



Bay Gardens

For the perfect vacation in paradise

St. Lucia is a small island nation in the Eastern Caribbean. Today, the country, part of the British Commonwealth, is a world-renowned tourist destination, known for its quiet, volcanic beaches, quaint fishing villages and the majestic Piton Mountains. For many years, though, St. Lucia had been a mostly agricultural-based society, exporting bananas to the United Kingdom and Europe. However, due to competition from lower-cost Latin American banana producers and reduced European Union trade preferences, the industry began to decline.

It was under this set of circumstances, in the early 1990s, that two former school teachers, Joyce and

Desmond Destang, consolidated their earnings from a fabric store and several residential and commercial real estate interests, and bought a property in Rodney Bay, on the northern end of the island. At the time, there was not a lot of activity there and only a few hotels. But the couple decided that since tourism to the island was beginning to increase, the timing was right to get into the business. So, in 1994, they founded the original 45-room, Bay Gardens Hotel. The couple entrusted the operations of the property to another dynamic couple, Berthia and Johnny Parle, industry veterans and long time family friends who were hired as the General Manager and Food and Beverage Manager, respectively.