

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Belmond opening tropical Caribbean hotel

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Beachfront lounge chairs at La Samanna. Image courtesy of Belmond

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

LVMH-owned hospitality group Belmond is opening La Samanna, a beachfront hotel located on the French side of St. Martin, amid continued travel restrictions.

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Opening Feb. 15, the hotel sits upon Baie Longue, one of the island's longest and most secluded beaches and the site of a pre-Columbian village dating back to 600 BCE. La Samanna's 83 suites range from deluxe oceanfront rooms with private balconies to private villas with infinity pools.

La Samanna

Reimagined by London-based interior design firm Muza Lab, the resort evokes a light and colorful ambiance with pastel blues, greens, pinks and peaches, inspired by the natural tones of the Caribbean Sea. Design touches like tabletop pieces made from shells and coral complement the botanical prints that are depicted on fabrics, artworks and mirrors throughout the property.

In an effort towards conservation, La Samanna's turtle watching experience, launching April 1, will take place on the property's beach, which represents 95 percent of all turtle nesting and hatching on St. Martin. Sixty percent of the excursions proceeds will directly support Sea Shepherd's local bureau and their work in protecting marine life in St. Martin.

Guests will also have exclusive opportunities to explore the historic, uninhabited island of Tintamarre with a marine conservationist. The experience allows travelers to spot Hawksbill sea turtles, schools of dolphins and fire corals.

Guests seeking wellness may enjoy La Samanna's Spa, which includes seven treatment rooms, five of which are open-air with private Zen gardens and outdoor showers. Private in-villa experiences are available for guests, including sunrise yoga flows, reiki and evening meditation.



Oceanfront guest suite at La Samanna. Image courtesy of Belmond

La Samanna guests can have private dining experiences nightly, including beach picnics in the sand, in-room al fresco set-up on the balcony or candlelit, wine-paired dinners in La Cave Wine Cellar the largest private wine cellar in the Caribbean. The property's open-air dining venues allow guests to have a socially-distant evening out.

All travelers to St. Martin must complete a mandatory Electronic Health Authorization System (EHAS) whether arriving by air, boat or in transit. The original result of the PCR test must be uploaded upon receipt in order for the health authorization application to be processed.

Travelers to the island are required to have health insurance coverage for their stay and are subject to temperature checks at the Airport Health Checkpoint. Should temperatures be abnormal, the guest would be subject to mandatory testing at their own expense.

Travelers to the island will not need to quarantine at their accommodations during their stay. However, they will be required to self-monitor their body temperature on a daily basis for 8-14 days.

Guests traveling back to the U.S. following their stay can receive their needed PCR test on-property in the privacy and comfort of their own room.

Effective Jan. 26, all air passengers entering the United States are required to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test, according to an order from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ([see story](#)).

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