

Velaa Moments

Issue 24 | October 2026

A journey
back home



Greetings from *island paradise*

There is something special about this time of year at Velaa. The feeling of coming home, familiar faces returning, and the joy of knowing there is always something new to discover. As the season unfolds, we look forward to sharing more of these moments with you.

August was filled with laughter and adventure at Lha Velaa, as Kids' Week brought our youngest guests together with Sharky + George and freestyle footballer Tobias Becs. From playful discoveries to new friendships, it was a lovely reminder of how childhood memories are made.

Looking ahead, a little mystery awaits with The Velaa Vampire Chronicles, bringing unexpected surprises and a darker side to our Halloween celebrations.

In November, Gastronomy Month welcomes acclaimed chefs Mark Lundgaard and Olivier Limousin, joining Chef Gaushan de Silva for exclusive four-hands dining experiences at Aragu. We will also have the pleasure of welcoming Champagne Billecart-Salmon, represented by Alexandre Bader and Sébastien Papin, for an intimate evening celebrating the House's heritage and craftsmanship.

December brings world-class padel player Sofía Araújo to Velaa, offering guests the opportunity to learn and play alongside one of the sport's leading talents.

As we prepare to celebrate Velaa's 13th anniversary, we look forward to a special occasion shared with our Velaa family. Adding to the celebration, Becky Hill will take to the stage for an exclusive live performance, bringing her signature energy to the island.

And with the festive season just around the corner, we look forward to the simple joy of seeing families and friends come together once more.

Beyond these celebrations, what has always made Velaa truly special is the people. Our dedicated team, the familiar faces who return year after year, and the friendships that make this island feel like a second home. I look forward to welcoming you back and creating many more wonderful memories together.

Mausoom
Mohamed Mausoom
General Manager





CONTENTS

01

PAST
EVENTS

03

UPCOMING
EVENTS

13

VELAA
NEWS

21

SUSTAINABILITY

25

VELAA
FAMILY

27

VILLA
FEATURE

37

VELAA
GASTRONOMY

39

VELAA
COCKTAIL

41

DID YOU
KNOW

42

LANGUAGE
GUIDE

Kids' Week at Velaa

3-9 AUGUST 2026

This August, Lha Velaa Kids Club welcomed young guests for a special week of adventure, creativity and discovery in collaboration with Sharky + George.

From outdoor challenges and island-inspired games to creative workshops and hands-on activities, the programme was designed to encourage teamwork, confidence and curiosity through play. Throughout the week, children took part in everything from treasure hunts and craft building to art, science, cooking and adventure challenges, creating plenty of opportunities to explore, learn and make new friends.



Adding even more energy to the week was Tobias Becs, five-time World Champion freestyle footballer and multiple Guinness World Record holder, who hosted special football sessions at Velaa's football stadium.

The week concluded with an award ceremony and celebration, bringing together a memorable few days filled with imagination, achievement and shared family moments at Velaa.



A Vampire Halloween at Velaa

25 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER 2026

This Halloween, Velaa takes on a darker character as The Velaa Vampire Chronicles unfolds across the island. Mystery, suspense and a touch of mischief set the scene for a week of experiences designed for both families and those brave enough to venture into the unknown.



The much-loved Halloween Escape Room returns with a new invitation to follow the clues and uncover the Count's secrets, while the Scary Train Ride journeys into the shadows with surprises waiting along the way. At Lha Velaa, Tokey and his friends become little vampires for a week of games, crafts and Halloween adventures.

As the week unfolds, the atmosphere shifts from playful to spectacular. Magician Matteo Cammisa joins the celebrations with captivating illusions and moments of wonder, while Charly's Angels bring their signature energy to the island for a special live performance. The story then reaches its finale with the Halloween Gala Dinner. Exceptional dining, entertainment and music from Velaa's in-house band bring The Velaa Vampire Chronicles to a suitably memorable close.



Gastronomy Month at Velaa

A Celebration of Culinary Artistry



Chef Mark Lundgaard



Chef Olivier Limousin



Alexandre Bader and Sébastien Papin



Chef Gaushan De Silva

This November, Aragu welcomes a collection of exceptional culinary experiences, bringing together acclaimed chefs and the heritage of fine Champagne.

Opening the month, Chef Mark Lundgaard of Copenhagen's acclaimed Kong Hans Kælder joins Velaa's Culinary Director, Chef Gaushan De Silva, for two four-hands dinners on 6 and 8 November, bringing together their individual interpretations of contemporary European cuisine.

The culinary exploration continues with Chef Olivier Limousin, bringing over 25 years of experience in celebrated international kitchens, including Joël Robuchon. Alongside Chef Gaushan, he presents two four-hands dinners on 11 and 13 November, celebrating French culinary traditions and creative expression.

To conclude, Champagne Billecart-Salmon takes centre stage on 18 November. Hosted by Managing Director Alexandre Bader and Asia-Pacific Director Sébastien Papin, the intimate evening pairs a specially crafted Aragu menu with a curated selection of Champagnes, offering a fitting finale to a month of culinary discovery.

A month dedicated to culinary creativity, fine wines and the pleasure of sharing memorable moments around the table.



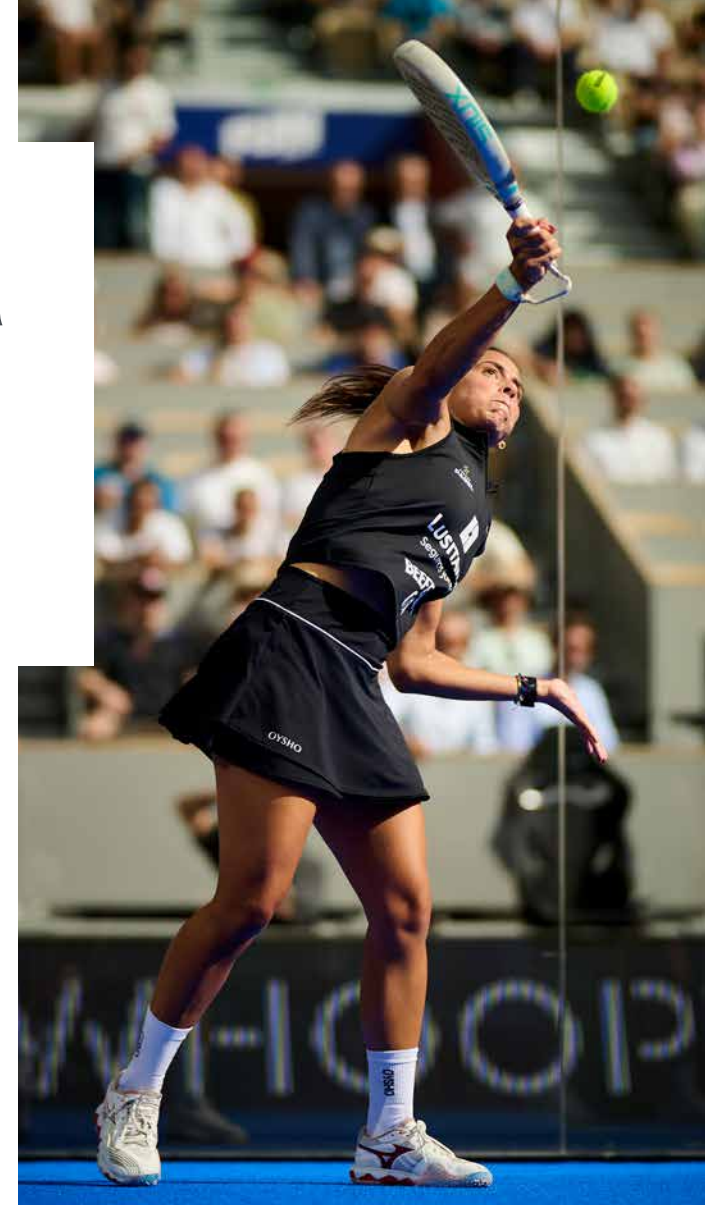
A Champion on Court

An exclusive padel experience with Sofia Araújo at Velaa Private Island

16 - 21 DECEMBER 2026

An invitation to step onto the court with one of the world's finest. This December, Velaa Private Island welcomes international padel star Sofia Araújo for an exclusive experience, bringing guests closer to the skill, passion and precision of a world-class athlete.

Born in Lisbon, Sofia began her career in professional tennis before making her mark in padel, rising to a career-high World No. 6 ranking in 2025. Known for her powerful strokes, precision and tactical intelligence,



she celebrated a significant milestone with her first Premier Padel title in Bordeaux, alongside Andrea Ustero.

From 16 to 21 December 2026, guests at Velaa will have the rare opportunity to step onto the court with Portugal's leading female padel player, refining their skills and gaining personal insights into the techniques and mindset behind her success.

An intimate sporting experience that brings world-class talent and a shared passion for the game to the island.



Velaa's 13th Anniversary Celebration

20 DECEMBER 2026

This December marks another special chapter in the story of Velaa as the island celebrates its 13th anniversary.

More than a milestone, it is an opportunity to reflect on everything that has shaped Velaa over the years: the Velaa Family who bring the island to life, the guests who continue to return, and the memories that have become part of its story.

Adding to the occasion, acclaimed British singer-songwriter Becky Hill will take to the stage for a special live performance, bringing her signature energy and chart-topping hits to the island.

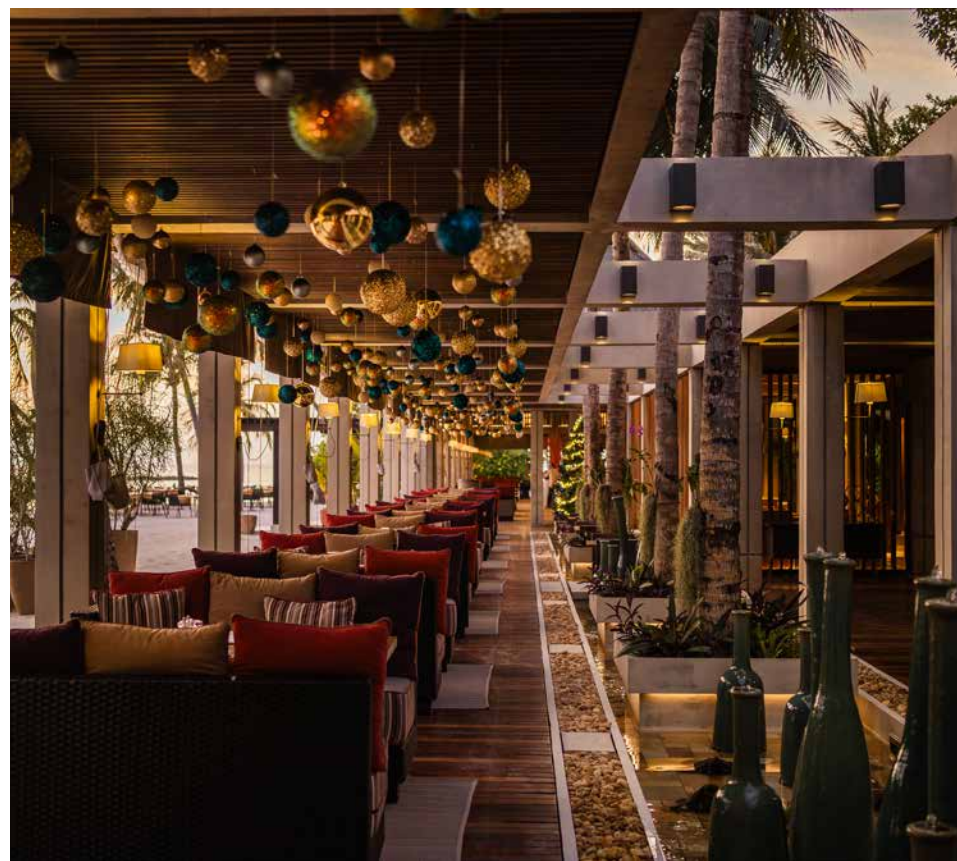
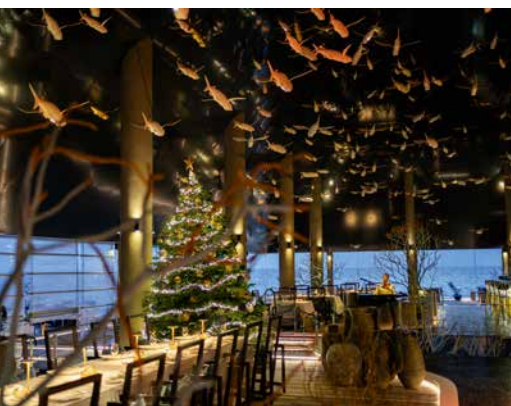
An evening of music and shared memories awaits, bringing together familiar faces to honour the journey so far and look ahead to the chapters still to come.



FESTIVE SEASON at Velaa

20 DECEMBER 2026 – 6 JANUARY 2027

From 20 December, Velaa settles into its festive season with a programme shaped around long lunches, family traditions, memorable dining and evenings that become progressively more celebratory as the year draws to a close.



Christmas brings its own rituals, from gingerbread house making and Christmas Eve celebrations to Santa's much-loved arrival on Christmas Day. In the days that follow, the island moves between teppanyaki, beach gatherings, special menus and live entertainment, each experience giving the season a different mood.

Then comes New Year's Eve and The Velaa Bling. Inspired by the glamour and music of the '70s, '80s and '90s, the night brings together a gala dinner, spectacular entertainment, the midnight countdown and an after party that carries the celebration into the first hours of the new year.

The celebrations continue into January with New Year's Day brunch, Latino Night, an exclusive Aragu dining experience and a final beachfront gala, bringing the festive programme to a close on 6 January.

Across it all, the pleasure is in the contrast: quiet island days followed by nights worth dressing up for, traditions that feel familiar and moments that belong only to Velaa.



Heaven *on* Earth



For almost a decade, Velaa Private Island has marked a very particular moment in the year for Prof. Dr Klemens Joos. Entrepreneur, professor and author, his life moves between business, science and publishing at a relentless pace. Music has always been the artistic counterpart to that world, a passion that has accompanied him since his youth, composing his own melodies and writing his own lyrics.

Every year, he returns to Velaa with his family for around three weeks. To call those weeks a holiday, however, would not quite capture their significance. They are a reset: a period of stillness from which he draws energy for the year ahead.

“At first the hamster wheel was made of tin, then of gold, then of platinum. But it has always stayed a hamster wheel.”

At Velaa, for a few precious weeks, that wheel stops.

A Melody Waiting for Words

The beginnings of *Heaven on Earth* came long before the song had a name.

For almost two years, a melody had remained with him, resurfacing whenever his thoughts returned to the island. He had already captured it at the piano, but it remained just that, a melody waiting for its story.

The words finally began to arrive on 13 December 2025, during his flight back to Velaa. He continued writing after reaching the island, completing the lyrics in the days leading up to Christmas.

“Heaven on Earth” was not a metaphor conceived for the song. It was simply how he had come to think of Velaa.

Together with in-house pianist Maksym Shorenkov, he began shaping the composition on the island itself. Velaa may be far removed from the conventional setting of a recording studio, yet within a remarkably short period, the foundations of the song came together.

Its lyrics followed the emotional journey he knew intimately: exhaustion and escape, arrival and release, followed by a profound sense of recovery and gratitude.

*“Velaa, our Heaven on Earth,
Where every breath is a pure rebirth.”*

The song also became a dedication. First, to his wife Manuela, who shares the weight of a life lived at extraordinary speed; and then to Velaa’s owner, Jiri, his wife Radka, and the team who had made the island such an important part of his family’s life over the years.

From Velaa to Abbey Road

There was another consideration. If a song inspired by Velaa was going to be brought fully to life, its production had to reflect the standards of the place that inspired it.

And so, in his mind, there could be only one destination: Abbey Road.

The journey of *Heaven on Earth* consequently became a journey between two very different places. Its foundations were created on a remote island in the Indian Ocean, without a music studio in sight. Its orchestral recording would take place in one of the most celebrated studios in music history.



The original island sketch developed into a lead sheet and, eventually, a complete orchestral arrangement by Maksym Shorenkov and David Christiansen.

On 27 February 2026, *Heaven on Earth* arrived at Abbey Road Studios in London. Inside the legendary Studio One, the Philharmonia Orchestra, London, conducted by Allan Wilson, recorded the orchestral elements of the song in a single day.

Even at this stage, however, the composition was still evolving.

Only days before the recording session, the conductor and engineer raised concerns that the original introduction would not translate as intended with the orchestra. A last-minute re-orchestration followed, completed shortly



before the musicians' parts went to print. It was an unexpected change, but one that became part of the process of transforming a melody conceived at a piano into a fully realised orchestral production.

Vocals were later recorded in Colombo by Roman Guydmn, with vocal production by Dmitriy Oplachko. Prof Dr Klemens Joos produced this song, with two-time Grammy winner Peter Fuchs serving as co-producer, recording engineer and mixing engineer, while mastering was completed by Christoph Stickl. Film composer Mathias Rehfeldt, based in Munich, oversaw production management and music supervision.

From the Maldives to London, Colombo and Munich, what began as a deeply personal expression of one family's relationship with an island had gradually become an international production.

Capturing a Feeling

For all the scale that ultimately went into its production, the heart of *Heaven on Earth* remains remarkably simple.

It is about the feeling of arriving somewhere and, finally, being able to exhale.

The chorus perhaps captures that sentiment most clearly:

*"Velaa, the island of grace,
Heaven reflected in a quiet place.
Soul and spirit, body and mind,
A world where everything is aligned.
Velaa, our peace, our light,
The end of the struggle, the end of the night."*

It is a description of Velaa, but also of something more universal: the search for a place where the demands of everyday life temporarily fall away and the mind, body and spirit are allowed to reconnect.

In that sense, *Heaven on Earth* is not simply a song about an island. It is about what that island represents.

Bringing Heaven on Earth to Life

There was one final chapter needed to complete the story: bringing the music back to the place where it began.

The music video for *Heaven on Earth* was created by the Velaa team on the island, translating the atmosphere behind the composition into film. The finished song and video were released world-

wide on 1 June 2026, completing a creative circle that had begun with a melody, a piano and memories of the island.

The response surpassed expectations. Within its first two months, the video had been viewed more than ten million times on YouTube, while the track reached listeners internationally through major streaming platforms. Yet perhaps the most fitting part of the story is that it does not really have an ending.

There are already thoughts about how *Heaven on Earth* might continue to evolve musically.

And this year, as he has done for almost a decade, Prof. Dr Klemens Joos will once again make the journey back to Velaa with his family.

Back to the place where the wheel stops.

Back to the place that gave a lingering melody its words.

And back to his own Heaven on Earth.



A Season of Distinction

Celebrating Velaa Private Island's achievements in 2026

Over the past three months, Velaa Private Island has received a succession of prestigious international accolades, celebrating its dedication to exceptional hospitality, fine dining and thoughtfully curated experiences.

Aragu received Wine Spectator's Best of Award of Excellence for the fifth consecutive year, a testament to its distinguished wine programme and continued pursuit of culinary excellence.

The celebrations continued as Velaa was named Leading Luxury Resort at the TTM Awards, followed by two prestigious honours at the World Travel Awards. For the eighth consecutive year, Velaa received the title of Indian Ocean's Leading Private Island Resort, while Velaa Private Residence was awarded Indian Ocean's Leading Luxury Hotel Villa for the third consecutive year.

Further recognition came through the Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards, with Velaa securing the No. 9 position among resorts in the Indian Ocean, a distinction made especially meaningful by the votes of travellers themselves.

Beyond the accolades, these achievements are a reflection of the passion and dedication of the Velaa family, and the lasting relationships built with guests over the years. Each honour celebrates the care, attention, and personal touches that continue to define the Velaa moments.



Indian Ocean's
Leading Private Island
Resort



Indian Ocean's
Leading Luxury Hotel
Villa



Epicutis arrives at Velaa Spa

Velaa Spa introduces Epicutis, a new addition to its skincare offering, bringing a science-led approach to skin health and long-term resilience.

Born from more than two decades of biotechnology research, Epicutis focuses on supporting healthy skin function through minimalist formulations designed to reduce inflammation, strengthen the skin barrier and improve hydration.

Known for its refined, ingredient-conscious approach, the collection includes a series of targeted recovery treatments, with formulations created to complement both everyday skincare and professional treatments.

Velaa Spa combines advanced skincare science with a personalised approach to wellbeing, providing guests a simple and effective way to promote lasting skin health.



Darth Craft Splash: *Little Captains, Big Adventures*

A new kind of adventure has arrived at Velaa for our youngest explorers. Designed for children under 10, the Darth Craft Splash is a compact electric boat created to give young guests their first taste of independence on the water.

More than a traditional pool toy, the Splash features a durable fibreglass hull, reinforced inflatable tubes and a concealed propeller guard for added safety. With a gentle maximum speed of 5 km/h, a whisper-quiet electric motor and up to two hours of battery life, it offers a fun and reassuring introduction to boating.

Whether cruising across the pool or setting off on a little lagoon adventure, the Splash gives Velaa's youngest captains the chance to take the helm and enjoy the water in a completely new way.





Sustainability Throughout September

Fehikuramaa 2026: *Inspiring a Positive Lifestyle*

A healthier future can begin with something as simple as moving together. Now in its sixth year, Fehikuramaa returned to the communities of Noonu Atoll with a new chapter centred on sport, movement and the habits that shape a positive lifestyle from an early age.





Across all 13 inhabited islands, students stepped beyond the classroom to take part in a series of community sports festivals. From Maalhendhoo and Kendhikulhudhoo to Manadhoo and beyond, the programme brought young people together through movement, friendly competition and shared experience.

The idea was deliberately simple: to make being active enjoyable, to give young people the confidence to participate, the opportunity to work as a team and, perhaps most importantly, an experience they could carry into everyday life.

Since its beginnings in 2021, Fehikuramaa has continued to evolve alongside the communities it serves. Previous editions have explored environmental awareness, education, nutrition and healthier living, with each year introducing a different way to create practical change across Noonu Atoll.



This year, the focus moved outdoors. Through friendly competition, shared energy and the simple joy of taking part, Fehikuramaa 2026 encouraged young people to keep moving, keep connecting and carry those habits forward long after the games were over.

For Velaa, Fehikuramaa is part of a wider commitment to sustainability that places local community support at its centre. By investing in initiatives shaped around the needs of Noonu Atoll, the programme strengthens connections beyond the island and supports the next generation through experiences designed to create practical, lasting value.



Meet the Team

Nashfa
“Nash”
Mohamed
Lha Velaa Kids Club Manager

There is a particular kind of welcome at Lha Velaa that cannot be taught from a manual.

It is remembering a child’s name before they say it. Knowing which game they loved on their last visit. Noticing when someone is feeling shy and quietly finding a way to bring them into the group.

For Nash, these small moments are often the most important part of the day.

“They may remember the treasure hunts or the games, but what stays with them is how we made them feel.”

It is a simple philosophy, but one that has been shaped over seven years at Velaa.

Nash first arrived on the island as a short-term employee, unsure of what to expect and carrying the usual nerves that come with starting somewhere new. The feeling faded quickly. She found herself surrounded by a welcoming team and, before long, by the laughter and energy of the children at Lha Velaa.

That was where everything began to change. Working with children gave her an immediate sense of purpose. Every day was different. Some children arrived ready to explore every-

thing; others needed a little more time. Some wanted adventure, others simply wanted someone to sit with them and listen.

Learning to understand those differences became as important as organising the activities themselves.

Over time, Nash’s role grew alongside her experience. After seven years at Lha Velaa, she was recently promoted from Kids Club Supervisor to Kids Club Manager, stepping into a new chapter of leadership. With the role comes greater responsibility, from guiding her team and shaping programmes to speaking with families and ensuring every child receives the same level of attention and care.

“They may remember the treasure hunts or the games, but what stays with them is how we made them feel.”

Yet even with this new chapter, the heart of her work remains unchanged. You will still find her paying attention to the smallest details, joining conversations and watching how young guests settle into the space. She knows that what may seem like an ordinary afternoon to an adult can become a lasting memory for a child.

Perhaps the most rewarding moments come when families return.

A child who once arrived nervously walks back through the doors with confidence. They remember a member of the team, a favourite



activity or a story from their previous holiday. Sometimes years have passed, but the connection is still there.

Those returning moments have shaped the way Nash now leads Lha Velaa. She encourages her team to look beyond the activity itself and pay attention to the experience around it. Reassurance, the laughter, the trust and the small details children remember long after a holiday ends.

Seven years on, Nash’s role has changed considerably, but the part she values most has not.

For her, the best measure of a day is still a very simple one: a child leaving Lha Velaa a little happier than when they arrived.

Funa Private Residence

A secluded beachfront residence where generous spaces, complete privacy and effortless indoor-outdoor living create a home designed for families to spend time entirely their own way.





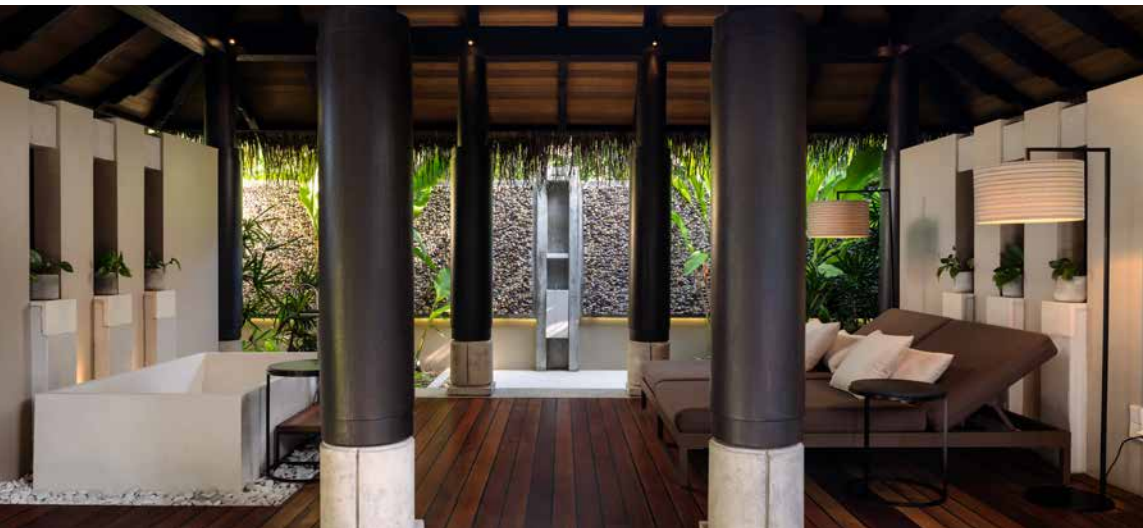
Set along its own stretch of beach, Funa Private Residence offers 1,350 square metres of indoor and outdoor living designed around privacy, space and time spent together.

Four bedrooms look towards the ocean, with two opening onto private balconies and two connecting directly with the pool terrace. Indoor and outdoor bathrooms meet through garden atriums, allowing the landscape to become part of the experience throughout the residence.

At the centre of the home, generous living spaces open towards an infinity pool, courtyard and private beach, while two gazebos create quieter places for dining or spending the afternoon by the water.







A private gym and spa room sit discreetly behind the main living areas, completing a residence designed to give families the freedom to move easily between time together and moments of their own.

Spacious without feeling formal, Funa is a private island home shaped around the way a family naturally spends its days at Velaa.





Venison Tenderloin

by Chef Gaushan De Silva

Inspired by the rich, earthy flavours of autumn and winter, Chef Gaushan's venison tenderloin brings seasonal comfort to Aragu's refined approach to gastronomy. Tender venison is paired with creamy potato risotto and braised red cabbage, whose sweet-and-sour character complements the distinctive flavour of the meat. An airy porcini sabayon introduces a deep mushroom umami, while a tart berry jus lends brightness to the composition. Each element plays a considered role, balancing richness with acidity and bringing together contrasting textures. Elegant yet comforting, the dish expresses the season through depth of flavour and a delicate sense of balance.



Funa Cocktail

FUNA is our new cocktail series, inspired by the names of our residences. This creation is a vibrant twist on the classic Gin Basil Smash, with its bright green colour inspired by the lush greenery of the trees and their fruits.

INGREDIENTS

- 50 ml basil-infused gin
- 20 ml sherry and coconut cordial
- 25 ml fresh lemon juice
- 50 ml cucumber juice
- 15 ml methyl
- 1 sprig of fresh basil

METHOD

- Muddle the fresh basil in a shaker. Add all remaining ingredients and dry shake first, followed by a vigorous shake with ice. Double strain into a rock brandy balloon glass over a Velaa-logo-stamped ice block.
- Garnish with fresh basil and serve.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Aragu signature restaurant is decorated with 485 individual flying fish, an ode to the majestic marine life that inhabits the surrounding ocean?



Did you know that a new mystery is coming to Velaa? Inspired by the classic game Cluedo, Velaa is preparing to reveal its own take on the much-loved *whodunnit* with a few island twists.



Assalaamu alaikum! (Hello!)

Dhivehi

Being familiar with some basic Dhivehi words and phrases has many benefits on your visit to the Maldives. Not only will you be able to communicate in a foreign country, but you'll also be able to impress the locals with your amazing language skills.

White Tern	Dhondheeni
Asian Koel	Koveli
Grey Heron	Maakanaa
Crow (House Crow)	Kaalhu
White-breasted Waterhen	Kanbili



VELAA
PRIVATE ISLAND
MALDIVES
Private Moments

For reservation enquiries, please email
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velaaprivateisland.com