

The islandchief

travel news

VOL 82 | May 2023 | www.islandchief.com

Email : news@islandchief.com | Hotline : +960 7980088



Create Dishes
Worth Celebrating With Nestlé cream

Nestlé Cream
CREAMINESS FROM THE HEART
Nestlé cream is an all purpose versatile cooking cream.

Grilled chicken with creamy mushroom sauce

Sausage pasta

Cream of Pumpkin

Mango Panacotta

Nestlé PROFESSIONAL
MAKING MORE POSSIBLE



Etihad Airways Marks Significant Milestone in Middle East's First Boeing 787 Dreamliner Multi-Crew Pilot License Programme

Pg: 03



Dolce & Gabbana to Launch a Luxury Hotel in Maldives

Pg: 14



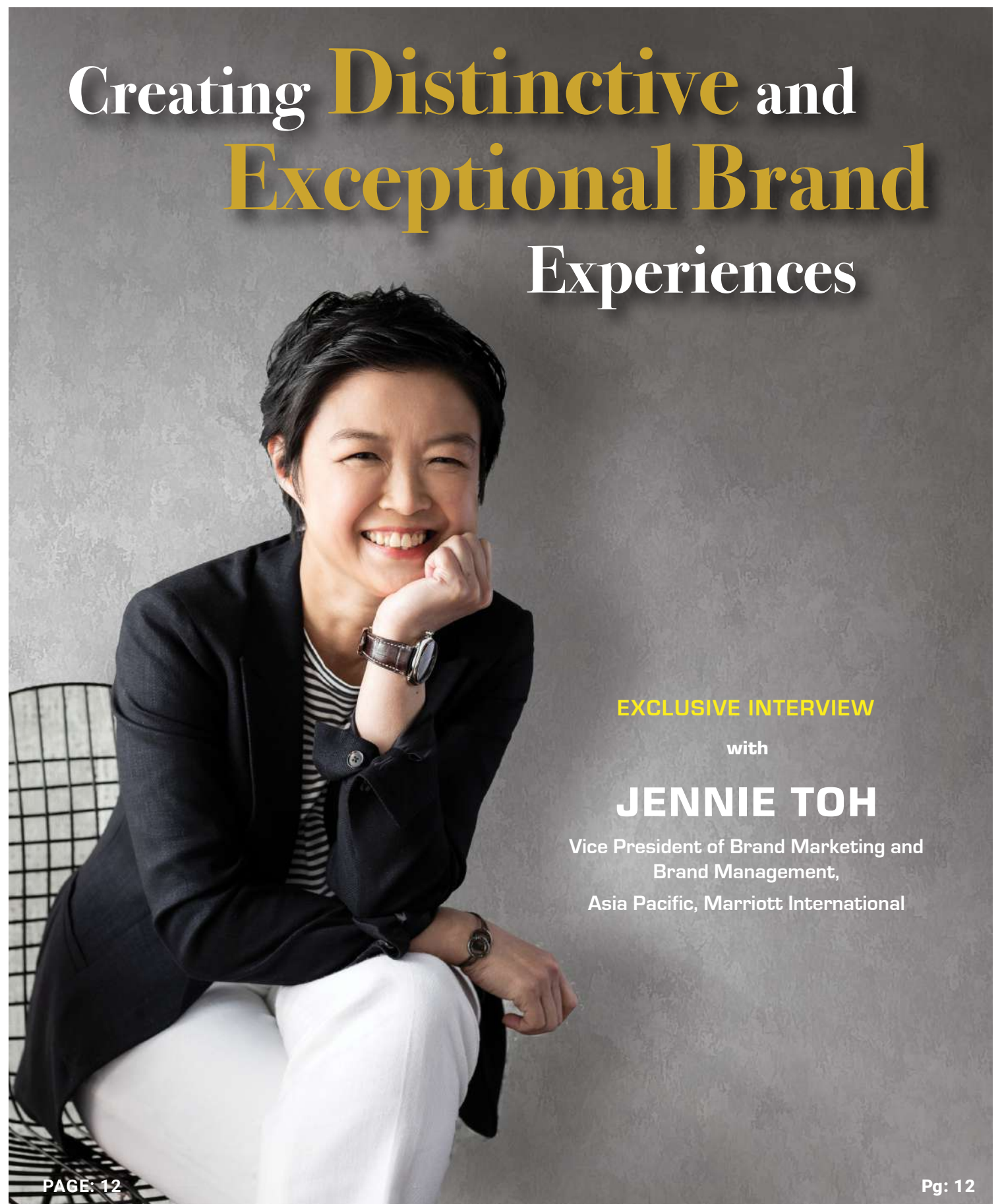
Velana International Airport Marks 57th Year with Major Infrastructure Upgrades and Improved Services

Pg: 18



Highrise Pvt Ltd Partners with Royhle Aviation Academy to Organize an Aviation Networking Event

Pg: 21



Creating Distinctive and Exceptional Brand Experiences

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
with
JENNIE TOH
Vice President of Brand Marketing and Brand Management,
Asia Pacific, Marriott International

PAGE: 12

Pg: 12

SECURE YOUR DATA & INFRASTRUCTURE
with Ooredoo Maldives Data Center

Scan for Info



ooredoo
business

Publisher's Note



Managing Editor
Mariyam Maaisha

Management Team
Ismail Hameed
Ismail Shifraz
Mohamed Shamin

Sales & Marketing
Mohamed Hassaan Ismail

Finance & Accounts
Mariyam Niuma
Yusra Naseer

Consultant
Ahmed Ijaz

Content Executives
Mariyam Zeena

Contributing Writers
Dr Sachin Bansal
Thasim Rafi
Ibrahim Nizam

Design
Richard Mendonca, Flavours Inc.

Web Development
Ahmed Fazeel
Ibrahim Nisham (Paighde)

Distribution
Shahid Uddin

Website:



Address:
Maldives Publications Pvt Ltd
Super Market Shopping Centre,
6th Floor, Chaandhanee Magu,
Male, 20189
Maldives

Phone : +960 3307898
Email : sales@islandchief.com

News & Press Releases to be shared by email to :
news@islandchief.com

Follow us on ;



@theislandchief

Dear Readers,

As we continue navigating a changing economic landscape, after a 3-year pandemic and go back to living 'normal' lives, it is clear that in order to thrive and grow, the tourism and hospitality industry must reorient its priorities and focus on the one thing that matters today: the customer. In fact, all research and expert predictions point to the fact that if the customer is not given the attention they deserve, the business can die a painful death.

In this issue of The islandchief, we sat with Jennie Toh, Vice President of Brand Marketing and Brand Management for Asia Pacific at Marriott International – also on our cover story to probe some of these changing dynamics and trends post COVID-19 and its way forward. We're not spoiling the suspense for you: read on to find out on page 12.

Our tabloid will keep you posted on the latest of Maldives travel and tourism; world-renowned luxury brand, Dolce and Gabbana announces hotel launch in the Maldives (page 14), South Asian Travel Awards 2023 extends deadline for nominations (page 20) and find out which local brand profiles are highlighted in our 'Best Read' section of this month's issue (page 16).

We also have Chef Herman bringing us a taste from his hometown in South America in our Bon Appetit section for this month's edition. The dish, Lomo Saltado is a Peruvian stir-fried beef made with wagyu beef tenderloin and a delicious Lomo Saltado sauce.

That's not all. In addition to all of this, we have our favorite and regular opinion, perspective and insight column, "Frankly Speaking" offering a wealth of information about the industry and the way ahead. So, make sure you don't miss this issue. Happy Reading!

Until next time,

The Islandchief Team



OHVALHU GONDI

Ohvalhu Gondi is a traditional game played in the Maldives, which is inspired by similar games in Indonesia. Players use cowrie shells or small pebbles to play on a board with eight holes or more. The objective is to empty all of the shells or pebbles on one's side of the board and get them into the designated keyhole at the end of the board. Players move counterclockwise and their designated "home" hole is on their left side. The first player to empty their eight holes wins the game. Ohvalhu Gondi is popular among both adults and children, and in the absence of a board, people can make a makeshift one on the beach using coconut shells and play with small items found on the beach.

Ohvalhu Gondi is a unique game with its own specific rules and objectives that has become a staple of Maldivian culture. Its popularity among different age groups and its adaptability to different environments make it a fun and accessible pastime for everyone.

Photo credit: Muja's Art Box

DISTRIBUTION



120+ RESORTS



350+ GUESTHOUSES



60+ LIVEABOARDS



20+ AIRLINES



100+ COMPANY EXECUTIVES



5 UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

Etihad Airways Marks Significant Milestone in Middle East's First Boeing 787 Dreamliner Multi-Crew Pilot License Programme



Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has achieved a significant milestone as the first of its cadet pilots successfully completed 'Base Training' on an actual Boeing 787 Dreamliner as part of its Multi-Crew Pilot License (MPL) programme.

'Base Training' flights are used to train cadet pilots on take-off and landings under the supervision of a qualified instructor. After this step, the cadet pilots will further progress their training on the most efficient and advanced wide-body aircraft in the market, the Boeing 787

Dreamliner. Launched in October 2020, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner MPL programme was developed in collaboration with IATA and the GCAA and has been designed to meet the growing demand for highly skilled pilots in the industry.

To achieve the highest proficiency standards, the programme trains cadets to become fully qualified Boeing 787 Dreamliner pilots through an accelerated and highly advanced curriculum that capitalises on leading industry learning techniques and technology.

The programme provides pilots with structured training tailored to meet the requirements of the airline, its aircraft and operational environment. It includes theoretical knowledge and simulator training, as well as on-the-job flight training with some of the most experienced instructors on this aircraft type.

Mohammad Al Bulooki, Chief Operating

Officer at Etihad Airways said, "Etihad's UAE national cadet pilots are the first to complete this significant milestone on one of the world's first Boeing 787 Dreamliner MPL programmes".

"This achievement is a testament to Etihad's commitment to continuously invest and develop our UAE national talent by adopting state-of-the-art training methodologies. Through this programme, Etihad's cadet pilots will receive the most advanced training in commercial aviation as we prepare for our continued growth in 2023 and beyond".

The base training flight was successfully flown by Second Officers Aya Saleh Alaudhli and Abdulla Rasheed Alsheebani under the supervision of Captain Suraj Weerasekera. Second Officer Aya Saleh Alaudhli said: "Thanks to our leadership and their belief in Emirati women, I am proud and privileged to be in the first batch of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner MPL programme that Etihad has successfully pioneered".

www.astrabon.net



est. 2002
ASTRABON
Quality Assured

support@astrabon.net
+960 300 80 60 | +960 797 15 70
Orchid Magu, Malé, Republic of Maldives



ACROSS THE SKIES

Malaysia's Batik Air to Launch Scheduled Flights to Maldives

Batik Air, a Malaysian airline, is preparing to launch scheduled flights to the Maldives starting May 12. The flights will make a transit in Colombo, Sri Lanka before arriving at the island nation. The airline will use the Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft for its daily operations. Batik Air has previously served Sri Lanka from 2015 to 2020.

In addition, Saudi Arabia's budget airline, Flynas, is set to commence operations to the Maldives in June.

The addition of the two new airlines to the Maldives is expected to boost tourist arrivals. According to statistics shared by the Ministry of Tourism for March last week, the Maldives has already received over half a million tourists this year.



"Batik Air will continue to develop our schedules and network by inducting new destinations and resumption of existing routes to meet the ever-growing global demand for travel," CEO Mushafiz Bin Mustafa Bakri says. "The new routes will provide yet another additional choice

to business and leisure passengers with connectivity via Kuala Lumpur."

These new flight operations are good news for the Maldives' tourism industry as it opens the door for more convenient travel options for the visitors. The Maldives is a popular

tourist destination known for its pristine beaches, clear waters, and vibrant marine life. As more airlines resume operations to the Maldives, it is expected that tourism will continue to grow and contribute to the country's economy.

Emirates Skywards Partners with Dilmah Tea to Offer Members Exclusive Tea-inspired Experiences



Emirates Skywards, the award-winning loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, has partnered with Dilmah Tea to offer members an exciting opportunity to experience the lush tea plantations in Sri Lanka. Starting from April 14, 2023, members can bid Miles with Skywards Exclusives for a chance to win a stay at the Tea Maker's Private Retreat. The once in a lifetime opportunity includes a tea-making masterclass, a unique culinary experience inspired by tea, food

pairing experiences with tea and a visit to explore the tea fields.

Ring in International Tea Day in the heart of a tea plantation

Starting from 200,000 Miles, Emirates Skywards members can bid and win an all-expenses paid trip to Sri Lanka. The prize includes two round trip Business Class tickets on Emirates from Dubai to Colombo; a three-night stay for two guests at Hilton Colombo; a three-night visit to tea plantations

at Ceylon Tea Trails, a Relais & Châteaux property which consists of five restored historic tea planter residences in the Ceylon tea region; a master class with Dilhan C.

Fernando, the son of the founder and CEO of Dilmah, to enjoy an educational session on how to taste tea and brew the perfect cup; a special food pairing with tea-inspired gastronomy with the Dilmah family; and a seven-course tea-inspired dinner "Camellia Epicurean"

where tea is used as an ingredient for all the dishes.

The package also includes transportation to and from the airport, meals at the all-day dining restaurant at Hilton Colombo, and all meals and beverages at the Ceylon Tea Trails. Travel dates will be from May 18 until May 24, 2023. What better way to celebrate International Tea Day on May 21 than by being at the heart of a tea plantation!

More than 31 years of partnership with Dilmah Tea

Emirates and Dilmah Tea have enjoyed a successful partnership for more than three decades, brewing the finest teas on-board and in Emirates' airport lounges worldwide. The airline continues to take the Dilmah brand name to 140 destinations across six continents through its extensive network.

Each year, the airline brews 33 million cups of Dilmah tea for its customers from a specially curated tea menu available in all classes. More than 10 different varieties of tea are available on-board, including popular choices like Dilmah Ceylon Black Tea, Moroccan Mint, and Breakfast Tea.

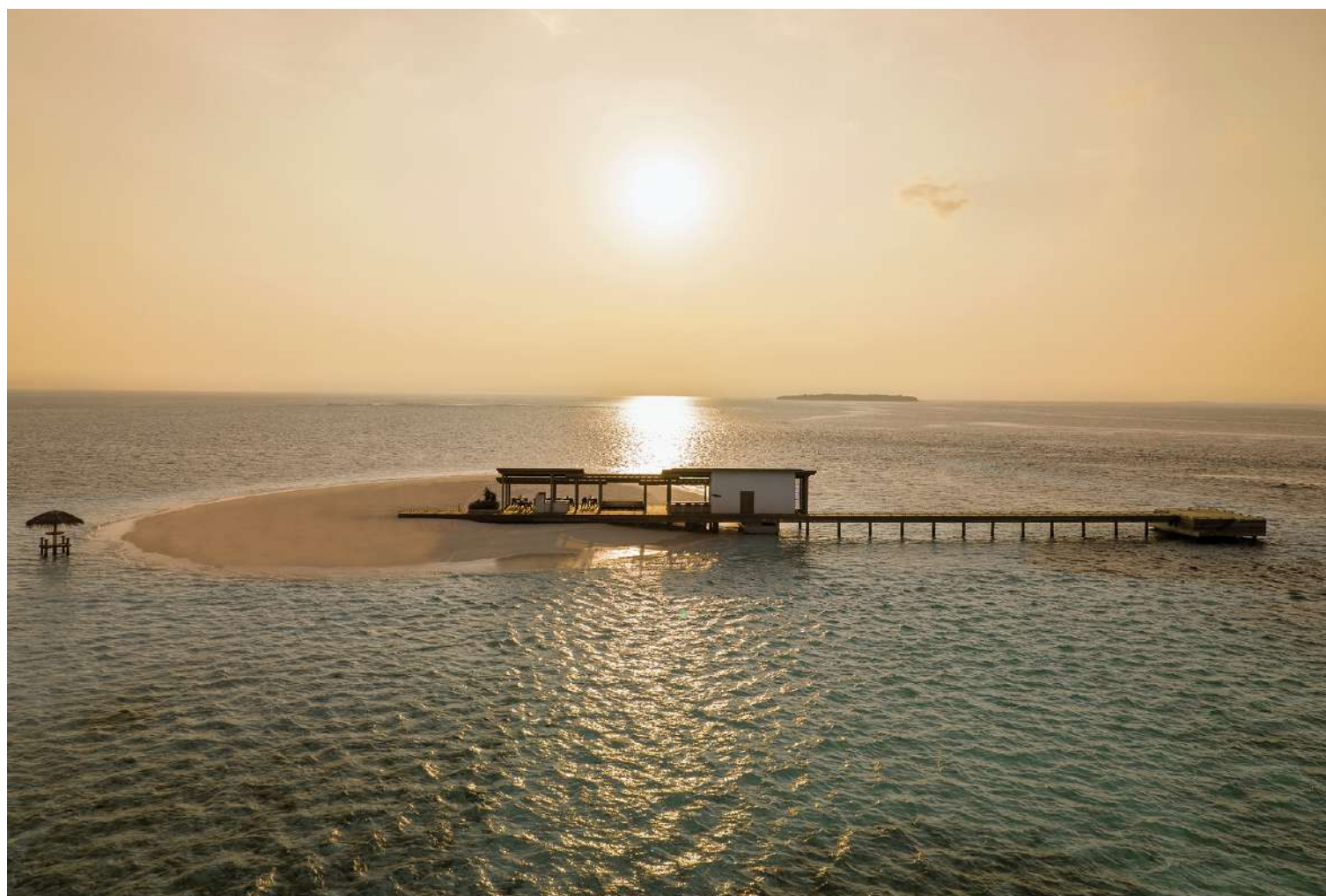
Premium passengers can also savor the aromatic flavors of Emirates Signature tea blend made exclusively for the airline by Dilmah and served only in First Class. Inspired by flavors of the UAE – the exquisite tea has rich aromatic notes of rose, almond and ginger.

Live in the moment with Skywards Exclusives

Emirates Skywards continues to offer more than 30 million members worldwide unmatched rewards in the air and on-ground.

IN A NUTSHELL

Newly Introduced Shack Offers Private Sandbank Dining Experiences at Alila Kothaifaru Maldives



With the launch of The Shack, a private sandbank surrounded by the extraordinary natural beauty of the Maldives, Alila Kothaifaru Maldives offers another understated, sophisticated space in which to dine, unwind and celebrate special moments.

From the moment you step onto the jetty after a five-minute boat ride from the resort, you are transported to a whole different world that will sweep you away on a luxurious adventure with unobstructed views of the Indian

Ocean, nestled in the house reef that invites you to jump right into its crystal clear waters.

On this pearl of soft powdery white sand amid the turquoise lagoon, the vibrancy of an open kitchen and bar and the feel of the ocean breeze create a remarkable sense of openness and connection to the ocean for a relaxed dining experience. For another level of incredible, you can take in the panorama of the ocean from the indulgence of a daybed or

swing hammock, elevate your relaxation with a session of pampering at The Sandbank Spa by Spa Alila, and go snorkeling or diving to explore the beauty of the underwater world that beckons just steps from the sand.

Sailing in a traditional Maldivian dhoni from the resort's main island, two distinct trips to The Shack are available daily. Each 4-hour day trip includes a set lunch or dinner menu, the highlight of which is a Jospur Charcoal Grill Experience featuring a

medley of meats and seafood sourced from local, sustainable producers and grilled to perfection in a Jospur charcoal oven. This ancestral culinary practice of charcoal grilling allows meats to be seared quickly at heats of up to 500 degrees Celsius, sealing in the juices while permeating the meat with delicious smoky flavors.

The perfect accompaniment to this flavourful dining experience can be found at The Shack bar, which serves a range of craft cocktails, all made with natural and organic ingredients and premium spirits. The Shack signature infused cocktails are a must-try for a taste of island bliss.

Besides the set menus, guests can create special memories with one of the following The Shack Signature Dining Experiences.

The Shack Castaway Picnic | Indulge in a solo, couple's or family picnic with a bento box filled with an array of tantalizing light bites, desserts, fresh healthy juices and more. Revel in a moment of solitude, fun or romance with a dreamy island-style picnic setup while soaking in the unending views.

The Shack Dinner Under the Stars | The Shack is the perfect place for a celebration with your partner, family or friends. Savor a once-in-a-lifetime dining experience in the middle of the Indian Ocean, enjoying a beach barbecue cooked by a private chef, framed by magical views as the sun dips towards the horizon.

IVEVOLK
Touch the future
SeaTouch 4 Max

60M WATERPROOF

EMERGENCY CONTACT

ACCESS TO ALL APPS UNDERWATER

BUTTON-FREE DESIGN

WPS
TRADE PVT LTD



Housing for Smartphone
Real Underwater Full Touchscreen



Website: www.wps-trade.com
Email: sales@wps-trade.com
WhatsApp/ Viber/ Call
+960 734 6446

IN A NUTSHELL

Four Seasons Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru Reveals 'Manta Hot Dates' for 2023

The Manta Trust team at Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru is once again preparing for the greatest underwater show on Earth, and thanks to its intensely researched “hot dates,” marine adventurers can now maximize their chance to swim with the world’s largest-known manta ray population.

It's one of the most exciting times of the year in the Maldives Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Between May and November, plankton-rich currents lure reef manta rays to local waters in their hundreds for graceful feeding frenzies. Having studied this group of gentle oceanic giants for nearly twenty years, the Manta Trust team at Landaa Giraavaru are best placed to offer extraordinary insights into their habits and lifestyles.

During 2022's manta ray season, The Manta Trust - whose researchers have run The Maldivian Manta Ray Project (MMRP) at Landaa Giraavaru since 2005 - estimated 6,083 manta ray sightings in the waters around the Resort.

At nearby Hanifaru Bay, famed for its mass manta aggregations, an estimated 5,016 sightings were made. Across the archipelago, 176 manta rays were identified for the first time, bringing the total known Maldives reef manta ray population to 5,507 - the largest recorded in the world.

During June 2022, Landaa Giraavaru's researchers (and guests!) were also lucky enough to encounter more than 60 manta rays on the Resort's House Reef. For the

first time ever, the mantas were observed engaging in cyclone feeding - a rotating feeding circle resembling a cyclone - within a stone's throw of the Resort's Arrival Jetty.

“It was so special to show guests cyclone-feeding mantas directly from the beach,” recalls Ellie Strike, MMRP Project Manager at Landaa Giraavaru. “It goes to show, you don't always need to visit Hanifaru Bay for manta encounters - sometimes they come to you!”

With wingspans of up to 4.5 meters (15 feet), the largest brain-to-size ratio of any cold-blooded fish, and a cognitive function on a par with dolphins, primates and elephants, reef mantas are some of the most impressive creatures in the ocean.

The importance of facilitating connections to mantas to understand their vital place in our ecosystems has sadly only increased this past year, with giant manta rays - the close cousin of the reef manta - being uplisted in December 2021 to “endangered” on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List. The reef manta ray remains listed as “vulnerable.”

“When a guest meets these intelligent and curious animals in their natural habitat, something truly magical happens,” continues Ellie. “Awed by nature, they quickly come to realize just how crucial it is to take care of our oceans to protect creatures like mantas. For us as researchers and educators, that's what our work is all about.”



And it's not just the mantas that are worth getting wet for at Four Seasons Landaa Giraavaru: 2022's manta season also saw a record 27 whale shark sightings in local waters. The largest of any fish alive today, unthreatening whale sharks also seek to exploit the plankton-rich waters of Baa Atoll - in apparently increasing numbers.

Opportunities for Magical Manta Moments Guests have various options to interact with mantas during their stay at Landaa Giraavaru. The Resort's Manta-on-Call service supplies a “manta phone” that rings when mantas are sighted nearby, before a waiting speedboat whisks them away for an unforgettable open water experience. And with manta rays swimming to the surface to feed, the phenomenon is best experienced while snorkeling, making it accessible to anyone able to swim.

Guests can also book private manta-spotting cruises, while the Resort's new Trainee Manta Biologist program offers environmentally minded 13 to 18-year-olds teens a focused one-to-one deep dive into what it takes to be a Manta

Biologist: from photo identification to helping monitor size, behavior and even pregnancy.

Research driven by the MMRP since its inception in 2005 has been directly responsible for protecting mantas and their critical habitats both within the Maldives and across the world. Some of this research allows the MMRP to determine the most likely mass aggregation dates for mantas around Landaa Giraavaru. 2023's hot dates are:

- May 17-21
- June 2-6
- June 16-20
- July 1-05
- July 15-19
- July 30 - August 3
- August 14-18
- August 29 - September 2
- September 13-17
- September 27 - October 1
- October 12-16
- October 27-31
- November 11-15
- November 25-29

Renowned Sports Artist Gregory Burns Partners with LUX* South Ari Atoll Resort for Artist in Residence Programme



LUX* South Ari Atoll, a well-loved resort of The Lux Collective, presents its upcoming Artist in Residence programme with international motivational speaker, world-class athlete and celebrated artist Gregory Burns from May 10 to 23, 2023.

After winning numerous gold medals and setting world records in swimming during three Paralympic Games, Gregory transitioned into IronMan events, inspiring many with his discipline and perseverance. Polio, which he contracted as a child, motivated him to prioritize mobility and to express himself through sports and arts. Known for over three decades of vibrant and expressive works, he gained numerous accolades, including the prestigious 2016 Sports Artist of the Year Award and a commission from the International Olympics Committee to create paintings for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This May, within his Artist in Residence programme, Gregory will personally guide resort guests to discover their creativity as they learn from the master himself. He

will be teaching a variety of techniques, from painting to drawing and more. “Since my childhood, the sea has been my home. Swimming, surfing, scuba diving and sketching; all these fluid activities bring us joy and make it a better day,” enthused Gregory Burns.

Open to all guests regardless of skill levels, the classes will be held in the resort's outdoors set amidst lush greenery in the beautiful Indian Ocean. Under Gregory's guidance, participants will be able to create their own unique works of art.

Additionally, in the continuous strive to uplift the community and inspire self-expression through art, LUX* South Ari Atoll will be hosting a co-painting session with Gregory and the renowned local artists.

Summer Holiday Blast: Join the SAii Kids Workshop at SAii Lagoon Maldives

From learning how to make your own tropical island-themed craft projects to participating in scavenger hunts, playing water sports activities, and more, SAii Kids Workshop has something for kids of all ages. You will also enjoy delicious food and drinks daily, soak up the sun from our private beach and poolside lounges and beach cabanas, or relax among the beautiful scenery of this tropical paradise.

Take advantage of a chance for your family to experience an unforgettable vacation like no other at SAii Lagoon Maldives, Curio Collection by Hilton. Workshops are designed to ensure everyone can have a great time and make lasting memories.

SAii Kids Summer Fun Workshop

Are you looking for ways to make your kids' summer holidays more memorable and educational? Look no further than the SAii Kids Summer Fun Workshop, available for guests of SAii Lagoon Maldives. This interactive educational program is designed for kids from 5 to 17 years old and offers a 7-day program of activities focused on creative and innovative arts and crafts

projects, English classes, healthy exercises and environmental awareness.

The workshop provides a dynamic environment for kids to explore their creativity, learn about nature and wildlife, experience learning entertainingly, understand day-to-day things through fun and practical tasks, and engage in personal development and team-building activities. Whether your kid is an art enthusiast or an adventurer, this program has something for everyone!

Adventure & Activities

For those looking for a little more excitement, adventure and challenge activities, sign up for the SAii Kids Summer Fun Workshop! Participate in exciting activities like marine discovery classes, bicycle riding lessons, water sports, beach activities, and adventure and challenge activities. There's something in store for everyone! Adults can join their kids as they participate in thrilling activities like snorkeling and kayaking lessons.

It's a unique opportunity to enjoy activities



and events designed to challenge children's minds, build their confidence and encourage creative thinking. At the same time, your children will also make lasting friendships and be immersed in the extraordinary beauty and culture of the Maldives. So why wait? Ensure your children take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime experience, and join the SAii Kids Summer Fun Workshop at SAii Lagoon Maldives today! Koimala & Maalimi's Junior Beach Club & Camp Aerial View The program is led by Koimala & Maalimi's Junior Beach Club and Camp and will be available from July 1, 2023 until September 15, 2023.

SAii Lagoon Maldives, Curio Collection by Hilton is part of Maldives' first leisure destination, CROSSROADS Maldives. The destination features two world-class resort facilities, a super yacht marina, a shopping and dining arcade and an entertainment hub throughout the year. The award-winning family resort facility features 198 accommodation units, including family beach villas and overwater villas, a beachfront kid's club, multiple dining options, a spa and a beach club. For summer getaways, rates at SAii Lagoon Maldives start from USD 450.

YAMAHA
Revs Your Heart

WORLD'S LEADING OUTBOARDS

SOLE DISTRIBUTOR
ALIA INVESTMENTS (PVT) LTD
(960) 300 9797 | www.aliamaldives.com

Alta Bait Al Taqat
SHARIAH COMPLIANT FINANCING

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Sjefke Jansen Appointed as New General Manager at Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas

Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas has announced the appointment of Sjefke Jansen as the resort's new general manager, effective from April 1, 2023. Charged with overseeing the day-to-day running of the luxury island property, the award-winning Sjefke is able to draw on four decades of hands-on experience in the hospitality industry.

"I am delighted to return to the Maldives and take part in one of the flagships and most iconic MINOR properties. I felt the urge to reconnect with this captivating destination and its mesmerizing nature. It was like coming back home," Jansen said. "I plan to continue building on the legacy of Anantara Kihavah. I, together with my passionate and dedicated team, will be focusing on the importance of making guest experiences authentic and most enjoyable," he added.

Prior to his current role, Sjefke was the General Manager of Hotel Indonesia Kempinski Jakarta where he led the property to achieve a leading position for 5 consecutive years in an extremely competitive environment. However, his illustrious career started from humble beginnings, with his first appointment in the industry being as a kitchen trainee in Germany in 1983.

Having worked his way up the hospitality ladder, Sjefke now boasts a wealth of experience that includes various operational roles at hotels in Germany, Australia, South Africa and Singapore. Sjefke worked in the Maldives in 2002 when he took on his first Resort Manager position at the One & Only Reethi Rah Resort and Spa, Maldives, before moving to The Oberoi, Mauritius in 2006 where he took his career to the next level with his first General Manager role. In 2010, Sjefke moved to Le Touessrok, Mauritius, where he spent another four years as General Manager before spending a similar period in the same position at Belmond Grand Hotel Europe at St Petersburg in Russia.

Located within the Baa Atoll in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas features 80 spacious private pool villas and residences nestled along the pristine private beach or poised over crystal-clear waters. Guests can indulge in a diverse culinary journey with six restaurants and bars, whether on land or underwater at the SEA restaurant. The resort boasts an array of leisure facilities, including an outdoor cinema, a kids club, a watersports center, and a dive center. For ultimate relaxation, guests can rejuvenate at the Anantara Spa, which offers Asian therapies, aesthetic



treatments, detox programs, immunity-boosting Medi-spa, and ancient ayurvedic wellness.

Conrad Maldives Rangali Island Appoints Keerthi Soja Remanan as New Director of Finance



Conrad Maldives Rangali Island has announced the appointment of Keerthi Soja Remanan as the new Director of Finance at the iconic twin-island resort, which is home to the world's first undersea restaurant, Ithaa and world's first underwater villa, The Muraka.

The property is part of Conrad Hotels & Resorts, one of Hilton's (NYSE:HLT) global luxury hotel brands. Keerthi has most recently served as the Assistant Director of Finance at Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi.

With a career spanning over 16 years, Keerthi is an industry veteran with rich experience in financial management at luxury hospitality brands. Joining Conrad Maldives Rangali Island as the Director of Finance, he will lead the resort's long-term financial health and growth, overseeing all financial planning and operations. He has worked extensively with the Hilton group since 2007 holding senior positions at the group's various luxury properties across UAE. Spending years working with the Hilton's Middle East luxury hotels like Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah, Waldorf Astoria Ras Al Khaimah, Hilton

Dubai Jumeirah and more, he has been dedicating his efforts and financial acumen to achieve the group's financial goals in this region.

With a graduate degree in commerce in India, he began his journey in the hospitality industry with Hilton Al Ain. Keerthi said, "I'm excited to renew yet another association with the Hilton group and to set new benchmarks for Conrad Maldives Rangali Island. Today's hospitality is all about adapting changes to new technologies, driving the top line by understanding the product, commercial acumen and focus on people. Hence, I believe it is imperative to be a business partner and collaborator rather than a traditional Finance professional. I look forward to building on the success that this property has already achieved and give my best to support the growth of the resort."

Carla Puverel, General Manager, Conrad Maldives Rangali Island, said, "We are delighted to welcome Keerthi Soja Remanan to Conrad Maldives Rangali Island. His extensive experience across all aspects of finance and his long association with the Hilton Group gives us confidence that he will play a key role to help this award-winning resort scale new heights through his innovative finance structures."

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Vakkaru Maldives Appoints Janice Vigo as New Director of Spa



Vakkaru Maldives has announced the appointment of Janice Vigo as the new Director of Spa, responsible for overseeing daily spa operations, including staff training, treatments and retail, fitness facilities, including yoga, meditation and wellness programmes.

With over 17 years of experience in the luxury spa and hospitality industry, Janice brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in spa and wellness management to the team. Prior to this, she held senior positions at Six Senses Laamu Maldives. Other leading luxury properties she worked at include One & Only Kanuhura Maldives, Constance Ephelia Seychelles, Fregate Island Private Seychelles by Oetker Collection, and Babylon Warwick Hotel Baghdad.

Janice has diplomas in Spa Start-up Management from the Confederation of International Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology (CIBTAC) and Spa Management from Raison d’Etre Spa & Wellness Consultancy. She is also certified in Oncology Massage for Cancer, Bentosa Fire Glass Cupping, Bamboo Massage, Ayurvedic Massage, Facials, Body Treatments, and Singing Bowls. She logged 200

hours in the RYT Hatha Yoga Teachers’ Training. In addition, she has also trained with international spa product brands such as Pevonia Botanica, Shiseido, Subtle Energy and Organic Pharmacy, and she has an excellent working knowledge of different spa-related software.

“I am thrilled to be part of the Vakkaru Maldives family and grateful to the management for placing their trust in me to lead the Merana Spa team and bring the spa experience to the next level,” said Janice. “The spa & wellness industry is becoming increasingly important and necessary. I believe that a holistic approach to enhance the quality of life, boosting emotional and physical well-being, and achieving balance within the body and mind is vital in today’s world,” she added.

Commenting on her appointment, Iain McCormack, General Manager, Vakkaru Maldives, said, “Janice Vigo’s appointment as Director of Spa will further strengthen our commitment to providing guests with an exceptional spa experience. We are confident that her vast experience and spa and wellness management expertise will bring new ideas and innovations to the resort.”



LIFE SCIENCES LAB
FOOD & WATER TESTING



MOVERS & SHAKERS

Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives Boosts Sales and Marketing Team with New Appointments



Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives has strengthened its Sales & Marketing division with a series of appointments to support the resort's renewed focus on India, Europe/UK, USA, China and Middle East target markets.

"Like many resorts worldwide, following Covid-19, we've taken a close look at our business, where it's coming from and what geographical markets need more focus. We are excited with the changes we have implemented to drive revenue and customer experience," said Mark Eletr, General Manager Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives.

"Our team are all hands-on contributors in their field of expertise. We work well collaboratively balancing individual opinions of some strong personalities with strategic decision making. Let me just say our revenue meetings are a lot of fun," he added.

With the impending departure of Inad Ibrahim who held the role for several years, taking the overall lead is newly appointed Mike Tan Yan as Director of Sales & Marketing based on the island who will start 1 May.

In April, **Dhawal Vyas**, joined as Director of Sales - India. Well known in his market, Dhawal is spending time in-market driving leisure business as well as spending time on the island.

With a network of global operators, travel agents and DMC's **Simona Dobre**, with 25+ years in senior level Sales &

Marketing roles most recently in the UAE, has joined as Director of Sales - Europe/USA. Simona is an expert in the wholesale/leisure space and splits her time between Miami USA and Romania.

Another veteran with 25+ years experience is **Sharon Garrett** who is remotely leading Marketing from New Zealand. With extensive experience in Asia Pacific and the Middle East with well known brands, she is responsible for Marketing, Communications, Partnerships, PR and product development.

Priyanka Sarkar has been recently appointed as the resort's Marketing Communications Manager, with a heavy focus on influencer visits and new media. Priyanka is the glue that brings the operation and marketing minds together. This is her first role in the Maldives.

Experienced graphic designer **Shaimaa Shebl** from Egypt has recently celebrated her one year anniversary with the team providing on-property creative development with a focus on short video reels to support the property's efforts in the social media landscape.

Maldivian **Fahud Ali** is a key team member responsible for eCommerce and managing the onsite reservations team. Though not a new appointment, Fahud has worked his way up with IHG over 11+ years and rounds out the team. He is central to achieving the resort's goals with a keen focus on OTAs and direct bookings.

Keeping this group of passionate minds focused on commercial goals and revenue is **Justine Thomas**, Director of Revenue based in Bangkok who joined the team at the end of 2022. Justine brings several years experience in revenue with high profile brands to the team.

The property has also appointed additional Sales support team members on the island including **Ying Wang** a Chinese national who has been appointed Sales Executive with responsibility for the China market, and a soon to be announced island-based Sales Manager to support the leisure sales directors. Specialized agencies providing support in key target markets and niche disciplines have been appointed around the world.

"The world we now live in enjoys greater acceptance of remote and flexible working. That combined with the technology and tools to make it a success, meant we could look to people with the experience we need without them having to actually live on the island where we have limited accommodation. I think it's a win-win, but time will tell if the strategy gives us the bottom line we are seeking," added Mark.

"As a four-star resort serving the mid-market in what is known as a luxury destination, we have exciting plans ahead and are delighted to have assembled a strong and experienced

team to drive those plans forward from a Sales & Marketing perspective. Had we tried to attain this level of experience through a normal hiring model our budgets simply wouldn't stretch. By utilizing remote working we can manage payroll and payroll related costs and attract great talent. It is just reframing and looking at things through a different lens."

General Manager, **Mark Eletr** will be joined by new Director of Sales & Marketing, **Mike Tan Yan** on the Visit Maldives stand at the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai from May 1 to 4, 2023.

Located in the South Male atoll just 40 mins from the airport by boat, Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives is a beautiful island paradise. White sandy beaches, swaying coconut palms and turquoise waters form the backdrop for a wide variety of leisure pursuits and some of the best diving in the Maldives. Guests can choose from Garden and Beach Villas, two storey Beach Houses and the popular Overwater Villas for their stay. Families are well catered for with a choice of 2- and 3-bed villas as well as the Kandoo Kids' Club and its full activities programme. Six food and beverage outlets ensure healthy appetites are satisfied and the flavors of the Maldives are explored. For those guests who desire the ultimate in relaxation, sun loungers and hammocks are located around the island and the Kandooma Spa by COMO Shambhala offers the ultimate in tranquility and escape for body and mind.

ދަރިވަރުންނަށް ރާއްޖެއަށް



PROUDLY MOVING YOU FORWARD

OUR SERVICES



Marine
Construction



Airport
Development



Land
Reclamation



Road
Construction



Shore
Protection



Sewerage System
Development



Engineering
& Docking Services



Survey
& Design Sectors



Transport



Trading

☎ 1650

🐦 📺 📷 /mtccplc

🌐 mtcc.mv

Creating **Distinctive** and **Exceptional Brand** Experiences

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

with

JENNIE TOH

Vice President of Brand Marketing and Brand Management,
Asia Pacific, Marriott International

“As we continue to expand in the Maldives, more employment opportunities are created for the local youth, and loyal members have even more options to explore and experience.”



Meet Jennie Toh, Vice President of Brand Marketing and Brand Management for Marriott International in Asia Pacific. In her role, Jennie leads the brand, marketing and public relations strategies, brand development, product and guest experiences as well as driving appropriate representation and brand preference across the continent.

Jennie ensures brand management and programming activities are aligned to the company's brand strategies and global brand standards continue to remain relevant to the markets. Jennie is focused on the company's strategy to win in the leisure segment through content creation and compelling storytelling to elevate the consumer aspirational appeal to the unparalleled portfolio of brands and Marriott Bonvoy affiliation. She is also responsible for executing relevant on-brand guest experiences in ways that are consistent with each brand's vision and drive distinct brand differentiation, in order to optimise profitability in Marriott International's extensive portfolio.

As one of the major players in the market, Marriott Bonvoy's portfolio in the Maldives includes 7 resorts across 7 luxury and premium brands, including The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands, The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort, JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa, W Maldives, Le Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa, Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa and The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort.

The Island Chief spoke with Jennie Toh to know more about her role, consumer trends in the industry and the Marriott Bonvoy portfolio of resorts in the Maldives.

What motivated you to enter the hospitality industry as a brand marketing and management professional, and how did you get started in this field?

I began my career in the hospitality industry at The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore back in 1997. I quickly recognized my passion for hospitality after that. Then I spent 15 years at the Rooms division, Quality assurance and Event management operations across The Ritz-Carlton Hotels in Bahrain, Bali, Tokyo, Shanghai and other parts of Asia. Now looking back at my over 25 years career with Marriott International, passion is the only way to move you forward in this business.

Prior to my current role, I was Vice President of Rooms, Spa, Loyalty & Brand Operations for Asia Pacific, in which I designed and developed robust Rooms and SPA programming. Since 2020, I lead the brand, marketing and public relations strategies, brand development, product and guest experiences, as well as drive appropriate representation and brand preference across the continent.

What I'm most passionate about is seeing how each of our brands come to life seamlessly at our hotels, from design to brand positioning, brand programming to marketing and PR, creating distinctive and meaningful experiences for our guests.

Are there any notable travel trends you've noted post pandemic and how Marriott International brands respond to them?

We are seeing a new willingness to embrace the now and act on those “bucket list” trips at top destinations such as Maldives, seeking out unique, remote, and off-the-beaten-path places. Travellers also tend to have longer stays – there has been a pent-up desire to travel, combined with a newfound flexibility when it comes to remote work or learning, which has resulted in travellers staying longer.

Another notable trend is the increased emphasis on wellness. Travellers are paying even more attention to their physical and mental health, looking for experiences to maintain their health and wellness while they explore the world. Westin, the company's leading wellness brand, launched its refuelled Gear Lending brand program in early January this year, featuring the latest in high-tech recovery equipment by Hyperice and total body strength training equipment by Bala, so that guests can enhance their well-being while travelling across Westin Hotels & Resorts globally. Guests can experience Gear Lending at The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort, The Westin Yokohama, and The Westin Qingdao, to name a few.

What is Marriott International doing on the sustainability front?

Our commitment to sustainability – to preserve, restore, and enhance the communities and environments where we do business – is guided by Marriott's sustainability and social impact platform, Serve 360: Doing Good in Every Direction. In the Maldives specifically, we have implemented a wide array of initiatives that include installing solar panels on-site; growing our own vegetables at semi-automated hydroponic systems; converting seawater into fresh drinking water; and composting food waste. Sustainability is here to stay, and we will continue to identify more ways to reduce our environmental footprint.

Beyond hotel operations, the Good Travel with Marriott Bonvoy™ program is an extension of our Serve 360 efforts to make a positive and sustainable impact for our local communities. Four of our hotels in Maldives participate in this program and the experiences range from helping to support traditional Maldivian lacquer craftsmanship with The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort; locate ‘ghost nets’ in the ocean to protect marine life with The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands; and plant coral frames to boost reef biodiversity with Le Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa and Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa.

The Maldives is renowned for its luxurious resorts and breath-taking natural beauty. How does Marriott International distinguish its brands and offerings in this fiercely competitive market, and how does the Maldives fit into Marriott's overall strategy?

Maldives is an oasis for anyone who enjoys clear waters, blue skies and sunshine, so it has always been one of the top international destinations for us. Marriott International offers an incomparable variety of brand experiences through our breadth of portfolio in the Maldives. Being a significant contender in the industry, we possess a collection of 7 resorts encompassing a combined total of 701 rooms. These resorts showcase an assortment of luxury and premium brands such as The Ritz-Carlton, JW Marriott, St. Regis, W Hotels, Le Méridien, Westin, and Sheraton.

Over the course of the previous three years, we proudly introduced two unique hotels, namely The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands and Le Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa. We are also expected to open The Bulgari Resort Ranfushi in 2025, adding in more ultra-luxury options for the global affluent travellers.

Each resort has a unique location, brand programming, and tailored guests' experience for its target audience. From Ambassadors of the Environment program at The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands, to a multi-generational retreat at JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa, a luxury escape at W Maldives with one of the best house reefs, a family-friendly stay at Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa, or a wellness retreat at The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort, located at a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve site.

As we continue to expand in the Maldives, more employment opportunities are created for the local youth, and loyal members have even more options to explore and experience.

Marriott International has seven hotels in Maldives, how do you make sure each hotel stands for its own positioning and there is no dilution?

Marriott Bonvoy's portfolio of resorts in the Maldives ensure that each of the seven hotels maintain their unique brand positioning through distinct programming and bringing to life the brand pillars.

The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands, for example, is iconic for its minimalistic architecture that is rooted in the shape of a circle that also represents the resort's circle of island life with immersive cultural activities and is known for their legendary service that is highly personalised. Luxury lifestyle brand, W Hotels brings its style and vibrant energy to Maldives through its passion programming such as the collaboration with Cercle, hosting an unforgettable live concert at Gaathafushi—the private castaway island at W Maldives.

The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort caters to wellness retreats and offers daily activities and programs related to its pillars of wellbeing – Eat Well, Sleep Well, Move Well, Feel Well, Play Well, while Le Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa offers chic European experiences such as “Au Soleil”, a brand program that encourages a summer state of mind and for travellers to savour the good life. Additionally, Marriott Bonvoy offers exclusive benefits and unique experiences to members, further enhancing the differentiation between the brands.

Lastly, what advice would you offer to someone who is starting a career in brand marketing and management in the hospitality sector, and what abilities and characteristics do you believe are necessary for success in this field?

- I. Don't be afraid to take the first step to learn new things.
- II. Be humble, listen and ask questions.
- III. Take a professional course in branding, marketing or PR. This will ground you with the principles, logic, and the ever-evolving jargons used by the gurus in marketing & PR. You must be diligent and creative if you want to be in this field.
- IV. Lastly, the creatives, the brand languages, the programming experiences we provide to our guests often look stylish and so fluent. You need to know that it takes a lot of hard work to make something simple and flawless.

NEW OPENINGS

Dolce & Gabbana to Launch a Luxury Hotel in Maldives

Dolce & Gabbana, in collaboration with Dar Global, the international arm of Dar Al Arkan, a Saudi property developer, has announced its entry into the real estate market with a luxury hotel project in the Maldives. The completion date for the project has yet to be disclosed, but Dolce & Gabbana's move into real estate is seen as an exciting step for the renowned Italian brand.

Dar Global has a reputation for prestigious projects around the world, such as Les Vagues by Elie Saab in Qatar, Urban Oasis by Missoni Home in Dubai, and Upside Living Villas in Riyadh with interiors by Versace. Along with the Maldives hotel, Dolce & Gabbana has also revealed plans for residential projects in Miami, USA, and Marbella, Spain.

This expansion into real estate follows in the footsteps of other luxury



fashion brands like Giorgio Armani and Bulgari, who have successfully integrated their design and brand ethos into residential towers and hotels, offering an elevated lifestyle experience to their guests. For instance, the Armani Hotel in Burj Khalifa is known for its sophisticated color scheme and furniture from Armani Casa, the brand's homeware line.

Dolce & Gabbana's upcoming hotel in the Maldives is expected to reflect the brand's unique style, with bold patterns and prints influenced by Sicilian aesthetics. Although no images of the property have been released yet, the recent launch of Dolce & Gabbana Home Collection in 2021, which offers a range of home accessories, provides a glimpse of the

brand's distinctive approach to interior design.

The collaboration between Dolce & Gabbana and Dar Global is anticipated to result in a luxurious and iconic hotel that embodies the brand's renowned "made-in-Italy" ethos and sets a new standard in hospitality.



ZFOLD PAPER TOWEL



SCAN FOR CATALOG

IMPORTED & MARKETING BY
MIYAMI
 TRADERS
 3338850 / 7378850



ICONIC DIVE GEAR

FROM ITALY SINCE 1946

CRESSI

SINCE 1946



AUTHORIZED DEALER
AYALA BUBBLES
DIVE CENTER OPERATOR

sales@ayalabubbles.com
+960 734 3644
f d i @ayalabubbles

BEST READ

Coffee Table Photo Book 'Maldives from Above' Showcases Island Nation's Stunning Beauty



'Maldives from Above' is a unique and captivating book that takes readers on a breathtaking photographic journey through the Maldives. Published by the local brand 'Where is Maldives', this book is unique as it features stunning and

colorful aerial photographs of the Maldives, making it one of the first of its kind in the country.

With over 50 full-color photographs taken using drones, this photo book captures the unique geography, vibrant colors and beauty of this nation. In addition to these stunning visuals, the book features quotes by famous travelers and scholars describing the Maldives, adding an extra layer of depth and insight to the experience.

The book's aim is not only to portray the beauty of the Maldives but also to raise awareness about environmental conservation. As one of the world's most low-lying nations, the Maldives faces significant environmental challenges. With this book, readers can embark on a journey to explore the Maldives from above, witness its natural beauty, and become inspired to protect it for future generations.

It is a must-have for anyone who cares about the

environment and wants to appreciate the unique beauty of this beautiful island nation.

The book is currently available for purchase at Authentic Maldives shops in Male', Velana International Airport, Crossroads Maldives, and Kuda Villingili Resort.



Maldivian Brand Viyeni Promotes Sustainability Through Minimalist Designs and Innovative Methods



Viyeni is a Maldivian brand established in 2021 by Aiham Ibrahim (25) and Dhovemi Shafeeq (20) with the intention of promoting sustainable forms of lifestyles and practices.

Their products elevate traditional designs into minimalist yet stylish pieces, creating a fashion statement leading to having identified a niche in bags and all carriers alike. In time, the main objective of the brand is to introduce a variety of products to further enhance its product portfolio.

Viyeni brand utilizes highly-creative and innovative methods for both product design and marketing engaging highly skilled individuals to help expand the brand image and its perception in a highly competitive environment.

Viyeni has gained popularity among a youth audience and aims to target other segments within the Maldives reaching local islands and the tourism industry.

Additionally, we offer B2B services in the form of value additions for entities

to encourage sustainability. From designing custom products with clients branding to sourcing required products which further distinguish clients from their competitors. Viyeni intend to provide solutions to a problem.

Significance of Bloom

The bloom- which is embroidered or printed on our products is a representation of Youth, Appeal and happiness.

Designed in connection with its mission of sustainability in mind, the bloom symbolises more than a mere representation of nature. The bloom stands to represent Youth, Appeal and an ode to simplicity and minimalism that Viyeni strives for in a time of complexity and stress.

Where to purchase?

Products are available for purchase online through the brand's instagram page and they are stocked at resorts as well.



BEST READ

Theist Overseas Introduces Dry Solid Waste Thermal Decomposition Machine to Maldives



One of the main advantages of the smart garbage solid waste (dry) disintegration machine is its low operational and maintenance cost. The processing chamber does not require any electricity, fuel, or solar energy, except for waste handling, water circulation, and shredder. The machine is also easy to operate and does not require high-skilled manpower.

The introduction of the smart garbage solid waste (dry) disintegration machine in the Maldives is a significant step towards achieving sustainable waste management practices. Theist Overseas aims to provide efficient and cost-effective solutions for waste management in the country and contribute towards a cleaner and greener environment.

Theist Overseas, a leading waste management solutions provider, has introduced a new machine that can decompose dry solid waste into hot flue gas and bottom ash. The smart garbage solid waste (dry) disintegration machine is a first-of-its-kind technology in the

Maldives that can process various types of dry solid waste, including plastics, paper, cardboard, rubber, thermocol sheet, clothes, shoes, sanitary pads, nappies, disposable medical waste, plants, wood, organic sludge, kitchen waste, and more. The machine uses thermal

decomposition technology to reduce waste volume by 500%. For instance, 10 tons of waste can be converted into just 50 kg of ash. Moreover, the decomposition process does not generate any smoke or hazardous substances, making it an eco-friendly solution for waste management.

For more information about the smart garbage solid waste (dry) disintegration machine, please contact, theistoverseas2017@gmail.com Mobile: +91 9974101616 (W).

FIRST TIME IN MALDIVES - DRY SOLID WASTE THERMAL DECOMPOSITION MACHINE (SMART GARBAGE SOLID WASTE (DRY) DISINTEGRATION MACHINE)



Installed at (Real picture) – Kendhikulhudhoo, Maldives



Google Map Location

Type of Waste can be Decompose: <ul style="list-style-type: none">! Dry solid waste (Plastics, Paper, Card Board, Rubber, Thermocol sheet, Clothes, Shoes)! Sanitary pad, Nappy and Disposable medical waste! Plants, Wood, Organic sludge, Kitchen waste etc. (80% Dry Waste + 20% Wet Waste)	Residues after decomposition process: <ul style="list-style-type: none">! Hot flue gas (Non Hazardous)! Bottom ash (Very less amount generation) Can be used in paver block & Cement industries . Volume of waste reduce to 500% . i.e. 10 Ton waste converts into 50 Kg of Ash.! No Smoke
Advantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none">! Easy operation and not required any high skilled man power.! Processing chamber does not required any Electricity, Fuel or Solar energy. (Electricity required only for waste handling, Water circulation & Shredder)! Low operational & Maintenance cost.	Buyer's Obligation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">! All government taxes, duties, port expenses, Local transportation, Agent charges, Helper & Instruments for onsite installation.! Installation & Maintenance team (From India) expenses from male International Airport including local Transportation, Food, Accommodation & Medical if require.

WE WILL APPOINT SOON LOCAL MALDIVIAN AS A OUR ASSOCIATES FOR CUSTOMER CARE, SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE

FOR INQUIRY AND DETAILS INFORMATION:

THEIST OVERSEAS
A/5, ANAND COMPLEX, SECOND FLOOR, NEAR SOLA OVERBRIDGE, THALTEJ, AHMEDABAD – 380051. GUJARAT, INDIA.

Email: theistoverseas2017@gmail.com
MOBILE: +91 9974101616 (W)

EVENTS & AWARDS

Velana International Airport Marks 57th Year with Major Infrastructure Upgrades and Improved Services



As Velana International Airport (VIA) celebrates its 57th anniversary, the airport management would like to express its deepest gratitude to all its stakeholders and staff for their unwavering support over the years. The airport management is committed to improve airport facilities to provide better service to passengers and customers.

Over the past year, VIA has made significant progress in improving its services and facilities, with the commencement of Code-F Runway

operations and Noovilu Seaplane Terminal, both significant infrastructure developments. Additionally, Maldives Airport Company Ltd (MACL) accomplished the housing program by completing the Aero Residence apartments and handed them over to its owners, fulfilling a long-awaited dream for many of the staff.

To further enhance services, last VIA started providing services from the new VIP building phase 1. Furthermore, modification works are ongoing at the

Terminal improving the arrival and departure experience for guests.

The airport management has prioritized staff development in the core areas of its business, addressing gaps in the technical capacity of staff through various specialization programs.

All these improvements contribute towards elevating the guest experience at the Airport. Mr. Mahjoob Shujau, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of MACL, congratulated the

employees on the airport's anniversary and stated that any improvements made to the airport's infrastructure, services, and staff training will improve the service provided to passengers. Mr. Mahjoob thanked the airport staff and stakeholders for the airport's 57-year history of progress.

The airport management is immensely proud of what has been achieved over the past 57 years and look forward to better serving passengers and customers with improved facilities and services.

Maagiri Hotel Celebrates 5 Years of Service Excellence

Maagiri Hotel celebrates its 5th anniversary on April 12, 2023 marking a half-decade of prestigious hospitality service in the capital city of Maldives.

Located in one of the premier locations of Male', easy access from Velana International airport makes the hotel an attractive destination for business, leisure and family holiday makers. The hotel's 2 restaurants and cafe have been recognized as a favorite dining spot among locals and guests. Diners are able to choose from a delectable selection of Indian food at Peak Rooftop, and also enjoy buffet theme nights at Faru. These venues, along with the hotel's meeting rooms and newly renovated conference hall have been frequently utilized for corporate and social events.

"From the time we opened our doors 5 years back with a dedicated Team we have strived to extend hospitable services as an aspect and thrived. We are proud of the recognition, by the Industry Community, Business Corporates, the Public apart from many a Diplomats and Foreign Dignitaries. I profoundly thank our entire Team for their dedication and our unfailing Suppliers, in the continuation of storied Maagiri", says General Manager Ahmed Saeed.

Five years of unwavering excellence have earned Maagiri Hotel several awards including, TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Award in 2021 and 2022 and Best City Hotel Award and Leading Business Hotel Award in 2022 SATA awards.



HONDA MARINE PROVEN

RELIABLE PIECE OF ENGINEERING

Pgm-FI

Multi-port Programmed Fuel Injection adds both easy starts and improved fuel efficiency without sacrificing performance.

VTEC

Ensures smooth, stable idling with an even further reduction in fuel consumption, while the increased valve lift at high revs broadens the torque curve and provides incredible top-end power.



?

HONDA

HONDA
250
VTEC

BLAST

BOOSTED LOW SPEED TORQUE

Maximizes torque for full-throttle acceleration by controlling the air-fuel ratio, while determining ignition timing near knocking limits through spark-advance control.

LEANburn CONTROL

Adjusts the air/fuel mix according to speed and load to maximise efficiency

NM EA 2000

Allow engine data to be interfaced with on-board systems and systems displays, such as SONAR or GPS

Type

3.6L, 60 degree V6, SOHC, 24 Valves
VTEC

Displacement

3583cc

Bore & Stroke

89 x 96

Full Throttle RPM Range

5300-6300

HP Rating @ Propshaft

250HP @ 5,800 RPM

Alternator

90AMP (60AMP Charging)



Marine Vibe
AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTOR

TELE: 3307777 | 3306666
www.hondamarine.mv
info@marinevibe.com

IN THE NEWS

First RTL Ferry to be Operated in Huvadhoo Atoll Completed

First Raajje Transport Link (RTL) ferry to be operated in Huvadhoo Atoll has been completed and handed over to MTCC.

Ismail Farig, General Manager, Marine Transport Division, MTCC, said that the launch ferries are as high-quality as the ferries used in RTL Phase 1. The ferries are air-conditioned with a seating capacity of 50 people. MTCC further revealed that the new ferries will be bigger than the existing ones.

The priority in launching these ferries will be to make it easier for the passengers to travel, MTCC said, adding that the seats and passenger cabins of the ferries have been designed to be suitable for such trips. Ferries will have space to accommodate accessible toilets, ramps and stretcher wheel seats for people with special needs.

According to MTCC, the first ferry



services in Huvadhoo Atoll will be free of cost and scheduled as the RTL ferry service was earlier. "The idea is to make these free trips accessible to the general public on the ferry schedule and enable them to experience the service better," the

company said in a statement.

Six launches will be used for RTL ferry services in Huvadhoo Atoll. The distribution of all these launches is expected to be completed in July. With this, the RTL ferry service will

start in Huvadhoo Atoll in the middle of the year.

The RTL service is currently being provided in HA., Sh., HDh., and Lh. Atoll. The service was last launched in Lh. Atoll.

South Asian Travel Awards 2023 Extends Nomination Deadline



The South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) has announced an extension of the nomination period for its 2023 edition, giving stakeholders in the travel and tourism industry more time to submit their entries. The new deadline for nominations is now May 10, 2023.

SATA is a prestigious annual event that recognizes and rewards the best tourism products and services in the South Asian region. It covers a wide range of categories, including hotels and resorts, airlines, travel agencies,

tour operators, and destinations. The awards aim to promote excellence, innovation, and sustainability in the travel industry and to raise the profile of South Asia as a tourist destination.

The extension of the nomination period will provide an opportunity for more businesses and organizations to participate in the awards and showcase their achievements. It will also give the judging panel more time to evaluate

the entries and select the winners based on strict criteria that take into account factors such as quality, customer satisfaction, environmental responsibility, and social impact.

Speaking about the decision to extend the nomination period, Mr. Ismail Hameed, the President of SATA, said: "We understand that the pandemic has created challenges for the tourism industry, and we want to give everyone a fair chance to be recognized for their hard work and dedication. Therefore, we have decided to extend the nomination period and encourage all eligible candidates to submit their entries before the new deadline."

Properties can nominate online via www.southasiantravelawards.com

The nominees will be evaluated by a panel of judges consisting of experts from the travel and tourism industry, media, and academia. The winners will be announced at a gala ceremony in October 2023, which will be attended by leading figures from the industry, government officials, and international media.

SATA has been endorsed by over 15

International and government agencies for its work to elevate tourism and hospitality in the region.

- Association of Professionals in Tourism (APT),
- Association of Tourism Trade Organizations, India (ATTOI),
- Association of Travel Agents (ATA),
- Colombo Chamber of Commerce (CCC),
- Confederation of Accredited Tour Operators (CATO),
- Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL),
- Hotel and Restaurant Association of Bhutan (HRAB),
- Kerala Hotel General Manager Club (KHGMC),
- National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM),
- Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (MATATO),
- Maldives Marketing & PR Corporation (MMPRC),
- Nepal Tourism Board (NTB),
- Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators (SLAITO),
- The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka (THASL),
- Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN)
- Bangladesh International Hotel Association (BIHA).

Highrise Pvt Ltd Partners with Royhle Aviation Academy to Organize an Aviation Networking Event



Highrise, a leading event management company with 15 years of industry experience, has partnered with Royhle Aviation Academy, a prestigious aviation training institute known to produce the finest Pilots; to organize an aviation networking event in the Maldives. The event is scheduled to take place on April 29, 2023 at 16:00hrs. The event will be held in the Auditorium of Maldives National University, Main Campus. In the event, key note addresses will be given by the Senior Executive Team of Royhle Aviation Academy; Head of Training Captain Madhu Puliyanalath, Head of Quality Assurance Ms Cathy Cabalatungan and Head of Sales and Marketing Captain Joyance John Anbumani.

This will be an excellent opportunity for the students to interact with industry experts and get their questions answered. Royhle Aviation Academy is approved by The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, and it offers a comprehensive training program that allows students to acquire Pilot licenses starting from PPL, CPL, Multi-Engine, ATPL Theory, Flight and Ground Instructor Course. With over 20 finest fleet of training aircraft in the country including the multiengine aircrafts, Royhle Aviation Academy is committed to providing its students the best possible training experience.

Royhle Aviation Academy has graduated over 500 plus students from different countries, including the

Maldives, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Fiji, Japan, Vietnam, Australia, France, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Iran, South Korea, Philippines and Indonesia. Royhle Aviation Academy takes pride in providing a multicultural environment that fosters learning, growth, and development.

The senior management team of Royhle Aviation Academy will take the opportunity to visit the Maldives and conduct a networking session at the aviation networking event. Royhle Aviation Academy has over 80 Maldivian students enrolled, and over 50 students have already been enrolled for different intakes for the academic year 2023.

"We are excited to partner with Highrise to organize an aviation networking event focused on careers and trainings in the Aviation sector, particularly becoming successful commercial pilot as the beautiful country of Maldives has such a flourishing and a growing aviation industry," said Head of Training Captain Madhu Puliyanalath, from Royhle Aviation Academy. "We have a huge Maldivian student based enrolled in our Academy and hence this will be an excellent opportunity to meet the parents of our students and also for us to meet industry leaders, exchange ideas, and share more about the opportunities, the latest trends and developments in the aviation industry with the prospective students attending the seminar."

To attend the event, interested individuals are advised to register via the link: <https://cutt.ly/Royhle> before the deadline of April 25, 2023. The Management of Highrise and Royhle sincerely believes that this event will greatly benefit those students who aspire to become pilots or those interested in pursuing a career in aviation. Furthermore, parents of those students who are keen are encouraged to join their children to make the most out of this informative event.

About Royhle Aviation Academy

Royhle Aviation Academy Inc is a leading aviation training organization that was founded in 2013 by a dedicated team of professionals who aimed to make a positive difference in the industry. Since then, the company has rapidly grown and expanded its services, including Flight Training, Aircraft Maintenance, and Charter Operations. Royhle Airway Charter Inc (RAWC) and International Aircraft Solution Maintenance (IASM) are also among the organization's other branches.

Royhle Aviation Academy Inc is unique in that it collaborates closely with its clients to establish a safer and more efficient aviation industry for the future. The academy's team is committed to the betterment of the industry, and their dedication has helped establish them as a leading organization in the aviation training industry.

BON APPÉTIT

Lomo Saltado

- Peruvian stir-fried beef



“Bringing a taste of my home to the Maldives to share and inspire about South American cuisine was my inspiration behind this dish”

Hernan Garcia is a chef with a passion for research, he likes to cook with common ingredients and present them in many ways. He studied gastronomy and restaurant management in Colombia and Canada. Worked in El Cielo Restaurant one of the best restaurants in Colombia and Latin America and he has more than 9 years of experience in restaurants.

INGREDIENTS

- 110g Wagyu beef tenderloin
- 20ml olive oil
- To taste sea salt flakes
- To taste black pepper

Lomo saltado sauce:

- 25ml red wine vinegar
- 50ml light soy sauce
- 10g oyster sauce
- 10g red onion – finely diced
- 2g garlic – finely chopped
- 50ml mushroom stock
- 50ml beef stock
- 50g unsalted butter - cold
- 5g parsley – finely chopped
- To taste sea salt flakes
- To taste white pepper

Potato sponge:

- 50g mashed potato
- 1g activated charcoal powder
- 1 each egg
- 2g table salt

Potato foam:

- 50g mashed potato
- 50g cooking cream
- To taste sea salt
- To taste white pepper

Confit onions and tomatoes:

- 20g pearl onions
- 20g cherry tomatoes – flamed
- 100ml smoked olive oil
- 10g garlic – lightly crushed
- 6 sprig thyme
- To taste sea salt
- To taste white pepper

Rice cracker:

- 20g cooked basmati rice
- 10ml water
- 2g corn starch
- To taste salt

METHOD

1. To cook the beef: Season the wagyu beef tenderloin with sea salt and black pepper. In a skillet over medium high heat add some olive oil and allow it to come to almost smoking point. Add in the beef and sear on all sides for 2 minutes. Remove the beef and allow it to rest. Keep the pan with all its juices for the sauce.
2. To make Lomo saltado sauce: place the pan that the beef was cooked in back on the medium-low heat. Add the red onion, garlic and sauté until soft and slightly golden brown. Add in the red wine vinegar and cook for 2 minutes. Add in the mushroom stock, beef stock, soy sauce and oyster sauce and allow to cook until reduced by ¼, this will take approx. 5 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and whisk in the cold butter, piece by piece, until well combined. Add in the parsley and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper as required. Keep aside until ready to plate.
3. To make potato sponge: In a heavy based pan over medium heat, add the mash potato, activated charcoal powder, egg and salt. Heat until warm. Transfer the mixture to a blender and blend until smooth. Using a charged siphon add the mixture. In a paper cup fill half the cup with the mixture from the siphon, this will allow for a very aerated sponge. Cook in the microwave for 60 seconds and allow to cool.
4. To make potato foam: In a heavy based pan over medium heat, add the mash potato and cooking cream, season to taste. Allow the mixture to completely warm before transferring to a blender. Blend well until a smooth paste is achieved. Using a charged siphon add the mixture and keep warm in a water bath until ready to use.
5. To make confit onions and tomatoes: using a gastro or oven proof bowl add the onions, tomatoes, garlic, thyme, salt and pepper. Cover completely with the smoked oil. Place into the oven at 90 degrees Celsius and cook for 30 minutes. Remove form oven and allow to cook to room temperature for plating.
6. To make rice cracker: hand blend the cooked rice, water, corn starch and salt together until a dough like consistency is formed. Using a spatula spread the dough thinly onto a silpat mat and dehydrate until dry. You can also leave in a warm place to dry out. Once dry break into pieces and deep fry in clean vegetable oil until puffy and crispy.
7. To present and plate the dish: Slice the beef and plate the dish using all components in an aesthetically pleasing manner. Garnish using micro cress and coriander leaves.



Courtesy
Sous-Chef Hernan
LUX* North Malé Atoll



QUALITY PRINTING.

DELIVERED FAST.

Quality is never an accident.
It is always the **result**
of **intelligent effort.**

QUALITY IS WHAT
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ?

Our industry-leading printing solutions deliver exceptionally high quality print to create lasting impressions for your business.

Our services include printing - large-format, books, brochures/ leaflets, business cards, posters, calendards, ceramic tiles, flyers, greeting/invitation cards, letterheads, menus, name plates, photo books, cloth/fabric printing and glass etching. Additional services - laser cutting, plaque making, self-ink stamps, creative designing, die cutting, pins, shopping/gift bags, trophies and shields.

While celebrating over 20 years in the business we provide full color printing services onto any type of flat surface, including wood, plastic and metal.

Frankly Speaking

As of recent, resort islands have been focusing on various conservational activities in which many speculate it to be a front for business expansion. Do you think funds provided for such causes by charities and organizations should be retained in local banks rather than left in the hands of international parties?



Azim Mustag
Marine Ecologist
Small Island Research Group

Yes, it has to. The government of Maldives should have access to their books. Until recently these organizations did not employ any Maldivians. Now they do. But they get the minimum training. They should use a part of their funds to train locals. Unless they start to do this, there is no point in having them.



Ahmed Ibrahim
Director
Noo Rani Travels

It should be locally held. The benefits to the wider economy would be significant on top of whatever conservation effort is being run.



Amir Mansoor
Managing Director,
Carpe Diem Maldives

If project money is involved, specially funds donated for conservational activities should be spend transparently. It should go to the bank accounts and have to spend on activities that are passed through a committee with proper supporting documents. If International parties: people, staff keeps on changing and if something happens wrong, they will keep the ball passing onto each other; ultimately the blame or the suspect would have left. But banks will be always there and you can count on the statements monthly reconciliation, audits as well.



Seeneen Mohamed
Director
Dive Oceanus

As a local and in my own personal beliefs, I or many may not trust their banking system due to factors such as small societies where government offices are often directly related to one another through family or business ties. It may not be wise to leave funds in local banks as there could be bias or lack of transparency. However, it is still up to the organizations and charities involved to decide where to allocate their resources, and it's important to consider all potential benefits and risks associated with each option, including the access to international expertise and resources that could be valuable for conservation efforts. Ultimately, ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of funds is crucial, regardless of where the funds are retained.



Abdulla Hasrath (Haththu)
Owner
Dive Club Maldives

These accounts have to be retained in Maldivian banks. We should try to stop these people from making money on our name. Also, we should ask and have the authorities monitor these operations.

#GOREFRESH WITH A NESCAFÉ



AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR

 **Lily
International**