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maldives

# GQ

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY **ALEX BILMES** ◊ PHOTOGRAPHS BY **SIMON EMMETT**

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**Guide** PAGE 132

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**GROUND**  
**ZERO HERO**  
ONE MAN'S  
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THE NEW WORLD  
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**CHEAP SHOTS**  
WILL TROPHY  
TOURISM  
KILL THE BIG  
GAME HUNT?

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**IT'S OFFICIAL**  
**YOU NEED**  
**NEW DENIM**  
HERE'S WHAT  
TO BUY...

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**HOW TO**  
WEAR A  
POCKET  
SQUARE

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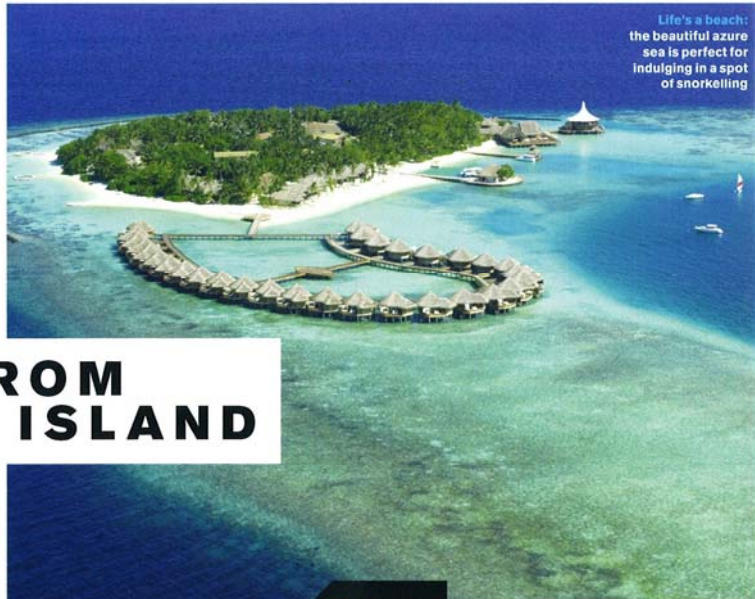
# BAROS

maldives

EDITED BY *Bill Prince*

# TRAVEL

THE BEST PLACES ON EARTH AND HOW TO GET THERE IN STYLE



Life's a beach: the beautiful azure sea is perfect for indulging in a spot of snorkelling

## NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND

Wave goodbye to grey skies and bolt straight to the blue of Baros in the Indian Ocean: cool, calm and very exclusive

BAROS IS SIMPLY MY FAVOURITE PLACE ON earth – a small turquoise world sitting quietly, minding its own business, in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Only a ten-mile speedboat ride from Male Airport, this Maldivian resort feels as though it comes from another era, one lost in time and space. In this respect it feels a bit like a Van Morrison record, something that co-exists with

the modern world rather than being a part of it. It is bliss.

Sitting on the terrace of your beach-front villa, as you gaze out at the azure sea, sipping your beer and thinking about lunch, any other world seems very far away indeed.

Gloriously peaceful, the beach villas here are sheltered by large banana leaves and palms, while the water villas have the obligatory private wooden deck for sunbathing and steps for dipping into the lagoon. But the design and the cleverly concealed lighting make these villas extra special.

In spite of the rising sea level, Maldivian resorts open all the time, although a lot of them are now catering for the Schrager-obsessed traveller, the one who wants nightclubs, chill-out bars and acres of Eastern European flesh. No bad thing, you might say, but then why

### GO INFO

**The deal**  
Stay for seven nights at Baros Maldives from £1,680 per person, based on two people sharing a deluxe villa. Includes flights from London with British Airways and speedboat transfers. [seasons.co.uk](http://seasons.co.uk)

try and turn everywhere into Ibiza when you can simply go to the Balearic island itself? No, Baros is the antithesis of the new breed of island resort and instead offers Aman-style calm, verdigris surf, extraordinary service and some of the best food in the country, courtesy of new executive chef Peter Alexander Fritz, who previously held a position with the Four Seasons Group.

Maldivian resorts were once considered to be long haul, once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Then they became exotic honeymoon destinations and recently they've become the sort of places you might go for an Easter break instead of going to Miami or Dubai.

However, the Maldives are also the sort of place you might go for a mini break or a long weekend. And now it's easier than ever to fly to Male direct, you have absolutely no excuse. Personally I can't recommend Baros too highly, although obviously I'll be highly irritated if you choose to go because then there might not be room for me.

DYLAN JONES

Something blue: it's impossible not to relax in the luxurious resort – no longer just a honeymoon haven

