

Escapade

Habitation Jouissant

Sets New Norm in Cap-Haitien

Article and Photos by Hunter Kittrell

Cap-Haitien, once considered the little Paris of Haiti, is becoming one of Haiti's hottest new destinations of choice. The small town feel and slower pace of this growing town brings a special charm and atmosphere rarely felt in the bustling streets of the capital. Visitors to Cap-Haitien have access to the most beautiful beaches along the Northern coast, historic sites such as Sans Souci Palace and the Citadelle Laferrière, and a cultural experience unlike any

found in Haiti. With the arrival of American Airlines to the newly renovated airport, it is faster and more affordable than ever to come stay in Cap-Haitien.

Whether you are planning your first trip, or you have visited many times before, there is a new hotel in town that is quickly gaining recognition and setting a new standard for comfort.

Habitation Jouissant is a new kind of hotel for the North. Considered a boutique hotel, Habitation Jouissant goes beyond just creating a relaxing

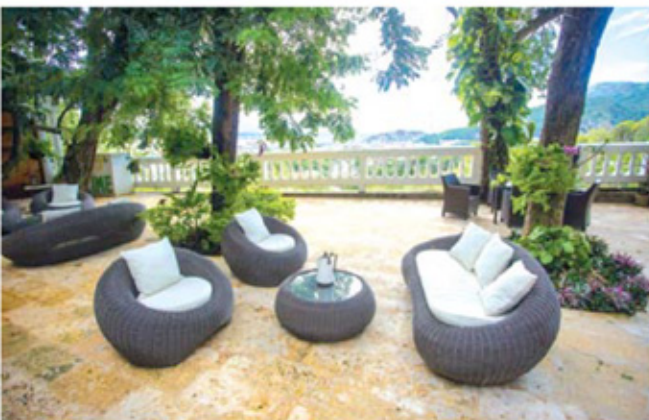
and beautiful ambiance for its guest, they want you to have the personalized service that you need to feel right at home. Literally.

According to hotel manager Catherine Béliard, "No" is not an option at our hotel. Whatever you need to make your stay more comfortable, we will provide it for you. If the guest wants slippers and a bathrobe, done. We will make that happen. If the guest likes the painting on the wall, then we will sell it to them. No problem."

Béliard explained that service at a standard hotel is offered, but with limits. At Habitation Jouissant, they will fill your request on demand. Why else would the president stay here when he comes to town? Not only is the presidential suite one of the most beautiful and spacious rooms offered in all of Cap-Haitien, but the hotel provides just what is needed to make him feel at home.

This ginger bread style villa was not always a hotel though. For years Béliard's family used





the villa as a bed and breakfast. It was so popular that it just seemed right to turn it into a hotel that provided the same level of comfort and personalized service as the bed and breakfast.

Since 2010 the hotel has gained popularity and in 2014 was rated as a 4 Hibiscus by Haiti's Ministry of Tourism, and listed as number one on Trip Adviser for Cap-Haitien.

The hotel boasts an unmatched bird's eye view of Cap-Haitien and its surrounding coastline. The ocean breeze climbs up the mountain and cools the charming dining and pool areas. Habitation Jouissant's restaurant, Basilik, is host to some of the top chefs in Northern Haiti, and the Lime Bar provides visitors with incredible views while enjoying their favorite drinks.

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"If tourism is to grow in Northern Haiti, then the local infrastructure must accommodate the needs of the visitors," Béliard continues. "We provide hotel shuttle service to and from the airport, and if getting out and seeing the country side interests you, we have guided tours and transportation to all of the top historic sights."

Right now the quaint little hotel has 13 rooms, but big plans are in the works for 2015 and beyond. In the next year, Habitation Jouissant plans to expand to 60 rooms, add a new spa, gym, conference center for 120

people, and a parking lot which will accommodate 80 vehicles. "These plans are already in the works and we have already started breaking ground," says Béliard.

Truly, this one of a kind hotel could be the new norm for comfort and service in Cap-Haïtien. As the tourism industry continues to grow in Cap-Haïtien, you can be assured that Habitation Jouissant will continue to stand as one of the favorite hotels for all those visiting this beautiful country.

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