

PRESS RELEASE

Savour Hidden Treasures Under the Sea as Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas Launches Underwater-Aged Wine Tastings

Voted as the world's best underwater wine cellar and restaurant, Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas has launched a new underwater-aged wine tasting experience. Taking place six metres below the Indian Ocean's surface in SEA restaurant, surrounded by near 360-degree views of the local marine life, this exclusive and private tasting sees guests sample Dom Perignon champagne that has been aged submerged in open water for 365 days.

In 2020, Anantara Kihavah's wine experts started an innovative experiment of submerging bottles of Dom Perignon 2008 vintage champagne below the ocean's surface to age for 365 days. After the sunken bottles were retrieved, the champagnes noticeably gained distinct flavour notes such as seaweed, minerals, and salinity in its taste, perfectly complementing the classic components of Dom Perignon's citrus, brioche, and nutty characters.

Now every year, a limited number of premium bottles are submerged underwater at Kihavah's house reef without enclosures and away from direct sunlight. This way, the ageing process of wine will be faster, absorbing the sea minerals and salinity while corals form beautifully on the bottles overtime.

To understand the ageing process of the sunken wines, Anantara Kihavah periodically conducts comparative tastings between an underwater-aged wine and a cellar-aged wine to determine the distinct changes in flavours and components. In addition to Dom Perignon champagnes, resort wine experts keep diversifying the varieties by including a selected number of classic wines into the list. Today there are 22 sunken champagne and wines in the reef, including underwater aged Dom Perignon Brut Millesime, Épernay, France 2012, Umbria IGT 'Cervaro della Sala' Chardonnay, Castello della Sala 2018 and Chassagne-Montrachet, Morgeot Les Fairendes VV, Francois Jouard 2014 975.

During the exclusive wine tasting oenophile's will sample underwater-aged Dom Perignon and compare its characteristics with a cellar-aged Dom Perignon champagne. All champagnes are paired with canapés and a selection of premium cheeses.

Situated in Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the resort's underwater SEA restaurant takes diners beneath the waves to the very edge of Anantara Kihavah's famed house reef where the glass curved walls offer panoramic views of tropical marine life, including turtles, manta rays and clown fish. The wine cellar has over 450 bottles from two dozen countries and SEA's underwater position enables its wine cellar to maintain cooler temperatures allowing each label to age gracefully.

The private underwater-aged wine tastings cost USD \$2,455++ for two people. Villas at Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas start from USD \$1,550++ per night with breakfast. For further information or to book visit www.anantara.com/kihavah-maldives

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About Anantara Hotels & Resorts

A luxury hospitality brand for modern travellers, Anantara connects guests to genuine places, people and stories in the world's most exciting destinations. Anantara delivers heartfelt hospitality and curated experiences at its collection of over 50 hotels and resorts in cosmopolitan cities and exotic locales.

Anantara is part of global hospitality group Minor Hotels and a member of the GHA DISCOVERY loyalty programme.

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About Minor Hotels

Minor Hotels is a global hospitality group operating over 540 hotels, resorts and residences in 56 countries, pursuing its vision of crafting a more passionate and interconnected world. As a hotel owner, operator and investor, Minor Hotels fulfils the needs and desires of today's global travellers through its diverse portfolio of eight hotel brands – Anantara, Avani, Elewana Collection, NH, NH Collection, nhow, Oaks and Tivoli – and a collection of related businesses. Minor Hotels is rapidly accelerating its global growth ambitions, aiming to add more than 200 hotels by the end of 2026.

Minor Hotels is a proud member of the Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands, and participates in the GHA DISCOVERY loyalty programme.

For more information, please visit minorhotels.com and connect with Minor Hotels on Facebook and LinkedIn.

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