



## Inauguration RIOU OCEAN GLASS launches its state-of-the-art glass factory at Mer Rouge

**Dive into the world of glass in all its brilliance! This was the invitation extended by RIOU OCEAN GLASS on the occasion of the inauguration of its glass factory equipped with unique technology in the Indian Ocean. Indeed, the event took place in two parts on Thursday 18th April 2024: a morning tour of the factory in Mer Rouge, followed by an evening cocktail at the unique and historic setting of the Ruins of Balaclava, at the Maritim Resort & Spa. The launch was led by Pierre Riou, the founder of RIOU Glass, and his partners – Hervé Coutelas, Jean-Pierre Souchaire, and Emmanuel Thieblin –, in front of a prestigious audience including Naveena Ramyad, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs, and Cooperatives, Oskar Benedikt, Ambassador of the European Union to Mauritius, Frédéric Bontems and Albert-Camille Vital, respectively Ambassador of France and Madagascar, as well as Patrick Morin, President of the France-Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Leveraging RIOU Glass's 40 years of expertise in France, the factory is the only one specialised in the processing of a wide variety of the most complex glasses.**

*"RIOU OCEAN GLASS is more than just a factory. It is a responsible company, particularly in upholding human values. I want to emphasise the crucial importance of our employees in the success of RIOU OCEAN GLASS's establishment in Mauritius. Their expertise, solidarity, and passion are the pillars on which our company stands. Today, I want to warmly thank them and express how much we care about their well-being and fulfilment alongside us. Our mission today is to define the vision of glass in the Indian Ocean. As such, I am convinced that the best is yet to come and that we are ready to face future challenges to address the societal issues ahead,"* stated Pierre Riou, President of RIOU OCEAN GLASS.

The inauguration was divided into two parts. The morning tour of the factory, led by its president Pierre Riou and CEO Emmanuel Thieblin, allowed guests to discover the range of innovative, trendy, and socially responsible products offered by RIOU OCEAN GLASS. These products incorporate a variety of uses and functionalities such as ballistic protection, heating, insulation, LED lighting, in addition to offering colourful and personalised design. The entire transformation and manufacturing process also adhere to the strictest standards to ensure the safety of both workers and end users.

In the evening, the team welcomed guests to a cocktail party to properly celebrate this important milestone. Everything was meticulously planned and orchestrated to make this evening a true ode to the glass universe: from the invitation to the inauguration plaque on glass, to the decoration and exhibition of the talented artist Baba Gaïa, whose works were printed on glass panels. Since culture and creativity are essential to RIOU OCEAN GLASS, the singer Yvette Dantier was also present for a sweet musical interlude. Last but not the least, an inspiring film based on the company's history and the importance of human relationships in its development was also screened during the evening.



*"In two years, we have gone from a vision to a high-end glass factory. In two years, a truly united team has been built. The RIOU OCEAN GLASS family grows larger day by day. The story of a company consists of chapters and I am proud to have participated in chapter 1, the establishment of the factory. On this day, we are all turning a page together in the life of RIOU OCEAN GLASS, to move on to the next chapters: serving our customers with excellent products and quality service. Our products must meet your needs and, above all, surprise you. So let's continue working together towards a brighter, more comfortable, more transparent, and above all, more responsible world,"* shared Louis Riou, Development Manager at RIOU OCEAN GLASS.

#### **Inset**

#### **Art**

#### **Glass**

#### **Inauguration**

#### **A sparkling collaboration with Baba Gaïa**

Glass, one of the most fascinating materials, offers artists numerous possibilities for creation. Blown, coloured, engraved, mosaics... the inspiration is endless. With a commitment to promoting arts and culture, RIOU OCEAN GLASS wished to collaborate with an exceptional artist for the factory's inauguration. Baba Gaïa, a multidisciplinary artist from Mauritius, whose colourful universe fascinated the RIOU OCEAN GLASS team, created a series of impressive works that were digitally printed on various glass supports. A painting by the artist was also put up for sale, and the funds raised will be donated to the NGO, *Amour Sans Frontières*, which works towards specialised education and vocational training for children and young adults with disabilities.

#### **Hors-text**

#### **About RIOU OCEAN GLASS**

In 2023, the RIOU OCEAN GLASS team relocated to Mauritius to establish a cutting-edge technology factory, bringing with them 40 years of expertise and know-how. Their goal is twofold: to provide exclusive, innovative, and socially responsible glass solutions while also strengthening local skills and creating value and jobs locally. The RIOU OCEAN GLASS team is mainly composed of Mauritians, who represent 95% of the staff, and have been trained in RIOU GLASS factories in France.

#### **Hors-text**

#### **RIOU Glass in Brief**

RIOU Glass, founded in 1979 by Pierre and Christiane RIOU, is a French family-owned company specialising in innovative glass solutions. The company processes 100,000 tons of flat glass per year, offering a wide range of products for building, transportation, as well as other industries. Based in Honfleur, it has 23 industrial sites in France and Italy, and is present in European, Indian Ocean, and North American markets. With an ethos focused on the well-being of its 1,000 employees, RIOU Glass encourages talent



development in a sustainable environment. In 2022, Pierre RIOU handed over RIOU Glass to his children, formed a new team, and embarked on conquering the Indian Ocean market through RIOU OCEAN GLASS.