

THE UNDERWATER FESTIVAL RETURNS TO LUX* MALDIVES, 16-20 APRIL 2014



5 March 2014 – LUX* Maldives is proud to announce the third edition of the 'Underwater Festival', taking place on the island from 16 to 20 April 2014. Co-sponsoring the event, the leading diving company Euro-Divers presents an array of activities ranging from scuba diving to few of the most beautiful dive sites in the world, freediving with the whale sharks, under-the-stars evening screenings with the resident marine biologist as well as free diving and apnea courses. Following a successful week of apnea courses held at the resort last November 2013, Austrian world champion freediver Christian Redl returns to LUX* Maldives to host freediving courses during the Underwater Festival.

'I am truly excited to return to LUX* Maldives and work with the Euro-Divers team for the Underwater Festival' says Christian Redl 'I am always keen to promote freediving around the world and the Maldives are the perfect settings for this event.' Christian Redl currently holds several freediving world records ranging from two distance world records under ice: 100 meters with fins and 150 meters aided by a scooter as well as a dive through a 101m long cave in Mexico.

Operating several diving centers worldwide, Euro-Divers is one the leading diving operators in the Maldives and now offers PADI freediving course throughout their diving centers in the country. Jean-Jacques Mayol, son of freediving legend Jacques Mayol, as well as English world champion freediver Sara Campbell are among the freedivers that have been working with the team of Euro-Divers in the past to further enhance the professionalism of the course.

During the Underwater Festival Euro-divers team will also present a selection of new freediving equipment recently launched by Aqua Lung. The range of equipment will be available during the courses for all the participants and will then become an official part of the daily freediving courses offered at the resort. 'The Maldives are renowned for their incredible underwater scenery and the dive sites around LUX* Maldives are listed among the best in the country' says Kai Hromadko, Regional Operations Manager of Euro-Divers Maldives 'the Festival gives us the opportunity to showcase this hidden beauty both scuba diving and freediving. It is a pleasure to welcome back Christian Redl to our team and we look forward to a great week of underwater fun!'

LUX* Maldives is an active supporter of the researches conducted to develop the South Ari Marine Protected Area and operates a Marine Biology Center to enhance guests' awareness on marine life and year-round presence of whale sharks along the back reef of the resort.

For those interested to participate and for more information please contact: stay@luxmaldivesresort.com

Underwater Festival trainers and supporters

EURO-DIVERS

Founded over 40 years ago, Euro-divers operates diving centers in some of the world's best diving destinations such as Egypt, Thailand, Mauritius and Maldives to name but a few. Euro-Divers at LUX* Maldives counts on a team of international diving instructors and is instrumental to the execution of the 'Underwater Festival'.

www.euro-divers.com

CHRISTIAN REDL

Christian Redl is regarded as one of the most successful athletes in freediving. He holds several world records including in the distance diving under ice - 100 meters. For Christian, the urge to dive longer constantly re-defines his own borders and inspires him every day. He motivates and trains his students to pursue their own goals with passion and discipline and to overcome barriers.

www.christianredl.com

FRANCESCA PANCALDI

Bringing a wealth of expertise and enthusiasm to the Festival, Italian-born Francesca Pancaldi is LUX* Maldives' resident Marine Biologist. With two Masters in Marine Science and Management, Francesca has lived and worked in Australia and Spain before discovering her great passion for the Maldives and the whale sharks.

www.luxresorts.com

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LUX* Resorts is a collection of premium hotels in the Indian Ocean where guests can celebrate island life and enjoy light living; it is the new name and consumer brand for the luxury hotels previously operated under the "Naïade Luxury Resorts" umbrella. The five resorts in the LUX* portfolio are LUX* Belle Mare, Mauritius; LUX* Le Morne, Mauritius; LUX* Grand Gaube, Mauritius; LUX* Maldives and LUX* Ile de la Réunion.

The remaining properties previously operated by "Naïade Resorts" will be part of the "Produced by" LUX* Resorts portfolio. These resorts will continue to be known as Tamassa, BelOmbre, Mauritius; Merville Beach, Grand Baie, Mauritius and Hôtel Le Récif, Ile de la Réunion as well as Ile des DeuxCocos, Mauritius, a private paradise island.

In a world where time is precious, each moment matters, experiences and emotions are more valuable than material things. The brand's Island Light concept is inspired by the nature, culture, flavours and wares of island life, presenting a true taste of Mauritius, La Réunion and the Maldives. Clear rather than cluttered, free rather than formal, spontaneous rather than predictable, LUX* Resorts are simpler and fresher, lightening, brightening and heightening the island resort concept.