

# Paris Gallery

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with the right shoe

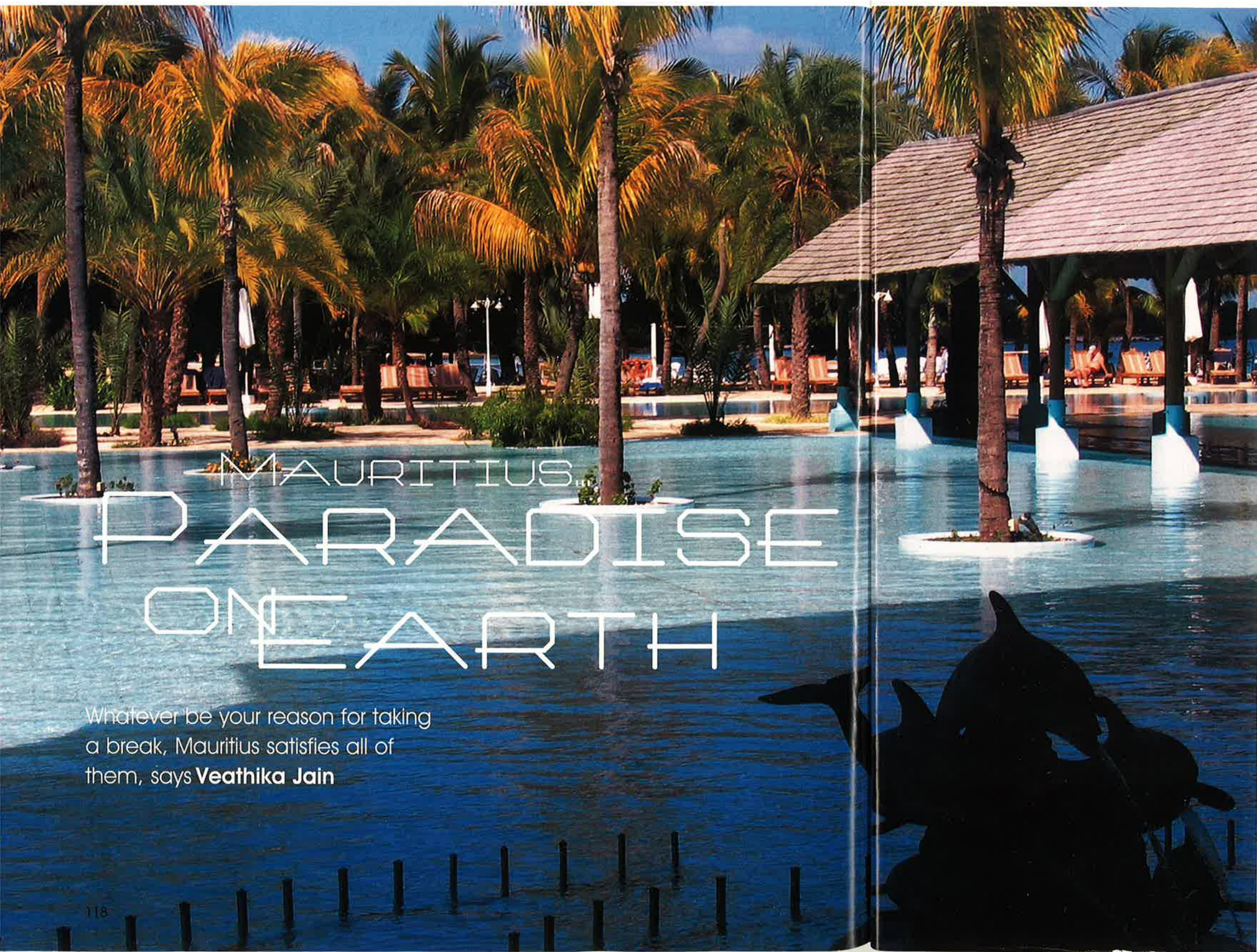
**Christina Aguilera**  
B2B and the scandals  
surrounding her life

Catwalk your way to '06 Autumn/ Winter Collection

Bring Home  
the Finest  
Go Italian with  
our specialty dishes

Make time  
for Yourself





# MAURITIUS. PARADISE ONE EARTH

Whatever be your reason for taking a break, Mauritius satisfies all of them, says **Veathika Jain**



Hilltop villages, clear blue-green waters, sandy pearl beaches, national parks and colonial buildings make Mauritius a unique and exciting African destination. An island which is bestowed with natural resources and abundant sea life, it has an intoxicating blend of African, French and Indian influences making the holiday there very special.

#### **WATER SPORTS**

There's enough sun, surf and sand to either get tanned or you could just lie around the beaches and drink endless fruit punches. But if you are the adventure sports loving person, then there's a lot to do and see on this island. Set in the Eastern part of the island is, Ile aux Cerfs which is a paradise for water sports and has the most beautiful beach in Mauritius. You can do the under water sea walk, go snorkeling, para sailing, scuba diving or just have fun on water scooters and banana boats. Delicately poised in the ocean, this tiny island is a real pearl in the Mauritian landscape. Hotels with their own private beaches also give free lessons in snorkeling and water skiing. Complimentary services are also provided in glass bottom boats to see the breathtakingly beautiful under water life.

#### **NATURE AND WILD LIFE**

The SSR Botanical gardens are known to naturists throughout the world for its indigenous and exotic plants. You can see the giant Victoria Amazonica water lilies and many species of palm trees. In the middle of this garden is a long





rectangular pond with lots of lotuses. The 60-acre garden boasts 500 different species of plants, of which 80 are palms. Of particular interests are the giant water lilies, a spice garden and the Talipot Palms, said to flower every 60 years after which they die. The deers and tortoises are sure to delight the youngsters, whilst an old French mansion, Château Mon Plaisir, a ship museum and an old sugar mill conjure up pictures of Mauritius' rich historical past.

Something which you shouldn't come back without seeing is the seven colours of the earth. A winding road leads from Case Noyale village to the coloured earths of Chamarel: an undulating landscape of different and contrasting hues. The different shades of blue, green, red and yellow are apparently the result of the erosion of volcanic ash. The neighbouring waterfalls of Chamarel rise from the moors and the native plant life. The site possesses a rare beauty. You can enjoy these sights with some Mauritian cuisine at the local restaurants set strategically for you to relish the food and the sights.

**TREKKING**

For the discoverer in you, there are enough options to invigorate yourself. Go mountain climbing or explore nature through forests, plants or endemic flowers. Take breathtaking views on foot, on bike or kayak; or go trekking through fields, rivers and forests on all terrain quad bikes and discover the magnificent views of the south-eastern coastal regions. You can also enjoy the spectacular waterfalls or share in the pleasures of fair game culling in the south-east where many stags, does and boars roam freely on 900 hectares of grounds covered with tropical forests.



**OTHER ATTRACTIONS**

For shopaholics, Grand Bay is a shopping and leisure paradise. It's also where you want to be for a fun-filled night out. You can find plenty of restaurants, bars and discos here. Also in the North is the recently renovated, La Cuvette beach which is worth a visit.

**PACKAGE**

Emirates Holidays has a special offer running for Mauritius. For Dhs 6400 per person you can have a holiday for four nights in a four star accommodation.

**JUST A NOTE**

Mauritius was the only known habitat of the extinct dodo bird.



**TRAVEL TIPS**

Full Name:	Republic of Mauritius
Capital:	Port Louis
Area:	1,860 sq km
Population:	1,200,000
Languages:	French, English (official) Hindi, Urdu (spoken)
Currency:	Mauritian Rupee (1Dh = 6.6 Mauritian Rupees)
Country Dialing Code:	230
Religion:	Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and others
Time Zone:	GMT/ UTC + 4 ( )
Best Times to Visit:	October – February (summer months) or July – September
Must Visit:	L'Aventure du Sucre (a museum that tells the story of sugar in fascinating detail as well as the history of Mauritius, the rum trade, slavery and more. Hours: 9am to 5pm).

