

## **Richard Whitfield, Managing Director**

Richard Whitfield became managing director of Half Moon in 2002, having been a major player at the resort since 1976, first as financial controller and later as director of operations.

Born and brought up in Birmingham, England, Richard was a practicing accountant with Coopers & Lybrand in Liberia from 1972-1975. In 1975, he moved to Montego Bay, Jamaica, to become chief accountant at Chatham Beach Hotel where his outstanding abilities were noted by Heinz Simonitsch, then managing director of Half Moon, who later hired him.

Under his leadership Half Moon embarked on a major refurbishing programme, which began in 2003 with the rebuilding of the then 50 year old Hibiscus Suites – part of the original Half Moon Hotel & Cottage Colony. Since then Richard has overseen renovations to the resort's championship golf course; upgraded the Oleander Cottages; created the Anancy Children's Village as well as renovated the Italian and seaside restaurants Il Giardino and La Baguette respectively.

In 2007 Mr. Whitfield and his team opened the 68,000 square foot indoor/outdoor spa oasis Fern Tree, the Spa at Half Moon. A jewel in the Half Moon crown, Fern Tree boasts treatment rooms that open to private garden patios, an outdoor yoga pavilion and soaking tubs, swimming pools and spa café. Additionally, Half Moon also added six beachfront spa suites, the first of their kind in the Caribbean.

Richard has been a driving force in the Montego Bay community as well as president of the Caribbean chapter of Skai International and a board member of the Caribbean Hotel Association Training Institute.