

SHERATON FULL MOON RESORT THE MALDIVES

If the Maldives has grande dames, the Full Moon Resort is one of them. Dating back to 1937, it is one of the most established in the area, although a £15m refurbishment completed last year has left it as well turned out as a Thirties screen siren. It smoulders in shades of cyan and emerald green, with manicured orchid gardens and waters so crystalline you can see ballerina frills of coral below the surface. The 176 rooms have been given a tropical sprucing, too, with mango-wood furniture, touches of silk and white linen with a thread-count higher than the fashion department of Harrods. All are generously proportioned, but the over-the-water bungalows are the ones to go for if privacy,

a waterfront plunge pool and ladder directly into the Indian Ocean are high on your priority list. Villa hosts, another new feature, act as private concierges to set up dolphin-spotting trips or simply to escort you across the wooden bridge to the excellent spa, perched on its own sandy isle. Of the seven restaurants, Baan Thai stands out for its authentic Thai plates, while castaway Kakuni Hut is a must for cocktails at semi-submerged tables. The hotel's final draw-card is its location, on Furanafushi Island. Just 15 minutes by speedboat from Velana International Airport, it makes your Maldivian fantasies eminently more achievable, even for the time-poor. MS. Doubles from £310. marriott.com





This month, we luxuriate in the Maldivian sun, in Cirencester, savour a design-led mansion

PALACIO CAN MARQUÉS PALMA, MALLORCA

A flair for design is deep-rooted in Palma: Antoni Gaudí modernised Palma Cathedral (1903-1914) and Spanish surrealist Joan Miró created the best of his life's work here and was declared its adoptive son. Over 6,000 of his pieces can be seen at the Pilar and Joan Miró Foundation — a must-visit. The appreciation for art continues at Palacio Can Marqués, a 13-suite hotel that flung open its heavy oak doors in 2018, following a laborious restoration project. The 18th-century palace is found on a narrow street in the old town's La Lonja district, between bon-bon-hued buildings housing tapas bars (make reservations at La Paloma) and gelato parlours (try the orange sorbet at Iceberg La Lonja). Each of the extravagant suites has been meticulously curated by Parisian interior designer Aline Matsika, who personally conceived each of the 38 Murano-glass chandeliers and hand-selected every piece of art, literature and furniture throughout. The Cathedral — our favourite of the suites — threatens to upstage Gaudi's



nearby work with its 6m-high ceilings and elegant stained-glass windows. Elsewhere, Rose is a heady bouquet of soft pinks, peaches and corals, with its own palm-strewn private terrace; Eden is brushed with copper and golds and houses a library, plus its own private lift; while Romance has a two-person tub in a nod to its namesake. Crowning them all is Riad, which boasts three master bedrooms, a living room, dining room and luxurious Moroccan-style plunge pool from which to savour 360-degree city views, G&T firmly in hand. FRM. Doubles from £188. palaciocanmarques.com