

Over the years, the Hotel expanded to 87 rooms and won several local, regional and international awards. Its mercurial General Manager was Berthia Parle, one of the most recognizable figures in Caribbean hospitality, who, during this time also became the first female President of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association.

In 2002, the Destangs acquired the property next door - a small establishment called the Palm Tree Hotel which had gone into receivership. They rechristened their new purchase, the Bay Gardens Inn, and added another 33 rooms to their portfolio. The owners hired Ms. Waltrude Patrick, an experienced manager, who was also an old family friend, to run the property, and the new hotel's success was quickly assured. In 2006, the Bay Gardens Inn was awarded Best Small Hotel in the Caribbean by Virgin Holidays, the U.K-based, transatlantic tour operator, at its annual World Travel

## **AT A GLANCE**

**WHO:** Bay Gardens Resorts

**WHAT:** A collection of three hotel properties in St. Lucia – the Bay Gardens Hotel, the Bay Gardens Inn, and the Bay Gardens Resort and Spa

WHERE: Near Rodney Bay Village, St. Lucia

WEBSITE: www.baygardensresorts.com

Awards ceremony.

The final addition to the Bay Gardens hotel chain was the addition of the Bay Gardens Resort and Spa, which the Destangs built and opened in 2007, on property