

continue reading...

Entering to the hotel you have beautiful tropical flowers, a small reception building on the left with an attendant available 24/7 for any requests and concierge services. On the right you have outdoor sofas, pool beds and a beautiful infinity pool overlooking the bay.

Walking straight on you come to the building that holds the bar and restaurant. The décor makes you feel like you stepped into 1960s Miami, but with modern touches and a stylish, yet homey feel. The bar lounge has stools, sofas and booths. All seating is comfortable and welcoming like you have entered a friend's living room ready to enjoy each other's company in paradise.

Walking outside the bar you come to the middle of the property, the tropical garden that the hotel is named after. This is an area of outdoor dining tables of varying size, with canopy coverings and island foliage. This is where breakfast, lunch and dinner are served. There is also a new stage area where live entertainment is often scheduled to enjoy during dinner.

There are 24 rooms and suites in three wings surrounding the central courtyard with two floors on each wing. Every room has either a terrace or a balcony. Four rooms have access to a private pool. All other guests use the main pool. We can confirm connecting rooms at time of booking. While the hotel does accept guests of all ages, there is no kids club or family focused activities. We anticipate this will be more an adult oriented property unless there is a buyout. Currently, all rooms have one king bed. There is a chance in the future that they will offer two single beds, but not for the time being.

Keep Tropical in mind for couples, a group of a few couples traveling together, girlfriend's getaways (if ok sharing a bed), or buyouts for special events or intimate wedding.

Our hostesses were Pauline Jimenez, General Manager, who comes from both a restaurant and hotel background throughout France and a few European islands, and Alison Marcoz, House Manager, who has worked in hotels throughout France and the Seychelles. Pauline and Alison are key to the successful opening of the hotel. They are both very excited to be apart of the opening team and work with the ownership of the hotel who is open to new ideas and ways to adapt to the needs of the new luxury traveler. The Managers understand the importance of training staff to anticipate the needs of guests. They also keep a work environment that staff and guests all feel like family that really shines through in the welcoming vibe of Tropical.

The hotel restaurant, The Patio, is led by a husband-and-wife chef team that came from Bonito (a popular restaurant in Gustavia). The cooking is inspired by French and Mediterranean cuisine with an Italian touch. The dining experiences were exceptional. At breakfast our group enjoyed iced or warm coffee, detox juice, energy balls, fresh baked goods and more. We had casual lunches by the pool of comfort foods including salads, burgers, grilled cheese with truffle and of course french fries. The dinner menu is always rotating to provide new offerings. Our favorite dinners were family style with a range of seafood, protein, vegetables and sides, all fresh and delicious. For dessert, the homemade snickers were a huge hit. The Patio is quickly becoming a restaurant on the island where both visitors and locals want to experience. In addition to great food and tailor-made cocktail creations from the mixologists at The Bar, the hotel often has artists in residence, hosting musicians that stay on property and play on the new patio stage in the

evenings. During our stay, there was a duo from Paris, who was lovely to converse with by the pool in the daytime. In the evenings, we enjoyed their musical performances while enjoying dinner.

Getting off property to explore the island is so easy from Tropical. Great shopping, dining and beach days are some of the bests in the Caribbean.

There are beautiful boutique shops walking distance from the hotel. Our group strolled through these shops to buy gifts, but also took a 10-minute cab ride into Gustavia to shop at the luxury stores such as Hermes, Louis Vuitton, Cartier, Bulgari, along with discovering unique finds at one-of-a-kind boutiques. A few of us bought bright and beautiful sundresses at Poupette St Barth. Kalinas & Tainos is also a nice store for creating custom pearl jewelry pieces.

Since everyone raves about the beach clubs in St. Barths, we made sure to check out two of the most popular that are walking distance from Tropical. We enjoyed a delicious lunch at Gypsea with our toes in the sand and views of the sparkling blue water. After lunch, we walked a few steps on the beach over to Nikki Beach Club to enjoy refreshing cocktails while relaxing on their beach lounge chairs.

When not working, Pauline, the hotel General Manager, spends as much time as she can outdoors, exploring the different beaches on the island. She graciously took one morning to guide us on a hike to Columbier beach that is only accessible from a walking trail or by boat. We enjoyed a dip in this beautiful cove before our hike back to the main road. From there we headed to the other end of the island where we enjoyed a picnic lunch the hotel restaurant prepared for us. Pauline brought snorkel gear so we could swim with the huge sea turtles that are just a few hundred yards off the shore.

The advisors on our FAM cherished their stay at Le Tropical. The consensus was the location, size of the hotel and décor are all perfect. The staff was genuine, very kind and accommodating. The hotel is charming and has no pretention. We are a time in the travel industry where luxury is not the same as what was expected before. New luxury is about feeling connection to the place you are in and having an authentic and comfortable experience. We believe Tropical exemplifies this new luxury.

Until next time St. Barths....

