



Scan the QR code to access the enhanced Saint Lucia ebook featuring multimedia content and info at www.voicesofleaders.com.

to an economy that had been shrinking in other sectors, such as agricultural exports. Investment for a single applicant can be anywhere between US\$200,000 and US\$3.5 million in any of four categories: government bonds, real estate, enterprise or the direct funding of government-sponsored projects. By curbing the annual number of successful CIP applications to 500, and underlining that real estate projects under the CIP are strictly for the development of boutique properties or high-end branded hotels and resorts, the task force behind the programme ensures that the integrity of the island prevails.

To keep the tourism industry buoyant and competitive, much of the investment is being channeled toward infrastructure projects—and this has had a welcome impact upon many of Saint Lucia's established companies. Gilbert N. Fontenard, managing director of FDL Consult Inc., explains: "As infrastructure is identified to be one of the biggest drivers of the economy, we are critically placed to be part of this. In Saint Lucia, there is a highly skilled workforce, particularly when it comes to engineering." FDL Consult Inc. began modestly in Saint Lucia at the turn of the millennium, from a one-man operation to now being one of the largest construction companies in the OECS. Many of Saint Lucia's infrastructure development projects that have been implemented in this time can be attributed to FDL's growing team of well-trained engineers. The evolution of this local company, now operating at a regional level with an international focus, confirms the existence of the island's established and capable workforce. This, in tandem with the advent of the Citizenship by Investment Programme, depicts Saint Lucia as a fully equipped destination for investment. ■

Saint Lucia

Simply a Good Investment

On gradual descent to the island you are met by a kaleidoscope of colors: sprawling white sands are contrasted with the aqua blue of the sea. These are bordered by the bountiful greenery of the inland rain forest, with bursts of rich reds and vibrant splashes of yellow and orange. The bright sunlight appears to scatter these colors intermittently, before resting upon the twin peaks of the Pitons of Saint Lucia, the island's primeval volcanic landmark.

Thought to have been inhabited for thousands of years and having taken all of the best cuisine and character from its Amerindian, African, French, British and Indian settlers, Saint Lucia is steeped in culture and history. One of the most sought-after Caribbean islands, it famously changed hands 14 times between the French and British in an 18th-century tug of war. And with more Nobel laureates per capita than anywhere else in the world, it is a truly unique feast for the senses.

Given its wealth of beauty and cultural

promise, and the subsequently blossoming niche-market tourism sector, it was with great global interest that Saint Lucia launched its Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) on Jan. 1, 2016. The CIP sets out to increase foreign direct investment to the island by issuing citizenship to an elite group of investors wishing to have a share in the island's rich identity. Thaddeus M. Antoine, of TM ANTOINE Partners, a leading legal firm in Saint Lucia, is one of the authorized agents of the CIP, having consulted on the implementation of the programme. He explains how Saint Lucia's CIP is distinct from similar packages found in the region: "Saint Lucia is not selling passports per se—instead, we want the investor to become a part of the country and to take in the culture. This is why it works especially well with tourism. As the top honeymoon destination in the world, the CIP is helping us to manage the tourism sector and promote an investment environment that is attractive for branded hotels."

The CIP has been the perfect response

This section has been produced by The Correspondent, S.L.

Engineers Architects Project Managers Business Consultants

www.fdlconsultinc.com
2nd Floor Hasache Complex, Goodlands, Castries, St Lucia

TM ANTOINE PARTNERS

An Industry Leader

Our sophisticated client base includes investors, financial institutions, major businesses and corporations.

BARRISTERS | ATTORNEYS | NOTARIES | TRADEMARK AGENTS | CITIZENSHIP INVESTMENT ADVISORY

www.tmantoinelaw.com

DISCOVER OUR EBOOKS

NEW ISSUE: **SAINT LUCIA**
AVAILABLE ON

WWW.VOICESOFFLEADERS.COM