

The tourism minister for St. Lucia says the Caribbean island's first casino will open for business in January.

Allen

Chastanet says it will be operated by Treasury Bay Corp. of Biloxi, Mississippi.

He said Friday that the casino will have 350 slot machines and 14 gaming tables. It will be inside a new mall at Gros Islet on the northern end of the island.

The casino is one of several projects the government has pursued seeking to revive its tourism industry. The business has been rebounding from the global recession, showing a 16 percent increase in visitor arrivals this year.

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