

Settle in the Seychelles

Why an all-inclusive resort development offers an irresistible investment opportunity – and a safe, idyllic second home.

Words *PRIVATE EDITION* WRITER

IN FIVE HOURS, a flight from OR Tambo International Airport brings you to the heart of the Seychelles archipelago. Made up of 115 granitic and coralline islands, it is often referred to as the original Garden of Eden. It's where celebrities head to for a discreet escape from their fast-paced lives and a place many couples choose as a honeymoon destination. But there is a more powerful argument for turning a week's getaway into something more permanent for South African investors.

The capital city of Victoria on Mahé is also home to Eden Island, a resort development more than 40ha in size (with a further 16ha of private waterways). Designed by architects Dennis Moss Partnership of Stellenbosch, who perfectly interpreted the brief of an urban design with strictly Seychellois influences, the man-made island development is a property investor's dream.

The development incorporates apartments, maisons (duplexes) and villas, with the latter being the ultimate acquisition. Cocooned in lush tropical vegetation to ensure complete privacy, and individually designed by well-known South African architect Ray Alexander, the villas are in a class of their own. Stepping into one, it's easy to see why. It opens into a large and airy living area, with high ceilings enhancing the feeling of spaciousness, light streaming in from the many windows and glass foldaway

doors. The immediate reflex is to head to the sprawling veranda and outdoor area, where a sparkling private pool sits above the water's edge, with sweeping vistas of the azure Indian Ocean and neighbouring islands Sainte Anne and Cerf. An alfresco lounge and dining area is the perfect addition, ideal for the climate's indoor-outdoor living style. Back inside, the spacious open-plan kitchen is ideally located as the hub of the downstairs living area. A dark-wood staircase leads you up to the bedrooms, which are all en-suite. Rooms are large, lavish and sunlit, thanks to sea-view balconies. Bathrooms are designed to further bring the feeling of the outdoors in, with expansive views – a lovely touch for an often-neglected room in terms of views.

The villa is styled to convey calm, with neutral tones emanating from elements of nature such as sand, stone and wood. Homeowners can choose from a palette of pearl, coral and granite to complete the interior offering. As furnishing a home in the Seychelles is not the easiest undertaking, Eden Island has enlisted interior designers to assist with creating the perfect living spaces, within three different styles and four colour themes, complete with a range of audiovisual equipment. Thanks to the all-inclusive services, you begin life here without the stress of importing décor.

All apartments, maisons and villas have a private mooring space to boot, either in front of the home or in the Eden Island Marina. Because motor vehicles aren't allowed in the residential area, electronically powered buggies come standard with every home, with a private bay for parking and charging. There is a separate, secure parking garage for residents who own cars.

Within the residential area there are three beaches with private access for residents only, rolling lawns and jungle gyms for those who have little ones in tow, as well as a tennis court, gym and swimming pools. Eden Island Plaza, the only mall in the Seychelles, is within walking distance and houses retail outlets, a supermarket and a variety of restaurants dotted along the water's edge.

Buying property on Eden Island instantly qualifies you and your immediate family to apply for residency of the Seychelles. For those looking to buy on Eden Island without living there permanently, the Eden Island Rental Pool Management Company can oversee the rental of your property on a short- or long-term basis.

With a mild tropical climate year round and three direct flights weekly between Johannesburg and Mahé, this life is simply hours from being your regular escape – perhaps even a home base. □

