

THE BLOG

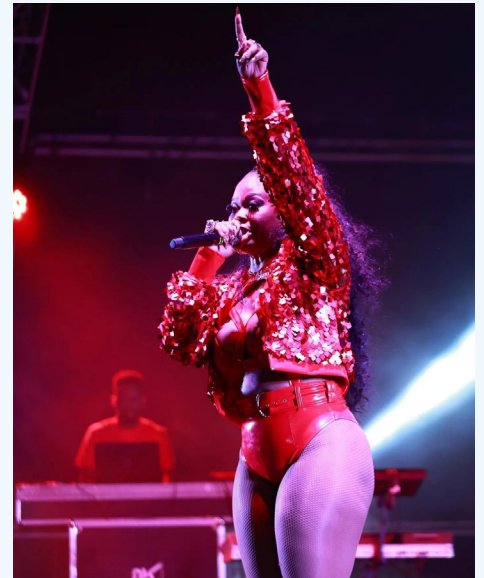
Bay Gardens Resorts



Saint Lucia Carnival

2022 WRAP UP

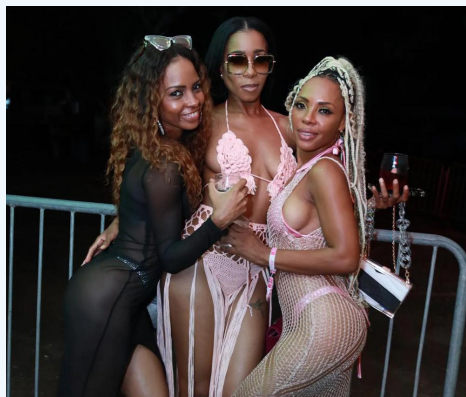
With much anticipation and excitement, Saint Lucia Carnival returned after a two-year hiatus amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Taking place in one of the most beautiful places on Earth, St Lucia Carnival is a vibrant display of local culture and heritage. This is the time where people shed their inhibitions and the daily constraints of life, to indulge in the ultimate party experience. Whether you managed to 'Jump' in a Carnival band or not, there were a slew of activities leading up to the event, which gave people plenty of options to enjoy that St. Lucian Carnival feeling. The festivities were a sight to see and something to behold. The island was filled with the sights and sounds of drums, calypso, soca, reggae, banjos, feathers, glitter, beads, sequins, and happy people dancing under the sun.



It all began in 1947, with the first recorded organized St. Lucia Carnival. The celebration occurred after World War II, where a small group of people dressed in ragged clothes began to beat rhythms on bottles and pieces of steel as they paraded through the capital city of Castries. The following year in 1948 saw the inclusion of steel bands, calypsos, and costumed bands. The idea of Carnival was initially brought to the Caribbean by European settlers during colonization, where after emancipation, freed slaves adopted the tradition which has slowly evolved into what it is today; an eclectic mix of African, European, and religious roots. The festival is a significant part of St. Lucian history as it was birthed from the European tradition of "Carne Vale," which in English means "Fleeing meat." Carnival celebrations were held prior to the advent of

lent, where people would fully indulge in their guilty pleasures. Now, the festival is held in July, during the summer.

Although the 2022 Carnival season was scaled down, as health authorities acted on the side of caution amid the global health environment, there was still a lot to see and do. Beginning in June, Calypsonians and soca artistes debuted their music in shows known as “tents.” Some of these tents were solely for the enjoyment of patrons while others were judged, and it was decided who would make it to the finals of either the Calypso or Soca Monarch competitions. Ten competitors were chosen for the big stage and to compete in the finals. Unique to Saint Lucia, is a genre of music which is a fusion of dancehall, soca and zouk, known as “Dennerly Segment” or “Saint Lucian Kuduro”. This genre is infectious and features lyrics in both English and our native French Creole (Kweyol). We have seen its international penetration with Saint Lucia’s carnival spirit since its inception a few years ago.



One of the most exciting events for the season is the National Carnival Queen Pageant. Eight St. Lucian beauties embarked on a six-week journey in their quest to become St. Lucia’s next Carnival Queen. This included a series of on-air interviews, special appearances, a motorcade, and a host of benevolent initiatives in collaboration with their sponsors. The Bay Gardens Resorts partnered with the Dermalogics Clinic to show their support for the arts and culture through the sponsorship of Ms. Merel Popo, one of the contestants for the National Carnival Queen Pageant. Merel gave an amazing account of herself, appearing in five onstage appearances on show night including interview, performing talent, swimwear, costume, and evening wear.

The Panorama competition and the King & Queen of the Bands were two other national events on the carnival calendar with amazing performances from the participants. The back-to-back private parties also had the season bursting with excitement. From paint and powder parties to all-inclusive soirees, there was an event for just about everybody. If you enjoy partying on the ocean, there were a multitude of boat rides like JOB, Soca Raff Up and Speed. Saint Lucian music is simply infectious and our local artistes such as Teddyson John, Ricky T, Ambi and Dezral ensured that we were dancing and grooving. U4RIA, Color Me Red and Famalay were some of the staple concerts for the season and saw the likes of internationally acclaimed artistes such as Maxi Priest, Patrice Roberts, and Destra Garcia.



The Carnival season culminated in an exciting fun filled two-day street parade of live bands and DJ music, stunning Carnival costumes and the joyous and energetic revelry typical of Caribbean carnivals. Eight costumed bands paraded in the city circuit; all with a distinctive portrayal in the hopes of claiming the prestigious title of “Band of the Year.” Just4Fun Carnival, a veteran band emerged victorious, acquiring the title of Band of the Year 2022. Although this was an incredibly amazing return of St. Lucia Carnival, we hope that in the coming years we can see the return of events such as junior carnival, inter-commercial calypso, and community carnivals.

Saint Lucia Carnival is truly a special celebration of our history, culture, and creativity. The Bay Gardens Resorts are all conveniently located close to the Carnival celebrations and event venues and have been a preferred accommodation choice for visiting Carnival revelers for over two decades. There is already excitement and anticipation (and advanced bookings!) for Saint Lucian Carnival 2023. Booking early to avoid disappointment is always advised!



Saint Lucia, WI