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Monthly Unique Users	67,000
Value	£2,800

## MINIVIEW: A story of sustainable design inside Heritance Aarah, Maldives

The recently opened Heritance Aarah resort was the first property to be awarded gold for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. *Hotel Designs* takes a peak inside the sustainable masterpiece...

Opened in September 2019 in the Raa Atoll of the Maldives, Heritance Aarah has not sacrificed style or design in its quest to become the most sustainable hotel in the region.



The resort is owned and managed by Aitken Spence Hotels, which currently operates 21 hotels and resorts across Sri Lanka, Maldives, Oman and India, which are reflected under the Heritage, Adaaran and Turyaa brands.



Image credit: Heritage Aarah

Four years in the making, the 150-key Maldivian resort shelters a design scheme that compliments the uninterrupted views that stretch across the horizon. The overall aesthetic of the resort follows a strict approach of sustainability. With the aim to outshine other luxury hotels in the area, the hotel has implemented components such as fuel-saving generators, energy-saving LED lighting, water-saving fixtures and energy-efficient air conditioning.



Image caption: Beach Villa, complete with energy-saving technology | Image credit: Heritage Aarah

These operational achievements, married with thoughtful design, enabled Heritage Aarah to become the first ever property in the Maldives to be awarded the internationally recognised Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification, which complies with the US Green Building Council rating system and is awarded to properties that save energy, water and resources; generate less waste; and support human health.

"We are honoured that Heritage Aarah has been presented with numerous accolades after just a few months of opening," said Stasshani Jayawardena, Executive Director of Aitken Spence PLC and Chairperson of Aitken Spence Hotels. "Aitken Spence Hotels are known for distinction in the culinary field and Heritage Aarah's 11 dining and drinking outlets introduces guests to flavours from across the world.



“Furthermore, our strategies to expand are led by guests’ expectations and design- led refurbishments to enrich the experience at our properties. A key priority is to ensure our resorts contribute positively to protect and preserve the environment and the ecosystems we operate in so we are proud that Heritance Aarah has been named as the first LEED Gold certified property in the Maldives.”



Image caption: Beach Villas are sheltered by authentic thatched roofs | Image credit: Heritance Aarah



Image caption: The interiors of one of the Ocean Villas | Image credit: Heritance Aarah

The resort’s 150 villas allow guests to wake up either atop of the turquoise ocean or beside it on the soft, sun-drenched shores – either way, the ocean is never far away. The intimate villas and suites, each with thatched roofs and calming interiors, seamlessly blend indulgent comforts with traditional aesthetics, adding a further layer to the unique sense-of-place.

Scattered around the property are the dynamically designed, contemporary F&B areas. The six restaurants and five bars, which have collectively won a total of 130 medals, house open-air dining options to once again frame the postcard-perfect views.



Image caption: The interiors inside Falhu Bar, one of the 11 F&B options in the resort | Image credit: Heritage Aarah

The Medi Spa, with six treatment rooms, is situated above tranquil lagoon waters. Its scaled-back design not only compliments the laid-back luxury approach of the resort, but also allows nature in to offer a holistic wellness experience.



Image caption: The main pool | Image credit: Image caption: The interiors inside Falhu Bar, one of the 11 F&B options in the resort | Image credit: Heritance Aarah

Like all hotels at the moment (in all sectors), Heritance Aarah is feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic – and recently [released a statement on its website on this](#). In these no-doubt turbulent times, one thing is as clear as the waters that surround Heritance Aarah: the luxury nest, situated in one of the world's most desired far-flung destinations, is waiting to welcome its next sea plane of luxury travellers (whenever that may be).

*Main image credit: Heritance Aarah*