

The Telegraph

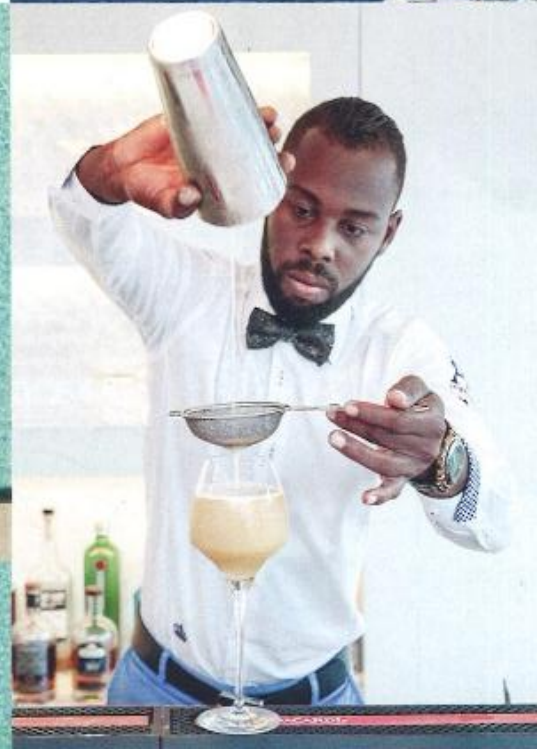
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SPECIAL ISSUE

OUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S HOT IN 2017

From luxury lodges and beautiful beaches to sybaritic spas and splendid castles, we reveal the most fabulous places to visit next year



The BEACH BOLTHOLES

THE OPULENT ATOLLS

The Maldives

There are now more than 100 resorts in the Maldives – and this year there will be a large number more in the luxury sector. For total escapism, the **Four Seasons Private Island Maldives at Voavah** is probably the ultimate playground for sea-lovers. Close to one of the greatest spots in the world for seeing manta rays, this exclusive-use pancake of sand in Baa Atoll comes with seven bedrooms, a dive centre, a spa and 62ft motor yacht. If striking architecture appeals, the 77-villa **St Regis Maldives Vommull Resort**, which opened in Dhaalu Atoll last month, takes its design cues from the ocean, with a dramatic whale-shark-inspired bar, a spiral-shell library and a lobster-look spa. Or for some nightlife with a difference, the 25 overwater villas at the new **Soneva Jani** resort (right) come with retractable roofs for stargazing. Set inside a three-and-a-half-mile private lagoon on Medhufaru, in the uninhabited Noonu Atoll, its treats include an overwater cinema, a meditative maze and deli-rooms with complimentary chocolate, ice cream, cheese and charcuterie.

Four Seasons Private Island Maldives at Voavah, from £38,600 per night; fourseasons.com. St Regis Maldives Vommull Resort, doubles from £1,400; starwoodhotels.com/stregis. Soneva Jani, doubles from £1,500; soneva.com

