditions say a lot about people and place. Château Mon Désir, wine and cuisine reflect the strong spirit of independence that continues to flourish here.

You can taste this spirit in the epicurean revolutions of recent decades: the re-emergence and renaissance of a pure and refreshing cuisine.

It's a place where the world's cuisines cross-pollinate in all sorts of creative and delicious dishes. It's a place which can still initiate you to the finest cuisine with essential ingredients needed to make food from all over the world.

Culinary institutions and traditions are not about nostalgia; they are about continuity, and, taste of course. ...yes, we are open.

How to find us:



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