

BUSINESS TRAVELLER

The kids are all right



With half term fast approaching, parents will be relieved to hear that the new KidsOnly at the **ONE&ONLY LE SAINT GÉRAN**, Mauritius opens its doors this month. KidsOnly is a complimentary service for all of the resort's guests from four to 11 years old, featuring everything to keep children entertained.

"At One&Only Le Saint Géran we want our young guests to have just as great a time as their parents. The aim is to raise the bar and create the ultimate kids' holiday," says Andrew Milton, general manager at the luxury resort. The action-packed KidsOnly activity programme provides something for children of all ages and tastes with every day of the week focusing on a different theme from Paradise Island to Aquatic.

All sessions are fully supervised by highly trained, multilingual staff, allowing parents to relax, safe in the knowledge that their kids are having fun in good hands.

For creative types there is plenty to learn from mosaic making and Mauritian Sega dancing to kite making and cookery classes — where little chefs are kitted out in personalised chefs' uniforms. Night-time treasure hunts and banana-boating are ideal for little adventurers while budding actors will enjoy taking part in the stage productions. Active types are in for a treat with golf initiations, mini beach Olympics, volleyball, tennis and boat rides. And the extensive white sand beaches and calm water of the lagoon make One&Only Le Saint Géran the ideal spot for young water-sports enthusiasts.

The clubhouse is also packed with the latest toys and games as well as a wide array of electronic gadgetry.

GADGETS

iPod killer?

We've said it before and we'll say it again: there are better alternatives to the iPod. But nobody can seem to crack the same level of usability that you get from Apple's media players. iPods are quite simply much easier to use.

The Zen X-Fi, however, is a more superior player in many other respects and it should definitely appeal to a more hardcore video and audiophile crowd. It does not require special software to access and will support nearly any video or audio format you throw at it.

Capacity starts at 8GB and goes up to 32GB. It also has FM radio and like Apple's high-end iPod Touch connects to wireless networks.

There are, however, three distinct problems. First is the elaborate control system — the nine buttons on the face are unnecessary and do nothing to attract people wanting simplicity in design. The headphones are also below par, something Apple still dominates, and while it supports a lot of formats it does not support as many as other Creative players.



▲ Zen X-Fi, from \$299.



3D magic — without the glasses

UK and Dubai-based media company Balfour International Group ▼ Creative advertising are currently placing the latest in 3D technology at major malls by Philips, from \$20,000.

The technology, manufactured by Philips, which partnered with Balfour, sees 3D images fly right out of the screen for the first time without the need for any 3D glasses.

The screens utilise a lenticular technology and all of the content is created in-house by Balfour's own specialist 3D creative team. Balfour's international



client base are having their advertising messages displayed upon these screens, and with 3D TV still in its infancy, the quality of the content is improving day by day.

"Brands need to be distinctive in their communications and marketers need to use tools that match their brand identity," says Jos Swillens, CEO of Philips 3D Solutions.



Canon goes back to black

Canon Middle East has released its first all-over black Digital IXUS 980 IS. But there is far more to this camera than good looks. It's packed with the very latest in imaging technology, including a 14.7 megapixel camera giving you enough detail for poster-size prints, as well as Face Detection and Motion Detection Technology.

For those who like to experiment, the Digital IXUS 980 IS offers another all-new feature for Digital IXUS: a manual mode that allows control of shutter speed and aperture, making it ideal for handling tricky lighting conditions, or getting dramatic effects like motion blur. And if you see

something that deserves a place on YouTube, you can switch to shooting great 30fps VGA movie clips.

▲ Canon Digital IXUS 980 IS, around \$400.