

travel, golf & spa



Discover all the different facets of Indonesia as we plumb the depths of their hospitality offerings, from city-centric hotels with all the modern conveniences, to the decadent hot spot on the Island of the Gods. Find out which airline gives the best amenities in the air, so that you can arrive in the style suited to chic getaways like The Samaya Ubud Bali and Singapore's Oasia. Learn how sleepy seaside towns in Malaysia come alive with the great design of an on-the-water resort, and feast your eyes on the palatial luxury of Malaysia's newest island boutique resort.

Air China To Launch Shanghai-Chengdu-Mumbai Service

As part of its effort to build its hub in China's southwestern city of Chengdu, Air China will open a Shanghai-Chengdu-Mumbai route on May 2, 2012.

With the introduction of the new service, Mumbai will be the tenth city accessible by Air China's flights from Chengdu; the other cities include Tokyo, Nagoya, Seoul, Singapore, Bangalore, Kathmandu, Karachi, Taipei China and Hong Kong China. The four weekly flights, CA429/430, will be offered with A319 by Air China's southwestern offshoot. **ha**

Pacific Royale Counts On Abacus

Abacus International, Asia's leading revenue partner for airlines, announced the signing of a two-year exclusive distribution agreement with Pacific Royale Airways, Indonesia's newest full service carrier.

Under the terms of the agreement which will take effect from February, travel agents within the Abacus network will get exclusive access to Pacific Royale Airways' full range of published fares and inventory.

With a fleet set to take off in March 2012, Pacific Royale Airways prides itself on redefining the flying experience for its passengers and aims to expand aggressively throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Pacific Royale Airways has permits to serve 81 routes, 30 per cent of them international, with destinations including India, Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia. **ha**



Oman Air's Best Business Class Unisex Amenity Bag

Oman Air Bags It

Oman Air has scooped two key awards at the TravelPlus Airline Amenity Bag Awards 2011, which were in central London. The national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman won both the Best First Class Female Amenity Bag and the Best Business Class Unisex Amenity Bag categories, and was also Highly Commended in the Best First Class Male Amenity Bag category.

The bags contain everything the premium traveller needs to ensure they arrive at their destination relaxed, refreshed and revitalized. They include a range of luxurious skin care products from the world-renowned Omani perfumery, Amouage, together with a number of essential toiletries and personal grooming items. **ha**

Extra Miami-Jamaica Flights For American Airlines

American Airlines will add an additional daily nonstop flight between Miami International Airport (MIA) and Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, Jamaica (KIN), for the summer season. The flight will operate between April 4 and August 20, 2012, bringing the total number of daily nonstop flights between Miami and Kingston to four during the summer season. The new service will be operated with a 160-seat Boeing 737 aircraft. **ha**

Cheese, Please

Following the recent renewal of its onboard wine list last month, Japan Airlines (JAL) will offer a new lineup of Japanese cheese for First and Executive Class customers on select international routes from March 1, 2012.

JAL has been offering assortments of quality cheese from around the world for its meal service to premium customers onboard its international flights. From March, JAL would like to invite its customers traveling in First and Executive Class to discover the uniqueness of Japanese cheese and through it, also the richness of Japanese culture.

Japan has many established dairy farms throughout the country, notably in Hokkaido with its cool climate and vast farmlands, and also where the early history of cheese-making in Japan began some 140 years ago. As this initially-European culinary culture gradually began to find its place among the Japanese people, production of cheese in the country also started taking root mainly with pasteurized milk used to create mild-flavored cheese. Today, to satisfy a more diverse palate for all kinds of cheese, Japan produces a wide variety of world-class quality. **ha**

Seattle Seeking

Emirates Airline launched the first direct flight between the Middle East and the Pacific Northwest recently, as its inaugural service from Dubai departed for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. With two dynamic and fast-growing regions now more closely linked, Emirates' Seattle service will generate a host of economic benefits; from boosting imports and exports to creating new markets for business and tourism. **ha**

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Setting F&B Benchmarks In Malaysia

G·A·B
**GUINNESS
ANCHOR
BERHAD**

Anyone who has ever craved for a beer would appreciate the importance of having the right ambience to enjoy that beer. No one would deny that it would be an added bonus if this beer is served at the right temperature, in the right glassware and is presented with a smile. It is with this knowledge in mind that led Guinness Anchor Berhad (GAB), the market leader for Malaysian beer and stout industry, to take extraordinary steps to make sure their award winning brews are consistently presented in the right manner to their customers.





Defining Quality

The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange-listed company, which brews, markets and distributes the likes of Tiger, Guinness, Heineken, Anchor Smooth, Anchor Strong, Kilkenny, Anglia and Malta, takes perfecting its brews with an approach that borders on being an obsession. GAB's brewery is the only one in Malaysia with Hazard Analysis Critical Control

Point (HACCP) certification from the Ministry of Health. It also is ISO 9001: 2008 certified, having already fulfilled the requirements of ISO 9001: 2000.

The attention to quality has certainly paid off for the company as it has enjoyed a decade of consecutive growth, achieving close to RM1.5 billion in revenue in the last financial year.

Yap Swee Leng, Marketing Director of GAB, said, "It is very gratifying to see our brands enjoy substantial growth in the market year on year. Tiger is arguably the largest beer brand in Malaysia today, while Guinness recently received the Guinness League of Excellence award for the fifth year in a row. The award is testament that our Guinness brew is the best in the world outside of Ireland. Heineken continues



Left (from the top): Franck Evers, Heineken's Beer Craftsman made his 1st visit to Malaysia at the invitation of Heineken and GAB Academy last year. He gave Malaysians insights into the "Art of Pouring"; Sam Astbury, a GAB Academy trainer guiding a frontline staff on how to pour a Perfect Pint of Guinness.

to gain huge traction and it is by far the leading premium beer brand in Malaysia. Heineken's Thirst music event last year attracted more than 20,000 Heineken fans."

Raising the bar

While quality may be key, GAB is certainly not taking any chances with their products even when it leaves the brewery. Swee Leng highlighted that no matter how good their brew was; it is only as good as how it is being served. She points out the saying 'the only reason for ordering a second beer is the quality of the first'.

Hence, three years ago, the company set up an arm called the GAB Academy and one of its core focuses is to help F&B partners raise service standards in their outlets through a series of training.

"GAB Academy's training programme is a win-win scenario for us, on one hand we help our valued trade partners gain a competitive advantage by equipping their staff with the necessary tools to excel in the F&B industry. On the other hand, we ensure that our beers are always served in the right manner," says Swee Leng.



The GAB Academy, the first such initiative in the industry in Malaysia, has to date trained over 5000 people. The trainees, aptly called HEROs are given a 101 on customer service standards, product aspects, serving and selling skills.

GAB Academy's training also caters for more senior service staff. They get to upgrade their skill sets by learning the art of brewing, food and beer pairing, beer quality management and draught beer setup.

Each year, the top 10 trainees, also known as the top 10 HEROs, get awarded for their performances. The top four HEROs actually get to go on a 'study' trip with a difference. Last year's winners visited Bangkok to experience new and innovative F&B concepts. They also got to experience first-hand the well-known Thai hospitality.

The GAB Academy also ensures that the trade partners' needs are also met by hosting a series of expos and forums so that F&B owners have the opportunity to exchange ideas, best practices and tap into insights.

With so much happening, you would imagine GAB has covered all the bases. Well, the company that is known for 'having a passion for winning' is certainly not stopping and resting on their laurels.

This year will see GAB hosting its inaugural HAPA-GAB Excellence Awards 2012.



At the top: GAB's Beer Ambassador, Keith Nair – service and quality standards are his daily affair

Setting Benchmarks

When asked about the rationale for this move, Swee Leng explains, "As the GAB academy has been providing training for over three years, we felt it is time for the Academy to extend its role beyond training to one that also recognizes and rewards F&B partners for their performance in delivering excellent customer experience."

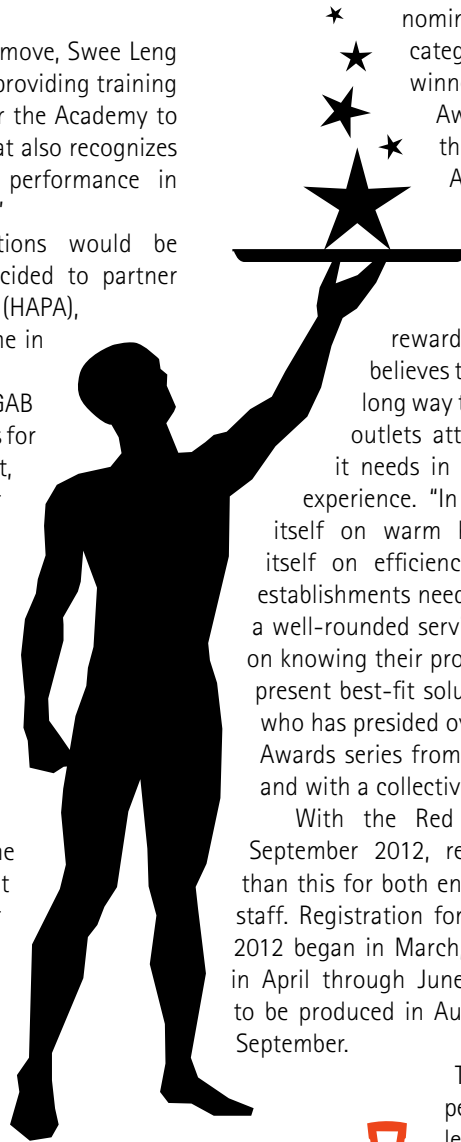
With any awards, key considerations would be credibility and integrity, hence GAB decided to partner with Hospitality Asia Platinum Awards (HAPA), the leading hospitality awards programme in Southeast Asia for the awards.

For this first year, the HAPA-GAB Excellence Awards will have five categories for Best Service Quality, Best Entertainment, Best Product Quality and Best Consumer Experience.

The coveted Outlet of the Year Award can only be won by an establishment which competes in three out of the four award categories.

For this first round, only outlets in the Klang Valley, Penang and Johor who that have participated in GAB Academy's training programmes may compete for the awards. "We want HAPA-GAB Excellence Awards 2012 to be not just the first Awards for the F&B industry, we want it to become ultimately THE Awards for F&B standards," Swee Leng adds.

Central to the neutrality of the Awards is the fact that the judges are independent personalities selected by HAPA. The panel of 12 judges range from celebrities and entertainers to top chefs and industry leaders. The panel of judges will make unannounced visits to participating outlets as mystery guests, ensuring that outlets do not 'put on a show' for the judges. From these visits, judges will shortlist eight



nominees in each of the five awards categories. Both nominees and category winners will be invited to the gala Awards presentation night where they will receive Quality Shields, Award trophies, Quality Certificates and media coverage for their outlets and achievements.

HAPA Founder, Jennifer Ong, a long time proponent of rewarding the people on the ground, believes that the HAPA-GAB Awards will go a long way to helping Malaysian entertainment outlets attain the level of service standards it needs in order to offer world-class service experience. "In Southeast Asia, Indonesia prides itself on warm hospitality, while Singapore sells itself on efficiency. Malaysian food and beverage establishments need to distinguish their products with a well-rounded service culture; one which prides itself on knowing their products intimately, and being able to present best-fit solutions to every guest," shared Ong, who has presided over HAPA for 13 years, bringing the Awards series from Malaysia, to Singapore, Indonesia and with a collective Regional Series.

With the Red Carpet Gala Dinner set for 6 September 2012, recognition will never be sweeter than this for both entrepreneurs and grassroots service staff. Registration for the HAPA-GAB Excellence Award 2012 began in March, while judging will be carried out in April through June. Results and tabulations are set to be produced in August leading up to the big day in September.

The Award Ceremony will also see people rewarded at the grassroots level. The Awards Presentation Gala Dinner will be a key platform for GAB Academy to recognise the top 10 performing HEROs this year. Out of the 10, GAB Academy rewards the top four performing HEROs by also announcing

where they will be going for their F&B tour. [ha](#)

HAPA-GAB[®]

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2012

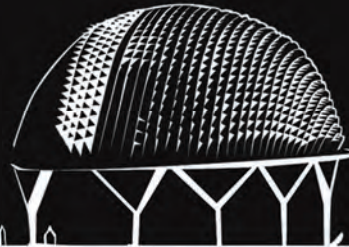




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Swept Away At Samaya

Located tranquilly amid the rice fields and green hillsides of Ubud Bali, The Samaya Ubud offers 19 resort villas with a selection of one, two and three bedroom configurations. Guests can encounter the artistic and cultural heart of the island, walk the infamous terraced rice fields and retreat to the peace and tranquillity of the Samaya Ubud. For those seeking true relaxation and rejuvenation, a state-of-the-art spa and wellness centre is located directly overlooking Bali's famous Ayung River.

The Samaya, Ubud-Bali
Tel: +62 361 731149 Fax: +62 361 731203



Longing For Lone Pine

The well-loved premier luxury boutique hotel at Penang's famed Batu Feringghi beach recently opened its doors after one and a half years of refurbishment and expansion process. Designed to blend into the existing setting, the expansion features new facilities like a boardroom for corporate meeting, a gymnasium and a Pure Energy spa. New to Lone Pine is Matsu, the hotel's Japanese restaurant while The Bungalow returns to offer its signature Hainanese specialties. A latest addition is *batubar*, an elegantly furnished yet laid back bar where guests can lounge and relax to the sound of the surf and chill out tunes.

Lone Pine Hotel, Penang
Tel: +604 886 8686 Fax: +604 886 8600

Discover Your Oasis

Launched in October 2011, Oasia is the latest hotel brand by Far East Hospitality located in the urban enclave of Novena, Singapore. Designed by award winning Japanese designer, Takashi Sugimoto from Super Potato, the 25-storey beauty stands tall in a ground-to-roof glass facade housing over 428 guest rooms including Club Suites, Club Rooms, Deluxe Rooms and Superior Rooms. Each club suite offers a private and residential ambience with a spacious lounge, while Oasia Club guests can enjoy pre check-in service, preloaded iPods with different music genres, in-room Nespresso® machines and a choice of room scents.

Oasia Hotel, Singapore
Tel: +65 6664 0333 Fax: 65 6664 0300



Tradition And Timelessness

Seri Chenang Resort & Spa Langkawi



Designed with influences from the palatial architecture of Terengganu, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Selangor, Kedah and Pahang, the resort was designed by one of Malaysia's most successful and beloved architects, Dato Zainal Abidin, who also owns the property.

Come May 31, Seri Chenang Resort & Spa Langkawi will allow guests to bask in luxurious refinement from a choice of six villas with 13 different room themes and configurations, ranging from one bedroom up to five bedrooms, each with its own kitchenette. Set within gardens designed to mirror Malay palace gardens of yore, Seri Chenang will bring together both sea and mountain views, together with the paddy fields for which Langkawi is renowned.

The gorgeous architecture comes hand in hand with exceptional service (24-hour butler service, no less), for Seri Chenang is all about a luxury boutique experience. An in-house cook prepares breakfast and snacks with a personalized touch that no chef can. Complimentary evening tea with local nibbles is offered to guests between 4pm and 7pm, and the resort takes full advantage of Langkawi's duty-free status to offer guests the freedom to bring their own wine, beer and spirits onto the premise for their own consumption.

An infinity pool, pavilion and exceptional landscaping all add to the mix which is intended to pamper, envelop and seduce guests into a sense of well-being, with the more adventurous guests being able to avail themselves to personalized mangrove tours, sunset cruises and VIP access to the nearby cable cars which will help them enjoy every inch of what Langkawi has to offer.

This sense of being made whole is intensified at Kayangan Spa which uses only wild crafted products from Malaysia which are made with pure and natural ingredients adhering to traditional recipes and rituals. Treatments emphasize the rich traditions of Malaysia and its Asian neighbors, with massages delivered with a contemporary approach, balancing innovation with a vibrant array of therapies drawing on the rituals of age old communities. **ha**



Clockwise from the top left: An aerial view of the resort; The spa reception area; The Kedah themed living room

Langkawi's latest luxury hideaway boutique resort is tucked in the precinct of Chenang Beach in Mukim Kedawang. A property to take the breath away, it also transports guests to the splendor and craftsmanship of Malay royal houses of a long-passed Golden Age.



You know those t-shirts which proclaim that 'Life is a beach'? They're only true from a certain point of view. When lounging on a king sized bed, looking through glass doors at the peaceful beryl green of one's own private pool, with an uninterrupted view of the boundless sky and the sea, it is hard to long for the beach.

The Good Life

Grand Lexis Port Dickson

This experience is what Grand Lexis Port Dickson excels at. The former Legend International Water Homes is without question one of the most chic resorts without a beach. And yet, the sea is never far. Many of its long boardwalks are built over water, giving a lovely view of the sea in all her moods. Within its ten hectares are various villas catering to those who love the sea, and to those who'd rather have their feet planted firmly on the ground.

The resort offers 317 gorgeous villas, all with an underlying theme of Balinese charm. Grand Lexis also goes down into the Malaysia Book of Records as being the resort with the largest number of pools. Indeed, every one of the 240 villas offer guests their own private pool. Sea villas all have a solid glass floor panel from which one can watch the sea as it swirls under your feet; while the garden villas offer beautiful landscaping with which to enjoy one's pool. Those who like to live the high life can opt for the tower block Sky Pool Villas.

Above: The grand reception area; Overleaf (from the top right): Lanun Bar; The Premier Suite at the Hibiscus Garden Wing; Bottom right (left to right): Duyung Coffee House and Sompoton Spa

Many consider Port Dickson a bit of a yokel's getaway. 'Rustic' is the kind, often bandied about term for 'nothing else to do'. At Grand Lexis, this is far, far from the case. The long walkways just cry out for strolls, while the large communal pool, with a separate pool area complete with a mini water park for kids will make the hours fly, whether one is doing laps, sun bathing or watching the kids frolic.

There is also a public sand court for beach volleyball, a small archery range where skill is tested in the stiff sea breezes; and a course for the Segway. The last is one of the most fun things to do, once trepidation ceases. If momentum-propelled machines aren't your thing, there are always bicycle hires. And if you really do like solitude of the sea, the resort is more than happy to kit you up with fishing tackle so you can cast from your balcony. As a happy aside, the kitchen will also cheerfully cook up your catch.

There is also a perfectly wonderful spa experience waiting to be experienced, courtesy of Sompton Spa, located on level two of the tower block. The spa uses Pevonia Botanica products, and in the hands of the Indonesian therapists, heaven is but a down stroke away.

As befitting the best of resort getaways, the food is a cut above the average. Service is warm and friendly, and the food good across the all-day dining Duyung Restaurant, Pool Café and Lanun Bar. Of particular note is Genn, the Japanese restaurant which offers up some superb tasting food, ranging from bento boxes, to special chef creations. The Teppanyaki counter offers some live action, while the private tatami rooms allow for small group celebrations and private tete a tetes.

Grand Lexis is everything a locally owned and managed resort should aspire to be. Maintenance is preventive, new offerings like the Garden Wing are always in the pipeline, care is taken in the showing of true hospitality. Lovely bedding, beautiful rooms, and great atmosphere all notwithstanding, Grand Lexis continues to lead the charge towards a renaissance for this quiet little seaside town, and a more fitting champion one would be hard pressed to find. **ha**



The Report Card

Location:

With the North-South Expressway, Port Dickson is easily and quickly reached from Kuala Lumpur in about an hour. Coming direct from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport further cuts down the time. It is perfect in that it is far enough from the busy capital, but near enough to home for most KL-ites. Situated in Teluk Gemok, it is far from the congested seventh mile, thus allowing for the freedom of ten hectares.

Accommodation:

Sleek, chic, modern, warm, well-thought out, full of pretty little touches, Grand Lexis is a feast for the eyes. All beds are king sized; all villas offer an open air shower, as well as separate indoor shower rooms and WCs located within a private dressing area.

Food:

Buffet breakfasts at Duyung are busy, busy, but food is replenished quickly and offers a taste of local cuisine, as well as safe travel fare for the meek. Genn's Japanese food is exemplary and is known to be the best to be had in Port Dickson. Room service offers tasty, generous portions, although you can hear the delivery cart from a mile away as the walkways are made of wood and the trolley vibrations carry.

Spa:

Truly relaxing, with therapists who know innately when to chat and when to let the treatment transport the guest into the realms of blissful silence.

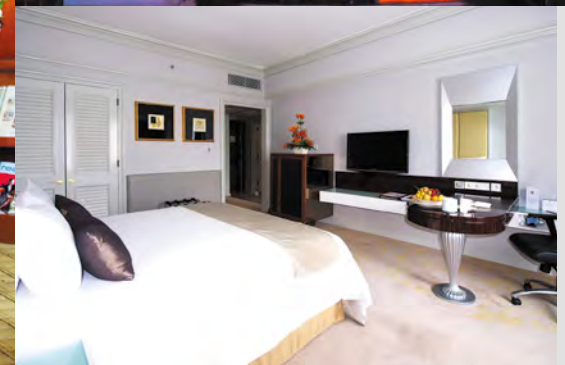


The Best Of Indonesia

So many facets, so many personalities, a myriad of possibilities in a nation where contrast is the name of the game, and differentiation the key to being memorable – Indonesia is where colour, culture, character and comfort exist in one amazing hodgepodge of experiences.

In teeming, busy Jakarta, the city hotels ring up top notch service with timely efficiency married with cordial hospitality. Case in point is Park Lane Jakarta. Located in the city's Golden Triangle of business and commerce, Park Lane Jakarta is Indonesia's first eco hotel. Its eco practices include delivering newspapers to rooms only on guests' request, replacing lights with energy saving lamps, classifying hotel waste and including Eco Green training to new staff members.

These green drives do nothing to compromise the hospitality and draw of the hotel. Its deluxe rooms scream spaciousness with their 40 sq m layout, while across the board, all rooms boast unique design elements and all the modern conveniences of a city hotel, including laptop sized safes, a variety of fantastic food and beverage offerings, including Riva, one of the best French restaurants in the city, great steaks at STIX, LifeSpa fitness centre and a 40 metre pool.



Left: Park Lane Jakarta's comprehensive Business Centre

Above (from the top): Park Lane Jakarta's grand facade
The Grand Premier Club Room at Park Lane Jakarta



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Living Royally

The polar opposite of The Park Lane Jakarta's chic offering is the old-world charm of Royal Ambarukmo Yogyakarta. Once Jakarta's grandest hotel, it has been undergoing a transformation in order to reintroduce itself to a whole new generation of guests.

Opened in 1966 by decree of Indonesia's first President, Soekarno and King Hamengkubuwono IX, the hotel became the first luxury hotel in the region. Today, its 247 rooms have been remodeled and furnished in modern-elegance and feature spacious balconies, LCD TVs, and complimentary internet access. Many rooms offer magnificent views of Mount Merapi and the surrounding countryside.

Not just a hotel, Royal Ambarukmo Yogyakarta is a big player in the conservation and promotion of Indonesian art and culture. The hotel collaborates with local communities and weekly schedules some kind of performance for their guests by these communities. They include Komunitas Seruling Bambu (Bamboo Flute Community) Mondays, Javanese lessons on Tuesdays, women's theatre (Slnten Asmane) on Wednesdays, Dolanan Bocahor or children's knick-knacks on Thursdays, and a Royal Hi-Tea and Jemparingan or traditional archery on the weekends.

As befitting a property with so much cultural significance, the traditional service of the Indonesians are also foremost on the list of deliverables, with amazing warmth and Old World charm. The Patehan or Royal Hi-Tea has become synonymous with the hotel, as it allows visitors to experience what it would feel like to be part of an olden day royal family, partaking in delightful traditional delicacies, served in the style of the old palaces.

Below (from the top): Jemparingan or traditional archery at the Royal Ambarukmo Yogyakarta; Royal Ambarukmo Yogyakarta's spacious lobby lounge; The Royal Dining area at the Royal Ambarukmo Yogyakarta





Hole-In-One Resort

Leaving the bustle of the capital behind, a new world opens up to the traveller who seeks some R&R after a hectic business schedule. Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta is set in the middle of beautifully landscaped gardens on the outskirts of the city. Its beautiful nine-hole golf course, a relaxing spa and excellent dining facilities all make it perfect for a quick getaway, but the real charm is finding that the resort is built on a concept of an ancient ruin in a tropical jungle. A fitting premise seeing that Borobudur Temple is readily accessible from the hotel.

The public areas of the resort is modeled after an Indonesian village, and includes a collection of pavilions with Javanese-style roofs, housing the café restaurant, Kemangi Bistro, lobby lounge and lobby court, Paseban Lounge as well as the 650 sq m ballroom which can be subdivided into six individual meeting rooms to accommodate meetings of various sizes.

Wrapped around the sprawling 24 hectare hotel grounds is a nine-hole golf course designed by Fissette Golf Design and landscaped by Tongg, Clark and McCelvey, from Hawaii. The golf course is par 30 with 6 par-3-holes and 3 par-4 and plays to 1,835 meters. Each hole has three Tee-off areas to accommodate professional, male and lady golfers.

The recreational-minded can avail themselves of two flood-lit tennis courts; a multi-level saltwater swimming pool complete with a 70 metre water slide; waterfalls; whirlpool and a children's pool. The health club features relaxing and pampering services such as sauna and massage therapies, offering various kinds of "jamu", the famous Indonesian herbal treatment for detoxification and rejuvenation. Other facilities include a comprehensive spa, fitness centre and Jacuzzi.



Counterclockwise from the top: The Regency Club Lounge; Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta's spacious Junior Suite Room; The plush lobby lounge at the Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta

The Camp Hyatt programme, which targets little Hyatt guests from ages 3 – 12 guarantees to keep the little ones well entertained with its numerous programmes and games including various arts and crafts from mask making, painting and colouring to music and languages and the ultimate “Javanese Experience” where children are introduced to the culture and history of Java, through a very fun-filled set of activities.



Why Not W?

Approaching its first full year of operation, W Retreat & Spa Bali –Seminyak shows no signs of slowing down. W Bali, known for its glitz amongst traditional Balinese mythology, stylish nightlife and delectable restaurants is now considered the hottest property to visit when on the Island of the Gods. While part of the lure of W Retreat & Spa Bali –Seminyak is the amazing nightlife and entertainment, there are also those who call the AWAY spa one of the best things to experience when in Bali.

Heralded as New Spa of the Year by Asia Spa Magazine, and awarded Best Guest Room Design by the 31st Annual Gold Key Awards, AWAY has nowhere to go but up. From the stylish architectural design, by Indonesia’s A.W. Lake, to the indulgent menu of signature services; AWAY Spa captures the playful, unique W experience, infusing it with Balinese elements to create an ‘escape within an escape’ for guests and visitors alike.

Since opening in March 2011, W Bali has also been awarded the Top 25 Leisure Resort & Top 25 Spa Resort in Asia, Smart Travel Asia (September 2011), Best Design Trophy – Hotels Over 200 Rooms, Design-et-al International Hotel and Property Awards in June 2011. [ha](#)

Above (from the top): The designer entrance to W Bali; The trendy woo-bar restaurant; The chic E-Wow Suite at W Retreat & Spa Bali

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Slice Of Paradise

Furama Villas Et Spa Ubud, Bali



Above (from the left): Cooking classes by the chefs at Furama; The Royal Pool Villa; Gazebo's by the pool

Enter Furama Villas Et Spa Ubud, Bali and something amazing happens. Tranquility takes an irresistible hold on you, and comfort wraps you up in a tight embrace scented with the breeze from the paddy fields of Banjar Bindu. Warmth permeates the very wood and stone of this welcoming property and it is channeled by its gentle-natured, smiling staff and simple, yet luxurious soft furnishings.



Furama Villas Et Spa Ubud offers 19 Deluxe Pool Villas with private plunge pools and gazebos for in-villa massage treatments. The five Royal Pool Villas house two villas with a common patio area. Both class of villas offer in-villa check in, butler service by request, and all the mod-cons of life. However, it can be easy to let it all slide and immerse oneself into the wholesomeness of the resort, with activities such as Balinese dance lessons, horse cart riding, wood and stone carving classes and village visits.

Of course the best reason to unplug and disconnect from the harried world comes from Spa Furama. The five treatment rooms are perfectly designed with touches of Indonesia to transport one to a higher plane via the hands of skillful therapists who offer reflexology, a holistic selection of healing therapies, and top to toe pampering.

The Bali, Thai, China and India Experience is tailored to help tired souls relax and unwind, while the signature two-hour Down To Earth package is the ultimate rejuvenating head-to-toe therapy that allows you to partake of the timeless mysteries and wonders of Bali where nirvana is attained in a place just a little short of heaven. **ha**

For more information contact:
Furama Villas Et Spa Ubud, Bali
Banjar Bindu, Mambal
Jalanraya Mambal-Ubud
Tel: +62 361 8988 688
Email: fvsbud@furama.com

Perfectly Personal

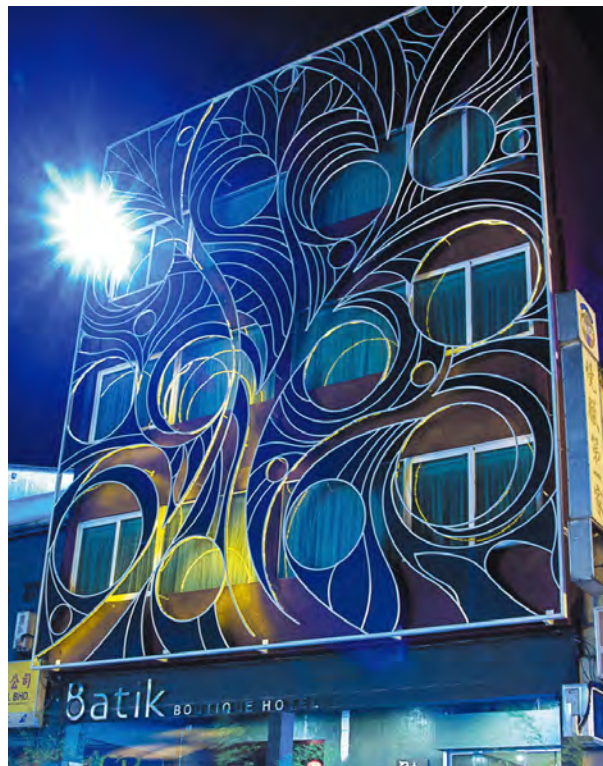
Batik Boutique Hotel, Sarawak

Designed on the 3C concept (classy, chic and cozy), Batik Boutique livens up a row of shop houses on Jalan Padungan, and offers more than just creature comforts. Rooms are stylish, with individual personalities. Comfort and cool go hand in hand, with more than its share of mod cons, including bath tubs, iPod docks, bespoke amenities and always, personalized service.

Google Batik Boutique and a slew of compliments pour in from all over the globe, cementing its reputation for staff who really do care about their guests, and who work hard to relate and thus promote both the establishment as well as the wonderful culture, nature and diversity that is Sarawak's heritage. **h**

There are many interesting boutique hotels in Sarawak, but only one Batik Boutique. And long may it prosper! This fantastic little hotel in Kuching brings out the very best in what East Malaysia has to offer: legendary warmth and hospitality, a sense of true belonging and a feeling that a little piece of you will always live on in this charming establishment founded, designed, managed and grown by home-grown Malaysian talent Jacqueline Fong.

For more information contact:
Batik Boutique Hotel
38 Jalan Padungan
93100 Kuching
Sarawak, East Malaysia
Tel: +60 82 422 845
Email: talk2us@batikboutiquehotel.com
Web: www.batikboutique.com



At the top: Deluxe Suite – the sexiest room in the house, perfect for intimate couples
From the left: Solid ironwood bridges link the gap between two wings, transforming the traditional trudge into a fun journey to the room; Batik strikes an impressive pose by night – a hint of what to expect within; Chic and inviting, the hotel lobby makes for a good space for guests to relax and socialize

Distinctive Golf Lifestyle

Designed by Nelson & Haworth, the 18-hole championship golf course is a Par 71 with a maximum playing distance of 6234m. It has the longest Par 5 (564m) amongst all the local golf clubs. Located on the southern bank of the Kranji Reservoir, the scenic beauty of the golf course can be admired at a number of holes, where the reservoir forms the backdrop of the golf course, providing golfers with a breathtaking view while playing. The 52-bay driving range features four target greens for golfers to perfect their shots. Also available are facilities like the Olympic-length swimming pool and children's pools, tennis, squash and badminton courts, a gymnasium and other gaming facilities. The club will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in May 2012.

Warren Golf & Country Club, Singapore
Tel: +65 6586 1245 Fax: +65 6586 1235



Tee Times

The Chiangmai Highlands Golf Resort and Spa sits on the rolling foothills east of Chiang Mai, and is conveniently located 30 minutes from the international airport. The golf course has placed itself on the international golf map, being voted as one of the top ten resort courses in Asia by Golfing Magazine. Sprawled alongside mountain and valley with splendid views, golfers not only experience the best of golf, but the best of nature as well. The 18-hole championship course provides a 300-yard grass tee practice range, two practice putting greens and a short game practice area with bunkers. With lush and smooth greens, the design offers a unique combination of holes presenting challenges for every part of the game, treating golfers to a world-class golfing experience.

Chiangmai Highlands Golf Resort and Spa, Thailand
Tel: +6653 261 354 Fax: +6653 261 360



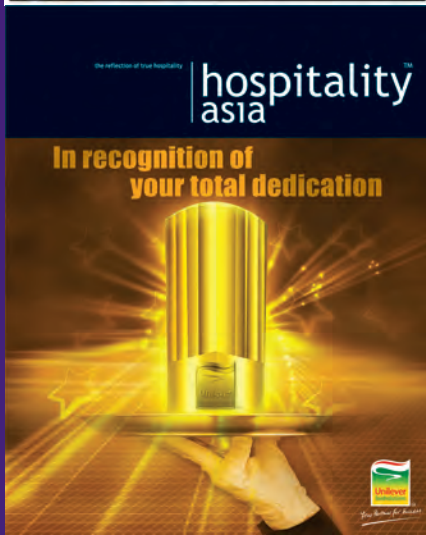
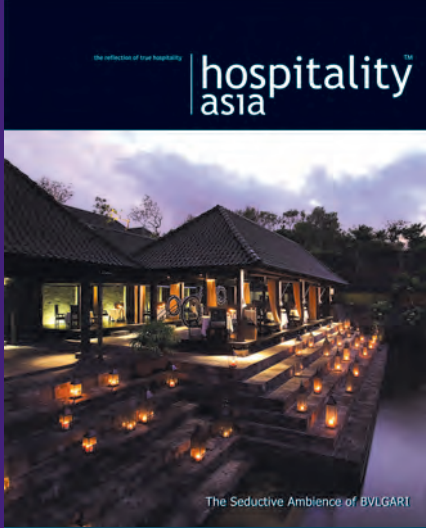
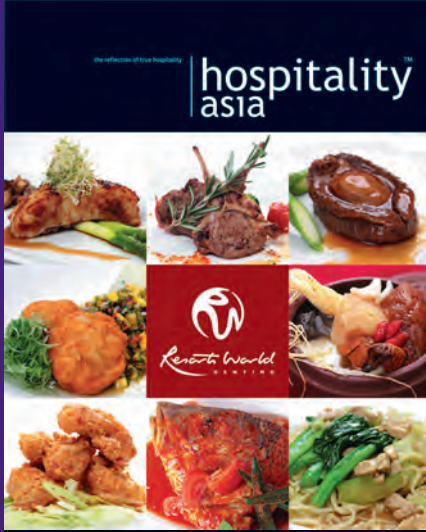
A Royal Experience

The Seaton course, known as one of the best in Australia, is in Adelaide's western suburbs, less than 20 minutes drive from the city and a short two kilometres from the coast. Despite many alterations made since the first blow was struck in 1906, it retains its distinctive character of a comparatively open links course, an attribute by no means common in this country. It is this character which members and visitors alike recognize as a priceless asset in a golf course situated so close to a major city. The traditional links course at Seaton has played host to many international and interstate matches and championships for over 100 years, including nine Australian Open Championships and 16 Australian Amateur Championships.

Royal Adelaide Golf Club, Australia
Tel: + 614 8356 5511 Fax: +614 8235 1064



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Centara Opens First Stand-Alone Spa Cenvaree In Goa

Centara Hotels & Resorts of Thailand will open its first stand-alone Spa Cenvaree during the first quarter of 2012, to be located at the Arcon Arcade in Goa, India, on the beach resort of Candolim.

The spa features 13 spacious treatment rooms and a couple spa suites with private en-suite facilities, including a sunken Jacuzzi, a nail and hair salon, a Zen garden with tranquil relaxation lounges, and a wide array of water facilities including Vichy rain shower, steam bath, and hot air sauna.

Among the range of experiences is the Spa Cenvaree Signature massage, which brings together a blend of Ayurvedic, Thai, Swedish, Shiatsu, and reflexology techniques paired with medicinal heat compress, resulting in a ritual that harmonizes the body's energies.

Other treatments on offer include Ayurveda healing, traditional Thai massage, hot-stone therapy, and foot reflexology. For a more contemplative experience, guests may choose the multi-day spa retreats, focusing on detox, de-stress, and emotional balance. **ha**



The best of Thailand comes to India



Spa Cenvaree uses pure sea salt and mud harvested from the Dead Sea

Dead And Alive

Centara Hotels & Resorts has announced the opening of its latest Spa Cenvaree, set within the newly-opened Nova Hotel & Spa Pattaya, Centara Boutique Collection, and one of the first spas in Thailand to be based around the benefits of pure sea salt and mud harvested from the Dead Sea at depths over 420m below sea level.

Each spa journey includes a relaxing soak with mineral-rich sea salts where you float weightlessly in a Dead Sea floatation pool, soothing the nervous system, and bringing relief to skin disorders such as psoriasis, eczema and dermatitis.

Guests may also further indulge in steam baths, a Vichy rain shower to invigorate the senses, or relax with traditional Thai treatments administered by a team of professionals dedicated to your profound wellbeing.

Day packages are priced at Baht 999++ per person, which includes the use of the salt pool, and any choice of one massage and one mud treatment. Other treatments include detoxification programmes incorporating Dead Sea mud wraps, and body polishes using local seaweed and herbs. **ha**

The Conrad Advantage

Boasting breath-taking views of the Gulf of Thailand and featuring luxurious signature treatments set in a relaxing Zen interior, the newly launched The Spa at Conrad Koh Samui will set new benchmarks for indulgence and pampering on the Thai island.

Benefiting from a 300 degree panoramic ocean view from its perch above the resort, The Spa's cutting edge treatments are tempered by traditional Thai healing practices. Signature treatments unique to the resort, such as Samui Enriched, produce exceptional results when combined with the practitioners' Thai expertise and local knowledge in executing the therapies distinct to the island.

Centred on personalized quality treatments, The Spa's multi-sensory approach combines individually tailored treatments with The Spa's tranquil design. Working in collaboration with Dr. Buathon Thienarrom, Thailand's leading authority on holistic healing, it has produced a treatment menu focusing on experience-based therapies that target the mind, body and soul. These include Dr. Buathon's Zen Na Tai therapies designed to elevate stress and rejuvenate one's body and mind. **ha**



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For reservations, call +65 6379 7182 or email catering.changi@stayvillage.com
www.stayvillage.com

Samadhi Splendour

Samadhi Spa's array of treatments is complemented by an exclusive spa range of quality and natural products made in Malaysia. From therapeutic massages to various body conditioning treatments, spa experiences in naturally-crafted spaces are best for visual and sensory healing. Perched on a cliff with one open treatment gazebo overlooking the sea and another in a natural cave, the spa offers an Asian-inspired treatment menu that uses natural products and aromatherapy oils made from essential oils and chemical-free botanical extracts.

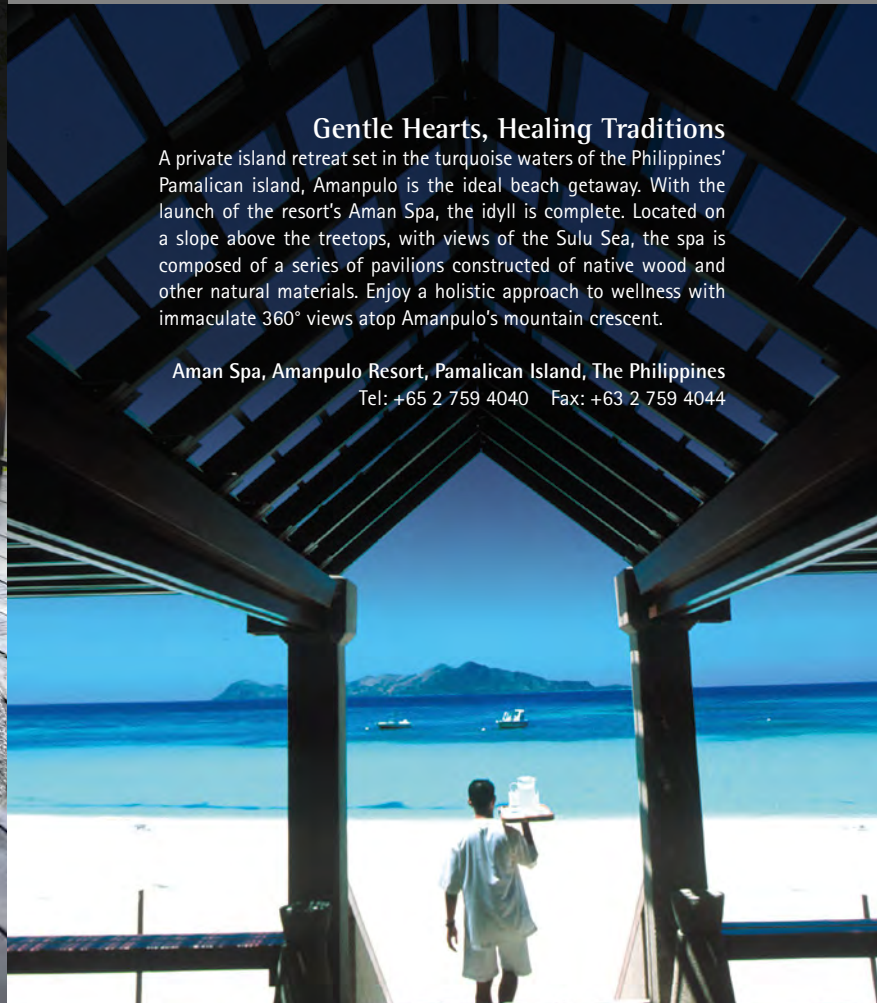
Samadhi Spa, Japamala Resort Tioman Island
Tel : +609 419 7777 Fax : +609 419 7979



Gentle Hearts, Healing Traditions

A private island retreat set in the turquoise waters of the Philippines' Pamalican island, Amanpulo is the ideal beach getaway. With the launch of the resort's Aman Spa, the idyll is complete. Located on a slope above the treetops, with views of the Sulu Sea, the spa is composed of a series of pavilions constructed of native wood and other natural materials. Enjoy a holistic approach to wellness with immaculate 360° views atop Amanpulo's mountain crescent.

Aman Spa, Amanpulo Resort, Pamalican Island, The Philippines
Tel: +65 2 759 4040 Fax: +63 2 759 4044



A Breezy Break

Designed to be a complete sensory experience, Breeze Spas feature mood therapy treatments aligned with traditional body therapies and massage techniques. Each treatment is enhanced by specific aromatherapy oils, herbal teas, musical selections and colours to uplift the mood of each guest. Every spa under the breeze label utilizes leading Thai natural skincare brand, Panpuri and the award-winning Italian spa products brand, Comfort Zone.

Breeze Spa, Amari Watgate Bangkok
Tel: +66 2653 9000 (Ext 394) Fax: +66 2653 9045