



JUNE 2021 ISSUE

VELASSARU M O M E N T S

Welcome to our June Issue of Velassaru Moments 2021

There is always something new happening at Velassaru Maldives and this issue brings you lots of exciting news from the island. We are constantly striving to see how we can improve your stay with us and we would like to take this opportunity of highlighting some key implementations that happened during the last quarter.

An aerial photograph of the Velassaru Maldives resort. The image shows a large, curved swimming pool in the foreground, surrounded by white sand and lush green palm trees. Several thatched-roof huts are scattered throughout the resort, some on the beach and others over the water. A long wooden pier extends into the turquoise lagoon. The title "AROUND THE ISLAND" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters at the top of the image.

AROUND THE ISLAND

Velassaru Team Members – Vaccinated

Over 80% of Velassaru Team members have received the Covid-19 vaccine after The Maldives Tourism Ministry and HPA started vaccination drives in resorts on 14th February 2021.

Bill Ignatiadis, General Manager, emphasized that vaccination is just one of the Maldives' pillars in the fight against Covid-19, alongside testing, contact tracing, and safety management measures. He added that this will not only give the hospitality industry confidence, it will ensure the continued and ongoing focus of guest and staff safety which has been the main priority since the start of the pandemic.

The vaccine was offered to all team members in the hotel industry on a voluntary basis. For information about the guest experience, and how our resort will operate during these times, please [click here](#).

Special Offers 2021

Enjoy some time away from and stay at Velassaru Maldives and enjoy great savings!

Make the most of your Eid holiday and experience the ultimate escape from every day here in Velassaru Maldives. Save up to 40% discount on published room rates and 50% discount on combined roundtrip airport transfers by speed boat. The exclusive Eid offer includes breakfast and complimentary stay for kids (restriction applies).

Or escape in a stylish ocean haven with private chill-out area and stunning views of the lagoon. Save up to 50% on the Best Available Rate when you book Water Villa for stay between May 2021 to October 31, 2021.

Check our Special Offers page on this link <https://velassaru.com/special-offers>

WINE & DINE



Dhivehi Cuisine

Bring a piece of the island at home with this Maldivian cuisine, also called Dhivehi cuisine. It is largely based on three items: coconuts, fish, and starches. This tasty dish, called Dhon Riha, incorporates all three for a truly authentic recipe that’s easily replicated just about anywhere.

Dhon Riha (Maldivian Tuna Curry)

This warm, tangy fish curry is cooled with mellow coconut milk. It celebrates two cherished ingredients in Maldivian cuisine: tuna and coconut.

Ingredients:

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| 500g fresh tuna – cut into small dices | 1 cup coconut cream/milk (thick) |
| 3 tbsp vegetable oil | 4 cups water |
| 2 onions – finely sliced | 3–4 pcs crushed cardamom |
| 4 cloves garlic – pressed/grated/very finely chopped | 1 stick cinnamon |
| 10g curry leaves (02 stems) | ½ tsp turmeric powder |
| 1 tsp roasted cumin powder | 10gr chopped ginger |
| 1 tsp (fenugreek) | 5 red chilies – sliced into half |
| 1 piece of Pandan leaf (cut into ½ inch) | ½ Scotch Bonnet (githeyo mirus) – chopped |
| 1 tsp tomato paste | 3 Bilimbis – sliced |
| 1 cup coconut – grated/scraped to make the coconut milk | Salt to taste |

Preparation:

Blend the scraped coconut, ½ of the onions, garlic, ¾ of the curry leaves, cumin, ginger, and turmeric into a thick paste. Heat the pan with vegetable oil in a pot, and sauté the remaining onions, curry leaves, chilies, and Pandan leaf while stirring occasionally. Add the cardamom, cinnamon, tomato paste, tuna and toss them in the oil for a few minutes. Mix the spice paste with the water and add it into the pot with the rest of the remaining ingredients except the thick coconut milk. Cook on medium heat, stirring occasionally until tuna is cooked. Finally, add the thick coconut milk and simmer for about a few minutes. Season the curry with salt and serve hot with steamed rice.

Mixology 101

Piña Colada

A tropical blend of rich coconut cream, white rum, and tangy pineapple. One of the world’s most popular summer cocktails, the Piña Colada tastes refreshing and sweet. An easy recipe for a refreshing and tasty cocktail – with this cocktail in your hand, all you’ll be missing is the sand between your toes.

Ingredients:

- 120ml pineapple juice
- 60ml Malibu white rum
- 60ml coconut cream
- wedge of pineapple, to garnish (optional)

Method of preparation:

Add rum, pineapple juice, cream of coconut and ice to blender. Blend until smooth and frosty; add more ice as necessary. Pour into tall glasses and garnish with pineapple slices.



DIVE & DISCOVER

Diving in one of the world's most beautiful diving sites, in a tropical warm water and crystal clear visibility makes Maldives one of the most enchanting destination you can possibly find. Immersion Dive Centre Baseleader, Carmen Dressler, shares with us the one of her favourite diving sites...

[Dream Thila Dive Site](#)

Discovered by the senior captain of Immersion & Glide Team, this dive site is just a 20-minute boat ride northeast of Velassaru Maldives. Thila is the local name given to reef formations with pyramid or island shapes. This Thila has a depth of 5-6 meters, and it welcomes us with coral blocks covered by colourful sponges, soft coral life, and a sandy area. On top of the reef, a school of Jackfish hunting near the surface can be observed too. There is a chance to encounter a big group of Blue-Striped Snappers and a Hawksbill Turtle between the coral walls. Dropping to the deeper part of the Thila, divers might even see a Dogtooth Tuna, a friendly White Tip Shark, or even an Eagle Rays passing by. This dive site is suitable for beginners or advanced divers.

[Meet Natalia, IMMERSION & GLIDE Marine Biologist](#)

Fresh to the island, Natalia Escobar joined Immersion Dive Centre as the resort's Marine Biologist. Originally from Colombia, Natalia started her love of the marine world during her Open Water Diver course in Thailand. The fascinating underwater world made her decide to study the marine environment and became a dive instructor. With a master's degree in Marine Biology on her belt and her previous experience in field research about marine fish populations, Natalia has since become our champion for all marine things here in Velassaru Maldives. One of the environmental efforts she would like to continue is the Coral Adoption Program.

VELASSARU CORAL ADOPTION PROGRAM is an opportunity for the guests to explore the island's reef and contribute to healthy reef growth. The coral frame is environmentally friendly and designed to promote the flow of water and nutrients. Fragments of corals are manually attached to the frames. With the help of Natalia & the Immersion team, the coral frames will be moved to their new permanent home in the Velassaru lagoon, where they can find proper conditions to grow and multiply.

TASTE FOR LIFE



UPCOMING EVENTS IN JULY – SEPTEMBER 2021

JULY

- 09 -13 [Shaken or Stirred you may suggest another kind of cocktail](#)
Delight your taste buds with Martini inspired cocktails – shaken or stirred in FEN
- 18 [Woman's Dive Day](#)
Experience diving with IMMERSION & GLIDE through a day dedicated to community, self-discovery and adventure!
- 20 [Eid Al Adha](#)
Eid Al Adha inspired buffet in VELA
- 26 [Maldives Independence Day](#)
Maldivian BBQ buffet in VELA

AUGUST

- 06 - 10 [Tropical Cocktail Week you may suggest another kind of cocktail](#)
Beat the summer heat with our selection of delicious tropical cocktails
- 27 - 30 [Champagne & Seafoods Promotion in Fen](#)
Treat yourself with an exquisite combination of champagne and seafood served in FEN

SEPTEMBER

- 01 [Project AWARE Week](#)
Celebrate the ocean with IMMERSION & GLIDE! AWARE Week marks the perfect time to focus on the ocean. Join our Marine Biologist in the conservation-focused presentations to increase the number of ocean stewards around the globe
- 15 [Sushi Masterclass](#)
Join us and learn the art of sushi making demonstration led by one of our head sushi chefs at TEPPANYAKI Restaurant
- 24 - 28 ["G & Tea" in Fen Bar you may suggest another kind of cocktail](#)
Explore a selection of Tea infused Gin cocktails inspired by flavours from around the world

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Awards and Recognition Our award-winning resort has received accolades from around the globe, and has garnered praise from travellers and industry bodies alike. Our world-class service earns us awards from Trip Advisor year after year.

[Tripadvisor 2021 Traveller's Choice Winner](#)

We're thrilled to share the news that Velassaru Maldives is a 2021 Traveller's Choice winner! We are grateful for our amazing guests & team members who helped us achieved this award Each year Tripadvisor comb through reviews, ratings, and saves from travellers everywhere, and use that info to award the very best with a Travellers Choice award.



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