

Tourism milestone

Le Saint Géran celebrates 50th anniversary



Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and Mrs Veena Ramgoolam pictured with senior officials of Kerzner International

One&Only Le Saint Géran, Mauritius' first large-scale international luxury resort, celebrated its golden jubilee on Wednesday, 26 November, during a commemorative ceremony attended by the Prime Minister, Dr Navin Ramgoolam, and senior representatives of Kerzner International. A special plaque was unveiled to honour five decades of pioneering hospitality, cultural authenticity and unwavering commitment to the heritage of Mauritius.

Opened in 1975, One&Only Le Saint Géran transformed the then-emerging tourism landscape by setting a new benchmark for luxury rooted in the country's natural beauty and the warmth of its people. Founded by South African hospitality visionary Sol Kerzner, the resort became the birthplace of what evolved into the global One&Only brand.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Ramgoolam reflected on the tourism industry's evolution. He paid tribute to the early visionaries of Mauritian tourism—Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Mr Amédée Maingard and Sir Gaëtan Duval—whose efforts in the 1970s laid the foundations for a strong public-private partnership. Tourism is a central pillar of the national economy—an engine of growth that supports around 150,000 jobs and provides a vital source of livelihood for families across the country, he said.

He recalled that the sector's remarkable growth, with annual tourist arrivals having jumped from around 70,000 in the 1970s to a projected 1.4 million in 2025, adding that tourism revenues are forecast to exceed Rs 100 billion. However, the Prime Minister cautioned that challenges persist, including escalating operational costs, safety concerns and the impacts of climate change.

According to Dr Ramgoolam, global trends in sustainable tourism require Mauritius to reassess its strategy for the sector and adopt a broader sustainability agenda in line with evolving travel expectations. Government, he emphasised, will continue to develop the tourism industry with a strong focus on sustainability.

With tourist arrivals expected to approach two million in the near future, Dr Ramgoolam pointed out that the airport will need to be expanded, additional hotels constructed and supporting infrastructure strengthened to meet rising demand. Government's vision is to position Mauritius as a world-class, green and secure destination, emphasising that diversification will be a key element of this strategy.

Dr Ramgoolam stated that Government aimed to preserve the cultural fabric of the country while expanding key tourism segments such as medical wellness, eco-sports and conferences.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister announced plans for major institutional reforms, such as the restructuring of the Police Force and the establishment of a National Crime Agency, aimed at reinforcing both visitor and citizen security. Mauritius' credibility, he said, depends on robust physical safety as much as uninterrupted digital connectivity.

Addressing the audience, the President of One&Only, Mr Mark Kirby, reflected on the resort's remarkable legacy. He noted that Kerzner International was the first major international hospitality group to invest in Mauritius—an investment that profoundly transformed the country's luxury landscape, set new standards for excellence and strengthened Mauritius' global positioning. "This anniversary reaffirms our commitment to shaping the future of ultra-luxury in Mauritius and staying true to the spirit of Mauritius," he said.

As for the General Manager of One&Only Le Saint Géran, Mr Roman Goetsch, he said that this milestone honours employees' loyalty. "It also reaffirms our dedication to supporting local communities, nurturing Mauritian talent and contributing to the island's sustainable development," he added.

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tu ne peux pas
atteindre ce qui est
devant toi tant que tu
ne lâches pas ce qui est
derrière toi

Quand tu comprends
que tu n'es plus
important dans la
vie d'une personne
retire toi sans faire
du bruit. 🙌😊

Arnold Schwarzenegger says heaven is a 'fantasy' and 'we won't see each other again'

The ongoing spat between China and Japan

The tension has reached the United Nations

There have been formal protests from both sides, calls to expel diplomats.

From Mylene, Japan



Editor's note:

Are we witnessing the beginning of the Star Wars in the vast space of the universe?

The round symbol in red on the Japanese Flag (on the left) represents the SUN. The stars on the Chinese Flag symbolise the people of China, from President (the large star) to the proletariat (smaller stars).

If the two nations should declare war on one another, could it be final show-shown of the human race in the Animal Kingdom?

The Sun is expected to burn itself out when it runs out of gas. And the stars?

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WHAT HAPPENED?

How did the spat start?

On 7 November, 2025 the Japanese Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi said, in answer to a hypothetical question, that if China used military force against Taiwan - for example, by imposing a naval blockade - Japan would view it as a "survival-threatening situation," which could force a military response.

How did Beijing react?

China was angered by the remark and demanded that Takaichi retract it. So far, she has not.

How did China's consul general in Osaka respond?

The following day, China's consul general, Xue Jian posted what appeared to be a threatening message on X: "we have to cut off that dirty neck that has been lunged at us." The post was later deleted, but Japan issued a strong protest.

Was that translation accurate?

A closer translation is: "the dirty neck that sticks itself in must be cut off" That phrase echoes a line from a 1930s Chinese war song, The Sword March.

Why is Taiwan so important?

The People's Republic of China (PRC) claims

Taiwan as part of its territory. Others see it as a self-governing democracy. The island is also strategically crucial to the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region.

The tit-for-tat continues

China has issued travel warnings for tourists going to Japan, causing major cancellations of flights and group tours. It also placed a ban on Japanese seafood imports. This could deal an economic blow to Japan, though some Japanese officials have downplayed the impact.

Japan lodged a formal protest and sent a senior diplomat to Beijing in an attempt to calm tensions and stress the importance of stable relations.

China then sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General, accusing Japan of threatening "armed intervention" over Taiwan, claiming China would be justified in exercising its right to self-defense under the UN Charter. Beijing says Takaichi's remark violates international law and is a deliberate provocation.

A senior Japanese government spokeswoman said Japan's long-standing position on Taiwan has not changed in any way and that China's accusation to the United Nations is "entirely baseless."

A supporting power for new PM Takaichi

The dispute sparked by Takaichi - who took of-

fice on 21 October 2025, just over a month ago - has strong backing. The U.S. Ambassador to Japan, George Glass, has said clearly that Washington "stands with Takaichi"

American support is part of a wider effort to push back against China's influence in the region while still trying to manage differences and prevent outright conflict.

The clash largely comes down to interpretation

China views Takaichi's remark as a major policy shift and a direct military threat - a red line crossed. For Beijing, Taiwan is an internal matter, and any foreign discussion of military action amounts to unacceptable interference.

Japan says nothing has changed in its policy and insists it has repeatedly explained the context of the remark to China.

With little real diplomacy happening, the war of words - and negative memes targeting Takaichi - is escalating.

In Conclusion

Perhaps the advice of Japanese scholars is worth heeding.

"Takaichi should avoid taking measures that could be regarded as further provocations by Beijing, keep communication channels with China open and fully explain Tokyo's stance both domestically and internationally to defuse tensions."

Festival International Kreol 2025

'Otantisite nou kiltir kreol'

The 2025 edition of the Festival International Kreol, a major cultural and touristic event celebrating the authenticity of Kreol culture through music, arts, language, and cuisine while showcasing the rich Mauritian heritage will be held from 05 to 07 December 2025. This year's theme is 'Otantisite nou kiltir kreol'.

The Minister of Tourism, Mr Richard Duval made this announcement yesterday at a press conference in Port Louis, in presence of the Junior Minister, Mr Sydney Pierre and other personalities.

Minister Duval highlighted that the 2025 edition will focus on enhancing the overall quality while ensuring improved organisation with a limited budget. He also spoke of the support

provided by the private sector, more specifically the hotel industry in financing the festival activities.

The Minister pointed out that, due to the festival's schedule and budgetary considerations, the number of participating artists will be reduced compared to previous editions. Discussions are also ongoing with transport operators to facilitate public access and ensure smooth travel arrangements during the festival, he added.

He further mentioned that the participation of regional players, including Réunion Island, Rodrigues, and Seychelles, Agalega is also expected. Cultural presentations on the Chagos Archipelago are scheduled to provide a platform for exchange on regional heritage, he said.

Junior Minister Pierre outlined that the festival is a key event in the cultural and touristic calendar of the country, representing the diversity of the Mauritian culture, and celebrating the unique Kreol identity.

The programme is as follows:

5 December, Mont Choisy

The festival will start at 18 00 hours at the public beach of



Mont Choisy, featuring the symbolic lighting of the torch, a theatre performance, and a major concert with local artists.

6 December, Trou d'Eau Douce

A range of cultural activities is scheduled at Four à Chaux in Trou d'Eau Douce displaying the richness of Mauritian heritage.

7 December, Mahebourg

A traditional regatta and culinary demonstrations are on the agenda at Mahebourg Waterfront.

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Rodrigues News

Magdalena Edouard signe ‘Christian à la Rivière’, un album jeunesse inspiré d’un souvenir d’enfance

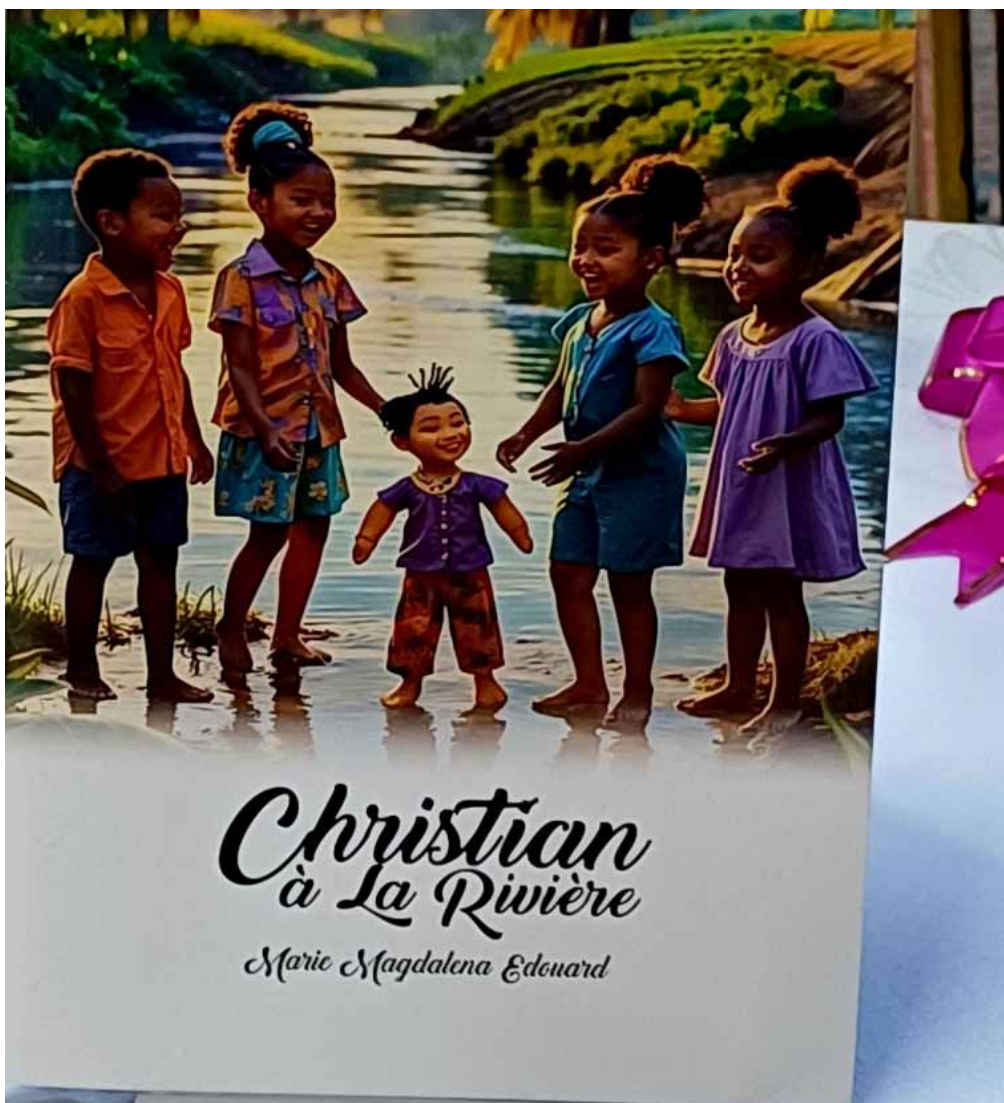
L’auteure rodriguaise Magdalena Edouard revient en librairie avec son quatrième ouvrage, **Christian à la Rivière**, une bande dessinée pour enfants lancée le 15 novembre dernier à la librairie de Port Mathurin. Inspiré d’une scène réelle de son enfance à Saint Gabriel, le livre raconte le sauvetage in extremis de quatre cousins ayant failli se noyer en tentant de récupérer leur poupée cousue main tombée dans la rivière. Une histoire simple, authentique, tissée de courage familial et d’émotions, qui replongera les jeunes lecteurs dans le Rodrigues d’autrefois.

Par Laura Samois / Photos: James Castel

Une enfance paisible, un mariage brisé, et l’écriture comme refuge

Si aujourd’hui Magdalena Edouard affiche un sourire serein lors des séances de dédicace, son parcours n’a pourtant rien d’un long fleuve tranquille. Issue d’une famille où régnaient douceur et amour, sa vie bascule après son mariage lorsqu’elle découvre le véritable visage de celui qui devait la protéger. Longtemps victime de violences conjugales, elle trouve dans l’écriture un exutoire vital : coucher sur papier ses douleurs, ses peurs, mais aussi ses forces naissantes.

Mère de deux filles aujourd’hui âgées de 27 et 23 ans, et désormais divorcée, elle est également secrétaire à l’Assemblée régionale de Rodrigues, au sein de la commission de l’Environnement. Elle vit aujourd’hui à Baie Malgache, dans la maison qu’elle a fait construire, un espace de renaissance.



Madalena Edouard

Un parcours littéraire construit sur la résilience

Son premier livre, ‘Le vent et le silence’, pose déjà les bases de son écriture intime. Le vent symbolise les tempêtes traversées, tandis que le silence évoque ce moment de recul, nécessaire pour tracer un chemin vers un avenir meilleur.

Puis viennent :

« **Thomas ti rev lor Plaine Corail** », en créole rodriguais, adapté ensuite en version française sous le titre « Thomas, le rêveur d’or » ;
« **La vie d’antan racontée à nos jeunes** », hommage au patrimoine d’autrefois ;
« **Le Centenaire** », publié en collaboration avec Jean Noël Baptiste.

Avec **Christian à la Rivière**, Magdalena Edouard revient cette année à un souvenir fondateur : une aventure enfantine qui aurait pu tourner au drame, mais qui se transforme en leçon de courage et d’amour. L’ouvrage d’une vingtaine de pages s’adresse autant aux enfants qu’aux adultes nostalgiques du Rodrigues d’antan.

Une plume engagée et un cœur tourné vers les autres

Au-delà de l’écriture, Magdalena Edouard est une passionnée de volleyball et une femme profondément engagée. Toujours prête à rendre service, elle aide volontiers les personnes dans le besoin et participe à des actions solidaires dès qu’elle le peut.

Christian à la Rivière sera en vente devant l’Office du Tourisme de Rodrigues pendant toute la durée du Festival Kreol, du 30 novembre au 7 décembre 2025. Une occasion idéale de découvrir le nouveau livre de Magdalena Edouard et de rencontrer une auteure qui transforme ses blessures en lumière, tout en transmettant l’âme profonde de Rodrigues.

Source: Courtesy Hello Rodrigues