

For Immediate Release

Soneva Gili addresses environmental issues before rescheduling opening

Bangkok, March 2005: Soneva Gili Resort in the Maldives, which suffered damage from the December 26 tsunami, has deferred its planned re-opening by one month, until 01 June 2005.

As the Maldives' first all-over-water resort, originally completed just three years ago, Soneva Gili was closed following the tsunami so that restoration and additional development could take place. Much of the building materials on hand at that time were lost to the Indian Ocean. With a strong commitment to clients holding bookings and to the resort's staff, a re-opening schedule was initially put at 01 May.

The resort's commitment to the environment included sourcing timber only from certified renewable forests. A Boeing 747 cargo plane chartered by the resort to deliver timber and building material from New Zealand, arrived in Male at the end of February and together with almost 300 builders and craftspeople, the work began.

Due in part to the significant ecological sensitivities associated with essential services connected to the 44 over-water villas, Six Senses Spa and bar/restaurant, plus an extraordinary Private Reserve complex, the manpower has not been able to keep to the restoration schedule. Additional building materials and supplies that were not included in the original shipment have also needed to be ordered.

"Re-opening the resort if there is still major work in progress, is not an option for us," said Area General Manager, Stephen Antram. "Premium guest experiences are paramount to the Soneva Resorts brand, which is evidenced by the overwhelming repeat loyalty that we experience at both Soneva Gili and its sister Maldives property, the flagship Soneva Fushi - which remains fully operational".

Every effort will be made to accommodate Soneva Gili reservations at Soneva Fushi during the restoration period, for which free seaplane round-trip transfers from Male will be arranged; or current reservations will be honoured following the re-opening after June 1st.

(ends)



Soneva Gili's over-water bar and restaurant,
which had no damage resulting from the tsunami.

Download a high resolution copy of this photo from
http://www.sixsenses.com/primage/bar_evening4.jpg

Editor's Note:

Six Senses is a Resort and Spa Management and Development Company established in 1995, which owns the award-winning Soneva Fushi Resort in the Maldives and manages properties under the brand names Soneva Resorts, Evason Hideaways and Evason Resorts.

***Soneva Resorts** are committed to offer luxuries of the highest international standard in an environment that nurtures the indigenous feel in design, architecture and service; fusing nature with guest experiences to create - Intelligent Luxury*

***Evason Hideaway** identifies the boutique category of the Evason brand, where attention to detail and focus on the reality of the destination together with modern architecture support the theme - Innovative Style.*

***Evason Resorts** offer a greater number of accommodations than Evason Hideaways, while maintaining individual design personalities, generous architectural proportions and spirited guest experiences, supporting the theme - Redefining Experiences*

***Six Senses Spas**, a key element of all Six Senses properties, offer a wide range of holistic wellness, rejuvenation and beauty treatments for 'Balancing Senses', administered under the guidance of expert therapists.*

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