

The islandchief

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Dear Readers,

As we write this issue's publisher's note, we are ahead of many other Asian destinations in terms of attracting tourists in the wake of COVID-19, thanks in part to flocks of travelers from Russia who have been shunned by many countries following the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine.

Over 523,000 foreign tourists visited the Maldives during the first quarter of this year, up 8.5% from the same period in 2019 and making the Maldives one of the first nations where arrivals have exceeded pre-pandemic levels. However, the country still continues to face its fair share of challenges.

Whether you're looking for a timeless lobby bar to cozy up with a pisco sour—or you're hoping to drop your bags at a premium address before going out and exploring everything Maldives has to offer, the Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands is one of those hotels that instantly gives you a renewed love of old-world luxury and comfort while abroad.

We spoke to Renato De Oliveira, General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands, to get his insights on what sets the premium address apart from other luxury hotels across the Maldives and what makes the hotel's location in North Malé Atoll so worth checking out while in the Maldives.

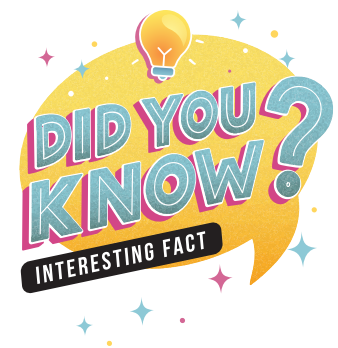
This month, we are also excited to share the news of South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) Jury Evaluation commencement in the Maldives. During the evaluation period, nominated properties will be meticulously assessed by the jury, comprising esteemed travel and hospitality experts and industry pioneers.

Moving on to Bon Appetit, we bring to you Mediterranean Braised Lamb by Chef Enver Can Gumus, Chef De Cuisine at LUX* South Ari Atoll. It hits close to home for Chef Enver as the dish is traditionally prepared for Breakfast during the month of Ramadan in his home country, Turkey.

And lastly, our industry experts on page 23, discuss the planned innovative strategies Maldives can adopt to promote the use of sustainable aviation fuel and reduce carbon emissions in the aviation sector.

Enjoy the issue,

The Islandchief Team



FUVAHMULAH

Fuvahmulah is renowned as the best place in the Maldives for guaranteed tiger shark sightings. Divers and underwater enthusiasts are in for a treat as they explore the depths of the "Tiger Zoo." This exhilarating experience offers an up-close encounter with these majestic creatures, creating memories that will last a lifetime. Diving with Tiger Sharks or snorkeling in the vibrant coral reefs are optional activities that promise a truly immersive experience. Alternatively, participate in an educational session to learn more about the marine ecosystem and conservation efforts in the Maldives. The choice is yours, and each option offers its own unique adventure.

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ITA Airways Announces Resume of Flights to Maldives During Winter Season

ITA Airways announced that it will recommence seasonal flights to the Maldives, starting from December 16, 2023. The seasonal flights will continue until March 25, 2024, and will operate twice a week. The airline plans to use the Airbus A350 for this route. This announcement was made as part of ITA Airways' plans for the Winter 2023/24 season. The flights are expected to depart from Rome Fiumicino Airport at 22:10 and arrive at Velana International Airport at 11:25 local time.

The Maldives is a popular tourist destination which attracts a significant number of visitors every year, and ITA Airways' decision to resume flights to the Maldives is expected to boost tourism in the region. The Maldives is home to a large number of luxury resorts and

hotels, making it a popular destination for honeymooners and families.

ITA Airways is an Italian airline that was founded in 2021. Since its inception, the airline has been focused on providing a premium travel experience to its passengers. ITA Airways operates long-haul flights to 11 destinations, including New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Miami, Washington, San Francisco, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Tokyo, and New Delhi.

The Airbus A350 is a popular aircraft that is known for its fuel efficiency, comfortable cabin, and modern design. It is often used on long-haul routes and is a favorite among passengers for its spacious seats and advanced in-flight entertainment systems. ITA Airways' decision to use the Airbus



A350 for its flights to the Maldives is expected to provide passengers with a comfortable and enjoyable travel experience.

ITA Airways' decision to resume flights to the Maldives is a positive development for the travel industry,

as the resumption provides travelers with more options when it comes to planning their vacations. ITA Airways' focus on providing a premium travel experience to its passengers is expected to make it a popular choice among travelers flying to the Maldives.

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ACROSS THE SKIES

Commencement of Night Flights to Kulhudhuffushi Airport Set in Motion with Test Flight



Kulhudhuffushi Airport is preparing to operate around the clock, both during the day and at night, in order to meet the growing demand for flights.

As the development work at Hanimaadhoo International Airport progresses, night flights to Kulhudhuffushi Airport will commence since

Hanimaadhoo Airport will soon be closed temporarily.

Currently, Hanimaadhoo Airport is closed daily from 14:00 to 02:00 due to ongoing construction activities. Consequently, international flights to Trivandrum, India from Hanimaadhoo have been suspended since March.

To facilitate night operations, runway lights have been installed at Kulhudhuffushi Airport, and a successful test flight was conducted by the national carrier, Maldivian.

The development project at Hanimaadhoo International Airport includes the construction of a passenger terminal, cargo terminal, fuel farm, and fire-fighting facility, with a total cost of USD 136 million. Additionally, the existing runway will be extended to 2,400 meters to accommodate larger aircraft such as the Airbus 320 and the Boeing 737. Once completed, the airport will have the capacity to handle 1.3 million passengers annually and will be able to accommodate narrow-body jets.

Luxury Carrier BEOND Unveils Airplane Livery

BEOND, in preparation for its launch, has expanded its team by hiring employees in the UAE and the Maldives. Additionally, just last week, the company inaugurated its new head office in Male'. The airline has further revealed the captivating livery that will adorn their A320 family aircraft.

"This exquisite design captures the essence of opulence, reminiscent of champagne bubbles or the thrilling freedom of underwater exploration - a gateway to boundless possibilities. It beckons you to embark on an unparalleled journey." - BEOND.

BEOND aims to serve 60 destinations worldwide from the Maldives, offering a spacious all-premium configuration that surpasses existing providers, establishing itself as the market's most affordable and sustainable luxury brand.

Passengers can expect a roomy interior boasting 68 fully lie-flat seats equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Luxurious materials have been meticulously incorporated into the design, ensuring an impeccable travel experience aboard their A320 family aircraft.

"We are here to provide you and your loved ones with an exceptional first-class travel experience. Come with us and fly above expectations. Fly Beond to the stunning islands of the Maldives



direct from more destinations than anyone else.

"We will make air travel exceptionally special and one day take this promise way beyond flying and

into other aspects of life."

Experience the Art of Sustainable Living with the JW Garden at JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa

JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa is pleased to announce the opening of its JW Garden, a peaceful and charming sanctuary that beautifully blends the marvels of nature with the art of gastronomy.

Designed as an ode to Alice Marriott's love for gardening, JW Gardens at JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts around the world, offer guests a serene oasis that nurtures a variety of fresh herbs, vegetables, and fruits, elevating their culinary experience to the next level.

With a total area of 3600 square feet, the JW Garden at JW Marriott Maldives Resort & Spa reflects the resort's commitment to sustainability and well-being. Culinary menus are specially crafted with the JW

Garden in mind, with many fresh herbs and vegetables included in both food and beverages and the resort's chefs employ holistic cooking methods that preserve the most delicious nutrients, ensuring guests savor the very best with every bite.

As a signature element of the JW Marriott experience, the JW Garden creates a sensory connection with the natural world, enlivening the spirit and rejuvenating the soul. The garden boasts a wide variety of herbs, vegetables and fruits grown all year round. Currently, the garden cultivates 10 herbs, 25 vegetables and 5 fruits, with a goal to increase this number in the coming year. Some of the herbs grown include sage, coriander and



lemongrass, while fruits and vegetables like tamarind, mango, passion fruit, red amaranth, tomato and cabbage are also grown.

The JW Garden is managed by two talented associates of the resort, Mohamed Rilwan, the laundry manager, and Abdullah Ibrahim, the herb gardener, who have played a crucial role in its development. They were responsible for clearing the area, setting up the infrastructure and growing the plants. The JW Garden is not just a garden but an art project created through the hard work and dedication of Rilwan and Abdullah. Their passion for creating a sustainable and tranquil space for guests is evident in every aspect of the JW Garden and they hope that the garden will offer inspiration and a chance for one to connect with nature

and ultimately with themselves.

Speaking more on what goes into maintaining the space, Rilwan said, "We believe in the importance of sustainability and taking care of our environment. We recycle all kitchen food scraps into compost and use only 100% organic fertilizer, which is homemade. The manual irrigation system used in the JW Garden not only conserves water but also helps us maintain the integrity of the soil. We are proud of our efforts and are happy to offer our guests dining experiences at our restaurants that are not only delicious but also environmentally responsible." He added, "Even our welcome drink, Basil Vagaru, that is served to every guest on arrival uses the herb from JW Garden, and the oshibori as well incorporates ingredients from the garden as an essence."



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IN A NUTSHELL

JOALI Maldives Brings Culinary Art of Life with Le Petit Chef



JOALI Maldives is renowned for bringing art to every corner of its breathtaking resort. From stunning architecture to world-class art installations, every detail at JOALI Maldives is designed to inspire and delight. And now, the resort is taking its commitment to art to a whole new level by bringing it to the dinner table - and off the canvas - with its latest

culinary creation: Le Petit Chef.

The resort's on-site Japanese restaurant, Saoke, has been transformed with the installation of Le Petit Chef, a one-of-a-kind culinary experience that blends technology and theatre to create a truly unforgettable meal and delight foodies and families alike.

But Le Petit Chef isn't just about the food - it's an immersive experience that invites diners to rediscover their inner child. From the moment the meal begins, guests are transported to a magical world where anything is possible. The charming animations and whimsical storyline make this a truly unique dining experience that is sure to captivate guests of all ages.

Le Petit Chef uses cutting-edge 3D mapping technology to project a tiny chef onto diners' plates. Guests are then taken on a whimsical journey as the smallest chef in the world prepares a delicious six-course meal right before their eyes.

"We are thrilled to bring Le Petit Chef to JOALI Maldives," said the resort's General Manager, Enver Arslan. "This creative dining experience is the perfect addition to our already exceptional culinary offerings. We are confident that our guests will be blown away by the creativity, technology, and sheer fun of this incredible installation."

Le Petit Chef will be available at Saoke for six months, offering guests a once-in-a-lifetime dining experience that they won't soon forget. Whether a foodie looking to expand the palate or a family in search of a magical evening out, Le Petit Chef is the perfect choice for anyone seeking an unforgettable dining experience.

Joy Island Maldives Seeks Dynamic Talent for its Pre-Opening Team

Joy Island, the highly anticipated luxury resort set to open in the Maldives, has announced a series of recruitment events for various positions in its pre-opening team. With a vision to deliver an unparalleled guest experience, the resort aims to assemble a talented workforce across departments including Food & Beverage, Housekeeping, Front Office, Culinary, Talent & Culture, Finance, Spa, and Engineering.

To kickstart the hiring process, Joy Island has organized a series of open-day walk-in interviews and information sessions at strategic locations across the Maldives archipelago. Aspiring candidates are encouraged to bring their updated CVs, relevant certificates, and a recent photograph to make a lasting impression on the hiring team.

The recruitment events will be held on the following dates and locations:

- Walk-in Interviews:**
May 25, 2023: Addu - MNU Hithadhoo Campus
May 28, 2023: Fuvahmulah - Zikura International College Main Hall
June 1, 2023: G.Dh. Thinadhoo - Ferry Terminal Museum Park Stadium
June 4, 2023: L. Gan - Youth Center (Thundi)
June 7, 2023: H.Dh. Kulhudhuffushi - H.Dh. Atoll Education Center
June 10, 2023: H.A. Dhihdhoo - Haa Alif Atoll Education Center
June 12, 2023: K. Malé - Summer Beach Maldives



The walk-in interviews provide an opportunity for candidates to showcase their skills, experience, and passion for the hospitality industry. Joy Island is seeking individuals who are dedicated, adaptable, and committed to delivering exceptional service. Whether it's creating culinary masterpieces, maintaining pristine guest rooms, or crafting unforgettable experiences, the resort aims to build a team that embodies its core values of excellence and innovation.

The information sessions, on the other hand, offer an insight into the unique brand identity of Joy Island and provide potential candidates with an opportunity to learn more about the resort's vision,

culture, and career growth prospects.

Joy Island Maldives promises an exhilarating career opportunity in the hospitality industry, surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty. The resort's commitment to providing an exceptional guest experience extends to fostering a supportive and inspiring work environment for its employees. For those aspiring to be a part of the Joy Island pre-opening team, these recruitment events present an incredible chance to embark on a rewarding journey within the luxury hospitality sector. Interested candidates are encouraged to mark their calendars, prepare their documents, and seize the opportunity to make a lasting impression.

IN A NUTSHELL

Holiday Inn Kandooma Teams with Parley for the Oceans



Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives and Parley for the Ocean Maldives have formalised a collaboration ahead of World Ocean Awareness month (June). The recently signed Letter of Intent supports the Tourism Industry of the Maldives’ goal to implement the Parley AIR Strategy and aims to put the spotlight on the major threats facing the ocean.

The Parley AIR Strategy embodies 3 key pillars:

- AVOID the use of fossil-based plastics wherever possible
- INTERCEPT plastic waste, divert it from landfills, nature and burning, into closed loops
- REDESIGN products and materials and rethink how we interact and live on Planet Earth

“We are delighted to be officially collaborating with Parley for the Ocean to keep the crystal clear waters of the Maldives pristine and a safe habitat for

our marine life,” said Mark Eletr, General Manager, Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives.

“When we met with the team from Parley, I was immediately engaged and inspired. I wanted to have our resort be part of their efforts not just in a strategic sense, but also in the important areas of awareness and education.”

Mark explained that many guests visiting Kandooma are interested in environmental activities, efforts in the sustainability space and the use of renewable energy and that the resort is well-positioned to help drive awareness through guest outreach and bespoke activities.

“Hotels and resorts are in a unique position to be able to use their reach to guests to model behaviours and to share the story. We have a responsibility in the tourism sector to preserve the beautiful natural resources of our destination,” he added.

Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives has committed to intercepting plastic waste at the resort, collaborating in

transporting plastics from nearby islands (when needed) using resort boats, and participating in uninhabited island clean-ups, as the Resort’s contribution to the AIR Strategy. The Resort is actively exploring further ‘avoid’ measures around the use of plastic in the resort operation, actively encouraging visitors to Kandooma to emotionally connect with the life of the ocean to ensure its protection for future generations. The resort has also pledged to engage each team member to become a champion of the oceans and to actively embrace relationships with nearby communities and schools to foster an appreciation for the ocean.

Speaking about the collaboration with Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives, Executive Director, Shaahina Ali from Parley Maldives, commented, “Parley shares valuable synergies with Kandooma’s management and we are excited about the opportunities that will unfold through this new relationship which will further promote our AIR Tourism programme designed to address the major threats to our oceans through creativity, collaboration and eco-innovation.”

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Gili Lankanfushi Maldives Appoints Rodrigo Buanafina as Resort Manager

Gili Lankanfushi Maldives, the pioneer of sustainable barefoot luxury in the Maldives, is delighted to announce the appointment of Rodrigo Buanafina as Resort Manager, effective 1st May. An internal promotion from his previous position as Director of Food & Beverage at the five-star eco-resort, Buanafina brings 10 years of luxury hospitality experience to his new role. As Resort Manager, Buanafina will oversee day-to-day operations of the 45-villa resort, including this summer's Overwater Bar renovation plans.

"I am thrilled to be stepping up to the Resort Manager position at what is such an exciting time for Gili," said Buanafina, commenting on his appointment. "It's been a joy to be part of this incredible team and iconic property over the last five years and I couldn't be more excited for this new chapter in my Gili journey. I look forward to seeing our beloved island go from strength-to-strength, offering our clients a Maldivian adventure like no other in 2023 and beyond".

A Brazilian native, Buanafina joined the

Gili Lankanfushi team as F&B Manager in 2018 and was quickly promoted to Director of F&B. During his five years in F&B leadership, he oversaw a nearly 100-strong team and implemented a number of unique gourmet offerings and experiences. Ranging from a new blind-dining experience and Brazilian Churrascaria theme night to a 'Destination Drinking' bartender battle, his innovations are credited with elevating the island's dining offering to one of the most well-reputed in the Maldives.

Prior to his time at Gili, Buanafina held various F&B management roles across other Indian Ocean resorts. Previous experience includes two years as Assistant Director of F&B Pine Cliffs, a Luxury Collection Resort in Portugal and the largest in Europe – accommodating up to 3,100 guests.

Gili Lankanfushi enjoys an unspoilt island location in the Maldives' North Malé Atoll, just 20 minutes by speedboat from Malé Airport. Perfectly suited for couples, families, solo travelers and groups alike, the resort combines rustic eco-design, unparalleled service and stunning natural scenery with a



laid-back-luxury, 'no news, no shoes' philosophy. The award-winning eco-resort celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2022, following a complete refurbishment of all 45 villas in 2019.

Award-winning Chef Emmanuel Joins Seaside Finolhu Baa Atoll as New Culinary Director



Seaside Finolhu Baa Atoll Maldives has confirmed the appointment of Emmanuel Soares as the resort's new Culinary Director. A passionate and award-winning chef, Emmanuel's 35 years of experience in the restaurant, catering and hotel business have seen him hold prominent positions in Europe, South America, the Caribbean, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Born in France, Emmanuel is also fluent in Portuguese and English, with conversational proficiency in Spanish and Russian. He holds a

Certificate in Food Service Management from Cornell University in the US. Defining his professional outlook, Emmanuel says the chefs who influenced him the most were those who focused on the essence of the ingredients and products with a balance between simplicity and creativity.

Emmanuel graduated in Paris with the highest rank of BTS in hospitality, following his final steps as a student of the prestigious Cornell University. He started first essential culinary experience at the age of 15 at a noble Trianon Palace (today Waldorf Astoria), in the restaurant with 2 stars Michelin "Les

Trois Marches" in Versailles under the mentoring of legendary Chef Gérard Vié. During his career path, Emmanuel developed his experience by working in the most prestigious places in Paris: Relain du Parc, Le Doyen, The Ritz Club. Café de France, Le Chapeau Gris with internationally recognised Chefs like - Alain Ducasse, Ghislaine Arabian and Michele Roth, (MOF). Emmanuel really started being noticed in the circle of "cuisine bourgeoise" when executing his significant culinary service to leaders such as Ambassador Sergio de Amaral (Brazil), Family Ricard (France) and Nicolas Sarkozy (French President

2007-2012). His approach to international hospitality management and culinary expertise brought a new vision and excellence to food & beverage concepts in more than 12 countries for multi-award winning resorts in ultra-luxury segment as: One & Only Reethi Rah (Maldives), Jumeirah (UAE), La Réserve (Switzerland), Bakers Bay Golf & Ocean Club (Bahamas), Opera Hotel & Donbass Palace (Ukraine), First IHG (Portugal) and Kenzi (Morocco).

Honing his skills abroad and learning different cultures, Emmanuel masterfully transformed this experience in his recipes with an absolute artisan technique and sense of details, - what became a signature part in his portfolio.

On taking up his new role with Finolhu, Emmanuel stated, "I'm excited to join a dynamic team with a strong emphasis on quality and guest experience, with a multi-cultural background and no compromises on quality."

Owned and managed by Seaside Collection, Seaside Finolhu Baa Atoll Maldives, is a luxury island resort renowned for its two-kilometre white powdery beaches that stretch out across four islands. Firmly established as one of the finest resorts in the Maldives, "Finolhu", meaning sandbank in Dhivehi, consists of 125 beachfront and overwater villas.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Ooredoo Maldives Announces Noora Zahir as Head of Brand & Marcomms



Noora Zahir has been appointed as the Head of Brand & Marcomms of Ooredoo Maldives. Formerly the Senior Manager of Brand and Marcomms, Noora has established herself as a strong pillar of the company having worked with Ooredoo Maldives for the past 11 years, demonstrating a plethora of skills in Brand Development, Media Management, CSR & Sponsorships, Advertising, Employee Engagement, Networking, and Project Planning.

Ooredoo Maldives is driven by its vision of enriching people's lives through telecommunications and technology to help people achieve their full potential. The company caters to customers across Maldives including small to medium businesses, large corporates and state institutions, providing a wide range of innovative voice, data, broadband, content,

enterprise and e-commerce services tailored to the growing needs of today's consumers and businesses.

Ooredoo has spread its wings in major contents of the world successfully operating in competitive markets such as Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Palestine, the Maldives and Indonesia. Among its many achievements and accolades the company was named the 'Best Mobile Operator' of the year 2013 at World Communication Awards.

Ooredoo generated revenues of USD 9 billion as of December 31, 2019. Its shares are listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange and the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Le Méridien Maldives Appoints Thomas Schult as New General Manager

Luxury resort, Le Meridien Maldives Resort & Spa, has announced the appointment of Thomas Schult as their new General Manager. Thomas has extensive experience within the hospitality sector and has worked for Marriott for more than 20 years.

He specializes in revenue management and has held numerous roles within the company, including Market Director of Revenue Strategy across both Europe and Asia. Additionally, he has completed two Task Force assignments as the General Manager of Renaissance Bali Uluwatu Resort & Spa and Courtyard by Marriott Bali Nusa Dua Resort.

In his most recent role, Thomas served

as the Area Director of Revenue Strategy, Indonesia, where he excelled in driving revenue and market share for the organization.

Le Meridien Maldives is a stunning luxury resort surrounded by tropical waters and unspoilt beaches in the heart of the Indian Ocean. Secluded in a southeastern pocket of Atoll Lhaviyani and located on Thilamaafushi, a natural island, guests can unwind in true paradise and enjoy the crystal clear waters fringed with reefs and marine life.

Thomas commented: "I am delighted to take up this new position at Le Meridien Maldives. It is a stunning property and boasts many unique



attributes that sets it apart from other island destinations.

"I look forward to working with the

team to showcase this glamorous resort and ultimately drive customers to visit the property."

OUTRIGGER Maldives Maafushivaru Appoints New Resident Marine Biologist



Ocean conservation is a core pillar for OUTRIGGER Resorts & Hotels and the newly appointed resident marine biologist at OUTRIGGER Maldives Maafushivaru Resort has ambitious plans for guest interaction and participation this World Ocean Month, which runs throughout June.

As part of OUTRIGGER Zone – the premier beach resort brand's global conservation initiative on marine and environmental protection – guests can join in and learn about conservation activities that go beyond World Reef

Day on June 1, World Environment Day on 5 June and World Ocean Day on June 8.

Danielle Stanley, a dual British-South African national, who grew up in Tanzania, took over her new post with OUTRIGGER Maldives Maafushivaru Resort in March. Throughout June, she and her colleagues will implement a wide-ranging variety of conservation initiatives that guests can join. Activities include coral planting, whale shark and manta excursions, showing marine-themed documentaries, holding arts and crafts sessions,

conducting a school educational visit, and inviting guests to participate in marine wildlife database and research activities.

OUTRIGGER guests help Danielle compile encounter sheets when they join the resort's excursions to see manta rays and assorted benign sharks in the surrounding waters. She describes the surrounding seas as "one of the top seven shark sanctuaries in the world". Sightings of whale shark, black tip, white tip, gray reef, nurse and silver tip are quite common.

Danielle adds: "I want people to shift away from negative misconceptions about sharks. They are misunderstood animals. They are truly beautiful and critically important for the health of our oceans."

Incorporating artistic creativity into her marine work is important. For example, Danielle paints murals and invites kids at the resort to draw aquatic creatures or make art from materials they discover on the beach.

Since taking up her post at OUTRIGGER Maldives Maafushivaru Resort, Danielle has introduced Monday and Thursday evening guest presentations. These are on topics such as Maldives Megafauna, Life On Our Blue Planet,

The Ocean: A Carbon Sink, Oceans and Climate Change. There are also specialist presentations on sea turtles, whale sharks, manta rays and coral reefs. Friday nights are also marine documentary nights at the resort.

Danielle, who completed a postgraduate course in marine biology at Newcastle University in England last year, has been inspired by the work of marine conservationist and author Sylvia Earle. "She's a legend in the world of marine activism," says Danielle.

She is also inspired by 'shark girl' Madison Stewart whose Project Hiu aims to repurpose shark fishing boats in the Indonesian archipelago by turning them into marine excursion vessels run by former shark fin fishermen.

Danielle is also an acclaimed underwater photographer. Her image of a diver in the waters off Tanzania trying to remove a fishing line and hook from the mouth of a whale shark was shortlisted in the Environmental Photographer of the Year Awards 2022.

Regarding World Ocean Month, she says: "I am looking forward to raising awareness on the importance of healthy marine wildlife and ecosystems for our guests, hosts and local communities here in the Maldives. It is critical that we form a sustainable connection between people and our oceans."

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REACHING THE PINNACLE

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

with

Renato De Oliveira

General Manager,
Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands

In the realm of luxury hospitality, one man stands above the rest: Renato De Oliveira, General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands, the visionary behind the esteemed Ritz-Carlton Hotel brand. With a two-decade long career in international hotel management, Renato seized the opportunity to shape the industry with his distinctive values and beliefs.

In this captivating interview, Renato shares a treasure trove of insights, as he generously imparts his wisdom and experiences in the world of luxury hospitality.

“ Our Ladies and Gentlemen are the defining difference when it comes to world-class hospitality in the Maldives. We look to each of them to create memorable guest experiences and we rely on their creativity to grant even the slightest unexpressed wishes of our guests. ”

How did it all start? Can you share your journey of 19 years of luxury hospitality experience in the Marriott Group across Europe, South America, China and Southeast Asia?

Born and raised in Brazil – one of the most captivating countries in the world with a rich heritage, the tourism and hospitality industry had always captured my interest, which led me towards my Degree in Tourism Management at Anhembi Morumbi University.

During my studies, I had the opportunity to receive my first career experience as a Reservations Agent at an airline company, followed by a summer internship programme at Disney World in Florida. Through these experiences, I knew then, that hotels were my passion.

I started working as a receptionist with Accor in Sao Paulo and after graduation, I continued with a post-graduate study at the Swiss Hotel Management School - Les Roches Marbella in Spain. Thus began my journey with The Ritz-Carlton, 18 years ago as an Intern at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Arts in Barcelona. Since then, I've worked in seven different properties across Europe, South America, and Asia between The Ritz-Carlton and St. Regis brand. These included The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Arts Barcelona, The Ritz-Carlton Abama, The Ritz-Carlton Shanghai, Pudong, The Ritz-Carlton Santiago, The Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore, The St. Regis Kuala Lumpur and now, The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands.

How would you differentiate Marriott group properties from other International Hospitality Brands? What is your Unique Selling Proposition (USP)?

Marriott International offers the largest and most compelling portfolio of brands in hospitality, allowing guests to pick the brand that best suits their travel needs.

The Ritz-Carlton philosophy is extremely powerful. The brand has a very strong foundation with values that bring the best out of each of our Ladies and Gentlemen, inspiring them to always provide true and genuine care to our guests. The Ritz-Carlton service is legendary and in creating meaningful and memorable experiences to our guests. This is what I love the most about the brand.

The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands is part of the first luxury integrated resort development that brings together Patina Maldives and in the near future, Capella Maldives. This allows our guests to experience other facilities and activities around the archipelago. For example, at The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands, our Culinary Island offers five restaurants and bars, at Fari Marina Village, guests can experience eight more exquisite dining venues alongside other retail and leisure facilities.

It is also important to highlight our world-class partners, such as Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment program and Bamford who play an integral role in our guest experience. Our Master of Crafts & Craftsmanship calendar – a stellar line-up that will take guests on curated culinary journeys with Michelin-starred Chefs and artisanal gastronomic maven, partake in exhilarating Behind the Bar experiences with award-winning bartenders from around the world and offer enriching wellness experiences. Of course, above it all, our Ladies and Gentlemen are the defining difference when it comes to world-class hospitality in the Maldives. We look to

each of them to create memorable guest experiences and we rely on their creativity to grant even the slightest unexpressed wishes of our guests.

You have been known as a dedicated leader of high-performance teams, results orientated with strategic business acumen to deliver service excellence, financial results and innovation. What is your leadership style and What do you think it takes to succeed in this industry?

I truly believe in Servant Leadership, where my focus is on the people, in developing their potential to achieve their fullest capabilities. Hard work, responsibility and passion are key pillars for success and every leader should guide their team on how to master these qualities.

Being present and available is also essential in ensuring consistency in behavior. As we have pledged in The Ritz-Carlton Employee Promise by applying the principles of trust, honesty, respect, integrity, and commitment, we nurture and maximize talent to the benefit of our Ladies and Gentlemen and the company.

What are the key attributes you look for while selecting or hiring staff?

I personally interview each and every candidate, my main focus is attitude and personality.

In these 2 years, what are the challenges you have faced in the Maldives and what are the trends you see impacting the hospitality industry?

Over the last two years, we have been blessed with a very successful business and operation without major challenges. I believe trends that are impacting the hospitality industry continue to include holistic approaches towards environment and social responsibility – initiatives where guests can play an important role in contributing to activities whilst on holiday. The personal wellness space has also developed new and intuitive trends and we are focused on offering our guests experiences to reconnect with themselves through mindful programmes.

As Maldives is marketed as a luxury destination with one island one resort concept; what is your main target market for The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands and how do you work with the local community?

Our main target market for The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands are high-net worth individuals, leisure travellers looking to experience the legendary Ritz-Carlton service and most importantly our Marriott Bonvoy members. Our guests are also well travelled and have experienced countless luxury properties around the world. In order to ensure The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands stands out, we work with the local community by showcasing their arts and crafts which in turn contributes to the income of the local island, our fresh seafood is procured from passing fishermen who practice sustainable fishing methods and hand-selected by our culinary team, we also support local schools and businesses through our Community Footprints initiative and more.

The Maldives Government has committed to making the country carbon neutral by 2030, in what ways does the property contribute to Sustainable and Ecotourism?

Marriott's sustainability strategy is driven by a wide range of initiatives to reduce environmental impacts through the construction and operation of sustainable hotels and responsible sourcing while protecting and restoring the ecosystems on which life depends. At The

- Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari islands some of our initiatives include:
- The reduction of single-use plastics – our villas and spa amenities by Bamford are replenished from refilling stations.
 - We bottle our own still and sparkling water at our water bottling plant.
 - We have initiated an internal food waste prevention and reduction of food waste programme.
 - Practicing responsible sourcing is a priority for us – ensuring we procure products that do not negatively impact the environment, and partner with suppliers that promote positive social impact.
 - The timber used to build our resort was procured from sustainable forests in Europe.
 - Solar panels harness sustainable energy – reducing 233,600 litres of diesel per year, paving for a more energy-responsible future.
 - Air conditioning is a sophisticated cross-ventilation system with sensors and lights are LED, further lowering carbon footprint.

What are the most significant trends currently shaping the luxury resort industry? Do you believe that the new AI will impact / change the hospitality industry?

AI is already impacting the industry in many ways, through the use of chatbots and virtual assistants to help guests with their needs and elevate hotel security and safety protocols. AI will continue to serve its purpose, however, the personalised, intuitive and genuine care of our Ladies and Gentlemen will be our top most priority to nurture.

In order to foster professional growth and development, many resorts have found success in implementing apprenticeship programs. Have you considered or planned to implement apprenticeship programs?

We have a Marriott International Maldives Apprenticeship Program designed to identify local talent in collaboration with the Maldives Institute of Technology (MIT) and National Apprenticeship Program (NAP) implemented through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment (MOY). This program helps us to recognize and increase potential future talent and to optimise their presence in the job market.

What advice would you give to a young, emerging hotelier striving for success in their career?

To continuously focus on excellence, enhance your knowledge on luxury experiences and always preserve your passion to serve people.



NEW OPENINGS

Resort Life Secures Bid to Build City Hotel in Uligan with Over 100 Million MVR Investment



Resort Life Travel has won the bid to construct a hotel in Uligan with an investment of over 100 million.

Mohamed Shaaz Waleed, the owner of Resort Life, is renowned for his unwavering dedication to positioning Russia as the top tourism market in the Maldives. His exceptional efforts have been recognized and

commended by the government and industry experts like Champa Hussain Afifmen. However, this time, Resort Life has chosen to elevate its endeavors beyond attracting tourists to the Maldives by venturing into the construction of a city hotel, marking a significant investment for Shaz. The Maldives Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has initiated the

construction of a city hotel in the picturesque region of Uligan, and Resort Life has been granted the contract to build a grand city hotel in the vicinity.

Speaking about the tourism project, to be named 'Ulifushi' in Uligan, Shaaz shared with local media that the company is currently conducting environmental research and other related studies following the Uligan Council's decision to award them the project. Shaaz also emphasized the hotel's commitment to incorporating eco-friendly features.

"The final touches are being applied to the hotel's design. It will consist of a total of 50 rooms, with an initial focus on opening 30 of them this year... We are determined to accomplish this, with the grace of God," stated Shaaz.

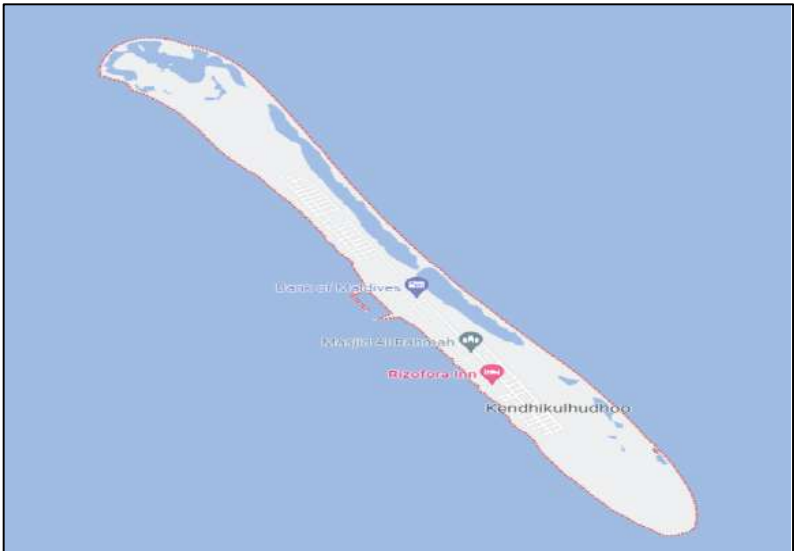
He further mentioned that this ambitious project is expected to attract an investment of approximately MVR 100 million and will breathe new life into Uligan. Shaz expressed that the construction of the MTDC hotel has faced delays, which is why the new hotel will create numerous job opportunities in the area. The project aims to employ at least 200 individuals from Uligan, making it a significant development for the community. Shaz added, "Moreover, this hotel will invigorate other activities in the village."

This venture, launched alongside the government's plans to enhance the Hanimaadhoo International Airport and expand international travel, will benefit the entire Thiladhun region. Additionally, the presence of these accommodations will facilitate charter flights to Thiladhun, especially since Waleed successfully attracted tourists to the Maldives through several charter flights during the COVID pandemic.

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.

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NEW OPENINGS

Corinthia Hotels Announces Opening of Luxury Resort in the Maldives

Corinthia Hotels has secured a hotel management agreement to oversee a luxurious resort in the Maldives, set to open its doors in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The initial stages of the project, involving land reclamation and the first phase of development, have already commenced on the Kaafu Atoll. The resort will consist of two islands, with the larger one accommodating a 73-key resort and the smaller one designated for exclusive use. Drawing inspiration from the graceful curves of manta rays in the ocean, Corinthia Maldives will showcase aquatic-themed architecture designed by HKS. In addition to the stunning design, the resort will feature a variety of amenities, including wellness facilities, multiple fitness spaces, and

five unique restaurants. René Beil, the managing director of Maarah Holdings and Maarah Pvt Ltd (the developer of the luxury resort to be operated by Corinthia), expressed enthusiasm for this significant milestone in the development of a premium Maldivian resort. Situated a mere 15 minutes away from Male International Airport, the resort is poised to create long-term employment opportunities for the local population while contributing to the flourishing tourism industry of the Maldives.

Various renowned firms have been engaged for the project, with HKS serving as the lead architects. RLB Hoolooman has been appointed as the project managers, leveraging their experience of successfully completing



14 resorts in the Maldives. They will collaborate with the Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC), the primary contractor responsible for land reclamation and shore protection works. China State

Construction has been selected as the general contractor for the resort, while Beaufort Global, based in Dubai, U.A.E., will assume the role of asset manager.

Dubai-based Group Announces to Launch a Luxury Hotel Project in the Maldives: Al Mahra Maldives Resort



Dubai-based FAM Holdings Group has announced plans to launch the Al Mahra Maldives Resort, a luxury hotel and residential project in the Maldives, which is the first real estate expansion outside of the UAE for the Group. The project has received investments of around AED 800 million (USD 217.8 million), and is considered one of the latest real estate development projects to be launched by the Group. The Chairman of FAM Holding Group, Dr. Faisal Ali Mousa, made the announcement at the Arabian Travel Market 2023, which is being held in the

Dubai World Trade Centre from May 1-4, 2023. Mousa stated that through the Al Mahra Maldives tourist resort project, FAM Holding Group aims to tap into the Maldives, as it is a global tourist destination and bucket list destination for many travellers worldwide. The resort will be established on an island of 100,000 square metres, and will comprise 150 hotel units and chalets, including 100 floating villas. Each unit will include a private swimming pool. Additionally, the resort will feature 40

beach villas, including 10 VIP villas, as well as 3 restaurants, one spa, and a gym. Mousa explained that the Maldives was selected because it is a global touristic destination that people from the Arabian Gulf, Asia, and Europe visit. Additionally, the majority of famous trademarks and big touristic companies have a presence there, and the UAE is one of the biggest Middle Eastern investors in the Maldives. Furthermore, the Maldives offers unprecedented investment facilitations and incentives to stimulate the flow of touristic investments on a continuous basis.

Building work for the Al Mahra Maldives resort will start in three months and is expected to continue for two and a half years. The finishing of works and handing over the project are scheduled for mid-2025. The US dollar was chosen as the currency of payment for buying in Al Mahra Maldives because the project will be marketed on a global scale, including the UAE, with marketers for the project in Europe, Asia, China, India, Russia, and the USA. Mousa expected that the new project would attract tourists from all over the

world, and would contribute to integration with the other projects of FAM Holding Group inside and outside the UAE. The project is deemed the extension of the trademark, Al Mahra, which is owned by the Group, and it is expected to be launched in other countries, as Al Mahra Resort in Al Marjan Island, Ras Al Khaimah, met with huge success. Mousa noted that the Group aims for this Resort to be a global touristic trademark, which is spread inside and outside the UAE. FAM Holding is one of the fastest-growing real estate development companies in the UAE, focusing on the development of qualitative properties against affordable prices to target the middle-income categories. The Group seeks to upgrade its activities and operations to strengthen its role in supporting the march of economic development in the UAE, and increase the sources of its income. In the context of its long-term strategy, the Group plans to expand in several markets in the region, including one in an Arab Gulf country and another in an African country. However, Mousa stated that these projects would not be announced before obtaining all the necessary approvals.

Successful Conclusion of the Inaugural Maldives Marine Industry Forum



The first-ever Maldives Marine Industry Forum, facilitated by Medium Events Pvt Ltd and the National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) has been concluded successfully. The event, held on May 27, brought together prominent stakeholders from the marine industry, creating an environment of collaboration and knowledge sharing.

The forum aimed to identify crucial

issues and drive the growth of the local marine industry while raising awareness about key challenges faced by the sector. Through engaging panel discussions, the event fostered a domino effect, inspiring participants to take collective action and secure a steadfast future for the Maldives Marine Industry.

During the course of the forum, attendees were privileged to witness

five enlightening panel discussions, which delved into various pertinent topics:

1. Marine Logistics and Regulations:

Esteemed panelists, including Captain Abdulla Saeed, Captain Ahmed Maumoon, Ms. Mariyam Visam, Mr. Abdul Rasheed Ibrahim, and Mr. Shahid Ali, shared their expertise on navigating the intricacies of marine logistics and regulations.

2. Boating Tourism and Safety:

Industry luminaries, such as Dr. Abdulla Mausoom, Mr. Ahmed Afrah, Mr. Ahmed Shabiq, Mr. Hussain Nazeer, and Captain Mohamed Zaid, exchanged valuable insights on promoting boating tourism while ensuring the highest standards of safety.

3. Boat Building and Connectivity:

The panel discussion on boat building and connectivity featured distinguished speakers Mr. Ahmed Zameer, Mr. Ismail Shareef, Mr. Costas Eliopoulos, Mr. Ashvaal Rasheed, and Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim, who shared their perspectives on advancing the industry

through innovation and connectivity.

4. Fuel & Bunkering:

Participants gained valuable knowledge on fuel and bunkering from esteemed panelists Mr. Hussain Aman, Ms. Aisha Anika Naseer, Mr. Mohamed Shuaib Ahmed, Mr. Ahmed Riffath, and Mr. Ahmed Khaleel, who explored the challenges and opportunities in this vital aspect of the marine industry.

5. Seafood:

The final panel discussion focused on the supply, demand, and challenges of the seafood market, with insights shared by Dr. Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Mr. Umar Jamaal, Mr. Adil Saleem, Dr. M. Shiham Adam, and Mohamed Shujau – Chef MED.

The Maldives Marine Industry Forum successfully accomplished its objectives, fostering dialogue, networking, and knowledge exchange among industry stakeholders. By addressing crucial issues and sharing innovative ideas, the forum has laid the foundation for a more vibrant and sustainable marine sector in the Maldives.



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EVENTS & AWARDS

Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (MATATO) Collaborates with Korean Tourism Organisation (KTO) for Roadshow Event



The Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (MATATO) announced its partnership with the Korean Tourism Organisation (KTO) for an exciting roadshow event aimed at promoting bilateral tourism between the Maldives and Korea in Male' Maagiri Hotel. This event serves as a platform to introduce KTO to its esteemed members, stakeholders, and the media, facilitating a closer partnership and opening up new

opportunities for both destinations.

The roadshow event comes as a continuation of the productive discussions held between MATATO and KTO in March of this year. During these discussions, a variety of topics were explored. This collaboration signifies the commitment of both organizations to foster closer ties and enhance tourism experiences for travelers from both countries.

The Maldives and Korea have enjoyed a longstanding relationship, with Korean tourists and honeymooners expressing a deep affection for the pristine beauty of the Maldives over the course of many decades. Conversely, the Maldivian community has developed a growing interest in Korean culture, ranging from its delectable cuisine and captivating dramas to its popular music, especially in recent years.

This roadshow event presents an exceptional opportunity for MATATO members and other industry stakeholders to gain valuable insights into the diverse offerings of Korea as a tourist destination. Attendees were treated to engaging presentations by KTO and speech by Regional Director, Mr. Myong Kil Yun. Their expert knowledge and expertise will shed light on the unique experiences and attractions awaiting Maldivian travelers in Korea.

"We are excited to witness the captivating presentations and hear the perspectives of our members on this partnership," said Abdulla Ghiyas President MATATO. "The collaboration between MATATO and KTO holds immense potential for forging stronger ties and creating mutually beneficial opportunities. We anticipate that this event will pave the way for more Maldivians to explore Korea and for Korean visitors to discover the enchanting beauty of the Maldives."

The MATATO-KTO roadshow event promises to be an immersive experience, offering attendees the chance to network with key industry professionals, share insights, and explore potential avenues for collaboration. It represents a significant milestone in the efforts to strengthen tourism ties between the Maldives and Korea, fostering cultural exchange and facilitating the growth of the travel and hospitality industries in both countries.

MMPRC Concludes Visit Maldives Storytellers' Conference 2023

Maldives Marketing & PR Corporation (MMPRC/ Visit Maldives) has announced the successful conclusion of the highly anticipated Visit Maldives Storytellers' Conference 2023. The event took place on May 30, 2023, in the picturesque Crossroads Maldives, bringing together esteemed speakers and participants from around the world to celebrate the beauty and allure of storytelling in the Sunny Side of Life.

The Visit Maldives Storytellers' Conference 2023 was a one-of-a-kind gathering that united over 70 content creators, journalists, bloggers, and industry professionals in an immersive experience to discover and share the wonders of Maldives. Over the course of the conference, participants had the opportunity to connect with the local culture, explore breathtaking landscapes, and understand how to create compelling narratives that showcase the true

essence of a destination.

Throughout the event, attendees were engaged in a series of insightful panel discussions, interactive workshops, and networking sessions led by renowned experts in the field. These sessions delved into various topics such as sustainable tourism, responsible travel, cultural preservation, and the power of storytelling to inspire and promote destinations.

As the conference day came to a close, participants bid farewell to the vibrant atmosphere of the event and embarked on their journeys to 8 uniquely enchanting regions of Maldives. The hidden gems that are being explored during these sideline trips are Raa Atoll, Laamu Atoll, Ari Atoll, Vaavu Atoll, Haa Alifu and Haa Dhaalu Atolls, Kaafu Atoll, Addu Atoll, and Fuvahmulah. As part of this exclusive conference, participants will



have the opportunity to explore the natural wonders and engage in exciting activities for 3 days to create unforgettable stories to share with the world.

"We are thrilled to have successfully concluded the Visit Maldives Storytellers' Conference 2023," said Mr Thoyyib Mohamed, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of MMPRC.

"This event has been a remarkable platform for travel enthusiasts and industry professionals to come together and immerse themselves in the extraordinary beauty of the Maldives. We are excited to see the captivating stories, photos, and videos that will be shared by our participants with the world as they 'weave their Maldivian stories'."

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IN THE NEWS

Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island and Gulf Craft Unveil Ultra-Luxury Guest Transfer Vessel



Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island and Gulf Craft has unveiled an ultra-luxury Guest Transfer Vessel - the Gulf Craft 48 VIP - setting a new standard in first-class guest transfer experiences in the Maldives.

Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island and Gulf Craft have reimagined onboard comfort levels with the

debut of the 48-foot VIP Guest Transfer Vessel, which has been meticulously designed to cater to the most discerning travelers and is testament to the resort's commitment to taking luxury hospitality to new heights.

The boat's exquisite interior design is complemented by luxurious amenities inspired by the resort, providing

guests with unparalleled levels of comfort and style. As guests step onboard, they will be greeted by an elegant interior featuring spacious seating upholstered in plush leather with a sophisticated hand-stitched trim. The VIP seating features fully electric adjustable backrest, footrest and recline settings as well as wireless mobile phone charging capabilities and suspension for the smoothest cruise experience. To the rear of the vessel, an outdoor VIP lounge awaits with luxurious leather sofa- style seating located on the teak deck – the perfect spot to take in the breath-taking local surroundings and panoramic views en route to the resort.

"The collaboration between Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island and Gulf Craft is a notable partnership in the luxury travel industry; guests can now look forward to a truly unforgettable journey to the resort. The launch of our new VIP guest transfer vessel reflects Jumeirah Group's position as a

leader in luxury hospitality, delivering unparalleled unique guest experiences that exceed expectations to delight our guests at every opportunity," said Mohamed Ashraf, General Manager of Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island.

As a leading yacht and boat builder in the region, Gulf Craft shares in the excitement of this partnership. Mohammed Hussein AlShaali, Gulf Craft Chairman, commented: "We are proud to have partnered with the stunning Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island to create a vessel that reaches new heights of luxury and design. We are confident that the Gulf Craft 48 VIP will establish a new benchmark in the Maldives for luxury transfers."

The introduction of this luxury guest transfer experience represents Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island's, ongoing commitment to innovation, and pushing the boundaries of luxury hospitality in the Maldives and worldwide.

Hotels And Resorts Investments Pvt Ltd of the Maldives (HARIM) and H Al Dhaen Boats WLL of the Kingdom of Bahrain Inks Agreement

Boating, Marine and Tourism sector of Maldives aspires to reach new heights as two enigmatic powerhouses from different corners of the globe, Hotels And Resorts Investments Pvt Ltd of the Maldives (HARIM) and H Al Dhaen Boats WLL of the Kingdom of Bahrain join hands in collaboration.

The dealership agreement signing was held on the night of May 29, 2023, at Hotel Jen with high profile attendees as guests including ministers and prominent stakeholders of the boating, marine and tourism industry. Vice Chair and Managing Director of HARIM Ms. Ayesha Nurain gave the opening remarks of the event, giving us an insight on the dealership and how this partnership will be instrumental in meeting the needs of the boating market with nothing but the best, whilst uplifting the industry and Maldives as a whole.

While speaking in the event, the Chairman of HARIM Mr. Mohamed Ali Janah mentioned that his actual passion lies in building resorts, and that the inspiration to expand and

explore newer horizons came from his children, giving him the aspiration required to foray into the boating industry.

Highlighting on partnership and investment, Mr. Mohamed Ali Janah outlined the magnitude of the associating Bahrain partner making them the perfect ally for this dealership. Further, he conveyed the concept of a boatyard as well as a boat building factory, expressing gratitude on receiving a lagoon to develop.

Director of Sales, H. Al Dhaen Boats, Mr. Sahbi Nagati echoed the sentiments of Mr. Mohamed Ali Janah, by pressing further on the opportunities this union presents to both HARIM and H Al Dhaen Boats as well as Maldives. As a gesture of gratitude, Mr. Sahbi Nagati on behalf of H Al Dhaen Boats presented Mr. Mohamed Ali Janah with a souvenir representative of the culture of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

President of National Boating Association of Maldives, Mr. Ismail



Hameed gave the vote of thanks at the event, during which he exclaimed his appreciation for this dealership as such concepts and services bearing from such collaborations are of significant requirement in the boating industry. Maldives being the number one destination in the world is reflected in the booming tourism industry of the country, hence, newer improved boats are needed at a faster rate, that can provide better speed, greater comfort, and higher levels of convenience.

Key industry pioneers were awarded plaques as a token of appreciation for

their presence and contribution to the industry. The awardees included Minister of Tourism, Honorable Minister Aishath Nahula, Minister at President's Office, Honorable Minister Zaha Waheed, Chief Executive Officer of Maldives Transport Contracting Company Plc Mr. Adam Azim, Managing Director of Allied Insurance Mr. Mohamed Shafaz, Managing Director of Urbanco Mr. Ahmed Athif and the guest of honor for the event Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of State Trading Organization Plc, Captain. Abdulla Saeed.

Launch of 'Bamboo for Climate Mitigation' Project



Atmosphere Foundation, in collaboration with The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology and the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture, launches the 'Bamboo for Climate Mitigation' project.

The Bamboo for Climate Mitigation project is spearheaded by the Vice President of the Atmosphere Foundation, in collaboration with The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology and the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture.

There are two components to the initial project program. The project involves planting bamboo seedlings on a large scale through the islands of Maldives and the germination and propagation of seeds to sustain the project and for research.

During the initial part of the project, 500 bamboo seedlings will arrive in Maldives at the end of May and of these 250 will be distributed to community islands by MoECCT while the remaining 250 will be distributed under the care of MoFMRA to industrial islands. The collaboration will be formalized by signing a Memorandum of Understanding between Atmosphere Foundation and MoECCT.

Generous donations of bamboo seeds from private individuals are a significant part of the project's sustainability. The two seed varieties received are Bambusa bambos and Dendrocalamus strictus. Dendrocalamus is a tropical Asian genus of giant clumping bamboos in the grass family. Seeds have been successfully germinated in 12 days. However, the standard time for germination of bamboo seeds is estimated at around 30 to 40 days.

Stakeholders for the project include government authorities, private organizations, and communities. These groups are expected to actively engage in the program, raising environmental awareness of the

challenges and issues related to climate change and making the project sustainable in the long term.

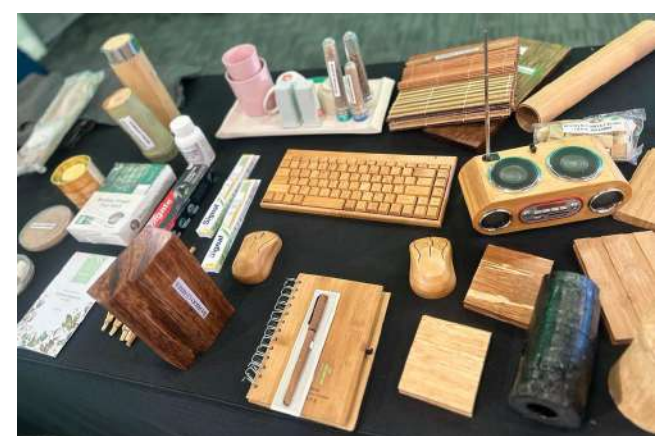
Seeds have been distributed to stakeholders and those who express interest in planting bamboo. Among them are community islands and NGOs, individuals, commercial agriculture islands and Hanimaadho Agriculture Center under MoFMRA. In addition, resorts of Atmosphere Core Pvt Ltd will each receive the two varieties of bamboo seeds for germinating and incorporating into their landscaping programs. This project is expected to make a significant contribution to the country's carbon neutrality goal.

Maldives carbon neutral target stems from the commitment outlined in the Paris Agreement's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) as well as the commitment made in the 2021 Climate Emergency Act (9/2021). This is also essential and an opportune time when according to MoECCT the demands for housing and urbanization in Maldives has resulted in 36 islands having less than 30% green cover.

In keeping with the Foundation's objectives of carrying out programs that are beneficial to communities and promoting awareness and education, the seminar titled 'Working Towards Carbon Neutral Maldives with Bamboo' aims at raising awareness of effective adaptive and mitigative measures for Maldives to achieve its target to become a net zero carbon emitter by 2030 under the Paris Agreement.

This part of the project will be fulfilled by Dr Nambi Barathi, a prominent figure in the world of bamboo in India. Dr Barathi is the Founder Director of Growmore Biotech Ltd and for the past 20 years he has been researching bamboo. The result was the development of a superior clone of the Bambusa balcooa, a fast-growing higher biomass yielding bamboo developed by the conventional breeding method,

known as Beema bamboo. Beema bamboo yields 40 tons of dry bamboo from 1 acre (0.4ha) which captures over 88 tons of carbon dioxide every year and releases over 60 tons of oxygen. This clone is thornless and sterile and was developed through tissue culture and free from pests and disease. The bamboo is said to thrive for hundreds of years without needing replanting. This species is considered one of the fastest-growing plants. It grows as much as 1.5ft per day under tropical conditions. It is said to be the best 'carbon sink' to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions.



Bamboo has surprisingly high economic value and its known and potential uses include thermal application, liquid fuel for vehicles, wood for timber requirements, cotton for textiles, and in construction. Its high tensile strength, stronger than steel, makes it an ideal material for building and construction. The arts and craft industry has worked with bamboo crafting items for the home as well as the art world. Items made of bamboo range from types of mats: floor mats, beach mats, table mats, table runners, homeware, and kitchen utensils: coasters, cutlery trays, fruit trays, boxes, bins, baskets, lampshades, curtains, furniture, shoulder bags and purses, jewelry, magazine holders, table watches, masks etc. Design and art and crafts made of bamboo are also quite abundant in the consumer market.

BON APPÉTIT

Mediterranean Braised Lamb



Chef Enver was born in Istanbul, Turkey. He has 11 years’ experience in numerous international luxury hotels in Turkey, China, Dubai and Mauritius before he recently land in the Maldives. His main focus has been European & Asian cuisine. Chef Enver is not new to LUX* Hotels & Resorts, he joined LUX* Grand Gaube Resort & Villas Mauritius in 2019 before he moved to LUX* South Ari Atoll Resort & Villas as Chef De Cuisine.

“My inspiration behind the dish is very cultural and it always reminds me of the Ramadan vibes together with my parents and friends. This is one of my favourite traditional lamb dishes that used to delight our table for a mouth-watering dinner. When I was growing up, my mom and grandmom used to cook this dish especially during Ramadan, which is the reason this dish became even more special to me. My way of preparing this dish is by choosing the freshest ingredients and focusing on authenticity. The Ramadan atmosphere captured my sensitivity and brought me back to colourfulness and warmth. Whenever I prepare this recipe, I always find myself in the heart of Mediterranean destinations. So, this is my main inspiration behind this dish. Always local, authentic, and organic ingredients.”

INGREDIENTS

- 500gr Lamb Leg Boneless
 - 100gr Butter
 - 150gr Shallots
 - 15gr Garlic
 - 5gr Fresh thyme
 - 150gr Cherry tomato
 - 500gr Potato
 - 200gr pumpkins
 - 100ml Cream
 - 1pc Red onion
 - 10gr Parsley
 - 80gr Green pepper
 - 80ml Extra virgin olive oil
 - 5gr Black pepper
 - 10gr Paprika Powder
 - 5gr Nutmeg
 - 20gr Sea Salt
 - 10gr Cumin Powder
- After the marinate time, place all ingredients from the bowl in a casserole dish, add the cherry tomatoes on top and just 1 cup of water.
 - Close the casserole properly and wrap with aluminum foil ensuring to close any gap.
 - Cook in the oven for about 2 and half hours at 190 degrees Celsius.
 - While cooking, peel the potatoes. Boil them well for about 20 minutes, drain and put in a bowl. Mash them, add the remaining butter, cream, seasoning some grated nutmeg and mix well. Make sure it's creamy and smooth.
 - Peel the pumpkin and slice very thinly with a mandolin, blanch in some hot water and once cooked, dry with a paper towel and place them in a tray. Drizzle with some olive oil and salt, place in the bottom of the oven till dry and crispy.
 - Once the lamb is cooked, take out from the casserole, reduce the stock and add some chopped parsley. Keep ready for serving.
 - Serve on top of the mashed potato, drizzle some lamb sauce reduction and garnish with some roasted cherry tomatoes pumpkin crisps and herbs

METHOD:

- Cut the lamb meat in medium size cubes around 3cm.
 - In a large mixing bowl add together with spices, peeled shallots, fresh thyme, fine chopped garlic, finely chop red onions, half of the butter and mix them very well. Let it rest in the refrigerator for a couple of hours.

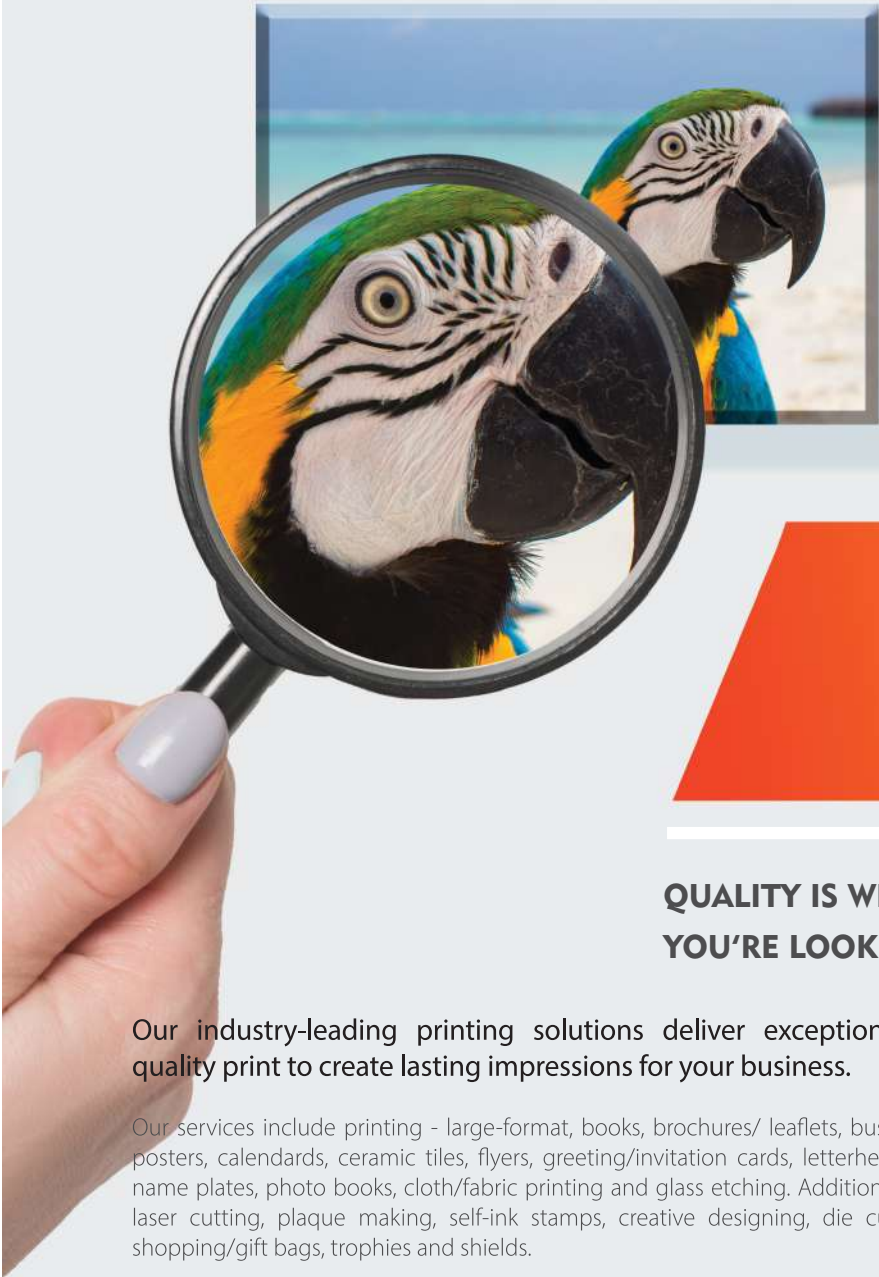


Courtesy of
Enver Can Gumus
Chef De Cuisine at LUX* South Ari Atoll



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Frankly Speaking

As several airlines in the world make their debut with sustainable aviation fuel, what innovative strategies can Maldives adopt to promote the use of sustainable aviation fuel and reduce carbon emissions in the aviation sector? For example, in early 2022, Maldivian acquired fuel-efficient aircraft for domestic operations.



Ahmed Maumoom (Maan),
Deputy CEO
Manta Air

ATRs used by us are fuel efficient ones. As you know, we will be dictated by the industry growth and directions. There are some small electric powered aircrafts being tested for commercial flights across the world. If the cost of these new technologies bring it to a feasible level, the local Aviation industry will follow.



Ahmed Arsha,
Director, Ground Operations
Avia Maldives

As a low lying country and one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, we need to be a leader in promoting sustainability in the aviation sector. SAF is already being used in Europe in the GA sector, which contributes to a lower carbon footprint. We can have state-offer grants or subsidies to airlines who take initiative for SAF. Apart from that, airlines can seek various newer models of aircraft which are more fuel efficient. Apart from using SAF, there are various ways to offset the carbon footprints from the current system. Studies show digitalization of fueling in aviation saves time and allows pilots to make small adjustments which saves fuel.

Additionally, we need to opt to maximize the use of electric GSE's in the airports; especially the smaller ones which have lower traffic and implement a system to utilize ways to capture renewable energy to power the airports. Similar to Cochin airport; one of the first airports to be powered by solar energy.



Thoha Ibrahim,
Deputy Managing Director
Maldives Airports Company Limited

Maldives has committed to the Paris agreement and submitted a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), in which:

Maldives adopted a conditional emissions reduction target of 26% by 2030 compared to business as usual. The country also aspires to achieve net zero by 2030 depending on the international support received.

The World Bank has supported the government through the Accelerating Sustainable Private Investment in Renewable Energy (ASPIRE) project and the recently launched Accelerating Renewable Energy Integration and Sustainable Energy (ARISE) project.

Considering the above, MACL endeavors to explore the possibilities of contributing to the NDC via providing Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) to the airlines requesting SAF. In 2022, Maldives also participated in the three-day workshop under the EU-South Asia Aviation Partnership Project Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).



Gais Naseer,
Managing Director
Gan International Airport

The future of the aviation industry needs to be cleaner and greener. Achieving the ambition of reaching net zero emissions while meeting the growing demand for air travel is huge a challenge, the industry must take a holistic approach, from operational efficiency to technological innovations, starting to use Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and most importantly changes in policy and regulations are needed to drive the effort in reducing carbon emission and minimize the impact on the environment.

AIA plans to do its part, firstly we are conducting awareness programs on sustainability for our staff. We will also be improving operational efficiency in the airport and all our future Ground service equipment will be electric.

We would be incorporating provisions for SAF in our future infrastructure development. In 2024-25 we plan to develop a renewable energy project of 20 MW PV system in GAN that will make GAN 100% carbon free in 5 years' time.

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