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MALDIVES

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MANHATTAN
GRAND HOTEL

MANHATTAN GRAND HOTEL, HULHUMALE

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Welcome to the ninth issue of Hospitality Mosaic Maldives, your gateway to the dynamic world of Maldivian hospitality. More than just a magazine, this publication serves as a hub for collaboration, inspiration, and storytelling, bringing together hoteliers, restaurateurs, suppliers, and hospitality enthusiasts who share a passion for excellence.

As the official publication of FHAM, Hospitality Mosaic Maldives continues to bring you exclusive insights and updates on this premier industry event, including the highly anticipated Culinary Challenge. This issue once again highlights the visionaries, chefs, suppliers, and industry professionals whose dedication and innovation continue to elevate Maldivian hospitality on the global stage.

Beyond event highlights, we explore into the culture, artistry, and unique lifestyle that define the Maldives. From luxury resorts and fine dining to the rich heritage of Maldivian cuisine, our content is designed to inspire, inform, and connect industry leaders and enthusiasts alike.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, let's continue shaping the Maldives as a world-class destination for hospitality and culinary excellence.

Editor-in-Chief



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O I AN ISLAND SYMPHONY OF SOUND AND MOVEMENT AT THE RITZ-CARLTON MALDIVES



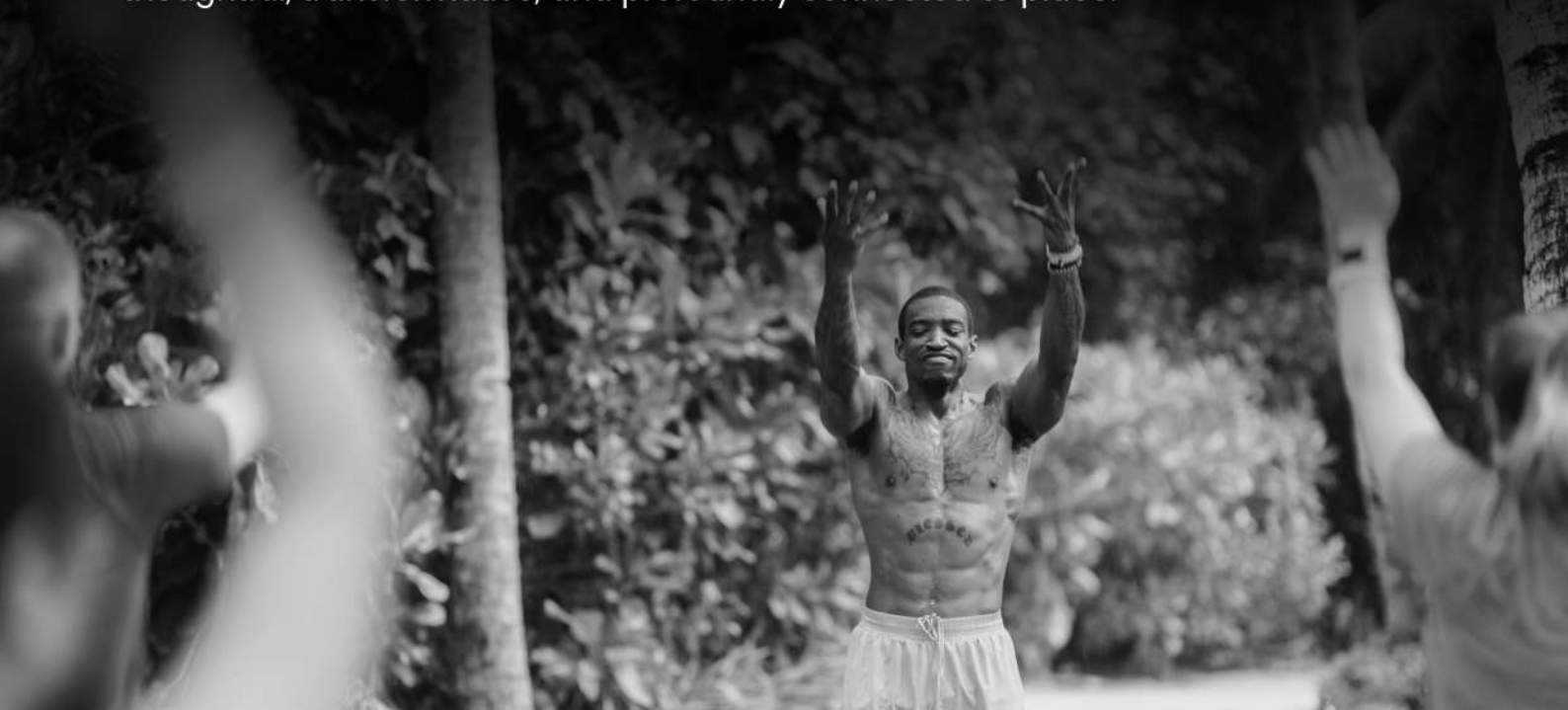
The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands welcomes 2026 with the return of its celebrated Masters of Crafts programme, opening the year with a refined fusion of music, movement, and mindful living. Set across the serene beauty of the North Malé Atoll from January 19 to 26, this exclusive residency brings together singer-songwriter Madison McFerrin and movement therapist Jacy Cunningham for a week of deeply immersive experiences.



Madison McFerrin's soulful artistry takes centre stage through a series of intimate performances thoughtfully designed to mirror the rhythm of island life. Her genre-blending sound, layered with neo-soul, R&B, and jazz influences, unfolds during a sunset concert at the Beach Shack on January 22, followed by a candlelit evening beneath the stars at Mystique Garden on January 23. The residency culminates with a Morning Coffee Session on January 25 at The Ritz-Carlton Estate, where music flows effortlessly in a refined poolside setting.

Balancing sound with motion, Jacy Cunningham leads a sequence of high-energy yet restorative movement sessions that unite athletic conditioning with mindful breathwork. Adaptable to all fitness levels, the programme moves across striking island locations, from sunrise workouts on Recreation Beach to energising sessions within Mystique Garden, Uthuru Garden, and The Ritz-Carlton Spa.

Framed by turquoise lagoons and tranquil shores, the Masters of Crafts programme offers guests a sensorial journey that nurtures both body and soul. It is an experience that reflects The Ritz-Carlton Maldives' signature approach to luxury—thoughtful, transformative, and profoundly connected to place.





02

THREE ICONS, ONE PHILOSOPHY: ATMOSPHERE CORE'S AWARD-WINNING MOMENT IN THE MALDIVES

Atmosphere Core closed 2025 with a resonant statement of intent, securing a coveted triple win at the Layalina Editor's Choice Awards—an achievement that affirms its position as one of the most dynamic hospitality groups in the Maldives. Honoured across three distinct categories, the recognition celebrates a portfolio that speaks fluently to modern travellers while maintaining an unwavering standard of excellence.

At the pinnacle of new luxury, RAYYA by Atmosphere was named Best New Luxury Resort of the Year – Maldives. Set in the Raa Atoll, the resort is defined by its tranquil castaway-artist concept, inviting guests to disconnect, explore nature, and rediscover a slower, more intentional rhythm of island life. Its recognition reflects a refined approach to luxury that is immersive, thoughtful, and deeply atmospheric.

Meanwhile, Atmosphere Kanifushi Maldives claimed the title of Best All-Inclusive Luxury Resort, a testament to its generous scale, expansive villas, and the signature Kanifushi Plan™. Designed to appeal equally to couples and families, the resort continues to set benchmarks for consistency, comfort, and effortless indulgence on one of the Maldives' longest natural islands.

Completing the trio, OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi was awarded Most Stylish Resort – Maldives, celebrated for its contemporary design and energetic social spirit. With vibrant shared spaces and a lifestyle-driven aesthetic, it resonates strongly with travellers seeking connection, movement, and modern flair.

Together, these accolades underscore Atmosphere Core's distinctive strength: the ability to curate clearly differentiated experiences while remaining guided by its philosophy of the Joy of Giving. It is this ethos—rooted in care, generosity, and attention to detail—that continues to shape destinations which feel personal, uplifting, and effortlessly memorable.



MANHATTAN GRAND HOTEL: HULHUMALE'S NEW FIVE-STAR LANDMARK SET TO OPEN IN JULY 2026

03

The Maldives is about to welcome a fresh icon of luxury and convenience. The former STO Hotel, now reimagined as the Manhattan Grand Hotel, is an upcoming five-star city hotel situated in the heart of Hulhumalé Phase 1 on Fithurooanu Magu. It seamlessly blends traditional Maldivian design with warm, contemporary international hospitality. Overlooking the calm coastline, the property promises guests stunning ocean sunsets or sparkling city lights in a serene, welcoming atmosphere perfect for both leisure travelers and business visitors.

Scheduled to open its doors in July 2026, the 158-room Manhattan Grand Hotel is already generating excitement as the Greater Malé region's new MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Events) powerhouse. The hotel draws inspiration from Maldivian architectural heritage while delivering modern comfort, setting a new standard for urban stays in the Maldives.

Elegant Accommodations & World-Class Amenities

Every room is designed to maximize natural light and comfort:

- Standard King and Twin Rooms (with city or sea views)
- Spacious Suites and Deluxe Suites featuring separate living areas and panoramic ocean vistas



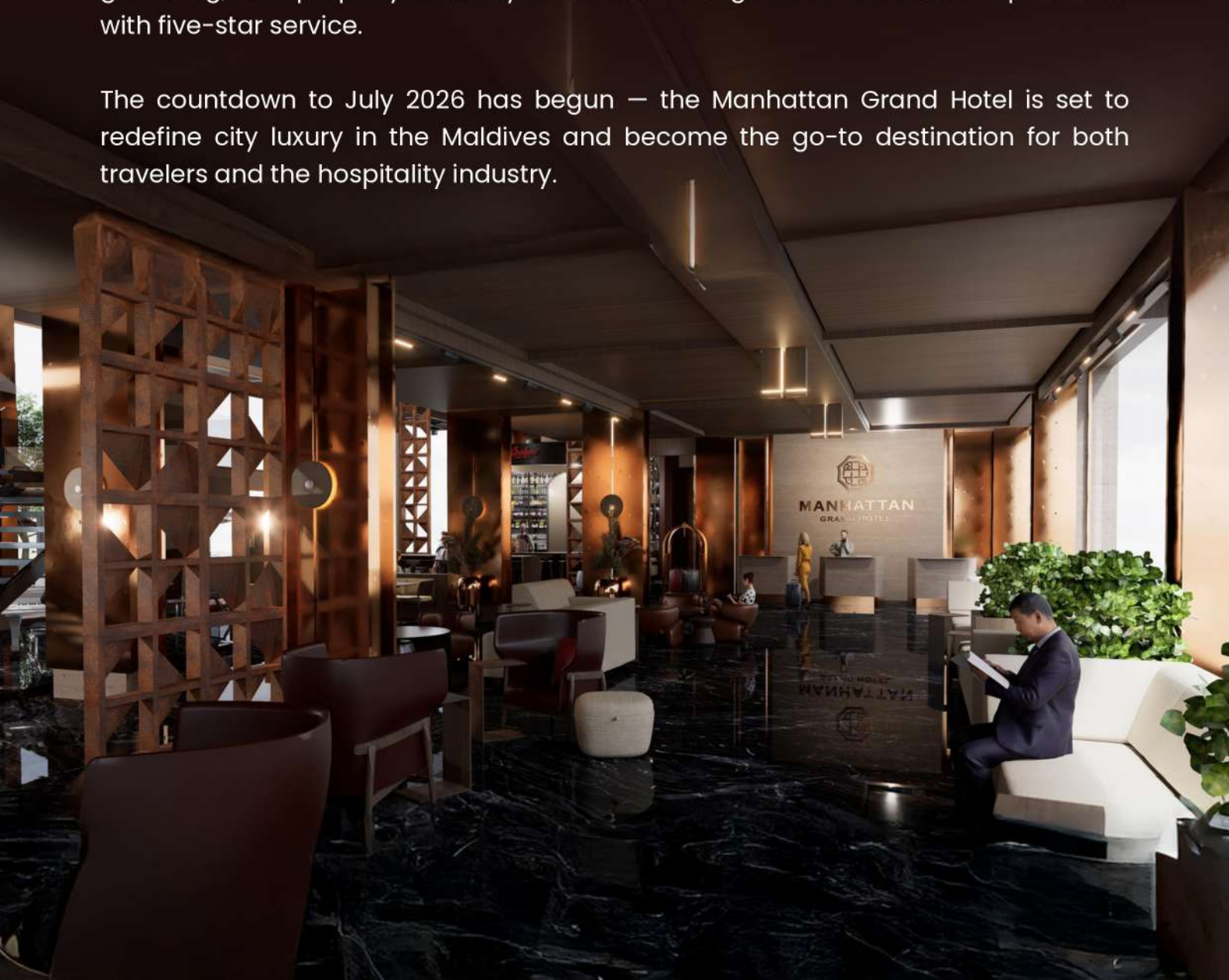
Guests can unwind at the rooftop-style wellness spaces, state-of-the-art gym, spa, and a sparkling swimming pool. Dining options are equally impressive:

- Manhattan Fish Market (ground floor)
- All-Day Breakfast Hall
- Specialty restaurant on the 8th floor
- Café Barbera at the lobby and pool deck

For events, the hotel offers flexible venues including two grand Terrace Event Halls (700 sqm and 390 sqm), multiple meeting rooms equipped with the latest technology, and banquet facilities ideal for weddings, conferences, and private celebrations.

As Hulhumale continues its rapid growth into a modern city, the Manhattan Grand Hotel arrives at the perfect time — offering a sophisticated yet approachable base just minutes from Malé International Airport and the capital. Whether you're planning a family holiday, a romantic escape, or a high-profile corporate gathering, this property is ready to deliver unforgettable Maldivian experiences with five-star service.

The countdown to July 2026 has begun — the Manhattan Grand Hotel is set to redefine city luxury in the Maldives and become the go-to destination for both travelers and the hospitality industry.



04 A MONASTIC PAST, REIMAGINED FOR MODERN INDULGENCE

In the rolling vineyards of Piedmont's UNESCO-listed Langhe region, history is being rewritten with rare elegance. Architect Stefano Tardito has been honoured with the Rēgula 2025 Award in the Hospitality category for his masterful restoration of the historic Borgo di Monchiero—now transformed into the refined sanctuary known as Borgo Monchiero Heritage by Atmosphere.



Celebrated at the eighth edition of the Rēgula | 100 Italian Projects Award, the project stands as a luminous example of how architectural heritage can evolve without losing its soul. Once an 18th-century monastic complex, Borgo Monchiero has been carefully reimaged into an intimate luxury retreat, where authenticity, innovation, and atmosphere coexist in perfect balance.



Tardito's vision is rooted in meticulous historical research and advanced architectural solutions, allowing the structure's original character to shine while welcoming contemporary comforts. Ancient monastic cells have been transformed into 19 timeless guest rooms, while cloisters, frescoed interiors, and panoramic viewpoints preserve the site's contemplative spirit. The experience is further elevated by a restaurant dedicated to local cuisine, a refined lounge bar overlooking the panoramic pool, and a wellness area set within vaulted brick spaces and a former terracotta cistern.

Perched above the Langhe hills, the property offers tranquility, cultural depth, and understated sophistication, an immersive encounter with place and memory. The recognition also marks a milestone as the first Italian hotel by Atmosphere Core, signalling the group's European expansion through heritage-driven hospitality. At Borgo Monchiero, the past does not simply endure—it whispers, welcomes, and lives on in quiet luxury.



05 Golden Shores of Excellence: Kuramathi Maldives Sets the Standard Once More

Set amid the luminous blues of the North Ari Atoll, Kuramathi Maldives has once again affirmed its place among the world's most admired island retreats. The resort has been honoured with the HolidayCheck Gold Award 2026, a rare distinction reserved for properties that demonstrate exceptional consistency in guest satisfaction over many years.

This coveted recognition is not easily earned. To qualify, a resort must have received the HolidayCheck Award at least five times since 2019—an achievement that speaks to sustained excellence rather than fleeting acclaim. For Kuramathi Maldives, the Gold Award is a reflection of thousands of guest endorsements and an unwavering commitment to refined hospitality.

Stretching gracefully across 1.8 kilometres of tropical beauty, the island is a study in natural elegance. Pristine beaches give way to lush greenery, while a vibrant coral house reef unfolds into a shimmering white sandbank. The setting alone is captivating, yet it is the harmony of heartfelt service, thoughtful experiences, and diverse offerings that continues to enchant travellers from around the globe.



Kuramathi presents an array of villa styles, from intimate beachfront sanctuaries to sophisticated overwater residences with private pools. Its dining landscape is equally impressive, featuring multiple buffet venues, an extensive collection of à la carte restaurants, and elegant bars, all curated to elevate the island stay.



Whether chosen for romance, family escapes, or underwater adventures, Kuramathi Maldives consistently exceeds expectations. The HolidayCheck Gold Award 2026 stands as a glowing testament to the resort's enduring appeal—a celebration of Maldivian hospitality delivered with warmth, authenticity, and timeless island charm.

06

MANHATTAN GRAND HOTEL PROUDLY HOSTS FHA MALDIVES 2026 AS ITS INAUGURAL EXHIBITION



The much-anticipated Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives 2026 (FHA Maldives) is set to make a remarkable return, marking a significant milestone as the inaugural exhibition hosted at the Manhattan Grand Hotel in Hulhumale, Maldives. Scheduled to take place from 7th to 9th September 2026, the exhibition promises three impactful days dedicated to innovation, collaboration, and growth within the Maldivian food and hospitality industry.

As one of the region's leading industry platforms, FHA Maldives continues to play a vital role in strengthening professional networks while showcasing the latest global trends, products, and services. The 2026 edition will feature 112 exhibition stalls, offering exhibitors a powerful opportunity to connect with key decision-makers and industry stakeholders.

The event is expected to attract a diverse audience, including Resort Owners & Developers, General Managers, Purchasing & Procurement Managers, Executive Chefs, F&B Managers, Hotel Executives, Engineering & Maintenance Managers, IT & Security Managers, Finance & Administration Managers, Project Consultants, Housekeeping Managers, Dealers, Importers, Suppliers, as well as hospitality media and influencers. This wide-ranging visitor profile ensures meaningful engagement and high-value business opportunities throughout the exhibition.





Building on the strong success of previous editions, FHA Maldives has consistently demonstrated its impact on the industry. The last edition recorded over 1,000 international product launches, welcomed more than 5,000 visitors over three days, and featured over 100 exhibitors. In addition, the event saw participation from over 120 resorts in its competitions, alongside 7,000+ international brands showcasing their products and innovations.

FHA Maldives 2026 aims to raise the bar even higher by expanding its reach, enhancing exhibitor experiences, and further strengthening its competition segments. With the prestigious Manhattan Grand Hotel serving as the venue for its debut event, this edition is set to deliver an elevated experience for both exhibitors and visitors alike.

Positioned at the heart of one of the world's most renowned tourism destinations, FHA Maldives continues to be a must-attend event for professionals seeking to connect, innovate, and grow within the ever-evolving hospitality landscape.



07 A Custodian of Heritage: Francesco Giovannelli Takes the Helm at Borgo Monchiero

Nestled among the vine-laced hills of Piedmont's UNESCO-listed Langhe region, Borgo Monchiero Heritage by Atmosphere begins a new chapter with the appointment of Francesco Giovannelli as Monastero Manager. The move signals a confident step forward for Atmosphere Core as it brings its distinctive hospitality philosophy to Europe through its first Italian heritage property.

An accomplished Italian hotelier, Giovannelli brings more than 15 years of hands-on leadership experience across some of Italy's most storied regions, including Piedmont and Tuscany. His career has been shaped by a deep engagement with on-property operations, revenue coordination, and service delivery—always grounded in a nuanced understanding of regional culture and guest expectations. His commitment to excellence has earned recognition from Leading Hotels of the World, followed by the Hospitality Award in 2025.


At Borgo Monchiero, Giovannelli assumes stewardship of a beautifully restored 18th-century monastery built in 1773. Today, the three-storey hillside retreat blends Romanesque architecture, sacred frescoes, and the culinary and cultural heritage of northern Italy. The intimate property features 19 refined rooms fashioned from former monastic cells, alongside a private chapel for intimate ceremonies, a restaurant celebrating local cuisine, an elegant lounge bar, a panoramic swimming pool, and a serene wellness area set within a centuries-old water reservoir.

With Giovannelli's leadership, Borgo Monchiero Heritage by Atmosphere is poised to translate its rich past into a living, sensory experience—where history, hospitality, and contemporary luxury unfold with quiet confidence and enduring charm.



FRANCESCO GIOVANNELLI
MONASTERO MANAGER

08 Crafted to Inspire: A Year of Artistry at The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands



Set amid the luminous beauty of the North Malé Atoll, The Ritz-Carlton Maldives, Fari Islands unveils its 2026 Masters of Crafts programme—an inspired, year-long celebration of creativity, excellence, and transformative travel. Designed to engage guests with craft at its highest expression, the programme brings together a distinguished circle of global visionaries across wellness, music, culinary arts, mixology, adventure, and storytelling

The calendar opens in January with The Essence of Balance: Blue Horizons, led by movement coach Jacy Cunningham. His signature HIIT-based sessions explore resilience, strength, and freedom through mindful movement, unfolding across the resort's gardens, beachfront settings, and award-winning spa. Complementing motion with melody, acclaimed artist Madison McFerrin presents Sound for the Soul, delivering three intimate performances that blend neo-soul, R&B, and jazz in settings curated to echo the island's natural rhythm.

Throughout the year, guests are invited into rare encounters—from Michelin-starred culinary residencies and Behind the Bar takeovers by globally celebrated mixologists, to floral artistry, stargazing experiences with an aurora chaser, and wellness retreats designed for deep connection. Highlights include surf coaching with big-wave champion Nic von Rupp, celestial explorations with astronomer Tom Kerss, and refined haute cuisine presented barefoot by the sea.

Rooted in the resort's philosophy of meaningful luxury and its signature Blue Prescription, Masters of Crafts 2026 offers more than a programme—it is a sensorial journey. One that leaves guests inspired, enriched, and deeply connected to both craft and place.



09 SIMPLE FOOD, CONSISTENT TASTE: THE REAL LUXURY

BY PRASATH VITHARANAGE – EXECUTIVE CHEF

In today's hospitality industry, guests are not always looking for complicated food or luxury ingredients. From my experience as a chef, I have learned that the real luxury for a guest is simple food with consistent taste.

I work in a high-occupancy resort environment, where guests come from many different countries and cultures. Their food preferences vary, but one expectation is always the same: the food should taste the same every day. Consistency builds trust. When guests trust the food, they enjoy their stay more.



The Challenge of Consistency

Running a kitchen during peak occupancy is not easy. There is pressure from volume, timing, staffing, and guest feedback. Buffets must be full, food must be hot, and service must be fast. In such situations, it is tempting to add too many items or make food complicated. But complexity often leads to mistakes.

Simple food is easier to control, easier to repeat, and easier for the team to execute correctly. A well-cooked grilled fish, fresh salad, or properly seasoned soup can leave a stronger impression than an over-decorated dish with no balance.

Understanding the Guest

Guests today are very aware. They notice taste, cleanliness, labeling, and food safety. Many guests prefer mild flavors, clear ingredients, and familiar dishes. Especially with international guests, it is important to avoid extreme spice and focus on balance.

Consistency also helps guests feel comfortable. When a guest enjoys a dish today, they expect the same taste tomorrow. If the taste changes daily, confidence is lost—even if the food looks good.

Team Discipline and Standards

Consistent taste does not happen by accident. It comes from:

- Standard recipes
- Proper training
- Correct date coding and labeling
- Good communication in the kitchen

Every team member must understand that small details matter. A missing label, incorrect seasoning, or rushed preparation can affect the entire guest experience.

Simple Food is Not Basic Food

Simple food does not mean boring food. It means clear flavors, good cooking techniques, and respect for ingredients.

In my journey as a chef, I have learned that luxury is not always about expensive ingredients or big presentations. The real luxury is when a guest returns to the buffet and feels confident about what they will eat.

Simple food, cooked well, served consistently, and prepared with care, that is the true meaning of hospitality.



10 Luxury Reimagined: Trends Shaping Maldives Tourism & Hospitality

By Vipula Wanigasekera

Luxury hospitality in the Maldives has long set global benchmarks, but today's market signals a clear evolution. Contemporary luxury is no longer defined solely by opulence or exclusivity; it is increasingly shaped by sustainability, authenticity, and conscious consumption. The Maldivian hospitality sector now stands at the intersection of these shifting expectations.

Recent years have seen continued investment in high-end resorts, branded residences, and experiential offerings, reaffirming the Maldives' appeal to premium travellers. However, market dynamics reveal a more discerning guest—one who values eco-sensitive design, wellness integration, and meaningful engagement with place. Sustainability has moved from a peripheral marketing claim to a core value proposition.

Eco-luxury is no longer a contradiction. Resorts are investing in renewable energy, coral regeneration, waste management innovations, and water conservation not merely as compliance measures, but as differentiators. Guests increasingly expect transparency and measurable impact. In this environment, sustainability enhances brand equity rather than diminishing indulgence.



Wellness has emerged as a powerful driver within the luxury segment. Integrated wellness retreats, personalised health programs, mindfulness experiences, and nature-based healing are redefining the guest journey. The Maldives' natural serenity offers an authentic canvas for this shift, positioning the destination as a global leader in restorative luxury.

From a market perspective, capacity expansion presents both opportunity and challenge. While new developments strengthen the destination's global footprint, they also demand sharper positioning and more sophisticated marketing. Occupancy, yield management, and brand differentiation will matter more than sheer volume. In this context, sustainability narratives—when backed by genuine practice—become critical competitive tools.



Human capital is another emerging focus. Luxury hospitality today depends as much on emotional intelligence and service culture as on physical assets. Investing in staff development, local leadership, and cross-cultural competence strengthens service quality while reinforcing social sustainability.

Ultimately, the Maldives' luxury hospitality sector is undergoing a quiet transformation. The future belongs to resorts and operators who understand that luxury and responsibility are no longer parallel tracks, but a single journey. Market trends suggest that guests are willing to reward destinations that offer beauty with conscience and comfort with purpose.

As global tourism recalibrates, the Maldives remains well placed—not by standing still, but by continuously redefining what luxury means in a world that demands both excellence and ethics.

11

CRAFTING CULTURE & CONSCIOUS LUXURY: A FEBRUARY OF SUSTAINABLE CELEBRATION IN THE MALDIVES

This February, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru and Dhawa Ihuru redefine the luxury island escape with a thoughtfully curated celebration that blends environmental stewardship, rich cultural traditions, and refined hospitality in the heart of the Maldives. Rooted in the Banyan Group's ethos of Embracing the Environment, Empowering People, the month-long programme offers guests meaningful experiences that celebrate connection with community, culture, and nature.

The journey begins with Zero-Waste Week (1-7 February), a signature initiative that reflects decades of environmental leadership at Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru since its opening in 1995. Activities invite guests to engage directly with conservation efforts, from a mangrove awareness talk and community clean-up on Huraa Island to creative workshops using recycled materials and a 'Save the Reef' snorkelling experience followed by a zero-waste picnic. Wellness meets sustainability with natural body scrub sessions at Sangu Garden and upcycled tie-dye workshops in collaboration with a local craft house – transforming everyday materials into purposeful art.





Mid-month, the rhythm of celebration shifts to cultural splendour with the Chinese New Year Festive Dinner on 17 February at Sangu Garden. Set against the serenely lit beachfront, this elegant evening unites symbolic flavours and traditions with live culinary stations and an abundance of seafood delicacies – a refined homage to reunion and prosperity under the stars.

From 18 February through 19 March, the resorts respectfully observe Ramadan traditions, offering International Iftar Buffet Nights at Dhawa Ihuru's Riveli Restaurant. These evenings honour the sacred rhythm of sunset gatherings, culminating in joyful Eid Al Fitr celebrations of reflection and togetherness.

This exceptional programme reflects a deeper narrative: luxury that is purposeful, culturally rich, and profoundly in tune with the natural world.

(Credit: Information sourced from VisitMaldives.com, February 2026.)

12 Global Horizons, Island Elegance: Kuda Villingili's New Chapter with the Global Hotel Alliance

Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives has embarked on a remarkable journey into the world's most prestigious network of independent luxury hospitality by officially joining the Global Hotel Alliance (GHA) portfolio. This strategic partnership marks a defining milestone for the five-star private island sanctuary, amplifying its global presence and inviting discerning travellers to experience its signature blend of refined Maldivian hospitality and unforgettable island lifestyle.

As part of the alliance, Kuda Villingili is now connected to an exclusive consortium of more than 950 hotels, 50 iconic brands, and 34 million members across 100 countries, offering unparalleled access to the Maldives' turquoise beauty through GHA's acclaimed loyalty programme, GHA DISCOVERY. This collaboration opens a new gateway for guests who value authenticity, personalisation, and deeply memorable journeys—hallmarks of the resort's ethos.

Nestled within the North Malé Atoll, the resort is celebrated for its elegant overwater and beach villas, the Maldives' largest swimming pool, eight distinguished dining venues, invigorating wellness experiences, and world-class surfing at the iconic Chicken's Break. Being part of GHA's global network not only elevates the resort's international stature but also deepens its connection with a community of luxury travellers seeking experiential escapes and meaningful adventure.



GHA DISCOVERY redefines loyalty with its DISCOVERY Dollars reward system and curated members-only experiences, focusing on value beyond traditional points and upgrades. To celebrate the partnership, guests who register by 15 April 2026 and book directly through the platform will enjoy a complimentary KV Faru snorkelling excursion, enhancing their tropical voyage with a touch of personalised exploration.

With this new alliance, Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives solidifies its status as a global luxury destination—where time is reimagined, and every journey becomes a treasured memory.

(Credit: Information sourced from VisitMaldives.com, February 2026.)



13 Beyond the Atoll: Strategic Diversification and Resilience

By Dr Vipula Wanigasekera

For decades, the Maldives has stood as one of the world's most distinctive tourism success stories, built on an elegant formula of sun, sea, sand, and secluded luxury. While this model has delivered remarkable economic returns, recent global disruptions—from pandemics and geopolitical tensions to climate risks—have underscored a critical truth: long-term sustainability depends not on scale alone, but on resilience through diversification.

Tourism diversification in the Maldivian context does not mean abandoning luxury island resorts. Rather, it means broadening the tourism value proposition while strengthening economic, social, and environmental buffers. Guesthouse tourism on inhabited islands, for example, has already demonstrated its potential to distribute income more equitably, foster local entrepreneurship, and integrate communities more directly into the tourism economy. This model, if guided carefully, can complement rather than compete with the resort sector.

Beyond accommodation formats, diversification also involves product innovation. Wellness tourism, marine conservation experiences, cultural immersion, gastronomy, and slow travel are increasingly sought by discerning travellers who value meaning alongside comfort. The Maldives is uniquely positioned to offer such experiences, drawing on its maritime heritage, traditional lifestyles, and fragile ecosystems. When these elements are curated responsibly, they enhance destination depth without diluting brand identity.



Resilience is also institutional. Overdependence on a narrow set of source markets, seasonal travel patterns, or single revenue streams increases vulnerability. Strategic diversification encourages policymakers and industry leaders to rethink market portfolios, develop niche segments, and invest in human capital. Training local youth in hospitality, environmental management, and tourism entrepreneurship ensures that resilience is embedded not just in infrastructure, but in people.

Environmental sustainability is inseparable from resilience. Climate change poses an existential challenge to island nations, making adaptive tourism planning imperative. Diversified tourism allows the Maldives to balance high-end, low-density resorts with low-impact community models, reducing pressure on ecosystems while preserving economic vitality. Resilience, in this sense, is about absorbing shocks without losing identity.



The future of Maldivian tourism lies not in choosing between luxury and inclusivity, or growth and sustainability, but in strategically integrating them. Diversification, when guided by vision and policy coherence, strengthens the industry's capacity to endure uncertainty while continuing to deliver world-class experiences.

In a rapidly changing global tourism landscape, resilience is no longer optional. For the Maldives, diversification is not a departure from success—it is the pathway to sustaining it.

14

WHERE CHOCOLATE MEETS MINDFULNESS: A CULINARY ARTISTRY RETREAT AT OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI

This April, Ozen Reserve Bolifushi transforms into a serene stage for an extraordinary gastronomic event as celebrated culinary artist Chef Janice Wong returns to THE OZEN COLLECTION for the Chocolate Art & Serenity pop-up experience. Set over three days from 27 to 29 April 2026, this exclusive engagement reimagines chocolate as a medium of creativity, wellbeing, and multi-sensory indulgence against the luxurious, overwater backdrop of the resort's world-class dining venues.

The programme is designed to enchant guests of all ages with carefully curated activities that go beyond traditional tasting. Adults can learn the alchemy of chocolate craft in intimate masterclasses, exploring flavour, texture, and artistic expression under the guidance of one of Asia's most visionary chefs. For younger travellers, engaging guided cooking workshops invite playful exploration and hands-on creativity. The highlight of the series is a bespoke Cacao Bonfire Meditation Ceremony—a unique fusion of sound healing, intention setting, and cacao-infused ritual that invites guests to slow down and truly savour the moment.





Chef Wong, globally hailed as Asia's "Queen of Desserts," brings nearly two decades of innovation to this Maldivian residency. Her philosophy elevates chocolate beyond confection, transforming it into works of edible art that stimulate curiosity, balance, and mindful presence in harmony with the tranquil island environment.

This highly anticipated 2026 series reflects Atmosphere Core's enduring commitment to world-class gastronomy and immersive guest experiences, integrating pioneering culinary artistry with the resort's bespoke service and serene natural setting.

(Credit: Information sourced from VisitMaldives.com, January 2026.)

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