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# MOSAIC

## MALDIVES

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Malahini Kuda Bandos Resort



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# Publisher Note.

Welcome to the seventh 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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# A SEASON TO RETURN: BANYAN TREE VABBINFARU CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF THE ORIGINAL MALDIVES

This festive season, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru marks three decades as the pioneering sanctuary that defined barefoot luxury in the Maldives. From 22 December 2025 to 10 January 2026, the intimate North Malé Atoll island welcomes guests with “A Season to Return”—a heartfelt programme weaving wellbeing, culinary artistry, cultural connection, and marine conservation into every sunlit moment.



Days begin gently with sunrise yoga and ocean-side meditation, flowing into regenerative rituals at the award-winning Banyan Tree Spa. Highlights include New Year's Yoga Awakening on the lagoon platform, Gratitude Meditation sessions, and hands-on Herbal Massage Oil Workshops that embody the brand's holistic philosophy.

Evenings unfold across three exceptional restaurants. Saffron presents intricate Thai degustations, while the overwater Madi Hiyaa offers elegant omakase and sake pairings. Sangu Garden hosts themed nights celebrating Maldivian heritage—from Fisherman's Night to a candlelit Orthodox New Year dinner for Russian guests. Special tastings pair Japanese lobster with champagne or fine wines with artisanal chocolates beneath golden skies.



Christmas Eve brings sunset cocktails and Bodu Beru drumming, while New Year's Eve crescendos with a masquerade gala dinner and beachside countdown. Interactive Saffron Signature Cooking Classes, Maldivian Curry Workshops, and Japanese Cocktail Sessions invite guests to create alongside the resort's chefs and mixologists.

True to its ethos of "Embracing the Environment, Empowering People," the pioneering Marine Lab—the first of its kind in the Maldives—leads Christmas coral planting, reef clean-ups, and educational snorkels, ensuring every celebration leaves the ocean richer.

After thirty years, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru remains the soulful original—a place where gratitude, renewal, and timeless island magic invite travellers, quite simply, to come home.

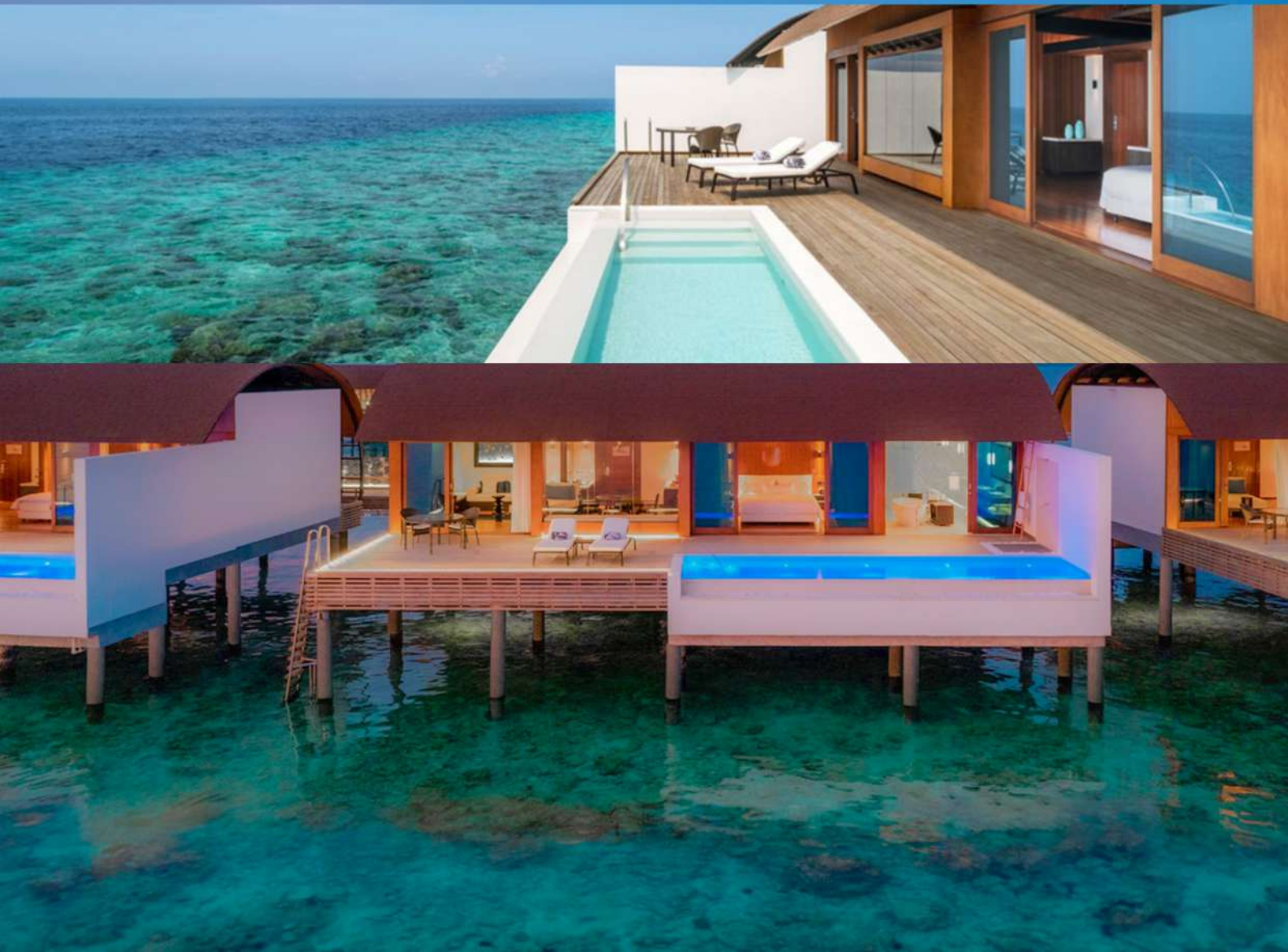




# FESTIVE SPLENDOR IN THE MALDIVES: THE WESTIN MIRIANDHOO RESORT'S HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Nestled in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Baa Atoll, The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort unfolds a captivating holiday season from December 22, 2025, to January 6, 2026. Under the evocative theme "Golden Nights, Timeless Lights," inspired by the glamour of the Roaring Twenties, the resort blends tropical serenity with sophisticated revelry, offering guests a seamless combination of relaxation and celebration.

The Christmas festivities commence on December 22 with a ceremonial tree-lighting, setting a warm, illuminated tone against the azure Indian Ocean backdrop. On Christmas Eve, December 24, an elegant cocktail party unfolds, where mixologists craft signature libations amid encouraged formal attire, fostering an air of refined festivity. The following day brings Santa's arrival for a heartfelt family meet-and-greet, complemented by the Westin Family Kids Club's engaging activities, including gingerbread house decorating and lively Christmas bingo sessions, ensuring joy for all ages.







Culminating the season, New Year's Eve on December 31 transforms the barefoot beach into a scene from *The Great Gatsby*. This gala dinner marries vintage elegance with island allure, featuring an international buffet of fresh, flavorful dishes, live swing band performances, mesmerizing fire dances, and a spectacular fireworks display heralding 2026.

Beyond the marquee events, the resort emphasizes holistic well-being through its Move Well and Play Well initiatives. Sunrise yoga, invigorating beach workouts, and the runWestin program invite rejuvenation, while complimentary ocean kayaking and marine excursions reveal the atoll's vibrant underwater world. At the Heavenly Spa by Westin, overwater sanctuaries with glass floors offer therapeutic treatments overlooking the waves.



Dining spans five venues, each curating themed menus with sunset cocktails and starlit family gatherings, highlighting local seafood and global pairings. This meticulously curated program exemplifies the Maldives' gift for intimate, sun-drenched escapes, where timeless traditions meet contemporary luxury.

(Credit: Information sourced from VisitMaldives.com, November 2025.)



# Maldives

## Secures Bronze in Wanderlust Reader Travel Awards 2025

The Maldives has once again affirmed its standing as one of the world's most coveted destinations, claiming bronze in the "Most Desirable Islands" category at the prestigious Wanderlust Reader Travel Awards 2025. Announced during a glittering ceremony in London, the accolade reflects the heartfelt votes of thousands of discerning British travelers who rank the archipelago among the planet's ultimate island escapes, behind only perennial favorites Seychelles and Mauritius.

The Wanderlust Reader Travel Awards are widely regarded as the travel industry's most authentic barometer of reader sentiment, with winners determined exclusively by public vote. For the Maldives—a nation of 1,192 coral islands scattered across the Indian Ocean—this third-place finish underscores the enduring appeal of its turquoise lagoons, overwater villas, and unparalleled marine biodiversity.

Tourism authorities welcomed the recognition as validation of the destination's commitment to sustainable luxury and innovative guest experiences. From pioneering coral restoration projects to carbon-neutral resorts and community-focused initiatives, the Maldives continues to balance exclusivity with environmental stewardship, ensuring its pristine beauty remains intact for future generations.

The award arrives at a pivotal moment, as the destination prepares for another record-breaking year of arrivals. With new direct flights, expanded resort offerings, and a growing emphasis on wellness and adventure, the Maldives reinforces its reputation not merely as a honeymoon haven, but as a multifaceted paradise that captivates every type of traveler.

For an archipelago that has long symbolized escapism, this bronze medal serves as a resounding reminder: few places on Earth stir wanderlust quite like the Maldives. (Credit: Information sourced from VisitMaldives.com, November 2025.)





# MALDIVES RECORDS STRONGEST-EVER UK GROWTH AS WORLD TRAVEL MARKET LONDON 2025 OPENS



The Maldives has opened World Travel Market London 2025 on a triumphant note, revealing unprecedented growth from the United Kingdom market. Year-to-date figures through October show UK arrivals surpassing 159,615—an impressive 16% increase over the same period in 2024 and the highest volume ever recorded from Britain.

Industry leaders attribute the surge to expanded direct flight capacity, including additional British Airways services from London Gatwick and new routes by regional carriers, alongside strategic partnerships with major tour operators. The UK now firmly holds third place among the Maldives' top source markets, trailing only Russia and China, a remarkable climb from previous years.

At the Maldives pavilion, officials highlighted the destination's evolving appeal beyond traditional luxury honeymoons. A growing number of British travelers are seeking active and wellness-focused itineraries—sunrise yoga on deserted sandbanks, marine conservation dives, and multi-island sailing adventures—while families are drawn to resorts offering sophisticated kids' clubs and inter-generational programming.



Sustainability remains front and center. Delegates emphasized the nation's ambitious target of net-zero tourism by 2030, with many resorts already operating on 100% renewable energy and pioneering coral propagation programs that have restored thousands of square meters of reef.

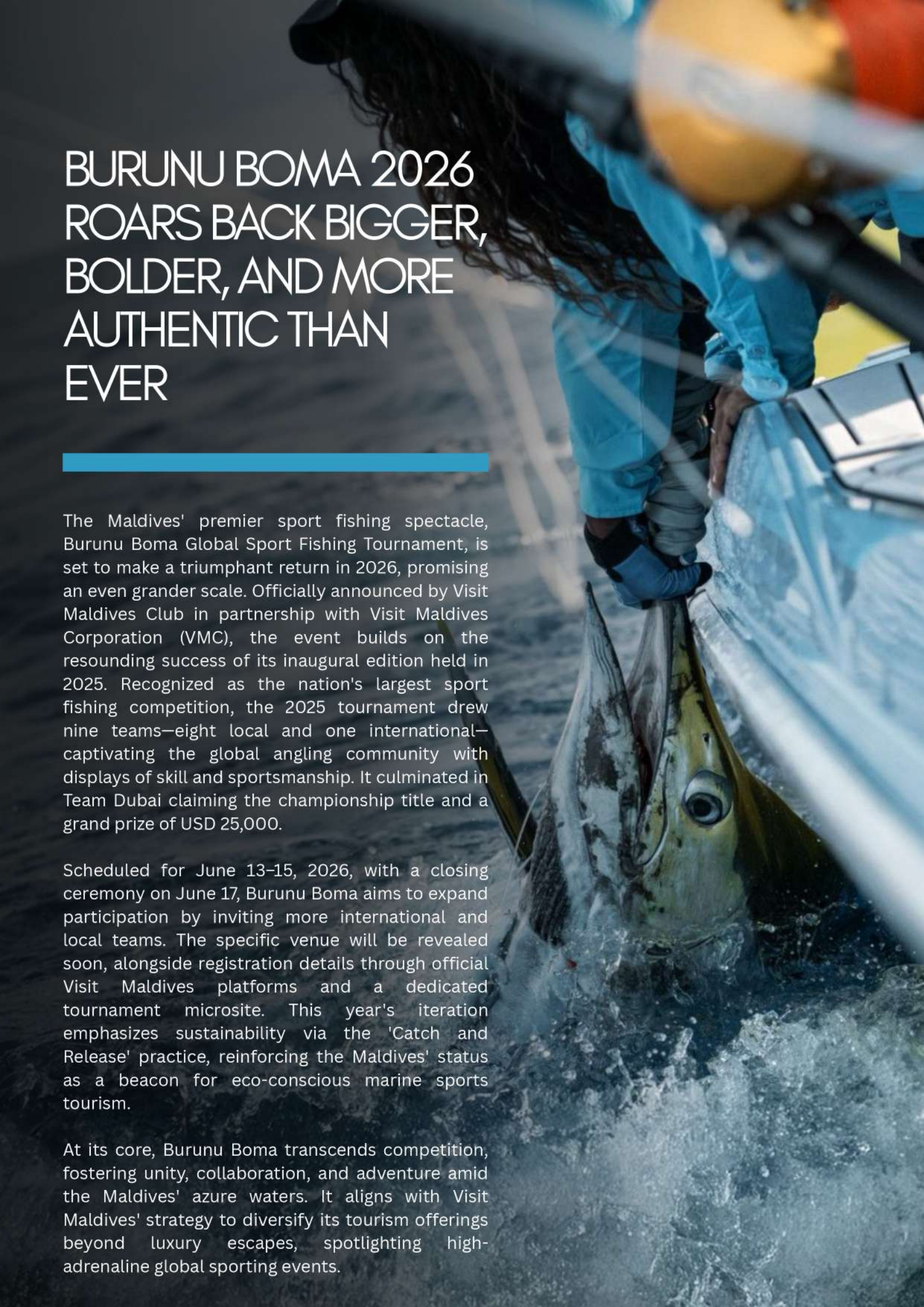
As the global travel industry convenes in London, the Maldives stands as proof that meticulous environmental stewardship and elevated guest experiences can drive record demand in tandem. For British travelers, the message is clear: the Indian Ocean's favorite archipelago has never been more accessible—or more irresistible.

(Credit: Information sourced from VisitMaldives.com, November 2025.)





# BURUNU BOMA 2026 ROARS BACK BIGGER, BOLDER, AND MORE AUTHENTIC THAN EVER



The Maldives' premier sport fishing spectacle, Burunu Boma Global Sport Fishing Tournament, is set to make a triumphant return in 2026, promising an even grander scale. Officially announced by Visit Maldives Club in partnership with Visit Maldives Corporation (VMC), the event builds on the resounding success of its inaugural edition held in 2025. Recognized as the nation's largest sport fishing competition, the 2025 tournament drew nine teams—eight local and one international—captivating the global angling community with displays of skill and sportsmanship. It culminated in Team Dubai claiming the championship title and a grand prize of USD 25,000.

Scheduled for June 13–15, 2026, with a closing ceremony on June 17, Burunu Boma aims to expand participation by inviting more international and local teams. The specific venue will be revealed soon, alongside registration details through official Visit Maldives platforms and a dedicated tournament microsite. This year's iteration emphasizes sustainability via the 'Catch and Release' practice, reinforcing the Maldives' status as a beacon for eco-conscious marine sports tourism.

At its core, Burunu Boma transcends competition, fostering unity, collaboration, and adventure amid the Maldives' azure waters. It aligns with Visit Maldives' strategy to diversify its tourism offerings beyond luxury escapes, spotlighting high-adrenaline global sporting events.



Ibrahim Shiuree, Managing Director and CEO of Visit Maldives Corporation, hailed the inaugural event as a milestone: “The inaugural Burunu Boma was more than a competition; it demonstrated the Maldives’ capacity to diversify its tourism portfolio through global sporting events. For the 2026 tournament, our goal is to expand participation, strengthen partnerships, and elevate the event into a permanent fixture in the global sport fishing calendar.”

Echoing this enthusiasm, Ahmed Saaif, President of Visit Maldives Club, added: “The success of this year’s event reflected the enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and unity of all participants and partners. As we prepare for 2026, we look forward to welcoming more teams, fostering greater collaboration, and delivering an even more exciting and memorable experience for anglers and spectators alike. I’m confident that next year’s event will be our most remarkable and successful one yet.”

Anglers and enthusiasts worldwide are urged to mark their calendars for this bolder, better chapter in Maldivian marine heritage.

(Credit: Information sourced from VisitMaldives.com, November 2025.)





# The Art of Festive Preparation: A Chef's Journey from Planning to Celebration.

By Executive  
**Chef Prasath Vitharanage.**

The festive season is one of the most exciting and challenging times of the year for any culinary team. It's a period filled with joy, creativity, and an opportunity for chefs to truly showcase their skills and passion for food. From Christmas celebrations to New Year's Eve dinners, every event gives us a chance to create memorable experiences for our guests.

**Planning and Preparation** - Preparation is the key to success during the festive season. Menu planning should start early, focusing on popular festive dishes, local favorites, and creative new ideas. We also need to review supplier availability, stock levels, and ensure we have enough ingredients and equipment ready for the busy days ahead.

**Team Coordination and Training** - The festive period demands teamwork and strong coordination. This is the perfect time to conduct refresher training for the kitchen staff, ensuring consistency, efficiency, and quality. Every member of the culinary team should clearly understand their roles and responsibilities to avoid last-minute confusion.

**Showcasing Chef Talent and Creativity** - This season is like a stage for chefs to shine. It's the time to bring out our creativity, whether through special buffet themes, live cooking stations, festive desserts, or innovative plating styles. A "Chef's Talent Show" or internal competition can also motivate the team and highlight individual skills.





**Maintaining Quality and Hygiene** – During the rush, it's easy to overlook small details. However, maintaining hygiene, food safety, and presentation standards is more important than ever. Consistency is what builds guest trust and satisfaction.

**Celebrating Together** – The festive season is not only for our guests but also for our team. Recognizing the hard work of every team member, celebrating achievements, and keeping morale high will make the entire operation smoother and more enjoyable.

The festive season is a true test of teamwork, planning, and creativity in the culinary world. It's also a golden opportunity for chefs to showcase their talent, passion, and dedication to hospitality. With the right preparation and team spirit, we can turn the busy season into a successful and rewarding experience for both guests and staff alike.





# MALÉ'S SKYLINE SPARKLES : BARCELÓ NASANDHURA HOSTS AN EXCLUSIVE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

Barceló Nasandhura Malé, the capital's premier city hotel, is set to elevate the end of the year with a sophisticated and energetic New Year's programme. Offering an urban oasis with stunning coastal views, the hotel is perfectly positioned to provide guests with a vibrant setting for welcoming 2026, blending international flair with authentic Maldivian entertainment.

The celebratory tempo begins on 29 December at the B.Heaven Rooftop with 'Beats from Spain,' an electrifying DJ performance that sets a cosmopolitan rhythm for the week ahead. The festivities continue poolside, offering two distinct and chic daytime events: a laid-back Pool Party & Chill on 30 December and a stylish Sunset Pool Party on 2 January, offering guests the perfect balance of relaxation and vibrant music.

The pinnacle of the programme is the New Year's Eve Gala Celebration on 31 December. Guests are invited to indulge in a lavish Gala Dinner featuring an exquisite buffet and festive surprises. The night's entertainment will be headlined by renowned Maldivian artist Fasy and his band, performing throughout dinner and later at B.Heaven Rooftop. The evening will culminate in a dazzling fireworks display, lighting up Malé's spectacular skyline as the clocks strike midnight.







The celebrations continue into the New Year, beginning with the relaxed Oivaru New Year Brunch on 1 January. This delightful brunch, complete with live DJ beats, offers the perfect gentle start to 2026. Barceló Nasandhura Malé ensures a sophisticated and high-energy way to experience the holidays from the heart of the capital city.





# KUDA VILLINGILI RESORT MALDIVES ADDS PICKLEBALL TO ITS STELLAR SPORTS LINE-UP

Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives has unveiled a brand-new, regulation-size pickleball court, further strengthening its reputation as one of the Indian Ocean's premier destinations for active luxury travel.

Combining elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis, pickleball has surged in global popularity for its accessibility and fast-paced fun. The resort's floodlit court allows guests to enjoy the sport day or night, whether in friendly doubles matches or guided clinics led by resident professionals. Complimentary equipment and coaching sessions make it easy for beginners to pick up the paddle, while seasoned players can test their skills in organized round-robins.

The addition complements an already impressive roster of land and water-based facilities, including a full-size tennis court with coaching, beach volleyball, padel tennis, a state-of-the-art fitness center, and one of the largest resort swimming pools in the Maldives. Water sports enthusiasts continue to enjoy complimentary non-motorized activities such as kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and windsurfing, alongside premium offerings like surfing the renowned Chickens break just minutes from the island.







Wellness remains at the heart of the Kuda Villingili experience. Guests can flow through sunrise yoga on the beach, recover in the overwater spa, or join guided meditation sessions—all seamlessly integrated with the new pickleball programming.

With this latest enhancement, Kuda Villingili reinforces its commitment to providing diverse, high-quality sporting experiences that cater to every generation, ensuring that an active holiday in paradise is as invigorating as it is indulgent.

(Credit: Information sourced from VisitMaldives.com, November 2025.)





# Malahini Kuda Bandos Unveils Serene New Beach Pool Suites and Elevated Dining

A mere 12-minute speedboat glide from Velana International Airport, Malahini Kuda Bandos has quietly transformed itself into one of the Maldives' most refined yet accessible island retreats, nestled within the emerald embrace of Kaafu Atoll.

The resort's most significant enhancement is the introduction of the Beach Pool Suites, a luxurious new category that marries the soul of traditional Maldivian homesteads with contemporary elegance. Each suite is a private haven of handcrafted wooden furniture, soothing celadon palettes, and expansive views across the lagoon. Designed to feel like an indulgent home away from home, they offer direct beach access and private plunge pools framed by swaying palms and endless turquoise horizons.

Complementing the new accommodations are thoughtful upgrades to the main restaurant and bar, while the much-loved Mediterranean venue, Kuredhi, continues to transport guests to sun-drenched coastal Europe with authentic flavours served beneath lush foliage and alongside the pristine shoreline.





**Beach Pool Suites of Malahini Kuda Bandos**  
(Photo by Malahini Kuda Bandos)

The true jewel, however, is Thari Tree Top Dining, an intimate platform elevated 17 feet above the waves. Here, only one couple at a time is welcomed to a meticulously curated private dinner as the ocean shifts from midday sparkle to molten sunset hues. Whether savouring delicate seafood or plant-forward creations, the experience is crafted exclusively for two, suspended between sky and sea in complete seclusion.

With its powdery beaches, crystalline lagoon, and now this sophisticated blend of heritage-inspired luxury and innovative dining, Malahini Kuda Bandos offers travellers the rare gift of stepping straight from the airport into a deeply personal, effortlessly elegant Maldivian escape.



**Beach Pool Suites of Malahini Kuda Bandos**  
(Photo by Malahini Kuda Bandos)



# DHIRAAGU BRINGS HIGH-TIER DIGITAL POWER TO THE ATOLLS

By **Vipula Wanigasekera.**

Dhiraagu's inauguration of its first atoll-based Tier III data centre in N. Velidhoo marks a turning point in the Maldives' digital evolution. While the company has long been the backbone of national connectivity, this latest move shifts the centre of gravity away from Malé and towards a more decentralised, resilient and inclusive digital future.

The new facility—Dhiraagu's third data centre and the first of its kind outside the capital—was officially opened on 11 November by CEO and Managing Director Ismail Rasheed together with Velidhoo Island Council President Athif Hussain. Beyond its technical credentials, the launch sends a powerful message: the digital development of the Maldives must reach every atoll, not just the metropolitan core.

The Maldivian government has been explicit about its ambition to transform the country into a modern, digitally empowered island nation. Earlier this year, the government approved a comprehensive digital transformation framework aimed at creating a sovereign cloud, upgrading cybersecurity standards, and decentralising ICT services across the islands. Dhiraagu's new data centre fits neatly into this national agenda. The government has emphasised that future digital resilience requires distributing infrastructure across the country rather than concentrating it in Malé. The administration's broader "Maldives 2.0" vision—its flagship digital roadmap—highlights sovereign data capabilities, advanced cloud infrastructure, and regional hubs as key pillars. By placing a Tier III facility in Velidhoo, Dhiraagu is helping operationalise these goals well ahead of schedule.







The move also supports ongoing public-sector reforms aimed at improving data governance, promoting interoperable government systems, and enabling more efficient digital public services. As ministries and state agencies shift toward cloud-based platforms, the need for high-reliability, locally hosted infrastructure becomes even more critical.

Tier III data centre in the atolls delivers several strategic advantages for the Maldives.

**Improved reliability and disaster resilience:** Distributing infrastructure outside Malé reduces the vulnerability of the national network. Should an unexpected event disrupt services in the capital, the Velidhoo centre can maintain continuity for businesses, government services, and cloud operations across the region.

**Better performance for resorts and enterprises:** Resorts in the northern atolls—many of which depend heavily on digital systems for bookings, guest experience, security, and operations—stand to gain significantly. Hosting data closer to their physical locations reduces latency, enhances speed, and ensures smoother service delivery.

**Enhanced data sovereignty:** With increasing volumes of sensitive corporate and government data moving to digital platforms, keeping information within the country has become a strategic priority. This facility boosts the Maldives' ability to manage data securely, locally, and independently.



Accelerated innovation and diversification: Improved cloud accessibility across the atolls creates fertile ground for digital start-ups, fintech solutions, local entrepreneurs, and ICT-driven public services. For a nation committed to economic diversification, this infrastructure is not just technological—it is a development enabler.

The Velidhoo centre complements Dhiraagu's earlier milestone: the opening of the country's first Tier IV-certified data centre in Hulhumalé earlier this year. Together, these facilities create a layered digital ecosystem, with Tier IV capabilities supporting national-level operations and the Tier III centre serving regional needs.



Dhiraagu has consistently been at the forefront of technological progress in the Maldives—from connecting every inhabited island with fibre-to-the-home, to expanding 5G networks, to supporting digital education and online public services. The new data centre enhances this legacy while aligning closely with national priorities.

As the Maldives continues to envision a future powered by digital services, resilient infrastructure, and decentralised governance, the opening of the N. Velidhoo Tier III data centre stands out as a pivotal step. It represents the convergence of government policy, private-sector investment, and the needs of an increasingly digital society.

For the resorts and communities of the atolls, it means better, faster, safer access to the digital world. For the country, it signals the maturing of a vision where technology is not confined to the capital but flows outward—fortifying the entire nation, island by island.



# KANDOOMA SPA UNVEILS TREATMENTS TAILORED FOR SURFERS AND WELLNESS SEEKERS

Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives has refreshed the menu at its acclaimed Kandooma Spa by COMO Shambhala, introducing targeted therapies that blend deep recovery with the island's renowned surf culture.

Leading the new offerings is the Surfer's Massage, a specialised treatment crafted to release tension in the neck and shoulders while enhancing mobility—perfect for guests returning from sessions at the resort's famous breaks. Complementing this is the Skin Detoxifying Treatment, which combines exfoliation, hydration, and lymphatic drainage to boost circulation, restore skin tone, and promote an inner sense of renewal.

Assistant Wellness Manager Ni Putu Eka Yuniari explains that the expanded menu responds directly to the active lifestyles of many visitors. "Whether guests come to surf, dive, or simply reset, these experiences are designed to support deeper relaxation, better circulation, and genuine holistic wellbeing," she says.

The spa has also opened its enhanced steam room and plunge pool for individual bookings, offering the ideal prelude or follow-up to any treatment.

Set on a lush private island in South Malé Atoll, just 40 minutes by speedboat from Velana International Airport, Holiday Inn Resort Kandooma Maldives continues to balance adventure and serenity. With the new spa enhancements, it reinforces its position as a haven where high-energy days on the water can end with equally purposeful recovery.





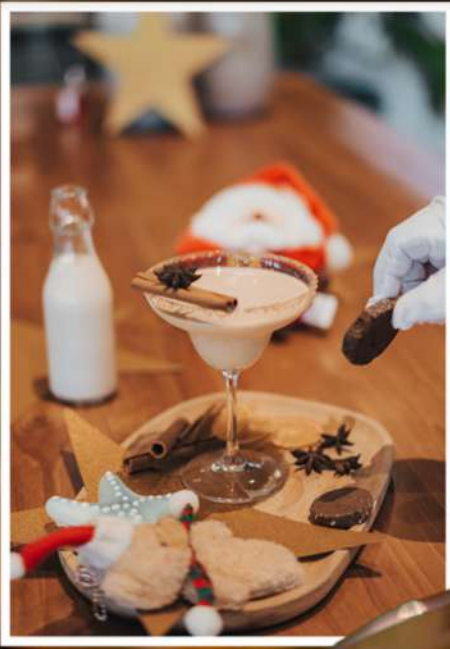
# From Reindeer to Reef: Christmas & New Year Red-Carpet Magic at Barceló Whale Lagoon Maldives



Nestled in the breathtaking South Ari Atoll, renowned globally as a haven for whale sharks and manta rays, the Barceló Whale Lagoon resort is poised to host a truly unforgettable festive season. This luxurious island sanctuary has curated a sublime holiday program, flawlessly merging classic Christmas charm with the tropical elegance of the Maldives for an exquisite end-of-year escape.



**Christmas Themed Beverage Artistry from Barceló Whale Lagoon Maldives**  
(Photo by Barceló Whale Lagoon Maldives)



The celebrations will be gracefully ushered in on 22 December with the enchanting Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, a sparkling evening accompanied by heart-warming carols. The following day brings the delightful Gingerbread Inauguration, where Santa himself unveils the stunning centerpiece. Christmas Eve culminates in high style, featuring the beautiful Gingerbread House Opening and a sophisticated X-mas Eve Gala Dinner, followed by the chic, all-white spectacle of the White Party at Breeze Bar.

On Christmas Day, 25 December, an indulgent Christmas Brunch precedes the highly anticipated Tropical Santa Arrival—a memorable island-style twist on tradition. Throughout the week, the resort caters to all ages with daily rejuvenating Sunrise Yoga sessions, vibrant pool parties, and fun-filled children's activities, including crafting festive ornaments and building sand snowmen.

As the year draws to a close, the culinary journey deepens with themed dining nights, spanning exotic Baltic, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean flavours. The grand finale arrives on 31 December with a spectacular New Year's Eve. The evening commences with a glamorous NYE Cocktail Party on the beach, leading into the sophisticated NYE Gala Dinner, before the resort pulsates with the energy of the exclusive NYE 2026 Party, inviting guests to dance under the stars and toast to the coming year in unparalleled Maldivian luxury.



# INDUSTRY APPOINTMENTS



## **Congratulations**

Ms Mei P. Pun  
On your new appointment as  
General Manager  
At Ozen Life Maadhoo



## **Congratulations**

Mr Ahemd Azzam  
On your new appointment as  
Director of Food & Beverage  
At Madifushi Private Island



## **Congratulations**

Mr Mohamed Zaheen  
On your new appointment as  
Director of Sales  
At Sheraton Maldives  
Full Moon Resort & Spa



## **Congratulations**

Ms Sabeesha Ahmed  
On your new appointment as  
Board Member  
At Visit Maldives



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**MOSAIC**

MALDIVES

# FOR ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT



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