

GO GREAT HOTELS

NO.7 MALDIVES BAROS ISLAND RESORT



TROPICAL TASTE

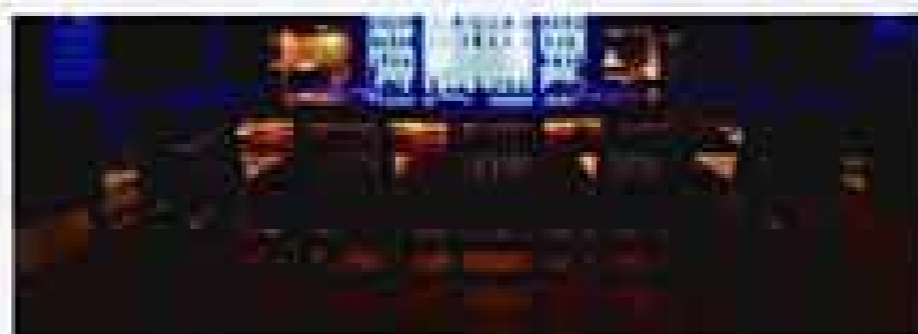
The Lighthouse Restaurant at Baros as seen from the Cayenne Grill (above), part of a trio of eateries (far left) completed by the Lime Restaurant. Meanwhile, Deluxe Villa bathrooms (left) and Water Villa bedrooms (below) offer opulence unrestrained

Out of disaster springs endeavour. The tsunami wreaked havoc in Maldives, not least on the island of Baros, covering the whole resort in two feet of water.

The owners used this as a long-overdue excuse to upgrade from a four-star hotel and, consequently, Baros is now one of the finest five-star resorts in the whole country. Maldives (you don't need the definite article) is by definition a place of slightly unreal perfection, and Baros is the apotheosis of that. The hotel is almost faultless, simply one of the best resorts in the world. The villas are just feet from the water, and it's easy to get locked into a Maldivian triangle of beach, beer, book; a twilight zone that's only worth stepping out of when you want to go and eat at one of the three extraordinary restaurants. This is a grown-ups' resort, too, and you'll see (and hear) hardly any children. "It's for romance," says the manager, and he's right. If GO has any criticisms – and to have any would be churlish – the coffee is too strong, but then you do need something in the morning to kick-start you out of your tranquillity. Otherwise you might become so accustomed to the place, you'll never want to leave. ☺

CORAL RELIEF

Round off a day's snorkelling, sailing or simply idling, by taking a seat at Baros' Sails Bar (left), stocked with fresh fruit juices, and cocktails and liquors that pack rather more of a punch



YOU NEED TO KNOW

Seasons in Style offers seven nights in a Deluxe Villa from £1,575pp, or seven nights in a Water Villa from £2,045pp, both with daily breakfast. Prices based on two sharing, including flights with Emirates and speedboat transfers. Valid from 1 September 2007. 01244 202000, www.seasonsinstyle.com; www.baros.com