

PRESS RELEASE

AVANI SEYCHELLES BARBARONS RESORT & SPA OPENS OFFERING MORE THAN JUST A BEACH LOVER'S PARADISE

Bangkok, 4th February 2015: AVANI Hotels & Resorts, the vibrant upscale brand launched by Thailand-based Minor Hotel Group in 2011, has opened **AVANI Seychelles Barbarons Resort & Spa**, the group's first property in the Indian Ocean destination. Just a 25 minute drive from Seychelles International Airport, the resort is located on tranquil Barbarons Beach along Mahé's west coast and opens following an extensive USD 14 million refurbishment.

Dillip Rajakarier, CEO Minor Hotel Group, commented, "We are very happy to add the Seychelles to the growing list of countries our AVANI brand is present in, which is now ten with a total of thirteen properties. The resort is a great addition to the brand's portfolio and we are confident AVANI will set the standard for upscale hotels in the Seychelles market."

AVANI Seychelles Barbarons blends all the right ingredients for relaxation with a dash of colourful culture and exotic island life. A contemporary vibe uplifts the resort's European heritage style, with accommodation, leisure activities and dining options all designed with every age and travel style in mind.

124 guest rooms and suites each feature a balcony or terrace with garden, pool or ocean views, and essential comforts inside. Five room types include options with easy access to the spa and sandy beach, with adjacent and connecting rooms making holidays with family and friends very convenient. Guests who appreciate space and deluxe amenities can opt for the AVANI Ocean View Suite, with double the room size, a lounge, and stunning coastal vistas from the large balcony.

Developed with AVANI's *Honest Food* ethos at heart, AVANI Seychelles Barbarons understands that the perfect recipe for a satisfying holiday is great dining, and the resort's two restaurants are accompanied by pool and shisha bars, as well as private dining.

Offering all day home-style dining, *Elements* dishes up an impressive breakfast buffet, then western classics, seafood delights and Creole specialties for lunch, followed by lively evenings of themed BBQs and market Creole nights with cultural entertainment. *Tamarind* tantalises the taste buds for lunch and dinner with creative twists on Pan Asian recipes, tamarind and seafood specialties and unique island cocktails that pack a punch with local golden rum, served on a beachfront deck or on the beach. In addition, 24 hour in-room dining lets guests sip, snack, wine and dine in total privacy, whilst for romance and special occasions, a Private Dining concept comes with a personal chef to design the ideal menu, enjoyed when and where guests like.

Relaxing into the rhythm of island life is what it's all about *By the Pool* from late morning until early evening, offering thirst quenching drinks and classic light bites. Changing to suit the mood from day to night, *Gravity Shisha Lounge & Lobby Bar* is ideal for quiet time out or socialising; a coffee boost or revitalising juice, snacks to keep up energy levels, and in the evening, the chill out lounge on the upper level is the perfect spot to watch the sunset whilst sharing shisha or to enjoy classic or infused cocktails after dinner.

Signature to AVANI is a *Design for Life* living space, and at AVANI Seychelles Barbarons the resort's lobby area creates this central hub. The *Connect* zone in the lobby makes it easy to email,

chat online, print boarding passes or charge up a device, whilst the *Corner* is a quiet space to enjoy some time out. Complimentary wifi is offered throughout the resort.

With multiple options to chill out, get active or try something new, AVANI Seychelles Barbarons makes it easy for guests to plan the perfect day. Lazy days can be spent on the palm fringed beach, swimming and sunbathing at the outdoor pool or recharging with a yoga class. With one double and three single treatment rooms, a sundeck and plunge pool, AVANISPA offers pampering “me time” and “we time”. Options include beautifying facials, nourishing body treatments and heavenly massages, or exotic pampering such as an Ayurvedic therapy or Turkish hammam ritual.

Making family holidays more enjoyable, youngsters can have their own fun in the children’s pool and engage in arts, crafts and games at the Children’s Club, AVANI Kids. Those with energy to burn can hit the gym for a workout or play tennis. Experiencing the Seychelles unique culture is lively and creative with traditional dance, Creole language and local craft classes, as well as the resort’s nightly Creole fair down on the beach, offering market craft stalls, traditional island food and drinks, plus island dance and music shows. Budding chefs can learn to cook authentic Creole and Thai dishes in cooking classes, whilst cocktail lovers can pick up an expert bartender’s tips in cocktail making classes.

Travellers eager to get out and about will find that AVANI’s seamless excursions cover the island’s top highlights, including nature trails, mangrove waterways, romantic waterfalls, spice and botanical gardens, touring heritage sites, island cruises and seeing tropical marine life at the best snorkelling and diving spots. The island is also easy to explore independently. The capital Victoria is just a 25 minute drive away, whilst Mahé’s diverse attractions can be seen with a drive around the island taking only a few hours.

As part of Minor Hotel Group’s global expansion of diverse quality brands, AVANI Hotels & Resorts was launched in late 2011 as a sister brand to Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas, to consolidate the group’s presence in city and resort locations across Asia, the Indian Ocean, the Middle East and Africa. ‘AVANI’ stems from the Sanskrit word for ‘earth’ – a meaning which is expressed through a grounded personality and simple sense of style. AVANI is a refreshing upscale hotel concept offering relaxed comfort and contemporary style to guests who value the details that matter. Designed for guests who appreciate genuine hospitality, AVANI offers a fuss free approach that leaves a great impression.

Editor’s Notes:

About AVANI Hotels & Resorts

AVANI Hotels & Resorts was launched in 2011 to complement Minor Hotel Group’s five star Anantara brand. AVANI offers relaxed comfort and contemporary style in city and resort destinations to guests who value the details that matter. The brand currently has 13 properties in operation in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Seychelles, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Zambia, with a pipeline of further openings in Asia and the Indian Ocean. MHG has plans to grow the brand across Asia, India and the Indian Ocean and in the Middle East. W: avanihotels.com

About Minor Hotel Group

Minor Hotel Group (MHG) is a hotel owner, operator and investor, currently with a portfolio of 126 hotels and resorts in operation under the Anantara, AVANI, Per AQUUM, Oaks, Elewana, Tivoli, Marriott, Four Seasons, St. Regis, Radisson Blu and Minor International brands. Today MHG operates in 22 countries across Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Europe, South America, Africa and the Indian Ocean. With ambitious plans to grow the hotel group to 150 properties, MHG continues to expand the home grown brand of Anantara and its newest brand, AVANI, plus continues to announce strategic acquisitions. For more information, please visit www.minorinternational.com

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