



# The Allure of LUX\* North Malé Atoll Maldives

STORY BY Erza S.T.  
PHOTOS BY LUX\* Resorts & Hotels

As one of the renowned members of the luxury hospitality industry, LUX\* Resorts & Hotels, founded in 2011 in Mauritius, is known for its simple approach to luxury. The hotel group believes in a hospitality spirit that is lighter and brighter by banishing thoughtless patterns and being more simple, fresh and sensory to deliver a different kind of luxury. At LUX\* Resorts & Hotels, expect to receive fresh, locally roasted and ethically sourced coffee, retro-style ice cream parlours and tailor-made health and spa sessions to a magical tree of wishes, an art gallery for crafting activities and impromptu on-the-beach film screenings as their approach to achieve the objective of helping the guests to celebrate life by turning the ordinary into extraordinary.



LUX\* Resorts & Hotels continues to share its cultural philosophy throughout its extensive portfolio around the globe including Mauritius, Reunion Island, Maldives and China with some upcoming properties in the U.A.E, Vietnam, Italy and France. In February this year, the hotel group added a second new property in the Maldives called LUX\* North Malé Atoll Resort & Villas with a disruptive concept to the Maldivian mould by creating over-sized penthouse residences, which demonstrate a fresh forward-thinking design for the Indian Ocean. The new resort blends the superyacht panache with a South Beach pulse to upstage the traditional thatched villa vibe.

Located on a six-hectare island fringed by white-sandy beaches called Olhahali, LUX\* North Malé Atoll Resort & Villas presents a new way of living in the form of 67 double-storey residences each featuring a private pool and rooftop terrace. To bring this disruptive concept into realisation, the hotel group appointed Isabelle Miaja of Singaporean design house Miaja who specialises in styling unique properties to reflect the beauty and charm of their surroundings.

All 67 residences sit right on the beach or over the lagoon with at least 350sqm living areas, crowned with a fully-featured minimum 120sqm sky lounge - a magnificent private deck elevated 5-12 metres above the lagoon from which guests can have a special vantage point

to marvel over the amazing vistas. A constant colour scheme of white and fuchsia is translated throughout the resort. Fuchsia was chosen by Miaja for its playful nature that brings the essence of the timelessly stylish Art Deco areas of South Beach, Miami. The details and fittings of the interiors are reminiscent of Riva boats and luxury yachts; angled, clean lines, with beautiful craftsmanship. The furniture and fittings are contemporary and all rooms are fully equipped with the latest technology and connectivity. Having said that, the interior design still focuses on the simplicity and comfort synonymous with the relaxed Maldivian island life.

The resort is divided into eight types of villa accommodation categories, three

## main feature LUX\* NORTH MALÉ ATOLL RESORT & VILLAS, MALDIVES

of them on land and five of them stilted overwater. You will find 15 beach villas, six water villas, 31 deluxe water villas and five prestige water villas offering a designated dining area for families in a one-bedroom format and four beach residences and four overwater residences with two bedrooms. For guests looking for three bedrooms, the LUX\* Beach Retreat and the LUX\* Overwater Retreat offer a minimum of 970sqm to rest, relax and play. The Retreats, featuring a 1000sqm private beach or a private dock, offer massive spaces for families and groups of friends to spend time together, including a private fitness area, sauna and steam room and floor to ceiling windows.

On the public areas, the resort also owns two magnificent swimming pools, a translucent over-water LUX\* ME Spa, as well as six outlets of restaurants, bars and a café. Glow restaurant and bar is the all-day dining outlet that serves international flavours and the most sophisticated cocktails while overlooking the signature sunsets. The Peruvian-Japanese restaurant called INTI has an open sushi bar and serves up signature ceviche dishes, a Picadera Grill and dry aged premium meats.

A hint of the French Riviera with an airy white and red decor on the beach is the theme of another outlet called Beach

Rouge. They serve cocktails, premium steaks and tapas accompanied by the upbeat sound of their residence DJ.

The aforementioned freshly-roasted coffee can be found at the resort outlet called Café LUX\* where they serve the coffee however you like it; whether it's Pour Over, V60, Chemix, Cold Drip, AeroPress or just a perfectly frothed cappuccino. For an exclusive dining experience, Barium, a private dining room adorned with a stunning aquarium filled with colourful fishes, is perfect for that secluded culinary experience with family and friends. Don't miss ICI, LUX\* Resorts & Hotels' own ice cream brand serving homemade, tailor-made flavour combinations, served from a retro-styled parlour and mobile cart. You can even customise your own ice cream with their signature ICI Experience.

LUX\* North Malé Atoll Resort & Villas' approach to disrupting the Maldivian mould with its ultra-luxury boldness is not only original; it also carries the out-of-the-box spirit to a level of its own. <sup>10</sup>



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- 01 The living room interior inside the three-bedroom LUX\* beach retreat
- 02 The aerial view of the resort featuring the roof terrace on the villas
- 03 Inside view from the all-day dining Glow
- 04 Interior design from one of the bedroom inside the beach residence
- 05 The villa bathroom area is also equipped with an outdoor shower
- 06 The outlook of Lux\* over-water retreat
- 07 The Beach Rouge view from above

## Project Data

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**Company name**  
Grand Maredian Pvt Ltd  
**Gross Floor Area**  
70,042.00 sqm (built up area)  
**Architecture, Civil & Structural Consultant**  
Hannan Yoosuf Architects  
**Interior Design Consultant**  
Miaja Design group  
**Principal Designer**  
Isabelle Miaja  
**Lighting Consultant**  
Lightbox lightning  
**Landscape Consultant**  
Topo Desizne studio  
**M&E Consultant**  
SLP/EME group  
**Main Contractor**  
Dekra Construction  
**Completed**  
2019



# Living the Art of Unique Design

PHOTOS BY Miaja Design Group & LUX\* Resorts & Hotels

With 25 years of experience, this Singapore-based interior design firm has expanded its portfolio with more branches in London and Manila. The firm is known for its specialisation in boutique hotels and high-end residential projects, including LUX\* North Malé Atoll in the Maldives. Isabelle Miaja, the founder of the firm, recently shared with Indonesia Design about the unique concept that has positioned LUX\* Resorts & Hotels as a one-of-a-kind property.



## What are the briefs given by your client?

I first met the owner on the island some 10 years ago. He is a keen diver, and his brief was to create a resort offering “unique experiences”. He wanted the guests to fully enjoy luxury lifestyle, but in a resort that still respects the simplicity and beauty of the island nature. LUX\* North Malé Atoll is a truly unique resort – designed with the ideal balance of chic elegance, exclusivity and contemporary glamour, but it is also a place to escape, relax and be free, surrounded by unspoilt nature. The architecture and interiors are contemporary, yet there is still a focus on the simplicity and comfort synonymous with the laid-back lifestyle on the Maldivian Islands. In the villas, there is an openness and “free flow” from room to room that evokes a sense of freedom for the resort guests, matching the natural flow of breezy island living.

## How is this LUX\* North Malé Atoll Maldives different from your other resort projects?

In other resorts in the Maldives we have worked on, the guest villas have a traditional thatched roof, and a rustic, earth-toned, and organic feel. As a contrast, LUX\* North Malé Atoll is modern and bold in its look. For the first time in the Maldives, each of the 67 residences is crowned with a magnificent private rooftop relaxing area. Our take on a Maldivian resort presents a disruption to the traditional thatched villas. The architecture and interior design of the over-water villas boasts ultra-modern oversized penthouse residences, and blends super-yacht panache with a South Beach pulse. The details and fittings of the interiors are reminiscent of Riva boats and luxury yachts; angled, clean

lines, with beautiful craftsmanship. The sides of the villas emulate the “sails” of a boat, with curved edges. From the aerial view, each villa looks like a boat ready to take sail from its amazing lagoon!

## What makes LUX\* Resorts & Hotels stand out from its other resort properties?

The resort has the attributes of all LUX\* Resorts & Hotels; unique, luxurious, and contemporary design for the modern travellers. I call this design the “James Bond” Resort, because I was inspired by the idea of creating a glamorous retreat where he could escape after his missions. Bond evokes a sense of adventure that lives in all of us. The resort was designed with sexiness in mind, with curves and generous planes. I like to play with the eclectic; in this case, a contemporary look, complemented by traditional patterns or organic pieces of furniture. The constant colour accent that is present throughout the design is fuchsia, as it relates to the tropics, summer, heat, sexiness, being daring.

## Is there any part of this property you would design differently if you are given full authority?

I am very proud of the final result! I have been very happy with the response from industry professionals and hotel visitors alike. When I design hotels and resorts, my aim is to create unique experiences and ultimately, to make people happy. At this resort, guests will feel like James Bond on a private yacht... after all, if he needs to take a rest after his adventures, this would be the resort he would go to! 🍹