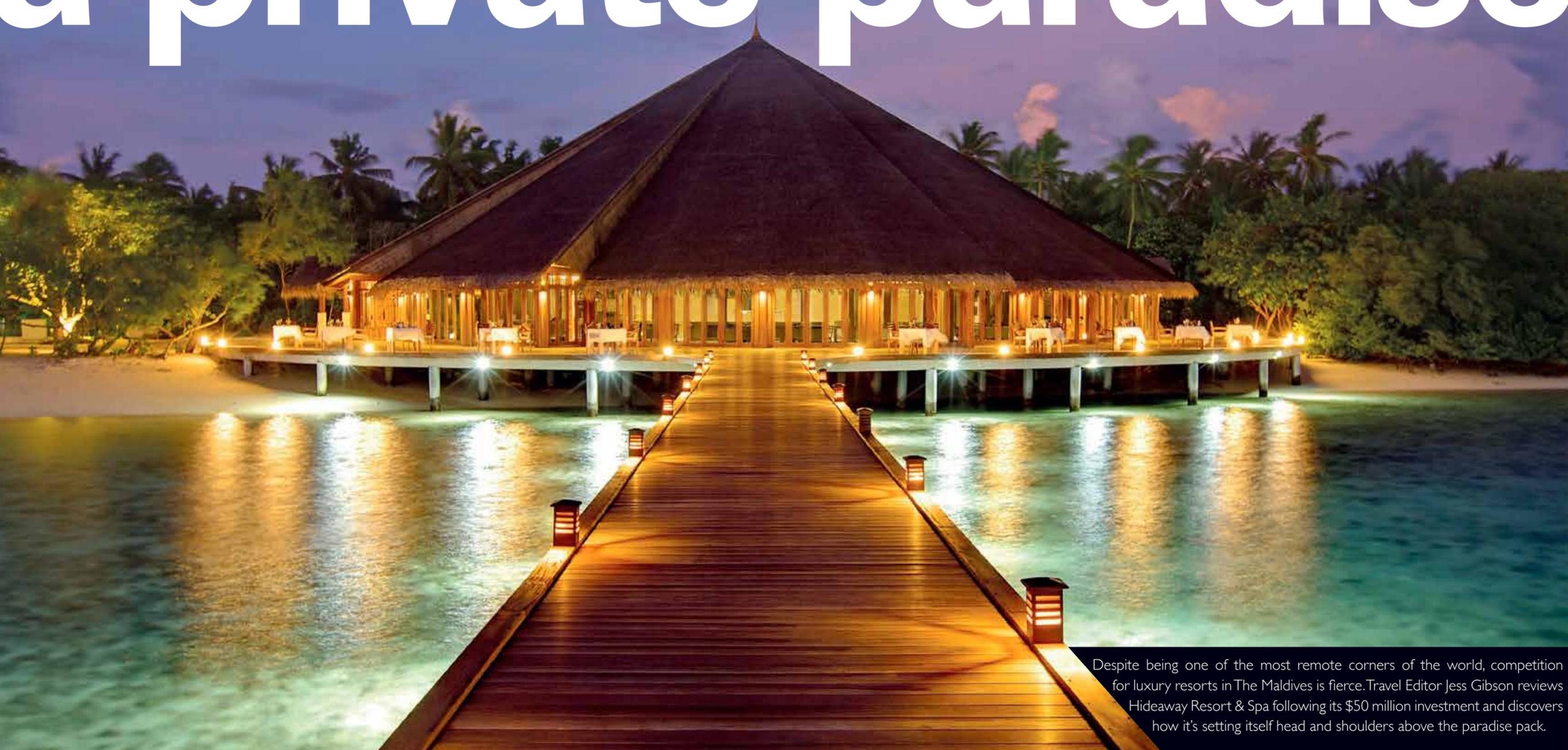


# a private paradise



Despite being one of the most remote corners of the world, competition for luxury resorts in The Maldives is fierce. Travel Editor Jess Gibson reviews Hideaway Resort & Spa following its \$50 million investment and discovers how it's setting itself head and shoulders above the paradise pack.



Words: Jessica Gibson

Dhonakulhi is an island for the A-listers. It's an island for those that don't want to be seen or heard. Leave your suits in the wardrobe and your ties in the drawer (heck, you can even leave your shoes behind if you want to). Hideaway Resort and Spa is all about casual luxury on an island of outstanding natural beauty. Nobody is dressing to impress because this island is all about how you feel, not how you look.

The resort has a total of 108 villas across eight different room categories, which include both beach and water villas. Located on a discreet part of the island is a small group of deluxe water villas that take Maldivian luxury to the next level. Immersed on stilts in the Indian Ocean, these top category villas are the clear choice for a truly Maldivian experience.

With mirror imaged bedrooms, bathrooms and dressing rooms, the water villas have two of everything and more than comfortably sleep four. A central dining room connects to an expansive sun deck, the perfect place for unwinding in paradise surroundings. Chic double sunbeds frame the private infinity pool and to the right steps lead down to blindingly blue waters.

Hideaway Island is home to four restaurants and also offers in-villa dining. Samsara restaurant is the island's Indian and Japanese fusion eatery and hovers majestically on stilts over an idyllic up lit lagoon (be sure to visit

Samsara twice so you can try both the a la carte menu and the teppanyaki table). Matheefaru is the island's sand-floored buffet style restaurant serving up an outstanding breakfast spread as well as themed evening buffets.

Meeru Bar and Grill specialises in casual fine dining served to perfection. Think fresh ingredients, succulent seafood and wood-fired pizzas in a heavenly waterfront setting.

One of the best times of day on the island is at sunset, and Meeru Bar is the place to be. Located on the East side of the island, the beachfront bar is in prime position for spectacular ocean sunsets. Guests visiting the resort during the rainy season can expect dramatically beautiful sunsets, which make the whole ocean glow golden pink. A daily happy hour runs effortlessly in sync with the sunset hours, so you can sip on expertly shaken mango daiquiri as the sun goes down. Venture beyond the sands and you'll get to play spectator to a captivating underwater world. Pick up some complimentary snorkelling gear from the dive shop and discover the island's lush coral reefs and vivid tropical fish. Turtles can be found just meters from the beach and the coral barrier is a hub of marine life. If you want to dig even deeper, daily scuba diving excursions can be arranged from the island's dive shop with exceptional instructors and comfortable small groups.



Adrenaline junkies and big kids can find something a little more thrilling at the water sports centre.

The Hideaway Spa is the ultimate retreat on the island and an immediate sense of tranquility washes over you as soon as you step through the doors. Deep teak wood and trickling water features combine with tropical scents, to make it feel like a World away from home. Opt for a full body massage and you'll start your experience with a refreshing lemon and ginger juice and a soothing foot scrub. The highly trained

therapists can read your body and ensure that each massage is bespoke to the individual. It's a truly intoxicating experience in a phenomenal location.

Butler service comes as standard for all guests at Hideaway, which further adds to the exceptional level of hospitality on the island. From greeting you at the seaplane to unpacking your suitcase and driving you to dinner, the Hideaway butlers take care of your every wish. They're contactable 24 hours a day and couldn't be more willing to please.



[hideawaybeachmaldives.com](http://hideawaybeachmaldives.com)



This Maldivian resort offers exactly what it says on the tin. It's a true island hideaway with everything designed in mind for complete privacy and island escapism. From the magnificent water villas to exceptional food and idyllic surroundings, we can confirm it was \$50 million well spent.

Stay at the newly reopened Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa from \$1,755 USD (approx. £1,121) per night inclusive of breakfast based on two adults sharing a Deluxe Water Villa with Jacuzzi Pool. The five-star resort has also launched a 30% reduction off its room rates for holidays taken until 20th December 2015.