

INTERCONTINENTAL MALDIVES WELCOMES CHEF IN RESIDENCE CRISTINA FIGUEIRA FROM VALENCIA



Maldives, October 2022: Kicking off the last quarter of the year, InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort welcomes Cristina Figueira, Head Chef of restaurant El Xato.

What started as a winery is now a popular restaurant serving guests authentic, Mediterranean cuisines. Chef Cristina will be gracing our beautiful island and guests with her popular Mediterranean-inspired seafood dishes during her stay from 10th to 18th October 2022.

Chef Cristina who has now been leading the helm at the Restaurant El Xato (located near Valencia) is passionate about serving her guests not just a meal but a story, an experience, with love'. The cuisines have been slowly gaining recognition worldwide over the past few years including the first Michelin Star for El Xato in 2018.

Hailing from the Mediterranean, Chef Cristina's choice of ingredients and creations are influenced by her deeply rooted origins. Exploring different cooking techniques, Cristina most notably worked with international Chef Joan Roca at the high cuisine restaurant Celler de Can Roca in 2006. Since then, she kept elevating and innovating the kitchen of El Xato and continues to do so even today.

Guests visiting the island during this time will be in for a very special treat as they have the option of indulging in these gastronomical delights set up by Cristina. During her visit to Maamunagau Island, she will host several dinner experiences with the dishes reflecting her upbringing and philosophy on combining traditional flavours with modern cooking techniques as well as infusing local and Mediterranean flavours. She will also be bringing some of her most popular dishes from El Xato to be served as part of the delectable menu presented to guests. Guests' favourites like scallops, cuttlefish, and prawns will be part of the dining experience, combined with Cristina's creations from Valencia such as Gazpachuelo, Torrija, or Ceviches.

The resort's Executive Chef Deepesh Jose feels Cristina's "Mediterranean culinary background fits just perfectly to what we do here and want to accomplish on the island. With The Lighthouse being an icon of the Mediterranean culture, which is also resembled in our current menu, her additions and interpretations will be a perfect addition. Looking at the menu she created for us, it is very interesting and promising. I am very excited to learn more about her take on the cuisine."

The visit of Cristina Figueira is the first out of a series of women in the culinary industry partnering with the resort. Over this year's festive season, guests can look forward to being catered to by French Mixologist Anne Lise Jouenne who will entertain guests with her unique flair in bartending sets.

Guest can expect a week of culinary splendour, from 10th to 18th October 2022 at InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort. Kicking off her visit with a guest cocktail, where selected canapes will be served to guests, as a teaser of what they can expect during the dinner sessions. Altogether three dinners will be available for guests to choose from, the first one being a wine degustation dinner at The Lighthouse. Another dinner will be focussing on BBQ dishes right at the Maamunagau beach, with Cristina curating a prime meat and seafood menu for the evening, grilled to perfection at a live grill. The final and most intimate dining experience will be held in the resort's wine cellar, where Cristina will also share her philosophy and stories with the guests.

HOW TO BOOK

Rates start from USD 952++ per night in a Water Pool Villa including breakfast for two in September. The exclusive dinners by Cristina Figueira can be pre-booked or booked on the island, subject to availability and additional cost. For more information, please visit www.maldives.intercontinental.com or contact us directly at reservations.icmaldives@ihg.com. For real-time updates, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/intercontinentalmaldives and Instagram [@intercontinental_maldives](https://instagram.com/intercontinental_maldives).

All prices are quoted in USD, subject to a 10% Service Charge and 12% GST. USD 6 Green Tax per person, per night, applies for stays.

ABOUT

InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort is an exclusive destination getaway offering a unique opportunity for those looking to unwind and reconnect in an enviable island setting where exclusive privileges go hand in hand with the personal touch of our signature service at InterContinental Hotels & Resorts' first and only all-Club InterContinental resort. Located in the Raa Atoll; 35 minutes by seaplane from the Velana International Airport, InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort is an award-winning island escape offering beach, lagoon, and overwater villas and residences with up to three bedrooms. Curated dining and wellness experiences, an extensive kids club as well as the Retreat, an adults-only enclave, along with a myriad of recreational adventures for families and couples alike are also available.