

Design Awards

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Best Resort



Chris Wise

W MALDIVES

BY ECO-ID, ED POOLE, AND W DESIGN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BY BELT COLLINS
SINGAPORE

This contemporary South Seas resort has 78 tented overwater villas, vast expanses of curving decks, and oversize chairs made of driftwood, all wide open to stunning beach and ocean views. The structures on the private island mix traditional Maldivian elements with modern materials, and the overall layout is meant to encourage community interaction, with an emphasis on public spaces (not that each villa doesn't come with its own infinity pool). This is straightforward, youthful design, and it's hugely appealing.

"W chose an extraordinary site and utilized it optimally." —Craig Robins

Honorable Mention

Amanyara, Turks and Caicos, by Jean-Michel Gathy, Denniston International Architects

Address Book

W Maldives

Fesdu Island, North Ari Atoll; 877/946-8357 or 011-960/666-2222; www.whotels.com; doubles from \$1,560.