

NOVEMBER 2022 ISSUE

VELASSARU MOMENTS



Welcome to our November Issue of Velassaru Moments 2022

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.

AROUND THE ISLAND



Festive Calendar 2022–2023

Holidays are best spent in a tropical setting with a laid-back atmosphere where beaches are as pure as the sky!

To mark the official kick-off to the Festive season at Velassaru Maldives, this year, guests are invited to join our management team for an afternoon drink followed by a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

We have a list of fun-filled activities and festive treats this year. From gala feasts to more private dining options, relaxing spa treatments, exhilarating dives, and water sports, to fun kids' activities, we ensure that the guest makes the most of this exciting season, or the ultimate kick-off to 2023. New Year's countdown party will feature live entertainment from talented local artists in our little paradise.

View the festive calendar on this link: [Festive Calendar 2022 – 2023](#)

Medical Clinic Re-opening

We are happy to share the reopening of Velassaru Medical Clinic in October 2022.

In line with the Ministry of Health's regulations and guideline, the newly renovated clinic was designed with areas for separate room for donning and doffing, consultations, observations, procedures, laboratory and waiting room.

For a worry-free stay, a fully qualified doctor and nurse are present on the island. Our resident medical team provides round the clock assistance for any medical emergencies you might have and closely manages all health, safety and service protocols while also delivering the differential resort experience to guests.

Velassaru Medical Clinic is open from 0900 to 1300 hours and from 1400 to 1800 hours.

Weekly Management Cocktail

As a gesture of appreciation for all our guests at Velassaru, we are organising a weekly Management Cocktail event at Fen Garden. Join the management team from 1700 hours onwards.

Enjoy delicious cocktails and canapés, varying every week. Learn more about the Maldivian culture and keep your eyes peeled for the traditional Bodubero performance by our team members. While mingling, make sure you meet our management team and share your Velassaru experience with us.

We look forward to meeting you during our next Management Cocktail!

Special Offers 2022

With remarkable special offers available, look forward to escaping to a chic and contemporary retreat at Velassaru Maldives to suit every occasion; culinary getaway, spa journey or simply a romantic break away from it all!

Black Friday Offer

Explore the best time-limited Black Friday deal and enjoy great savings with complimentary Sunset Cruise for two. The offer is valid for bookings from November 14 to 29, 2022, and for stays from November 14, 2022 to October 31, 2023.

Early Booker Deals

Early bookers can enjoy exceptional discounts on your next Maldivian getaway with flexibility to amend the date.

Relaxing Tropical Getaway

Take advantage of our exclusive rates including a complimentary Jet Lag massage for two. Enjoy a special discount when you stay 3 nights or more with us.

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

WINE & DINE

Flavours of South Africa Wine Dinner

A special evening menu featured the finest wines from South Africa at Etesian restaurant, on November 10, 2022. This private event was hosted by Sommelier Kate de Fleurio, who introduced a selection of premium-quality wines that her country has to offer.

On this occasion, specially selected matched amazing dishes were featured with the South African wines. Our culinary team, spearheaded by Chef Carlos Exprua, will craft an exclusive dining adventure with five decadent courses uniquely crafted for the event. South Africa has the world's oldest wine-growing geology. The wines offer impressively good value and feature styles and tastes that are food-friendly, blending elegance and power.

Healthy Options and Sparkling Breakfast in Vela

Velassaru Maldives, the day begins with a rich breakfast buffet with sparkling wine. The breakfast spread includes a wide selection of international favourites, show cooking service, and a variety of fresh seasonal fruits as well as classic pastries. One of our culinary team's priorities is to think about the needs of all our guests. Therefore, we offer gluten-free pastries and bread as well.

For those in favour of healthy refreshments, VELA restaurant extended the breakfast menu to cater to the needs of its increasingly health-conscious guests. The breakfast menu now includes a varied selection of detox water and cold-pressed, vitamin-packed detox juices prepared on the spot to preserve all the fruits and vegetables' minerals and amino acids.

MIXOLOGY 101

Explore our weekly special cocktail menu in FEN Bar and CHILL Bar created by our head mixologist. Recreate one of the limited-time cocktails in the comfort of your home.



Blue Colada

If you're craving something sweet and sour, this tropical blend drink is for you. Mariun Van Rooyen, Director of F&B, shares his top pick from the limited-time-only menu, Blue Colada – a refreshing cocktail featured in the Special Cocktail Week earlier this month.

Ingredients:

- 30 ml Malibu
- 30 ml Grand Marnier
- 60 ml Pineapple Juice
- 60 ml Cream
- 15 ml Giffard Blue Curacao Liquor
- 20 gr Pineapple Slice (Garnish)

Method:

Mix with crushed ice until smooth. Pour into a chilled glass, garnish, and serve.

DIVE & DISCOVER

A large, light-colored stingray is the central focus, swimming towards the right. Below it, a large school of small, black and white striped fish (likely Moorish Idol or similar) is swimming in the same direction. The water is a clear, deep blue, and the scene is captured from an underwater perspective.

Stingray City Snorkeling Trip

Located less than half an hour from Velassaru, close to Kanduoiyi Giri Island, is a special place known as Stingray City. Renowned as one of the most thrilling dives sites in the world! More than 100 resident Stingrays who seem to invite you as welcomed guest to their beautiful home that they share with a plethora of gorgeous tropical fish will make this experience one never be forgotten.

Swim, explore, enjoy, and take a few selfies with the Stingray locals! Visit our IMMERSION Dive Centre for more information.

Photo credit: Federica Amoresano, Immersion Dive Centre

VELASSARU TEAM



[Velassaru Maldives welcomes new General Manager – Denys Hordiienko](#)

Universal Resorts is delighted to announce its appointment of Denys Hordiienko as the new General Manager for Velassaru Maldives, effective September 19, 2022. Denys brings with him more than nineteen years of international resort management experience.

He boasts a distinguished hospitality career in 5-star properties across Turkey, the United Kingdom, the Maldives, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia. He began his career in the hospitality industry as a Food & Beverage intern with Sheraton Hotels & Resorts in Antalya, Turkey. Known for his focus on quality, passion for premium luxury hospitality, and guest satisfaction, Denys has a proven record of accomplishment as part of senior management teams of renowned hospitality brands such as Minor Group Hotels, Amari Hotels, YTL Hotels – Small Luxury Hotels, Radisson, IHG, and Fairmont Hotels and more recently he was the General Manager for Oakwood Studios Sukhumvit Bangkok.

Born and educated in Ukraine, he completed his master's degree in finance at the Kyiv National University and in 2016, Denys also completed the Cornell University – The Change Management certificate program.

Denys says, "I am extremely happy to be back in the Maldives and looking forward to being part of the Velassaru team, delivering memorable experiences to all guests".

As the General Manager of Velassaru Maldives, he will manage every aspect of the resort's operations and ensure that the resort's brand continues to develop ground-breaking culinary and wellness concepts and unparalleled guest experiences to preserve the resort's coveted position as a popular, industry-leading destination.



[Carlos Exprua Cluster Executive Chef – Velassaru Maldives & Huvaafen Fushi Maldives](#)

Universal Resorts would like to extend its warm welcome to Executive Chef Carlos Exprua back to the Maldives as the Cluster Executive Chef for both Velassaru and Huvaafen Fushi. Originally from Costa Rica and known as Chef Carlos, he first graduated in business administration majoring in marketing from the International University of America, before pursuing his passion for the art of culinary creations at 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 the USA, Hilton Cluster Seychelles Hotel in Seychelles, Rotana Hili Rayhaan in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and Royal Caribbean International. Chef Carlos was hired as Velassaru Maldives' Executive Chef in 2015 and would remain in this role for 4 successful years. He then moved to Phuket, Thailand where he was the Group Executive Chef at Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts.

Bringing a wealth of international influences and impeccable standards of service to both resorts, Chef Carlos will now spearhead the developments in Velassaru and Huvaafen Fushi's restaurants, private dining experiences, and in-room villa dining.



[Universal Foundation's "Discover Hospitality" Velassaru Internship Program 2022](#)

We are proud to share our participation in the "Discover Hospitality" Internship programme in partnership with Universal Foundation and Villa College. On October 2022, the internship certificates were handed over to the students at a ceremony held to mark the completion of the programme's theory education. The ceremony was attended by Economic Minister Fayyaz Ismail, senior officials of Universal and Villa College, and students of Discover Hospitality.

Among the 40 talented students, Velassaru Maldives welcomed the six selected interns from the 4th batch of the internship programme. The resort will hopefully serve as a stepping stone for the interns' career goals. The interns will get the opportunity to train in all sections of the resort's operation under the supportive encouragement and supervision of Velassaru Maldives experienced team. This educational training will prepare the interns to apply theoretical knowledge to real-life situations and learn while working alongside professional peers.

Universal Foundation launched "Discover Hospitality" initiative with Villa College in 2017.

TASTE FOR LIFE



UPCOMING EVENTS IN NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2022

NOVEMBER

- 01 – 07 [Oysters and Champagne](#)
Indulge in a fabulous treat of premium Pacific Oysters and its famous pairing of fine Champagne Taittinger in SAND
- 08 [Moonlight Vibes](#)
Join us for a spectacular night of music and a range of full moon inspired cocktails on the Main Beach
- 10 [South African Wine Degustation Dinner](#)
- 11 [Republic day of Maldives](#)
Celebrate with a Maldivian inspired enhanced buffet in VELA
- 24 [Thanksgiving Buffet](#)
Celebrate Thanksgiving with an enhanced buffet in VELA

DECEMBER

- 20 – 31 [Festive Season Celebrations](#)
Please see our [Festive Calendar 2022 – 2023](#) for further details
- 24 [Christmas Eve Gala Dinner](#)
Celebrate the Festive Season at our extensive epicurean gala dinner
- 25 [Meet Santa at FEN Garden](#)
Get ready for Santa's arrival! Kids enjoy a delicious buffet full of surprise prepared by Santa's elves
- 26 [Boxing Day Beach BBQ](#)
A delightful BBQ lunch buffet in TURQUOISE Garden
- [Vibes of Summer](#)
A day of sun, sea, sand and chill out music at the Pool and garden area

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[Facebook](#)

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