

· H O S P I T A L I T Y ·

# MOSAIC

MALDIVES

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and Hospitality

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ICEHOUSE to Headline  
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## *Publisher Note.*

Welcome to the sixth 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



# FHAM 2025: A TRIUMPH FOR MALDIVIAN TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

The Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives (FHAM) Global Culinary Challenge and Exhibition 2025, held on September 7 at Central Park, Hulhumale, marked a resounding success for the Maldivian tourism and hospitality industry. Inaugurated by Hon. Mohamed Saeed, Minister of Economic Development, the three-day event showcased the Maldives as a global hub for culinary excellence and hospitality innovation.

Drawing over 5,000 visitors, FHAM 2025 featured 130+ exhibitors representing more than 7,000 international brands. The event buzzed with 1,000+ product launches, offering a platform for industry leaders to unveil cutting-edge solutions tailored for the hospitality sector. From advanced kitchen technologies to sustainable practices, these innovations are set to elevate guest experiences across the Maldives' world-renowned resorts.

The culinary challenge, a highlight of the event, saw participation from 120+ resorts, showcasing the archipelago's gastronomic prowess. Chefs competed fiercely, blending local flavors with global techniques and captivating attendees, reinforcing the Maldives' reputation as a culinary destination. Concurrent events, including workshops and networking sessions, fostered collaboration among industry professionals, paving the way for future growth.





FHAM 2025 significantly boosted the Maldivian tourism and hospitality sector by connecting local businesses with international markets. The event highlighted the Maldives' commitment to sustainability and excellence, aligning with global trends in luxury travel and dining. Exhibitors and attendees alike praised the event's organization and its role in driving economic growth through tourism.

As the Maldives continues to solidify its position as a premier destination, FHAM 2025's success underscores the transformative power of such platforms in shaping the future of the hospitality industry, ensuring the nation remains at the forefront of global tourism.





# DIVE INTO WONDER: **KANDOOMA MANTA MONTH RETURNS TO THE MALDIVES**

In the turquoise embrace of the Maldives, where white sand beaches meet swaying coconut palms, Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives is once again transforming September into a celebration of marine majesty. Following the resounding success of last year's initiative, the resort proudly welcomes back Manta Month this September 2025—an annual tradition designed to connect guests of all ages with the ocean while championing marine conservation.

Nestled in the South Male Atoll, just a 40–45 minute speedboat ride from the airport, the resort sits on the doorstep of some of the Maldives' top ten dive sites. Here, the wellbeing of the ocean and its inhabitants is a shared priority for guests and staff alike. This commitment aligns seamlessly with IHG's purpose of "True Hospitality for Good," embodied in the resort's sustainability program, Journey to Tomorrow. This initiative supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting a long-term dedication to protecting the natural environment.

Throughout the month, visitors are invited to immerse themselves in a lineup of family-friendly activities that spotlight the graceful manta ray. Guided excursions lead to renowned manta hotspots, where the resort's experienced team shares captivating insights into manta behavior and conservation efforts. Awareness talks highlight the inspiring story of a manta rescued near the island, serving as a poignant reminder of the resort's ongoing work to safeguard marine life.





For younger guests, the fun takes a creative turn with manta-themed arts-and-crafts sessions and lively beach games. The entire community can participate in a reef and island clean-up, where collected waste is ingeniously transformed into striking manta sculptures. Adding to the impact, proceeds from sales of manta pendants available at the resort's retail boutique will be donated to The Manta Trust, bolstering research and protection for these magnificent creatures.

"What started as a special event last year has now grown into an annual month-long celebration," shares Mark Eletr, General Manager of Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives. "Kandooma Manta Month is not just about seeing these magnificent creatures up close, but about creating meaningful experiences that inspire awareness, responsibility, and care for the ocean environment."

The resort itself is a natural island paradise, offering a range of accommodations to suit every traveler. Options include Garden and Beach Villas, two-storey Beach Houses, and the sought-after Overwater Villas. Families are particularly well-catered for with 2- and 3-bedroom villas, plus the Kandoo Kids' Club offering a full program of fun activities. Six food and beverage outlets ensure that healthy appetites are satisfied, allowing guests to explore the flavors of the Maldives. For those seeking relaxation, sun loungers and hammocks are dotted around the island, while Kandooma Spa by COMO Shambhala provides a tranquil escape for body and mind.





# CELEBRATING CULINARY BRILLIANCE AT FHAM 2025

The awards ceremony for the Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives (FHAM) Global Culinary Challenge 2025 celebrated the pinnacle of culinary talent in the Maldives. With more than 120 resorts participating, the event showcased innovative dishes, artistic presentations, and fierce competition among chefs from local and international backgrounds. Held after the main exhibition on September 7 at Central Park, Hulhumalé, the ceremony recognized outstanding achievements across various categories and highlighted the fusion of traditional Maldivian flavors with global techniques.

The event radiated elegance, as chefs from across the region unveiled masterful dishes and artistic displays, blending local traditions with global influences. Each category helped highlight the passion and precision that define Maldivian cuisine, fostering a spirit of collaboration and inspiration. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement, reflecting the industry's commitment to pushing boundaries and setting new standards.

This gathering not only celebrated the artistry behind every plate but also strengthened the Maldives' position as a premier destination for culinary tourism. The success of FHAM 2025 promises to inspire future generations of hospitality professionals, ensuring a legacy of excellence that continues to thrive.





# Winners List

Category	Name	Organisation
<b>Most Outstanding Artist</b>	Y.H.G. VIRAJ PREMACHANDRA	QATAR CULINARY PROFESSIONALS
<b>Best Pastry Chef</b>	DINESH KINSON	EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD
<b>Best Maldivian Pastry Chef</b>	FATHMATHLAM LAMHA ALI	CITY INVESTMENTS PVT LTD
<b>Best Maldivian Chef</b>	ISMAIL THAHSEEN	BARCELO NASANDHURA MALE
<b>Best Chef</b>	ABHINASH SAHOO	EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD

Category	Organisation
<b>Most Outstanding National Team</b>	EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD
<b>Most Outstanding Culinary Organisation</b>	ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO

Category	Name	Organisation	Place
<b>Petits Fours or Pralines (Pastry)</b>	DINESH KINSON MADURACHARE RANGA ASELA ANANDA ROSHAN RAKITHA	EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD HERITANCE AARAH OBLU XPERIENCE AILAFUSHI & OBLU SELECT LOBIGILI	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Creative Bread Display (Pastry)</b>	H.P.J. LIHAN KULASINGHE SUBHAJIT BEHERA Y.H.G VIRAJ PREMACHANDRA	CENTARA MIRAGE LAGOON MALDIVES HILTON AMINGIRI MALDIVES RESORT & SPA QATAR CULINARY PROFESSIONALS	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Artistic Pastry Showpiece (Pastry)</b>	VARUNA HARSHANA GURUGE W. A. D. DILSHANI RUWANTHIKA DINESH KINSON	QATAR CULINARY PROFESSIONALS INDIVIDUAL - DILSHANI AND TEAM EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD	<b>Winner</b> <b>Winner</b> <b>Winner</b>
<b>Wedding Cake Structure (Three Tier Pastry)</b>	W. A. D. DILSHANI RUWANTHIKA SHIUNA ABDUL GADIR MANNAGE DON MADUSHANKA	INDIVIDUAL - DILSHANI AND TEAM MY CAKE AND SWEETS OBLU XPERIENCE AILAFUSHI & OBLU SELECT LOBIGILI	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Plated Appetizers</b>	U. D. KALUM SRI JANAKA M. A. Y. N. SOMACHANDRA MAHAHETTIGE SUMITH BANDARA	ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO QATAR CULINARY PROFESSIONALS	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Plated Three Course Meal</b>	D. R. A. JANAKA PRATHAP RANAWAKA D. M. SAMAN KUMARA NISHAN NAYANA KANTHA	ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Dress the Cake (Pastry)</b>	B.P. THARINDU SHEHAN DINESH KINSON THARISHMA MENDIS	EMBUDU MALDIVES EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Fruit &amp; Vegetable Carving</b>	NUWAN PRIYA MALLUWAWADU MAHESH SANDARUWAN BANDARA PRABATH MADURANGA DE SILVA NORAGAL	FURAVERI MALDIVES KOMANDOO ISLAND RESORT & SPA VILAMENDHOO ISLAND RESORT & SPA	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up



# Winners List

Category	Name	Organisation	Place
<b>Appetizers – Hot or Cold</b>	MAHAHETTIGE SUMITH BANDARA W. NISHAL HARSHANA DE SOYSA SUTATHIP CHUADCHUM	QATAR CULINARY PROFESSIONALS HERITANCE AARAH ANGSANA VELAVARU MALDIVES	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Lamb – Hot Cooking (Open)</b>	LAHIRU DANANJAYA KRUSHNATH RAMESH JADHAV H. M. SANKHA SANDARUWAN DAYARATHNA	JOALI MALDIVES EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD ANANTARA KIHAVAH MALDIVES	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Seafood – Hot Cooking (Open)</b>	D. A. USHAN DE SOYSA ROMANI LIYANAGE U.G.E. MALUTH BANDARA	VAKKARU MALDIVES EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD ATMOSPHERE KANIFUSHI	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Poultry – Hot Cooking (Open)</b>	A.A. AYU SINTA JUMIANTI ROMANI LIYANAGE LAHIRU DANANJAYA	JOALI MALDIVES EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD JOALI MALDIVES	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Beef – Hot Cooking (Open)</b>	ABINASH SAHOO KRUSHNATH RAMESH JADHAV ROMANI LIYANAGE	EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Yellow–Fin Tuna Steak Hot Cooking (Open)</b>	SHEHAN ADRIAN JOSEPH WALLES ABINASH SAHOO D. R. A. JANAKA PRATHAP RANAWAKA	SIX SENSES KANUHURA EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>White Fish Fillet Hot Cooking (Open)</b>	FEBIANA FITRANI D. R. A. JANAKA PRATHAP RANAWAKA NISHAN NAYANA KANTHA	ANANTARA KIHAVAH MALDIVES ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Creative Dunar Rice Dish</b>	ABINASH SAHOO AFTAB KHAN SAMPURAN NAND NAITHANI	EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD VARU BY ATMOSPHERE ADAARAN CLUB RANNALHI	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up
<b>Asian Noodles Bowl (Open)</b>	ROMANI LIYANAGE AHMED MANSOOR ABDUL GHANI P K KAVINDU ANUHAS	EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD ANGSANA VELAVARUMALDIVES NESTLE GOLDEN CHEF HAT WINNERS	<b>Winner</b> 1st Runner Up 2nd Runner Up



# Winners List

Category	Name	Organisation	Place
Traditional and Modern Maldivian Main Course	MOHAMED FANEEZ	SUMMER ISLAND MALDIVES	<b>Winner</b>
	W. M. D. N. L WIJESUNDHARA	CONRAD MALDIVES RANGALI ISLAND	1st Runner Up
	MOHAMED WAHEED	OZEN RESERVE BOLIFUSHI	2nd Runner Up
The Young Chef (Main Course & Dessert)	G.L.S. AKALANKA PUSHPALAL	CENTARA MIRAGE LAGOON MALDIVES	<b>Winner</b>
	DOMENIQUE TERBLANS	FOUR SEASONS RESORT MALDIVES AT LANDAA GIRAAVARU	1st Runner Up
	P. A. D. MALSHA SATHSARANI	BANDOS MALDIVES	2nd Runner Up
Nescafé Creative Coffee	STEVE JAYASINGHE	ANANTARA KIHAVAH MALDIVES	<b>Winner</b>
	VELU KALAISELVAN	ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO	1st Runner Up
	AGAMPUDI JANAKA MENDIS	ADAARAN SELECT MEEDHUPPARU	2nd Runner Up
Vegetarian Main Course	H. A. K. M. LASITHA KULATHUNGA	ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO	<b>Winner</b>
	SHIV SINGH	BANDOS MALDIVES	1st Runner Up
	UPENDER PRASAD	ATMOSPHERE KANIFUSHI	2nd Runner Up
Traditional Italian (Two Course Meal)	J. S PRASATH KUMARA	ROBINSON MALDIVES	<b>Winner</b>
	VIJAI KUMAR	MADIFUSHI PRIVATE ISLAND	1st Runner Up
	H. M. SANKHA SANDARUWAN DAYARATHNA	ANANTARA KIHAVAH MALDIVES	2nd Runner Up
Revello Creative Dessert (NEW)	MATHARA ARACHCHIGE IRESHA DILINI	CENTARA GRAND LAGOON MALDIVES	<b>Winner</b>
	ANANDA ROSHAN RAKITHA	OBLU XPERIENCE AILAFUSHI & OBLU SELECT LOBIGILI	1st Runner Up
	MADURACHARE RANGA ASELA	HERITANCE AARAH	2nd Runner Up
Team Event Hot Cooking (Three Course Meal)	NISHAN NAYANA KANTHA	EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD	<b>Winner</b>
	DINESH KINSON		
	U. H KAVINDU SANKALPA M. L. T. DAMITH KUMARA	ANANTARA DHIGU & VELI MALDIVES RESORT	1st Runner Up
	H. A. LAHIRU MALSHAN A. G. P. DUSHMANTHA	ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO	2nd Runner Up



# ROCK LEGENDS MEET PARADISE: ICEHOUSE TO HEADLINE EXCLUSIVE MALDIVES CONCERTS IN 2026

Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives, in partnership with Music in Paradise, will host Australian rock icons ICEHOUSE from 5 to 12 September 2026. Announced on 10 September 2025 in Malé, the event will feature two exclusive sunset beach concerts limited to 250 fans each, marking the band's Maldives debut.

Led by Iva Davies, ICEHOUSE rose in the late 1970s and 1980s as a pivotal Australian rock act, with 28 Platinum albums, eight top 10 albums, and over 30 top 40 singles. Their fusion of rock, new wave, and electronic sounds has drawn global sell-outs for more than 45 years.

Expect hits like the 1982 anthem “Great Southern Land”—an unofficial Australian emblem preserved in the National Film and Sound Archive—along with “We Can Get Together,” “Can’t Help Myself,” “Hey Little Girl,” and “Walls,” set against breathtaking Maldivian sunsets.

The week will also include a special Q&A with Davies, blending music with a tropical escape that appeals across generations.





General Manager Mark Eletr shared: "I remember them as Flowers in the late '70s. Growing up in Australia, 'Great Southern Land' is the unofficial anthem, but my favorites are 'Walls' and 'Can't Help Myself.' Hearing them live on our beach at sunset will be unforgettable."

Located in the South Malé Atoll, just 40–45 minutes by speedboat from Velana International Airport, Kandooma is an idyllic paradise with white sands, coconut palms, and turquoise waters. Accommodations include Garden and Beach Villas, two-storey Beach Houses, and Overwater Villas, suiting couples, families, and groups. Amenities feature the Kandoo Kids' Club, world-class diving and surfing, six dining options with Maldivian flavors, and the serene Kandooma Spa by COMO Shambhala.

This event merges ICEHOUSE's timeless tunes with island luxury, creating lasting memories where music and ocean harmonize.





# BARISTA CHAMPIONSHIP: BREWING EXCELLENCE AT FHAM 2025

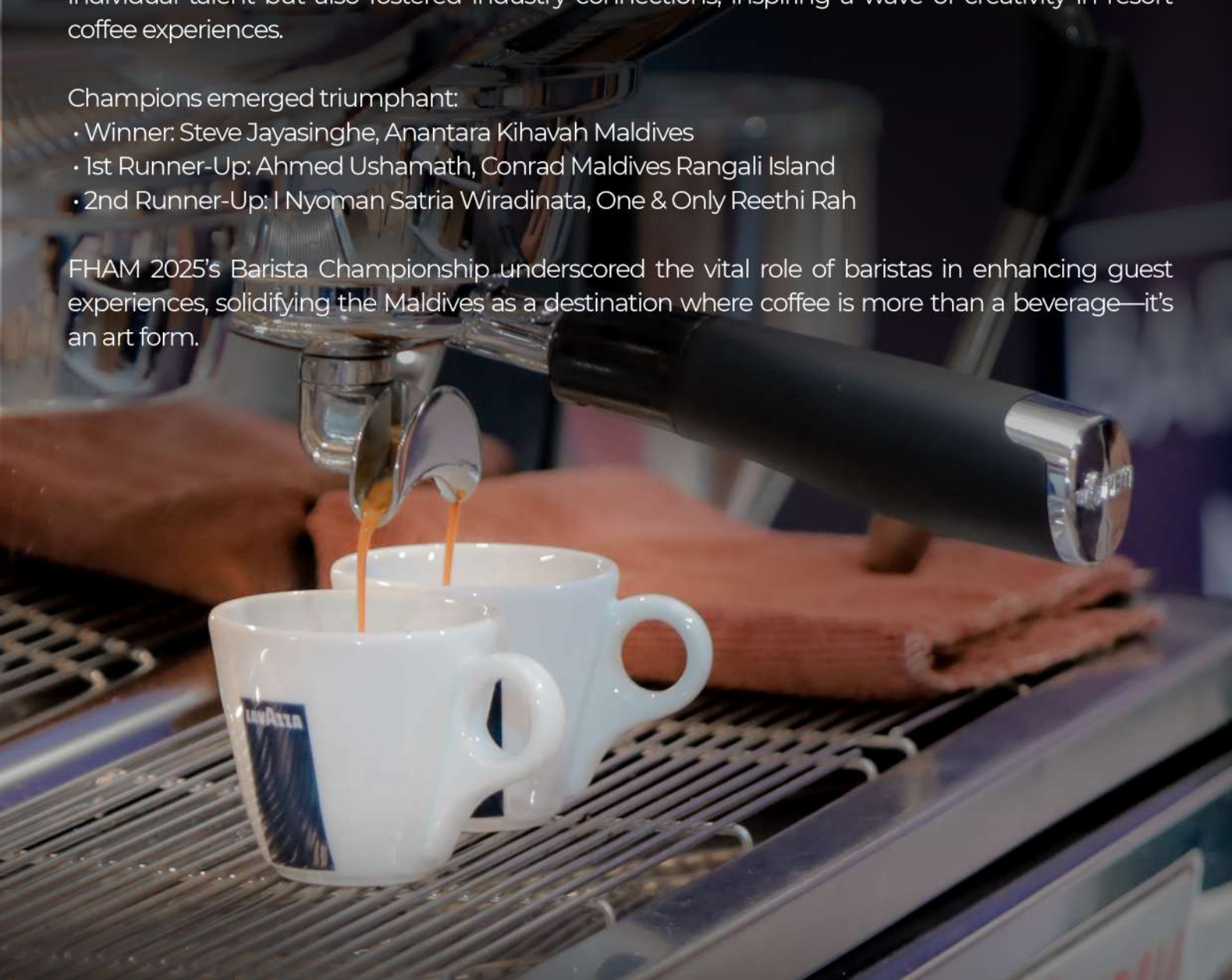
Sponsored by Euro Marketing (Pvt.) Ltd. and Lavazza, the Barista Championship at the Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives (FHAM) 2025 was a captivating highlight, blending skill, creativity, and passion in a celebration of coffee artistry. Held on September 8 and 9 at Central Park, Hulhumale, the competition drew baristas from the Maldives's premier resorts, each transforming simple beans into sensory masterpieces. Participants showcased innovative techniques, ranging from velvety lattes adorned with intricate designs to bold espresso creations infused with local flavors—resonating with global coffee culture and elevating the craft to new heights.

The event buzzed with energy as competitors vied for top honors, demonstrating precision in extraction, latte art, and flavor profiling. Judges praised the fusion of tradition and innovation, reflecting the Maldives's evolving hospitality scene. The championship not only spotlighted individual talent but also fostered industry connections, inspiring a wave of creativity in resort coffee experiences.

Champions emerged triumphant:

- Winner: Steve Jayasinghe, Anantara Kihavah Maldives
- 1st Runner-Up: Ahmed Ushamath, Conrad Maldives Rangali Island
- 2nd Runner-Up: I Nyoman Satria Wiradinata, One & Only Reethi Rah

FHAM 2025's Barista Championship underscored the vital role of baristas in enhancing guest experiences, solidifying the Maldives as a destination where coffee is more than a beverage—it's an art form.





# MOCKTAIL MAGIC: CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT FHAM 2025

Backed by Euro Marketing (Pvt.) Ltd. and Fabbri 1905, the Mocktail Competition at the Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives (FHAM) 2025 dazzled attendees with a vibrant showcase of innovation and skill. Held on September 7 at Central Park, Hulhumale, this event ignited a tropical flavor revolution as talented mixologists from the Maldives's premier resorts crafted refreshing mocktails. Bursting with vivid fruit infusions and delicate herbal notes, these beverages captured the essence of the islands, pushing the boundaries of non-alcoholic mixology with every sip.

The competition radiated energy as participants poured their passion into each creation, blending artistry with bold flavors to captivate judges and guests alike. The celebration underscored the Maldives's growing reputation as a hub of culinary creativity, promising to inspire future trends in beverage innovation.

The standout mixologists were:

- Winner: Azroo Sharma, Adaaran Prestige Vadoo
- 1st Runner-Up: Nik Muhammad Mikail Zain, Hilton Amingiri Maldives Resort & Spa
- 2nd Runner-Up: Velu Kalaiselvan, Adaaran Prestige Vadoo

FHAM 2025's Mocktail Competition elevated the art of mocktail-making, leaving a lasting impression on the island's hospitality landscape.





# NATURAL LUXURY SOMMELIER CHALLENGE: A TEA REVOLUTION AT FHAM 2025

The Natural Luxury Sommelier Challenge emerged as a dazzling highlight of the Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives (FHAM) 2025. This innovative competition invited food and beverage professionals from hotels, resorts, restaurants, and hotel schools to reimagine tea-inspired gastronomy and mixology under the theme "Natural Luxury." For the first time in FHAM's history, participants transformed natural ingredients into exquisite culinary and beverage creations, reflecting the Maldives's luxury hospitality ethos with sophistication and creativity.

The event buzzed with talent as sommeliers crafted inventive tea-infused dishes and drinks, blending tradition with bold innovation. Sponsored by Dilmah, the event highlighted tea's versatility, elevating guest experiences and setting a new benchmark for luxury in the industry. The atmosphere was electric, celebrating the artistry and passion that define Maldives's hospitality.

The challenge crowned its top talents:

- Winner: Wicum Rangana and Sadun Dilshan, The Somerset Hotel
- 1st Runner-Up: Kunal Chatterjee and Dilshan Jonathan Mark Vandort, One & Only Reethi Rah
- 2nd Runner-Up: Yallappa Laxman and Mohamed Ali Mohamed Mueej, Vakkaru Maldives

This groundbreaking event promises to inspire a new era of tea craftsmanship, solidifying the Maldives's reputation as a leader in luxury hospitality.





# HOUSEKEEPING & BED DECORATING COMPETITION: A SHOWCASE OF ELEGANCE AT FHAM 2025

The Housekeeping & Bed Decorating Competition at the Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives (FHAM) 2025 transformed hospitality artistry into a stunning spectacle. Held on September 9 at Central Park, Hulhumale, it was sponsored by PestEx Maldives (Pvt.) Ltd. and highlighted the meticulous talents of teams from over 120 resorts, turning beds into canvases of luxury with creative flair. The competition radiated with innovative designs, showcasing impeccable attention to detail and a deep commitment to guest comfort.

The atmosphere was alive with inspiration as participants blended aesthetics with functionality, elevating the art of housekeeping. Judges were captivated by the harmonious blend of tropical elegance and modern sophistication, reinforcing the Maldives' reputation as a leader in luxury hospitality. This showcase not only celebrated individual excellence but also fostered a spirit of collaboration among the industry's finest.

The top honorees of the competition were:

- Winner: Adam Nazeer and Ahmed Humaid, Milaidhoo Maldives
- 1st Runner-Up: Shoel Rana and MD Razan, Centara Ras Fushi
- 2nd Runner-Up: Hussain Waheed and Ibrahim Amir, Heritance Aarah

FHAM 2025's Housekeeping & Bed Decorating Competition set a new benchmark for excellence, inspiring future trends in resort hospitality and leaving a lasting impression on the Maldivian tourism landscape.





# Kandooma

## CLAIMS BEST SURF RESORT TITLE IN THE MALDIVES FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

In the sun-kissed paradise of the Maldives, where turquoise waters meet world-class waves, Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives has surfed to victory once again. On 8 September 2025, the resort was named the Best Surf Resort in the Maldives at the Travel Trade Maldives (TTM) Awards 2025, securing this prestigious accolade for the second consecutive year. This recognition solidifies Kandooma's position as a top haven for surf enthusiasts by blending exceptional waves with heartfelt hospitality.



Situated in the South Malé Atoll, just a 40-minute speedboat ride from Velana International Airport, the resort offers direct access to Kandooma Right—a renowned right-hand reef break celebrated for its long rides and playful barrel sections. Surf operations are exclusively handled by Perfect Wave Travel, prioritizing uncrowded lineups and sustainable surf tourism. The island fosters a vibrant surf community, with many guests returning annually—or even multiple times a year—drawn by the consistent swells, warm welcome, and expert guidance.



"We're absolutely stoked to receive this recognition for the second year in a row," said Mark Eletr, General Manager of Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives. "Our continued partnership with Perfect Wave and our team's dedication to crafting unforgettable surf experiences is what makes Kandooma stand out. We welcome surfers of all levels to our island, and our goal is to make every ride memorable. Whether you're carving lines on the reef or just standing up for the first time, the sense of belonging to this surf community is what truly makes our island special."

Beyond the iconic Kandooma Right, adventurers can venture to nearby breaks such as Tucky Joe's, Riptides, and Quarters, which cater to intermediate surfers, progressive short-boarders, and long-boarders with a variety of wave conditions.

When not chasing waves, guests can unwind at the Kandooma Spa by COMO Shambhala, embark on guided snorkeling and diving excursions to explore vibrant marine life, or indulge in global cuisine across the resort's diverse dining venues. This fusion of tropical adventure, surf culture, and genuine hospitality encapsulates the ultimate island surf lifestyle.

This latest honor builds on the resort's previous success as the Best Dive Resort in 2023, further cementing its status as a premier spot for marine adventures in the Maldives.

The resort itself is a beautiful, natural island paradise, featuring white sand beaches, swaying coconut palms, and turquoise waters that set the stage for leisure pursuits and some of the best scuba diving in the Maldives. Accommodations range from Garden and Beach Villas to two-storey Beach Houses and the popular Overwater Villas. Families are well accommodated with 2- and 3-bedroom villas, alongside the Kandoo Kids' Club and its fun activities program. Six food and beverage outlets satisfy healthy appetites while exploring the flavors of the Maldives. For relaxation, sun loungers and hammocks are scattered around the island, while the spa provides a tranquil escape for body and mind.





# UNITED IN APPRECIATION: IHG RESORTS JOIN FORCES FOR CUSTOMER CELEBRATION IN THE MALDIVES

Prepare to be captivated as Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives unveils the return of Kandooma Manta Month this September 2025, transforming the island into a hub of marine wonder and conservation action. Launched on 6 September in Malé, this annual celebration builds on last year's triumph, inviting guests to connect with the ocean's graceful manta rays through engaging, family-oriented experiences.

Nestled in the South Malé Atoll, a mere 40–45 minute speedboat ride from Velana International Airport, the resort offers a front-row seat to nature's spectacle. Guests can join guided excursions to manta hotspots, where the expert team shares fascinating insights into manta behavior and conservation efforts. Heartwarming awareness talks spotlight a manta rescued near the island, while children dive into manta-themed arts, crafts, and beach games. The community unites for a reef and island clean-up, turning collected waste into striking manta sculptures, with proceeds from pendant sales at the resort's boutique supporting The Manta Trust's research.

Mark Eletr, General Manager, reflects on the event's evolution: "What started as a special event last year has grown into an annual month-long celebration. Kandooma Manta Month creates experiences that inspire awareness, responsibility, and care for our ocean."

Aligned with IHG's True Hospitality for Good mission, the resort's Journey to Tomorrow program champions the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, showcasing a steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship. Set against a backdrop of white sand beaches, swaying palms, and turquoise waters, Kandooma blends adventure with purpose, offering a haven where marine conservation and luxury coexist.





# SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE: **Y.H.G. VIRAJ PREMACHANDRA** SHINES AT FHAM 2025



Y.H.G. Viraj Premachandra of Qatar Culinary Professionals was honored with the award of Most Outstanding Artist at the FHAM 2025 Culinary Challenge. His innovative approach and artistic flair set a new benchmark, earning him this coveted recognition among competitors from over 120 participating resorts.

Premachandra's mastery transformed ingredients into breathtaking displays, blending cultural influences with modern techniques. His work not only highlighted his individual brilliance but also elevated the Maldives' reputation as a hub of culinary artistry. This accolade underscores the event's commitment to honoring exceptional talent, inspiring a wave of creativity across the hospitality industry.

As FHAM 2025 continues to shape the future of gastronomy, Premachandra's achievement marks a milestone, promising to influence aspiring artists and chefs alike.



# DINESH KINSON'S SWEET REIGN AT FHAM 2025

Amid the turquoise tides of the Maldives, Dinesh Kinson of the Emirates Culinary Guild has whipped up a storm, claiming the Best Pastry Chef title at the Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives (FHAM) 2025 Global Culinary Challenge. His delicate petits fours, sculptural pastry showpieces, and flawless cakes dazzled judges, earning him a gold distinction and a coveted Nestlé Professional Chocolate Course in Dubai.



Leading a stellar UAE team from Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island, including Romani Liyanage and Tharishma Mendis, Kinson helped the ECG team snag eight medals, marking their third consecutive year dominating FHAM's culinary arena. "Pastry is where precision meets passion," Kinson shared, his creations reflecting UAE's rising culinary might. As whispers of his next move swirl, one thing's clear: this dessert maestro is baking a global legacy.



# TROPICAL TRIUMPH: FATHMATHLAM LAMHA ALI'S PASTRY MAGIC AT FHAM 2025

In the symphony of pastry artistry, Fathmathlam Lamha Ali from City Investments Pvt Ltd has stolen the spotlight at the Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives (FHAM) 2025 Global Culinary Challenge. Crowned Best Maldivian Pastry Chef, Ali's enchanting creations — think delicate dhivehi-inspired tarts laced with tropical fruits and intricate chocolate sculptures evoking atoll sunrises — left judges in a sweet trance.



Competing amid the vibrant Maldivian hospitality scene, Ali's innovative fusion of local flavors and global finesse shone brightest in the pastry showdown. Representing City Investments' culinary edge, her win not only earned a trophy but also ignited pride in homegrown talent, outshining international rivals.

As FHAM wraps its flavorful feast, Ali's victory sweetens the horizon for Maldivian gastronomy. Next up: Exporting her island delights worldwide? One forkful at a time, this pastry queen is redefining dessert destiny.



# ISMAIL THAHSEEN'S STELLAR WIN AS BEST MALDIVIAN CHEF AT FHAM 2025



In the steamy heart of the FHAM 2025 Global Culinary Challenge, where spices clash like monsoon waves, Ismail Thahseen from Barceló Nasandhura Maldives Resort has emerged as the undisputed Best Maldivian Chef. His sizzling beef and chicken live-cooking masterpieces infused with dhivehi chilies, fresh tuna bursts, and low-waste wizardry, scorched the competition, clinching golds, a silver in seafood, and top honors in sustainable flair.

Representing the vibrant Barceló crew, Thahseen's precision under pressure wowed international judges, outpacing global heavyweights. This win not only crowns homegrown heroism but fuels the Maldives' culinary renaissance, spotlighting eco-savvy innovation amid tropical paradise.



# ABHINASH SAHOO'S RECOGNITION AS BEST CHEF AT FHAM 2025

In a blaze of culinary brilliance at the FHAM 2025 Global Culinary Challenge, Abhinash Sahoo of the Emirates Culinary Guild (ECG) has seized the coveted Best Chef title. Representing the UAE's elite culinary brigade, Sahoo's masterful dishes — vibrant with bold spices, sustainable seafood, and intricate plating — dazzled judges, earning gold medals and outshining global competitors amidst the Maldives' tropical splendor.

Leading a powerhouse ECG team from Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island, Sahoo's precision and flair, honed under chef Sanjeewa Chamil, helped secure eight medals, marking their third consecutive year dominating FHAM.

"Cooking is my art, blending heritage with innovation." Sahoo declared. His creations were a nod to the UAE's rising gastronomic star.





# EMIRATES CULINARY GUILD'S UNSTOPPABLE REIGN AT FHAM 2025

The Emirates Culinary Guild (ECG) has once again etched its name in culinary gold, clinching the title of Most Outstanding National Team at the Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives (FHAM) 2025 Global Culinary Challenge. This marks yet another year of dominance for the UAE's culinary titans, who have held this prestigious honor for multiple consecutive years, cementing their legacy as FHAM's unrivaled champions.

With a formidable roster of 23 entries, led by stars like Best Chef winner Abhinash Sahoo and pastry maestro Dinesh Kinson, the ECG dazzled judges with their innovative dishes, sustainable seafood creations, and stunning pastry showpieces. Their haul of eight medals, earned under the mentorship of chef Sanjeeva Chamil at Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island, showcased a seamless blend of Emirati flair and global finesse.





# ADAARAN PRESTIGE VADOO SHINES AS FHAM 2025'S MOST OUTSTANDING CULINARY ORGANIZATION

In a stunning showcase of culinary excellence, Adaaran Prestige Vadoo has been crowned the Most Outstanding Culinary Organization at the Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives (FHAM) 2025 Global Culinary Challenge. Leading the charge with an impressive brigade of 41 entries, this Maldivian hospitality powerhouse captivated judges with their extraordinary talent and creativity in the fiercely competitive culinary arena.

From sizzling live-cooking stations to masterful culinary creations, Adaaran Prestige Vadoo's team demonstrated unparalleled skill and dedication, setting a new benchmark for gastronomic brilliance in the Maldives. Their remarkable performance at FHAM 2025 underscores the resort's commitment to pushing culinary boundaries while showcasing the vibrant flavors of the region. As the curtains close on this year's event, Adaaran Prestige Vadoo's triumph solidifies its reputation as a leader in the global culinary scene.





# Company Information

Established in 1985 amidst humble beginnings and a modest production capacity, Dona Maju Sdn Bhd is a far cry from the company which initially started as an impulsive business venture by a group of friends. As their business extensively expanded over the years through the management of its two founding members, Dona Maju Sdn Bhd is now a force to be reckoned with and is internationally recognized as one of 'Asia's Leading Manufacturer' in the niche market of Chafing Fuel.

With a distribution network spanning across the UK, Middle East, Australasia, Africa and Asia, the company is continuously developing and improving their product ranges while upholding the core values of Sincerity, Respect, Teamwork and Professionalism, which is the heart of their organization.

## Quality Control

### Purity of Chemicals

In line with the ISO9001:2000 Standards and Customer Requirements, Dona Maju's Quality Control Department prides itself on maintaining a strict procurement procedure of the Methanol, Ethanol and Diethylene Glycol to ensure there is no adulteration of the chemicals, hence assuring the quality and safety of the products.



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