the reflection of true hospitality

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HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS?



It's hard to image that the region's leading hospitality publication Hospitality Asia will be 20 years 'young' in 2014. What started as a voice for everyone in the hospitality trade in Malaysia has blossomed into the most respected industry publication and we owe this success to all of you for your unfailing support over the two decades. While 2013 still holds many challenges and opportunities, the team at Hospitality Asia is pleased to announce that many activities are planned for 2014 including a new-look magazine to mark it's 20th Anniversary.

he year will commence with an Awards Presentation Ceremony and Gala Dinner for the Hospitality Asia Platinum Awards (HAPA) 2013–2015, Malaysia Series on 9 January 2014 at the One World Hotel in Petaling Jaya. Industry experts, the media and corporate leaders have been busy over the past six months visiting, experiencing and evaluating the hundreds of entries. The data is being tabulated and the winners identified for presentation at the Gala Dinner.

As plans are underway for a truly memorable Malaysian awards ceremony, the team is recovering from the highly successful inaugural HAPA Indonesia 2012-2014 Series. The presentation ceremony was staged at Serenity Beach, Grand Nikko Bali, Indonesia on 16 August 2013. While challenging, the awards series and ceremony was very successful and well received by everyone in the industry. It was a delight to be able to assist the Widhya Asih 1 Denpasar Orphanage in their efforts to educate disadvantaged children better prepare themselves for the future.

Change Brings
Opportun

Several trade exhibitions were recently staged throughout the region to prove once again the vibrancy of the hospitality trade. Food & Hotel Malaysia 2013 (FHM) saw 1,400 exhibitors from over 50 countries in attendance from 17 – 20 September at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The region's largest culinary competition, Culinaire Malaysia 2013 was also conducted during FHM 2013 and showed once again the keen rivalry there is between kitchen crews in the country.

Hospitality Asia will be ever present to lend a voice to the evolving industry at every possible avenue. Enjoy reading the magazine and thanks for being part of the wonderful journey of Hospitality Asia. Should you have anything to share, feel free to drop me a note at jennifer@wapublishing.asia

Jennifer Ong Founder / Publisher







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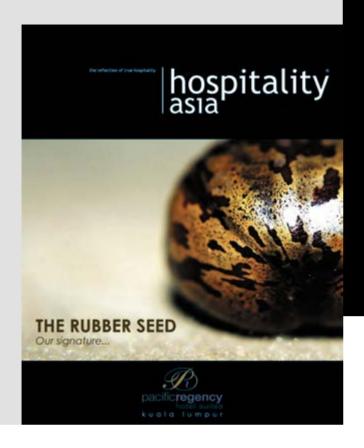
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on the cover There is definitely one stand out location when it comes to listing Kuala Lumpur's finest 5-star accommodations for

those who want a place not just to unwind during a hectic business trip but also for those who want a central location that offers great views, convenient access and all the excitement the city centre has to offer. The Pacific Regency Hotel Suites has been an establishment with many accolades under its belt and integrates traditional Malaysian nuances with modern conveniences.

travel, golf & spa

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food & entertainment

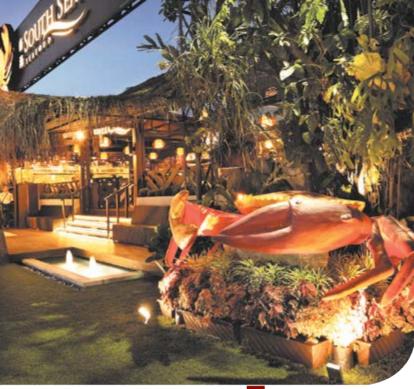
Top Hats

Being behind the kitchen is difficult enough but when your role encompasses not just chef but owner of successful restaurants, the responsibility is doubled. Fortunately, for these two all-rounders playing the owner-chef comes with an ease that has put their establishments at the top of the game.

Chef's Choice

In this feature we ask executive chefs to highlight the cookware and kitchen appliances that help them achieve their best results as well as gain insight into what they look for when it comes to choosing the brands and suppliers they use.





ents



Opinion
In this issue of HA, we speak to the personalities behind GAB, Ties van Rappard and Keith Nair about their initiative GAB Professional Solutions (GABPS) on upholding their commitment to preserving top-quality standards in the brewery industry.

hospitality

Feature

Build, And They Will Come – Part Three of our Build &

Fit spread

GHM (General Hotel Management Ltd.) is set to launch three luxury hotels in Taiwan and Akira Moreno, VP of Development and Pre-Opening Services at GHM Ltd. updates us what it takes to undertake such a lofty project and how it will be the destination to look out for in Taiwan.

Paolo Campino, the General Manager of the new business hotel to arise in the KL Sentral area, Aloft updates HA on the property's developments and its future plans to be the brand travellers should be able to recognize instantly when they hit Kuala Lumpur.

Impressions
Leong WyJoon, Berjaya Hotels and Resorts Executive
Director and Martin Jones, the Vice President for Food
& Beverage, Asia Pacific for Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide Inc.
share their professional insights with HA.

The hospitality industry is shaped by movers and shakers that all had their beginnings in one way or another in an educational institution. In this feature of HA we salute the heads of those educational institutions that provide the guidance and support that fuel the crafting of a whole new generation of hospitality movers and shakers and garner their insights into the importance of an education in hospitality.

HAPA Indonesia
Winners galore - supplement review of the HAPA
Indonesia 2012-2014 Series

105 HAPA Malaysia
Supplement preview of the coveted HAPA
Malaysia 2013-2015 Series



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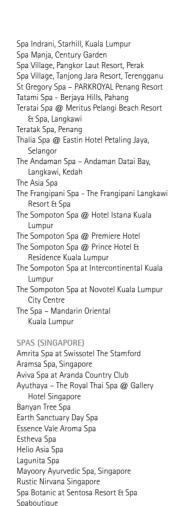
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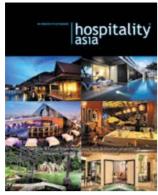
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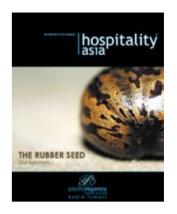
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can't believe that it has been more than a decade since HAPA has brought the forerunners of the hospitality industry into the limelight and come 2015, we will be running the third instalment of the HAPA Regional Series which is HAPA Awards' 13th year running.

in the region where top hoteliers and industry professionals gather at one time.

This proves to be one of the many benefits of participating in a HAPA Regional Series that nominees have come to appreciate and look forward to. The grand finale to HAPA Regional Series 2015-2017 will not be any different and an exclusive

Third Time's The Charm

Through HAPA an impressive list of award recipients have all, in one year or another, helped raise the standards of the hospitality industry in their respective countries and we could not be more proud to bring you this next round of nomination calls. The contending for HAPA Regional Series 2015–2017 has already begun and already we will be calling for nominees from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand (Bangkok, Phuket, Koh Samui, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai), Indonesia (Jakarta, Bintan and Bali), Vietnam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh) and the Philippines (Manila, Cebu and Boracay).

The HAPA Regional Series' List of Awards for 2014 has an approximate number of 34 award categories and this is meant to bring more excitement and interest to the regional nominees. It must be stressed that HAPA has never been just an awards programme where awards are given away easily every year but it is, till today, known to be an assessment programme that requires a lot of commitment from the Organizer and Committee, nominees, judges, sponsors and not forgetting the entire hospitality industry.

The gala events that HAPA organizes and hosts have been labelled to be one of the largest networking events Awards Presentation Gala Dinner will be hosted in one of the participating countries. All nominated establishments and personalities will be invited to grace the event and witness this 'Oscar-style' Awards presentation.

Since its inception in 2002, HAPA has never deviated from its primary belief in honouring the most outstanding and deserving establishments and individuals in the hospitality industry.

HAPA has always made tireless efforts in enhancing the levels of service among the hospitality practitioners. HAPA has also stood firm in acknowledging that the core strength of this dynamic industry is invariably credited to all the individuals who contribute in one way or another, and who as true pillars of the industry, they need to be singled out for the utmost recognition and reward

With that we invite you to come join us in keeping the HAPA spirit alive with the HAPA Regional Series 2015-2017. For further inquiries, please email hapa@hapa.asia. ha

Soul Softhe

Standing in the heart of Kuala Lumpur for more than 20 years is the Pacific Regency Hotel Suites, a true class act when it comes to space, service and quest satisfaction.

City

here is definitely one stand out location when it comes to listing Kuala Lumpur's finest 5-star accommodations for those who want a place not just to unwind during a heetic business trip but also for those who want a central location that offers great views, convenient access and all the excitement the city centre has to offer. The Pacific Regency Hotel Suites has been an establishment with many accolades under its belt and integrates traditional Malaysian nuances with modern conveniences.

Located right in the heart of KL's Golden Triangle and situated right next to the famous KL Tower, the Pacific Regency Hotel Suites houses 283 suites , one of KL's hottest night spots plus recreation and dining offerings that are a cut above the rest. It proves to be one of the best places for the traveller to rest, recuperate and enjoy themselves after sampling what the city has to offer be it on vacation or on business.



Pacific Regency's Facelift

For a hotel that has such a well-established reputation, the challenge is not in gaining reputation but in retaining it. Realising this, the Pacific Regency has, as of 2013, included an additional 131 rooms to its existing 152 rooms. Each of these rooms could be said to be a metamorphosis for the hotel as the change comes in line with fulfilling the Pacific Regency's vision of becoming the 'best five-star hotel for their guests'. The Pacific Regency is to date, the hotel with the newest and biggest rooms in the whole of Kuala Lumpur. One could say that this is no easy fete but one that Pacific Regency has accomplished as of 2013.

The brand new Premier Floor which houses the new rooms is built on the idea that every room should adhere to the Pacific Regency standard of warm ambience and ample space for relaxation. In line with this addition there is also the introduction of a new check-in counter where guests are treated to a refreshing green apple juice at check in as well as a new corridor and walkway that leads to the brand new spacious business centre.

The upgrades at the Pacific Regency Hotel Suites does not stop there and there have also been improvements to the Ballroom at Level 33 as well as a facelift on 9 function rooms which are fully equipped for meetings and events. Adding to that, the Luna Bar has also seen a small facelift making it keep up with its outstanding reputation as one of KL's premier night spots.

Food & Entertainment

Speaking of the Luna Chill Out Bar, there really isn't a more fitting location for a night spot than at Level 34 of the Pacific Regency. Building on being the first roof top bar in Kuala Lumpur as well as maintaining its reputation as one of the best places to be when it comes to nightspots, the iconic bar has become a trademark of the Pacific Regency and remains its crowning jewel in terms of entertainment.

It has received accolade after accolade and has been branded as a pioneer in terms of night spots are concerned in KL. The awardwinning bar has a reputation as the go-to spot for panoramic







From left to right: (Top row) The classic ambience of Soi 23 Fine Thai Restaurant; The Premier Deluxe room with a view of the city skyline; Pacific Regency's grand reception area; The Premier Executive Suite Bathroom; (Below) The Premier Executive Suite.

views of the cityscape, live performances and exclusive parties. Soak in the atmosphere and drink up one of the fantastic cocktails mixed by their own award-winning mixologist. The cocktails at Luna Chill Out Bar are so delicious and unique that a cocktail book is in the works with 1001 cocktail recipes to choose from.

There is always a good party at Luna Bar and this is made even more attractive with the various promotions that cater to specific crowds. There are special freebies for ladies, cabin crew, pilots and hoteliers on specific nights. What's more, to make things more fun, there is always the option to take a dip in the pool around which the bar is built around! You needn't worry about getting splashed as quests get a free bath towel service too.

For those who prefer to wine and dine before heading out, you needn't venture very far as situated just a few steps from the Luna Chill Out Bar is Cristallo di Luna, an exclusive western-cuisine dining experience overlooking the city's skyline. Indulge in their choice selection of wine and mouth-watering menu. We personally recommend the signature Grilled New Zealand Lamb and the Baked Cod Fish as these are cooked to perfection.

For more down to earth fare, there is also Soi 23 Fine Thai Restaurant, on the 23rd floor where you are treated to the breakfast buffet in the mornings or a selection of authentic Northern Thai cuisine which are bursting with exotic flavours for lunch and dinner. There is also an ala carte menu which offers local and Western delights that are all served to you while the pane windows offer a view of the KL skyline.

Occupying oneself at the Pacific Regency is not difficult as in addition to the dining facilities, there is also a rooftop pool where you will be able to lounge in the sun during the day and party at during Luna Bar's operating hours. A newly-equipped Fitness Centre is also available for fitness buffs as well as the Ayer Spa for guests seeking some much-needed pampering.

Rooms & Facilities

Staying at the Pacific Regency Hotel Suites is by far an experience in total rest, relaxation and spacious comfort. Generous space abounds in your suite set against sleek designer furnishings and amenities. For the new range of Premium Floor suites, guests can settle into 603 square feet of urban, contemporary space. There are suites that range from 409 square feet to 603 square feet while the Regency Junior Suite is as large as 668 square feet.



The first thing that will strike you when you enter a Pacific Regency suite are the homely furnishings and a sense that you're warmly welcome. The highlight however is the incredibly plush, tastefully decorated beds that invite you to flop on to them after a long day. The most unique aspect of these beds that can be found exclusively at the Pacific Regency as it proves to be the only hotel that is equipped with these fully latex mattresses. The 100% latex mattresses are all sourced locally and will ensure that you get one of the best-sleeps of your life! The texture of the 100% latex mattresses is firm and moulds well to your body which almost guarantees no back pain or issues the next morning.

The other standout aspect about these beds is that it is almost guaranteed to be free of dust-mites as the latex does not encourage the growth of bacteria. One lie-in on these beds and you are assured of a good night's rest and for those of us who are fussy about cleanliness, a bacteria-free environment while you stay at this hotel. The latex mattress is truly one of a kind to the Pacific Regency.

Awards & Accolades

Pacific Regency Hotel Suites is not short on being recognised as one of the best hotels in the city and this comes with a string of awards being credited to its name. In 2013, it has won the 2013 Certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisor. On top of this it is a Hospitality Asia Platinum Award (HAPA) 2010–2012 in various categories as well as being Agoda.com's 2012 Gold Circle Award winner.

Pacific Regency is also particularly proud of Luna Chill Out Bar which was recently named by Trip Advisor as being in the top 10% of the Best Bars in the World. Indeed it is also named as one of the

must-see night spots in KL and recipient of the Excellence Awards as well as being the winner of the best nightspot award for HAPA 2008-2010.

Service Excellence

At Pacific Regency you will find nary a staff that isn't ready to attend to your every need with a smile. This is largely due to the excellent training they receive and the head of staff of the hotel are particularly proud of their low turn-over rate. From the friendly reception desk staff who welcome you and assist you right up to your hotel room door to the fun bar staff who are ever-ready to top up your glass as you sit by the pool side, your needs are tended to with efficiency and care.

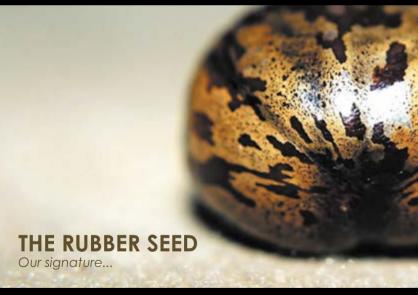
Daniel Chong, General Manager of the Pacific Regency credits the excellent service to the main objectives of the hotel which is to focus on the employees so that in turn they will be able to channel their positivity to catering for the guests. "We encourage our staff to be the best for our guests and we as heads, will be the best for our staff." The staff are eager to please and throughout your stay you will be encouraged to fill out customer service survey forms. This is a method to ensure that the staff are accountable and aware of their service every step of the way during guests' stays. The new approach to service certainly complements the aesthetic upgrade of the hotel.

It is without a doubt that a stay at the Pacific Regency will be an experience to remember, from the top-notch dining and entertainment to the hospitality of the staff coupled with the luxurious space of the accommodation, you'll be hard-pressed to find a better location to set up home while you are in town! ha



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