



Velassaru Moments 2015

E-Newsletter : Quarter Two

Around The Island

There is always something new happening at Velassaru Maldives and this issue brings you lots of exciting news from the island.



Time to Spa - The Spa has recently introduced its new spa menu that includes its newly launched ground-breaking freeze-dried anti-aging facial, the Stem Cell facial, and a full service of Gelish Manicure and Pedicure treatments. Stem Cell facial redefines wrinkles and reduces fine lines for a younger looking skin. For a full listing of spa treatments and services, visit: <http://velassaru.com/the-spa>

Yoga enthusiasts can also join our in-house yoga instructor for a morning yoga session at Chill Bar on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 0630 hours to 0730 hours.

Velassaru Living - The resort proudly presents its new boutique gallery, called Velassaru Living, from 01 March 2015 onwards. The gallery opens daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and showcases works from resident artist, Achchu Waheed, in-house products collection and selected exotic fashion brands, namely Frankitas, Thirtyfour, Bespoke and Sheriff & Cherry. Achchu paints traditional Maldivian culture and lifestyle using different mediums. He also creates sculptures using traditional Maldivian design.

A New Turquoise Menu - To further enhance our culinary choices, we have introduced a new menu for Turquoise restaurant with a wide range of western and oriental cuisines to suit everyone's palate.



Easter in Velassaru - Egg hunting and painting at Etesian garden. It was a fun-filled day for the little ones. On this special occasion, dinner tables were set up by the infinity pool for a tranquil night with panoramic oceanfront moonlit view.

Wine Degustation Dinner - Etesian restaurant successfully hosted two wine degustation dinner over the last five months – “The Mediterranean Wine Degustation Dinner” and “A Little Piece of Italy”. On each occasion, our in-house sommelier, Dimitri Perlutchi presented five selected premium wines while our Chefs carefully prepared five course degustation gourmet dishes for these exclusive pairings.

New Faces

We are pleased to welcome a new General Manager and two Heads of Department who recently joined our dynamic team.



Brian Gardiner - General Manager

Universal Resorts would like to extend its warm welcome to Brian Gardiner, back to the Maldives as the General Manager for Velassaru Maldives. Brian's past global hospitality experiences as a General Manager for the past 21 years across the African continent, Central America and the Maldives is indeed a great value to the resort. Brian's last role was with the award-winning Africa Albida Tourism where he served as a Group General Manager. Prior to his recent role in Africa, he was the General Manager at NIYAMA by Per AQUUM in 2011 and 2012. He has also completed his professional stints with Belcampo Belize in Central America, Royal Barotse Safaris in Zambia, Abercrombie & Kent in Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, to name a few.

Coming from South Africa with a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management from University of Cape Town and a Professional Hospitality Management Diploma from Hotel Catering International Management Association (HCIMA), Brian is a highly qualified pro-active leader with a passion for premium luxury hospitality. A detail oriented person by nature, he's exceptionally focused on the highest levels of service efficiency, best business practices and employees productivity.

Carlos Exprua - Executive Chef

Fresh to the island, Carlos Exprua is the first Executive Chef from Latin America to join the Velassaru team. Originally from Costa Rica and known as Chef Carlos, he first graduated in business administration majoring in marketing from International University of America, before pursuing his passion for the art of culinary creations from the California Culinary Academy. Chef Carlos' strong passion for culinary has taken him far on his career pedestal where he has held positions in some of the world-class hospitality brands such as Fairmont Plaza Kansas City in USA, Hilton Cluster Seychelles Hotel in the Seychelles, Rotana Hili Rayhaan in Abu Dhabi, UAE and MS Oasis of the Seas, Royal Caribbean International prior to joining Velassaru Maldives. He is well recognized by his skillful mixtures of flavors and textures using fresh seasonal ingredients, combined with creative culinary techniques and flavours from around the world.

Ali Saleem – Director of Human Resource

Ali Saleem, a Maldivian National, recently joined Velassaru management team as the Director of Human Resources and Training. Ali had previously engaged in people development in his capacity as the Dean of the Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism Studies and has developed and delivered various training programs to resorts in the areas of Management and Service training. Ali, a graduate of the Scottish Hotel School – Strathclyde University, Scotland with a Master's in Human Resources Management for the Hospitality Industry had worked at the management level for numerous established companies in the Maldives. As an experienced professional in the field of Human Resources and Training, Ali aims to bring effective and productive changes within the organization through the establishment of a strategic and competency-based talent management and manpower development system.

Upcoming Events

It's never a dull moment at Velassaru Maldives. Here's a list of the upcoming events in June, July and August.



June 2015

18-20 Margarita Weekend - Indulge in a selection of Margaritas at Fen Bar.

July 2015

6-18 Strawberry & Champagne - An irresistible summer treat of sweet strawberry desserts and champagne at Fen Bar.

26 Maldives Independence Day - Enjoy Maldivian barbeque and live entertainment throughout the evening at Sand restaurant.

August 2015

01 Vibes of Summer - A day of sun, sea, sand and chillout music at the Main Beach.

15 Sangria Saturday - Enjoy a summer soiree with some sweet Sangria servings at Fen Bar.

21 Fruits De Mer - Savour the best the sea has to offer. Dinner buffet with an array of fresh seafood grills and assorted barbeques at Sand restaurant.

Quotes & Comments

Here are some of the latest quotes from our guests in Trip Advisor.

"One exclusive island." Catalin B from Berlin, Germany
"Worthwhile romantic splurge." Micachou from Chennai, India
"Exceeded any expectations." Mindy10in from Toronto, Canada
"Gracious hospitality." Bambina Rosa from Lucerne, Switzerland
"Incredibly beautiful Velassaru." Umayal S from Sydney, Australia
"Fantastic stay...Wonderful staff." PragmaticIdealist from Singapore
"An ideal place for family and couple." Walter A from Barcelona, Spain
"Perfect honeymoon vacation in Velassaru." L_K_L_HK from Hong Kong
"Best food, best service, best resort." lookinforward4 from Abu Dhabi, UAE
"Stunning beach, better than the pictures." JazLux from London, United Kingdom

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