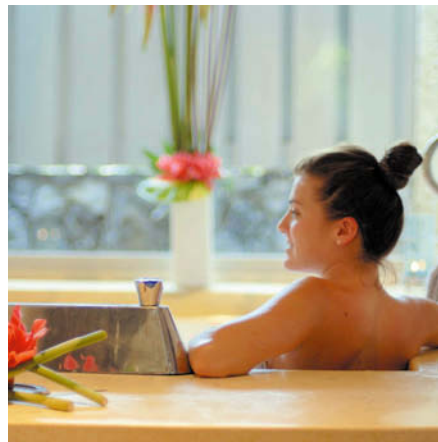


travel, golf & spa



Check out the new treatments at the Hilton spas, new child-friendly destinations, Royal Plaza On Scott's intuitive new makeover, dining and living at Indulgence and discover the flavours and colours of Phuket.



Watch The Birdie

Eos Airlines, which has already shaken up the industry with its “uncrowned, uncompromising” Eos Class experience, continues to set new benchmarks for hassle-free travel. Eos announced it has signed a partnership agreement with US Helicopter to provide helicopter service between Manhattan and JFK International Airport for its guests travelling to London. Eos offers 44 flights per week between New York’s JFK and London’s Stinted Airport.

Guests reserving unrestricted tickets aboard Eos will be offered complimentary helicopter transfer from locations at Downtown Manhattan Heliport (Wall Street) or East 34th Street Heliport where TSA security screening will be completed and luggage will be checked to final destination. After a convenient eight-minute helicopter flight guests will be greeted by an Eos Guide and escorted to the Lounge or directly to their flight.

ha



Alban Lee, Country Manager for Emirates (left) greets Harold and Karin Manhartsberger, first passengers to check-in at Emirates' new city check-in counter at KL Sentral while Patrick Francis, Emirates' Airport Services Manager looks on

KL Sentral Check-in For Emirates

Beginning in November 2007 passengers flying on the international award winning Emirates Airline will be able to experience the convenience of check-in services prior to making their way to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

With its counters strategically located at the Kuala Lumpur Sentral Station (KL Sentral), this initial phase of Emirates' check-in facilities will service Dubai bound travellers only, with plans to extend it to travel beyond Dubai in the near future.

According to Alban Lee, Emirates' Country Manager Malaysia, the offering comes as part of Emirates' dedication to provide its Malaysian passengers with the best in on-ground and in-flight service excellence as the airline experiences strong growth in outbound travel from Kuala Lumpur. This is the latest in Emirates' premium services for travel comfort, which comes hot after the heels of the introduction of the exclusive Emirates Lounge situated at KLIA and the specially designed new range of children's in-flight products launched earlier this year.

Best Fare Guarantee On SriLankan Web

SriLankan Airlines offers a Best Fare Guarantee on its website www.srilankan.aero for passengers who purchase tickets online. Kapila Bandara, E-Commerce Manager at SriLankan, said, “Booking online through our website just got better with the introduction of the Best Fare Guarantee. If you find a cheaper fare on any other website for travel on SriLankan Airlines for the same dates and fare rules we will refund the difference between the two immediately.”

Booking through SriLankan's user-friendly Internet Booking Engine is now highly popular for its convenience. Simply go to www.srilankan.aero and check fares by filling in a few simple details. Booking is an easy six-step process that takes only a few minutes. Payment is by credit card through a secure online payment gateway. An E-ticket is then e-mailed to the passenger, who must simply print it and bring it to the airport.

Those wishing to receive first-hand news by e-mail of SriLankan's special offers can sign up on the website. SriLankan also provides exciting giveaways and discounts for bookings through its website.

JetStar Asia Flies Daily To Kuala Lumpur

From 1 February 2008, JetStar Asia commences daily flights to Kuala Lumpur. Passengers departing from Singapore get to fly from Changi Airport Terminal One and arrive in style and comfort at Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

JetStar Asia is a value-based carrier operating out of Singapore that currently flies to 14 destinations in nine countries within five hours of Singapore. The wide regional network includes Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Valair, JetStar Asia's sister company, flies to Bali, Jakarta and Surabaya.

JetStar Asia is a majority Singapore-owned company, with a significant Qantas shareholding, ensuring the highest standards of operational excellence and safety standards, while delivering good value to its customers.



JetStar Asia's value-based carrier now flies daily to Kuala Lumpur

SriLankan Airlines Introduces On-Line Check-In Facility

SriLankan Airlines' passengers no longer need to queue up to check-in at Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport, with the launch of the airline's On-Line Check-In facility. Passengers even have the luxury of choosing their own seat on the aircraft, through the remarkably easy to use system.

Nigel O'Shea, Head of Service Delivery, said, "On-Line Check-In is a major initiative that is part of our ongoing project to improve the convenience for everyone travelling on SriLankan Airlines. It allows our passengers to select the seat they would like before they come to the airport, and it considerably reduces the time spent in the check-in area."

The facility will initially be for single sector travel (direct flights without stopovers) from Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) to 31 of SriLankan's destinations throughout Europe, the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent, Southeast Asia and the Far East. It will next be extended to multiple sector flights, and will also be introduced worldwide at the airline's other points of departure for flights into BIA and other destinations.

On-Line Check-In opens 24 hours before a flight and continues up to two hours before the flight. One could even check-in groups of passengers, if the required information and reference numbers are available. The system will automatically assign a seat, which the passenger can change through a user-friendly chart that shows the aircraft's seating plan, identifying reserved seats in a different colour.

The Boarding Pass is then displayed on screen, with all necessary details. Passengers may take a printout of their boarding pass if they wish, although it is not required since he or she can produce the e-ticket at the airport and receive a printout of the Boarding Pass from SriLankan staff. **h3**



SriLankan Airlines' website features online booking



Regent Seven Seas Cruises Voyager cruiseship

New Owners For Seven Seas Cruises

Minneapolis-based Carlson and Apollo Management L.P. (Apollo) has announced that Apollo has agreed to acquire Carlson's Regent Seven Seas Cruises operations. The acquisition is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2008. The cruise operations will continue as a key part of the global Regent brand.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Oceania Cruises will be placed under the ownership of Prestige Cruise Holdings, Inc. (PCH), a corporation controlled by Apollo which will manage certain cruise portfolio assets of Apollo. NCL Corporation will remain a separate holding outside of PCH.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises will remain a wholly independent brand under the guidance of Mark Conroy, President of Regent Seven Seas Cruises, and will continue to operate from its Fort Lauderdale, Florida headquarters, and Oceania Cruises will remain in its Miami headquarters, headed by Bob Binder, President of Oceania Cruises. Both Binder and Conroy will report directly to Frank Del Rio, Chairman and CEO of Prestige Cruise Holdings.

The transaction is part of a unified strategy undertaken by Apollo and Carlson to expand their respective core cruise and hotel operations, and become the world's preeminent operators of luxury hotels, resorts and cruises. Carlson will retain ownership of the master Regent brand, along with the worldwide operations of Regent Hotels & Resorts.

Apollo's acquisition of Regent Seven Seas Cruises strengthens its position in the cruise industry with the addition of an award-winning luxury cruise brand to its cruise portfolio. Regent Seven Seas Cruises will continue to focus on the luxury segment of the marketplace by offering a six-star, all-inclusive experience, and Oceania Cruises will continue to lead the Upper Premium segment. **h3**

MAS Invests In Electronic Ticketing

Malaysia Airlines (MAS) is investing RM200 million in the next three years in a new passenger service system that will, among other things, enable the airline to be fully electronic ticketing (eTicketing) capable by September.

eTicketing and electronic check-ins are the essence of MAS' multi-million ringgit information technology programme to comply with International Air Transport Association's mandate that calls for all air travel to be ticketless by 2007. The national airline expected savings of RM70mil a year by implementing eTicketing.

MAS eTicketing's introduction is on track following its successful cutover to the new user-friendly SITA Departure Control System (DCS) for its 16 domestic stations, including the KL International Airport (KLIA), to hasten passenger check-in and boarding process, replacing the system the airline has been using for the last 20 years. By March 2008 customers will be able check in via the airline's website. **h3**

Kids Come First At Parkroyal Penang

The Parkroyal Penang is situated centrally on the best beach in Penang, Batu Ferringhi Beach, which is an area providing tourists with restaurants, bars, shopping and a night market. In Penang, one can go shopping, eat the delicious local food, visit heritage sites, climb Penang Hill by cable car, explore Little India, take a trishaw ride, visit the Butterfly Farm, Tropical Spice Garden, Tropical Fruit Farm and more.

The 324-room five-star deluxe resort has three restaurants, two bars, two swimming pools with 70-foot water slide, a tennis court, a Spa, water sports centre, dedicated kids' club for children up to 12 years of age, teenage area, lobby shop, traditional massage huts, limousine counter and self-service laundromat.

Parkroyal Penang's The Koko-Nut Klub is a dedicated children's facility, which is fully secure. It offers games, daily activities, movies, toys, dining area, nursery and baby-sitting services, staffed by trained coordinators. Cool Bananas for teenagers features Sony PlayStations, internet stations, library and pool table. Children's meals are available in each restaurant.

The resort offers activities including jungle trekking, bicycle tours, palmistry, beach volleyball, cooking classes, aqua-aerobics, table tennis, beach bag painting, mask painting, beads creations, T-shirt painting, hair plaiting and more. [h3](#)



Relax at Centara's pool villas when off the green

Centara's Golf Packages 2008

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand has great packages designed for golfers to the finest golf courses near its hotels and resorts. The packages are available from now until 31 October 2008 in Bangkok, Hua Hin, Krabi, Samui, Phuket, Hat Yai and Chiang Mai. The packages include accommodation at the selected hotel / resort with buffet breakfast, roundtrip airport transfer (except Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok, Sofitel Centara Grand Resort & Villas Hua Hin and Novotel Centara Hat Yai), welcome drink and in-room fruit basket upon arrival, complimentary room stay for children under 12 years of age sharing parents' room and bedding, roundtrip transfer between hotel and golf course, green fees and caddie fee at Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok, Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villa Krabi, Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui and Centara Villas Samui.

Package prices vary from property to property starting from Baht 3,100.- net per golfer during low season and weekdays to Baht 16,400.-net per two golfers during high season. [h3](#)

South Africa For Women

The Cultural Explorer, featuring cultural and philanthropic travel in South Africa, announces an exclusive tour especially for women, just in time for Mother's Day, May 11, 2008. The Mothers & Daughters - South African Adventure - 2008 is a celebration of women and is designed to introduce adventurous North American mothers and daughters to the resilient women and children of South Africa.

Travellers will visit innovative organizations that work to improve the education and work skills of disadvantaged women. Travellers will meet several women along the way who have made a

real difference in their communities. Guests will experience gourmet and traditional foods and stay in charming locally owned hotels and B&Bs. They also visit an exclusive game reserve dedicated to the conservation and preservation of the wildlife and communities around it.

Travellers start in Johannesburg, staying at a chic, woman-friendly hotel. This trendy boutique hotel has an organic cafe, and a huge fitness centre right next door. In Jo'burg the group visits the vibrant townships of Soweto and Alexandra, meeting with some special township women who share their experiences. Travellers have a chance to shop at craft stores promoting fine arts and crafts of disadvantaged women. Before leaving Jo'burg, the group tours the Apartheid Museum, Constitution Hill and downtown Jo'burg. Then it is off to the majestic Drakensberg Mountains where they stay at a charming resort hotel, favoured by the locals, with magnificent mountain views, swimming pool, and easy access to a variety of walking trails.

All along the way, Cultural Explorer travellers have plenty of time to get massages, take walks or workout, relax on the beach, tour interesting galleries and shops, and discover unique gifts to take home. [h3](#)

The Most Challenging Golf Course In Phuket

The brand new 18-hole Red Mountain Golf Course is Loch Palm's sister course. Winding its way through a truly dramatic 1400 rai former tin mine site in the heart of Phuket, Red Mountain is surely one of Asia's most exciting new courses. The course has been cleverly routed to take advantage of a huge variety of landforms and dizzying elevation changes. Scars left from the tin mine era have been imaginatively incorporated into the overall scheme, creating a unique character at the same time as establishing an indelible link with an important era in the island's past.

Designer Jon Morrow, has created a highly strategic and challenging 6,900 yard lay out to complement the shorter and gentler old Loch Palm Course. While the course is undoubtedly challenging, numerous risk and reward options create a fun playing environment, an exhilarating test of golf and a breathtaking scenic tour around a course destined to become a golfing landmark in the region. [h3](#)



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Golf Nirvana

Nirwana Bali Golf Club is a visual masterpiece of dramatic ocean views and lush Balinese landscapes. Designed by Greg Norman, the golf course offers a spectacular challenge and a unique world-class experience for golfers of all skill levels.

Nirwana Bali's 18-hole golf course is one of the most photographed and challenging golf courses in the world.

With three holes running along the cliffs of the Indian ocean and terraced rice paddies providing unique hazards the course will test the accuracy and consistency of a PGA Professional and still be enjoyable for the average golfer.

Set on the southwest coast of Bali 45 minute drive from Ngurah Rai International Airport, Nirwana Bali Golf Club is the centre piece of the fully integrated Nirwana Bali Resort.

Nirwana Bali Golf Club is managed and maintained to world class standards by IMG, the world's largest sports marketing and management company. Golf carts are mandatory and golfers will be accompanied by Balinese caddies who will ensure a memorable game.

The clubhouse provides a casual dining restaurant, a fully stocked pro shop and luxurious locker rooms. Blending in harmony with Bali's natural beauty, Nirwana Bali Golf Club offers an unparalleled array of resort facilities. **h3**



Singapore's Sentosa Golf Club is an all-in-one experience

Sentosa To The Fore

One of the most established golf clubs in Singapore, Sentosa Golf Club was opened by Singapore's then-Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew in 1974. With over 1,500 members, who include local and overseas politicians and the who's who of Singapore's high society, Sentosa Golf Club is the golf club of choice for politicians, dignitaries and celebrities alike. Sentosa Golf Club is also home to Asia's biggest National Golf Tournament – the Barclays Singapore Open, which saw seven of the world's top 60 players and some of Asia's top golfers gracing its fairways. The club has also hosted other top celebrities such as Nick Faldo, Bernard Langer, Annika Sorenstam, and Gary Player.

The club boasts two magnificent championship 18-hole golf courses and is highly regarded as one of the best golf destinations in Asia. With ever-changing views from every hole that is at once dynamic and utterly dramatic, this golf club is an oasis of tranquillity that few can duplicate in this region. Capitalizing on Sentosa's natural and historical heritage, both the Serapong and Tanjong courses boast fairways lined with verdant greenery and soothing vistas of either the Singapore harbour or South China Sea. **h3**

Family Fun At The Adventure Zone

The Adventure Zone, a unique family entertainment centre has opened its doors to the public. The first of its kind in Penang, the Adventure Zone is located at the Batu Feringgi beachfront between the Golden Sands Resort and Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort and Spa.

Adventure Zone is a unique family entertainment venue for children and adults. It is a 10,300 sq. ft. comprehensive indoor facility catering for family style activities where children, teens and adults can interact together in a safe environment. Housed within this air-conditioned facility are three categories of exciting drop slides, multiple sections of modular play equipment, a game zone and themed birthday party rooms.

The highlight of the facility is the Drop Slides designed and custom fabricated by Taylor Made Play equipment, UK. The slides comply with all UK safety regulations and offer a very high level of enjoyment for children as well as adults. The Hyperglide Astra Slide is attractive for toddlers and small children, the Double Drop Slide is for brave children and younger teens and the Demon Drop slide is a 24 ft. vertical drop which is challenging for all ages.

Other facilities include a multi-use reception, retail and snack counter, arcade style "Game Zone", Toddler Zone, Arts & Crafts Room, Birthday Party Rooms and Child Friendly Restrooms. Other multi-use features will be Large screen TV in our surround sound lounge and a café for teens and adults. **h3**

Kids Swing At Sunwing

As more and more children join their parents on holidays, resorts in Asia are ensuring kids' needs are taken care of as much as the adult guests. At Sunwing Resort & Spa, Bangtao beach, Phuket there is a fully contained family resort with restaurants, entertainment programmes and a host of activities for all ages.

Kids are entertained by mascots Lollo the Giraffe and Bernie the Bear while parents looking for a quiet moment alone, can rest assured that the resort's super-comprehensive kids' programme will keep the young 'uns occupied. There are two children's pools, a Play & Chat House and supervised kids' activities all day round which ensure the adults can enjoy their undersea universe adventures, water skiing, or just plain lazing in the sun to the max. **h3**

A Hotel With Heart And Soul

Royal Plaza on Scotts



Welcome fruit basket and delightful chocolates aside, Royal Plaza on Scotts goes one up when it comes to the entire hotel experience. From the intuitive way the rooms are set up, to the superb, personalized service at the Club lounge, right down to its F&B outlets, this is a property which really believes in the human element.


The hotel reopened in January 2007 after closing for a million-dollar renovation in October. Its new identity, along with an impressive line-up of features truly deliver the hotel's promise of creating memorable experiences for business travellers.

One of the most prominent changes to meet the exacting needs of travellers is the decision by Patrick Fiat, General Manager of RP on Scotts, to re-open as a Totally Non-Smoking hotel. Sleep is made even more restful by the hotel's choice of new mattress from Simmons Beautyrest – the 'Dream Bed'.

The hotel also offers complimentary mini-bar service and free internet access in all guest rooms. The Royal Plaza on Scotts was the first upscale business hotel in Singapore to provide complimentary high speed internet to guest rooms with either hard-wired or wireless access.

The in-suite bathrooms feature shower stalls as well as tubs. The intuitiveness of design is truly appreciated when one finds one is able to manipulate the taps with feet alone, allowing for a pleasant uninterrupted soak without the need to lean out of the warm water to fiddle with faucets.

Personable, personalized service is all round, from chirpy housekeeping staff who neatly coil up the power cords of laptops; to chefs at the egg station who make note of faces and are able to ask if one still prefers a medium done cheese omelettes with capers.

The doyenne of all-day dining restaurants, Carousel, was also given a facelift, resulting in an outlet which justifiably made The Straits Times list of best restaurants in Singapore. At number one no less. Truly, the years were good to Royal Plaza on Scotts and with this new incarnation, it's good for a few decades more. 



Main Picture: The Dream Bed in a Club room

Above (from the top): The Club Lounge where service is only matched by the great selection of food;

Chocolates from Carousel's gourmet counter

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Indulgence Restaurant & Living, Ipoh

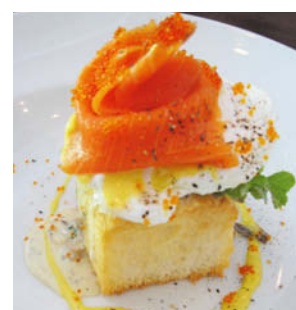
Designed For Success



Main Picture: The Ildi Deluxe Room is artistically contemporary and comfy
 Above (from the top): The colonial facade of Indulgence Restaurant & Living; The balcony is the perfect lazing ground for those who just want to sit under the sun or the moonlight; The lounge provides a homely area for everyone to get together

For those who are already familiar with Indulgence, the obvious temptation to revisit the town of Ipoh is none other than the designer cuisine and tantalizing pastry served there. This time, however, chef-owner Julie Song has really taken her restaurant to a whole new plane by transforming the upper floor of her bungalow into six designer-living boutiques – two suites and four deluxe rooms – reinventing the restaurant as Indulgence Restaurant & Living. Although Indulgence Living rests in the heart of the city, the lush greens surrounding the colonial bungalow provide enough camouflage as a retreat for those who seek tranquil relaxation away from the hustle and bustle of city living. Indulgence Living is like home, away from home. In the morning, you awake to the fragrance of freshly baked bread and birds chirping outside the window. The bedding, pillows and decor surround you with a lazy comfort that makes getting out of bed a task. You just want to lay and laze – the ultimate weekend getaway plan for those working in the city.

The themed suites are English Country (Beverly) and Moroccan (Tzarrah) while the deluxe rooms are styled Contemporary (Ildi), Thai (Kinnaree), Italian (Giulianna) and Chinoiserie (May-Suet). The decor in every room intricately reflects the theme to perfection in every detail, from colour, carpeting and furniture to mirrors and frames hanging on the wall. The designs all carry a personal touch and exudes a very comfy feeling while maintaining tastefully chic and modern.



All the suites and rooms come with basic facilities for making coffee or tea, hair dryer, laundry as well as dry cleaning services, safe deposit boxes, large-screen LCD television with selected Astro channels. Best of all, broadband internet connection is provided free! The suites and rooms are double or twin bedded and are limited to two guests to a room. The premise is non-smoking and breakfast at the award-winning Indulgence restaurant is inclusive.

Song's passion for creating sumptuous food and delicate pastry is renowned. Put together with themed suites and rooms on the upper floor of the restaurant, Song has created a whole new living and dining experience which will leave your mood and palate in ecstasy! The restaurant also has private rooms that can easily accommodate medium sized functions. With the new living area, Indulgence is ideal for small personal gatherings – the perfect haven for those who enjoy good food and camaraderie under one roof. Indulge yourself...only at Indulgence Restaurant & Living. 

Clockwise from the top left: The Deluxe Suites – Tzarrah with a Moroccan flair and the lounge area of English Country Beverly; Indulgence serves with style; Designer breakfast; Giuliaanna – the Italian themed Deluxe Room

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A Stay To Remember

The Chedi, Phuket



Main Picture: The Beach Studio Suite
 Above (from the top): Sunset Cafe;
 The Lobby of The Chedi



Intimate, refined accommodation is accompanied by attentive yet unobtrusive service. A stay at The Chedi, Phuket is guaranteed to be a memorable one. The Chedi, Phuket is nestled in peaceful seclusion on Phuket's finest shore at the Pansea bay. Sheltered under a canopy of coconut palms, the thatched cottages rise from landscaped slopes revealing stunning views of the turquoise sea and white beach.

The resort, originally designed by the famous architect Edmond Tuttle, offers seven Beach Studio Suites, nine Beach Deluxe Suites, 82 One-Bedroom Cottages and 10 Two-Bedroom Cottages which have private verandahs, handcrafted teak floors and restful bedrooms leading to spacious dressing areas. Amenity standards include mini bar, hair dryer, safe and tea / coffee facilities as well as satellite TV.

The refurbished Beach Suites have enlarged bathrooms, with his and her vanities and a bathtub, along with flat screen TVs and BOSE sound-dock with mini I-Pod.

The Lomtalay Restaurant serves Thai specialties and the Sunset Café offers a casual lunch menu. At dinner Executive Chef Hans Engerer and his team presenting a menu that offers a contemporary twist on some classical European flavours. The Beach Restaurant, the only one of its kind in Phuket, offers a menu inspired by seaside dining, with flavours from Asia and fresh fish, seafood and prime meat cuts from the charcoal BBQ. The Sunset Bar becomes the meeting point for an aperitif before dinner and is the best venue to witness the spectacular sunset.



Clockwise from the top:
A romantic dinner on the beach;
Buffet on the beach; The Beach restaurant;
The Spa

Sophisticated treatments at The Spa Cottage will ensure a holiday experience to remember. Non-staying guests are also welcome, if availability allows it. A whole host of activities and water sports are available at one of the most secluded and pristine beaches. The Chedi offers a Hobie Cat, surfing boards, water-skiing, scuba-diving, snorkeling, sunset cruises and yacht charters.

In the hotel grounds, a dramatic black tiled swimming pool and tennis courts can be enjoyed, while golf is available nearby at either Blue Canyon, Mission Hills, Laguna, Phuket Country Club or Loch Palm Golf course. The resort also features a library, gift shop/art gallery and kids' corner.

The Chedi, Phuket provides everything for small executive groups wishing to mix business and pleasure. The meeting room offers privacy, complimented by a breathtaking view of the Andaman Sea. The property is managed by General Hotel Management (Singapore) (GHM).

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A Luxurious New Gem

Indigo Pearl Phuket



Main Picture: The Private Pool Pavilion
Above (from the top): The Pearl Botanica Suite;
Exquisite MICE settings and facilities at Indigo Pearl

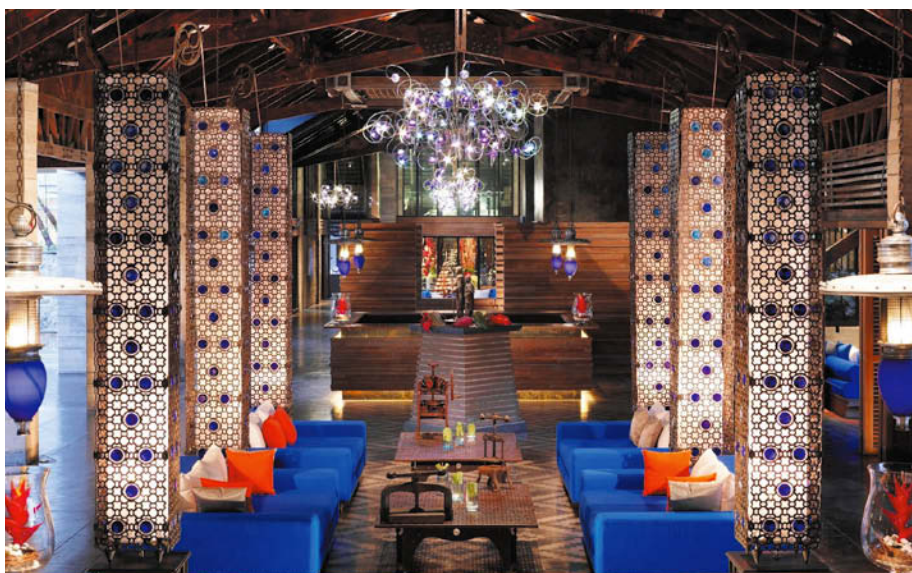


Indigo Pearl, a distinctive luxury “industrial chic” resort inspired by the tin mining history of Phuket, has attracted worldwide acclaim within a year of opening. The US\$21 million fusion of modern architecture and Thai tin-mining tradition on Nai Yang Beach, just 10 minutes from Phuket International Airport, was recently named one of the best new hotels in the world by Condé Nast Traveler (US) in its 2007 Hot List of top new resorts, spas, restaurants and nightclubs.

Indigo Pearl was also nominated as Most Stylish Hotel by ELLE magazine, Singapore, and ranked among the TOP 50 Dream Resorts by Honeymoon and Travel magazine. Admitted as a member of HIP Hotels, the distinctive 5-star resort was further selected to join the Kiwi Collection’s exclusive list of the top 1,500 hotels in the world, and partner the world’s leading private members’ club and concierge, Quintessentially.

As a favoured resort for international MICE organizers, it has also hosted a number of conferences and events for regional and international companies, welcoming corporate groups including large international banks, insurance groups and pharmaceutical companies, along with a number of private high end wedding parties.


Targeting discerning travellers seeking a distinctive cultural experience, Indigo Pearl continues to focus on its design culture and vision to pay tribute to the history of tin mining in Phuket. Inspirational art pieces continue to be installed and the resort is a venue for international shows and art exhibitions with three planned for late 2007 and early 2008.



Clockwise from the top: The Lobby; The Beach Club; The Garden Coliseum; Unique decor and setting at the Rivet Grill restaurant; Rest and relax at Rebar

Designed by world-renowned architect, interior and landscape designer Bill Bensley, everything down to the finest detail at Indigo Pearl fits in with the theme of tin mining, extending through every facet of the resort, from the names of the restaurants and bars to the staff uniforms.

The range of 277 distinctive rooms, villas, pool pavilions and suites all embody the Indigo Pearl resort experience and feature surreal design underscored by deluxe comfort. The resort, where the imaginative, playful atmosphere extends from the architecture itself to a range of unique leisure facilities, both on land and sea, allows guests to sculpt their own holiday activities. Whether relaxation or activity, Indigo Pearl offers something for everyone – spa, tennis, golf, diving, surfing, swimming, cooking, crafting, shopping and much more.

The eight food and beverage outlets on this secluded Andaman Sea beachfront resort range from Thai at Black Ginger and tapas served al fresco in Rebar to modern European fare at Tin Mine. The historic infrastructure also accommodates a large Conference Pavilion for up to 900 delegates – including a 600 sq m Grand Ballroom and twelve adjoining meeting rooms – targeting the meetings and incentive (MICE) market. 

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Waterfront Dining Treasure

**Watermark Bar &
Restaurant**



Main Picture: View from the deck
Above (from the top): A cocktail is a must
at Watermark;
Cantaloupe strawberry mint treasure

For more information, contact:
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Fax: +66 0 76 273 390
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The Watermark Bar and Restaurant located at the Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina is a contemporary waterfront brasserie serving Modern Western and Thai Cuisine in a glamorous alfresco setting. Powerboats, luxury yachts and expensive condominiums all provide a striking background to this modern-looking, spacious, semi-open air restaurant. It also promises the standard of professional service that one can expect from any world-class restaurant.

Cuisine-wise the restaurant offers a lunch and dinner menu to suit all tastes and dietary requirements. Their outstanding canapés menu is highly demanded for cocktail and champagne receptions and is also available as light elegant snacks.

Zimbabwean Executive Chef Scott Flaxman runs a team of seven chefs in the Watermark's kitchen and together they produce original fare such as Japanese seaweed salad with tofu, English mustard dressing and wholegrain mustard grissini chopsticks. Blue crab cakes with an apple and pomelo salad with red curry dressing is another healthy and tasty success. Beef and Indian curry leaf parcels with mango salsa, balsamic chutney and aubergine pickle is delectable. The main courses are no less impressive. Grilled snapper on a bed of char-grilled broccoli and cherry tomatoes is inspirational food. Duck breast in Thai red curry sauce with coconut and sweet chilli is a lesson in freshness.

Where tipples are concerned, Watermark is known for some great cocktails. The bar has also recently made a significant investment to bring an upgraded wine programme from the finest named and boutique wineries around the world, with a slight New World bias. There is also an impressive selection of beers from across the globe and a fine selection of premium cognacs, single malts, fine spirits, and gourmet style grappas. **h**

Bursts Of Flavour


Flavors Restaurant



Flavors Restaurant and Bar on Patong Beach, at Banthai Beach Resort and Spa has earned a reputation for culinary excellence in taste and presentation, balancing the creative infusion of interesting local Thai flavors with one the most hallowed cooking French traditions. This is directly credited to the talented Arkom Polyiem, Flavors chef who began his culinary career almost twenty years ago in the kitchens of the Bangkok Hilton where he was trained in both the hot and cold kitchens in the skills of French preparation.

Since then he has sought to incorporate the tastes of his native land into classic French dishes, resulting in a rich tapestry of flavor and heritage. Arkom is supremely aware of the importance of the visual impact when serving his cuisine, thus diners will get a full frontal of both sight and taste when presented with creations such as blue crab ravioli with white wine dill sauce, grilled chicken stuffed with crab and shrimp, lemongrass and mushroom sauce and his signature flamboyant flambé done tableside.

The wine list complements the menu well, with over 30 labels from all over the globe. Arkom's French wife, herself an astute hotelier, is on hand to suggest wines and she inevitably gets it spot on all the time.

Together with the food and wine, the ambiance at Flavors makes it one of the best places in Phuket for an intimate meal. The décor is tasteful, with muted lighting and music which complement instead of overpower the culinary experience. There is also an alfresco sitting area outside for smokers and those wanting to nurse a good brandy. With the right elements and definitely the right flavours, Flavors deserves its place as one of the best spots to dine in Patong. 

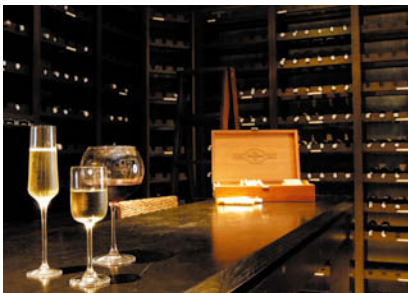


Main Picture: Homemade foie gras served with black caviar and melba toast
Above (from the top): The French-Thai welcoming embrace of Flavors;
Grilled Tasmanian scallops served with avocado and red capsicum dill dressing

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Ratri Jazztaurant

Jazzin' It Up At Ratri



Main Picture: The alluring interior of Ratri Jazztaurant
 Above (from the top): Delicately Thai home style served a la jazz;
 The wine cellar houses an exquisite selection of white and red

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Ratri Jazztaurant is an upmarket restaurant and live music venue with amazing sea views overlooking spectacular Kata Beach. A contemporary Andaman design with Chinese, Malaysian and Thai influences, it provides a casual and warm ambience for a unique dining and entertainment experience.

Ratri's talented chef fuses his love of Thai home style cooking with flavours of the region using influences of China, Middle East and India to create Thai food with attitude served in an oriental contemporary art décor to the tunes of spicy jazz. Appetizers include deep fried spring rolls served with Vietnamese sweet chilli sauce, assorted mixed satay and Cantonese dim sum. The Raw Bar serves up fresh sashimi as well as oysters served with Thai condiments, while the world's famous hot and spicy seafood or prawn soup Tom Yum Talay or Goong leads the soup charge, followed closely by the scrumptious Tom Kar Kai (hot and spicy chicken in coconut milk soup).

A range of curries above the usual green or red curry is also offered. Amongst the more unconventional are the Gaeng Mussamun Nuah or Kai (beef or chicken curry Muslim style) and Gaeng Phed Ped Yang (roasted duck curry). Seafood in the form of Pla Kao Sarm Rod (deep fried grouper topped with sweet chilli sauce), Pla Hee Ma Nuang Se-ew (steamed cod with Chinese soya sauce) and the delectable Poo Nim Pud Pong Karee (fried soft shell crab with curry powder) pay homage to the bounty of the near sea. Salads do much to lighten the meals, with the tart spiciness of the spicy seafood salad and the more earthy spicy sirloin salad.

The music is as big a draw as the food and the ambience, with mean menu of jazz from traditional styles such as Benny Goodman to contemporary such as Coldplay. The sounds and the setting are there! Sit back, relax, watch the sun set and enjoy some Thai food in tune with the music. **ha**

Sunset Paradise Boutique

Mom Tri's Boathouse




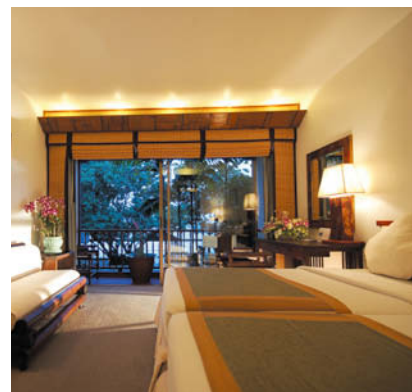
Mom Tri's Boathouse is a boutique hotel situated directly on breathtaking Kata Beach in the southwest of Phuket Island. It is the best place to enjoy a tropical cocktail while watching a spectacular sunset. Mom Tri's Boathouse is easily accessible from the airport by car in 45 minutes. Its 33 rooms on three floors offer sea views as well as complimentary WiFi wireless Internet connection, bathroom with bath, massage shower, hair dryer and toiletries and private balconies with view.

The Boathouse Wine & Grill won the Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence in 2006 and 2007 and is the only establishment in Thailand so lauded for its outstanding food and superb wine cellar with over 700 labels and with more than 26 quality wines also available by the glass.

Phuket's finest restaurant directly on Kata Beach serves up gourmet Thai, seafood specialties and Mediterranean cuisine served with style. The Galley Bar, The Boathouse's classic bar with an abundant choice of drinks and exotic tropical cocktails offers nightly piano and guitar live entertainment.

The Island Lounge serves up cool drinks in a cozy ambiance with a magnificent view of Kata Beach and Poo Island. The Island Lounge is set on the upper deck of the Wine & Grill Restaurant and is available for private meetings, dinner parties and celebrations upon request.

Mom Tri's Gung rolls out a surprising menu offering delicious Thai- Japanese-inspired dishes and snacks in a casual environment directly on Kata Beach, next to Mom Tri's Boathouse, while Mom Tri's Kitchen is an intimate restaurant located amid the tranquil, tropical garden of Mom Tri's Villa Royale, the Boathouse's sister property. 



Main Picture: The Island Lounge
Above (from the top): All rooms come with a sea view;
Food to match the mood at Mom Tri's

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An Ancient Royal Feast

Baan Rim Pa




Main Picture: Ambiance is everything
Above (from the top):
Baan Rim Pa features one of the best
selections of spirits and cocktails in the
region;
Goong Sarong

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Baan Rim Pa has long been established as one of the most famous restaurants in Thailand and a favorite of visitors from all over the world. With a menu featuring Thai dishes formerly found only in the Grand Palace of Thailand, Baan Rim Pa is the standard for Thai cuisine fine dining on Phuket island and throughout Thailand.

This Phuket Thai restaurant also features a piano bar showcasing live jazz, blues and Broadway standards nightly. The Cellar has won Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence for six consecutive years from 2002-2007. Baan Rim Pa also features one of the best selections of spirits and cocktails in the region, nightly ice- and fruit-carvings, a cigar bar and a Thai handicrafts boutique.

Specializing in authentic Royal Thai Cuisine for more than 16 years, this award winning Thai food restaurant features a complete fine dining experience in a spectacular setting. This open air, two-storey Thai restaurant provides magnificent, panoramic views of Patong and Kalim Bays. The piano bar offers Tommy Doyle's live jazz, blues and Broadway standards and a fabulous selection of spirits, but it is the food which makes it one of Phuket's places to dine.

From nibbles like the common deep-fried spring rolls and curried fish patties, to more exotic beginnings like the herbed minced chicken and sweet corn in pastry shells and fried prawns and nut wrapped in an egg net, Baan Rim Pa never sets a culinary foot wrong. Other specialties include Tom Kloang Pla Grob (smoked dried perch in a spiced soup), herbed salad of assorted fresh fruit, banana blossom salad, Panaeng Ped (duck with thick, creamy curry sauce and lychees) and soft crab fried with chili jam. Desserts are a selection of traditional Thai favourites, but it is their homemade ice cream consisting of exotic flavours like coconut, lychee, lemon, herbal ginger or lemongrass which take the cake. 



The Spa Retreat at Conrad Maldives Rangali

Katy Appleton's Yoga Retreat

Katy Appleton, renowned British Yoga guru to the stars, held a seven-day retreat at the Conrad Maldives Rangali Island in February 2008. The workshop took place at the aptly-named 'Spa Retreat', a resort-within-a resort set on stilts over the lagoon at the Conrad Maldives Rangali Island.

The Spa Retreat is an idyllic location for a wellbeing escape comprising nine treatment rooms; five private pavilions with Sauna and Steam Room and plunge pool or Jacuzzi; hair salon; retail boutique; gourmet Mandhoo spa restaurant; juice bar; sun deck and 21 Spa Water Villas with private treatment rooms and new in-villa mini gym. It provides a holistic spa experience that combines therapies, cuisine and lifestyle activity classes for noticeable results as well as offering guests the freedom to explore the resort's other six restaurants and many leisure options. [h3](#)

Heavenly Win

The Heavenly Spa by Westin, the only Heavenly Spa in the South East Asian region, located at The Westin Langkawi Resort & Spa, Malaysia, was crowned the Best New Resort Spa by Malaysia Spa & Wellness Awards 2007 judges recently at their Gala Dinner Night.

Being crowned as the Best New Resort Spa has elevated the team's spirit to toil further by maximizing the best services rendered to all guests. It is indeed a great achievement for a spa complex not even reaching its first birthday.

"We feel highly fulfilled and motivated to win such a prestigious award after just been opened for the last 11 months. Our vision is to blend Asian spa treatments and Westin Heavenly therapies to offer an oasis of renewing and rejuvenating experience for our hectic lifestyle. All said we are striving for even greater heights and continue to fly the Westin flag proudly" said Syntio Camilleri, Director of Operations. [h3](#)



The Spa at Hilton Hefei

Mandara For Mauritius

Mandara Spa, Asia's leading spa operator, has signed an agreement with Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide to manage and operate a luxurious spa at the new Grand Mauritian Resort & Spa, part of Starwood's Luxury Collection. This newly built resort is due to open in March 2008.

The Grand Mauritian Resort & Spa will feature 193 lavishly decorated guest rooms including 20 suites and two presidential villas as well as more than 4,500 square feet of functional meeting space. Located on 20 acres of breathtaking beach-front property, The Luxury Collection's latest resort will offer a variety of exotic regional and international cuisine options with three world-class restaurants.

The stunning Mandara Spa village, set amongst the lavish gardens of the resort, will feature eight deluxe double treatment rooms with private gardens, two single rooms and a luxurious couple's suite with Arabian rasul and a lush tropical garden area. In addition to the spa village, the resort will feature five spa suites, with their own treatment rooms, where the guests can enjoy Mandara Spa treatments without ever leaving their room. The treatment menu will be a combination of Mandara Spa's Asian inspired treatments and Elemis Spa-therapy, with several treatments and packages created especially for this luxurious spa. Mandara Spa signature treatments such as Mandara Massage, Balinese Massage, Pure Nature Facial, Warm Stone Massage and Ultimate Indulgence, will also be available. [h3](#)

Indulge At The SPA @ Hilton Hefei


Featuring 6,000 square meters of blissful retreat space, the Spa @ Hilton Hefei is the most comprehensive spa & health club in the city, offering state-of-the-art exercise facilities and professional services, dedicated to healing and rejuvenating your mind, body and soul with a wide range of spa treatments.

Their Super C.A.C.I. Facial Treatment is a non-surgical facial treatment that helps to lift and improve muscle tone, enhance blood circulation, soften fine lines and wrinkles as well as improve skin texture to keep skin looks youthful and radiant. It also firms up the skin and tightens pores. It is highly recommended for pigmentation, acne scarring, blemishes, sun-damaged, dehydrated and problematic oily skin. [h3](#)



Raj Kumar, Director of Operations, Maxims Club, Suite and Residences, M-Spa and Fitness, Resorts World Bhd (second from right) shares the joy with the M Spa and Fitness staff

M Spa & Fitness Wins At Malaysia Spa and Wellness Awards

M Spa & Fitness, located at Genting Hotel clinched Best Hotel Spa at the Malaysian Spa and Wellness Awards 2007. The objective of the annual Malaysian Spa and Wellness Awards 2007 was to recognize people and processes within the spa and wellness industry for efforts, innovations and excellence. There were 27 local awards for the awards. With its exceptional service standards, professional therapists, variety of massage and relaxing treatments, M Spa and Fitness was the recipient of the highly acclaimed title Best Hotel Spa. This sanctuary of tranquillity and relaxation occupies a total built-up area of about 18,200 square feet, it provides extensive facilities such as male and female wet therapy, unisex treatment area, a fully equipped gymnasium, nail and foot studio, hair studio and café bar. A variety of massage treatments including Swedish, Balinese, Aroma, Four Hand, Hot & Cold Stone Therapy massages and foot reflexology are available, as is the Oxy-spa treatment which rejuvenates the body with oxygen and anti-oxidants and Hydro-bath therapy which uses water pressure to improve blood circulation. 



Hilton Sanya Resort & Spa's package is valid until year end

Spa Escape In Sanya

Stay three nights at the award-winning Hilton Sanya Resort & Spa and indulge in a rejuvenating spa retreat. Check into a luxurious Bay Room with stunning views and head for the private beach or pool, lagoon and waterfall complex before dining on a special set dinner in The Big Kitchen restaurant.

After breakfast the following morning, let an expert spa therapist restore your equilibrium with an aromatherapy massage in one of eight spa pavilions or take a yoga class at The Spa Retreat. Spa package rates include accommodation for two in a Bay Room, daily Hilton Breakfast for two, two aromatherapy massages and two yoga sessions per person, wellbeing consultation and special set dinner for two at The Big Kitchen restaurant. A minimum 3-night stay is required. The package is valid until 31 December 2008

Commenting on the package, Jesper Bach Larsen, Director of Business Development of Hilton Sanya Resort & Spa said, "We launched this package with the belief that the combination of spa treatment and yoga class where guests could relax amidst the fresh air, beautiful sandy beach and natural surroundings is the perfect escape from daily grind of modern life. We look forward to welcoming guests who seek a true resort experience and a rejuvenating retreat at the Hilton Sanya Resort and Spa." 

Thai company Named Asia's Leading Spa Consultancy

Horwath Spa Consulting has been awarded Asia's Leading Spa Consultancy at the World Travel Awards 2007. The awards based in the UK have been called the travel industry's equivalent to the Oscars by the Wall Street Journal and is the most comprehensive recognition programme in the global travel industry. Sponsors of the 14th World Travel Awards, include BBC World and Amadeus, with voting done online by over 165,000 travel professionals in 200 countries worldwide.

Receiving the award were Naphalai Areesorn, Managing Director, and Directors Andrew Jacka and Rina Segal at a gala dinner in the plush Leela Palace Hotel, Bangalore. Horwath Spa Consulting has developed and managed spas for clients in Thailand, Italy, Turkey, Dubai and on board cruise ships. Naphalai and Andrew are active in the spa industry, with Andrew being the current President of the Thai Spa Association. This award for the Thai-based company is also seen as recognition for the leading role that Thailand plays in the global spa industry. 