



NO TURNING BACK

with

Bernhard Stefan

Managing Director, Nestlé Lanka Plc

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Dear Readers,

The travel and hospitality industry is more than just a business; it's about crafting unforgettable moments, nurturing connections, and enhancing people's lives. It's a field that turns dream getaways into reality, serves the unique needs of travelers, and drives economic progress in destinations worldwide.

In this diverse landscape, we applaud the companies that consistently elevate standards in service quality, innovation, and dedication to customer happiness. Here, we shine a spotlight on page XX on the accolades, from nominees, winners, and influential figures from the 7th edition of the South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) 2023, which successfully concluded at the Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway, India on October 9th to 10th.

We also had the privilege of attending the prestigious International Maldives Travel Market (IMTM) 2023, which marked its sixth edition. The two-day event was held at the Manhattan Business Hotel in Male' on October 8th and 9th. This yearly B2B gathering brought together significant players in the industry, including tour operators, travel agencies, and various other businesses related to tourism, with the aim of establishing enduring business connections.

As we close to the end of the year, we eagerly anticipate the 43rd edition of World Travel Market London, recognized as the most influential travel and tourism event worldwide, taking place from Monday, November 6 to Wednesday, November 8 at Excel London. Following comprehensive customer research conducted last year, WTM London has unveiled numerous enhancements to optimize attendee experience, striving to provide maximum value for every participant in the travel community.

Featured in our Bon Appétit section on page , we have Chef Mohamed Niyaz, a seasoned culinary expert with over two decades of experience. Transitioning in 2019 to the position of Sous Chef at VARU By Atmosphere, he currently holds the esteemed title of Maldivian Chef at Kaagè restaurant. For this issue of the Islandchief, he shares with us his acclaimed dish, "Kandu Kukulhu," a beloved Maldivian tuna curry often referred to as the "chicken of the sea," is renowned for its exceptional taste and spice.

Finally, in our cherished segment, industry experts share their perspectives while deliberating on the newly announced expansion of Maldivian airlines to cities such as Mumbai and New Delhi, discussing its potential impacts.

We hope the diverse stories and insights encapsulated in this edition ignite your curiosity and inspire you to visit the Maldives.

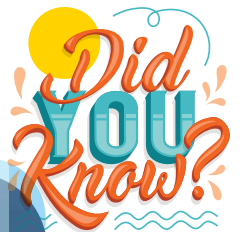
Until next time,

The Islandchief Team



PASTA POINT in Maldives

Pasta Point in the North Malé Atoll is renowned for its consistent waves, accommodating NE-SE winds and typically ranging from 4 to 6 feet, maintaining its quality even in 1-2 foot waves. Its name originates from an Italian resort, Thari Village, that was once situated there and had a habit of discarding leftover noodles into the waves. The main surfing section, known as Macaroni Bowl, leads to the fast and shallow Lockjaws, reminding surfers to steer clear of the reef if they want to continue enjoying the ride. The ideal time to visit is between May and August during the Southeast Monsoon, when the offshore winds and consistent southern swells make for prime surfing conditions. The current Cinnamon Dhonveli Maldives resort, which now occupies the area, limits access to 30 surfers at a time, asserting its exclusive claim to the break.



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5 UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

Vistara Inaugurates Daily Direct Flights Between Male' and Delhi



Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of the Tata group and Singapore Airlines, has inaugurated daily, non-stop flights between Delhi and Maldives.

On October 1, 2023, Airbus A320neo aircraft departed at 10:45 Hours (IST) from Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, arriving at Velana

International Airport, Maldives Airport at 14:20 Hours (MVT), officially inaugurating daily non-stop flights from Delhi to Male' and vice versa by Vistara. Via this new offer, Vistara has successfully established two direct channels connecting Maldives and India through their daily flights.

Speaking on the subject, Vistara's Chief

Executive Officer, Mr. Vinod Kannan stated, "In addition to the 7x weekly service between Mumbai and Male, which has been getting very good response since its launch in March 2021, we are pleased to introduce our second route connecting this exquisite beach destination with Delhi. Maldives has evolved as one of the most popular leisure destinations for Indian travelers and we are happy to be able to offer more choices and flexibility to our customers on this route. We are confident that customers will appreciate having the option of flying with India's most loved airline when traveling to or from Male."

Vistara welcomes all customers as long as they meet the visa/entry requirements subjected by the respective government authorities of both countries and respectfully urges all customers to understand and

adhere to those guidelines prior to making the bookings.

Vistara is India's highest-rated airline on Skytrax and TripAdvisor, and it has been the winner of several 'Best Airline' awards, besides being lauded for world-class cabin cleanliness and upholding high safety standards. The only Indian carrier to feature amongst World's Top 20 Airlines, Vistara has been named '16th Best Airline' globally while also being recognised as the 'Best Airline in India and South Asia' for the third time in a row, 'Best Airline Staff in India and South Asia' for the fifth consecutive year, 'Best Cabin Crew in India and South Asia' for the third time in a row and 'Best Business Class Airline in India and South Asia' for the second time in a row at the coveted World Airline Awards 2023 by Skytrax. Vistara also received the ch-aviation Asia's Third Youngest Airline Fleet award for the second consecutive year.

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Orchid Magu, Male', Republic of Maldives

ACROSS THE SKIES

Emirates Expands Collaboration with Neste for the Supply of Sustainable Aviation Fuel in 2024 and 2025

Emirates and Neste have expanded their partnership by solidifying their collaboration for the supply of over 3 million gallons of blended Neste MY Sustainable Aviation Fuel in 2024 and 2025. The sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), which will be blended with conventional jet fuel, will be supplied over the course of 2024 and 2025 for Emirates' flights departing from Amsterdam Schiphol and Singapore Changi airports.

Emirates' expanded partnership with Neste represents the largest volume of SAF to be uplifted of any airline based in the Middle East and Africa to date. The blended SAF will comprise over one million gallons of neat SAF. This represents a blended ratio of over 30% neat SAF combined with conventional Jet A-1 fuel.

Before the end of this year, the airline will also uplift SAF for the first time from its Dubai hub. SAF reduces

carbon emissions of air travel by up to 80%* over the fuel's life cycle when compared to using conventional jet fuel.

Sir Tim Clark, President of Emirates Airline said: "This announcement is a milestone for Emirates and represents the acceleration of SAF procurement for our operations. It's also one of the many initiatives we are focused on to reduce our carbon emissions, which includes operating fuel-efficient aircraft, stepping up our fleet renewal from 2024, in addition to driving operational fuel efficiency. Our ongoing partnership with Neste also demonstrates our active engagement and support of the rapidly developing SAF industry, and we hope that the robust demand coming from Emirates and other airlines encourages the scaling up of SAF and other emerging clean propulsion technologies."

Alexander Kueper, Vice President of



EMEA from the Renewable Aviation business unit at Neste said: "Sustainable aviation fuel is a readily available solution for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from air travel. We are proud to expand our

existing cooperation with Emirates into 2024 as we are ramping up our global SAF production and continue to support their commitment to reduce emissions by supplying our Neste MY Sustainable Aviation Fuel."

Virgin Atlantic Inaugurates Direct Flights between London Heathrow and Velana International Airport



Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL), the operator of Velana International Airport (VIA) announces the successful inauguration of Virgin Atlantic, connecting London Heathrow to the Maldives.

The inaugural flight touched down at VIA this morning at 07:40 am local time, marking the beginning of a new chapter in air travel between the United Kingdom and the Maldives. The arrival of the Virgin Atlantic aircraft

was welcomed by a warm traditional Maldivian Bodeberu along with captivating cultural dance performances.

The new service is operating three times a week, on the airline's Boeing 787 Dreamliner boasting 31 Upper Class, 35 Premium, and 192 Economy Delight, Classic, and Light seats.

For those customers looking to treat themselves, Virgin Atlantic's Upper Class offers fully flat beds and an

onboard bar to enjoy dinner and an opportunity to network with travel companions. Premium customers can relax in their luxurious leather armchair with its 38" seat pitch and enjoy priority boarding and welcome drinks. No matter what cabin customers choose to fly, everyone can enjoy complimentary food and beverages, over 300 hours of entertainment, and a warm welcome from Virgin Atlantic's iconic cabin crew.

Mr. Mahjoob Shujau, CEO & Managing Director of MACL, said: "As the operator of Velana International Airport, we are excited to welcome the prestigious and customer-centric airline, Virgin Atlantic. This inaugural flight marks a significant milestone in the enhancement of air travel connections between the United Kingdom and the Maldives.

"We look forward to a prosperous partnership with Virgin Atlantic as we continue to elevate the travel experience for our passengers."

Juha Jarvinen, Chief Commercial Officer at Virgin Atlantic, commented:

"We couldn't be more thrilled to launch our flights between the United Kingdom and the Maldives with our new thrice-weekly service, as we continue to expand our growing collection of winter sun destinations."

"We are proud to be able to offer more opportunities for our customers to experience the Maldives and are looking forward to welcoming them to this breathtaking and one-of-a-kind destination."

"The collaboration between MACL and Virgin Atlantic reflects the shared commitment to delivering exceptional travel experiences and fostering stronger air connectivity between the United Kingdom and the Maldives."

Caron Rohsler, British High Commissioner to Maldives, added: "I am delighted that Virgin Atlantic has today started operating direct flights from London Heathrow to Maldives. Maldives is a top holiday destination for British tourists. Brits have consistently featured among the top 3 nationalities visiting Maldives for many years".

IN A NUTSHELL

Oaga Art Resort's Remarkable First Year: Local Talent Flourishes in the Maldives



In a world where the hospitality industry's tides ebb and flow, Oaga Art Resort, a self-made local brand of Maldives, boldly flung open its doors to the world in January 2023, daring to redefine the very essence of luxury. This artistic haven in a short span of time has scored two feathers in its cap at the Maldives Tourism Awards 2023, an event hosted by the Maldives Tourism Ministry to commemorate National Tourism Day. One, for having the highest number of Maldivian employees at a tourist resort in the Maldives, and the other, for promoting local visual artists.

Having accomplished this feat in just a few months of operation is a testament to Oaga's vision to cater authentic local experiences, stories and artistry to travelers by local islanders themselves. The concept instills the qualities, heritage and culture involved in providing hospitality to guests which have been practiced in the Maldivian society throughout the ages.

The accounts of historians such as H.C.P. Bell or François Pyrard de Laval hold testament to the fact that the local community within the isles of Maldives were hospitable and friendly towards visiting travelers. Oaga translates this in the current hospitality context, giving priority to hire locals in order to effectively tap into the roots of the culture. Currently, 91% of the team are Maldivian. At Oaga, each employee forms part of a community of islanders or 'Rahvehin' who are empowered to be mindful, open, creative and empathetic towards each other as well as visiting travelers. For the traveler, the difference is infinitely better, allowing for deeper connections with Maldivian culture and heritage through the stories surrounding the infrastructure and the islanders themselves.

The concept of Oaga also embodies that the meaning of being 'Maldivian' is ever changing, by embracing the creativity of local artists and craft makers. Murals by local artists have been incorporated within the walls of the Haruge Villas, depicting traditional Maldivian folklore.

The Suvāsthi Art & Retail Gallery features 100% owned Maldivian brands, from small-scale businesses to more established ones, who create contemporary products as their own homage to Maldivian flora, fauna and traditions. Suvāsthi also curates the largest local art collection held at a resort in Maldives, at Oaga. These artworks are exhibited tastefully on the walls of the resort's Veyoge Garden Villas, offering an immersive and intimate artful experience to travelers.

For Maldives lovers searching for an all-inclusive holiday, Oaga Art Resort's Greatest All-Inclusive plan re-defines the limits of what All-Inclusive is all about; with inclusions such as Free Flow (art) classes, Take Notes (music) experiences, In-Villa Dining to floating meal, choices of excursions, motorized water sports and many more. Guests looking to book the resort can visit the website, www.oagaresorts.com to book your stay, don't miss out!

Situated in North Malé Atoll, Oaga Art Resort is 45 minutes by speedboat from Malé International Airport. A small island with 60 villas with beach and over water options, 5 dining venues and a spa inspired by Maldivian traditional healing practices, Oaga Art Resort's artistic and creative spaces offer an immersive experience curated by local and visiting artists, and craftsmen from the Maldives.

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IN A NUTSHELL

Say Your Vows in Paradise - Amari Raaya Maldives Launches New Wedding Packages Including the Ultimate Underwater Wedding

Amari Raaya Maldives, the Maldives' newest luxury destination resort nestled in the heart of the Indian Ocean announces the launch of three new wedding packages, designed to cater to every couple's budget and style. From simple and intimate laid-back luxury to the once-in-a-lifetime opulence of an underwater ceremony, Amari Raaya Maldives has the perfect package to help couples create the wedding of their dreams. .

Amari Raaya Maldives is fully equipped with a team of wedding planners and on-island caterers, ready and eager to add the signature Amari warm touch to a couple's dream island wedding. Amari's goal is to 'Brighten Your World' and this is never more apparent than in the role of wedding planning - from room management to transport, concept, food, music and flowers – Amari Raaya Maldives can take care of it all so the happy couple can relax and enjoy their moment in paradise.

No corner of the island is off-limits for the perfect destination wedding - Amari Raaya Maldives becomes a couple's own private paradise waiting to be explored. Couples, as well as their families and friends joining them in celebrating their true love for one another, can enjoy spectacular dining, exciting activities and unobstructed ocean views from 187 luxurious beach and ocean villas – which each offer direct access to the beach or ocean. The Maldives has to be one of the world's most romantic destinations,

and Amari Raaya Maldives is a romantic paradise, perfect for couples looking to escape the everyday world and reconnect with each other as they celebrate the start of married life. From the moment of arrival, newlyweds will be enamored with the resort's natural beauty, luxurious accommodation, attentive service and romantic experiences on offer - from a private candlelit dinner on the beach, to a couples' spa treatment at the resort's maai spa, a romantic sunset cruise, or simply strolling the picture-perfect white sandy beach hand-in-hand and gazing to the future together.

THE PACKAGES

Whether your wedding vision leans towards the traditional or the contemporary, the dedicated wedding team at Amari Raaya Maldives boasts the knowledge and resources to seamlessly turn your dream island wedding into an impeccable reality. They specialize in illuminating each occasion and tailoring it to the unique needs and desires of every couple. The wedding packages, Vows on the Beach, Vows under the Trees, and Vows in the Ocean, each offer distinct island locations for your ceremony, prices starting from USD 900.

Vows on the Beach features an intimate bare-foot beach ceremony - there is nothing more special than getting married on the beach, toes in the sand, loved ones looking on and saying your vows with the shimmering ocean



behind you. This is followed by a romantic beach dinner as the sun slips from the horizon.

Vows under the Trees take for its setting the island's huge array of natural greenery. Situated on one of the largest natural islands in Raa Atoll, at 390,000 square meters (39 hectares), Amari Raaya has been sympathetically designed with much of the lush forest reserved for guest enjoyment, including a natural mangrove with forest trails for walking, and sky-high watchtower views to enjoy. Relax after the ceremony with a delicious BBQ in the beautiful jungle setting and enjoy the exquisite natural surrounding beauty.

Vows in the Ocean package is an unforgettable experience that will amaze the wedding couple and their guests. Imagine exchanging vows surrounded by the vibrant marine life of the Maldives, with crystal-clear waters and colorful fish swimming by, before relaxing and

sipping champagne aboard your own private yacht, as the azure blue waters lap beneath. It is a truly magical setting for the most special day.

For more information on these three amazing packages, please refer to Amari Raaya Maldives' Wedding Brochure. It provides a breakdown of prices, inclusions, available add-ons, and three distinct photography service options:"

To book or request a quote, please visit: <https://www.amari.com/raaya-maldives/weddings>

Please note:

- All prices are in USD and subject to 10% service charge and 16% GST
- Terms and Conditions apply
- All ceremonies are purely ceremonial and not legally binding
- Additional add-ons are available - Including enhanced special dining experiences and photography services

Patina Maldives Unveils Exclusive Culinary Collaborations



Patina Maldives, the epitome of luxury nestled in the heart of the Maldives, is set to elevate the culinary experience for its discerning guests with a series of exclusive collaborations with renowned

international chefs and mixologists.

HANKY-PANKY POP-UP:

20 – 23 October 2023

Hanky Panky, the celebrated

establishment hailing from the vibrant city of Mexico, has been honored as the 22nd Best Bar in the world. Founded in the ethos of camaraderie and exceptional libations, this pop-up event promises an immersive journey into the heart of Hanky Panky's spirited world. Guests at Patina Maldives will have the unique opportunity to revel in a vibrant mix of friendship and exquisite drinks, perfectly curated by the skilled team behind Hanky Panky.

GELATO MAKER, EMILIO PANZARDI:

5 November – 1 December 2023

Emilio Panzardi, the maestro behind the art of gelato making, takes guests on an extraordinary voyage through taste and culture. Each delectable creation is a testament to his heritage

and the global journey that inspired the palate. At Patina Maldives, guests will be treated to a symphony of flavors, where every scoop is a revelation of world-class craftsmanship.

PARADISO POP-UP:

14 – 16 November 2023

Prepare to be dazzled by the enchanting offerings of Paradiso, the reigning champion of the 2022 World's Best Bar. Delight in the theatrical presentation of the Supercool Martini and savor an innovative menu crafted by the ingenious Giacomo Giannotti, the creative force behind Paradiso's success. This limited-time experience promises an unforgettable evening of world-class mixology and culinary artistry.

IN A NUTSHELL

JA Manafaru Launches ‘Wellness Your Way’ Dining on World Food Day



Following on from last month’s announcement that the island was bestowed the Maldives ‘Best Culinary Resort 2023’ awarded by Travel Trade Maldives, JA Manafaru has marked the international celebration of ‘World Food Day’ on October 16th 2023, with the launch of ‘Wellness Your Way’ – a lifestyle dining alternative focused on luxury traveller wellbeing.

Attended by members of the travel media, agents and island guests, JA

Manafaru hosted a beach front food festival dedicated to different eating lifestyles. Launch party guests sampled an array of entrée and mains courses devoted to a variety of dietary lifestyles, with the highlight of the evening being the wide selection of desserts that caters to those who would normally miss out on enjoying a sweet treat.

To mark the launch, UK-based celebrity Chef Luke French of Joro Restaurant flew in for the event to share his expertise in

the kitchen. Luke is visiting JA Manafaru to assist with the introduction of other ‘Wellness Your Way’ initiatives, primarily training the culinary team in fermenting procedures with the goal to create Homemade@JA Manafaru soy sauce, miso and other fermented products. These will work alongside the island’s new Wellness Beverage program, with homemade Kombucha and more.

Each of the island’s six dining outlets, as well as In Villa Dining, will offer separate menus for a variety of eating lifestyles. Whether guests follow a vegan/vegetarian, dairy free, gluten free or low carb lifestyle, they can turn to their menu pages and order with confidence from a wide variety of dishes made from specially sourced ingredients including homegrown fruit and vegetables.

Taking this closer look at healthier options, the culinary team led by Executive Chef Moosa Nazeem has devised innovative approaches to replicate guests’ favorite dishes to ensure that full menus are available for all guests to choose from.

As part of the initiative, the island will

offer a variety of plant-based meat, cheese and seafood as well as homemade low carb bread and even pasta made from konjac. Executive Chef Moosa and his team have been experimenting to create delectable vegan “buffalo” mozzarella as well as sugar and low carb nut brownies.

Chef Moosa comments, “Being recognised as the ‘Best Culinary Resort’ here in the Maldives is no mean feat, and the team are continually seeking new innovative challenges in the kitchen to create an even greater guest dining experience. By changing one to two ingredients, we can rethink dishes to suit more of our guests and appeal to a new audience of lifestyle-conscious discerning diners. We have been thrilled to learn and test our knowledge in building these bespoke menus”.

The ‘World Food Day’ event marked the launch of the entire ‘Wellness Your Way’ initiative which will also include a new ‘Alchemy Bar’ located at Calm Spa Sanctuary, where guests can attend workshops to make herbal remedies and participate in short wellness programs to incorporate into their Maldives vacation.



RELIABILITY CREATES
LEGACY



IN A NUTSHELL

Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru Maldives Unveils 'Madi Hiyaa'

Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru proudly presents its latest architectural gem, Madi Hiyaa, an exceptional standalone overwater Yakitori Restaurant and Bar, featuring an incredible sea saltwater infinity pool, breathtaking sunset panoramas, caressed by the gentle sea breeze, and offering an authentic Japanese culinary experience with a Maldivian influence, all crafted from locally-sourced ingredients. Crafted meticulously with bamboo, this architectural wonder seamlessly blends nature's elegance with contemporary design to provide the utmost comfort and relaxation. Guests can unwind in style, lounging on oversized hammocks adorned with luxurious throw pillows, indulging in the plush comfort of spacious daybeds, and finding solace in the inviting ambiance of a cozy sitting area. Anticipated to open its doors in November 2023, Madi Hiyaa is set to redefine destination dining at Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru.

Innovative and Eco-conscious Design

Inspired by the Dhivehi language, where Madi symbolizes "ray," and Hiyaa signifies "shelter," the name Madi Hiyaa pays heartfelt tribute to the graceful rays of the ocean. The newest addition to the resort's elevated epicurean journey not only acknowledges the ocean's majestic rays, but also provides a tranquil retreat, much like the rays of the ocean find refuge.

The naming of this exceptional

architectural creation was an extraordinary celebration of teamwork and creativity. Associates from across the resort enthusiastically participated in a naming competition, exemplifying Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru's commitment to fostering a sense of community and collaboration among its dedicated team members.

The award-winning Nomadic Resorts, headquartered in Rotterdam, The Netherlands and renowned for sustainable architectural projects, plays a pivotal role in bringing the Madi Hiyaa project to life. Their expertise in innovative and environmentally responsible design ensured that the architectural vision seamlessly blended with the natural beauty of the Maldives.

Japanese Cuisine with Maldivian Essence

Madi Hiyaa offers a symphony of flavors that will tantalize the guests' taste buds. Drawing inspiration from the finesse of Japanese gastronomy while deeply rooted in the essence of the Maldives, a team of expert chefs has artfully curated a menu that harmoniously blends local ingredients with Japanese culinary expertise – allowing the guests to embark on a gastronomic voyage that embodies richness in every delectable bite. Furthermore, a dedicated mixologist is crafting innovative and alluring concoctions that complement the exquisite dining experience.



Guests can satisfy their palates not only with diverse selections of sushi rolls, sashimi, and Madi Hiyaa's signature yakitori creations but also with authentic Japanese classics. They can also revel in the delectable Omakase set menu, using local fishers' catches and freshly harvested herbs from the resort's garden. Highlighting our passionate chefs' creativity, each meal will be concluded with mouthwatering desserts like Anmitsu, Japanese cheesecake, or Shinsen'na Kattofurutsu featuring locally grown organic fruits. To enhance the dining experience, wine pairings will also be available.

Impeccable Stewardship

Alongside Madi Hiyaa's opening, the resort's new Food and Beverage Director, Karim Boulet, of French

descent and a distinguished figure in the hospitality and fine dining industry, boasting nearly two decades of invaluable experience and exemplifying a commitment to outstanding stewardship in culinary experiences will oversee the entire food and beverage operations.

"I am thrilled to be part of this charming property with a dynamic team. With the upcoming launch of Madi Hiyaa in November, my team and I are preparing to introduce a captivating selection of Japanese Whisky and Sake options. We are also planning to offer enticing cooking classes and live training sessions under the impeccable stewardship of the Japanese-specialty chef, inviting guests to immerse themselves in this culinary experience," expressed Karim.

JEN Maldives, Male' by Shangri-La Extends Commitment to Cancer Awareness with 'Many Shades of Pink, One Purpose' Campaign



JEN Maldives, Male' by Shangri-La renewed its commitment to supporting cancer awareness once again this year through a series of meaningful initiatives under the campaign of "Many Shades of Pink, One Purpose'.

JEN Maldives proudly joined hands with the Cancer Society of the Maldives to host the Annual Fundraising Gala in JEN Maldives Ballroom. Moreover, throughout the entire month, the dedicated team at

JEN Maldives continues to wear the symbolic pink ribbon pin, signifying their unwavering support for the cause.

In a heartfelt effort to involve their valued guests, JEN Maldives has created an opportunity for guests to be a part of this meaningful cause. Guests can now purchase a pink ribbon pin from the hotel reception, with all proceeds from the sales contributing to the Cancer Society of the Maldives, further strengthening their collective impact in the fight against cancer.

As a dedicated expression of support for the Cancer Society of the Maldives, the team at JEN Maldives also joined to take part in the Pink Ribbon Run/Walk,

an event designed to raise both awareness and crucial funds for the Cancer Society of the Maldives. The gathering took place on the 14th of October at Central Park Hulhumale, drawing a substantial number of participants who came together to show their unwavering support to cancer warriors and pay tribute to the lives lost in the battle against cancer.

JEN Maldives, Male' by Shangri-La will continue with a special promotion of pink high tea at Azur Restaurant where guests can savor delightful pink canapes and pastries. The hotel will culminate their fundraising efforts on 31st October 2023, presenting the collected proceeds to the Cancer Society of the Maldives.

Mohamed Shiham Promoted to Director of Sales at Le Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa



Le Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa announces the promotion of Mohamed Shiham from Sales Manager to Director of Sales. In his new role, Shiham will continue to lead the sales team and

play a pivotal role in further enhancing the resort's presence in the competitive market. Shiham joined Le Méridien Maldives

Resort & Spa in June 2022 as Sales Manager, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the hospitality industry. He quickly established himself as a key contributor, expanding the resort's business in Asia and the GCC markets. His strategic approach and dedication to building strong relationships with local destination management companies have been instrumental in the resort's growth and success.

Shiham's journey in the hotel industry began as Assistant Reservations Manager at One and Only Maldives, where he gained valuable insights into guest services and reservations management. He further honed his skills at Jumeirah Vittaveli, Maldives, and Island Destination Maldives, where he served as Sales & Reservations Manager before joining Le Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa. Post his stints at these reputed properties, Shiham brought expertise and a new energy to the team at Le

Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa – an eco-conscious haven brimming with coral reefs and marine life.

Thomas Schult, the General Manager of Le Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa, expressed his enthusiasm about Shiham's promotion: "We are delighted to announce Mohamed Shiham's promotion to Director of Sales. Since joining Le Méridien Maldives Resort & Spa, he has demonstrated exceptional dedication and skill in expanding our market presence and fostering valuable partnerships. His expertise and leadership have significantly contributed to our success, and we are confident that he will continue to drive our sales efforts to new heights."

In his role as Director of Sales, Shiham will continue to lead the sales team, develop innovative sales strategies, and strengthen relationships with key partners in the Asian market, to further elevate the resort's reputation as a premier destination in the Maldives.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Le Meridien Maldives Resort & Spa Appoints New Marine Biologist, Felicity Jerams

Le Meridien Maldives Resort & Spa has appointed Felicity Jerams as their new marine biologist where she will be responsible for the conservation and care for the marine life and the delicate ecosystem.

The Maldives is one of the most vulnerable and lowest-lying countries, where the impact of climate change, including rising sea temperatures and levels and beach erosion, can be felt every day.

Located in Lhaviyani Atoll the eco-conscious haven is home to an array of wildlife and a diverse mix of flora and fauna across, from vibrant, underwater coral gardens to intricate mangrove forests and seagrass meadows.

Felicity will work on marine conservation, working to create coral frames to protect and help grow the ecosystem and work to identify coral, turtles, rays and sharks, as well as

monitor their health over time. In partnership with the resort's dive partner, Sub Oceanic, she also works with guests to participate in a range of immersive conservation initiatives.

Originally from the UK Felicity studied marine biology with Zoology at Bangor University, and started her career working at aquariums at Chester Zoo and later Anglesey Sea Zoo before moving into conservation, where she trained as a Marine Medic, working with the North Wales seal research organisation as conservation projects in Costa Rica.

Felicity commented: "Working and living in the Maldives was a dream, moving out here and seeing how amazing the marine life is and seeing animals I have never seen before is very fulfilling and getting to share my knowledge with the people of the resort and the guests fills me with joy every day."



Umair Badheeu Sets New National Record in Freediving



Kaimoo Resorts and Hotels sponsored freediver Umair Badheeu has set a

new national record in freediving at the Andrea Zuccari World Cup held in

Sharm El Sheikh from October 10th to 16th. Umair's remarkable dive took him to a depth of 64 meters in the discipline of free immersion freediving, with a dive time of approximately 2 minutes and 45 seconds.

Umair's record-breaking achievement was supported by Kaimoo Resorts and Hotels through a new partnership with Umair. Through this partnership, Umair will be offering unique experiences and lessons to both guests and team members at Kaimoo's properties, Summer Island Maldives, Embudu Village, and Equator Village. He will also be running freediving sessions for local communities and fishers.

Free immersion freediving is a discipline that requires divers to descend and ascend using a rope, without the use of fins or any propulsion equipment.

Umair, also a record holder in the bi-fin category, made the remarkable transition to free immersion freediving to explore new challenges and diversify his skill set. He explained,

"I've always been motivated by the pursuit of new challenges. Free immersion freediving is a unique discipline that demands an entirely different set of skills. I am keen to constantly evolve as a freediver."

"Kaimoo's support for Umair underscores our firm dedication to empowering exceptional individuals to excel in their respective fields. We are especially proud of Umair's new national record and look forward to helping Umair push new boundaries through this partnership," highlighted Kaimoo's Managing Director Mohamed Manih Ahmed.

Following his remarkable achievement in Egypt, Umair is now preparing for his next challenge—a competition in the Philippines next month.

Kaimoo Resorts and Hotels is a leading tourism company in the Maldives that manages five properties across the country. In addition to Embudu Village and Summer Island Maldives, Kaimoo also operates Equator Village in Addu Atoll, and the Mookai Hotel and Mookai Suites in Male'.

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NO TURNING BACK

with

Bernhard Stefan

Managing Director, Nestlé Lanka Plc



“In today's fast-paced world, the role of a leader in inspiring teams has taken on paramount significance. Furthermore, my extensive experience in various leadership roles has endowed me with a comprehensive perspective on business strategy, operations, and market dynamics.”

In this issue of the Islandchief, we caught up with a seasoned leader in the world of food and beverage. Meet Bernhard Stefan, the Managing Director of Nestlé Lanka PLC, who took the helm of Nestlé's operations in Sri Lanka and the Maldives in March 2023. With a remarkable career spanning over 22 years, Bernhard's journey within Nestlé is nothing short of extraordinary. He embarked on his professional odyssey in France with Nestlé Waters, specializing in Mergers & Acquisitions. Since then, he has ascended the corporate ladder with a series of pivotal roles across Europe and Asia, from the United Kingdom to Germany, Switzerland, and even Australia. In this interview, we delve into Bernhard Stefan's unique insights, his vision for Nestlé's future, and the journey that has brought him to the forefront of the food and beverage industry.

You have worked with Nestlé for over 22 years in leading roles handling a myriad of Nestlé products. Our readers would surely be intrigued to know about your first engagement with Nestlé and what inspires and drives you in this journey with this global phenomenon of a brand?

My first interaction with Nestlé occurred during my tenure at Nestlé Waters in France, where I was involved in the realm of Mergers & Acquisitions. This

period was truly exhilarating, allowing me to engage in strategic initiatives and directly witness the company's expansion. What propels and inspires me in my ongoing voyage with Nestlé is the chance to undertake diverse roles and operate in various areas of expertise across different countries. Nestlé's fundamental mission of "unleashing the potential of food to enrich the quality of life for all, today and for future generations" serves as my driving force.

Other than the multitude of experience garnered in your illustrious career in Nestlé, what are your biggest strengths that you bring to the table as the new Managing Director of Nestlé Lanka Plc?

The opportunity to collaborate with a fresh team in a foreign country is truly a remarkable avenue for personal growth and learning. Over the course of my career, I've had the privilege of working alongside diverse teams hailing from different regions and

cultures. This exposure has enabled me to cultivate robust interpersonal skills and gain a profound insight into the art of motivating and empowering individuals to attain their utmost potential. In today's fast-paced world, the role of a leader in inspiring teams has taken on paramount significance. Furthermore, my extensive experience in various leadership roles has endowed me with a comprehensive perspective on business strategy, operations, and market dynamics.

Nestlé has consistently been on top of their game in Sri Lanka and in Maldives. In fact, Nestlé claimed the title of Sri Lanka's Most Valuable Food and Beverage Brand 2023, the second year in a row in the annual Consumer Brands ranking by Brands Finance in collaboration with LMD. Do you believe that this region has seen Nestlé at its peak with the present being simply about maintaining the position or do you feel there is scope for growth in this region for Nestlé that you desire to conquer?

As the world's largest food and beverage company, our core strength lies in harnessing our food expertise and combining it with a profound understanding of the local culture, food, and nutritional landscape to cater to the evolving needs of consumers and customers. This approach will continue to be instrumental in our efforts to expand and fortify our leadership position in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. It's worth noting that each market presents distinct opportunities. In the case of the Maldives, we see the potential to leverage our global product portfolio, particularly in the realms of hotels, restaurants, and the out-of-home sector, to cater to international travelers and enhance our presence in categories such as coffee.

It is believed that achieving great heights is a difficult task, but maintaining that momentum is even more difficult. What are the core challenges you believe Nestlé is facing today and what is your strategy to overcome them to maintain the position of Nestlé in this market?

A noteworthy challenge we are tackling today is the geographical dispersion of the Maldives, where we must cater to consumers and customers spread across more than 170 islands. Overcoming logistical complexities and establishing an efficient, environmentally-friendly supply chain is a paramount concern. We believe that digital technology, artificial intelligence, and strategic partnerships will play a pivotal role in ensuring our success in this endeavor.

Looking specifically into the Maldives market, although I am sure the statement that follows will be echoed throughout the world, Milo has held the position of numero-uno in the specifics of most preferred beverage/malt drink, for an extensive period, before being dethroned quite recently. How do you plan to regain Milo's status as the no.1 beverage drink in Maldives once again?

For MILO, our vision centers around nurturing a child's path to success by providing them with the nutritious energy and inspiration to grow through sports. MILO is fortified with vitamins that release energy and actively promotes the importance of good nutrition and a healthy, active lifestyle. The brand has successfully motivated hundreds of

thousands of children to engage in physical activity while addressing their nutritional requirements as part of a well-balanced diet. As a driving force for "nourishing the good," MILO is also a proponent of sustainability and environmentally friendly initiatives, such as pioneering the transition to paper straws in its ready-to-drink offerings. This shift has significantly reduced single-use plastic waste while rendering its packaging 100% recyclable.

Sustainability efforts are now formally ingrained into the corporate responsibility manifesto of most industries. To what extent do you believe FMCGs can indulge in environment friendly packaging and by doing so is the company placing a deterrent on its money minting cash cows?

Nestlé has thrived as a business for over 150 years by consistently pushing the boundaries of progress. We firmly believe that each partnership represents not only an opportunity to expand our business but also a means to improve lives. Plastic waste stands out as one of the most critical sustainability challenges the world faces today. Our vision is centered on ensuring that none of our packaging, including plastics, ends up in landfills or contributes to litter. We recognize that this goal is ambitious, but our determination to achieve it remains unwavering. We are committed to exploring innovative solutions and collaborating with stakeholders to make a positive impact on the environment.

What are the efforts produced by Nestlé towards sustainability?

In the context of climate change, we understand the urgency of the matter. We believe that the future of "Good food" is at stake. Our commitment lies in ensuring that food remains nutritious, accessible, and affordable for everyone, all the while taking into account the environmental impact of our operations. To this end, we have established a time-bound roadmap that outlines concrete actions, commitments, and progress tracking from the farm

to the end of the product's shelf life. Our goal is to reduce emissions by 20% by 2025, halve them by 2030, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

As discussed earlier, you have held multiple leadership roles in various regions of the world in this journey with Nestlé. How do you adjust your life accordingly to these dispersions? What sort of preparations do you adhere yourself to when taking up charge of the next region, especially when the territory is totally new?

Relocating to different regions and embracing diverse cultures has been a rewarding experience both personally and professionally. When taking charge of a new region, I prioritize immersing myself in the local culture and comprehending the distinct dynamics of the market. This involves building relationships with local stakeholders, actively listening to consumer needs, and collaborating with the local team to devise strategies aligned with the market's specific requirements. I also rely on the expertise and knowledge of the local team to guide me through the transition. Flexibility, an open-minded approach, and a willingness to learn are pivotal in successfully adapting to new territories.

From Europe to Asia, you have penetrated quite a few markets in your quest to seize. Which of those has been the most difficult or interesting to infuse into? We would love to hear some anecdotes from your vibrant portfolio.

Each market brings its own set of challenges and opportunities, making it challenging to single out the most difficult or interesting one. Nevertheless, one particularly captivating experience was my tenure in the Greater China region. When I arrived in China in 2012, the retail trade was conventional, and e-commerce was in its nascent stages. However, within a short span, China underwent a digital transformation, with e-commerce emerging as the primary growth driver. Through innovation, a customer-centric approach, and strong partnerships, we successfully adapted and flourished in this rapidly evolving landscape. It was a remarkable experience witnessing the speed of change and the transformative influence of new technologies.

We believe loyalty is certainly one of the qualities that has attributed your climb in the ladder of success in Nestlé. Reaching the top of such an epic empire is no mean feat. How would you define your career thus far and what would be your advice to the youngsters, especially those who opt to aimlessly jump from work to work for money or short-term benefits?

I'm appreciative of the opportunities and experiences that Nestlé has afforded me throughout my career. Loyalty, commitment, and a genuine passion for one's work are unquestionably essential elements in achieving success. My advice to young professionals would be to concentrate on building a solid foundation of skills and expertise in their chosen field. It's crucial to find enjoyment in what you do and derive fulfilment from it. Ultimately, success is derived from finding purpose in your work and making a positive impact on the world around you.



NEW OPENING

Rosewood Hotels & Resorts to Debut in the Maldives with Rosewood Ranfaru



Maldives boasts bright white sands, warm calm waters and a standard of hospitality that is second to none. Now, having achieved worldwide recognition as a preeminent tropical paradise, the Maldives is looking toward the future with an eye on longevity and sustainability, making the destination a natural fit for the unique approach to luxury lifestyle offered by Rosewood Hotels & Resorts. Rosewood Ranfaru, opening on the islands in 2027, is the latest development in the discerning brand’s thoughtful growth pipeline. The resort will reflect Rosewood’s guiding A Sense of Place philosophy through a highly curated experience that emphasizes privacy, luxury, and a connection to the natural habitat.

Stretched across a striking chain of private islands

around a pristine lagoon in the South Male Atoll, Rosewood Ranfaru will be situated less than an hour away from Velana International Airport in Male. From touchdown to toes in the sand, guests will be able to make the journey to the resort via either a 35-minute yacht ride or a ten-minute seaplane hop. Both experiences will exude the same level of luxury that awaits on the property’s shores. Upon arrival at the resort, travelers will be met with endless opportunities to embark on truly restorative getaways, all surrounded by stunning views of the world’s most beautiful sunrises and sunsets. Developed by Estithmar Holding, this project represents the next generation of Maldives tourism and elevates the overall luxury offerings available in this sublime corner of the globe.

“The Maldives has its own mystique and allure,” says Radha Arora, President of Rosewood Hotels & Resorts. “Given its well-earned reputation as a haven for discerning travelers, we are very excited to bring our unique brand of Rosewood lifestyle and hospitality to this chain of islands.

We are confident that through our commitment to immersive amenities, world-class design, and high-touch service, Rosewood will be able to offer the next iteration of Maldivian paradise.”

Rosewood Ranfaru will offer approximately 120 beachfront and overwater villas, ranging in size from

one- to five-bedrooms, all with private pools and a select number located on private islands. In true Rosewood fashion, unsurpassed service and amenities will be central to the guest experience, including a Rosewood Explorer’s Club to spark discovery and inspire imagination among the youngest visitors. At the heart of the property will lie several specialty restaurants, a beach club, and an Asaya well-being facility and fitness center, together offering a holistic wellness escape. A true leisure oasis, Rosewood Ranfaru will also feature numerous swimming pools, both for adults and families, paddle courts, and an array of water sports that will allow guests to fully explore the peaceful and crystal-clear waters of the encircling lagoon.

“I am delighted to announce our latest investment in the Maldives, a destination that offers unparalleled beauty and a vibrant culture, making it one of the most attractive tourist spots in the world,” says Moutaz AlKhayyat, Chairman of Estithmar Holding.

“We believe that the Maldives is an ideal location for investment and tourism, and it continues to attract visitors and investors from around the world with its friendly atmosphere and supportive government policies. Our new resort development aligns perfectly with our company’s vision and growth plans, and we are excited about the prospect of expanding our portfolio of luxury travel destinations.”

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



INSTALLED AT (REAL PICTURE) – KENDHIKULHUDHOO, MALDIVES

GOOD NEWS....

WE WILL SET UP ONE MORE BIG CAPACITY MACHINE AT KUDAHUVADHOO

Type of Waste can be Decompose:

- 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:

- 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**

RANGE OF OUR MACHINE (DAILY CAPACITY)	
300 KGS	5000 KGS
500 KGS	10000 KGS
1000 KGS	15000 KGS
2000 KGS	20000 KGS
3000 KGS	25000 KGS

Advantages:

- 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:

- 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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EVENTS & AWARDS

Highrise Pvt Ltd Announces Food & Beverage Show 2024 with BHM Traders as the Main Sponsor



Highrise, esteemed organizer of Food & Beverage Show announces BHM Traders as main sponsor for the 7th edition of Food & Beverage Show, scheduled to take place at Central Park, Hulhumale' on January 18, 19, and 20, 2024.

The F&B Show further welcomed M.H.A. and Nestlé

Professional as Co-sponsors.

The Food & Beverage Show 2024, renowned as the premier exhibition in Maldives exclusively dedicated to showcasing the finest in food and beverages, promises an unparalleled culinary experience. Attendees will immerse themselves in a world of gastronomic delights, exploring innovative beverages and delectable treats that cater to every discerning palate.

What to Expect at Food & Beverage Show 2024:

Experience the Finest Flavors: Sample exquisite cuisines from around the world, tantalizing your taste buds with an array of global delicacies.

Discover Innovation: Explore cutting-edge food and beverage products, uncovering the latest trends and innovations in the culinary world.

Connect with Industry Experts: Engage with industry

leaders and experts, gaining insights into the ever-evolving gastronomy landscape.

Indulge in Culinary Adventures: Immerse yourself in live cooking demonstrations, interactive workshops, and enriching panel discussions.

Forge Meaningful Connections: Connect with like-minded individuals and businesses, fostering collaborations and partnerships that drive culinary excellence.

Highrise invites culinary enthusiasts, professional chefs, food business owners, and everyone passionate about the world of food and beverages to visit Central Park from 18 to 20 January 2024. Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to experience the finest flavors, discover innovative products, and connect with industry leaders.

Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island Celebrates Four Prestigious Title Presented by The World Travel Awards and World Culinary Awards

Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island celebrates auspicious achievements within two of the world's most prestigious hospitality and culinary awards – the World Travel Awards and the World Culinary Awards.

A Maldives newcomer, opened in October 2021, the all-villa luxury resort located in the North Malé Atoll has firmly planted its roots within the region's hospitality scene. Its 67 beach and over-water villas, remarkable signature restaurant KAYTO, and extraordinary team have contributed to this banner award-winning year for the resort. World Travel Awards 2023 – The Maldives' Leading Water Villa Resort Established in 1993, the World Travel Awards acknowledge, reward, and celebrate excellence across all key sectors of the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries. Today, the World Travel Awards brand is recognized globally as the ultimate hallmark of industry excellence.

Named the Maldives' Leading Water Villa Resort, this award celebrates Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island's one-, two-, and three-bedroom overwater villas that are known for their contemporary architecture, private infinity pools and spacious rooftop terraces. A first for the Maldives, each residence is crowned with an expansive roof terrace - a private deck overlooking the lagoon, from which guests have a unique perspective to host private barbecues, private movie theatre, yoga, starlit dinners, and outdoor games. Unlike the Maldivian mould, traditional thatched villas are replaced with

over-sized, penthouse residences demonstrating forward-thinking design for the Indian Ocean.

Having taken this esteemed title shortly after opening in October 2021, this recognition is indicative of Jumeirah's position in the Maldives and promise to its guests of continued excellence in this category.

World Culinary Awards 2023

The sister event to the World Travel Awards, the World Culinary Awards serves to celebrate and reward excellence in the culinary industry.

Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island has taken home three dining accolades each recognizing its Peruvian-Nikkei restaurant, KAYTO – the World's Best Hotel Restaurant; Indian Ocean's Best Hotel Restaurant; and Maldives' Best Hotel Restaurant.

Sweeping the hotel restaurant category and having been nominated alongside a group of the world's most renowned dining establishments, KAYTO is captivating guests over dinner with its exotic blend of Peruvian and Japanese cuisine known as 'Nikkei.' A beloved signature Jumeirah restaurant across the brand, with an additional location at Dubai's Jumeirah Al Naseem, KAYTO offers guests a memorable experience of authentic flavors and true



culinary craftsmanship led by Head Chef Christian Goya, recognized as one of the Best Chefs in the UAE by Gault&Millau.

The outstanding culinary team's diversity and expertise play a vital role in KAYTO's success, from Chef de Cuisine Mauricio Higa meticulously executing dishes with precision to a collective team hailing from 13 different countries with a noteworthy 20 per cent being female and 20 per cent Maldivian. "We are extremely honoured to be recognized amongst the finest travel brands in the world, and excited to continue delivering on this level of excellence for years to come at Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island," said Mohamed Ashraf, General Manager of Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island.

South Asian Travel Awards 2023 Concluded Successfully at Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway, India

The 7th edition of South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) 2023 held at Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway, India on October 09 – 10th has been successfully concluded.

SATA is an annual event that recognizes and celebrates excellence in the travel and tourism industry across South Asia. This year, the evaluation sessions were conducted in the Maldives, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, with a panel of international jury members.

Honorable Minister of Tourism, Maldives, Dr. Abdulla Mausoom along with other travel, tourism and hospitality stakeholders and entrepreneurs from Maldives and South Asia participated in the event.

Speaking at the event, President of SATA, Mr. Ismail Hameed stated that “South Asian countries represented in SATA have the best to offer in the world. Each of you have made South Asian countries into desired destinations in the travel industry and acknowledge



particularly Mr. Janah of HRIM from Maldives who has contributed for the development and bringing up luxury properties to Maldives and the region. Contributions from industry pioneers from respective nations have made a huge difference for the lives of people in our countries and tourism today is a big revenue source for the people”.

The partners for SATA 2023 showcased their commitment to support the travel and tourism industry in South Asia. Gulf Craft, as the Platinum Partner. The

Hawks Pvt Ltd and Velana International Airport were unveiled as the Gold Partners. Allied Insurance Company of the Maldives was the Insurance Partner. Assotech Realty and Bizspoke was the Silver Partners and Crowe Maldives was the Auditing Partner.

The SATA is one of the most prestigious awards in the travel and tourism industry in South Asia, with winners being selected by a panel of experts and industry professionals. The awards are given in a variety of categories,

including Best Domestic Destination, Best International Destination, Best Adventure Destination, and Best Emerging Destination.

SATA not only recognizes the achievements of the winners but also serves as a platform to showcase the latest trends and developments in the travel and tourism industry in South Asia. The event included networking opportunities that provide a valuable opportunity for industry professionals to share ideas and insights.



ZFOLD PAPER TOWEL



SCAN FOR CATALOG

EVENTS & AWARDS

PROPERTY	CATOGORY	REGION	GOLD / SILVER
Best Dives Private Limited	Leading Adventure/Sports Tour Operator	Maldives	Silver
Ceylon Extreme Adventure Pvt. Ltd.	Leading Adventure/Sports Tour Operator	Sri Lanka	Gold
Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden	Leading Airport Hotel	Bangladesh	Silver
Hyatt Regency Kathmandu	Leading Airport Hotel	Nepal	Silver
Vivanta Colombo Airport Garden	Leading Airport Hotel	Sri Lanka	Silver
Kochi Marriott Hotel	Leading Airport Hotel	India (South)	Gold
Sun Siyam Iru Fushi	Leading All-inclusive Resort	Maldives	Gold
Sayeman Beach Resort	Leading Beach Resort	Bangladesh	Silver
Rockholm At The Lighthouse Beach,	Leading Beach Resort	India (South)	Silver
Taj Bentota Resort & Spa	Leading Beach Resort	Sri Lanka	Silver
Amilla Maldives Resort & Residences	Leading Beach Resort	Maldives	Gold
Hansa - A Premium Residence	Leading Boutique Hotel/Resort	Bangladesh	Silver
Hotel The Kabo	Leading Boutique Hotel/Resort	India (North)	Silver
Isola Di Cocco By Citrine	Leading Boutique Hotel/Resort	India (South)	Silver
Reveries Maldives	Leading Boutique Hotel/Resort	Maldives	Silver
Cocogiri Island Resort	Leading Boutique Hotel/Resort	Maldives	Silver
Hotel Heritage	Leading Boutique Hotel/Resort	Nepal	Silver
Taru Villas: The Long House	Leading Boutique Hotel/Resort	Sri Lanka	Gold
Ramada Encore By Wyndham -	Leading Budget Hotel	India (North)	Silver
Statue Of Unity			
Mount Princess Hotel	Leading Budget Hotel	Nepal	Silver
Accord Chrome	Leading Budget Hotel	India (South)	Gold
pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka	Leading Business Hotel	Bangladesh	Silver
Hyatt Regency Delhi	Leading Business Hotel	India (North)	Silver
Jw Marriott Mumbai Sahar	Leading Business Hotel	India (South)	Silver
Maagiri Hotel	Leading Business Hotel	Maldives	Silver
Aloft Kathmandu Thamel	Leading Business Hotel	Nepal	Silver
Shangri-la Colombo	Leading Business Hotel	Sri Lanka	Gold
Kuku Grand	Leading City Hotel	Bhutan	Silver
Uday Suites Garden Hotel	Leading City Hotel	India (South)	Silver
Hotel Himalaya	Leading City Hotel	Nepal	Silver
Mandarina Colombo	Leading City Hotel	Sri Lanka	Gold
Intercontinental Dhaka	Leading Convention Center	Bangladesh	Silver
Uday Palace Convention Centre	Leading Convention Center	India (South)	Gold
maldives Holiday Collections Pvt Ltd	Leading Cruising Travel Agent	Maldives	Silver
Aitken Spence Travels	Leading Cruising Travel Agent	Sri Lanka	Gold
The Pema By Realm	Leading Designer Hotel/Resort	Bhutan	Silver
Mountain Club Resort	Leading Designer Hotel/Resort	India (South)	Silver
Heritance Tea Factory	Leading Designer Hotel/Resort	Sri Lanka	Silver
Cocoon Maldives	Leading Designer Hotel/Resort	Maldives	Gold
Bizcon Holidays	Leading Destination Promoter	Bangladesh	Silver
Kerala Arts And Crafts Village	Leading Destination Promoter	India (South)	Silver
Rapid Adventures	Leading Destination Promoter	Sri Lanka	Gold
Dive Point Maldives	Leading Dive Center/Brand	Maldives	Gold
Adaaran Select Meedhupparu	Leading Dive Resort	Maldives	Gold
Golden Tulip The Grand Mark-dhaka	Leading Eco-friendly Resort	Bangladesh	Silver
Rkpo Green Resort (Gangtey)	Leading Eco-friendly Resort	Bhutan	Silver
Harvest Fresh Farms	Leading Eco-friendly Resort	India (South)	Silver
Summer Island Maldives	Leading Eco-friendly Resort	Maldives	Silver
Heritance Kandalama	Leading Eco-friendly Resort	Sri Lanka	Gold
The Westin Dhaka	Leading F&B Hotel/Resort	Bangladesh	Silver
Taj Palace, New Delhi	Leading F&B Hotel/Resort	India (North)	Silver
Hilton Chennai	Leading F&B Hotel/Resort	India (South)	Silver
Lux* South Ari Atoll	Leading F&B Hotel/Resort	Maldives	Silver
Hyatt Place Kathmandu	Leading F&B Hotel/Resort	Nepal	Silver
Cinnamon Grand Colombo	Leading F&B Hotel/Resort	Sri Lanka	Gold
Ocean Paradise Hotel & Resort	Leading Family Resort	Bangladesh	Silver
Rema Resort	Leading Family Resort	Bhutan	Silver
Devi Ratn Ihcl Seleqtions	Leading Family Resort	India (North)	Silver
Mountain Club Resort	Leading Family Resort	India (South)	Silver
Dahlia Boutique Hotel	Leading Family Resort	Nepal	Silver
Shangri-la Hambantota	Leading Family Resort	Sri Lanka	Silver
Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives	Leading Family Resort	Maldives	Gold
Hotel Agrabad	Leading Heritage Hotel/resort	Bangladesh	Silver
Equator Village	Leading Heritage Hotel/resort	Maldives	Silver
Hotel Heritage	Leading Heritage Hotel/resort	Nepal	Silver
Fox Resorts Jaffna	Leading Heritage Hotel/resort	Sri Lanka	Silver
Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur	Leading Heritage Hotel/resort	India (North)	Gold
Adventure Resorts & Cruises	Leading House Boat	India (South)	Silver
Voyages Maldives	Leading Liveaboard Brand	Maldives	Gold
Intercontinental Dhaka	Leading Luxury Hotel/resort	Bangladesh	Silver
Taj Palace, New Delhi	Leading Luxury Hotel/resort	India (North)	Silver
Hard Rock Hotel Maldives	Leading Luxury Hotel/resort	Maldives	Silver
Hyatt Regency Kathmandu	Leading Luxury Hotel/resort	Nepal	Silver
Heritance Negombo	Leading Luxury Hotel/resort	Sri Lanka	Silver
Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel -	Leading Luxury Hotel/resort	India (South)	Gold
At Brigade Gateway			

PROPERTY	CATOGORY	REGION	GOLD / SILVER
Accord Metropolitan	Leading Fine Dining Outlet In Hotel/Resort	India (South)	Silver
You & Me Maldives	Leading Fine Dining Outlet In Hotel/Resort	Maldives	Silver
Sea Pleasure	Leading Floating Luxury Cruise/Safari	Maldives	Gold
Ace Aviation Services Maldives Pvt Ltd	Leading GSA	Maldives	Gold
Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka	Leading Meeting And Conference Hotel/resort	Bangladesh	Silver
Turyaa Chennai	Leading Meeting And Conference Hotel/resort	India (South)	Silver
Crossroads Maldives	Leading Meeting And Conference Hotel/resort	Maldives	Silver
View Hotel Siddhartha	Leading Meeting And Conference Hotel/resort	Nepal	Silver
Taj Samudra Colombo	Leading Meeting And Conference Hotel/resort	Sri Lanka	Silver
Taj Palace, New Delhi	Leading Meeting And Conference Hotel/resort	India (North)	Gold
The Palace Luxury Resort	Leading Palace Hotel	Bangladesh	Silver
Rambagh Palace	Leading Palace Hotel	India (North)	Gold
Voyages Maldives	Leading PSA	Maldives	Gold
Aitken Spence Hotels	Leading Resort/Hotel Brand	Maldives	Gold
Momo Inn Park & Resort	Leading Riverfront Hotel/Resort	Bangladesh	Silver
The World Backwaters	Leading Riverfront Hotel/Resort	India (South)	Silver
Cinnamon Citadel Kandy	Leading Riverfront Hotel/Resort	Sri Lanka	Silver
Meghauli Serai, A Taj Safari	Leading Riverfront Hotel/Resort	Nepal	Gold
Avia Maldives Pvt Ltd	Leading Supervision Agent (General Aviation Service)	Maldives	Silver
Continuum Aviation	Leading Supervision Agent (General Aviation Service)	India (North)	Gold
Cinnamon Dhonveli Maldives	Leading Surf Hotel/Resort	Maldives	Gold
Trans Maldivian Airways	Leading Tourist Transport Provider (Air)	Maldives	Gold
Casons Rent A Car	Leading Tourist Transport Provider (Land/sea)	Sri Lanka	Silver
Bangladesh Tour Group - Btg	Leading Travel Agent - Inbound	Bangladesh	Silver
Far Horizon Tours	Leading Travel Agent - Inbound	India (North)	Silver
Capital Travel Maldives	Leading Travel Agent - Inbound	Maldives	Silver
Aitken Spence Travels	Leading Travel Agent - Inbound	Sri Lanka	Gold
Innoglobe Travel & Tours Ltd.	Leading Travel Agent - Outbound	Bangladesh	Silver
Smitten Holidays & Travels	Leading Travel Agent - Outbound	India (South)	Silver
Dt Travels	Leading Travel Agent - Outbound	Sri Lanka	Silver
Ace Travels Maldives Pvt Ltd	Leading Travel Agent - Outbound	Maldives	Gold
Taj Lakefront, Bhopal	Leading Wedding Hotel/resort	India (North)	Silver
Crossroads Maldives	Leading Wedding Hotel/resort	Maldives	Silver
Hotel Mechi Crown	Leading Wedding Hotel/resort	Nepal	Silver
Taj Bentota Resort & Spa	Leading Wedding Hotel/resort	Sri Lanka	Silver
Uday Samudra Leisure Beach Hotel & Spa	Leading Wedding Hotel/resort	India (South)	Gold
Rema Resort	Leading Wellness And Spa Resort	Bhutan	Silver
The Nattika Beach Ayurveda Resort	Leading Wellness And Spa Resort	India (South)	Silver
The Terraces Resort And Spa	Leading Wellness And Spa Resort	Nepal	Silver
Heritance Ayurveda	Leading Wellness And Spa Resort	Sri Lanka	Gold
Vanya Holiday Resort, By Citrine	Leading Wildlife Lodge, Tented Camp	India (South)	Silver
Cinnamon Wild Yala	Leading Wildlife Lodge, Tented Camp	Sri Lanka	Gold
Crossroads Maldives	Leading Yacht Marina Hotel/Resort	Maldives	Gold
Kumarakom Lake Resort	Most Romantic Resort	India (South)	Silver
You & Me Maldives	Most Romantic Resort	Maldives	Silver
Himalaya Drishya Resort	Most Romantic Resort	Nepal	Silver
The Theva Residency	Most Romantic Resort	Sri Lanka	Silver
Taj Lake Palace , Udaipur	Most Romantic Resort	India (North)	Gold
Platinum Grand By Sheltech	Nishan Seneviratne Best CSR Programme	Bangladesh	Silver
Dusit Thani Maldives	Nishan Seneviratne Best CSR Programme	Maldives	Silver
Aloft Kathmandu Thamel	Nishan Seneviratne Best CSR Programme	Nepal	Silver
Royal Palms Beach Hotel, Kalutara	Nishan Seneviratne Best CSR Programme	Sri Lanka	Gold
Mr. Ashwani Nayar	South Asia's Best GM	Bangladesh	Gold
Mr. Shibil Malik	South Asia's Best GM	India (South)	Gold
Mr. Binnysebastian	South Asia's Best GM	Nepal	Gold
Mr. Refhan Razeen	South Asia's Best GM	Sri Lanka	Gold
Grand Sylhet Hotel & Resort	South Asia's Best New Hotel/Resort	Bangladesh	Silver
Taj Amer	South Asia's Best New Hotel/Resort	India (North)	Silver
Indimasi Healing Village By Citrine	South Asia's Best New Hotel/Resort	India (South)	Silver
Taru Villas: Maia	South Asia's Best New Hotel/Resort	Sri Lanka	Gold
Visitors Choice			
Sri Lankan Airlines	Leading Airline Class - Business Class		Gold
Sri Lankan Airlines	Leading International Airline - South Asia		Gold
Leeli Lounge	Leading Airport Lounge		Gold
Maldives	Leading Beach Destination		Gold
India	Leading Heritage Destination		Gold
Nepal	Leading Adventure Destination		Gold
Face Of South Asia			
Tourism Faces Of South Asia	Hakim Ali	Bangladesh	Coin
Tourism Faces Of South Asia	Mohamed Ali Janah	Maldives	Coin
Tourism Faces Of South Asia	Rajeev Kohli	India	Coin
Tourism Faces Of South Asia	M. U. Umar Manik	Maldives	Coin

Dusit Thani Maldives Wins Three Top Accolades in the World Luxury Awards 2023

Hot on the heels of winning top three best resorts in the Indian Ocean by the prestigious Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Award for the year 2023, Dusit Thani Maldives wins in three categories in the esteemed World Luxury Hotel Awards 2023.

Dusit Thani Maldives is honored with Best Luxury Beach Resort (comprising Luxury Beach Resort, Luxury Island Resort, and Luxury Sustainable Resort), Best Luxury Spa (comprising Luxury Forest Spa, Luxury Holistic Spa, and Luxury Wellness Spa), and Best Luxury Restaurant (comprising Thai Cuisine, Magnificent Scenic Views, and Luxury Resort Restaurant).

This esteemed recognition reflects the unparalleled luxury, exceptional service, and unforgettable experiences that Dusit Thani Maldives consistently delivers to its guests.

“With our awe-inspiring location in Baa Atoll, unmatched hospitality, and world-class facilities, Dusit Thani

Maldives has earned a reputation as a premier destination for sophisticated travelers, and we are delighted to becoming winner for our efforts with three noteworthy categories in the World Luxury Hotel Awards,” said Jean-Louis Ripoche, General Manager at Dusit Thani Maldives. “From the moment guests step onto our resort's pristine white sandy beaches, we ensure they are enveloped in a world of luxury and serenity, and we take pride in crafting experiences they can cherish for a lifetime.”

The World Luxury Hotel Awards is an international entity dedicated to honoring the epitome of opulent travel experiences. The organization acknowledges the most outstanding hotels, resorts, spas, restaurants, airlines, and destinations in the industry, all of which consistently deliver exceptional services and memorable experiences to discerning travelers across the globe.

Nestled on its private island amidst the



sparkling turquoise waters of the Maldives, Dusit Thani Maldives offers a sanctuary of luxury and tranquility. The resort features elegant villas and suites, each designed with a harmonious blend of traditional Thai aesthetics and Maldivian architecture.

Moreover, the resort offers unique opportunities for guests to ‘pause, focus, and grow’ with indulgent wellness and spa treatments at Devarana Wellness, plus a wide array of

water sports activities and nature-focused fun for families and couples alike.

Dusit Thani Maldives extends a heartfelt gratitude to its guests, partners, and associates for their continuous support. The resort remains committed to delivering gracious hospitality and looks forward to welcoming travelers from around the world to experience the unparalleled beauty and luxury of the Maldives.

Online Voting Opens for Maldives Boating Awards 2023



Online voting is open from 0000 hrs of November 1 for nominees of Maldives Boating Awards 2023. Industry professionals, the media and consumers can vote for their favorite nominees.

Voting runs until midnight of November 20. The nominee gaining the most votes in a category along with the highest judges’ score will be named as the winner of that category in the grand gala celebration held in



December 2023.

After the closing of voting, the winner of each category will be invited to attend the Gala Ceremony – the premier gathering of boating, tourism VIPs – which will take place on December 2, 2023.

NBAM Secretary General, Mariyam Maaisha, said: “With voting now open for our nominees of the Maldives, Boating Awards 2023 edition continues

to gather momentum. It is time for you to choose the nominees that are raising the bar of boating excellence.”

Nominees this year cover a broad spectrum of categories including best boat builder of the year, best built vessel, best production fiber vessel, dive guide of the year, faces of the boating industry and many more.

For more information and to cast your vote, visit: www.boatingawards.mv

IN THE NEWS

Ooredoo Nation Gamers' Land Awards 2023 Celebrates the eSports Champions!



In a thrilling conclusion of a three-day gaming extravaganza, Ooredoo Nation Gamers' Land - The Ultimate Gaming Festival wrapped up with an awe-inspiring award ceremony recognizing the winners of the tournaments. Gamers and esports enthusiasts of the Maldives gathered to celebrate their shared passion, and the event bore witness to incredible talent and fierce competition.

The award ceremony commenced with an electrifying Cosplay competition featuring 11 participants who brought their beloved characters to life, leaving the audience in sheer amazement.

Among these talented cosplayers, Ahmed Wisham was awarded as the Best Cosplay who participated as Fry Boy character. Wisam's captivating performance breathed life into the character on the stage, earning him well-deserved recognition. As the victor of the Cosplay competition, Wisam received an impressive cash prize of MVR 10,000.

The festival featured a series of competitive tournaments, each showcasing the immense skill and gaming expertise within the community. The winners took home prestigious titles and impressive cash

- prizes totaling MVR 185,000.
- Racing Simulator GT7 Tournament:**
- Champion: Aayan Ahmed Shaneez, taking home a cash prize of MVR 11,000.
 - 2nd Place Winner: Ali Ashham Abdul Hameed, taking home a cash prize of MVR 8,000.
 - 3rd Place Winner: Ahmed Alwin Asyed Zahir, taking home a cash prize of MVR 6,000.
- Tekken Tournament:**
- Champion: Ahmed Abaan, taking home a cash prize of MVR 5,000.
 - 2nd Place: Ameel Ismail, taking home a cash prize of MVR 3,000.
 - 3rd Place: Ahmed Thaabish, taking home a cash prize of MVR 2,000.
- EAFC24 Football Gaming Tournament:**
- Top Scorer and Champion: Mohamed Aiman Ahmed, taking home a total cash prize of MVR 25,000.
 - 2nd Place: Abyan Ali Nihad, taking home a cash prize of MVR 10,000
 - 3rd Place: Mohamed Zameel Zihuny, taking home a cash prize of MVR 5,000
- Ooredoo Nation PUBG Mobile Championship:**
- Champion: Team E2S TM7, taking home a cash prize of MVR 50,000
 - 2nd Place: Team E2S AKATSUKI, taking home a cash prize of MVR 20,000
 - 3rd Place: Team RGC SYNDICATE, taking home a cash prize of MVR 10,000
 - 4th Place: Team RGC DENO, taking home a cash prize of MVR 5,000
 - MVP: Haisham Waheed (Team E2S TM7), taking home a cash prize of MVR 1,500
- The most prestigious awards of the evening were presented by the Chief Guest of the event, Secretary General of Olympic Committee, Thamooth Ahmed Saeed and Hussain Niyaz, Chief Commercial Officer of Ooredoo Maldives:**
- Best Esports PC Player of The Year: Hassan Aseel Rasheed
 - Best Esports Mobile Player of The Year: Ahmed Mahil Mohamed
 - Best Esports Controller Player of The Year: Mohamed Zameel Zihny
- The 2023 Ooredoo Nation Gamers' Land Awards were a testament to the growing gaming community in the Maldives and the dedication of gamers, teams, and esports organizations. Ooredoo Nation will continue to support and connect gaming enthusiasts, aiming to create even more exciting gaming opportunities in the future.

Voyages Maldives Appointed Supervision Agent for Virgin Atlantic Airways Limited

Voyages Maldives Pvt Ltd is the newly appointed Supervision Agent for British carrier – Virgin Atlantic Airways Limited. The Inaugural flight from London Heathrow to Male was on October 23, 2023.

Virgin Atlantic is Britain's second-largest carrier with non-stop transatlantic routes. It commenced operations in 1984 and operates a fleet consisting of widebody twinjet aircraft from both Airbus and Boeing in Economy, Premium Economy, and Upper-Class configurations.

Virgin Atlantic will operate 03 direct flight services per week between London Heathrow and Velana International Airport till the season subsides.

LHR-MLE	VS384	ETA MLE 0950LT
MLE-LHR	VS385	ETD MLE 1135LT

From November 1 to March 28
Aircraft Type – B787-900
Operating days to MLE – Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays

Established in 1980, Voyages Maldives have been in the travel and tour business for the past 43 years and is one of the most trusted one-stop shops for inbound and outboard travel. Voyages Maldives is the handling agent of the airlines: Lufthansa German Airlines, Edelweiss Air, Austrian Airlines, Neos S.P.A, Air France, Bangkok Airways, Euro Wings Discover, Beijing Capital Airlines, and ITA Airways.



IN THE NEWS

Fenesta Expands Global Footprint with New Showroom in the Maldives

Fenesta, World's finest windows and doors brand and a unit of DCM Shriram Ltd, announces its latest expansion into the international market with the opening of a brand new showroom in the picturesque Maldives. With a strong presence in India, Nepal, Bhutan and now Maldives, Fenesta is aiming to solidify its retail presence in international markets. The exclusive showroom in Maldives is located at O SHOP – Henveiru , RG Tower, Hithah Finivaa Magu, Male' 20094 and brings the best in class windows and doors, staying true to the brand philosophy, Better by Design.

As Fenesta ventures into the picturesque Maldives, renowned for its captivating natural beauty and unpredictable climate, this milestone holds special significance. Fenesta's innovative windows and doors are thoughtfully designed to meet the distinct challenges posed by the hot and humid weather, occasional tropical storms, and unique architectural needs of the Maldivian homes and resorts.

Crafted with cutting-edge materials and technology, Fenesta's high-performance products not only add a touch of elegance but also serve as a formidable defense against street noise, dust, pollution, rain, and gusty winds, providing peaceful and protected interiors in this breathtaking setting.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Saket Jain, Business Head, Fenesta



said, "We are ecstatic to introduce Fenesta to Maldives, a country known for its picturesque beauty, vibrant communities and beautiful resorts. Our decision to expand into Maldives reflects our dedication to serving customers in diverse climates and geographies. Every new showroom is a striking example of the growing legacy of Fenesta. Our products are designed to enhance living spaces, combining aesthetics and functionality seamlessly."

Fenesta is celebrated for its unwavering commitment to design excellence, superior craftsmanship, and sustainable practices. Over the course of 20 years, Fenesta has transformed countless homes and commercial spaces

internationally with its top-notch windows and doors.

The Fenesta showroom located at O SHOP – HENVEIRU , RG TOWER , HITHAH FINIVAA MAGU Male' 20094 showcases a wide range of products encompassing uPVC and System Aluminium Windows and Doors and Solid Panel Doors across a variety of colors, designs and patterns. For architects, resort owners, builders, and homeowners looking for premium fenestration solutions that combine aesthetic beauty with high-performance features, the launch of Fenesta in Maldives is anticipated to open new doors.

He further added that "We have

reached this extraordinary milestone thanks to the unwavering support and belief of our valued partners and stakeholders. Our success is a testament to the synergy between a robust marketing strategy and a diverse product range. Every facet of our approach is meticulously designed to meet international standards of quality and performance, while remaining steadfast in our commitment to sustainability and innovation. Our products, marked by their customized design and enduring durability, have garnered the trust and preference of customers across the markets we serve."

With Fenesta, customers can expect a comprehensive service experience that includes assistance in selecting the right designs, conducting site surveys, efficient fabrication, timely delivery, and seamless installation. The state of art Fenesta showrooms have been crafted meticulously to improve the customer buying experience and have been instrumental in effectively expanding Fenesta's customer base, subsequently, cementing its position as a leader in the industry. As the global demand for high-quality fenestration solutions continues to grow, Fenesta is committed to increasing its market presence and maintaining its position as the industry's frontrunner. This expansion into Maldives marks another significant step in Fenesta's journey of transforming living spaces worldwide with its top-notch windows and doors.

Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu Hosts Students of Irushadhiyya School

Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu has welcomed a group of students from Irushadiyya School this early October. These enthusiastic students were the winners of the World Environment Day competition organized by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Technology which aimed to tackle plastic pollution through visual storytelling in line with this year's theme "Solution to Plastic Pollution".

Coco Collection awarded the students of Irushadiyya School, S.Maradhoo a stay at Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu with a chance to experience wildlife and sustainability initiatives along with a tour of the Olive

Ridley Project Marine Turtle Rescue Centre. The students got to meet the turtle patients at the centre as well and speak to the Olive Ridley Project team to learn about the dangers faced by marine turtles and what steps are taken to protect them.

As coral reefs are the backbone of our environment, young visitors were invited to contribute to its Coral Garden during their stay. With the guidance of the resort's Marine Biologist, Rosalie, these students participated in the long-term project by coral planting in its reef nursery. This is aimed to improve the coral diversity and to offer the corals a



better chance at survival by affixing naturally damaged coral on the man-made frames.

Coco Collection hopes to continue to

empower the next generation, and welcome more such aspiring conservationists from across the Maldives to Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu to learn more about sustainability.

BON APPÉTIT

Kandukukulhu

Chef Mohamed Niyaz On Celebrating Authentic Maldivian Flavours



Introducing the culinary genius who brings alive Kaagé specialty restaurant at VARU By Atmosphere.

Tell us a little bit about your journey in the hospitality industry.
In 2002, I had the chance to embark on my journey in the tourism industry when I began working as a Commis at Hulhule Island Hotel. Over 16 years, I climbed the ranks and eventually held the position of Chef De Partie at the same hotel. Then, in 2019, an exciting opportunity came my way as I joined VARU by Atmosphere as a Sous Chef. Currently, I am honoured to be working as a Maldivian Chef at the renowned Kaagé restaurant, which is the first of its kind in Atmosphere Core.

What are some of your achievements and awards?
Throughout my 20-year career, I have had the privilege of receiving nominations and winning various awards in different competitions and ceremonies. The most recent and special achievement was when I was honoured with the CGM Chefs Award for Outstanding Achievement in 2022. The year 2016 proved to be another successful year, I achieved remarkable accomplishments in international competitions. Securing second place in the Team Challenge and first place in the Foreign Team Challenge at the Chinese Foreign Hotel's cooking competition, CCTV 'The Greatest Chefs.' In addition, I have been participating in the Hotel Asia Culinary Challenge from 2012 to 2022 and have received 12 gold, silver, and bronze awards over the years.

INGREDIENTS:

For the tuna rolls

- 60 g tuna fillet
- 10 g onion sliced thinly
- 10 g garlic cloves sliced
- 10 g curry leaves
- 10 g pandan leaves
- 15 g raw coconut curry leaves
- 25 ml Oil
- 150 ml coconut milk
- 150 ml coconut cream
- 150 ml water
- Salt to season
- Strips of palm leaf or pandan leaf for tying

METHOD:

- Slice the tuna pieces very thinly into continuous string
- Roll out the thinly sliced tuna fillet pieces
- Cover with the curry paste and roll back again and hold the pieces by tying with a strip of palm leaf
- Trim the excess leaf off
- Fry the onion, garlic, rampe leaf and curry leaves until the onions are golden brown
- Add in the rolled fillet pieces together with the rest of the curry paste coconut milk water and salt to season
- Over low heat cook the fillet covered
- Stir only to avoid the fillet getting stuck to the sides of the cooking pot
- When the sauce has thickened add in the coconut cream to adjust seasoning and remove from heat

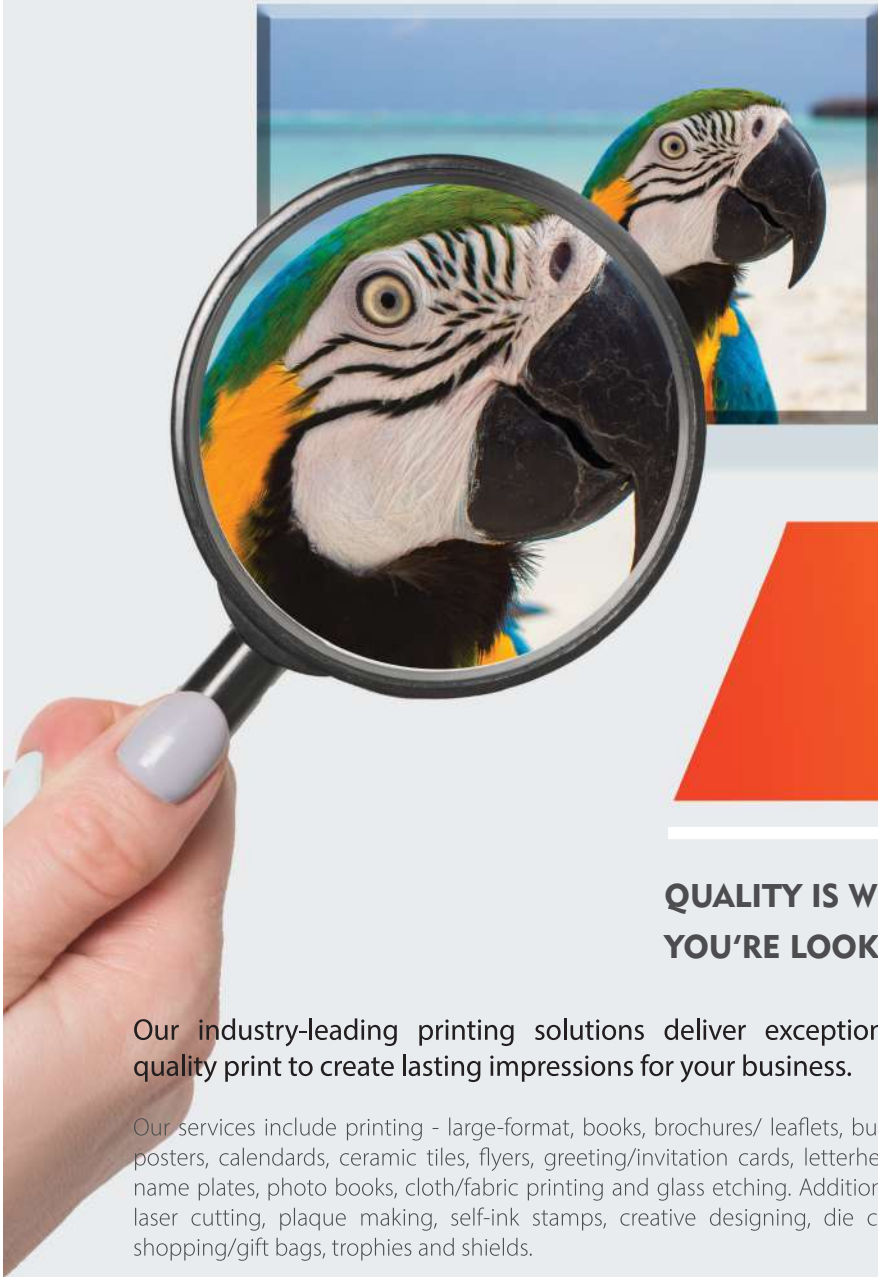


Courtesy of
Chef Mohamed Niyaz,
Maldivian Chef at VARU
By Atmosphere's signature restaurant – Kaagé.



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Frankly Speaking

Maldivian, the national carrier, recently launched direct flights to Bangalore in the last week of October. Given that India is the 2nd largest source market, would expanding to cities such as Mumbai and New Delhi be beneficial? Furthermore, what potential impacts do you foresee through the introduction of these direct flights by Maldivian Airline?



Ibrahim Nizam
Brand Strategist | Hospitality Consultant

This is a very good move by the Maldivian Airlines. It will definitely increase the influx of holidaymakers and business travelers from South India to the Maldives. Further expansion to other cities in North and West India is also commendable.

Meanwhile, it is vital that we consider operating direct flights to Gan International Airport and Hanimaadhoo International Airport from various parts of India and other countries in the region. Travel convenience and ease of access are among the important factors for better occupancy in the Southern and Northern Atolls of the country.

At the same time, for the flights to have a steady and continuous operation, promotional activities should be carried out in major cities of India.



Sachin Bansal,
Director & Founder
Yexplore & City Explorers

Thrilled about Maldivian Airlines' direct flights to Bangalore! Considering India's rich diversity, expanding to Mumbai and New Delhi opens doors to a tapestry of cultures and travel preferences. Anticipating a vibrant fusion that'll redefine the Maldives experience.



Rajeev Kohli
Joint Managing Director
Creative Travel

Direct connectivity would absolutely be a tremendous advantage for the Indian travelers. When the direct flight from Delhi was withdrawn, it took a four hour journey to eight. Not the best way to get to and back from paradise. Given that Indians today have no shortage of direct flights across the world, and airlines adding more every month, direct flights will make the Maldives more competitive as a destination. I would even say that there are markets beyond Delhi and Mumbai that if tapped, could change the scenario for the Maldives. The one thing we have lots of in India is people and our people have the spending power. It's for the destination to grab their fair share.



Yoosuf Riffath
President
Association of Travel Agents (ATA)

Expanding flight routes to cities like Mumbai and New Delhi from India to the Maldives could indeed be a good choice to boost tourism.

Sending a team of Maldivian travel agents to these cities to meet with outbound travel agents and promote the Maldives, along with special itineraries and packages, is a strategic approach to attract more visitors.

Landing at Addu Airport could also help increase occupancy and accessibility to the southern part of the Maldives. This could be a promising strategy to enhance tourism in the Maldives.



Sangeeta Baruva
Free Diving Instructor
Bangalore

Direct flights by an Maldivian airline will for sure benefit Maldivians who come to India specially for medical treatment and then return with divers and freedivers from India. Maybe the airline can provide a discounted offer for those traveling for medical treatment and divers.

IVEVOLK

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