

Laid-back ambience at Ti-Kaye Resort & Spa in Saint Lucia

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BY ROCHELLE LASH, SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE JANUARY 4, 2013

Just last month, Ti-Kaye was a casual vacation village. Today, it is a smart resort that just keeps movin’ on up.

The alluring Ti-Kaye Resort & Spa in Saint Lucia recently changed its name from Ti-Kaye Village and has added upscale features to go with its rebranding. Perched dramatically atop a cliff, Ti-Kaye is a collection of 35 appealing cottage-suites that mix a charming, laid-back Saint Lucian ambience with a splash of resort chic, all at moderate prices.

The newest addition is the Ti Manje Bar, a stylish glass-walled lounge with a panoramic view of the fiery tropical sun setting over the Caribbean Sea and the waves crashing against the coast far below. After a scorching day at the beach, guests gather for happy hour with free canapés and colourful, icy cocktails, two-for-one. For local flavour, the Kako Twete Chocolate Treat is a rum drink inspired by Saint Lucia’s cocoa plantations.

The pièce de résistance is Ti-Kaye’s new wine cellar, where an entertaining sommelier holds tasting events. After a two-hour session of sipping and swirling, the newbies emerge with flushed faces and big smiles, already tossing off terms like “bouquet, tannins and acidity.”

You can enjoy the same glorious view of sea, sky and sand at the Kai Koko Spa, this time from a chaise longue in the new glass relaxation room. Also reflecting Saint Lucia’s products, the spa’s soothing body wraps and smoothing skin scrubs are done with coconut oil and chocolate extracts from a cacao plantation just down the road.

Ti-Kaye is one of Saint Lucia’s most authentic resorts. It has an anything-goes feeling with guests strolling to and from a gorgeous pool, a large beach and the al fresco dining room. The resort is owned by a prominent businessman who is from the island and he prides himself on showcasing the country’s best features, especially the seafood and the scuba diving. Sailboats, yachts and cruise ships come from throughout the Caribbean, even from other hotels, so snorkellers and divers can explore Ti-Kaye’s glorious waters and the mysterious shipwreck off of its shore.

The accommodations are spacious, with large terraces and tropical essentials such as outdoor rocking chairs and hammocks so you can laze away the afternoons in style. Ti-Kaye also has beds that surely were made for lovers — inviting beauties draped in gauzy white canopies with ocean views. Outdoor living in this near-perfect climate is paramount, and, to me, Ti-Kaye’s most romantic feature is the private open-air shower outside each suite. That’s freedom to frolic naked under the

open skies, with giggles.

Ti-Kaye Resort & Spa, Castries, Saint Lucia; 758-456-8101, www.tikaye.com; for ages 12 and over; rooms start at approximately \$220 per night, for two, without meals, or \$380 with three meals.

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