

W MALDIVES APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF CUISINE, ILIAS KAFALIS

Maldives, July 18, 2016: W Maldives, a private 5 star island providing a new cutting edge, contemporary lifestyle experience and an exclusive escape, is pleased to announce the appointment of Ilias Kafalis as its new Director of Cuisine, overseeing five vibrant dining venues at the resort.

With 15 years of experience at a vast range of international locations, Chef Ilias brings culinary expertise refined from Greece, Cyprus, France, China and Qatar. He joins W Maldives from InterContinental Hotel & Resort - Doha, Qatar.

Born in Athens, Chef Ilias graduated with a degree in Culinary Arts from the Hospitality School of Galaxidi in Greece. He started his gastronomical career in Nice, France, followed by a three year culinary journey under the helm of a 3* Michelin Chef Alain Ducasse and 2* Michelin Chef Helene Darroze. In Paris he also worked for such luxury catering companies as Potel & Chabot, Saint Clair and Fauchon Epicerie.

Chef Ilias also participated in the Greek 2011 edition of the famous cooking show TOP CHEF, where he made it through to the semi-finals. He is the author of the culinary book "*A Look on the Modern Greek Cuisine*" and has cooked for such famous people as Princess Stéphanie of Monaco, Nicolas Sarkozy and Carla Bruni, Jacques Chirac and Andrés Iniesta, an FC Barcelona professional football player.

Chef Ilias says of his appointment: "Taking the lead at W Maldives will truly mark a new beginning for me in the country. I aim to bring here my own menu of French Mediterranean cuisine with a touch of Asian and Arabic flavours. I would like to create a food culture that will concentrate on sourcing the best of the local produce and making everything we do sustainable by using the freshest and organic ingredients possible."

"We are ecstatic to have Ilias join our resort and lead our very talented kitchen talents," said Anton Birnbaum, General Manager, W Maldives. "He has tremendous experience, a very impressive resume and possesses excellent leadership and management skills."

Please join us in congratulating Ilias on his new assignment and in wishing him success with W Maldives.

Click [here](#) to explore W Maldives' dining overview.

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About W Maldives

Connect with your inner peace and go along with the pace of island life. Experience one of the 78 Escapes, either on the beachside or overwater giving you access to endless Indian Ocean views. Succumb to the dazzling blue waters, spectacular reefs and pristine sands in style and be at one with both body and soul. AWAY® Spa at W Maldives is the ultimate sanctuary for well-being with four overwater treatment villas, each with a private outdoor area and a range of treatments designed to remove all the stresses and strains of modern day city life.

About W Hotels Worldwide

W Hotels is a contemporary, design-led luxury lifestyle brand and the industry innovator with 47 hotels and retreats, including 17 W-branded residences, in the most vibrant cities and exotic destinations around the world. Inspiring, iconic, innovative and influential, W Hotels provides the ultimate in insider access, offering a unique mix of cutting-edge design and passions around fashion, music and entertainment. With 15 years of proven success, W Hotels is on track to reach more than 60 hotels by 2018. W Hotels have been announced for Shanghai, Tel Aviv, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Amman, Jakarta, Panama, Muscat, Suzhou, Changsha, Chengdu, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Shenyang, Marrakech and Brisbane, while upcoming W Retreats include Goa, Phuket, Hainan Island and Mexico's Riviera Maya.

For more information

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