

The **MALDIVES** nobody will talk about P.46

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# ISLANDS

# Our Favorite

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# escapes

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## For the Wild Life

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A baby kangaroo bounds on comically large feet through my shadow and into his mama's pouch. The mother glances at me as if to say she's sorry. Hundreds of her friends graze around me. And here I stand, holding a glass of champagne. "More?" asks our guide, Harley, a staffer at Southern Ocean Lodge. A wallaby catches my eye, leans back and pounds his chest to show off. Everything but the champagne glass is untamed. From where I stand the lodge appears to be teetering on a sea cliff while being sprayed by the thunderous sea. Koalas and rare birds linger outside its doors. Sea lions play downstairs in Seal Bay. "More champagne?" repeats Harley. I shouldn't, but I do. The mama kangaroo looks at me, then turns away. She seems to think I've gone wild. — KATE PARHAM

