

## ELEGANT RESORTS

(Front cover headline)

### ***Delight in Dubai & The Indian Ocean***

---

#### ***The Maldives – 'A string of pearls in the deep blue Indian Ocean'***

Only those who have visited The Maldives can know how precious paradise really is. With hundreds of islands, coral reefs and sleepy lagoons, here is the perfect setting for a barefoot 'Robinson Crusoe' experience. The keys to this particular paradise also open the doors to the world's finest hotels and spas, basking in their waterside havens of sunshine and opulence... a magnet for serious dreamers.

Sub:

#### **Good timing...**

The choice of most is between December and April when the weather is hot and dry, with the occasional cooling shower.

Sub:

#### **Good times...**

Famous for its underwater beauty, The Maldives has the best scuba diving and snorkelling in the world. Check out the excitements of international-standard watersports, or memorable big-game fishing. By night, indulge yourself with delicious multi-ethnic cuisine and traditional Maldivian or modern entertainments.

---

## MALDIVES – HOTELS

### **Cocoa Island**

Idyllic thatched 'Dhonis' built out over a turquoise lagoon, each with air-conditioning and private sun-deck with access to the water below... Close by are some of The Maldives' best water sports. To relax, indulge in a choice of spa treatments, yoga or meditation. And, in the evening, enjoy fusion cuisine on the stunning restaurant terrace.

### **Soneva Fushi** **Resort & Spa**

Cleverly combining an uninhabited Robinson Crusoe fantasy island with every modern amenity, this resort has luxury five-star villas and suites for parties ranging from families to romantic couples. Guests can enjoy *al fresco* aperitifs and a choice of restaurants offering continental, seafood and fusion cuisine. As ever, abundant water sports are nearby and, when it's time to relax, guests can visit the Six Senses Spa.

### **Soneva Gili** **Resort & Spa**

Picture the dream-like setting of thatched pavilions built on stilts over a deep-blue lagoon... and the romantic 'Crusoe Residences', accessible only by rowing boat (simply perfect for honeymooners!). Soneva Gili has it all – from the international-standard cuisine that's always a wonderful experience, to the elegant Six Senses Spa and access to endless water sports, including the resort's own fully-equipped PADI diving school for beginners upwards.

## **The Four Seasons** **Kuda Huraa**

From the sublime to the luxurious – accommodation at this exclusive private-island resort ranges from beachside bungalows with pool, to beautiful thatched villas set on stilts above the turquoise lagoon. Daytime amenities include an excellent water sports centre and diving school; indulgent spa treatments; big-game fishing; and sea-plane excursions. By night, four restaurants provide inspirational dining, with the Nautilus Lounge laying on sophisticated live entertainment.

## **Hilton Rangali Island** **Resort and Spa**

Imagine two coral atolls linked by a wooden footbridge – home to luxurious ‘on-stilts’ water villas with their own private sun-decks and steps leading down to the lagoon. Imagine the equally blissful beach villas, all superbly appointed with hi-tech wizardry and designer fixtures. Island castaways will drool at discovering this idyll, with its four superb restaurants, unique Over-Water Spa, water sports centre, big game fishing and much more.

## **Huvafen Fushi**

For the last word in luxury, the bungalows and pavilions at this chic island resort are equipped to the highest contemporary standards. Set within its own private lagoon, Huvafen Fushi offers a range of water sports and the world’s first underwater spa. Seductive Mediterranean and South-east Asian cuisine is served in three intimate restaurants, with the over-water setting of ‘Salt’ being perhaps The Maldives’ most romantic venue.

**One & Only,**  
**Reethi Rah**

This truly beautiful island resort is a perfect private hideaway. Every villa has its own sandy sea-shore, or sun-deck over the lagoon. Dining ranges from the 'casual'- on the beach, or by the pool – to a choice of four restaurants serving seafood, Indian/Japanese tapas, chargrills or à la carte dishes. The Spa offers signature heat experiences, while the more active can enjoy water sports and sunset fishing trips.

---

***Dubai –***  
***'A shimmering time-scape of sea and sand –***  
***a land of then and now'***

Just a seven-hour flight away is a vibrant hot-weather world that is a melting pot of Arabian culture whilst also having everything you could wish for in a modern tourist destination. Dubai is 'time travel' in 5-star luxury, a country that re-invented itself with stunning architecture and international-standard hotels, and yet one whose heritage is so rich it shines through every aspect of life in this dazzling, rippling land.

Sub:  
**Good timing...**

Sub-tropically hot and sunny with blue skies and sparkling seas, Dubai is perfect between September and April.

Sub:

**Good times...**

Go back in time on a Bedouin-style desert safari, or haggle in the bustling souks. With the Arabian Sea as your backdrop, return to the present with its stunning hotels, world-class cuisine and first-rate recreational facilities. These range from endless water sports to championship golf, horse racing and of course, Dubai's legendary tax-free shopping!

---

DUBAI - HOTELS

**One & Only,  
Royal Mirage Resort**

Set in 60 acres of landscaped gardens just 20 minutes from the excitements of Dubai city, the Royal Mirage is a hedonist's dream. An unrivalled choice of luxurious accommodation adjoining its own kilometre-long strip of Jumeirah Beach provides a breathtaking setting for a wide range of water and land sports. This three-hotel resort also boasts a heady mix of restaurants and nightlife to make your stay complete.

**Burj Al Arab**

Rising from the Arabian Sea like an enormous billowing sail, no superlatives can replace the experience of actually staying at the world's tallest suite hotel. Luxurious duplex suites – each lavishly appointed and each with dramatic sea views – provide the ultimate in sophistication, whilst dining experiences include restaurants suspended in mid-air, underwater and on the invigorating beach-front. To relax, a visit to the exquisite Spa is highly recommended.

## **Madinat Jumeirah, The Arabian Resort**

This purpose-built resort combines the exotic essence of old Arabia with new-fashioned sophistication. Meandering waterways lead to the bustling souk, waterside restaurant terraces or your choice of 5-star accommodation. This may be one of two grand boutique hotels, or the traditional-style courtyard houses and suites. And for day and night-time diversions, why not try the superb Six Senses Spa, 41 restaurants and bars, water sports and golf.

## **The Ritz-Carlton Dubai**

From the moment you enter the opulent lobby with its exquisite carvings and crystal chandeliers, the ambience could only be 'Ritz-Carlton'. Located on Jumeirah Beach, the low-rise design boasts truly elegant rooms, all with balconies facing the sea. Restaurant options range from eclectic European to informal Mediterranean fare whilst, of the endless recreational facilities, the blissful Balinese Spa, water sports and nearby golf are the most popular.

---

***Mauritius –  
'Few destinations compare for  
uncompromising exclusivity, beauty and charm'***

World-class hotels with settings and amenities to match will beguile even the most seasoned traveller. Add in the warmth and charm of the Mauritian people, the influences of major cultures which have criss-crossed this island over many centuries, and it's easy to understand why many want to visit – but only the few can be favoured.

Sub:

**Good timing...**

Agreeable year-round temperatures make Mauritius an ideal place to visit at any time – but especially during the British winter.

Sub:

**Good times...**

Picture yourself on one of the island's beautiful golf courses or enjoying complimentary water sports at your hotel. Out and about – why not explore the lush tropical forests where wild deer, monkeys and boar roam. For shoppers, there are plenty of half-price designer labels to look out for. And to prepare for the night ahead, why not relax in your hotel spa.

---

MAURITIUS - HOTELS

**One & Only,**  
**Le Saint Géran**

A haven of elegance with an international reputation, this hotel nestles in 60-acres of tropical gardens fringed by white sand beaches. Water sports facilities are superb and, in the grounds, there's a Gary Player golf course, International Tennis Centre and Givenchy Spa. There are pool-side and ocean-view restaurants, together with the fashionable Michelin-inspired '*Spoon des Iles*'. By night, live cabaret and dancing add the perfect finishing touch.

**One & Only,**  
**Le Touessrok**

This great romantic retreat has been given a new sophistication following extensive redevelopment – especially on the collection of islands linked to the mainland by a wooden bridge. Frangipani Island, for example, has 98 newly-built sea-facing suites and a

Givenchy Spa, whilst the Ile aux Cerfs boasts a Bernhard Langer championship golf course. Facilities for children are excellent and, for adults, there's a dazzling array of top-class east-meets-west restaurants.

### **The Residence**

Designed in the colonial plantation-style and set alongside a palm-fringed beach, this hotel oozes sophistication. All rooms and suites are sumptuously appointed, and all have private butler service. Amenities include a host of water sports, tennis, aerobics, a superb spa – and children are very well catered for. A choice of restaurants means there's never a dull culinary moment, and live evening entertainment is of the highest standard.

### **The Oberoi, Mauritius**

Opened in 2001 amid a fanfare of expectation, The Oberoi is now firmly established as a beacon of exclusivity. The romantic atmosphere of its all-suite accommodation combines a Mauritian ambience with international standards. Facilities are outstanding and include a holistic spa, complimentary water sports and excellent golf nearby. In the evening, enjoy a pre-prandial cocktail before dining *al fresco* on Creole, Oriental or European specialities.

---

### ***The Seychelles – 'Re-discover the Garden of Eden in an archipelago of dreams'***

Of the hundred or so topical islands in this beautiful archipelago, it isn't only Praslin which deserves the 'Garden of Eden' tag. Each of the main islands - and certainly each of the five-star luxury resorts – has its own amazing character. For the Seychellois magic, simply cross the Indian Ocean - four degrees below the Equator - to discover verdant forests, whisper-white beaches, bird sanctuaries and exotic hideaways.



Sub:

**Good timing...**

The Seychelles enjoys year-round sunshine with showers at almost any time, although heavier rains are more likely between November and February.

Sub:

**Good times...**

With hundreds of species of tropical fish, snorkelling and scuba-diving are a major attraction – as is deep-sea fishing for barracuda, shark and marlin, and water sports of every type. Hotel-base attractions include wonderfully varied multi-ethnic cuisine, and live entertainments in traditional or cabaret style.

-----

THE SEYCHELLES – HOTELS

**The Banyan Tree, Seychelles**

Romantically situated between sea and mountains, The Banyan Tree is a world-class resort with facilities to match its elegance. A combination of plantation-style and contemporary architecture has created a choice of villas with breathtaking beachfront or hillside locations – all featuring private pools or Jacuzzis. The Banyan Tree Spa offers a vast range of treatments, whilst a choice of three stylish restaurants serve delicious Creole and International cuisine.

**Lemuria Resort**

This part of Praslin is an area of outstanding natural beauty where wooded hillsides and dense palm groves sweep down to a shimmering lagoon. The resort's luxurious villas and suites blend perfectly with their surroundings – yet there's plenty going on!

Amenities include a Guerlain beauty centre, 18-hole championship golf course and 'Turtle Club' for children – plus three stunning restaurants and a boathouse providing trips to nearby islands.

### **Frégate Island**

The 16 thatched villas of this exclusive resort take guests to another world. Spaciously and sumptuously appointed, the villas have large sundecks for *al fresco* dining, Jacuzzis with a king-sized day-bed with views over the coral reefs, and two venues for superb gourmet dining. Social activities include guided nature walks, water sports, a new spa and Kids Club. And would-be explorers can even hire a boat!

### **North Island**

Take in the essence of 'barefoot luxury' at this small resort of just 11 thatched villas. Whether ocean-facing or tucked away in the jungle, the exquisitely designed accommodation blends in perfectly with its surroundings. By day, activities include the world's best scuba-diving, snorkelling, fly-fishing, kayaking and sailing trips. By night, the restaurant offers amazing sea views as guests savour the unique Seychellois dishes.

---