





LIFE AT ITS FINEST

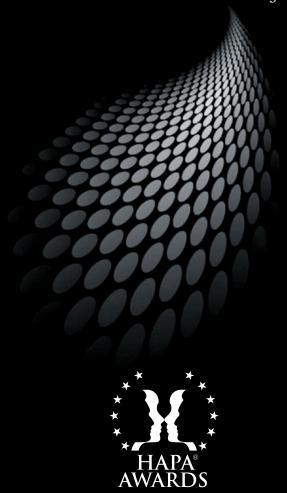
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HOSPITALITY ASIA PLATINUM AWARDS (HAPA) recognizes and rewards the crème de la crème of the hospitality industry at all levels. Focusing on the people who strive ceaselessly to give guests a hospitality experience bar none, this signature soiree has become a much-anticipated event for all players and businesses who work within the hospitality industry. HAPA, dedicated to recognizing and rewarding personalities and establishments who have shown drive, dedication and passion for excellence. The Award Categories are as diverse as the industry it serves, with personality awards dedicated to service excellence and leadership, to categories ranging from the best experiences to be had in travel, golf, spa, food and entertainment. The Oscars of Hospitality is held annually, with Malaysia and Regional countires taking it in turn to host the event.

Trials and Tribulations

There is always considerable buzz at Hospitality Asia when a new edition of the magazine is completed. It is the result of a lot of hard work, attending functions, interviewing personalities, learning about the latest technology trends and, all the new gadgets and concepts developed to help improve service standards in the industry.

From talking to key personalities in the



hospitality industry, I sense that most people are generally optimistic about 2018. The total number of new hotels opening in Kuala Lumpur for example, would suggest lots of optimism for the year. Four Seasons Place Kuala Lumpur, W Kuala Lumpur, Banyan Tree Hotel and Residence,

Banyan Tree Signatures Pavilion Kuala Lumpur, Kempinski Kuala Lumpur, The RuMa Hotel and Residences and Movenpick Hotel and Convention Centre KLIA are all opening in 2018 amongst others. Other cities across Asia are developing just as quickly and we have highlighted some of the latest hotel openings in the region in this issue.

The hospitality industry is noted for it's ability to transition. Many exciting new restaurants, cafés and bars have opened or are in-progress and we bring you the latest developments on well-established and iconic outlets across the region.

Another very noticeable trend is the rapid growth of online news and information which is sourced via social media. Hospitality Asia likes to set trends rather than follow them and we are currently developing plans to disseminate information to you as quickly as possible. You can expect more online listings in future.

On the culinary front, we are delighted to share with you the latest news on an all Asian-developed dining

concept that is rapidly developing and taking its Balinese-inspired cuisine to the world – Naughty Nuri's proclaims to have 'possibly the best ribs in the world' and we talked to Peter Khor to discover more about their secrets and impressive plans for expansion in our cover story.

Also highlighted are some of the exciting No Address Society (NAS) dinners we have convened

for our nomadic members over the past few months. These exclusive dinners provide opportunities for hospitality entrepreneurs to meet other like-minded professionals and business owners.

We are also proud to introduce HAPA's new division, The A.R.T Lab by HAPA – a new pilot programme focusing on elevating service standards and hospitality skills. We are privileged to be collaborating with the region's F&B Associations to develop new training programmes that is uniquely crafted to meet specific hospitality industry standards. Our panel of trainers are experienced industry experts who have 'been there, done that'. The A.R.T Lab by HAPA is now open to all hospitality establishments to sign up for training.

Lastly, our highly anticipated HAPA Malaysia Awards Series is currently ongoing, with our team of auditors working diligently to complete their audits by the end of May. The Awards Presentation Gala Dinner will be in support of the Children's Cancer Ward at University Malaya Medical Centre Kuala Lumpur. The Awards dinner will be held at one of Kuala Lumpur's impressive new hotels in November 2018.

Till our next edition, enjoy reading this issue of Hospitality Asia!

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Founder / Publisher

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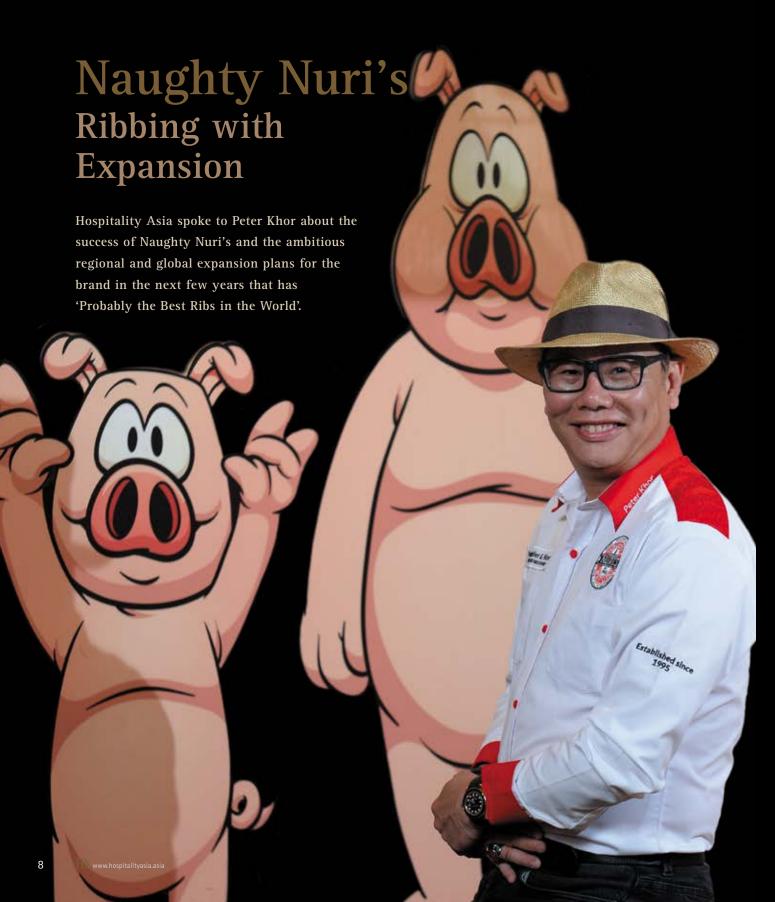






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he acclaimed Naughty Nuri's Balinese barbecue restaurant and bar, best known for its signature ribs, recently embarked upon a regional expansion programme with the opening of its first outlet in Thailand in the bustling Patong Beach precinct on the resort island of Phuket.

Within weeks of opening in Patong, the 500-seater restaurant has already impressed the taste buds of diners from all around the world and became TripAdvisor's number one dining destination along the very busy beach and, also been rated the island's fourth best restaurant within the first 2 weeks of opening (this goes up and down). This is guite a feat for such a new outlet and, the envy of every restauranteur.

While such an accomplishment may surprise some, it's part of a well-orchestrated strategy being rolled out from Kuala Lumpur. Now the Naughty Nuri's brand is expanding with a variety of business partners benefitting from this growth.

Roadside Warung

Naughty Nuri's is the brainchild of Isnuri Suryatmi (Nuri) from Bali and her late American husband, Brian Aldinger who first established their roadside stall just north of Ubud in Bali back in 1995. It was an instant success that was well patronised by the locals, global travellers staying in the Balinese hill retreat and, celebrities who dined there including actresses Julia Roberts and Tan Sri Dato' Michelle Yeoh plus celebrity television chefs Anthony Bourdain and Martin Yan.

The original outlet was opened by the couple as not only



We create Instagrammable moments and social media is vital for our marketing efforts!

this meant a bit of smoke from the sizzling barbecue, a bit of noise from people talking and laughing and being greeted by enthusiastic staff with the signature 'oink, oink' as new quests arrived.

The original warung location remains a modest shack open to the road, with a corrugated iron roof and with walls decorated with old posters, framed photos and old Balinese knick-knacks. There is an outside grill next to a tub of barbecue sauce which is the essential and 'secret' ingredient for the restaurant's signature ribs.

The setting is very Balinese where patrons enjoy the friendliness and casual atmosphere. There is a sense that it has all been thrown together; very relaxed with a take it or leave it approach. However, like all great dining concepts, the kitchen and restaurant team pride themselves in what they do and take a very professional approach to everything that happens in the kitchen and front of house.





The famous ribs are a symphony of flavours with the meat meticulously marinated with fruits like papaya and pineapple to naturally tenderise them and the sauce is prepared in an age-old fashion with Balinese spices to ensure the essential and unique flavours are retained.

Winning Concepts

Another patron at Naughty Nuri's in Ubud was Malaysian Peter Khor whose hospitality background ensured an astute eye for good products. He commented, "I visited Bali regularly and heard of Naughty Nuri's and went along there because I was hungry and, naturally, I loved ribs. When I first visited, I saw the queue to get a table and my hospitality background told me immediately, this is a very good sign."

He tasted the succulent ribs and instantly loved them and also he enjoyed the fantastic relaxed vibe where people from Bali mixed freely with diners from all around the world. On his subsequent visits; he noticed it was the same routine but it was always the queue to get in that intrigued him and made him think about the prospect of getting a slice of the Naughty Nuri's action.





Peter saw a lot of his early life in the simple Naughty Nuri's warung setting. "I come from a humble background having grown up in Kuala Kangsar. I left home when I was just 17 years old with no real plan apart from seeking a better life in the big world beyond the northern Malaysian town. My first job was in Singapore getting sweaty and dirty in a steel factory. I thought to myself, there has to be a different and less arduous way to make money and a better life elsewhere," he reflected. He then moved into the hospitality industry as a humble waiter but quickly realised that to go anywhere in business, he needed some credentials so he enrolled in a six-month hospitality course at Stamford College back in Kuala Lumpur.

Now armed with qualifications, the young graduate started work at the Ming Court Hotel (now the Corus Hotel) and within five years, he had worked his way up to be in charge of the hotel's front desk. This was a position that required multi-tasking, being able to think on your feet and to constantly strive to ensure guests were happy all the time. "This was a time when you needed to have the information stored in your brain so that when a guest wanted a restaurant recommendation or the address of a shop or how to get to the airport, you needed this information at your fingertips. Then, there was no such thing as the internet or Google Maps for assistance," he explained.



He added, "While it was a stressful job, it made me a stronger person and it was an incubator for understanding people which is something that's very important in operating a business."

After becoming a regular at the original Naughty Nuri's in Ubud, a plan was hatched and the owners were approached by Peter Khor and his business partners to introduce the concept into Malaysia. After protracted discussions and negotiations regarding the 'right to take the ribs', the hardworking Malaysian team first introduced Naughty Nuri's to Malaysia in December 2014 with the long-term aim to take it globally eventually.

Ribs International

Peter Khor is the Founder and driving force behind Ribs International. In Malaysia, the first outlet was Naughty Nuri's Desa Sri Hartamas followed by SS15 Courtyard (Subang Jaya), Life Centre (Jalan Sultan Ismail), Atria Shopping Gallery and Georgetown, Penang (Jalan Burma).

All these outlets have the signature rustic warung setting, so typical of the Balinese outlet with much of the furniture made from recycled materials.

Each outlet has similarities with each other but each has its own different character and a different clientele. It is important for the management team of Naughty Nuri's to recognise this and tweak each outlet to accommodate the needs of different customers and market segments.

One of the main reasons people come to Naughty Nuri's is the Naughty Nuri's 1995 Signature BBQ Spare Ribs which many diners proclaim to be 'Probably the Best Ribs in the World'.

Other chef recommendations include Babi Guling A' la Naught Nuri's which is offered as a half piglet or a whole piglet. Each outlet has the opportunity to develop other Balinese, Asian and fusion dishes to satisfy their specific clientele with other popular specialty dishes including BBQ satay lilit, Grilled Hogs Platter, the Notorious Beef Short Ribs, Indonesian style Nasi/Mee Goreng and Naughty Nuri's BBQ Pork Chop.

Drinkers can also select from a special Naughty Drinking Buddies selection including Naughty Crispy Belly, Devilish Porky Cheesy Nachos, Cheesy Truffle Fries, Balinese Golden Crispy Chicken Wings and Naughty Nuri's BBQ Pork Loin. Classic mojitos, ales and wines are served along with



other beverages that are perfect for the tropics. Anthony Bourdain, came, was impressed and proclaimed Naughty Nuri's Martini to be the best Martini outside of New York!

Staff interaction and guest participation are other hallmark features of Naughty Nuri's. Diners are entertained with the Naughty Nuri's signature 'Shake Shake' dance that is an essential fun component of the Pina Colada cocktail serving.



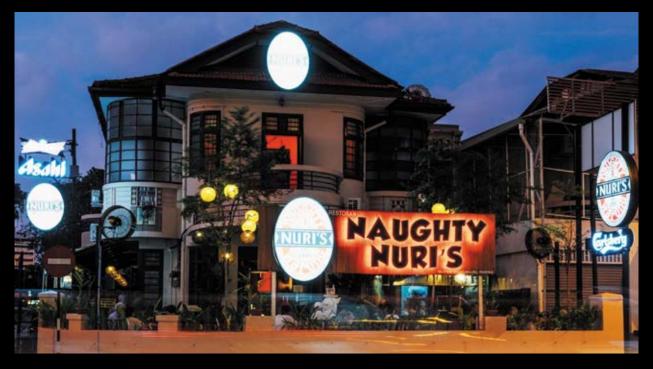


The Naughty Nuri's culture is very much about creating an ambiance where customers have an enjoyable experience in eye-catching surroundings. "We create Instagrammable moments and social media is vital for our marketing efforts," Peter added.

Going Global

The plan now is to take this Asian-made brand and concept and turn it into a global brand. The ambitious plan is to establish 40 new outlets over the next five years in four Asian countries outside of Malaysia.

The Malaysian team is working on the development of new outlets in Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Manila, Shanghai and Guangzhou in the coming years. "With a combined



population of over 40 million people in these destinations and with a high disposition to consuming pork, we see a huge untapped market," enthused Peter. The development team, armed with passion and perseverance is currently scouring the region for ten new outlet venues each with a minimum of 400m² floor space.



A strategy is well in place that should see rapid expansion over the coming years. By 2018, six outlets are planned and then 2019 with ten outlets. The growth charts are 2020 (12 outlets), 2021 (20 outlets) and then in 2022 listing on the Hong Kong Hang Seng Stock Exchange as this offers an excellent window into the important and growing Chinese market.

The plan is that after the company is listed, franchising will be initiated in the first year afterwards. By 2028, it is estimated that there will be some 200 outlets around the globe with most of the growth being driven by franchising.

Team Building

The aim is to build a team that will flourish together with the success of the brand. Peter often reminds his staff that: "We have dreams, but stop just dreaming and chase those dreams."

Peter's personal goal is to provide opportunities to those in our community who are less fortunate so they can fulfil their dreams. Nobody knows better than Peter Khor about rising up and taking opportunities when they arise. He added, "When you come from a humble background and when you have had to work at various levels in the hospitality industry from the floor upwards, you appreciate that every member of our staff has the same opportunity if they want success hard enough."



www.naughtynuris.com.my

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Albert Court Hotel Singapore Amara Hotel Singapore Amara Sanctuary Resort Sentosa Singapore

Andaz Singapore Ascott Orchard Singapore Bay Hotel Singapore Capella Singapore Carlton Hotel Singapore Changi Village Hotel Concorde Hotel Singapore Conrad Centennial Singapore Crockfords Tower Singapore Dorsett Singapore East Village Hotel Singapore Equarius Hotel Singapore Fairmont Singapore Festive Hotel, Singapore Four Seasons Hotel Singapore Furama Riverfront Singapore Gallery Hotel Singapore Goodwood Park Hotel Singapore Grand Copthorne Waterfront

Hotel Singapore Grand Hyatt Singapore Grand Mercure Roxy Hotel Grand Park City Hall Grand Park Orchard Hard Rock Hotel Singapore Hilton Garden Inn Singapore Serangoon Hilton Singapore Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium Holiday Inn Singapore Orchard City Centre Hotel 1929, Singapore

Hotel 1929, Singapore Hotel Fort Canning, Singapore Hotel Grand Pacific Singapore Hotel Jen Orchardgateway

Singapore Hotel Jen Tanglin Singapore Hotel Michael Hotel Re! @ Pearl's Hill InterContinental Singapore Klapstar Boutique Hotel Landmark Village Hotel Singapore Link Hotel Singapore

M Hotel Singapore Mandarin Orchard Singapore Mandarin Oriental Singapore Marina Bay Sands Singapore Marina Mandarin Singapore Moon 23 Hotel Singapore

Naumi Hotel Singapore Novotel Clarke Quay Singapore Oasia Hotel Singapore One15 Marina Club Hotel Orchard Hotel Singapore Orchard Parade Hotel Singapore Orchard Parksuites

Pan Pacific Orchard Pan Pacific Singapore Park Hotel Clarke Quay Park Regis Singapore PARKROYAL on Beach Road PARKROYAL on Kitchener Road

PARKROYAL Serviced Suites Singapore Peninsula Excelsior Hotel

Singapore Quality Hotel Marlow, Singapore Raffles Hotel Singapore Regency House by Far East Hospitality

Rendezvous Hotel Singapore by Far East Hospitality Royal Plaza on Scotts Shangri-La Hotel Singapore Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort & Spa

Sheraton Towers Singapore Siloso Beach Resort, Sentosa, Singapore Singapore Marriott Tang Plaza

Hotel SO Sofitel Singapore Sofitel Singapore City Centre Swissotel Merchant Court Hotel Swissotel The Stamford, Singapore

The Elizabeth Hotel The Fullerton Hotel The Patina, Capitol Singapore The Ouincy Hotel by Far East Hospitality

The Regent Singapore The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore

The Scarlet Hotel The St. Regis Singapore The Westin Singapore Villa Samadhi, Singapore W Singapore, Sentosa Cove Singapore Wanderlust Hotel

Wangz Hotel York Hotel Singapore Yotel Singapore

SPAS (MALAYSIA) Andana Spa Kuala Lumpur Be Urban Wellness

Bella Luna Sdn Bhd Biossentials Puri Spa Borneo Spa – Nexus Resort Karambunai, Sabah Chi, The Spa Danai Spa – Tanjung Bunga Penang Dewi Ayu Spa Kuala Lumpur Donna Spa Kuala Lumpur Edes Spa – The Puteri Pacific

Hotel, Johor Elysyle Spa Kuala Lumpur Embun Day Spa Kuala Lumpur

Energy Day Spa, Ampang, Kuala Lumpur FIRWellness at 3 Two Square, Petaling Jaya Gamelan Spa, Kuala Lumpur Heavenly Spa by Westin - The Westin Langkawi Resort & Spa Ishan Spa Langkawi Jari Jari Spa Kota Kinabalu.

Sabah Joioha Sna Kuala Lumnur Ka'andaman Spa Mabul M Spa Genting, Pahang Mandara Spa – The Magellar Sutera Resort Kota Kinabalu. Sabah

Mandrayu Spa – Strawberry Park Resort, Pahang
Ozmosis Health and Day Spa.

Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur Qin Spa at Flamingo by the Beach Royale Spa – Royale Bintang The Curve

Samsara Spa – Swiss-Garden Hotel & Residences Kuala Lumpur Sembunyi Spa - Cyberview Resort

& Spa Serenity Spa, Shah Alam Spa Indrani, Kuala Lumpur Spa Manja, Century Garden, Johor Spa Village, Pangkor Laut Resort, Perak

Spa Village, Taniong Jara Resort,

Terengganu St Gregory Spa – PARKROYAL Penang Resort Tatami Spa – Berjaya Hills Resort

Bukit Tinggi, Pahang Teratai Spa – Meritus Pelangi Beach Resort & Spa, Langkawi Teratak Spa. Penang Thalia Spa – Eastin Hotel Petaling Jaya, Selangor

The Asia Spa Kuala Lumpur The Frangipani Spa – The Frangipani Langkawi Resort & Spa

The Geo Spa at Four Seasons Resort Langkawi

The Sompoton Spa – Doubletree by Hilton The Sompoton Spa - Grand Lexis

Port Dickson The Sompoton Spa – Hotel Istana Kuala Lumpur

The Sompoton Spa – Intercontinental Kuala Lumpur The Sompoton Spa - Pullman

KLCC Hotel The Sna - Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur The Spa Village at The Ritz-Carlton

Kuala Lumpur The Tropical Spa @Bukit Bintang V Botanical Spa – The Andaman, a Luxury Collection Resort

Langkawi, Kedah V Botanical Spa at The Andaman Langkawi

SPAS (SINGAPORE) Amrita Spa at Swissotel The

Stamford Aramsa Spa, Singapore Auriga Spa at Capella Aviva Spa at Aranda Country Club AWAY Spa at W Singapore Ayurlly Ayurvedic Spa, Singapore Ayuthaya The Royal Thai Spa Banyan Tree Spa - Marina Bay

Sands Earth Sanctuary Day Spa Essence Vale Aroma Spa Estheva Spa at Marina Mandarin Hotel

Heavenly Spa Helio Asia Spa @ Marina Square Lagunita Spa – Laguna Golf Green Singapore Remede Spa at The St Regis

Rustic Nirvana Singapore

8 Spa Spa Vallay - Resorts World at Sentosa St Gregory Spa at Marina Mandarin The Aspara Spa at Goodwood Park Hotel The Fullerton Hotel The Spa @ Aranda, Singapore The Spa at Mandarin Oriental Singapore The Tamarind Spa Wayan Retreat Balinese Spa, Singapore

Spa Botanica at Sentosa Resort

RESTAURANTS (MALAYSIA)

Kuala Lumpur

Atmosphere 369, Kuala Lumpur Belanga Café, Mid Valley Megamall Bijan Bar & Restaurant Kuala Lumpur Bijou Kuala Lumpur Cafe Café, Kuala Lumpur Celestial Court, Kuala Lumpur Chili Padi Restaurant, Subang Jaya Chilir Stylish Chinese Cusine,

Penang ChinaHouse, Penang Cilantro Restaurant and Wine Bar, Kuala Lumpur Crystal Jade Restaurant @

Cystal Jade Restaurant @ The Gardens Dining In The Dark KL Dragon-I Restaurant Kuala Lumpur El Cerdo Kuala Lumpur El Mesón Bangsar El Mesón Desa Parkcity Front Page Sports Bar & Grill Fuego, Troika Sky Dining Fukuya Restaurant, Kuala Lumpur Geographic Explorer Restaurant Bar & Club, Kuala Lumpur

Iberico Kitchen, Petaling Jaya Imperial China Restaurant by Tai Thong Imperial City Restaurant by Tai Thong Imperial Garden Restaurant by

Imperial Garden Restaurant by Tai Thong Indonesian Corner Fast Food, Johor

Indulgence Restaurant & Living, Ipoh, Perak Kame Sushi, Kuala Lumpur

Kentra Casis New Age
Vegetarian Cuisine,
Petaling Jaya
KURA, Petaling Jaya
La Risata Ampang
La Risata Damansara
Lafite @ Shangri-La Hotel
M Marini Grand Caffe & Terrazza
Mama San Kuala Lumpur
Marini's on St

MOVIDA – C180, Cheras Selatan MOVIDA – Changkat Bukit Bintang MOVIDA – Hatten Square, Melaka MOVIDA – IOI Boulevard, Puchong MOVIDA – Sunway Giza, Petaling Jaya MOVIDA – The Scott Garden,

Jalan Klang Lama Mulligan's Pub & Bistro, Johor Nathalie Gourmet Studio Naughty Nuri's @ Desa Sri

Hartamas Neo Tamarind By Samadhi Noble House Restaurant Kuala Lumpur Noble Mansion PJ

Noble Mansion PJ Nobu Restaurant, KLCC ONE Seafood Restaurant Kuala Lumpur Oriental Pavilion Restaurant

Petaling Jaya Pak Loh Chiu Chow Restaurant Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur Passage Thru' India Kuala Lumpur Pegaga Restaurant, Selangor Pietro Ristorante Italiano KL Ploy Damansara Ploy Publika Prego @ The Westin KL Prime Steak Restaurant, Kuala Lumpur QEII The Waterfront Venue,

George Town Rama V Kuala Lumpur Renoma Café Gallery KL Sagar at Restaurant Hotel Istana Shook! Restaurant , KL Sid's Pub-Plaza Damansara SOHO Free House, Penang SOHO Gastro Pub, Penang Soju Auto City, Penang

Soju Auto City, Penang Soju Kuala Lumpur Soju Penang Soju Sunway SOULed Out Ampang SOULed Out Bangsar South SOULed Out Kala Lumpur Spring Garden KLCC by Tai Thong

Spring Garden Tropicana by Tai Thong Sushi Hinata, Kuala Lumpur Tamarind Hill By Samadhi Tamarind Springs By Samadhi Tatto, Kuala Lumpur Temptation by the Olive Tree

Group
That Little Wine Bar, Penang
The Beer Factory (Setiawalk)
The Beer Factory (Sunway Giza)
The Bierhaus (Taman Johor Jaya)
The Bierhaus (Taman Sentosa)

The Geographer Adventure Restaurant and Bar, Puchong The Limestone's, Ipoh The Mandi-Mandi By Samadhi The Ming Room Restaurant Kuala Lumpur

The Olive Tree by the Olive Tree Group The Pool, Kuala Lumpur The Roof, Petaling Jaya, Selangor The Ship Kuala Lumpur The Terrace at Tamarind Springs The Zun Kitchenette at Eu Yan

Sang Thirty8 Restaurant, Kuala Lumpur Vanity Mansion Kuala Lumpur Vansh Kuala Lumpur Vintry Cellars, Petaling Jaya Xenri Japanese Restaurant @

Wisma Elken YUZU Japanese Restaurant @ The Gardens

RESTAURANTS (SINGAPORE) 1-Altitude

Alma By Juan Amador Au Petit Salut Caffe B Capricci Italian Restaurant CÉ LA VI Singapore Chinois Choupinette Club Chinois Coriander Leaf Crystal Jade Golden Palace (Paragon)

Dolce Vita at Mandarin Oriental Flutes at the National Museum Forbidden City restaurant and bar Fratini La Trattoria Garibaldi Italian Restaurant & Bar Iggy's at the Hilton Hotel Il Lido, Sentosa Golf Club Indochine Restaurant Club Street JAAN at Swissotel the Stamford L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon at

JAAN at Swissotel the Stamford L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon at Resorts World Sentosa Lantern @ Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore Le Papillon Lei Garden Restaurant Chijmes

Le Papillon Lei Garden Restaurant Chijmes Les Amis, Singapore Majestic Restaurant & Bar Marina at Keppel Bay NOX – Dine in the Dark Odette Restaurant One on the Bund
Original Sin
OSO Ristorante
OSteria Mozza
Paddy Hills
Paradise Pavilion
PerBacco Italian Restaurant & Bar
Purijab Grill by Jiggs Kafra
Rang Mhall
Relish Burger @ Cluny Court
Restaurant Andre, Singapore
Restaurant Madame Butterfly
Rhubarb Le Restaurant
Ristorante Amarone

Saint Pierre
Sait Grill & Sky Bar by Luke
Mangan
Savanh Bistro & Lounge
Senso Ristorante & Bar
Serenity Spanish Bar & Restaurant
Shinji by Kanesaka - Raffles Hotel
Si Chuan Dou Hua Restaurant
Sky Dining @ Singapore Flyer
Sky on 57 @ Marina Bay Sands
Taste Paradise
Tawandang Microbrewery @

Dempsey
The Cliff Restaurant
The Rabbit Stash
The Song of India
Thing Song of India
TungLok Signatures
TungLok Signatures
TWG Tea Salon & Boutique
Waku Ghin at Marina Bay Sands,
Singapore
Ying Yang Rooftop Bar

EMBASSIES IN MALAYSIA

Australian Trade Commission
British High Commission
Canadian High Commission
Embassy of Belgium
Embassy of Selgium
Embassy of Grazil
Embassy of Chile
Embassy of France
Embassy of France
Embassy of Ireland
Embassy of Japan
Embassy of Mexico
Embassy of Romania
Embassy of Romania
Embassy of Sweden

of Germany Embassy of the People's Republic of China Embassy of the Republic of

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia Embassy of the Republic of Italy Embassy of the Republic of Korea Embassy of the Republic of the Philipoines

Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Embassy of the Union of Myanmar Embassy of the United States of America French Embassy

High Commission of Brunei
Darussalam
High Commission of the Republic
of Singapore

of singapore Indian High Commission New Zealand High Commission Royal Danish Embassy Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Royal Thai Embassy The Italian Trade Commission The Royal Norwegian Embassy

EMBASSIES IN SINGAPORE

Australian High Commission Chinese Embassy Embassy of Augentina Embassy of Austria Embassy of Belgium Embassy of Cambodia Embassy of France Embassy of France Embassy of Indonesia Embassy of Indonesia Embassy of Italy Embassy of Japan Embassy of Lao PDR Embassy of Spain Embassy of Spain Embassy of Thailand Embassy of The Philippines Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Embassy of United Arab Emirates

Embassy of United Arab Emirate High Commission of Brunei Darussalam High Commission of Canada High Commission of India

High Commission of Canada High Commission of India High Commission of New Zealand Saudi Arabia Embassy Taipei Representative Office U.S. Embassy

HOSPITALITY SCHOOLS (MALAYSIA)

Ascot Academy Berjaya Higher Education Sdn Bhd Cilantro Culinary Academy HELP College of Art & Technology INTI International University & College

KDU University College Tunku Abdul Rahman University College

College Kuala Lumpur Metropolitan University College (KLMUC) Limkokwing University Lincoln University College Nilai School of Hospitality &

Tourism
Olympia College (Malaysia)
RANACO Education And Training
Institute (RETI)

SEGI University Sunway University College Taylor's University College UCSI University YTL International College of Hotel Management

HOSPITALITY SCHOOLS

(SINGAPORE)
At-Sunrice GlobalChef Academy
Dimensions International College
Raffles Campus
Raffles Hospitality School
SHATEC Institutes
Singapore Culinary Institute
Temasek Culinary Academy
The Tourism Academy @ Sentosa
William Angliss Institute Singapore

GOLF & COUNTRY CLURS

(MALAYSIA)

Awana Genting Highlands Golf &
Country Resort
Ayer Keroh Golf & Country Club,
Melaka
Berjaya Hills Golf & Country Club,
Pahang
Bukit Beruntung Golf & Country

Bukit Beruntung Golf & Country Club, Selangor Bukit Jalil Golf & Country Resort, Selangor

Bukit Kemuning Golf & Country Resort, Selangor Cinta Sayang Golf & Country Resort, Kedah Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort.

Perak
Dalit Bay Golf & Country Club,
Sarawak
Damai Golf and Country Club,
Sarawak

Damai Laut Golf & Country Club, Perak Darul Aman Golf & Country Club, Kedah Glenmarie Golf & Country Club,

Selangor Horizon Hills Golf & Country Club, Johor Impian Golf & Country Club, Kajang Kelab Golf Perkhidmatan Awam, Kuala Lumpur Kota Permai Golf & Country Club,

Selangor

Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club Kulim Golf & Country Resort, Kedah

Mercure Johor Palm Resort & Golf, Johor Monterez Golf & Country Club, Selangor

Palm Resort Golf & Country Club, Johor Pulai Springs Golf & Country Club, Johor Royal Selangor Golf Club, Kuala

Lumpur Saujana Golf & Country Club, Selangor Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Golf Club,

Selangor Sungai Long Golf and Country Club, Kajang Sutera Harbour Golf & Country

Club, Sabah
Tanjong Puteri Golf Resort, Johor
Tasik Puteri Golf & Country Club,

Selangor The Mines Resort & Golf Club, Selangor Tiara Melaka Golf & Country Club,

Melaka Tropicana Golf & Country Club, Selangor

GOLF & COUNTRY CLUBS (SINGAPORE)

(SINGAPORE)
Jurong Country Club
Laguna National Golf &
Country Club
Marina Bay Golf Course
National Service Resort &
Country Club
Orchid Country Club
Safra Resort & Country Club
Safra Resort & Country Club
Seletar Country Club
Senbawang Country Club
Tanah Merah Country Club
Tanah Merah Country Club
The Singapore Island Country Club
Marren Golf & Country Club

BANK LOUNGES (MALAYSIA)

Alliance Bank Privilege Banking
CIMB Private Banking
Hong Leong Priority Banking
HSBC Premier
KFH Priority Banking
Maybank Private Banking
OCBC Premier Banking
Public Bank Red Carpet Banking
RHB Bank Premier Banking
Standard Chartered Priority Bank
The Bank of Nova Scotia Berhad
(Scotiabank)
LIOB Private Banking

BANK LOUNGES (SINGAPORE) ANZ Signature Priority Banking DBS Asia ICICI Bank

TRAVEL AGENTS (MALAYSIA)

AF Travel
Bestour & Travel
De Mawardah Travel & Tours
Discovery Overland Holiday
Dream Destination Travel & Tours
GSI Travel
Holiday Tours & Travel
Malaysian Harmony Tour & Travel
Mayflower Acme Tours
Pacific World Destination East
Sedunia Travel Services
Udara Travel & Tour
Worldspan Travel

TRAVEL AGENTS (SINGAPORE)

Air Sino-Euro Associates Travel American Lloyd Travel Services Chan Brothers City 99 Asia Travel Commonwealth Travel Service Corporation Farmosa Holiday Tours Nam Ho Travel Service Seiki Travel Shengyan Tours & Travel ZUJI Travel

AIRLINE OFFICES IN MALAYSIA

Air France Air India Air Mauritius Air New Zealand All Nippon Airways Beriava Air British Airways Cathay Pacific Airway China Airlines Emirates KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Lufthansa Malaysia Malaysia Airlines Myanmar Airways International Philippine Airlines Royal Brunei Airlines Singapore Airlines Swissair Thai International

AIRLINE OFFICES IN SINGAPORE

Air France Air India Air Mauritius All Nippon Airways Asiana Airlines Bangkok Airways British Airways Cathay Pacific Airways Continental Airlines Emirates Garuda Indonesia Gulf Air Indian Airlines Japan Air Lines KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Korean Air Lines Kuwait Airways Myanmar Airways International Nippon Cargo Airlines Pakistan International Airlines Royal Brunei Airlines Royal Jordanian SAS Singapore Saudi Arabian Airlines Sempati Air Singapore Airlines South African Airways Sri Lankan Airlines Thai International Airways

AIRPORT/AIRLINE & OTHER LOUNGES

Vietnam Airlines

Cathay Pacific Lounge, KLIA Dynasty Lounge, KLIA Golden Lounge Domestic KLIA Golden Lounge Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

Malaysia Golden Lounge Kuching, Malaysia Golden Lounge London, UK Golden Lounge Melbourne,

Australia
Golden Lounge Penang, Malaysia
Golden Lounge Perth, Australia
Golden Lounge Regional, KLIA
Golden Lounge Satellite KLIA
Golden Lounge Singapore
Golden Lounge Singapore
Golden Lounge Sydney, Australia
Kris Flyer Gold Lounge, Singapore
Chanoi Airoort

Changi Airport
Plaza Premium Lounge, LCCT
Silver Kris Lounge, KLIA
Silver Kris Lounge, Singapore
Changi Airport

ONBOARD

First Class and Business Class Flights on Malaysia Airlines

SIEM REAP Cambodia's Temple Town

With over 300 properties listed on TripAdvisor, tourism has well and truly arrived in Siem Reap, the Cambodian town adjoining the famous and ancient temple site of Angkor. Hospitality Asia checks into five different properties to provide an insight on the quality of accommodation available in this tourist town.



VERDICT

Discrete and luxurious accommodation where guests really feel at home with staff who have a genuine interest in their guests' welfare.

Restful Riverside Retreat

Java House RiverPark has only been open a year but it has already made a mark with its elevated and personalised service, chic accommodation, luxury facilities and extensive sustainable practices. With just 36 rooms and suites there's the feeling that you have the place to yourself and with two pools, there's plenty of room to relax. The silver pool (elevated and lined with silver tiles) is situated in its own serene gardens while the other is centrally-located surrounded by lush landscaping. Environmental practices are in place and staff excel in engaging with guests.

www.jayahouseriverparksiemreap.com

Stylish Shinta Mani

Constantly rated as one of the world's best hotels, the 39room Shinta Mani Angkor near the centre of Siem Reap is a designer's delight with the skilful touches of leading architect, Bill Bensley dominate in all parts of the property. The interplay of light and texture is important with the rooms being designed with bold shades of black, white and grey and walls line with dramatic black and white photos of Angkorian temples (even the ceilings have such a photo). Its community projects of giving back to the local Khmer people are also a benchmark in hospitality.

www.shintamani.com

VERDICT

Design-conscious travellers will revel in the Shinta Mani Angkor and the neighbouring Shinta Mani Shack (luxurious chic and far from a shack) and the just-opened Bensley Collection villas.



Boutique Sakmut

One of Siem Reap's latest boutique hotels is situated in a peaceful residential precinct halfway between the vibrant town and the airport. All rooms feature contemporary design and colours of the sea. Guests can dine on local dishes as well as learn to cook with the chef. Upstairs @ Siem Reap Sky Lounge is an atmospheric space available for romantic candle-lit dinners and parties. Guests can relax in the saltwater pool, work out in the gym or be pampered in the resort's spa. Infinity Spa offers an extensive range of spa and beauty therapies.

www.sakmutboutiquehotel.com



This three-storey hotel of 56 deluxe rooms is set in tropical gardens and room interiors are finished in a modern stucco finish that makes them look stylish and contemporary.



Heritage Raffles Grand d'Angkor

The Grand Hotel d'Angkor is the preferred address for heritage hounds as it's the grand colonial hotel and original luxurious property in Siem Reap. This delightful hotel was established in 1929 and soon became the place to stay for royalty, writers and movie stars. It reopened in 1997 after a sensitive restoration and refurbishment programme by Raffles. It has 131 rooms and suites with the majority opening onto their own private veranda. There are several food and beverage outlets offering an extensive range of dining experiences. The famous Elephant Bar oozes with colonial ambiance. www.raffles.com

VERDICT

This is the property for those seeking to stay in one of Asia's grandest hotels with many original heritage elements retained when the hotel was refurbished prior to it being reopened in 1997.

Colonial Victoria Angkor

The Victoria Angkor Resort and Spa is a modern hotel but built to reflect the architecture of Cambodia when it was part of the French colonial empire. Rooms are decorated in neutral tones and feature honey-coloured timber flooring and rattan furniture. Green and cream checkered soft furnishings are used and there is a spacious verandah with timber furniture. Bar l'Explorateur with its comfortable armchairs is the perfect place to relax with a 'G & T' after exploring the Angkor ruins. Dine in Le Connoisseur Restaurant with views over the Royal Garden. Healthysens Spa offers treatments such as a 30-minute Champissage Ayurvedic head, neck and shoulders massage. Facilities and services include bicycle rental, cooking classes, saltwater pool and an open-air jacuzzi. www.victoriaangkorhotel.com

VERDICT

This recreated heritage building is popular with groups who enjoy a full range of modern facilities with a heritage ambiance.



globetrotter

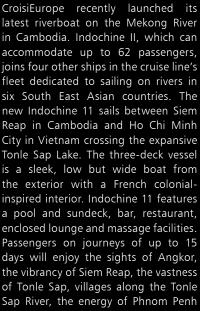






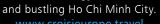
























Berjaya Soars Skyward

Berjaya Hotels and Resorts plans to launch charter flights to Kuala Lumpur to its resort on Redang Island off the Terengganu coastline with two pre-owned ATR 42-500 aircraft from the middle of the year. These charter flights would be operated by Berjaya Air Sdn Bhd and there are plans for the hotel group to purchase new ATR turboprop aircraft. This new service will greatly assist with accessibility and connectivity to the island and the air service will be extended to other Berjaya properties in Malaysia and neighbouring countries. While these aircraft can carry 50 they will be reconfigured to accommodate just 36 passengers and fly to the island from Subang Skypark. www.berjayahotel.com



Disney Friends Springtime Carnival

Experience a new level of magic this spring at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort as 100 Disney Friends celebrate the Springtime Carnival from March 15 to June 20. With the beautiful springtime carnival as the backdrop, the theme park presents the 'We Love Mickey!' night-time projection on Main Street, U.S.A. The new African-themed Karibuni Marketplace welcomes guests to adventurous Disney Friends including Judy and Nick from 'Zootopia'. More than 30 Disney Friends will present an encore of the Disney Friends Springtime Processional. Guest can go on a Disney Friends Egg Hunt to unearth 100-plus enlarged Disney character eggs in the park and hotels. Extend springtime joy by staying in a resort hotel where guests can experience the newest 740-room Disney Explorers Lodge. The hotel's international dining adventures and ambiance are enriched by 1,000 global artefacts. Guests staying at the three hotels obtain exclusive privileges. www.hongkongdisneyland.com





ontheroad

FAST AND POWERFUL HONDA CIVIC TYPE-R

www.honda.com

The new Honda Civic Type-R is the world's fastest front-wheel drive production vehicle. Powered by a 2.0 litre VTEC turbocharged engine, it delivers 305.8hp with a maximum torque of 400Nm. It is designed as a hot hatch that has a low and wide stance and a high rigidity frame. Every new Honda Civic Type-R also has a unique serial number plate attached to the centre of the console.

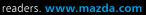


MAZDA HUMAN VEHICLE INTERACTION

The new Mazda CX-9 SUV combines engineering innovation with human-vehicle interaction. The body of this seven-seater Mazda is new and has a driver design that enables timely decision-making without driver confusion or stress. Its Mazda

Connect Integrated Infotainment System provides effortless communication with the outside world. It also features Mazda's 'I-Activsense', a series of advanced safety

technologies using milliwave cameras and







IMPRESSIVE ITALIAN ICON

Italian-designed Maserati Levante SUV is available in four different driving modes from normal to

off-road, sport and, control and efficiency. Powered by a 3.0 litre turbocharged diesel engine it has an output of 275hp at 4,000rpm and 600Nm torque. Its top speed is 230km/hour and reaches 100m in just 6.9 seconds. Its interior has a design focus with an 8.4" touchscreen display that pairs with the Maserati Control Plus Infotainment System.

Two models are offered – Sport or Luxury and both come with a three-year unlimited

warranty. www.maserati.com



windingdown



ROYAL TREATMENT AT RAFFLES

Raffles Spa in the Raffles Hotel Le Royal Phnom Penh provides a balance between exertion and relaxation in achieving a feeling of inner tranquility and rejuvenation. Traditional Khmer, other Asian and modern treatments are offered. There are male and female wet areas with saunas, steam rooms and jacuzzi as well as five treatment rooms where Dermalogica products are used. Le Royal Signature Khmer Massage of 90 minutes is inspired by Asian therapies featuring Khmer therapeutic massage style known as chad ta shai. Vigorous firm pressure point massage that involves kneading and twisting muscles. A heated herbal compress comprising turmeric, ginger and lemongrass is also applied. Alternatively, try the 'rescue and release' massage for either 60 minutes or 90 minutes with a focus on overworked or tense muscles especially a stiff neck and sore or tight shoulders. www.raffles.com

ISAN SANCTUARY

and Convention Centre in northeast Thailand features contemporary interior design and soothing colours of turquoise, grey and white, the spa treatments draw upon ancient traditions of Isan culture. Guests can select treatments ranging from Thai massage and herbal warps to facials as well as reflexology in a dedicated foot treatment room. The most recognised treatment is the AVANI Touch of 90 minutes indulgent bliss. Happy hours treatments are also offered and include a complimentary 30-minute body scrub to accompany the signature treatment. The spa is also the only one in this part of Thailand to feature a sauna in the men's changing room and a steam



SERENITY AT SHINTA MANI SPA

After a day of temple touring, there's nothing more serene than the Shinta Mani Spa Signature Massage of sixty minutes. This most popular massage combines a selection of four aromatic body oils – relaxing, detoxification, contouring and energising. Therapists blend various modalities and special techniques to alleviate pain, reduce discomfort and promote relaxation. Other treatments include traditional Khmer and shiatsu massage, hand and foot care, facials and, body wraps such as the Khmer herbal wrap incorporating turmeric, ginger and rice for exfoliation. The Shinta Mani Signature Experience is three hours of bliss and includes a foot scrub, clay and salt scrub, a massage and a balancing facial. www.shintamani.com



HOLISTIC JOURNEY AT NAVASANA SPA

The Navasana Spa in the Outrigger Koh Samui Beach Resort uses local healing traditions and wisdoms together with global therapeutic treatments that purify, rejuvenate and reward the body while restoring natural equilibrium. Its inspirational Zen architecture and décor enables spa-goers to drift off on the soothing lullaby of its whispering waters and soothing breezes flowing onshore from the Gulf of Thailand. The Navasana Signature Massage of 90 minutes combines Iomi Iomi Hawaiian techniques with traditional Thai massage. Firm continuous strokes and Thai yoga unlock energy flows and help loosen tense muscles. www.outrigger.com

THE SPA WORLD REFRESHED AT AVANI PATTAYA

The spa in AVANI Pattaya Resorts and Spa provides a refreshingly different spa world; one that feels pure, contemporary and totally relaxing. Treatments focus on exactly what the customers require in a setting that maximises the beauty of simplicity. Treatments are based upon the guests' desired outcome and designed to boost, calm, balance and purify. Therapies are enjoyed with a personal touch, so guests can lay back and relax with their aroma, music and lighting of choice. The AVANI Signature Touch Massage combines a soothing oil massage with stretching techniques that focus on the shoulders, upper arms and upper body sides. The spa is open from 10am until 10pm daily. www.avanihotels.com





ANGSANA SPA LUANG PRABANG

Discover sensory pleasures at this spa located in the gracious gardens of the Angsana Maison Souvannaphoum in the former Lao royal capital of Luang Prabang. This boutique spa offers a refreshing blend of treatments based upon aromatherapy techniques from both the East and the West. A classic Thai treatment of two hours delivers a massage of delicate stretching of the body to improve mobility and flexibility. Therapists use massage techniques of palming and thumbing and no oil. www.angsana.com

Naughty Nuri's Phuket The Best Ribs In Phuket



Naughty Nuri's, the renowned Balinese BBQ restaurant and bar, especially loved for its fabulous ribs recently had a remarkable grand opening of their first outlet in Thailand.



www.naughtynuris.com.my

aughty Nuri's first outlet in Thailand opened in mid-January at a glamorous event attended by hundreds of local celebrities plus Malaysian and Indonesian dignitaries who travelled to the resort island for grand opening night of dining, drinking and dancing to outlet's resident band.

This spectacular garden setting restaurant has a prime downtown location on the busy Rat U Thit Road leading into the bustling beachside resort town. Naughty Nuri's is an expansive two-storey property with immediate road front access that provides maximum exposure for the restaurant.

The 500-seater restaurant features a rustic warung-styled architecture with raw and exposed timber which fits in well with its Thai beachside setting. Patrons arrive via a drive-up entrance with a street-front sit-up bar immediately overlooking the bustling street. Guests can enjoy a drink and snack or pre-dinner beverage on the open verandah and select from house specialties such as Signature colada offered in five flavours (classic, strawberry, passionfruit, raspberry and mango) and served in a coconut shell.

Naturally, the big attraction is the Naughty Nuri's 1995 Signature BQQ Spare Ribs which many diners proclaim to be possibly the best ribs in the world. Diners on the opening night tucked in generous portions of the succulent ribs along with many other signature dishes and beverages.

Naughty Chef's recommendations also include babi guling a 'la is offered as a half piglet or a whole piglet. Other specialty dishes include BBQ satay lillit, grilled hog platter, The Notorious beef short ribs, Indonesian style nasi mee goring and Naughty Nuri's BBQ pork chop.

There is also a selection of tapas, soups, Balinese specialty dishes, salads, snacks, sides and desserts such as Mount Buleleng inspired sizzling bacon chocolate cake and fire glazed bananas. Drinkers can also select from a special Naughty Drinking Buddies selection including Naughty crispy belly, devilish porky cheesy nachos, cheesy truffle fries, Balinese golden crispy chicken wings and, Naughty Nuri's BBQ pork loin.





Not surprisingly, when the Italian Trade Commission was seeking a smart venue to showcase The World Week of Italian Cuisine, he selected the just-opened Mosto Wine Bar and Restaurant and invited Chef Roberto Dal Seno to bring a modern interpretation of Italian street food to Malaysia.



Italian Flair at Mosto

osto's chefs continue the tradition in the restaurant's prestigious ground floor location of ONE KL within a few metres of the city's landmark Twin Towers. In the best traditions of Italian cuisine there is a very tempting selection of hams, cheeses, sausages, pasta, risotto, mains and desserts on the compact menu. Cocktails, beers and mostly Italian wines complement the food with excellent 'wine o'clock' sundowner promotions on wine and beer. Enjoy drinks and snacks on the openfronted terrace or within the main air-conditioned dining space dominated by chilled racks of wine, an imported meat slicer and a serious Italian coffee machine.

Start with an antipasto dish of the gran tagliere with signature cuts of cold hams and sausages plus cheeses accompanied by house-baked focaccia with honey and jam. Other dishes not to miss include risotto with sausage, red wine reduction and shaved Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, spaghetti aglio olio with roasted belly pork and, grilled pork ribs. Two classic desserts of crème caramel and molten chocolate cake with vanilla ice cream are the highlights on the dessert menu.



www.mostowinebarkl.com

Nadodi

Engaging Nomadic Cuisine

It's hard to know where to start with Nadodi as it is much more than a place to simply dine and wine. It is a culinary journey or a sensory odyssey that takes adventurous diners through southern India and the food of Kerala and Tamil Nadu plus the culinary inspiration of the northern parts of neighbouring Sri Lanka.

Il details of this journey are meticulously described by staff to guests at Nadodi @ Mayang located in downtown Kuala Lumpur within metres of the Twin Towers and immediately opposite the Australian High Commission situated on Jalan Yap Kwan Seng. An essential component of this culinary journey is the detail to which various members of the kitchen, serving and management team go to in describing each dish, wine and beverage placed before diners. And, there are quite a few dishes and drinks to describe with dégustation menus of either 13 or 15 courses served by themselves or paired with wines or cocktails.

A common thread in the dishes prepared by Executive Chef Johnson Ebenezer and his kitchen team is the hint of spice in each dish. While portion sizes are small each one is brimming with flavour and there is a real sense of anticipation with each dish. Diners are constantly asking themselves – "what is coming next and how will this dish called Sinora be served and what do they mean by the description – flaky pastry, egg podimaas and black soil?"







An exciting wine list is offered including a selection from Croatia, Lebanon, India, Germany, Hungary and Austria as well as premium wines from France, Australia, New Zealand and Italy including some organic wines and lesser-seen grape varieties such as Grüner Veltliner and Pinot Blanc.

Cocktails are as visually exciting as the dishes in being served in egg shells, seashells, science beakers, nests and bottles and on branches. One of the interesting cocktails is truffle-infused gin accompanied by bruised basil. Diners can expect the unexpected with Aiyooo cocktail being created from sous vide pumpkin scented with vodka, spices and bay leaf.

www.nadodikl.com

Paradise for Oriental Cuisine

Poised as a diners' paradise for Oriental cuisine, the Paradise Group offers gourmet menus of exceptional value in a wide variety of concepts together with a catering arm.

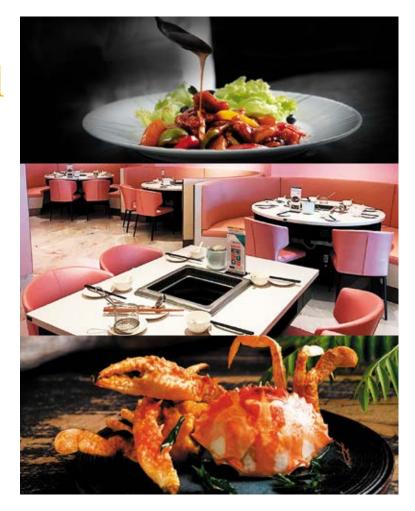
romising a sensorial experience with service from the heart, every Paradise concept immerses diners in an atmosphere that captures the finer points of Chinese culture, particularly the finest from its rich array of culinary delights. True to its mission to improve, enhance and create for its customers, the ultimate experiential enjoyment, the Paradise Group marries tradition with innovation – a match that, as they say, is made in heaven.

Beauty in the Pot

The Group's latest touch of paradise is Beauty in the Pot which offers a divine spread of culinary finesse in an enthralling setting. Diners at the ultimate high street at SkyAvenue in Resorts World Genting can savour the delicious delights at the just-opened Beauty in a Pot.

Here it's possible to savour the essence of health and beauty with every steaming pot of soup. Inspired by the culture of food for health, the hotpot concept offers nourishing soup bases that promise rich flavours coupled with abundant benefits.

Patrons can delight in a whole new experience of satisfying their taste buds



in a unique ambience. Emphasising the perfect balance of Yin and Yang, which is representative of good health, the restaurant's décor encompasses dark louvered panels with feature lights to create a casual and private dining environment suitable for all occasions.

Believing in the utmost importance of the soup base for the best enjoyment of hotpot, the culinary team devotes long hours and meticulous attention to the creation of the dense beauty of collagen soups and spicy nourishing soups. An extensive menu of fresh ingredients and homemade specialties are specially selected, creating a heavenly match with the soup. Exclusively available at Beauty in the Pot is the homemade fish tofu, which is prepared daily for the ideal melt-in-your-mouth texture.

Expect a sense of mystery and anticipation from the entrance, as guests are ushered through a walkway before arriving at the dining scene, where the journey towards true culinary gratification begins.

www.paradisefnb.com.my

MasterChef Luke Nguyen Opens in Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam House, which first opened in 1992 in a 1910-built colonial French building, has re-opened. WMC Group, which opened The Reverie Saigon Hotel in 2015 and Chef Luke Nguyen have teamed up for this exciting project.

hough the restaurant on the city's famed Dong Khoi Street retains its French colonial era façade, its interior has the same lavish design that transformed the interiors of the nearby Reverie Saigon.

Australian-born Vietnamese chef Luke Nguyen has made a name in culinary circles. When 23, he opened his first restaurant, the critically-acclaimed Red Lantern in 2002. He also operates Fat Noodle, an Asian noodle bar at The Star in Pyrmont Sydney as well as in Brisbane.

He is the author of seven cookbooks and was recently inducted into the Food Hall of Fame for his popular cooking and travel programmes televised in over 150 countries. The chef is also the host of MasterChef Vietnam series 1 and 2 and has made appearances on Gordon Ramsay's Great Escape and MasterChef Australia.

He also launched GRAIN Cooking Studio in Saigon in 2015 to offer hands-on cooking



classes where guests can experience a culinary and cultural journey through Vietnam. At Vietnam House the chef brings together the strands of his heritage, his journey of discovery in Vietnam and his career in the culinary industry. It's through his exploration of Vietnam that the chef crafted a menu that spans all the country. Familiar favourites, like banh xeo (crispy sayoury pancake filled with local produce and fresh tofu) sit alongside

elevated versions of classics such as Wagyu beef pho and Wagyu beef la lot (beef served with betel leaves, herbs and angel hair noodles).

Nguyen's Australian influences appear with fusion dishes like pork ribs slow-cooked in young coconut juice and served with carrot purée and choy sum. Seafood also plays a prominent role from char-grilled lobster in Phu Quoc pepper sauce and soft rice paper rolls with seared sesame salmon.

Located along the popular Dong Khoi Street in Ho Chi Minh City, the restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner.



www.vietnamhousesaigon.com



- Rock Bottom Kitchen + Bar − Changkat Bukit Bintang
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Goa by Hubba an Oasis of Sins and Spices

You know that any outlet branding itself as an 'oasis of sins and spices' has got to live up to the claim and the recently opened Goa by Hubba just off the lively Changkat Bukit Bintang bar strip does just that and more. What was formerly known as Bubba Ceylon has had a recent revamp to move it from generic 'comfort food' to New Indian cuisine under the direction of young and creative chef Sapna Anand.

While spicy, the food inspired by the party and resort destination of Goa is more refined and not overpowering and allows the ingredients to be tasted and not swamped with too much spice. Her beef vindaloo typifies the kitchen's direction in being prepared from fine imported Australian sirloin with tasty but moderately spiced gravy that is accompanied by fluffy white rice topped with sultanas.

Goa by Hubba is all about fun and gatherings and while the dishes are not all Goan home-style cooking, there is a good representation along with the food from Kashmir, Kerala and Mumbai. Dine on dishes served as small plates and sharing plates such as mutton floss mantao, prawns in garlic butter, grilled corn, Kashmiri lamb chops and spiced coconut prawns. Indian-inspired and unique cocktails add to the joy of dining here.

Goa by Hubba has an interior dominated by blue to represent the waters of Goa with comfortable seating in the air-conditioned interior and more casual seating along the open verandah and around the island bar. One of the entrances to the restaurant is immediately off the lobby to the Ramada Hotel where there is ample parking in an area renowned for limited parking. Goa by Hubba offers truly inspired modern Indian cuisine and the friendly space ensures the restaurant will appeal to a cross section of patrons.

www.hubba.asia or www.hubbabygoa.asia

WOW KL Whowing Tourists

Most major cities have a venue that showcases that nation's cultural attractions and in Kuala Lumpur it's WOW KL! The former Saloma Bistro at the Malaysian Tourism Centre (MaTIC) located on Jalan Ampang has been transformed into a one-stop centre for dining, arts and shows. It especially appeals to tourists and locals who want to show off their city to their friends and visitors when they're in the city. Dinner shows are especially popular and staged with the spacious restaurant and large performance stage with video wall backdrop. Guests arrive from 7pm to enjoy an extensive buffet selection of some of Malaysia's favourite dishes from salads through to satays, curries, noodles, rice and fresh tropical fruits. A selection of beverages is also available for diners to order from a compact menu. At 8.30pm guests are entertained for one hour by a troupe of dancers who perform a selection of dancers from multicultural Malaysia. These include dances of the Mah Meri Orang Asli of Carey Island, a Chinese lion dance and the East Malaysian bamboo dance plus the ever-popular blowpipe performance by an Iban tribesman. All performances are upbeat and contemporary interpretations of classical Malaysian dances. WOW KL! is a comprehensive venue proving a range of dining and drinking options. www.wowkl.my



Madrid Meets Mont' Kiara

The new 'Mega' Marta's has just replaced 'Mini' Marta's as the original restaurant has moved into much bigger premises in an out-of-the-way location at the ground level of The Signature in Mont' Kiara, Kuala Lumpur. In this Spanish restaurant, the bar is the soul of the outlet; a place to chat, to meet people and for people to come together. Beer and wine are important components of a night out at Marta's as is the sangria and some colourful cocktails. It wouldn't be Spanish without tapas or pintxos and Marta's Kitchen has a very tempting selection of bite-sized treats like spicy potatoes, creamy aioli and tomato sauce, garlic tiger prawns in oil with chilli and garlic, potato tortilla and chorizo, Galician octopus with creamy mashed potato and, salads such as blue cheese and nuts. One of several signature dishes is the legendary Iberico pork ribs served as a half or full platter. Some other stand-out dishes include the pasta with meat balls topped with flavoursome sauce and Manchego cheese and, the essential paella. The setting features a large contemporary-styled space with high ceilings and windows from the floor to ceiling. There is ample parking and the outlet is very spacious with an air-conditioned interior and outside seating under umbrellas. www.martaskitchen.my



French and Chinese Roots at Sofitel Singapore City Centre

Racines, in the just-opened Sofitel Singapore City Centre, is the French word for roots and French chef Jean-Charles Dubois and his team delve into traditional French recipes along with those of the Singapore Chinese community to present an inspired menu. Located on the fifth floor of this deluxe hotel located in Tanjong Pagar, Racines is the main restaurant in the hotel and serves an inviting selection of authentic French dishes as well as the best local Chinese dishes. Floor-to-ceiling windows provide a light and airy space and a garden on the outside is a refreshing influence. Lunches are especially popular with special three-course menus offering amazing value. Diners can select dishes such as chicken liver pâté with truffle hazelnut crust, lobster bisque (poured at the table), Wagyu beef cheek with seasonal vegetables, double-boiled herbal chicken and, caramelised Granny Smith apple tart with gingerbread crumble and Tahitian vanilla ice cream. A professionally-curated wine list with French roots adds to the dining pleasure at Racines. www.sofitel.com



Steakhouse Siem Reap

Being the tourist town that Siem Reap is, it's not surprising that a smorgasbord of global dining concepts is offered. The area called Pub Street is the most popular and busy part of the bustling town and this is where The Steakhouse has staked out its prime position. For visitors seeking a break from the fabulous array of local Khmer dishes available and, the opportunity to sink into a prime cut of imported beef; The Steakhouse is the place. It's not all beef though with entrées such as prawns sautéed in butter sauce on garlic bread, salads and seafood pasta. Carnivores will enjoy 250gm cuts of Wagyu or Black Angus steak or the 1.2kg, 'tomahawk' rib eye steak. Interesting sauces like local Kampot pepper sauce accompany beef dishes. There is a good selection of wines to complement the food. The Steakhouse is operated by Shinta Mani Angkor so diners can be assured of impeccable and professional service.

www.shintamani.com





Eatertainment at Benihana

The food at Benihana is without equal but what sets it apart from other Japanese restaurants is the way it is served. Teppanyaki counters are the focus for what is known as the Benihana 'eatertainment' spectacle with all the best theatrics of Japanese hot plate cooking. This also includes guest participation as well as chef-led antics. Be amazed as the chefs dazzle their guests with their dexterous swirls, turns, flips and twists. While there is a sushi counter. the hottest seats in the house are around one of seven teppanyaki counters where chefs like William craft their magic much to the delight of camera-snapping diners. The Benihana chain first started in New York in 1964 and is now a global phenomenon with over 150 outlets including three in Thailand – AVANI Atria and Anantara Riverside as well at AVANI Pattaya. Benihana has just relocated from its long-standing Royal Garden Plaza position to its first floor location on Beach Road at the beachfront entrance to the AVANI Pattaya Resort and Spa. Here, patrons have an elevated view along the beach and with greater street-front visibility. www.benihanapattaya.com



Royal Lao Cuisine at Elephant Blanc

Maison Souvannaphoum was once a royal residence of one of the Lao princes but is now a boutique property managed by Angsana. Here, Elephant Blanc Restaurant overlooks a small pool and diners have the option of eating in the semi-open interior or the garden setting of a verandah. Enjoy a beer Lao while contemplating menu specialties of local Lao favourites, Thai specialty items and Western comfort food. One of the dining highlights is the Lao set menu for two which comprises three dishes, sticky rice, fruit and coffee. This is accompanied by a Lao cultural performance. www.angsana.com

Nizza with French Riviera Ambiance

Nizza is the swanky new French Mediterranean-styled casual dining outlet overlooking the pool on the third floor of the Sofitel Kuala Lumpur Damansara. Guests can enjoy Kuala Lumpur's balmy weather in the restaurant's outdoor setting or within the air-conditioned interior with its warm contemporary anterior and references to the Côte d'Azur in the graphic ceiling art. Its checkered blue and white floor tiling is further reminder of the French Riviera and the Mediterranean Sea. This is a perfect venue for families to relax over a long Sunday lunch. Chefs busy themselves behind the glassed-in show kitchen while trained wine staff happily recommend suitable wines to match the dishes. The food of the Mediterranean from Spain through France and into Italy is a mélange of styles with an emphasis upon light, casual dishes with an emphasis on seafood. Nizza showcases pizza, freshly-made pastas, salads, garlic prawns, bouillabaisse and an enticing charcuterie board. Small plates and shared platters are a feature with the shared charcuterie board including air-dried beef, smoked duck, turkey ham, pickled onions, marinated peppers and plump olives. The seafood tagliatelle comprises prawns, octopus and clams cooked in a rich and spicy tomato-based sauce. For dessert, the caramelised apple crêpes are made even sweeter with butterscotch drizzle and vanilla gelato. www.sofitel.com



Italian Style at M Marini Caffè

The popular M Marini Caffè has relocated 100 metres or so from Suria KLCC to its new location on the ground floor of One KL. In line with its Marini's heritage, the interior space is stylish, plush and luxurious with high-backed antique chairs, chandeliers and artwork depicting Venetian scenes. The outside Terrazza is a more casual affair with superb city skyline scenery including views of the icon Twin Towers. The new caffè is a venue for the good things in life such as Champagne and caviar but also decently priced happy hour beverages. Not surprisingly, Italian wines dominate while the food menu features salads, sandwiches, pasta, more substantive mains and inviting desserts such as tiramisu (authentically prepared with alcohol) and pannacotta. Diners can choose from other dishes such as cold angel hair pasta with Avruga caviar, smoked salmon sandwich with horseradish mayonnaise spread and Asian duo salad of roasted chicken pieces, seared tuna, poached egg with sesame seeds and mesclum salad. M Marini Caffè is set to provide a huge injection of dolce vita into the Kuala Lumpur social scene. www.mmarinis.com









Fine French Cuisine Fit for Royalty

Guests dining at Restaurant Le Royal in the Raffles Phnom Penh can dine on classic French cuisine or Royal Khmer cuisine. It operates with a royal decree handed down to the hotel from the Cambodian palace. Diners can select Guéridon Tasting Menus for French and Khmer set menus in what is considered Phnom Penh's most elegant dining space. Executive Chef Joel Wilkinson and his team offer tartare prepared at the table, escargot, langoustine. venison carpaccio, smoked salmon, lobster bisque, Wagyu tenderloin from the USA, aged Japanese Kobe beef, braised beef cheek and Canadian lobster. For dessert, select classic dishes such as crêpes Suzette and a dark chocolate brownie torte. Khmer dishes include green mango salad, fish soup, crispy pork spare ribs and grilled beef with lemongrass on a skewer. Weekend brunches with a free-flow of G.H. Mumm Cordon Rouge Champagne are popular with long-term city residents. www.raffles.com

Food Exchange Novotel on Stevens

The Food Exchange in the recently Opened Novotel on Stevens Singapore is the heart and hearth of the property with its enticing all-day dining options. Its stylish and contemporary interiors overlook the hotel's infinity swimming pool and pool deck. Guests and visitors enjoy extensive breakfast buffets as well as extended lunches and dinners. At the weekend, a lavish brunch with an extensive charcuterie and cheese selection is also offered to tempt local dinners to relax over an extended break with friends and family. Asian, Indian, Middle Eastern and European cuisines are featured at delicious evening buffets. An inviting wine and beverage list complements the food served at Food Exchange.

www.novotel-singapore-stevens.com





Food Fit for a Tramp

He was known as 'The Tramp' but he didn't live like one. The former Swiss home of the star of silent movies Charlie Chaplin has been converted to the Chaplin's World Museum that also incorporates a restaurant named after him and called The Tramp. There are several sections to the outlet located in Corsier-sur-Vevey above the lakeside town of Vevey (home to Nestlé) with The Café serving quality snacks from 9.30am to 6.30pm, The Brasserie serving more substantive meals from 11.30 to 3pm and, The Terrace as an outdoor extension to the Brasserie when the weather is fine and sunny. Chef James Cordonnier prepares some classic dishes such as New York burgers, pumpkin soup, risotto and salads plus some local delights such as alpinestyle macaroni and hazelnut chocolate pie. Superb local wines grown on the nearvertical slopes of the adjoining Lavaux are served by the glass and bottle. Choose from St-Saphorin La Redoute Chasselas or a Corsier St-Pierre Grand Cru Gamay both offered by the glass. Charlie Chaplin is quoted as saying 'a day without laughter is a wasted day' but The Tramp prefers: 'a day without food, is a day wasted'.

Eating at The Eatery

Situated on Sandakan's prominent waterfront overlooking the Sandakan Bay, Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan offers a comfortable, relaxed stay for value-oriented business and leisure travellers. The Eatery, the brand's signature restaurant, serves a wide array of tantalising local and international dishes throughout the day while buffets are a feature on most evenings. Diners can expect local seafood, wasabi prawns and delicious local nasi lemak. The adjoining The Best Brew Pub offers a varied selection of hand crafted beers from around the world including local favourites in a lively and fun atmosphere.

www.fourpoints.com/sandakan

Dining on the Edge

If Edgewater Restaurant was any closer to the waters of the Gulf of Thailand it would be in them. Perched just above the coastline, this popular beachside restaurant in the Outrigger Koh Samui Beach Resort has an indoor, open-sided and fan-cooled interior as well as the atmospheric section, poolside setting beneath an expansive and shady almond tree. Twilight hour from 6pm to 7pm is a magical time to not only appreciate happy hours offered in the adjoining Wet Bar but also to admire the pool and garden lights against an indigo sky. Thursday's Thai Market buffet is especially popular with resort guests. www.outrigger.com



Thai Cuisine Served Under the Stars

Not surprisingly, there are many Thai restaurants in the seaside resort city of Pattaya, but as the saying goes; there are Thai restaurants and there are Thai restaurants. Sala Rim Nam in the spacious gardens of the AVANI Pattaya Resort and Spa has a magical setting beneath towering coconut palms, frangipani trees and a skyful of stars. The restaurant is perched on a wooden platform above lotus-lined ponds. The cuisine is as good as the ambiance with specialty dishes being prawns tom yum, glass noodles with seafood and soft shell crab curry. While the style is Central Thai, other regional dishes feature on monthly and seasonal menus as specials. Vegetarian diners will especially appreciate the extensive list of dishes. Wine, beer and cocktails are available including a signature Thai Garden cocktail comprising light rum, apricot liqueur, brandy, juice and served in a young coconut. Diners love the ambiance, food and professional service provided in this prestigious hotel outlet. www.avanihotels.com

Trorkuon Khmer Restaurant

This light and breezy space overlooking the Siem Reap River flowing through this northern Cambodian tourist town features a tree growing through the high ceiling. Trorkuon Khmer Restaurant in Jaya House RiverPark has set out to incorporate local produce in most dishes while not compromising on its luxurious product delivered to a discerning international clientele. Diners can select from an inviting selection of local favourites such as fresh Khmer spring rolls, lab chicken (similar to Thai larb of minced chicken, chilli, lime, roasted nuts and herbs), seafood pomelo salad, Khmer beef carpaccio and smoked belly pork with grilled aubergine and jasmine rice. Homemade breads with dragon fruit and lemongrass are also unique. International wines complement the food.





Healthy Dining at L'assiette

The Chateau Spa and Organic Wellness Resorts, the world's first organic spa and wellness resort has attained another breakthrough in dining and one never before experienced in Malaysia. Its new approach to cuisine is called La Therapie Culinaire. It all began with guests asking for specialised dishes to cater to their unique diets. The result was a special menu tailormade to guests' particular needs and flavour palates. La Therapie Culinaire is exquisitely prepared to provide an enlightening dining experience. Seven specially crafted menus have been developed for healthy dining. These menus are - Strong Heart, Antioxidant Plate, Protein Charger, Body Cleansing, Vital Brain Corps, Body Essentials and Diabetic Diet. www.thechateau.com.my



Tom Yam Whiskey Poolside Phuket

One of the most popular cocktails at the inviting Velvet Pool Bar in the Novotel Phuket Vintage Park Resort at Patong Beach is a spicy concoction called tom yam whiskey vintage made from local Thai Mekhong rum (often referred to as whiskey) and tropical spices of lemongrass, lime leaves and chilli combined with syrup, lime and soda water. It has the flavour profile of the well-known Thai soup of tom vam and is served with a shot of coconut milk and cut lime on the side to lessen the impact of the chilli for those not used to its fire and spice. Velvet Pool Bar is a swim-up bar but there is a covered seated area for those not swimming in what is Patong's largest pool. Other specialties include ice cream cocktails and Mai Tai. Happy hours from 5pm to 7pm make the bar even more inviting.

www.novotel.com

Nicsmann 1940s By Lewré The Starling

Nicsmann 1940s has opened its second complex with the new Damansara Utama outlet a collaboration with fashion house Lewré. Bar and restaurant patrons can get a sneak preview of fashion while they are indulging on some cool beverages, enticing dishes and lively music as the evening progresses. There is a dedicated and colourful bar, a high-ceiling restaurant and an outdoors area set amongst gardens. Signature cocktails include Absinthe with flambé sugar cube, Watermelon Love (vodka and Midori based) and Coconuts Nuts (Malibu and rum). G.H. Mumm Champagnes are the house brand and ales on tap include Carlsberg, Asahi, Connor's and Kronenbourg 664. Happy hours extend up until 9pm and even after that, there are special promotional prices.





hangout



GastroBar and Mash Beer

High leather stools line the bar stocked with an impressive array of liquor and beer taps for Carlsberg, Asahi Super Dry, Hoegaarden and Kronenbourg 1664 Blanc draught beers which are poured here. Happy hours Carlsberg pints are reasonably priced with nuts and nibbles provided in line with the prestigious surroundings. While cocktails are popular with many and wines with others, it is craft beer that is capturing considerable attending especially with the recent launch of a range of Mash craft beers from Western Australia. Gastro Sentral is also popular for dining with an inviting selection of petit plates or tapas for drinkers and more substantive meals for diners. www.lemeridienkualalumpur.com

Sky Bar Jaya House Siem Reap

While most visitors to the lively tourist town of Siem Reap have 'Pub Street' firmly in their sights especially for the happy hour Angkor beer prices, those seeking something more classy and stylish will enjoy a refreshing drink in the outdoors on top of the luxurious hideaway that is Jaya House River Park. Located on the quieter side of the river this discrete rooftop bar has a garden setting with some seating being on high stools overlooking the greenery lining the river. As well as enticing beverages like a lemongrass martini, bar snacks such as stir-fried squid and green peppercorn, pork bon bons and pumpkin tempura add to the enjoyment. Happy hours extend from 5pm to 7pm. www.jayahouseriverparksiemreap.com





Bensley's Bar

This light and breezy bar is as Asian as you can get with ceiling fans working overtime and the tropical air flowing in from two sides of the restaurants. Corporate Shinta Mani tones of black, white and grey dominate but bright orange pillows provide a brighter setting, White tiles in a geometric pattern line the floor of this second floor bar in downtown Siem Reap, Cambodia. Local Angkor is proudly the beer of choice although imported beers such as Leffe Blonde add some interest. House cocktails include Khmer Cooler (rice spirit, palm wine, cucumber, kaffir lime, mint and Kampot pepper) and Open Heart (rum, passionfruit, mint and palm sugar). Global wines are served and snacks such as bacon rolls with banana and vegetable salsa and crispy calamari and lemon mayonnaise are available. www.shintamani.com



Elephant Bar Raffles Phnom Penh

Cambodia beer must be the cheapest in the region with happy prices being absurdly priced. While happy hours at Raffles Le Royal extend from 4pm to 9pm, the prices are not as generous as those on the street but then again, there are few places in Asia that have as much panache as the Elephant Bar. This cool and chic bar is the place for heritage hounds to relax in deep chocolate coloured leather chairs and sip a cool beer or cocktail beneath the high arched ceiling with detailed historic paintings of, not surprisingly; elephants. Silver elephant candleholders and ceramic elephant serviette holders adorn the tables and lacquerware nibbles holders are served with banana chips, nuts and wasabi peas. A pianist keeps guests entertained on most evenings. Legendary cocktails include Residents Gin and Tonic (Sigsmiths Raffles 1915 gin, East Imperial Burma tonic and bitters), Singapore Sling (it is Raffles, after all) and Raffles Pimms for Two. There are ten classic martinis and seven modern ones, over 20 beers including local Angkor and Cambodia beer, an extensive selection of single malts, gins, vodkas, rums and wines. A special tapas menu complements the normal bar menu with international and local snacks including fried crickets, stuffed frogs and Kampot cockles. More recognisable tapas include barbecued truffle-flavoured buffalo wings and Iberian chorizo. www.raffles.com

Irish Hospitality at Dicey Reilly's

Experience the liveliest Irish hospitality at Dicey Reilly's in the bustling Thai tourist destination of Pattaya. The action starts at 8am with a traditional Irish fry-up; long considered a signature Pattaya breakfast and one that is very popular with regular locals and tourists. Nightly live music mostly with local and innovative acoustic duos from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and Sundays, as a trio from 12.30 to 3.30pm. Nightly food specials including fish and chips, woodfired pizza and hot dogs. Sunday from noon to 4pm is a special time with a carvery of three different roasts including roast beef and Yorkshire pudding served from two live cooking stations. While many beverages from Irish whisky to cocktails and wines are served, Dicey Riley's is a pub and draught beer, stout and cider such as Guinness, Magners, Chang and Tiger are popular along with various others by the bottle. Beer towers for local beers are popular especially during happy hours from 8pm to 10pm when they are competitively priced. Free wi-fi and pool are offered along with live sports action on several television monitors as well as a big screen for football, rugby, rugby league, F1 and American football. www.diceyspub.com





Arena Introduces Beer Pong

Kuala Lumpur's two Arena Bars introduce the college favourite, 'beer pong' to eager patrons.



or many years it's been a staple of college dorms across the United States and Europe and now 'beer pong' has made its way to Malaysia and found a new home. Arena Bar is the first outlet in Malaysia with a 'reverse tap' in all its beer pong tables so the beer is delivered from the table and not from the bar. Having two outlets located strategically in suburban Taman Tun Dr. Ismail and in the city in Lorong P. Ramlee ensures that Kuala Lumpur's trendsetters have easy access to the concept.

Home of incredible sporting action, amazing food, beer and epic parties, Arena Bar is famous for favourite drinking games like beer pong, slap-up, electronic darts and pool. In the evenings, the tables are brimming with hungry and thirsty customers, looking for a light meal, the opportunity to catch up on their favourite sport, and the chance to enjoy a couple of cheeky evening beverages over a relaxed business meeting.

The venues transform on the weekends into two of the best party bars in Kuala Lumpur with a mix of events, themed parties and guest DJ's, with pumping music. The drinks flow whilst the staff create an awesome atmosphere that the customers will never forget.

Arena Bars are proving to be 'go to' bar destinations in Kuala Lumpur. Offering over 650m2 at both our outlets, there is sufficient space for all to party. There is so much to do whether patrons want to 'shoot pool', throw darts, have a few relaxing drinks with friends at the beer pong tables or just sit back and watch their favourite team on television.

For those looking for a place to reminisce their young college days, Kuala Lumpur's two Arena Bars are the perfect venues.

www.facebook.com/pg/arenabarkl



BECAUSE NO GREAT STORY STARTS WITH ANYONE EATING A SALAD!



L'Aperitif Tapas Bar Novotel on Stevens

The first thing guests notice when they walk into the brand new Novotel Singapore on Stevens is L'Aperitif Tapas Bar that takes more prominence than the reception counters in the lobby of this vibrant hotel. L'Aperitif is indicative of how important drinking, snacking and socialising is for this hotel and the adjoining Mercure which features Winestore at its ground floor lobby. Patrons at L'Aperitif can enjoy French, Spanish and Asian-styled tapas or order a delicious platter of cold cuts from Winestore to enjoy craft beers or cocktails such as Sangria and French Fashion (served with a macaroon of top of top flight spirits) prepared by the bar staff.









French Colonial Ambiance near Angkor Temples

If Indiana Jones were to drink in Siem Reap near the temples of Angkor, L'Explorateur Bar in the Victoria Angkor Resort and Spa would be where he would head. While the temples of Angkor never really disappeared they were 'rediscovered' by French explorers in the 19th century and there has always been a sense of frontier travel with the town. Deep comfortable lounges provide a sense of style and various happy hour promotions and live music on Friday make this a popular bar among a sea of other options in this tourist town.

www.victoriangkorhotel.com

London Pub in Khon Kaen

Remote northeastern Thailand is probably the last place visitors would expect to find an old English pub but the AVANI Khon Kaen Hotel and Convention Centre is the happening bar in this part of Thailand known as Isan. Despite the English theme, a global approach is taken with the draught beers served here with Hoegaarden complementing local beers such as Leo, Chang and Singha. Bottled beers include Duvel, Paulaner, Budweiser, Stella Artois and Fuller's London Pride. Tempting snacks such as deep-fried buffalo wings, baked New Zealand mussels with spinach and cheese and grilled local sausage with onion sauce are served. Pool is free here and all the latest live sports action is shown on several television monitors. The just opened garden bar in front of the pub is the place to relax over a few cool beverages with friends. The bar opens from 5pm to midnight every night of the week. www.avanihotels.com



Portugal is famous for producing the world's finest Ports and infamous for producing Rosé wines in squat green bottles, right? Fortunately, that is not the sum total of the Portuguese wine industry which has been thriving like other Old World European nations for hundreds of years. While it is true that some of the finest fortified wines (Ports and Madeira from the offshore island of the same name) and many different styles of wine are also produced in Portugal from still table wines to sparkling wines called Espumante.

Spotlight on Portuguese Wines

There is more to Portuguese wines than Port and Rosé as David Bowden discovers for Hospitality Asia.

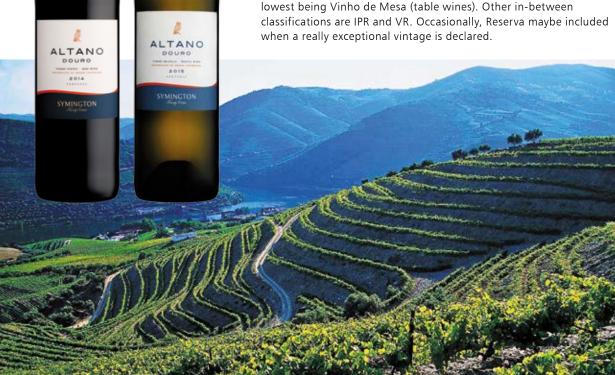
Wine History

Portugal's wine history is intricately related to European history and political alliances and allegiances. It is complex and relates to English-French relationships more than English- Portuguese ones in an era when drinking non-French wines was a patriotic duty for the English.

Port is fortified by the addition of a neutral grape spirit to stop the fermentation, leaving residual sugar in the wine and boosting the alcohol content.

Classifications and Varieties

Like France, the wines of Portugal are classified according to quality and location with the highest standard being Denominação de Origem Controlada (DOC, equivalent to France's AOC) and the lowest being Vinho de Mesa (table wines). Other in-between classifications are IPR and VR. Occasionally, Reserva maybe included when a really exceptional vintage is declared.



bubblingtrends

Portugal has many local grape varieties which can be difficult to market to those who cannot get their head around words of a different language. Wines made from Malvasia Fina, Viosinho, Rabigato, Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinto Cao, Tinta Roriz and Tinta Barroca can be linguistically challenging in the same vein as endemic Austrian varieties (tinta refers to red, branco to white and verde to green).

Four Classic Portuguese Wines

As an example of the range of Portuguese wines here are four wines to seek out - Dow's Port Quinta Senhora da Ribeira (Lady of the River), Altano White (Branco), Roquette and Cazes Red (Tinta) and Altano Red (Tinto).

For many, Port is something old men in one hand and a cigar in the other. When Wine Spectator placed Dow's 2011 Vintage Port on the top of its Top 100 Wines for 2014, connoisseurs sat up to take renewed interest in this 'cigar wine'.

In the true sense of the word 'vintage' is only declare vintage when the wine is the best of the best and, 2011 was the mother of all vintages (well, 2007 was better, but that's another story). So vintages are declared when everything comes together to create the finest wines and this only happens a few times every century.

Oporto on the Douro River in northern Portugal is the home to great fortified wines (four parts grape juice and one part brandy). The brandy stops the fermentation process and helps to produce the sweet wine known as Port.

Dow's Port Quinta Senhora da Ribeira is a single vineyard site of 21ha and one of the estates used to source for Vintage Port when the grapes are good enough to declare it. When they are not of the highest standard to declare a vintage year, the Port is bottled as a single estate and this is one that Dow's produce.

Altano White is from the Douro Valley in northern Portugal with the grapes grown at Lamengo at a high altitude to ensure early grape maturation. It comprises grape varieties such as Malvasia Fina, Viosinho, Rabigato and Moscatel Galego. These spend four months in stainless steel before bottling to produce a zesty wine with crisp acidity and flavours of tropical fruits.

Altano Red or Tinto (in Portuguese) is a fruity wine more in the New World sense considering its origins in the Douro Valley. It is a red blend of 13.5% alcohol and produced from three grape varieties - Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz and Tinta Barroca. It is made to be fresh and ripe and not too tannic and has benefitted from being matured in 400 litre oak barrels.

The Roquette and Caves Red is collaboration between a Portuguese family (Roquette) and the famous Caves family from Château Lynch-Bages in Bordeaux. It includes Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz varieties which are up to 34 years old. This Douro DOC wine of 14.5% alcohol spent 20 months in mostly new French oak barriques and was made by winemakers from both estates.

These four Portuguese wines are distributed in Malaysia by AsiaEuro.





Silverlake Vineyard

Wines are now grown in many parts of the world with several non-traditional wine producing nations called 'new latitude' wineries creating some creditable wines as David Bowden discovered when he visited Silverlake Vineyard in Pattaya, Thailand.



ew Latitude is a term coined by Frank Norel a Thai-based wine writer to describe wineries located outside the traditional wine producing zone of 30° to 50° latitude.

Now it's possible to drink wine produced in the Asian region alone from Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar and Bali. In Europe, some very creditable wines originate from England, Holland, Poland and Denmark. Add to the list Brazil, Peru, Zimbabwe, Rumania, Greece, Belgium, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Lebanon, Israel, Japan, China and India, and there are some very exciting times ahead for adventurous wine connoisseurs. Silverlake Vineyard south of

Pattaya was founded in 2002 to create a destination to bring people together. Wine is but one component in the estate with many tourists coming here to admire the concept gardens, coffee, food (especially freshlybaked pizza), farmer's market and theme attractions scattered throughout the expansive estate dominated by a lake with a mountainous backdrop.

Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Colombard, Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes are either grown on the property or the juice imported from South Australia to produce the wines sold via an impressive Italianstyled cellar door facility. The estate also produces a Rosé-styled wine made from Shiraz grapes.

www.silverlakevineyard.com



New Facility for Luen Heng

Luen Heng F&B Sdn Bhd (LHFB), a leading Malaysian importer and distributor of premium beers, global wines and spirits recently relocated its headquarters and warehouse facility from Taman Midah to a strategic two blocks of office and warehouse space located in Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur.

HFB recently unveiled this new facility to its business and trade partners. The new facility is four times the size by land area and holds ten times the warehousing capacity compared to its previous location. More importantly, 50% of the new warehouse space is fully insulated and temperature controlled. This is the company's commitment to ensure all products are ideally stored and in perfect condition to deliver the highest quality and freshness for all products it distributes.

It is the company's goal to serve the freshest and highest quality products to its loyal supporters and consumers.

Managing Director, Datuk Kenneth Soh described the move as part of the company's strategic initiative to support current and future business growth and to improve upon its supply chain.





Luen Heng F&B Sdn Bhd is a trading business which began its operations in 1956. Over the years, the company has been involved in many trading actives such as importing, distributing and wholesaling a variety of beers, wine, spirits and many other sundry items. Today LHFB has built a strong product portfolio representing many leading international alcohol beverage brands. LHFB is also a key distributor and strategic partner of Carlsberg Brewery Malaysia Bhd.

www.luenheng.com

SOULed OUT or the Beginning of a New Era

Twenty years seems an eternity in the Malaysian hospitality industry but for SOUL Society joint creator, it's the beginning of a new era. Michele Kwok, best known for being involved in establishing SOULed OUT talks about her new role.

OULed OUT first opened in its original location opposite Plaza Mont Kiara. Then, the upmarket suburban Kuala Lumpur location was just developing and dusty dead-end roads tailed off from the smart urban bar/café that was SOULed OUT and had the city talking.

SOULed OUT today continues to be the venue of choice for many along with Tujo Bar-sserrie and Grill, various Hubbas and WIP. Not a bad portfolio for someone with no formal training in hospitality.

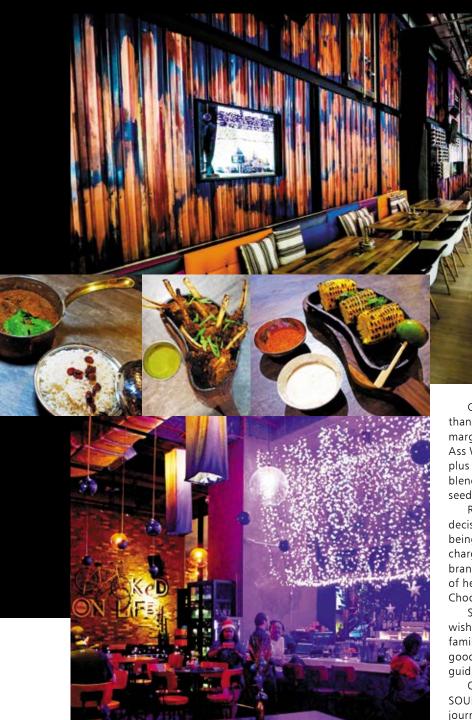
Now, Michele has turned her attention more to Tujo, Hubba Mont Kiara and infant Goa by Hubba. Michele explained: "Goa was a happy coincidence. I met a lady called Sapna Anand at the gym and soon discovered we both shared a love for food. The difference was; her passion was cooking and mine eating."

Sapna's talents are infinite according to Michele and she feels that more people should know about her food. "Her passion is absolutely infectious and she is one person who loves to share her food and her knowledge with everybody. After many wine sessions, we finally agreed to collaborate and Goa by Hubba was born," the owner commented.

Sapna's training in some of London's finest Indian restaurants plus her studies at Le Cordon Bleus' Paris and



Bangkok ensure that every dish will add spice to every diner's life. Flavours at Goa remain mellow but buoyant with subtleties, lingering beautifully on both the taste buds and in the memory. Customers actually taste the purity of produce and the freshness of textures. Kashmiri lamb chops, Cochin seafood stew; there is a plethora of dishes that take palates to cloud nine.



Goa's bar team have crafted no fewer than 17 Indian-inspired cocktails, martinis and margaritas to round out the Goa experience. Ass Whuppin Chai Masala and Rootin Tootin plus other expertly balanced cocktails come blended with elements like cardamom, cumin seeds, kokum and star anise.

Recently, Michele Kwok made a conscious decision to work and live differently despite being one who rarely relaxes. She has taken charge of the Hubba Mont Kiara, Goa and Tujo brands while leaving SOULed OUT in the hands of her husband and business partner, Fred Choo.

She claims her new role could lead to her wish for more travel, sleep and time with her family. However, her love of great food and good drinks in a fun environment is still her guiding mantra.

One suspects that Michele hasn't quite quit SOULed OUT yet but is at the start of a new journey that will take her to places she never envisaged.

www.hubba.asia

VAGO Provides More Luggage Space

The new VAGO luggage compression device is a lightweight travel accessory that every smart traveller should always carry with them. Just 70mm long and weighing in at just 77g this powerful device extracts air from soft items such as clothes to reduce their overall size to create more space in your luggage for more valuable items such as gifts and souvenirs of the destination visited. Charge the compression device via a USB cord or Android connector for attaching to a plug or portable battery pack, place the clothes in a special vacuum bag, switch on and have the space for your clothes reduced to up to 50%. The device comes in colours of black, white, purple and pink while the vacuum bags are produced in three sizes. www.vago.com.sq



Berjaya Now Handy to all Guests

Berjaya Hotels and Resorts (BHR) now provides complimentary use of smartphones in all the rooms of BHR properties. It is the first Malaysian hotel group to provide a smartphone device and services, aptly named

'handy', to its in-house guests. With 'handy', guests can make unlimited local and international calls. Besides voice calls, users can get unlimited data to surf the internet, download their favourite apps and stay connected via social media. Additionally, 'handy' also includes details of the services available at their hotels, with destination-specific content such as information about the nearby tourist attractions and places of interest. With this feature, in-house guests do not have to buy a local SIM card to stay connected. They can use the 'handy' smartphone for navigation and surfing the internet for free.

www.berjayahotel.com





Nestlé Professional to Introduce New NESCAFÉ Milano R&G Solution

Recent times have seen coffee operators struggling with various unavoidable constraints, making it a challenge for them to meet the demands of espresso connoisseurs and specialty beverage enthusiasts. Nestlé Professional is introducing NESCAFÉ Milano MTS 60 E, the new, high-performing machine specially designed to ensure speed, easy operations and the perfect coffee, cup after cup. In addition to launching the MTS 60 E machine, NESCAFÉ Milano is broadening its coffee portfolio by introducing NESCAFÉ whole roasted beans. The comprehensive package of quality ingredients is supplemented with milk and chocolate to answer operators' needs to serve consistently delicious specialty beverages. Whatever the consumers' preference, the solution will satisfy them with the highest quality and consistency at the push of a button. The NESCAFÉ Milano MTS 60 E made its Malaysian debut at the trade-only food and hospitality show, FHM 2017.

www.nestleprofessional.com

New Swiss Modern Range from Victorinox The new range from Victorinox



ooks and chefs are at their chopping boards with knives at the ready. Whether it's a chef in a smart restaurant with his versatile Santoku or someone with a paring knife at home, good kitchen knives are essential for preparing exquisite dishes.

That's why many chefs form a very special relationship with their knife and, if it's exceptionally elegant; all the better. Victorinox is pleased to present the Swiss Modern range of kitchen knives, offering impressive performance and visual delights.

All the knives feature stainless and wear-resistant steel blades. Their precision edges enable effortless cutting and produce the finest cutting surfaces. Handles are made of European walnut a richly grained and dark-brown wood that makes each knife unique. Walnut also makes these Swiss Modern knives unbelievably warm and natural and their geometric shape creates a dynamic impact with a contemporary feel.

The new range from Victorinox makes preparing and eating food a delight for the senses, combining elegant walnut and a multitude of functions.

Five Models and a Knife Block

- 1 The sharp blade of the Steak Knife cuts effortlessly and stylishly through schnitzels, steaks and fillets.
- 2 The Kitchen Knife is the traditional, compact all-rounder in the kitchen and its slim, pointed blade makes it ideal for smaller tasks like peeling vegetables and removing stalks and cores.
- 3 A 19cm-long blade and ergonomically shaped walnut handle of the Carving Knife makes light work of cutting and dicing even large quantities of meat, fruit and vegetables.
- 4 In professional kitchens, the Bread and Pastry Knife isn't just used for cutting pasta and baked goods but also for artichokes and hard-skinned vegetables.
- 5 Santoku is Japanese-inspired and truly versatile to make it the 'knife of the three virtues' meat, fruit and vegetables. The fluted edge of the 17cm-long blade reduces friction and stops food from sticking to the blade.
- 6 An attractive, anthracite-coloured Knife Block made of wood, whose shape echoes the design of the walnut handles, ensures stylish storage for Swiss Modern knives and provides space for six knives.

Enjoy preparing and eating food with these sharp lookers from the Victorinox Swiss Modern range. Bon appétit!

www.advancehotelssupplies.com.my

Everybody likes a clean and simple solution especially when it means saying goodbye to dirty rubbish bins, open trolleys of food wastes, dirty floors and bad odours.

MEIKO Stars with Waste Solutions

he WasteStar CC is the most straightforward way of planning a waste disposal solution. As a standalone system, it provides an all-round solution for restaurants, hotels, canteens, staff restaurants, hospitals and care homes. Now is the time to get your food waste problems off the table by choosing the WasteStar CC.

MEIKO understands that dishwashing is just one part of a bigger picture. Keeping a kitchen clean and hygienic requires a multi-pronged approach that extends from cleaning dishware to disposing of food waste.

MEIKO has come up with a clean and efficient solution. In the form of the WasteStar CC; a compact collection system for organic food waste. Designed to slot neatly into your existing facility, it effortlessly transforms food wastes into a valuable substrate that can be used to produce biogas.

The WasteStar CC provides ultrasmart technology in a compact package. It doesn't need water or sewerage connections and it doesn't require cooling. The WasteStar CC can easily be incorporated in even the most elaborate wash-up facilities as a user-friendly, economical and virtually self-sufficient waste collection system.

The WasteStar CC can tackle whatever people leave on their plates, polishing off bones, seafood shells, and crustacean exoskeletons, reducing it all to 80mm particles. The crushed up food wastes are piped into the collection tank where it forms a biological substrate.

A clean solution that's good for the environment, MEIKO technology is designed to be the very best. All the machine parts that come into contact with food wastes are made from stainless steel. The built-in high-power grinder effortlessly crushes up the waste, and the powerful pump smoothly conveys it into the collection tank. Don't worry if you accidentally drop a piece of cutlery into the machine as the built-in

magnet will grab it before it enters the chute to prevent any risk of damage.

Using the WasteStar CC couldn't be any simpler. Tip the food waste into the feed chute and then press a button to set the grinder to work. Cleaning is also a breeze because all the relevant parts are easily accessible. What more could you want in a modern, hygienic kitchen?







www.meiko-asia.com

CHEF TOR AT THE OUTRIGGER KOH SAMUI

Executive Chef Teerathep Tishabhiromya (better known as Tor) graduated with an Advance Diploma of Hospitality in Commercial Cookery from AMI Education, Australia. The chef's passion for gastronomy is to create delicious and beautiful food on a plate and thinking out of the box is his way of working with food. Before joining the team in Koh Samui, Chef Tor was at the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas and the Outrigger Phi Phi Island Resort and Spa. A well-known dessert that is an essential dish on the Edgewater Restaurant at the Outrigger Koh Samui is mango and sticky rice which is artistically arranged on

the plate and takes on the appearance of a flower that makes it look almost too good to eat. He also dusts the plate with local desiccated coconut and edible flowers from the resort's gardens.



CHEF BOONYADHA MAISON SOUVANNAPHOUM LUANG PRABANG

Chef Boonyadha is the chef at the boutique Angsana Maison Souvannaphoum in the former royal town of Luang Prabang. While her kitchen team are all Lao people, she hails from the island of Phuket in Thailand. Much of the produce used is sourced locally from organic farms including the hotel's own herb garden known as Living Land. Chef Boonyadha also showcases her skills on Thai set meal evenings. Lao set meal options are available on other nights. One of the chef's favourite dishes and the most popular in the hotel's Elephant Blanc Restaurant is Lao noodle



soup. She enjoys cooking and serving this dish as it is refreshing and noodle soups are well received by the global guests who dine in the hotel's popular restaurant. Guests can also opt to participate in cooking classes with the chef to learn the steps in preparing this dish and other favourites such as minced beef salad and, steamed marinated fish with herbs and cooked in a banana leaf.

PLAYFUL TWIST ON A BURGER

Chef de Cuisine at Le Méridien Kuala Lumpur Sazli Nazim Ismail takes a playful approach to one of his favourite dishes served in the hotel's lobbyside outlet, Gastro Sentral. His avocado 'burger' displays the chef's creative flair. A whole avocado is skinned and de-seeded and then carefully cut in half. Fresh crab meat is mixed with a little mayonnaise and then spooned into the empty seed cavity to create the 'meat' in the 'burger'. Sesame seeds are then sprinkled on the top half of the avocado and sweet mango cubes are placed on the plate. A tangy sriracha aioli drizzle adds an essential spiciness to make it even more palatable to local diners. Chef Sazli started his culinary career in 1994 and after graduating from college he worked in five-star hotels such as the JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur, Villa Danieli in the Sheraton Imperial and the Parkroyal Grill before moving to Le Méridien as a member of the opening team to assist with the establishment of PRIME, Favola and Gastro Sentral.





Iron Chef at Metropole

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi's new Executive chef, Australian Paul Smart previously worked for five years at SO Sofitel Bangkok. Here he was crowned winner of the Iron Chef Thailand television programme in 2012 and 2013. He oversees operations in the hotel's restaurants of Le Beaulieu (French), Spices Garden (Vietnamese), Angelina (Italian) and the three bars of Bamboo Bar, La Terasse and at the newly-revamped Le Club. He began his career at Stamford Plaza Hotel in Australia, spending nearly eight years learning and developing within the group. The chef takes a creative and colourful approach to one of his favourite dishes served at the hotel's Italian restaurant and

lounge, Angelina. His scallop Picasso is inspired by works of art with the scallops first marinated and then seared with a blow-torch. Winter vegetables are pickled and arranged then the scallops are decorated with flower petals plus drops of yuzu, which have a tangy taste that pairs nicely with seafood.

SPICY ISAAN CUISINE FOR AVANI CHEF

Executive Chef of AVANI Khon Kaen Hotel and Convention Centre, Chef Yongyuth Phianprasit (Yong) has over three decades of culinary experience. He is passionate about cooking especially spicy Isaan dishes which he originally learnt from his mother but which he has given a more modern twist. One of his most favourite dishes is a refreshing salad that combines salmon with lemongrass, lime leaves, shallots, spring onions and long leaf coriander. Chef Yong loves to work with the freshest ingredients and is partial to seasonal local produce found in the northeast of Thailand. Perhaps the test of a Thai chef is their som tum or spicy green papaya salad which is one of the nation's best regarded dishes. Freshness of ingredients is all important to the Chef Yong with the lime juice and fish sauce also making a big difference

between a good som tum and a great one. The chef pestle and mortar to grind garlic, large chillies (he prefers these to small chillies which are too powerful for some), yellow palm sugar and fish sauce (the chef likes to use fish sauce from his home town of Chonburi). He then adds sliced long beans, cherry tomatoes and continues pounding the ingredients to smaller pieces. Grated green papaya and carrots are mixed in and then served on a plate with fresh cut long beans, carrot and a quarter of cabbage. Chef Yong also likes to serve the dish with purple sticky rice obtained locally in Khon Kaen.





FINE ISLAND DINING

Banyan Tree Phuket's Executive Sous Chef, Chef Kreaton Cutajar has had more than 17 years culinary experience prior to coming to Thailand. Prior to relocating, he was at the signature restaurant 55&5th, The Grill at St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, Abu Dhabi. Originally from Malta, he spent five years working at the five-star Sea Bank Hotel in his home country before moving to London to work for two Michelin-starred restaurants, including time with celebrity chefs Gordon Ramsay and Anthony Demetre. After stints at Wild Honey, The Savoy and Aitkens in London, Chef Kreaton acquired all the skills and techniques that a chef requires for Western fine dining. When asked about his favourite cuisine, the chef admits to a penchant for Italian food, saying that he loves 'anything that involves fresh ingredients', specifically

> 'freshly-made pasta'. His signature dish of sous vide halibut topped with herb crust, potato espuma, moss sponge, black truffle and coral tuile typifies his approach to cooking. He is assisting and leading the team at the fine dining restaurant Tré and all the other Western cuisine outlets.

CHEF TO CELEBRITIES

Executive Chef at Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Phnom Penh Cambodia Chef Joel Wilkinson has introduced many creative changes to this historic property. He is no stranger to working in elite properties, having spent 27 years working in ten countries with several leading hotels including Song Saa Private Island (Cambodia), Grosvenor House Hotel Park Lane (London) and Jumby Bay (Antigua). He has cooked for impressive A-listers such as Rod Stewart, Kevin Spacy, Prince Edward, Robert De Niro and, Hugh Jackman. He is one of the most talented and exciting Chefs to

now following recipes, principles

and advanced core standards. The chef's methodical approach plus caring and understanding of the local culture and produce is contributing to the international cuisine in the Raffles property. One of his signature dishes is seared scallops which are artistically displayed on a slate slab.





MALAYSIAN CHEF INSPIRED BY EUROPEAN CUISINES

Azizskandar Awang is a Malaysian-born chef extraordinaire who has made his name abroad by creating one of the best culinary and gastronomic experiences in Koh Samui. All this began when he enjoyed his first kitchen experience as a commis at the Renaissance Palm Garden Hotel and at the Marriot Putrajaya Malaysia the year after. He then joined Renaissance Kuala Lumpur as saucier at Med@Marche Restaurant and in the same year was acknowledged as Malaysia's Best Young Chef. He relocated to Koh Samui and

cooked in several properties and is now the gastronomic leader for Tree Tops Sky Dining Restaurant and Ocean Kiss Restaurant at Anantara Lawana Resort and Spa. His creations are mainly Frenchinfluenced and classics with a modern approach using the best and freshest ingredients. The chef loves to travel and learn in countries like France, Spain, Italy and Portugal as well as most Asian countries. One of his favourite dishes is Challans Barbarie duck breast served with braised turnip and parsnip with cassis sauce.

THE YOUNG MAGICIAN

At a recent dinner to an exclusive audience at Dewakan, young chef Aaron Khor conjured up a goat tartare, which delightfully overturned the preconceptions of a sometimes challenging ingredient.

Aaron started his cooking career just a few years ago, assisting his father in the kitchen at home. He started cooking breakfasts and became known as the Breaky Chef. In 2016, he moved to Ubud Bali, to train at Locavore, one of Asia's leading restaurants.

Interested in different cultures and cuisines, he is preparing to move to Stockholm to apprentice at Frantzén, the first Swedish restaurant to earn three Michelin stars.

Soon, it will be time for another move. Perhaps to live his dream of having his own establishment in Kuala Lumpur. Of course it's a highly competitive industry, but he believes in taking risks, making mistakes and having lots of fun doing it.

Aaron is focused, hardworking and persistent. But he realises that the act of discovery is part of the fun. "Learn to enjoy the little distractions on the way to your dream, because you'll soon understand that, that is more important than what you really want."

Keep an eye out for his wizardry at the upcoming

Keep an eye out for his wizardry at the upcoming No Address Society Dinner in KL!





homas Gassner is the General Manager at AccorHotels' first Sofitel in Kuala Lumpur. A German native, he has more than 30 years' experience in hospitality and was at the helm while the hotel was being built. Gassner has done several openings and renovations before so he was not unfamiliar with the process and thought; one more won't hurt. "I always have fun with openings and I'm intrigued to do new ones. While there may be many challenges, there is also a great opportunity and it is very rewarding to see the finished product." "Openings aren't easy as you're never fully prepared for what's coming next but the opening of this hotel was an exceptional experience. Now that the hotel is opened, I can look back at the effort everyone made during the pre-opening phase, and as the General Manager, I am extremely proud of what the team has achieved as whole," he explained.

Sofitel Soul

Once opened, the challenge for the General Manager and his team was to develop a soul, a personality and an identity for the property. With the

Opening a New Hotel

Overseeing the construction of a new hotel is never easy especially for the General Manager who needs to be a jack of trades in being involved in everything from liaising with contractors, interviewing staff and all aspects of hotel operations. Hospitality Asia spoke to Thomas Gassner from the just-opened Sofitel Kuala Lumpur Damansara.



hardware well in place, Gassner mentions that it's the people, the staff who create and develop an atmosphere based upon team spirit that will create a true luxury experience for quests.

He continued, "You never open as planned as things change and there are little hiccups but this is where the staff need to create special little things and perhaps, this is where things are different in a new hotel. In a new hotel, all staff know things are new and everyone has to contribute to make it a success. I constantly endeavour to instil the concept that service isn't a job, it must be something from the heart."

This is essential as staff develop emotional bonds through service to understand and anticipate their guests' needs and requirements and eventually provide them with tailor-made services that reflect the Sofitel brand. Ultimately, it is the attention to detail and passion for excellence that guests will speak of and come back for time and again.

"Of course we experienced teething problems like all new hotels and you hear about them immediately as comments are posted daily on *TripAdvisor* but it's how you respond that is important," he added. He believes that if a hotel provides quality facilities and services, the rest will follow. He concluded; "Take care of little things and big things will follow."

Strategically located in the heart of Damansara Heights the new Sofitel Kuala Lumpur Damansara features 312 luxurious guestrooms (including 23 suites), five food and beverage outlets, seven meeting and event venues with leisure facilities including an outdoor pool, So SPA and So FIT.

www.sofitel.com

THE A.R.T LAB

by H A P A ®

AUDIT • REVIEW • TRAINING

Innovations at Bintan Lagoon Resort

Gerald A. Hendrick assumed the role of General Manager of Bintan Lagoon Resort and Senior Vice President of Resort Venture in October, 2017.

ince his appointment, he has been intensifying marketing efforts on the key markets of China, India, Japan and Korea, and making forays into new markets such as Eastern/Central Europe and Ethiopia out of Africa. He is also creating new viable opportunities for exciting MICE events such as beautifying the West Lawn for team building activities in the day and outstanding atmospheric dinner events at night.



He has also been busy introducing new food and beverage concepts in the resorts such as the new 5m by 2m bar in the lobby strategically positioned to capitalise on the panoramic views of the sea and surrounds adding a fresh, hip vibe to the lobby and the new Satay Club, to relive the kampong spirit of grilling satay in the open.

Staff Welfare

Employee welfare is equally important from providing train-the-trainer classes and staff housing to facilities for religious worship (Muslim and Christians). Health and wellness is also a priority with activities such as beach clean-ups, driving range and archery among others.



"When our employees are well looked after, they can then look after our guests efficiently and competently. A happy employee makes for a happy customer. Twice a week. I meet with them over informal dinners and this allows them to unwind and air out any issues they may have. We organise monthly birthday gatherings and recognise exceptional service through Stars of BLR Awards. The staff canteen is being remodelled to be more of a modern café with updated furnishings and activities," the general manager explained.

Bintan Lagoon Resort is the largest integrated resort and a lifestyle destination for leisure, golf and corporate meetings and incentives with its own ferry terminal on the island of Bintan, a 75-minute direct ferry journey from Singapore. It houses 450 contemporary rooms, suites and villas complemented by 15 dining options and a dedicated conference centre. For leisure, there are two world-renowned 18-hole golf courses designed by Jack Nicklaus and Ian Baker-Finch and extensive recreational activities including a spa.



övenpick Hotels and Resorts currently has 82 properties around the globe with over 20,500 rooms and represented throughout the region in countries such as China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and soon, Malaysia and Maldives. Recently appointed Englishman Mark Willis is very bullish about the brand's expansion plans. "Mövenpick has a great history and we are building aggressively in 2018 with eight new properties coming into the market to add an additional 1,200 rooms to the portfolio. We are a single brand and well-known for our service culture which is based upon Swiss traditions and heritage", he explained at the recent ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

He also commented that the company's Swiss roots also meant that it was somewhat careful in where it conducted business and that that its way of conducting business from its ownership down to staff on the floor, was based upon the highest international standards.

Mövenpick on the Move in Asia

Hospitality Asia recently met up with Mark Willis, President Asia for respected Mövenpick Hotels and Resorts to discuss the group's expansion plans for Asia.



Malaysia Matters to Mövenpick

To date, Mövenpick has not ventured into Malaysia but that is all about to change with two properties slated in the coming year. Work is well underway on a 333-room upscale hotel to be known as Mövenpick Hotel and Convention Centre KLIA and located near the airport, scheduled to open in the second quarter of 2018. The property is owned by Lembaga Tabung Haji.

Work is also ongoing on the 250-room Mövenpick Spa Resort at Cendering Beach in Kuala Terengganu which is set to open in 2019.

Millennials Matter at Mövenpick

There is a lot of industry discussion about the travelling habits of Millennials and how the next generation will impact upon hospitality in the coming years.

Mövenpick appear to be ahead of the game here and currently eight members of the company's most senior Executive Committee are Millennials, 'Excom Y' Team, who are making a meaningful contribution to determining how the



company engages with future travellers. Willis comments that; "While Millennials appear to place a lot of emphasis upon themselves there is also a sense that they are also more concerned about how they can make an impact upon an organisation. As an organisation, we need to be prepared to accommodate such people both as staff within the company and as our guests and the eight members of our current Excom Y Committee are fully involved with a strong voice in determining how Mövenpick operates".

A Peoples' Business

The new President of Asia for Mövenpick is a pastry chef by profession and an MBA graduate who worked in Asia before taking up his new position after

a successful period in senior hotel management in the Middle East.

As hospitality is a peoples' business he sees more opportunities than challenges in his new position. "These days, staff retention is an important issue for everyone involved in hospitality in Asia but if staff can see a line of career opportunity within an organisation, they will return to you even after trying another property", he remarked.

Willis also noted that service needs to be consistent and a positive service culture is important in an organisation. He thinks that people are prepared to pay for good service and that some hotels are returning to higher service standards.

"I joined Mövenpick because I believe they look after people and I believe that our Mövenpick Business Academy helps the company grow and retain staff", he added.

Being a service industry, Willis still believes that the most powerful tool in hospitality is a smile which is more than appropriate for the Mövenpick President Asia now based in the Land of Smiles.



www.movenpick.com



EXPERIENCED LEADER AT
PARKROYAL YANGON
Mark Losi is one of Pan Pacific
Hotels Group's most experienced
general managers who has
been with the group for 15
years. He was first appointed
General Manager of PARKROYAL

Penang Resort in 2002 and then took the helm at Pan Pacific Orchard, Singapore. He managed an extensive makeover at the PARKROYAL on Beach Road before relocating to PARKROYAL Kuala Lumpur. He now leads PARKROYAL Yangon in the city centre and close to landmarks like the Shwedagon Pagoda and Bogyoke Aung San Market. The 333-room hotel underwent an extensive refurbishment in 2016 and now features elegant public spaces, light-filled guestrooms, flexible event facilities and exciting dining concepts.

NEW GENERAL MANAGER FOR TWO ACCOR HOTELS

Kevin Bossino, Vice President of Operations for Accor Hotels Midscale and Economy Hotels in Singapore, has been appointed as General Manager of the Novotel Singapore on Stevens and Mercure Singapore on Stevens. He has over 30 years industry experience having worked in various hotels including The Rock Hotel (Gibraltar), Bauer Hotel (Venice) and The Connaught (London). He played an instrumental role

in opening various Century International Hotels (now acquired by Accor Hotels) in various Asian destinations. In 2005, he moved to Singapore, where he led the Grand Mercure Roxy and Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay as Area General Manager.





LOUIS T COLLECTION APPOINTS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Hospitality executive Mikael Svensson has joined hospitality management and building solutions company Louis T Collection as Senior Vice President. Svensson will oversee operations of the group's current hotel portfolio and work closely with its technical services team on new projects. The Swedish-native has spent the past 25 years in hospitality in locations across Asia and beyond. His most recent role was general manager of the Viceroy Palm Jumeirah Beach Dubai. He is a creative and resultsfocused operator with significant experience in conceptualising, opening, managing and renovating hotels, restaurants and bars. Louis T Collection was founded in 2014 and has a current portfolio of eight hotels.

spotlight



RESORT TO RIVER SETTING

Alan Burrows is now the General Manager at the Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay. He has taken charge of this everbusy 403-room property having transferred from being in the same position at the Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa since mid-2014. Burrows is an experienced hotelier whose career with Accor dates back to 1996. Over the years he has managed various hotels across Novotel and Mercure brands in Sydney, Canberra and Perth before moving to Fiji. Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay is situated beside the Singapore River and Clarke Quay.

NEW HEAD AT PARKROYAL KUALA LUMPUR

Guy Owen with a food and beverage background has rapidly advanced his career with Pan Pacific Hotels Group since joining the group in 2008 as a Food and Beverage Manager at Pan Pacific Orchard, Singapore. In 2012, he became Food and Beverage Director at Pan Pacific Nirwana Bali Resort before being promoted to its general manager in 2016. He now heads the PARKROYAL Kuala Lumpur of 426 rooms in the heart of the Malaysian capital.





GENERAL MANAGER FOR ACCOR'S RAFFLES CITY

Marcus Hanna has taken over Accor's Raffles City (RC) Hotel complex in Singapore and will report to Tom Meyer, Vice President Operations Luxe Hotels in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore, who remains at Raffles City Hotels as the Managing Director. Hanna moves over from the Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay, where he has been the General Manager since 2015. He has been with Accor for 13 years and brings a wealth of experience, having held various management positions including Sofitel Melbourne, Pullman at Sydney Olympic Park, Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach and Sofitel Brisbane Central. He was also Project Manager for Accor's management of Qantas First Class Lounges. The RC Hotel complex comprises the Fairmont Singapore, Swissôtel The Stamford Singapore and Raffles City Convention Centre.

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spotlight

MEIDINGER RETURNS TO GRAND HYATT TAIPEI

Taiwan's largest five-star hotel, the Grand Hyatt Taipei, has appointed Jan-Hendrik Meidinger as the hotel's new General Manager. The German national has relocated to the Taiwanese capital with more than 25 vears industry experience including being the Resident Manager at the hotel from 2006 to 2010. Most recently he was General Manager of The Excelsior Hong Kong. In his new role, Meidinger will lead one of the region's most iconic luxury properties and its 1,000 staff. He is a graduate of the University of Surrey where he majored in International Tourism and Hospitality Management.





ANI VILLAS APPOINTS NEW CEO

John Vasatka will take over as CEO of the Ani Villas' collection of private resorts in Anguilla, Sri Lanka, Dominican Republic and Thailand. Vasatka has worked with upscale luxury hotels for nearly two decades, including 12 years as general manager at various Aman resorts in the Caribbean, the Middle East, Sri Lanka and Thailand. His most recent position was as general manager at the Malliouhana,

an Auberge resort on Anguilla. He will continue to be based in the West Indies where Ani Villas first opened its doors in 2011. His background as an hotelier is exactly the kind of demographic that's increasingly drawn to the private resort concept. Unlike most resorts, Ani Villas and its collection of 10-15 suite properties caters to but a single party at a time, whether they're a group of friends or family on a togethering holiday, like-minded individuals on a lifestyle retreat or corporate groups that prefer the run of an entire property as opposed to being segregated to a section of a larger resort shared with others.

GOING LOCAL AT THE CHEDI CLUB

GHM has named Deasy Swandarini general manager of its intimate 20-villa resort – The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah, Ubud, Bali. Balinese by birth, Swandarini joins the GHM family after having spent a large part of her hospitality career in highly regarded Balinese resorts including Kayumanis Nusa Dua, The Royal Santrian Luxury Beach Villas, The Mulia and The Ritz-Carlton Bali. Her extensive knowledge of sales, marketing and revenue management is a natural complement to her dynamic leadership. She also demonstrated her adroitness through consistently high standards in



overall service. Here sparkling personality makes her the perfect host with great connections with the local market and will be a great ambassador for the property. The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah used to be the former holiday home of the Hadiprana Family and was built over 30 years ago by its patriarch, Hendra Hadiprana. The private estate houses the extensive art collection of the Indonesian architect, has a strong relationship with villagers, and is lovingly staffed by a team who treats visitors like family.



NEW SOFITEL IN SUBURBAN KUALA LUMPUR
One of Kuala Lumpur's most anticipated hotels recently opened with the unveiling of Sofitel Kuala Lumpur Damansara, Sofitel's first Malaysian hotel. Located in the heart of suburban Damansara Heights, the luxurious 312-room property is part of an 3.4ha integrated development by GuocoLand, comprising two luxury condominium blocks, two corporate office towers, the Sofitel and a mall.

Designed by Wilson Associates, the hotel's interior combines local heritage with a sophisticated feature wall depicting the country's wau bulan (moon kite) with French art vivre through an artistic representation of the famous Eiffel Tower. Stylish art pieces and sculptures were specially commissioned to pay homage to the rich Malaysian and French heritage and culture.

Ranging from 43m² to 105m², the guestrooms feature signature bedding, wi-fi and a selection of premium in-room amenities by Lanvin and Hermès. Guests staying in suites have access to the Club Millésime executive lounge, which offers city skyline views and delivers exclusive privileges including complimentary breakfast, all-day refreshments and sunset cocktails.

There are five bars and restaurants including the all-day dining restaurant Kwee Zeen featuring Pan-Asian cuisine, Wan Chun Ting Chinese Restaurant (Cantonese and Imperial cuisine), French wines and afternoon tea at Le Bar and authentic French Mediterranean cuisine at Nizza. The hotel also offers a Nespresso lounge and TWG fine teas.

For conventions, weddings, and corporate events, Sofitel Kuala Lumpur Damansara boasts six meeting rooms including a pillar-less 1,100m² ballroom which can accommodate up to 800 guests.

Wellness and leisure facilities include an outdoor pool, SO SPA and SO FIT. Featuring five treatment rooms, sauna and steam rooms, guests can luxuriate in signature SO SPA facial and massage treatments. The spa is also the country's first to offer a Moroccan Hamman bath treatment.

Strategically located midway between Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya within close proximity to Kuala Lumpur Sentral, Sofitel Kuala Lumpur Damansara is within walking distance to the Pusat Bandar Damansara MRT station and 55 minutes to Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

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THE FIRST ANDAZ HOTEL OPENS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Hyatt Hotels Corporation recently announced the opening of Andaz Singapore, the first Andaz hotel to open in the region. Andaz Singapore creates inspiring, indigenous experiences that immerse guests in the local



culture of each destination. Located at the heart of cultural crossroads, where Kampong Glam, Little India and the Bras Basah Bugis arts and entertainment hub meet, the hotel draws inspiration from its surroundings. Andaz Singapore has opened in DUO, a striking pair of concave skyscrapers, 186m and 170m high. Andaz Singapore houses 342 contemporary guestrooms, including 26 suites, with floor-to-ceiling windows framing city views. Guests enjoy a complimentary minibar with locally-sourced snacks and non-alcoholic drinks replenished daily, complimentary wifi and all-day complimentary refreshments at Sunroom, plus access to the Andaz

Lounge Hour from 5pm to 7pm which serves complimentary wines and Andaz Pale Ale. Alley on 25 brings Singapore street dining to hotel guests by offering seven alleyway 'shophouses' while Mr Stork is a rooftop bar offering teepee-hut seating and city views. www.andaz.com

JAYA HOUSE RIVER PARK'S RIVERBANK LOCATION

One of Siem Reap's newest boutique hotels, Jaya House River Park has opened in the northern Cambodian city in a leafy precinct besides the Siem Reap River. This petite haven is located just 20 minutes from the airport and a six-minute tuk tuk ride from town towards the Angkor temples. This modern, luxurious resort integrates Khmer culture and Western design. Its slightly off the beaten track location ensures a tranquil retreat away from the bustling town yet still readily accessible with the complimentary use of the hotel's transportation. All 36 rooms have either a balcony or garden and pool access. Accommodation is categorised as deluxe, junior suite and junior pool suite. Each 38m² deluxe room is designed to provide

a relaxing space with beautiful pool views or the tropical hanging gardens. A selection of home-grown teas, a Malongo espresso machine, Bluetooth connectivity, high-speed wireless internet and a well-stocked complimentary mini bar are for guests' use. In the spacious junior suites, a separate living area adds space and comfort. Three of these also have an outdoor shower while the junior pool suites with a plunge pool are perfect for privacy. The all-day dining restaurant serves an extensive breakfast buffet with sparkling wine, lunch and dinner with Khmer and Western dishes offered. The Spa offers selected treatments with experienced therapists and two pools ensure a pleasant respite for guests after a day of temple touring. www.jayahouseriverpark.com



LANGKAWI PUTS ON THE RITZ

The Ritz-Carlton Langkawi has opened on the oceanfront of this Malaysian resort island. Set along a tranguil bay, the resort is surrounded by rainforest

which meets the Andaman Sea and incorporates local influences. With coastal views, forests and a melange of cultures, Langkawi offers natural beauty and a fascinating story. Designed by Malaysian Tropical Area Architects, it has been created to immerse travellers in the coastal setting and local culture. Spacious interiors in the 70 guestrooms, 15 suites and 29 villas are framed by references to Malay architecture and elegant over-water villas offer panoramic views and magnificent sunsets. Guided forest walks reveal the myths and creatures of the forests. The resort is home to four dining venues overlooking the sea. Culinary styles range from Malay, Chinese and Indian in Langkawi Kitchen to Western favourites in the Beach Grill and Chinese seafood in Hai Yan. Curated, locally-inspired children's activities as part of its Ritz Kids programme are offered. Facilities enable a range of active pursuits, including tennis, a gym, pool and



yoga. Spa rituals have been created to restore body equilibrium with an infusion of traditional local elements. The spa is home to five cocoon-shaped pavilions which float above the sea. www.ritzcarlton.com



NEW WYNDHAM RESORT IN BALI

A second Wyndham Hotels and Resorts opened in Bali with the Wyndham Dreamland Resort Bali of 177 rooms located near Dreamland Beach framed by dramatic limestone cliffs that hug the rugged coastline of the southern Bukit Peninsula. Known for its long stretches of white sand, technicolour sunsets and some of Bali's most iconic surf breaks, it is little wonder that this slice of heaven is now home to Wyndham Hotel Group's newest Bali resort. The opening underscores Wyndham's commitment to growing its footprint in sought-after locations. The resort is a minute's walk to the tranquil Dreamland Beach home to bustling beach clubs and local cafés. Opposite the resort, the awardwinning New Kuta Golf Course offers golfers an 18-hole linksstyled fairway terrain overlooking panoramic views of the Indian Ocean. The property features a striking fusion of traditional Balinese and modern design across all rooms encompassing seven room categories. Each stylishly designed deluxe room offers 36m² with king or twin beds, working desks and a plush chaise lounge. The larger 72m² suites offer extended living areas and deep soaking bathtubs as well as outdoor jacuzzis for ground units. The resort's eight luxurious villas (one or two bedrooms) have private pools in a lush natural setting. There are three food and beverage outlets, two pools overlooking the tranquil gardens and Tirta Spa for total relaxation. www.wyndhamdreamlandbali.com

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SINGAPORE'S FIRST COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT Marriott recently celebrated the opening of the first Courtyard by Marriott at Singapore Novena. The largest brand by distribution in the Marriott International portfolio is ideally suited to Singapore's business and tourism industry, especially next generation travellers. The property is centrally located at the threshold of Health City Novena, providing a gateway to Singapore's top healthcare centres. The property provides guests with easy access to transportation and is close to cultural, entertainment, retail and dining destinations. All 250 rooms are stylishly appointed with contemporary furnishings. Guests can enjoy a variety of culinary and cocktail delights at the hotel's three dining options – SKY22 (all-day dining), Urbana (rooftop bar) and the Lobby Lounge. It also features amenities and executive offerings including an outdoor rooftop infinity pool, fitness centre, executive lounge and two meeting rooms. Guests can also participate in fitness activities and hotel-guided community tours. www.courtyardsingapore.com



Amara Hotels and Resorts, a Singaporean hospitality group has announced the upcoming opening of Amara Signature Shanghai in the city's historical Changshou Road commercial zone. The Shanghai outpost is the first under the new luxury brand, Amara Signature. Committed to the group's service values of 'entrepreneurial, thoughtful, simple, trustworthy', Amara Signature Shanghai offers guests an extraordinary space and personalised service to ensure every moment counts. Conveniently located at the intersection of Changshou Road and Jiaozhou Road, the hotel is a few minutes' walk from various metro lines, a ten-minute drive from the prestigious and fashionable business and shopping district of Jing'an and a 50-minute drive from Shanghai Pudong International Airport. It comprises 343 rooms and suites between the 7th and 30th floors, with each room featuring floor-to-ceiling windows. Ranging from 32m² to 149m² the rooms have classic interiors, plush bedding and modern bathrooms. Each room is equipped with complimentary wi-fi and a 43" - 55" flat-screen television with satellite channels. Food and beverage outlets include BLU, an all-day dining restaurant offering sumptuous á la carte and buffet selections featuring Singaporean, Japanese, Western and local Chinese cuisines; stylish lobby bar FLO is an ideal location for guests to socialise over fine wines, refreshments and music. The boutique in the lobby, Grab N Go serves healthy delights and exquisite souvenirs. The stylish outdoor pool is a perfect oasis in the bustling city. The spacious round-the-clock fitness centre has the latest Technogym equipment and customised workout programmes led by expert trainers. www.amarahotels.com





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LA RESIDENCE REFURBISHMENT

La Residence Hotel and Spa in Hué Vietnam, just twelve years after opening as one of the hottest new hotels in Asia, has wrapped up work on the first phase of a two-stage renovation. While its art deco elements remain unchanged, every one of the hotel's 122 rooms is on the verge of an extreme makeover, and with a decided move toward an understated aesthetic. The spa remains in the same place but consumes more of its ground floor location, and will feature new facilities, furnishings and equipment. The rooftop fitness centre has been relocated to a new venue beside the spa. The swimming pool has been relocated to outside the hotel's flagship restaurant, Le Parfum, and will lure swimmers with a new pool bar. Walls, curtains, blinds and upholstery

throughout Le Parfum cultivate a more muted ambiance in pearl gray, complemented by a new lighting system that sets different moods for breakfast, lunch and dinner. A new three-bedroom pool villa with a private heated pool will open on the banks of the fabled Perfume River as a complement to the hotel's historic mansion and two annexes. Renovations followed a compartmentalised approach to the first series of changes, and will pursue the same subtle approach to the second phase so that the redevelopments will be as invisible as possible to guests. Other changes include the hotels' distinguishing all white façade is now ash-beige and, the bar has been removed from the rotunda lobby and rebuilt in one of the mansion's wings, providing guests with a more dedicated lounge experience.

www.la-residence-hue.com



SHERATON TOUCHES DOWN IN PETALING JAYA

The Sheraton Petaling Jaya
Hotel opened late 2017 as the
first new international fivestar opening in this part of
Kuala Lumpur for a long time.
Situated beside the ever-busy
Federal Highway it is close to
the LRT train service with the
Twin Towers being just 20
minutes away. Expanding over
33 storeys the hotel has 253
rooms with rooms facing the
east having distant city and
Genting Highland views.



www.sheratonpetalingjaya.com

There are seven room categories with deluxe rooms of 32m² equipped with the latest features including complimentary wi-fi, safe, minibar, iron and ironing board and a separate shower and bathtub. There are 48 club floor rooms that have access to the spacious lounge on the 31st floor. There is an extensive selection of food and beverage concepts from the all-day dining FEAST, Miyabi, Link@Sheraton Café, Yue, Chime Cigar Lounge and Sala Bar at the rooftop level.

MERCURE BUGIS

The recently-opened, 15-storey high, 395room Mercure Singapore Bugis is situated in the heart of the city's ever-lively Bras Basah and Bugis enclave and offers guests access to the area's cultural and historic attractions, some enticing shopping propositions and a smorgasbord of dining and entertainment options. The Mercure property is also located just minutes away from Singapore's CBD and all the prestigious shops positioned along the famous Orchard Road strip. Four room categories are offered standard, loft, superior and executive loft rooms. Its loft rooms are unique in offering a floor-to-ceiling window panel with a sitting area that features a foldable sofa bed and stairs leading up to a comfortable bedroom with a queen bed.



Guests can dine in the modern Chinese cuisine restaurant called Song Garden located on the second floor or the all-day dining Royale Restaurant on level three as well enjoy the smart cocktails and beverages served at BARtistry@ONE22 which is situated in the hotel's lobby. Be tempted by the bar's daily one-for-one offer on house-pour wines and beer available from 5pm to 8pm.

Visitors enjoy complimentary wi-fi and access to over 2,000 online publications via a Press Reader App. In addition, guests can tap into free local and IDD telephone calls to ten key destinations through the availability of a Smartphone. This mobile device also offers a current City Guide to guests on the move. Active guests can work out in the 24-hour access gym, relax in the swimming pool or spend some reflective time in

The Mercure Singapore Bugis is conveniently located within a fiveminute walk from Bugis MRT. Mercure is a midscale hotel brand with over 740 hotels operating in 55 countries. www.mercure.com





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VIVE LA REVOLUTION IN SYDNEY'S DARLING HARBOUR

Sydney's first new international luxury hotel this millennium – the Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour –opened in late 2017, breaking a five-star drought that extends back to before the city staged the Olympics in 2000. The spectacular hotel is located in Darling Harbour in one of the Olympic locations but is part of a massive reshaping of the area, joining the recently-opened International Convention Centre as the face of 'new Sydney'. The hotel's 35 levels ensure that a large majority of the 590 rooms enjoy peerless views across the city and harbour. Even the infinity-style swimming pool offers dramatic panoramas which can be enjoyed with a cocktail from Le Rivage poolside bar. French gastronomy and flair feature across the hotel's restaurants and bars: Atelier, Champagne Bar and Esprit Noir while Club Millésime on Level 35 is a stylish base for both business travellers and holidaymakers wanting to take in the very best of contemporary Sydney. www.sofitelsydneydarlingharbour.com.au

RITZ OPENS KOH SAMUI RESORT

It has been more than three years in its construction but now the just-opened Ritz-Carlton Koh Samui is starting to turn heads and attract the attention of discerning holidaymakers to this Gulf of Thailand island retreat. Guests stay in spacious suites with the ultimate in accommodation being the ultimate pool villas. The resort brings together the Ritz-Carlton's legendary, a forested coastal setting and contemporary Thai architecture in its 175 all-suites and pool villas on a former coconut plantation on the far northeast coast of Koh Samui. The centre of the resort's recreational programme is The Spa Village where many treatments incorporate coconut products sourced from the island. Six outlets cater to hungry and thirsty guests with the all-day dining proposition, Shook! serving well-known Western, Asian and Thai dishes. www.ritzcarlton.com



SHINTA MANI COLLABORATES WITH BILL BENSLEY

Shinta Mani Hotels has initiated an exciting collaboration with designer and architect Bill Bensley to launch 'The Bensley Collection'; an exclusive portfolio of sophisticated resorts showcasing visionary concepts, extraordinary design and personalised service – the essence of The Bensley Collection. Shinta Mani Angkor – Bensley Collection comprising ten villas opened in December 2017. From its high-walled façade portraying the 'hands of meditation" to signify spiritual perfection, to the oversized indoor lap pools and gardens with a rooftop living room, the ten chic, luxurious two-level art deco-inspired villas set beneath the canopy of Siem Reap's ancient palace trees delight, surprise and inspire its guests. Guests luxuriate in the hands of Bensley Butlers to ensure a flawless stay. Each villa offers 156m² across two pavilions including a floor-to-ceiling glassed bathroom with views over the garden and outdoor bath. www.shintamani.com



MUMBAI'S FIRST RADISSON Radisson Mumbai Goregaon has opened its doors in India's financial capital. Situated in the main commercial and retail suburban hub of Goregaon, the hotel is an upscale international branded hotel well-suited to both business and leisure travellers as it is surrounded by shopping districts, entertainment centres, tourist attractions, corporate offices and located near the international airport and Bombay Exhibition Centre. The hotel features 98 contemporary-styled rooms with modern amenities and offered in three categories - superior, business class and suites. All rooms are equipped with amenities including complimentary wi-fi, 42" LED televisions with premium channels and coffee and tea making facilities. Suites include extra features like a separate living room, dining table, walk-in wardrobe and bath tub. It also features facilities such as Tattva Spa that delivers a variety of massages and beauty treatments. There is also a rooftop swimming pool with city views. The hotel's dining options include 180 Degree Dining, the all-day dining restaurant that serves Continental, Oriental and Indian cuisines. Craft cocktails and mocktails are served at Tipsy Terrace, an open-to-sky restobar. The Radisson Mumbai Goregaon also has 11 banquet halls for meetings, events and weddings. www.carlsonrezidor.com

TANK STREAM HOTEL

The Tank Stream Hotel is named after Sydney's original 'life source' – a stream that provided fresh water to the infant European colony over 200 years ago. Today, the stream runs underground through the city centre, and its importance has been commemorated in the naming of the



hotel, which originally opened as part of the international St. Giles Hotel Group. Location is one of the Tank Stream's greatest attractions, with the city's premier business houses, restaurants and shops all nearby, along with rail, bus and ferry transport, and some of the city's most significant heritage buildings and newer masterpieces, including the Sydney Opera House. The hotel is clad in distinctive Wombeyan marble, offering 280 stylish four-star rooms, with an all-inclusive rate concept providing complimentary non-alcoholic mini-bar, high-speed wi-fi, in-room movies and Nespresso coffee. Guests are able to dine at the bistro-style Le Petit Flot restaurant and the laneway deli. www.tankstreamhotel.com

LUANG PRABANG GREETS AVANI

AVANI Hotels and Resorts launched its first hotel in the historic town of Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in northern Lao PDR. The 53-room hotel is located on a narrow peninsula at the junction of the Nam Khan and Mekong Rivers. Originally opened as the Azerai Hotel, the rebrand was just completed. The French neo-classical architectural design resembles the style of the grand villas found in Luang Prabang. Guest rooms offer an open plan living experience with French-styled louvered wooden doors that open out to a balcony overlooking either the pool or a private courtyard. The interior design draws inspiration from its colonial French heritage,

yet the design approach is modern, functional and elegant. The Bistro serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, indoors or outdoors. The menu favours classic Bistro and Lao dishes and the upstairs bar with its streetside veranda offers the ideal perch from which to observe the daily rhythms of Luang Prabang local life. The AVANISPA offers two single and two double treatment rooms with a communal relaxation area. AVANISPA adopts a straightforward individual approach wellness. Problematic body zones will be assessed and a treatment recommended, chosen from one of four results-driven options; Boost, Balance, Calm and Purify. www.minorhotels.com



Chemo Kids Graduation Ball

ospitality is a wonderful industry that sets out to make people happy in friendly surroundings with service provided by professional staff. There is a high 'feel-good' factor in giving and receiving the best hospitality possible.

It is also an industry that can and does give back to people especially those who are less fortunate than many of us. This sense of giving back is the essential driver behind the Chemo Kids Graduation Ball which recognises the courage and youthful determination of children who successfully underwent the ordeal of chemotherapy. Their determination has inspired a one-of-its kind charity ball to raise funds to support others in need of cancer treatment.

The grand event was staged on 10th December at the Royale Chulan Damansara Hotel and featured the theme of Disney's Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted. Royale Chulan's ballroom was lavishly decorated thanks to the assistance of





hotel staff and a team of volunteers and sponsors who included Inside Scoop (ice-cream station), Cool Merchants Connection Sdn Bhd (inflatables), Montage Event Management (games booths and clown services), Love and Lace Studio (graduation gowns), VHP Studio (photography), DevilishIdeas (artwork design) and Zanne Gifts Hampers and Events (face painting and tattoos). A lavish lunch was co-sponsored by the team at Royale Chulan Damansara.

Jennifer Ong, Founder and CEO of HAPA and WAP INTL, the brainchild and organiser of the Chemo Graduation Charity Ball said, "The generous contributions from sponsors and donors enabled us to raise RM150,000 and sponsorships valued at RM60,000 to donate to the University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) for the National Cancer Society of Malaysia."

The ball was also a celebration of the children's achievement, hope and inspiration for the other children undergoing the same ordeal.

The 25 chemo-graduates, aged from 3 to 17, all of whom completed their treatments at the UMMC, received Certificates of Completion in recognition of their incredible bravery, courage and sacrifice they made to fight cancer. They, and the 250 guests, 105 of whom were children from different orphanages and children's homes were served high-tea. They were also entertained by various performers including an opening dance by students from S.J.Y. (C) Yuk Chai, a singing performance by two volunteers and a magic show.

There were lots of activities such as several carnival game booths in the foyer, inflatables, popcorn and cotton candy station, ice-cream station, face painting and tattoo station plus an ice skating session in the evening sponsored by the Royale Chulan Damansara Hotel.

Special thanks to the main sponsors Royale Chulan Damansara, AAVII Group of Companies and Borders, as well as others.

A Shining Light

Kuala Lumpur event venue, Lightbox has proved to be a new shining light with its innovative programmes.



Lightbox in suburban Kuala Lumpur continues to turn heads with those who love the arts and will be the venue for the Songkran Music Festival on 14th-15th April.

Songkran Festivities

Famous throughout Thailand, Songkran is known as a period of transformation and change but also as a fun time when young people especially, get soaked with water. This outdoor festival with extend from 3pm to 8pm on both days and will feature a waterslide, dunk tank, disc jockey, clowns and much more besides the 15-minute display of Aurora Lights at 7.45pm on each evening.

The event space appeals for its facilities which include 350 indoor parking bays and proximity to public transport including Sungai Buloh train and MRT station. Tickets can be purchased from their website.

www.lightbox.com.my

Art Festivals

Lightbox, Light Grey's previous art festival, Between City and Stars featured state-of-the-art installations by local and international artists. The festival consisted of two major attractions - City Gazing and Dreamscape along with a myriad of other activities.

City Gazing by the Dutch art duo VOUW (Justus Bruns and Mingus Vogel) was a massive light installation suspended in mid-air to depict a view of Kuala Lumpur from the sky. The work enabled visitors to experience Kuala Lumpur as if from a plane at night.

Dreamscape was a sensorial celebration of new light art form specially curated to immerse gallery-goers in a magical world - a truly unique experience by local curators Addonlife with designers Sergio Alves (Portugal) and Henrique Nascimento (Netherlands). Visitors were impressed by its maze and video projection mappings that transported them to another reality.



A Lavish LAVO Night

24th August 2017 • A lavish No Address Society (NAS) networking night was staged at Lavo located at Marquee, Menara Lien Hoe in Petaling Jaya.



his spacious and vibrant, resto lounge and wine studio features a restaurant, lounge and wine bar that showcases a contemporary and avant-garde design, an energetic vibe and mood lighting. Patrons can also retreat one floor up to enjoy the facilities of CHAZE, a private speakeasy.

The host for the venue and the delicious menu served on the evening was Lavo. Its chefs prepared a tempting seven-course fusion menu. The NAS dinner was held in their private dining area surrounded by an enticing selection of the restaurant's well-designed and lit display of premium wines.

An exciting selection of German wines was served courtesy of Ravi Vamathevan and Olaf Schild from Weinhaus Schild and Sohn winemakers from Germany. The wines of German are not frequently seen on Malaysian wine lists and patrons at NAS enjoyed the opportunity to sample this exciting range of table wines.

After desserts were served, the guests were invited to move up to Maze for after dinner drinks. Diners were served gin and tonic together with gin-infused ice cream while being entertained by a violinist. The night's celebrations continued at CHAZE.

www.lavomy.com



A Nomadic Experience To Treasure

14th September 2017 • A lively No Address Society (NAS) dinner was hosted at The Library, The Ritz-Carlton Kuala Lumpur.





Sample A Taste of Five Sub-Continents

30th November 2017 • Samplings on the Fourteenth lived up to its name when No Address Society (NAS) members enjoyed delicious samplings from five chefs complemented by premium beverages.

No Address Society (NAS) gathering at Samplings on the Fourteenth for Jenn and Friends brought 'A Taste of the Five Sub-Continents' to delight members. The generous host on the evening was Berjaya University College (BUC) where Samplings on the Fourteenth is the 'heart and hearth' of the university.

An interesting dining experience was curated by No Address Society (NAS) by HAPA, in that they managed to work together with BUC to allow outside chefs to use the kitchen while working together with the university students. It was an exclusive six-course menu prepared by four chefs from four different topnotch restaurants – Paradise Dynasty, Vineria. It, Goa by Hubba and WOW KL! while Jennifer Ong prepared the HAPA signature dish.

Global Pacific Victory (M) Sdn Bhd was the main ingredient sponsor of quality international fine foods to the chefs who prepared the superb dishes on the night. Luen Heng F&B Sdn Bhd provided a tempting selection of fine beverages to complement the food.





A Burst of Red in Paradise

30th January 2018 • A Chinese feast at Paradise Dynasty in Bangsar provided a fitting start to the Chinese festive season by No Address Society (NAS).



he statistics for FHM2017 speak for themselves – total number of participating companies: 1,250, total number of trade visitors: 25,823 and, business matchings generated: 230. The organisers of FHM2017 were please that all these figures were significantly higher than for FHM2015.

The organisers of FHM2017 thanked Culinaire Malaysia 2017, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia, the Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB), the Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH), Professional Culinaire Association (PCA), Malaysian Cocoa Board (MCB), the Malaysian Food and Beverage Executives Association (MFBEA), the British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (BMCC) and CCI France (CCFIM) for supporting the event.



FHM2017 A SUCCESS



SATISFIED EXHIBITORS

The success of events such as FHM2017 is best measured by those who attend especially those who exhibit.

Rudi Kitzbichler from MEIKO Clean Solutions (Asia) claimed that FHM was quite good for MEIKO with several really good contacts and new customers who they had not spoken to before. "FHM provides MEIKO with greater branding awareness and we have been here for five years now so we are being accepted more," he remarked.

Gilbert Chang from Auric Pacific Group Ltd claimed that FHM2017 was a fantastic platform to create market awareness especially for Auric and brands like Monin, Beryl's, its own house brands SCS (butter) and Buttercup (margarine) and other principal brands. "SCS and Buttercup are leading brands but we need to maintain leadership and to enlarge market share wherever possible. While it is a long-term investment I have a good feeling about building the business through events like FHM2017," he maintained.

Sani Ong from Pastry Pro commented: "That of all the exhibitions I attend in Asia, this is up there with FHA in Singapore. The quality of the exhibitors, well-decorated and attractive stands and the facilities of KLCC are very good. The real work comes after the show when we have to follow up and getting 10% increase in business is a good target."

Malaysia's premier trade-only food and hospitality show will be back with the next Food and Hotel Malaysia set for 24-27 September 2019 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.



We would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the support and confidence that you have given us which helped in making FHM2017 a success.

www.foodandhotel.com

Malaysia's Official Food & Hotel Show

The 14th Malaysian International Exhibition of Food, Drinks, Hotel, Restaurant & Foodservice Equipment, Supplies, Services & Related Technology

26 - 29 September 2017 Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia

THE PROVEN RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

The culinary and hospitality industry is known to be one of the driving forces in Malaysia's dynamic economy. Adhering to this vibrant market, Food and Hotel Malaysia (FHM) 2017 held from 26 - 29 September 2017 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, will cater to an extensive mix of industry players and market leaders. The organisers of FHM 2017, UBM MES, will be looking to raise the bar even higher in order to look to top FHM 2015's impressive figures of 23,000 visitors from 57 countries and an incredible 1,200 local and international companies from 50 countries. With an impressive track record that consistently increases, FHM 2017 is already on track to be even bigger than the 2015 edition with an expected growth rate of 15% in exhibition space booked.

In line with the show's impressive growth, this year FHM brings to you 10 International Group Pavilions from:

- Algeria
- Belgium
- Japan
- Singapore
 Taiwan
- Korea
- Philippines

• Fujian Province China

- Turkey
- USA

Featuring major players of the Food & Hotel industry such as:

- Auric Marketing
- Euro Atlantic

- Nestle Products
- Pastry Pro
- Sendo Ichi

- Bidfood Malaysia
- F&B Equipment
- F&N Beverage Marketing Global Pacific Victory (GPV)
 - Lloyd's Register of Shipping
 - NKR Continental
 - Rak Porcelain Llc
 - Swissman
 - Just to name a few...

FHM 2017 SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Culinaire Malaysia 2017

With over 1,500 entries and an assemblage of more than 1,000 culinary professionals, there will be a display of astounding skills and talents in all contesting disciplines and category.

Live Cooking Demos by Malaysian Celebrity Chefs

Cooking demonstrations by our Celebrity Chef Sherson Lian and Mom from AFC's 'Family Kitchen' and other Malaysian Celebrity Chefs.

Wine Village

Look, smell and taste top quality wines from around the world at the distinguished Wine Village.

Wine Tasting Session

This tasting session is Moderated by certified international Bordeaux educators accredited by the official Bordeaux wine council (CIVB).

Whisky Ambassador Seminar

The seminar is presented by Leigh McGrotty, Asia's lead educator of the Whisky Ambassador programme.

Tuna Slicing Demonstrations

Educational and entertaining demonstration by Sendo Ichi where big tuna fish will be effortlessly and skilfully sliced by experienced chefs.

If you are part of the Hospitality and F&B industry, you would not want to miss out on this extravagant and fruitful event. Mark your calendar from 26 - 29 September 2017 to visit FHM 2017 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

For more information on the show, please visit **www.foodandhotel.com**.































24 - 27 April 2018

SINGAPORE EXPO & SUNTEC SINGAPORE

Celebrating 40 years of business excellence, FHA is the preferred choice for industry professionals to access an international showcase of food and hospitality products, equipment and solutions needed to drive business inspiration today and tomorrow.

2 Venues. 1 Mega Show.



4,000 exhibitors from over 70 countries / regions

68 international group pavilions

80,000 trade attendees from 100 countries / regions

11 culinary, bakery, pastry and coffee related competitions

50 free workshops and activities

1 power-packed

FHA2018 International Conference



Pre-register online now to get a copy of Project 40: Industry Report on Smart Innovations Transforming the Food & Hospitality Landscape by 2020 onsite at FHA2018!

The Industry Report is produced in collaboration with FHA2018's Strategic Partner for Project 40:



www.foodnhotelasia.com

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foodservice and hospitality equipment & supplies

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- **Showcasing** Food Preparation Equipment, Laundry Equipment & Accessories, Storage & Refrigeration Equipment, Housekeeping Products
- ▶ **50** related competitions, workshops, activities & award showcase



Equipment Awards Featuring futuristic foodservice concepts

Award Winning Showcase of equipment that incorporated Sustainability, Cost Savings and Innovation

@HotelAsia2018

Daily themed tours on selected products that will boost productivity and business processes

thematic

One-to-one consultation sessions with foodservice experts on kitchen building or remodelling

WORKSHOPS @ Knowledge Theatre

Suntec

Singapore

Topics on Halal Hospitality, Halal Kitchen Design and Digital Marketing

FHA2018 at a Glance

4,000 exhibitors from over 70 countries / regions

68 international group pavilions

80,000 trade attendees from 100 countries / regions

11 culinary, bakery, pastry and coffee related competitions

50 free workshops and activities

1 power-packed FHA2018 International Conference



Pre-register online now to get a copy of the industry report* on **Smart Innovations** Transforming the Food & Hospitality Landscape by 2020 onsite at FHA2018!

*Strategic Partner for the industry report:





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Food&HotelAsia2018 (FHA2018) is the showcase event for industry players which, in its 40th anniversary will highlight a comprehensive range of foodservice and hospitality innovations when staged in Singapore from the 24th to 27th April 2018.

FHA2018 Adds Asian Selection for Coppa del Mondo of Gelateria

egional foodservice and hospitality sectors are destined to be busy over the coming years as brands develop and evolve to enrich their customer experience with new equipment and innovative technology and services.

Dolce Vita at FHA2018

Many exhilarating events are planned for FHA2018 billed as 'Two Venues Mega Show' and staged at Singapore Expo and Suntec Singapore.

The first edition of the Asian Gelato Cup at FHA2018 will elevate the presence of top Asian gelato connoisseurs onto a global stage. Organised by UBM and supported by the Singapore Pastry Alliance, the Asian Gelato Cup (first official Asian selection for the Coppa del Mondo of Gelateria or Gelato World Cup), will be held from 24th to 27th April in conjunction with FHA2018.

As a region known for leading dietary and robust food trends, and Singapore being home to the Asia Pacific champion for the renowned Gelato World Tour, FHA2018 will be the perfect host for the Asian selection.

Twelve teams from ten Asian countries are confirmed, out of which three will emerge as winners to represent their cities at the Gelato World Cup 2020 in Rimini, Italy.

Medals and certificates of awards will be given for Best Gelato Cake, Best Plated Dessert, Best Artistic Showpiece, Best Tasting Gelato prize and Best Team Spirit.



Celebrated Sponsors

The inaugural Asian Gelato Cup launch will encourage Asian individuals, businesses and entrepreneurs to join the global frozen dessert industry and tap into a market segment worth tens of billions of dollars.

Sponsors for the event are Capfruit, Carpigiani, Elle and Vire, Fabbri 1905, IFI, Irinox, KitchenAid, REDMAN by Phoon Huat and Valrhona.



FHA2108 and ProWine Asia 2018

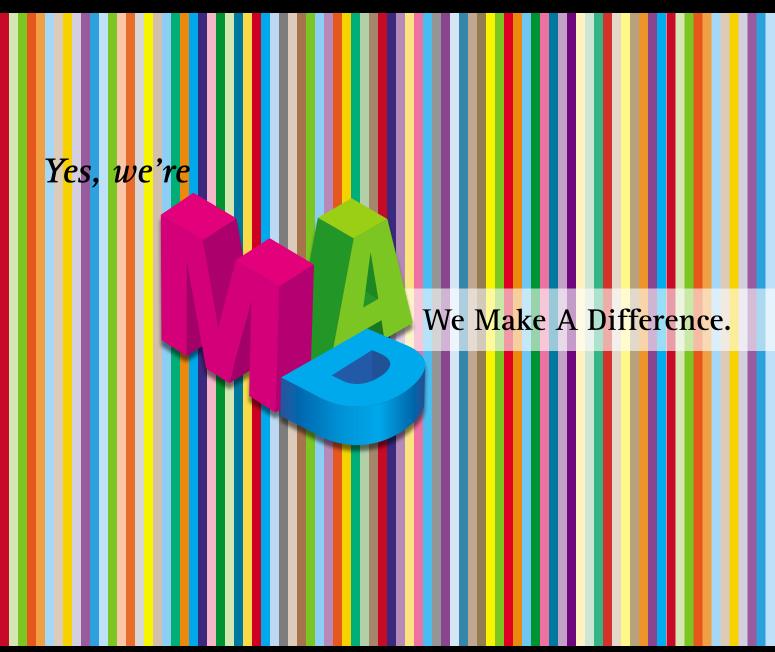
ProWine Asia 2018, the largest trade fair of its kind in South East Asia, will be held alongside FHA2018 at Singapore Expo, Hall 10. FHA2018 is open to trade professionals only.

www.foodnhotelasia.com www.prowineasia.com/sg 66 Others have seen what is and asked why.

We have seen what could be and asked why not?!

We make events happen!

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