

travel

weekly

Your number one

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TRADE RALLIES FOR NEPAL

More than £250,000 raised in days;
agent tells of text from Everest page 5

JOBS ► **PAGE 59**



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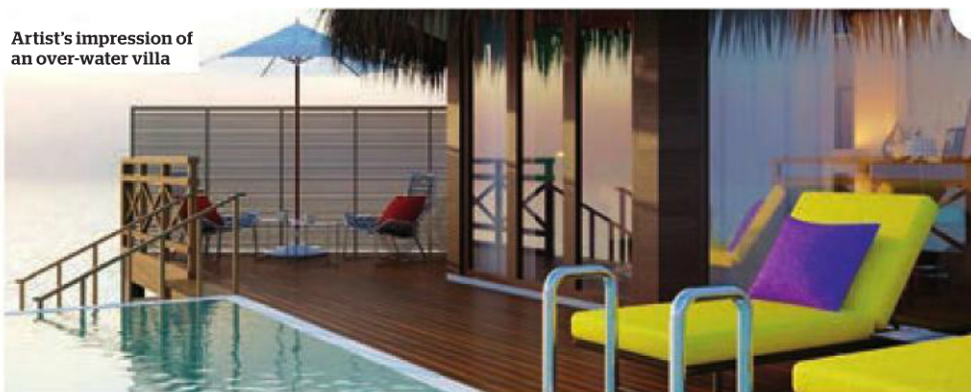
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PICTURE: UNITED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



HOTEL NEWS YOU CAN USE

Artist's impression of an over-water villa



Accor to open Mercure villa resort in Maldives in 2016

Rebekah Commene

Mercure Hotels will open a 68-villa resort in the Maldives next year.

The Mercure Maldives Kooddoo Resort, located in the Gaafu Alifu Atoll in the Indian Ocean, will be built using local materials.

Forty-three of the villas will be over-water, with the other 25 along the beach.

The operator claimed the property will be the only Maldivian beach resort directly accessible by domestic aircraft, without the need of a transfer by boat.

Facilities will include an all-day restaurant, lobby lounge, pool and pool bar, sunset bar, spa and gym

as well as a range of watersports, including a dive centre.

Accor Asia Pacific has been appointed to manage the resort by investment company Pristine Island Investments.

"We are thrilled to announce our first Mercure hotel in the Maldives at a time when the region is enjoying excellent growth," said Michael Issenberg, chairman and chief executive at Accor Asia Pacific.

"The Mercure resort will provide great options for travellers looking for world-class accommodation in

the middle of this unspoilt lagoon and we look forward to working with Pristine to bring these exciting projects to fruition."

The Maldives tourist board reported a record 120,500 visitor arrivals in February. Visitors from Europe account for 49% of arrivals to the Indian Ocean destination.

mercure.com

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Number of
over-water villas
at Mercure
Maldives
Kooddoo

Preferred rebrands and splits properties into five collections

Preferred Hotel Group has rebranded and split its 650 properties into five collections.

The luxury sales and marketing consortium has changed its name to Preferred Hotels & Resorts.

The five collections are called Legend, LVX, Lifestyle, Connect and Preferred Residences.

The Legend collection covers the top end of the portfolio, including 60 luxury hotels, such as The K Club in Ireland.

Properties in the LVX range, such as the ME hotel in London, are in popular city-break destinations.

The Lifestyle category covers hotels that offer more family facilities and are in destinations such as the Himalayas and Beijing.

Connect is targeted at business travellers, while the Preferred Residences properties are standalone, private residences.

The group officially launched its rebrand in London last week.

preferredhotels.com



The K Club



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