

YTL *Life*

TREASURED PLACES, TREASURED MOMENTS

PORT OF CALL

Encountering The Majestic
Malacca's multi-faceted history

THE REAL BALI

Journeying to the magical
Spa Village Resort Tembok

OLD SCHOOL COCKTAILS

Savouring alchemical drinks
at The Academy London



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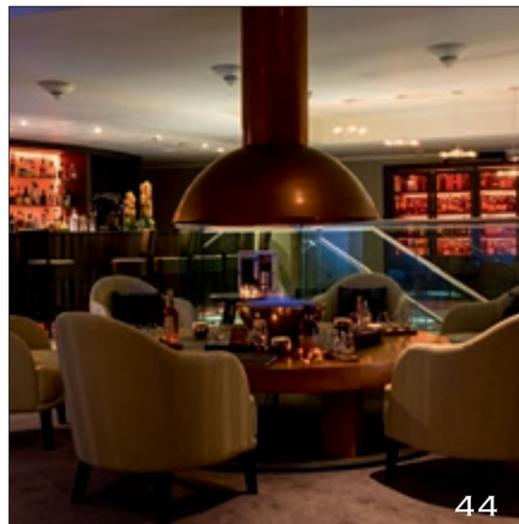
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EVERY LANDSCAPE, TIMELESS
EVERY CULTURE, AUTHENTIC
EVERY EXPERIENCE, UNIQUE



SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI
Indonesia



TANJONG JARA RESORT
Malaysia



PANGKOR LAUT RESORT
Malaysia



GAYA ISLAND RESORT
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YTL Hotels is involved on both the ownership and management of properties in the United Kingdom, France, Australia, China, Japan, Indonesia and Thailand, as well as Malaysia.

LUXURY RESORTS BY YTL HOTELS



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YTL HOTELS
Treasured Places, Treasured Moments

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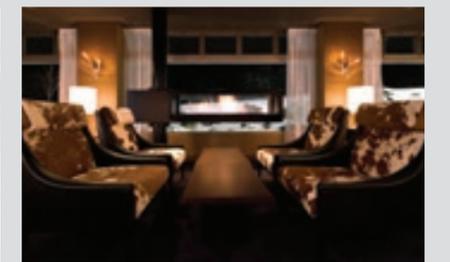
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Niseko Village rests at the base of Mount Niseko An'nupuri, Japan; a land of powder white slopes, natural onsens and dramatic landscapes. The Green Leaf Niseko Village is a vibrant ski-in-ski-out hotel, contemporarily redesigned to embrace the creative touch of renowned local artists.

For enquiries and reservations, please email fo2.gl@ytlhotels.com.my or call +81 136 44 3311

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home this very notion. This is depicted in the peaceful way of life of the locals and the landscape's unspoilt visceral beauty. Visits to bustling markets and cultural sojourns are made all the more special – and personalised – when led by the resort's staff who call the area home. Authenticity can also be tasted in the local produce, fruits, and seafood. It is also reflected in the faces of the people who reside in the area and their unhurried style of living.

The Majestic Malacca, a heritage hotel in one of Southeast Asia's previously most vibrant ports, marries tradition with elegance, East with West, recalling bygone eras in a setting both unique and historic. Over in the United Kingdom, The Academy Hotel London's Alchemist Bar is a nod to the Bloomsbury Set – their creativity, brilliance, and undeniable penchant for living life on their own terms.

Authenticity is now the byword when it comes to travel, and quite deservedly so. We explore the world to gain new experiences and a deeper understanding of the communities who reside in the places that we visit.

At Spa Village Resort Tembok Bali, our property on the island's peaceful northeastern coast brings

At YTL Hotels, we take pride in crafting experiences that engage and inspire the mind and the senses, creating opportunities for guests to bring home fond and meaningful memories that constantly surpass their expectations.



ALL THAT JAZZ

WITH ITS LATEST ON-TREND MEN'S COLLECTION, PINK JAMBU TOOK GUESTS TO A WORLD WHERE MUSIC AND SOPHISTICATION WERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

Words [MARK LEAN](#)

Pink Jambu held its annual For Men event at The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur's The Smokehouse. The Malaysian luxury lifestyle brand revealed a collection comprising the finest batik and *tenun* fabrics fashioned in the style of New Orleans blues, Monmartre jazz dens and lingering summer nights in Montreux. The clothes feature batik pieces handpainted with the age-old *canting* technique, and *tenun* material hand-dyed and handwoven by expert craftsmen from Cheminahsayang. The cocktail event was officiated by HE Frédéric Laplanche, the Ambassador of France, while Cuore Italiano offered tastings of the finest boutique Italian wine. Guests also enjoyed a lively jazz performance as well as styling advice from Truefitt & Hill.



1, 5, 6 and 7) Designs from Pink Jambu's latest collection inspired by the jazz age. 2) Lim Tooi Heng and Tengku Marina Ibrahim (CEO of Pink Jambu). 3) From left: Tony Collingridge, Alison Collingridge, David Hoh, Jacey Hoh and Tim Saw. 4) From left: Soon Tan, Roslan Said, Geoffrey Thomas, Tengku Marina Ibrahim and Gowri Brochet.



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TIGERS IN FRAME

THE RECENT EYE ON THE TIGER PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AT LONDON'S ROYAL ALBERT HALL BRINGS TO GLOBAL ATTENTION THE PLIGHT OF THESE STATELY CREATURES.

Words HELEN OON

YTL Hotels has continuously been at the forefront of supporting wildlife and environmental conservation. Two events – held at The Gainsborough Bath Spa and Threadneedles Hotel in London – were held in collaboration with Eastern & Oriental Express and Save Wild Tigers prior to the main event, the biggest wild tiger photography exhibition in the world.

YTL Hotels' Executive Director, Dato' Mark Yeoh, said: "We are very honoured to be able to take part in such an important cause yet again. Since 2007, YTL Hotels has embarked on several initiatives to support the conservation of wildlife and the environment. We are particularly

excited that we can partake in this UK initiative, showcasing this incredible exhibition at the world-famous Royal Albert Hall in London."

The exhibition, which ran from 18 September to 14 October 2018, featured the works of 30 award-winning wildlife photographers from around the world.

Founded by Simon Clinton, Save Wild Tiger is a conservation initiative to save tigers in the wild. It is estimated that there are only about 3,800 tigers remaining. According to Clinton: "Through this stunning exhibition, we want to inspire the public to join us and act to save what is surely one of the planet's most beautiful and captivating species for future generations."



THE EXHIBITION FEATURED THE WORKS OF 30 AWARD-WINNING WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.



1) Actress and Save Wild Tigers (SWT) ambassador Jaime Winstone. 2) Ballerina and SWT ambassador Maria Sascha Khan with singers Anna Straker and Dan Olsen. 3) Danish singer and SWT ambassador Olsen. 4) Winstone and fashion designer Pam Hogg. 5) Wild tigers could be extinct in 10 to 20 years, says SWT. 6) Japanese photographer Toshiji Fukuda. 7) Straker and singer Andrea Rocha.



WALKING ON SUNSHINE

SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI OFFERS GUESTS
A COMMUNE WITH THE REAL BALI, A LAND WITH
HAPPINESS AND AUTHENTICITY IN EQUAL MEASURE.

LOOMING IN THE DISTANCE ARE MOUNT BATOR AND MOUNT AGONG, TWO OF BALI'S MOST FAMOUS VOLCANIC PEAKS, WITH THE LATTER BEING THE ISLAND'S HIGHEST POINT OF ELEVATION AT 3,031 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL.



Enjoy sun-drenched days and peaceful nights at Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali.

On the idyllic northeastern corner of Bali, one finds the village of Tembok. This area, which means 'wall' in English, stood as the easterly gateway for the city of Singaraja, one of the key cities of the 12th-century Balingkang province. Today, Singaraja continues to be the closest city for Tembok locals who occasionally make the one-hour journey for shops and, for those looking to further their academic pursuits, the university. Back in Tembok, you find yourself in an idyllic landscape of palm forests, coconut groves and a

village community that greets visitors with a smile. Looming in the distance are Mount Bator and Mount Agong, two of Bali's most famous volcanic peaks, with the latter being the island's highest point of elevation at 3,031 metres above sea level.

This area of Tembok bears some unique features in topography, dissimilar to Bali's southern regions. The mountain ridge that divides the island protects Tembok from much of the south's familiar rainfall, resulting in near-cloudless skies on most days save for the wetter months of December and January.







The gentle spirituality of the island and its rich culture infuse every encounter in this tranquil spa resort.

It is also here where one finds the charming Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali, sprawled across 800 square metres, and comprising 27 deluxe rooms with two suites and two villas (which come with individual plunge pools). Here, in this adult-only resort – with a minimum guest age of 16 – the day brings birdsong, a constant sea breeze and scents of garden life; ylang-ylang, jasmine and frangipani.

To arrive here, you undertake a transformative two-and-half-hour journey from Bali's Ngurah Rai airport, past the densely packed districts of the island's south and along a north-easterly coastal road, configured to offer interesting attractions along the journey.

The resort's comprehensive pick-up and drop-off package ensures that your journey begins at the airport's arrivals lounge, the moment you meet one of the resort's drivers. Highlights along the way include salt-making sites, temples and the century-old Ujung Water Palace where Balinese and European architecture meld into a spectacular residence of the former raja of Karangasem. By the time you turn into the Tedjakula-Tianyar thoroughfare, which runs through the area of Tembok, that sense of discovery would have been

greatly heightened with the sight of a quaint village seemingly lost in time. Here, an assortment of brick homes is interspersed with eateries, shrines, sundry shops and smallholdings. You would invariably notice the people here possess an unhurried aura about them, a sense of ease of themselves and their lives.

At Pasar Tukad Eling, the market which serves the local community, live ducks and chickens are sold alongside freshly caught mahi-mahi and yellowtail tuna, and incredibly sweet 'harum manis' mangoes, all representative of the produce from the surrounding land and sea. That very same freshness is translated into the healthy farm-to-table cuisine prepared at Wantilan, Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali's restaurant, where the day's menus are written up following the morning market run.

Executive chef Mohamad Rizal brings his understanding of truly cosmopolitan cuisine into the food served here. That Balinese delicacy of *bebek betutu* is prepared from over 20 herbs and spices, marinated over a spring duck, and then slow-baked in banana leaves. The result is a toothsome meal, infused with heady flavours of



“IT’S IMPORTANT TO STRIVE FOR A BALANCE OF THE SALTY, SPICY, SWEET AND SAVOURY TASTES.”

galangal, cumin and cilantro. “It’s important to strive for a balance of the salty, spicy, sweet and savoury tastes,” Rizal explains. “Fresh ingredients are key of course, and we work closely with the local farmers and fishermen to obtain the choicest selections.”

There’s an undeniable sense that Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali is connected to the core of this original way of life, where much of what happens in the resort mirrors the best practices of the villagers nearby. Kernia, who has worked as a spa therapist at the resort for over a year, mentions that the *jamu* – a calming elixir of turmeric, palm sugar, salt and tamarind – which is served to guests twice a day, is a drink which she herself has been consuming since the age of seven.

At the spa, the mineral-rich black sands from the adjoining beach – a result of ancient volcanic flows – are used in some of the treatments to

dispel arthritic pains and low spirits, in the same way villagers would sit with their feet in the sand, as a means of detoxification. Yuyun Cindarsih helped to design the spa menu by sourcing 100 per cent local organic ingredients, from yoghurt, honey, lime and cucumber juice, to local flora.

She has combined this chemical-free base with local traditions, which have proved to be effective remedies across centuries. “For the locals, the traditional ways are always the first option before visiting the doctor,” Yuyun states. Boreh, a warming body mask, is used to restore vitality to wearied bodies, in the same way the locals do. “A lot of what we practice today is taught to us by Tembok’s late respected healer Ka Tis, who handed down the recipes using local herbs, coconut oil and also his healing techniques.”

In time, one realises that it is a sense of belonging and purpose which becomes the gateway to the happiness exuded on the faces of the members of staff at the resort, many of



Balinese dance remains an ancient tradition that forms part of the religious and artistic expression amongst the Balinese people.

whom originate from Tembok itself. Sika has lived his whole in Tembok, growing up in a fishing family. As one of the original members of staff at the resort, he has relished the regular income which employment brings over the uncertainty of the day's catch. One finds him up before dawn breaks, preparing the resort's boat – a traditional two-seater vessel fitted with outriggers – called *jukung*.

His familiarity with the sea means you will find yourself in the choicest spot to contemplate the coastline, with majestic peaks in the background, and filled by the undulating obsidian velvet of the ocean in early light. Through the water, you will spot fields of phosphorescent plankton (which attracts whales in the months of December and January). Most curiously, Sika and his ilk are able to pinpoint exactly where to locate the boat, to prepare for the dramatically charged encounter with schools of dolphins, numbering in the hundreds, which emerge from the warming waters with aplomb.

That deep and abiding love for the land can clearly be seen in the faces of the groundskeepers at the resort, who carefully gather frangipani





During your retreat, you will have the opportunity to explore health through the integration of healthy whole-food cuisine, rejuvenating spa treatments, movement, mindfulness, hands-on wellness workshops and natural health practices.

blossoms to scent guestrooms. In the mornings and throughout the day, various members of staff are seen placing incense and floral offerings at the resort's shrines.

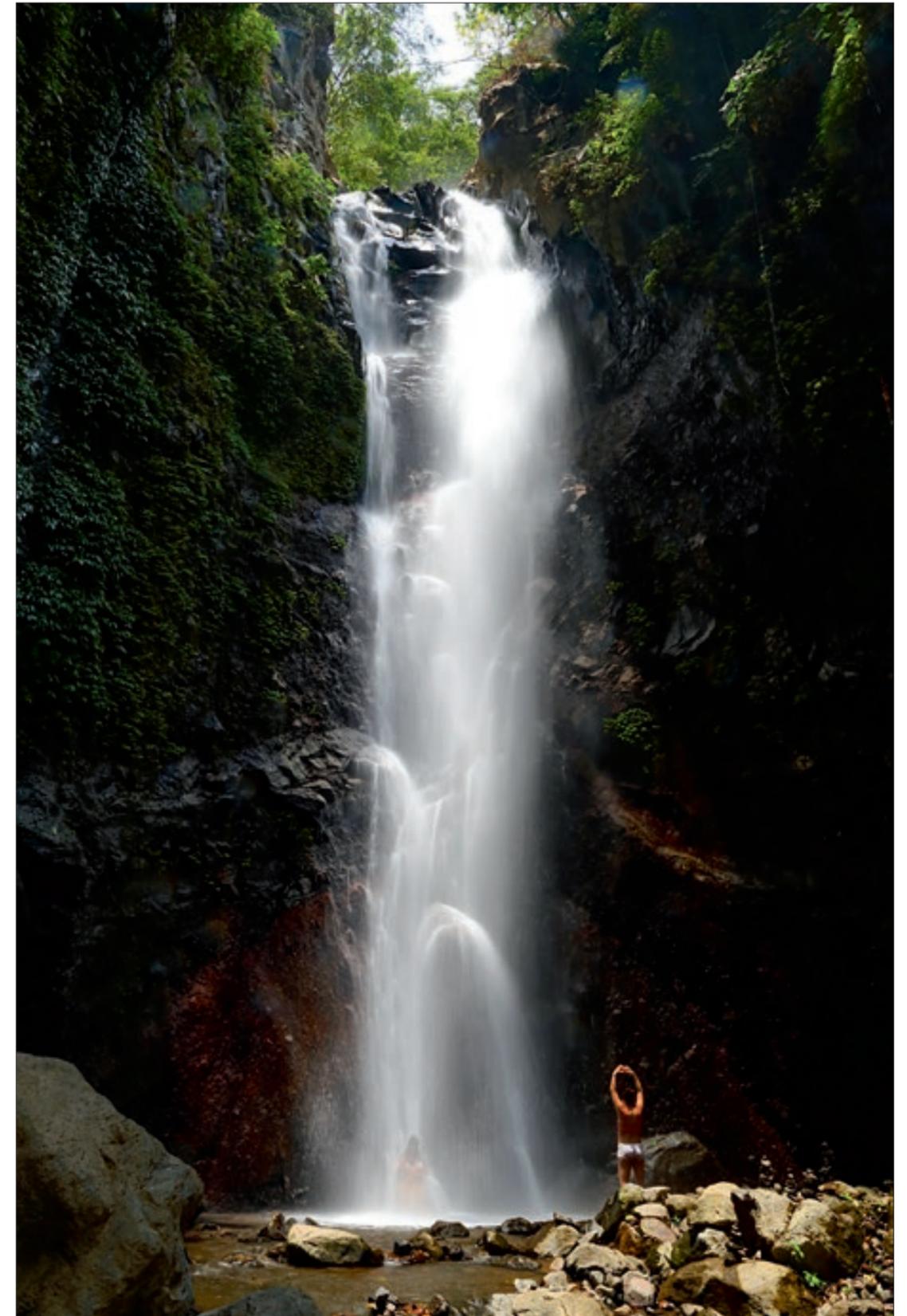
Not far from the resort, Les waterfall serves as a sort of purification point, for which locals make a beeline on religious days of celebration. The crystal cool waters, cascading from a height of five storeys, offer a sort of natural hydrotherapy for locals, who revel in the pleasures of nature.

Once a year, when the moon waxes full, the Pujawali festival comes about, a sort of thanksgiving ceremony for the Ocean Goddess Baruna. At a temple dedicated to her, a 10-minute walk by beach from the resort, a fiesta of

celebration is in full swing, with the *mangku* – a temple priest – offering songs and prayer in Sanskrit and Balinese.

Made Arjaya is the youthful village leader of Ngis (estimated population 2,400), a village in the vicinity of Tembok. He has spent exactly half of his life growing up here, and the other half driving a cab in Bali's southern districts. "The spirits are old in Tembok," he observes. "We celebrate tonight because the ocean has given us so much, everything, to our lives."

Made, who also possesses a more cosmopolitan outlook by virtue of having developed many friendships through work, hopes to see people coming to Tembok to see the 'real Bali'. For





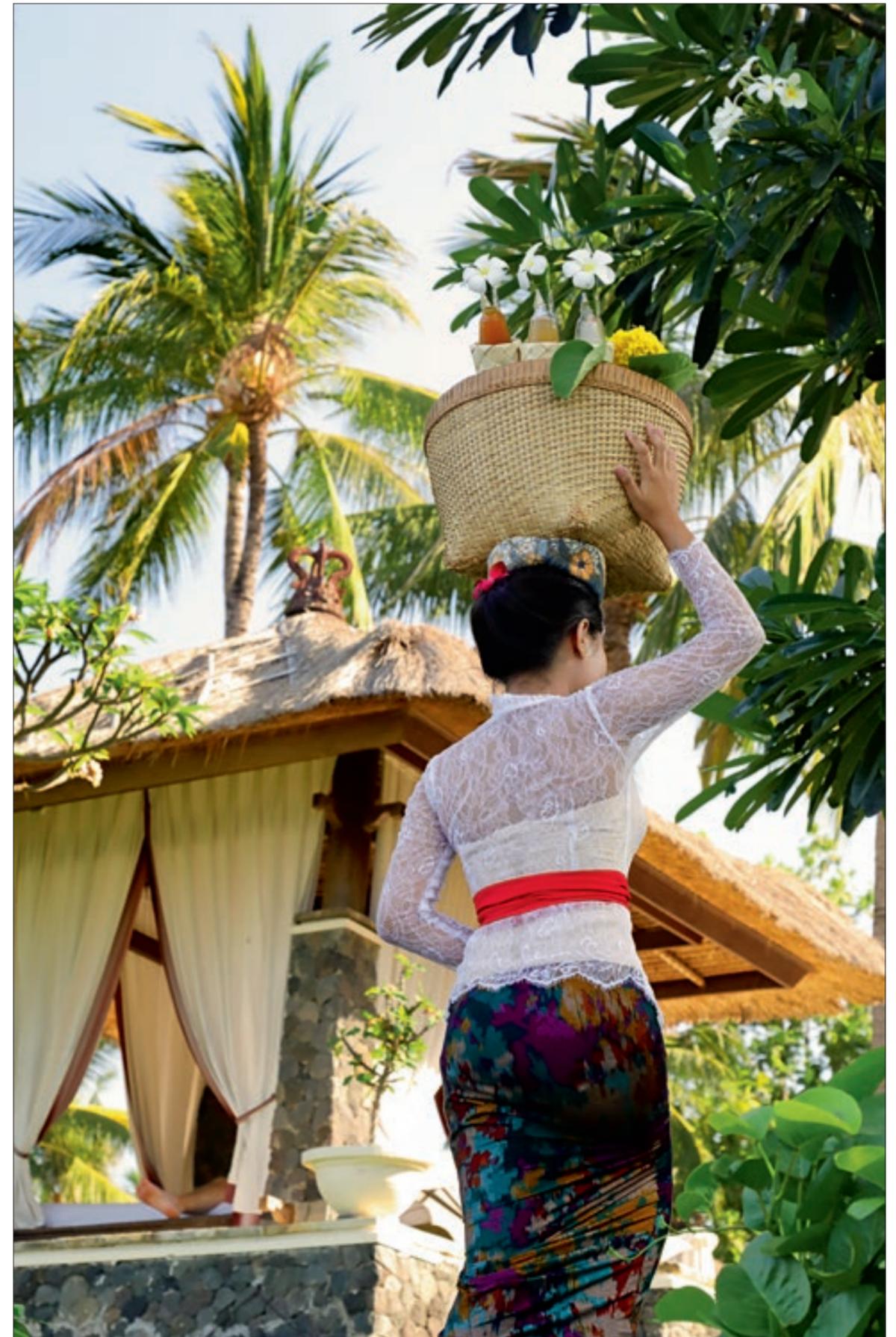
FROM THE SMILING LADIES IN THE MARKET TO THE PLEASANT-MANNERED VILLAGERS AND MEMBERS OF STAFF, ONE HAS CLEARLY STUMBLERD INTO A GUILELESS LAND.

Made, that notion of a real Bali resides in the deep-rooted culture, respect for customs and deep relationships, all of which the people share here in Tembok.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the smiling eyes of Gede who has been tasked to help organise the Pujawali tonight. Gede has shown up in his finery with wife Kadek Sri Widiasih, his five-year-old daughter Putu Angela and infant son Kadek Deo Honesta. He has had to take two days off of work to help with preparations and temple decorations, with his father pitching in on security detail and mother on the gamelan.

That sense of togetherness, for many, will be the enduring memory of anyone who visits Tembok. From the smiling ladies in the market to the pleasant-mannered villagers and members of staff, one has clearly stumbled into a guileless land. Fauzi Abriansyah, a Javanese who has spent 10 years at the resort, has long noticed these charms at Tembok. "People are just friendlier, the environment is calmer and you can feel that everyone is looking out for each other, understanding that they can only be happy when everyone around them feels the same way."

For more information, please visit www.spavillageresort.com





MIXING ELIXIRS

ALCHEMY BAR AT THE NEWLY MINTED THE ACADEMY
POURS BESPOKE COCKTAILS TRENDY LONDONERS ARE
RAVING ABOUT.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN



The cosy Alchemy Bar is housed on the ground floor and is the perfect Bloomsbury retreat for bespoke cocktails, speciality gins or a refreshing glass of wine or champagne.

London is a city with undeniable riches when it comes to speciality cocktail bars. Alchemy Bar at The Academy is one of the British capital's better kept secrets – for now. Those in-the-know slip past the elegant Georgian façade of this Small Luxury Hotel, and amble to the inviting wall-papered bar to consult the resident alchemist. A mixologist par excellence, he can tell you about the delights of two specialist gins stocked at the bar.

The Alkhemist Gin is purportedly distilled by moonlight and features 21 different botanicals including rose petals, samphire, Muscat grape and fennel. It will take your gin-and-tonic to another level. However the Tanqueray Bloomsbury is really the signature gin of The Academy as its original distillery was located in Bloomsbury in the 1830s. Although the recipe of this London dry gin is a closely guarded secret, it is believed to contain four botanicals: juniper, coriander, angelica root and liquorice.

The quietly luxurious Academy is a fabulous boutique property inspired by the Bloomsbury set, and Alchemy Bar pays homage to the garden

of one of the set's central figures, artist Duncan Grant's Charleston House in Kent. The bar's lush leafy wallpaper design, the handpicked books, the patio garden (a rare treat in Bloomsbury) and the candles lit at dusk are the reason guests and Londoners mingle here at the cocktail hour.

The alchemist has created an excellent cocktail for the Alchemy Bar. Order his Elixir of Forgetfulness and you will soon understand the magic of the bar at The Academy. It's a drink that carries the fruity, spicy notes of summer through to autumn.

It's a fruity concoction served in a whisky tumbler. Refreshing, balanced sweet and sour, it's based on Sailor Jerry's spiced rum and passion fruit, with vanilla and star anise undertones, an addition of lemon juice and a few dashes of Angostura aromatic bitters. This delicious drink brims with flavours and tastes of fruit and spices. For the full experience, this potent elixir is best enjoyed outdoors in the private garden.

For more information, please visit www.theacademyhotel.co.uk



ABOUT TAILORS AND GOLD INGOTS

THREADNEEDLES HOTEL IS PLACED
AT THE CITY OF LONDON'S
BEATING HEART.

Words JUNE MONG-LOTTIN



NEXT TIME YOU ARE A GUEST HERE ASK THE CONCIERGE TO BOOK YOU ON A PRIVATE SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

The next time you are nursing a drink at the Threadneedles Hotel Champagne Bar in London, be reminded that you're in the heart of the City of London's historic centre. The property is a luxury modern hotel with a wealth of history behind it.

The street it is named after dates back to 1598 when it was known as Three Needles Street for the coat of arms of the needle makers in the area. The street became known as Threed Needles and eventually Threadneedle, most likely referring to the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors, a livery company whose distinguished hall has been on this street since 1347. It is right next door and now a prime events venue, which makes Threadneedles Hotel very popular for guests who are looking for elegant accommodation.

For centuries, the City of London's livery companies were some of the most powerful organisations. Guild members are loyal custodians of traditions and ceremonial practices laid down more than 600 years ago. The Merchant Taylors Company became one of the Great Twelve livery companies, the senior companies in the City from which all Lord Mayors had to be chosen. Today Merchant Taylors is mainly a social and charitable organisation; the last working tailors in the Company are believed to have been at the end of the 17th century.

Threadneedle Street is one of the thoroughfares that converge on Bank station, one of the busiest in London. But it is more famous for being home to the Bank of England where 5,000 tonnes of gold reserves are stored in eight vaults on two floors. Next time you are a guest here ask the concierge to book you on a private sightseeing tour of the City of London. There is a three-hour City of London tour by day, but the two-hour tour of London by Night is much more atmospheric. It is just one of the many bespoke services available at this classic property.

For more information, please visit www.hotelthreadneedles.co.uk



The Bank of England is just at the end of Threadneedles Street.

SCOTCH COURAGE

HIGH-SPIRITED AND IMMENSELY ENJOYABLE, THE GLASSHOUSE HOTEL EDINBURGH'S SINGLE MALT TOURS ARE PROVING QUITE THE TOURIST ATTRACTION.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN





Receive a complimentary dram of whisky relating to your suite's name when you book one of the Deluxe Suites.

UPON CHECK-IN THROUGH THE 172-YEAR-OLD GEORGIAN CHURCH FACADE, GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THE SNUG WHERE THEY CAN UNWIND BY THE OPEN FIREPLACE AND ENJOY A DRAM OF THE WHISKY WHICH THEIR SUITE IS NAMED AFTER.

Although whisky has been distilled in Scotland for hundreds of years, the first written record of it was in 1494. This was when Friar John Cor was given enough malt to produce 1,500 bottles of whisky.

As Scotland's only Autograph Collection property, The Glasshouse Hotel in Edinburgh offers exceptional knowledge of the various distilling regions with the aim to find the perfect dram or whisky cocktail for each guest.

The hotel boasts 20 luxurious suites, all of which are named after single malt whiskies. Upon check-in through the 172-year-old Georgian church facade, guests are invited to the Snug where they can unwind by the open fireplace and enjoy a dram of the whisky which their suite is named after. Once the mood is set, the expert team of bartenders can then take you on a journey through the Glasshouse's collection of around 100 exclusive whiskies, as well as a premium cigar

menu. Standout lines in the collection include vintages from extinct distilleries such as The Imperial 1996 (bottled by Gordon & MacPhail) and the 40-year-old Cally from the former Edinburgh-based Caledonian Distillery.

The hotel will soon be adding more bottles to the range including the Balvenie 30-year-old, the Ledaig 19-year-old Pedro Ximinez finish as well as the special release edition Lagavulin 12-year-old.

The Glasshouse Hotel Edinburgh's two-day Elite Whisky Package is popular with guests. Stay in the hotel's grandest suite, go on personalised tours of two of the hotel's favourite distilleries and enjoy a seven-course whisky pairing dinner, all hosted by an accredited whisky expert and connoisseur. Courage is indeed a pill best taken with whisky.

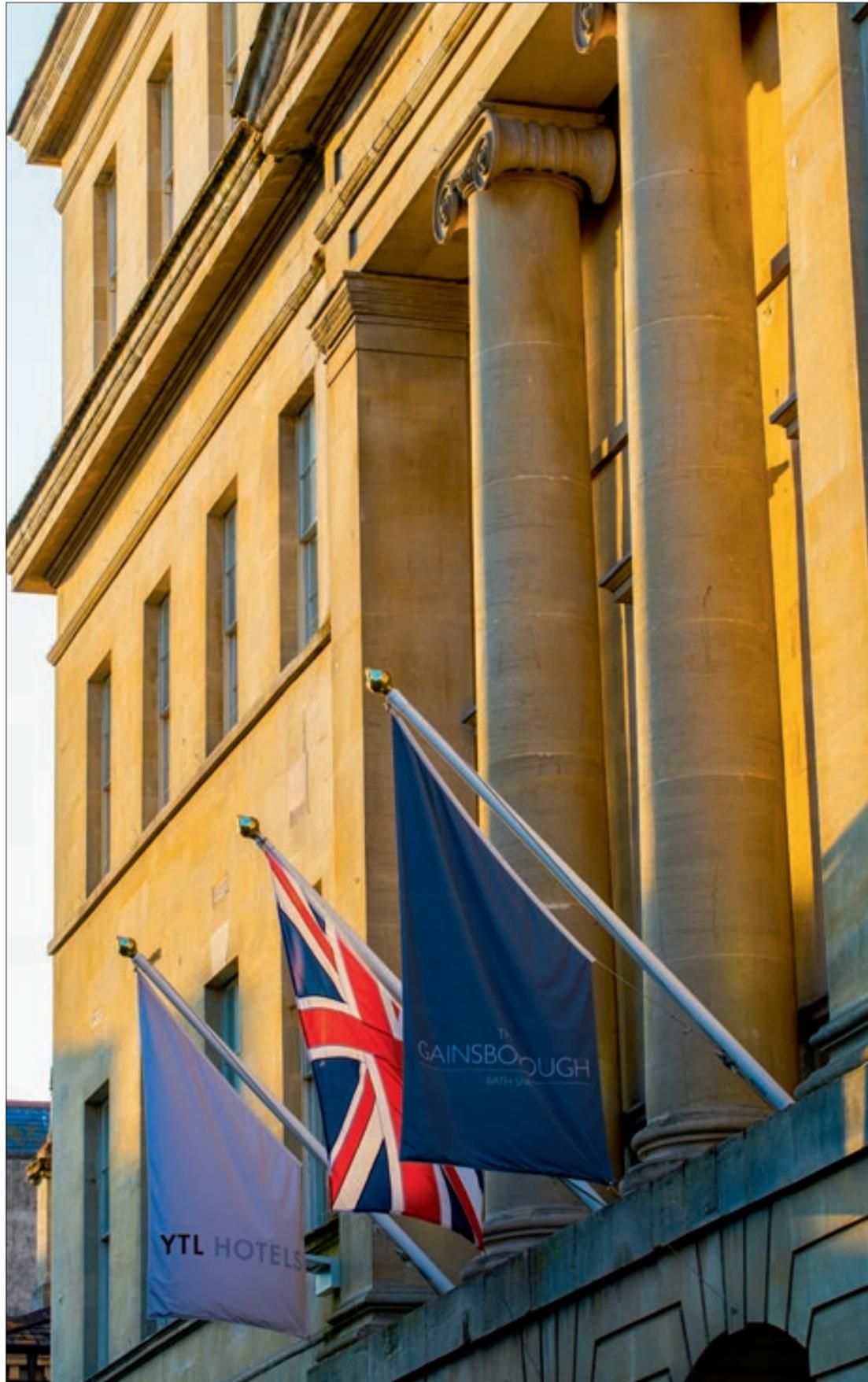
For more information, please visit www.theglasshousehotel.co.uk



EXPLORING BATH'S ARTISANAL OUTDOOR MARKETS

STEPS FROM THE GAINSBOROUGH BATH SPA
ARE BUSTLING POP-UP WEEKEND STALLS SELLING
THE BEST REGIONAL PRODUCE AND CRAFTS.





Words JUNE MONG

The Gainsborough Bath Spa consists of two Grade-II listed buildings and is the only hotel in the United Kingdom with access to natural thermal waters, sourced from a private water reserve which once supplied the city's ancient Roman baths. Its Spa Village boasts three bubbling thermal pools, a sauna, steam room and 11 treatment rooms. The spa offers a range of massages and Asian-influenced therapies.

Founded by Romans and famous for its Georgian architecture, Bath is one of two UNESCO Heritage cities in Europe. After 400 years, the Romans left a sophisticated culture of thermal baths, love of fine food and conspicuous consumption unrivalled outside their empire. At The Gainsborough Bath Spa, the thermal source of Spa Village Bath, its extensive treatment menu, the hotel's tradition of fine dining and excellent wine cellar presents guests with all that Bath is renowned for.

Outdoor farmer's markets have been a staple of British life since the Middle Ages. And the first farmer's market in the UK was in Bath. Today, goods at the outdoor market are sold directly by

the people who produce them and everything comes from within a 60km radius of the city. There are several outdoor markets in Bath, which open on different days beneath the vaulted glass roof of a former Victorian rail station called Green Park Station. Located 500 metres from Queen Square, this elegant station was opened in 1870 as part of the Midland Railway line.

Another must-stop is The Fine Cheese Company on Walcott Street that has been making and selling handmade cheese from the British Isles and beyond for 20 years. If you are about to go on a country walk recommended by The Gainsborough Bath Spa concierge, stop by The Fine Cheese Company for a snack. For delicious sustenance, we recommend packing a few of their Spanish tortillas before you start your trek.

Bath Farmer's Market, every Saturday 9am–1.30pm
 Bath Artisan Market, every second and third Sunday 10am–4pm
 Bath Vintage & Antiques Market, every first and fourth Sunday 8am–4pm

For more information please visit www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk

HEATING IT UP

JW FIREHOUSE AT JW MARRIOTT KUALA LUMPUR HAS A DRINKS MENU HIGHLIGHTING A VARIETY OF UNMATCHED COCKTAILS AND PREMIUM SPIRITS.

Words [KENNETH TAN](#)



The recently opened JW Firehouse is all about chilling out in style at the Happening Hotel. Unwind after work with colleagues at this gorgeous bar in the centre of Bukit Bintang. Or pop by if you're visiting the city and hankering for some expertly made classic cocktails.

Past the ruched panes, you are transported into a modish interior, replete with wall scones, copper trims, leather upholstery and a dazzling marble bar. The plush seating makes for some delightful evenings, as does the cigar menu comprising Cuban stars such as Cohibas, Romeo y Julieta and Montecristos.

Signature cocktails include the creative Fire Starter, comprising tequila, mango juice, chilli and lime. The House Old Fashioned plays up bourbon, rum and cognac, swirling the potent tippie with angostura bitters and citrus syrup. For a lighter approach, Hazy Morgan blends the unmistakable orange aromas of Cointreau with rum and citrus syrup.

SIGNATURE DRINKS INCLUDE THE CREATIVE FIRE STARTER AND THE HOUSE OLD FASHIONED.

Those who enjoy their spirits will be pleased to discover some uncommon expressions nestled in the back bar. Among them are the Modestia Aparte mezcal and a Don Ramon tequila – a 100 per cent agave stunner with special bottlings for JW Marriott. And, should the night at JW Firehouse call for a grand celebration, the well-provisioned beverage list includes a Royal Salute Hundred Cask, a rare blend of whiskies from 100 very aged casks, bursting with the scents and the flavours of honey, sherry, dark chocolate and endless celebration.

For more information, please visit jwmarriottkualalumpur.com

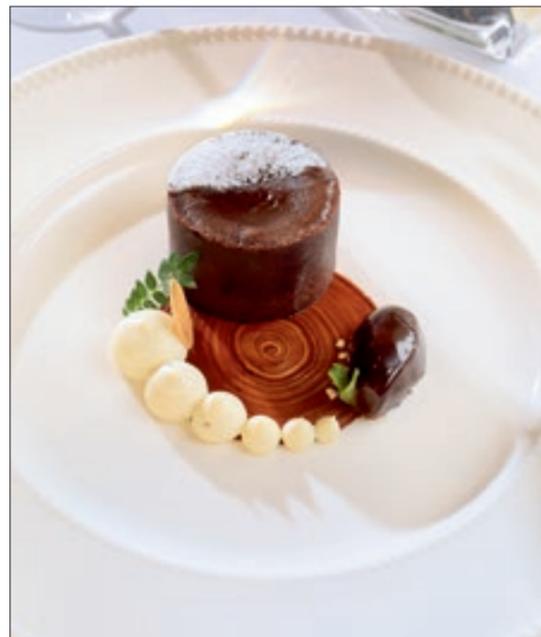


The drinks list at JW Firehouse comprises a mix of classic and creative cocktails.

OF TASTE, TEXTURES AND COLOURS

AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, KUALA LUMPUR,
YTL CORPORATE EXECUTIVE CHEF WAI LOOK CHOW
WELCOMES DINERS TO EXTRAORDINARY MEALS BUILT
UPON HIS 30-YEAR CULINARY CAREER.

Words KENNETH TAN



FOR DESSERT, LOOK TO CHEF WAI'S HOMEMADE ICE CREAMS.



There's a great level of precision and purpose in Chef Wai's daily actions. "I enjoy cooking my own breakfast and, for me, it's important to select the freshest eggs, with the yolk cooked to 80 per cent, and to still have the whites runny."

This same sort of methodical precision is what he now applies to dinners at The Library at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur in an ambience heightened by the sound of jazz. Chef Wai's preparation of eggs – from free-range chickens – feature in the Sea Urchin with Cauliflower Mousseline, a sensuous rhapsody of tastes.

His restraint in over embellishment of the meats, fish and poultry helps to elevate each meal into a gastronomic trip to remember, where the more delicate flavours take the limelight over rich sauces and heavy spice.

Among his culinary signatures is Brown Crab with Avocado Veloute, a labour which entails the simmering of fish bone as stock, drawing upon the gelatin and essence of hirage, turbot, lemon sole and other flat fish. This stock is then merged with a mirepoix of carrots, onions, leeks and celery to obtain a distinctive medley of flavours and hues.

From the Brest duck and Australian lamb to the Kyushu tenderloin, each meat course is also subject to Chef Wai's careful process of unlocking an ingredient's full potential.

The same kind of attention is devoted to the lobster, which Chef Wai breaks down to three parts: the claw with its firmness, the arms which have a stronger consistency and the muscled tail, to which he applies 85 per cent of cooking, poached in butterfat, to achieve that perfect bite. For dessert, look to Chef Wai's homemade ice creams such as tonka beans and Arabica – which offer a counterpoint to caramel and warm chocolate. When in season, musk melon and persimmon also feature.

The Library Dinner Series with Chef Wai offers three-course sets and an a la carte menu, from Mondays to Saturdays, with recommended wine pairings from the in-house sommelier.

For more information, please visit ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur



Chef Wai Look Chow is adept at bringing out the freshness of the produce and ingredients he uses.

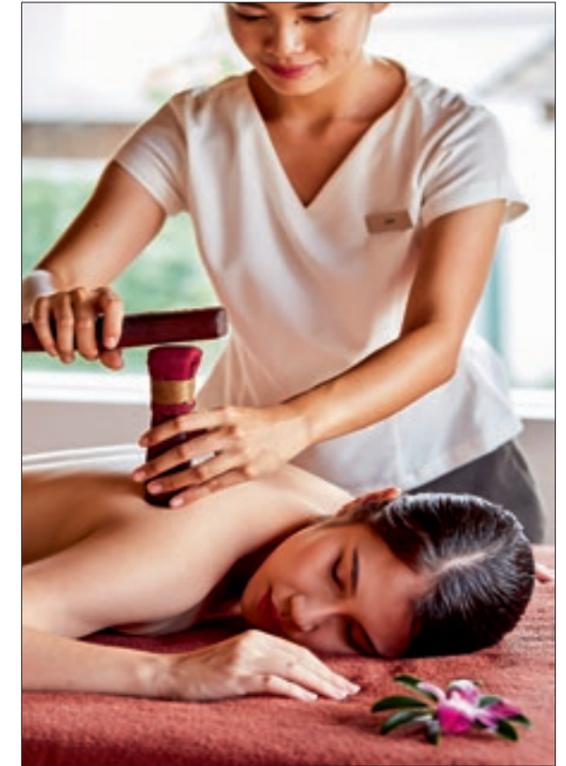


STRIKING BACK

SPA VILLAGE KOH SAMUI SERVES A RESTORATIVE
THAI MASSAGE EXPERIENCE INVOLVING A HAMMER
AND WEDGE. SOUNDS PAINFUL? NOT SO.

Words MATT LEPPARD

It has been said that you haven't experienced a true Thai massage until you've tried tok sen. This involves your tissues being pounded by a mallet and a wedge, calling to mind the maxim that an authentic Thai massage is heavenly torture. Well, tok sen isn't torture – it's an exquisite experience and a must-try when in the Land of Smiles.



The two-hour tok sen massage will begin with the Songkran Shower ritual, a signature Spa Village treatment inspired by the annual Songkran festival.



But where would one find this uniquely traditional technique? Koh Samui is the natural choice. This famous island destination was once a leafy shelter for traders on Thailand's crystal-blue seas. Its stunning beauty and bountiful resources enabled not only a community of warm-spirited Thais to build up over the centuries, but it's also home to the most luxurious of resorts.

The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui is a prime example. Set in the privacy of a tucked-away sun-bathed bay, the resort boasts a Spa Village, the iconic concept born on the company's flagship Pangkor Laut property. Each Spa Village fashions its own identity, with that at The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui focusing on ancient Thai therapies, one of which is tok sen massage.

It is believed that tok sen originated in the ancient northern kingdom of Lanna around Chiang Mai. 'Tok' means to strike, while 'sen' relates to the meridian energy lines in the body. Hence, a tok sen massage involves a wooden mallet and

wedge being used to rhythmically stimulate these lines, the result of which is a deep-tissue healing vibration that unblocks the meridians.

All that pummeling and energy-release relaxes the body and generates a sense of well-being since the energy is redirected back to its normal pathways. Not only that, but the rhythmic pounding creates a soothing, hypnotic atmosphere, helping to promote harmony and healing while the massage is being performed.

If you're lucky, you'll benefit from a tok sen massage with one of the most highly prized tools in the traditional Thai massage armoury: a mallet made from the wood struck off a tamarind tree by lightning and blessed in a monastery. Truly a magical experience, and one of the treasured moments that The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui is delighted to provide.

For more information please visit ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui

SAILING AWAY

THE ESTATES AT PANGKOR LAUT RESORT OFFER
COMPELLING PRIVILEGES OF ISLAND LIVING.

words MARK LEAN



Two luxury yachts are available for charter should you wish to explore the Straits of Malacca and the surrounding islands.

Pangkor Laut Resort, the flagship property of YTL Hotels, distils its unique blend of personable hospitality and staggering natural beauty to guests from around the world. Many have returned time and time again to experience the slower pace of Malaysian island living and the promise of a relaxed sense of luxury. For a different perspective to island life, The Estates at Pangkor Laut Resort have been calibrated to match privacy with luxe residential trappings. The Estates Exclusive package includes transfers from Marina Island Pangkor to the resort by private yacht. A private car then transports guests to one of eight Estates, each with its own private pool, set in picturesque locations, some with jaw-dropping views of the glimmering jade-hued bay.

Each Estate embodies the beauty and spirit of the tropics, inspired by the stylish lifestyles of the British estate managers of yore who ran many of Malaya's rubber plantations. Think comfortable rattan furniture, glistening wooden platform beds and sofas, silk upholstery, and elevated wooden ceilings that seemingly project to the sky. The sense of comfort in each Estate is heightened with the services of a private butler and chef.

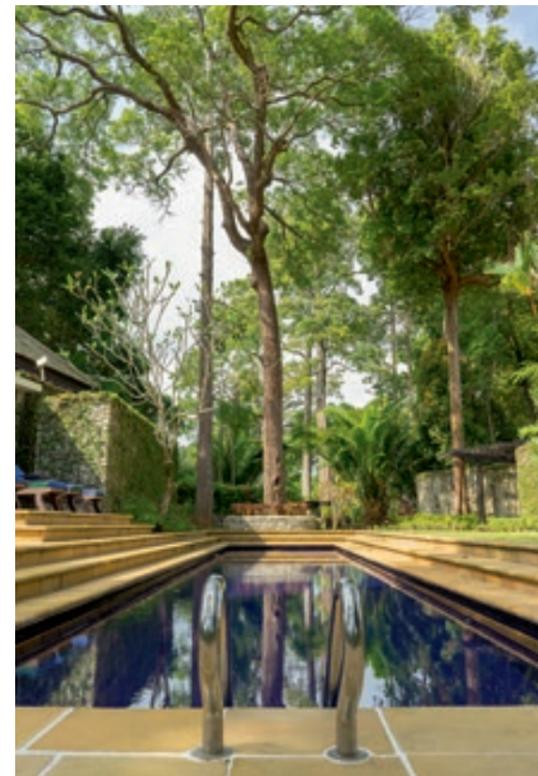
Personalise your stay down to which pre-prandial cocktails you'd prefer through to the dishes for lunch and dinner. Take your pick of lunch and dinner menus that maximise the use of just-caught seafood. The chef's recommendations include a variety of home-style dishes including deep-fried sea bass flavoured with soya sauce; delicious sautéed prawns; sweet and sour chicken; black pepper beef ribs; and stir-fried mixed vegetables with oyster sauce. Western options include an ensemble of Caesar's Salad; grilled melt-in-the-mouth sea bass; and the popular peanut butter and chocolate brownie.

As you greet the morning sun in your private estate, breakfast transforms into a culinary event with a vast spread of staples from east and west, including light and fluffy *roti canai* with a selection of curries, eggs cooked to your liking, piping hot pastries, as well as a choice of local sweet delicacies.

This stunning collection of Estates is one of Pangkor Laut Resort's hidden gems. A stay here would invariably demand a repeat visit.

For more information, please visit www.pangkorlautresort.com

EACH ESTATE EMBODIES THE BEAUTY AND SPIRIT OF THE TROPICS.



Situated on the northern part of the island, these eight private sanctuaries feature luxurious comforts, house between two and four bedrooms, and have separate living and dining pavilions as well as a private pool with dramatic views; all set across acres of pristine rainforest.



MALACCA'S GOLDEN AGES

THE MAJESTIC MALACCA IS THE EMBODIMENT OF CENTURIES OF MULTICULTURALISM, PROVIDING GLIMPSES INTO A GLORIOUS ERA.



Words MATT LEPPARD

The Majestic Malacca provides a glimpse into the splendid saga of an extraordinary empire.

Long a staging post along trade routes through the Malay peninsula, the port of Malacca became a thriving commercial hub in the 15th century. It was here where silks from China met fabrics from India and gold from Sumatra – and it was here where the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British extended their empires. Only recently, in 1957, was Malacca declared independent as part of the Federation of Malaya.

Following a period of meticulous restoration, the hotel made a triumphant return as a landmark truly deserving of its majestic moniker. Guests can now enjoy an array of facilities that reflect the status of such a property. At The Library, for example, traditional lamps sit on original floor tiles, while fine ceramics are bathed in soft lighting. For pure pampering, Spa Village Malacca, which sprawls across two floors, bases its therapies on Chinese-Malay Peranakan culture. Guests can also dip their toes in the hotel's sun-dappled outdoor pool.

This storied history, steeped in the cultures not only of Malays but also of traders from China, India and Arabia – many of whom settled locally – resulted in a culture as diverse as it is quintessentially Malaysian. Colonial rule added broad brushstrokes to local colour, with Malacca granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 2008. The year marked another milestone: the reopening of The Majestic Malacca, which originated as a private mansion in 1929. The property was then named The Majestic Hotel, and in the post-War swing of the 1950s and 1960s, it gained a reputation as the place to see and be seen.

The Majestic Malacca's guestrooms reflect a blend of heritage and modernity. Custom furnishings come to life in light framed by huge silk-draped windows, while fabulous four-poster beds rest on timber floors, providing tranquil slumber following a soak in a clawfoot bath. And fittingly for a hotel whose history is so intertwined with trade, bathers can enjoy sweeping views of the river whose waters traders once plied.

For more information please visit www.majesticmalacca.com

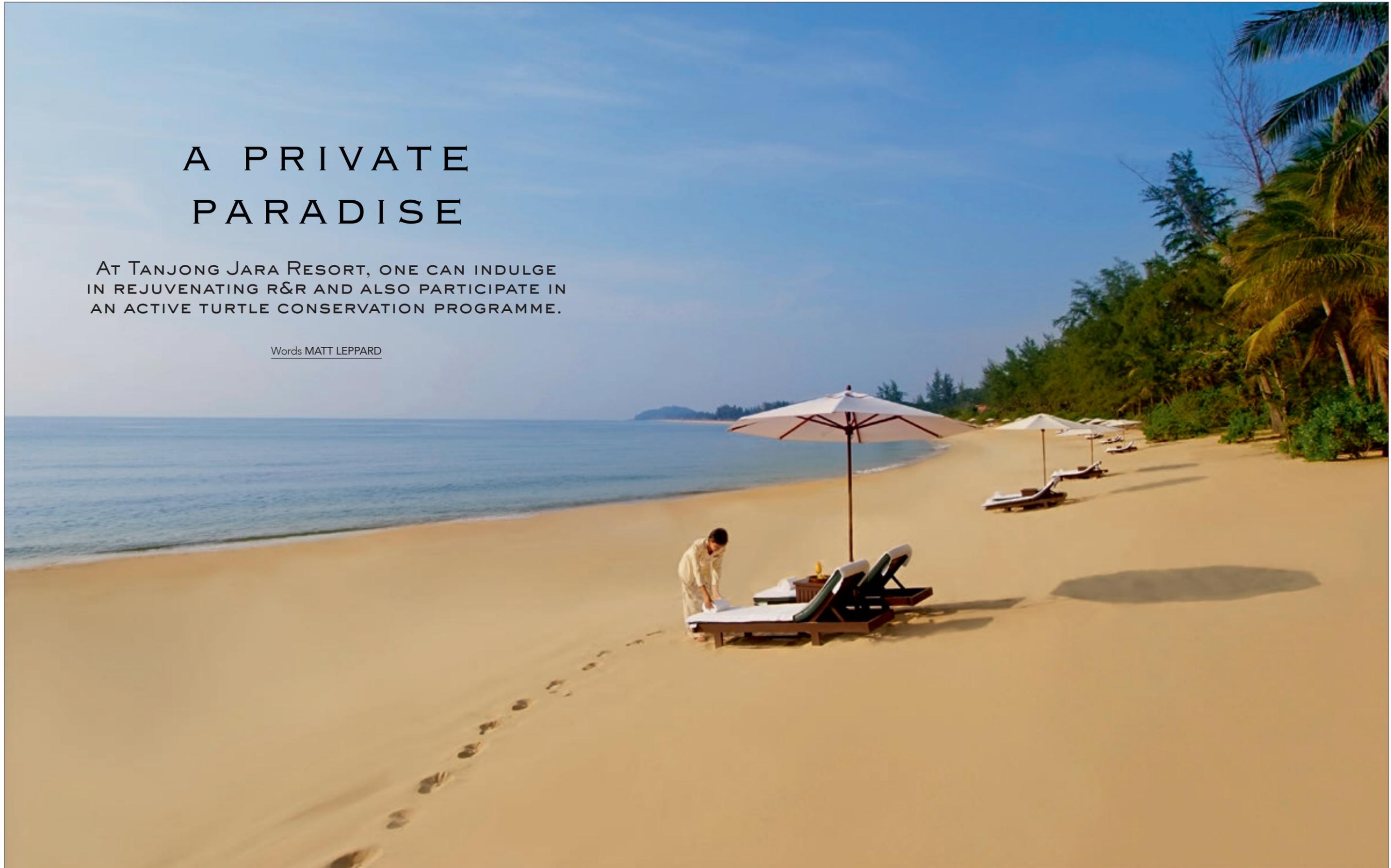


FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF METICULOUS RESTORATION, THE HOTEL MADE A TRIUMPHANT RETURN AS A LANDMARK TRULY DESERVING OF ITS MAJESTIC MONIKER.

A PRIVATE PARADISE

AT TANJONG JARA RESORT, ONE CAN INDULGE
IN REJUVENATING R&R AND ALSO PARTICIPATE IN
AN ACTIVE TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME.

Words MATT LEPPARD





THIS PLUSH RESORT BLENDS TRADITIONAL LUXURY AND TECHNOLOGICAL MODERNITY YET BOASTS TRADITIONS AS OLD AS THE CULTURE THEY WERE BORN FROM.

Imagine the arc of a golden beach fringed by gently swaying palms cradling a cerulean bay and knowing that such picture-postcard perfection could be your next vacation paradise. Imagine, too, if that paradise was home to majestic marine turtles and had an active conservation programme. Too good to be true?

Not so. In your mind's eye, you've just conjured up the spectacular, sea-brushed Tanjong Jara Resort, located on the east coast of the Malay peninsula. This plush resort blends traditional luxury and technological modernity yet boasts traditions as old as the culture they were born from.

With a design that draws from the lines and curves of a 17th-century palace combined with the Malaysian concept of *sucimurni* – emphasising a balance between mind, body and spirit – the hotel offers the perfect recipe for total physical, mental and emotional rejuvenation.

Guests can enjoy an array of activities, with both the selection available and the resort's irresistible charms making repeat visits a necessity born out of tantalising desire. Whether it's a guided trip

to a market to see ingredients sourced and then later cooked with the hotel's expert chefs, or a leisurely soak in an oversized bath followed by a trip to the nearby Tenggol Island – with some of the best snorkelling and diving in the country – guests will want for nothing.

In keeping with the ethos of harmony with its natural surroundings, as well as the conservation-minded approach of YTL Hotels, Tanjong Jara Resort actively helps protect the local fauna. In an exclusive partnership with Lang Tengah Turtle Watch, the resort has its own turtle hatchery located near its Nelayan restaurant.

Here, as well as simply observing these behemoths of the deep spring into life from sheltered nests during nightly watches, adoption programmes are also available. These not only mean that pledges help protect the nests from poachers and predators, they also mean that, in keeping with the hotel's many personal touches, guests are forever linked to their perfectly personal piece of paradise.

For more information please visit www.tanjongjararesort.com

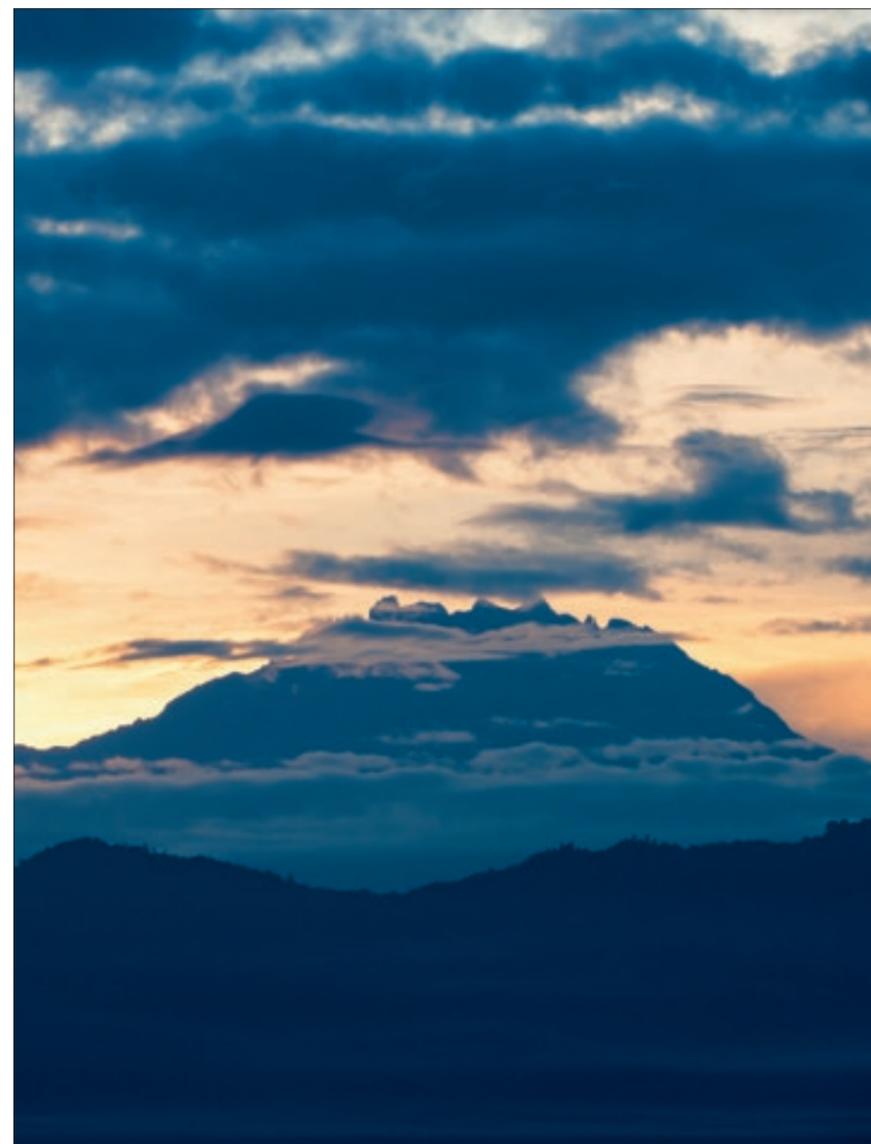


Guests of Tanjong Jara Resort can discover more about the lives of the majestic sea turtles and sign up for activities and programmes at Lang Tengah Turtle Watch's Visitors' Hut, next to Nelayan restaurant.





BACK TO NATURE



GAYA ISLAND RESORT'S RESIDENT NATURALIST JUSTIN JUHUN ON THE CONSERVATION EFFORTS HE SPEARHEADS.

Words ELAINE LAU

At the 2018 Global CSR Summit and Awards, YTL Hotels won the Platinum Award for CSR Leadership for its senior resident naturalist Justin Juhun's wildlife care and conservation work at Gaya Island Resort. Juhun heads the Gaya Island Resort Wildlife Centre, introducing guests to programmes and initiatives that protect and preserve the area's natural world.

How was your love of nature cultivated and how did you get into conservation work?

I grew up in the interior parts of Tawau, Sabah. My father exposed me to the jungle from a young age. He knew all the animals and would tell me about them.

I studied hotel management. At that time, I did not know anything about conservation. But I've always dreamt of going back to nature. In 1996, I was employed at a resort in Sabah and the GM wanted to set up an orangutan conservation project. I told him I wanted to be part of it. I left after a few years and went to the United Kingdom to learn about conservation practices there. I came back and became a wetland manager, looking after 1,200 acres of mangrove forest in Tuaran, Sabah.

What makes Gaya Island unique?

It is a treasure island rich in flora and fauna. No other island in Sabah has proboscis monkeys. It is one of the seven wonders of Gaya Island, which also include the mangrove forest, red giant flying squirrels, bearded pigs, fireflies, elephant foot yam and the Boobook owl.

Tell us about the conservation work you are doing on the island.

One of our research projects is to increase the

“IF MY EFFORTS CAN AFFECT CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, THAT IS REWARD ENOUGH FOR ME.”

gene pool of the proboscis monkey population, which we believe belongs to one gene pool currently. We've introduced another male monkey to build a harem, thereby enhancing the quality of genetics to ensure a sustainable proboscis monkey population. With a more diverse gene pool, the proboscis monkeys will have a higher chance at surviving infectious diseases.

We're working to restore and enlarge the mangrove forest and increase the area's biodiversity. We have been collecting various species from other parts and placing them back into the mangrove forest. In addition, we carry out animal rescue and rehabilitation.

What are your thoughts on the recent award?

I don't do conservation work for the awards; I'm not looking for glamour. I use it to inspire my team. What keeps me going is the positive impact I see from the work that my team and I have done and continue to do. I love being in nature; it is where I feel most at home. If my efforts can affect change for the better, no matter how small, that is reward enough for me.

For more information please visit www.gayaislandresort.com



As Resident Naturalist, Justin Juhun is responsible for the resort's 7 Wonders of Gaya project that allows guests to engage with the island's natural environment and local wildlife.

THE GREAT EXPLORERS

AT CAMERON HIGHLANDS RESORT, THE BRITISH COLONIAL REFINED STYLE OF LIVING AND ENDURING TRADITIONS HAVE BEEN RECREATED FOR TODAY'S GLOBAL TRAVELLERS TO ENJOY.

Words MARK LEAN



The cool climate on the picturesque plateau and its hilly greenery are tailor-made for rounds of golf; rambles along jungle trails, tea plantations, farms or gardens; afternoon tea with scones; and spa treatments that celebrate the restorative powers of tea.

In the Reading Room at Cameron Highlands Resort, guests may come across a book entitled *Tales of the Highlands*. The author, William Cameron, was a British surveyor who took to the hill ridges that form the spine of the Malayan peninsula to escape stifling heat. And one might guess, the equally stifling colonial routines. This was back in 1885. Later, in 1925, Sir George Maxwell developed the area as a hill station with cooler temperatures that reminded the British of their homeland.

A dynamic tea cultivating industry soon developed. The winning combination of fertile land and near-temperate weather were the factors leading to companies such as Boh Plantations becoming the country's largest black tea producer.

While the book is peppered with myths and legends passed down the centuries, it also documents the pioneering spirit and thirst for adventure of Cameron and the men who followed after him.

Visitors who holiday in "this little piece of England in Asia" may now do so in the lap of luxury and experience a similar sense of adventure. At Cameron Highlands Resort, a 56-room property with welcoming charm, elegant French doors,

timber-beamed ceilings and plantation shutters evoke a grand colonial style of living. Furnishings comprise teak four-poster beds matched with beautiful Thai silks by Jim Thompson.

At the Jim Thompson Tea Room, nibble on exquisitely baked scones, homemade strawberry jam and fresh cream, all of which are served during afternoon tea. The ritual, made popular during the British era, is carefully recreated. The vibrant amber-hued tea is brewed from local blends, while the succulent strawberries are grown in neighbouring farms.

At Spa Village Cameron Highlands, both tea and strawberries feature on the spa menu. The Strawberry Tea Bath is a highly recommended bathing experience that alleviates nervous tension, removes stress, and leaves the skin glossy and glowing.

For those wishing to explore the verdant countryside, the resort's experienced guides will happily divulge the secrets of these mysterious highlands, the same secrets that enthralled William Cameron more than a century ago.

For more information, please visit www.cameronhighlandsresort.com





BRINGING THE FAMILY

NISEKO VILLAGE, BELOVED FOR ITS POWDER-FINE BLANKET OF SNOW AND THE VARIETY OF OUTDOOR SPORTS AND EXPLORATION ON OFFER, PROVIDES THE PERFECT PLAYGROUND FOR AN ACTIVE FAMILY HOLIDAY.

Words MERRITT GURLEY



THE STRUCTURED CLASSES ARE A GREAT WAY TO IMPROVE WINTER-SPORT SKILLS, BUT AN IMPROMPTU SNOWBALL FIGHT CAN BE JUST AS ENJOYABLE.

Two kids with rosy cheeks sled down a gentle slope on Mount Niseko Annapuri while their grandparents look on from Village Patisserie, sipping warm tea and nibbling on croissants. Niseko Village has a bevy of amazing activities to keep everyone in the family entertained.

Parents who want to start their day carving fresh tracks in untouched snow don't have to worry about finding a babysitter; they can drop their children at Niseko Kids Snow School. At this cheerful play centre the younger kids (one- to six-year-olds) can sing and paint under the supervision of childcare experts, while the older kids (three- to six-year-olds) can take to the slopes with Niseko Mini Kids Ski/Snowboarding Lessons. Patient instructors help the little ones develop their love of the sport in either a one-on-one or small-group setting. There is a conveyor belt called a 'magic carpet' that transports kids up a miniature bunny run, making it easy for them to try the same smooth patch of the mountain over and over again until they are confident enough to move on to a chairlift.

Families with children aged six and up can take private ski lessons together and tackle the piste as a team. The structured classes are a great way to improve winter-sport skills, but an impromptu snowball fight can be just as enjoyable. To see another side of the Niseko landscape, bundle the kids up in hats and mittens and hop aboard a sled for a reindeer ride across the snow banks, try a snowshoe adventure through the woods or speed across the landscape on a snow raft. The snow is so fine and soft that falling into it is a delight.

After a long day on the slopes, relax in comfort. Book one of the Kasara Niseko Village Townhouses and you'll have plenty of room for the whole family under one (very stylish) roof. The luxury two-storey, three-room homes, are superlative examples of understated Japanese elegance. Gather your loved ones to enjoy a delicious meal at the long banquet table in the dining room, prepared by a personal chef. There's nothing like the magic of a well-spent winter day to give your family a warm sense of togetherness.

For more information, please visit www.niseko-village.com

Visitors of all ages can experience a host of exhilarating activities at Niseko Village such as snowmobile adventures, snowshoeing, snow rafting, reindeer sledding and more.



TALES OF THE CITY

TAKE A FASHION-FORWARD STROLL THROUGH KUALA LUMPUR'S HISTORIC JALAN KAMUNTING NEIGHBOURHOOD, SETTING THE SCENE FOR VIBRANT AND AUTHENTIC STREET LIFE THAT SEEMINGLY HASN'T ALTERED FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY.

PHOTOGRAPHY: LOCK CHEE WEI
LOCATION: HOTEL STRIPES, JALAN KAMUNTING, KUALA LUMPUR
STYLING: MAX MAK

Black jumpsuit with belt and oversized jacket, all by *H&M*.



Tassel blue top and skirt, and earrings, all by H&M.



Wool trench coat and red high-waisted pleated skirt, all by H&M.

Model: Hang Nguyen
Make-up: Sharman Yee @ Plika
Hair stylist: Dylan Boon



Green trouser suit with white stripes,
white chiffon blouse and ankle
boots, all by **H&M**.



A THOUSAND PERPETUAL BLOSSOMS

BRING THE BEAUTY OF THE MAJESTIC HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR'S SIGNATURE ORCHIDS HOME WITH YOU. THE MAJESTIC ORCHIDS COLLECTION IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ORCHID CONSERVATORY.

Words WARRICK NORTH

COINED FROM THE TERM 'PHALEANA', THE FLOWERS ARE SAID TO TAKE THE SHAPE OF A LARGE MOTH.



The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur's Orchid Conservatory has been at the forefront of the hotel's most singular events.

It was Confucius who sagely opined, "An orchid in a deep forest sends out its fragrance even if there is no one to appreciate it." The light-dappled Orchid Conservatory at The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur might not be located in a forest, but it is regarded as one of the city's most popular and inventive meeting spaces. It's also the treasured abode to the hotel's signature bloom, the *phalaenopsis* orchid species.

These flowers are as appreciated as the storied hotel's uniquely presented afternoon tea and the gleaming grand piano that takes pride of place at the Colonial Café and The Tea Lounge. The gorgeous blooms line the glass atrium-encased Orchid Conservatory in a stunning photo opportunity-worthy hanging garden fashion. This wonder of botany is the first of its kind in Malaysia.

With temperatures ranging from 22°C to 24°C,

the conservatory poses the ideal environment to house the orchids, which are native to Malaysia as well as other neighbouring countries. Coined from the term '*phaleana*', the flowers are said to take the shape of a large moth. The *phalaenopsis* is typically grown in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Taiwan. It consists of over 60 impressive varieties, each with its own hue and personality, ranging from classic ivory to creamy yellow and dramatic fuchsia.

As these flowers have made such a favourable impression over the years, they are now available for sale exclusively at The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur's Orchid Conservatory. The Majestic Orchids, the Gifts Collection is available in beautifully packaged sets.

For more information please visit www.majestickl.com



CAPITAL OF CULTURE AND COMMERCE

THE HAGUE MARRIOTT HOTEL WITH ITS PRIME LOCATION PRESENTS EASY ACCESS TO THE CITY'S MANY TOP ATTRACTIONS.

Words WARRICK NORTH

THE 306-ROOM THE HAGUE MARRIOTT HOTEL IS WELL SITUATED BETWEEN THE CITY CENTRE AND THE NORTH SEA COAST.



Choose a premium room to enjoy skyline views and Executive Lounge access, perfect for extended stays.

As the Netherlands' third largest city, The Hague possesses history and culture in equal measure. It is also the seat of the country's government and home to the royal family. The city is also the base of numerous government ministries and embassies, along with the headquarters of several international organisations such as the International Court of Justice.

The 306-room The Hague Marriott Hotel is well situated between the city centre and the North Sea coast. The hotel overlooks the Gemeentemuseum's gardens and stunning art deco architecture, which was the creation of acclaimed Dutch architect H P Berlage.

With sleek and contemporary interiors and a service style that exudes warmth, The Hague Marriott Hotel answers to the needs of both business travellers and tourists. The latter will gravitate towards the Gemeentemuseum with its 160,000 works of art. The museum

boasts an impressive collection of modern and contemporary art, fashion and decorative arts. It is also the international home of Piet Mondrian, with no fewer than 300 works by the famous Dutch artist in its collection.

Also minutes away are the shops, restaurants, attractions and museums of Scheveningen Beach and Harbour as well as The Hague's Peace Palace with its impressive facade.

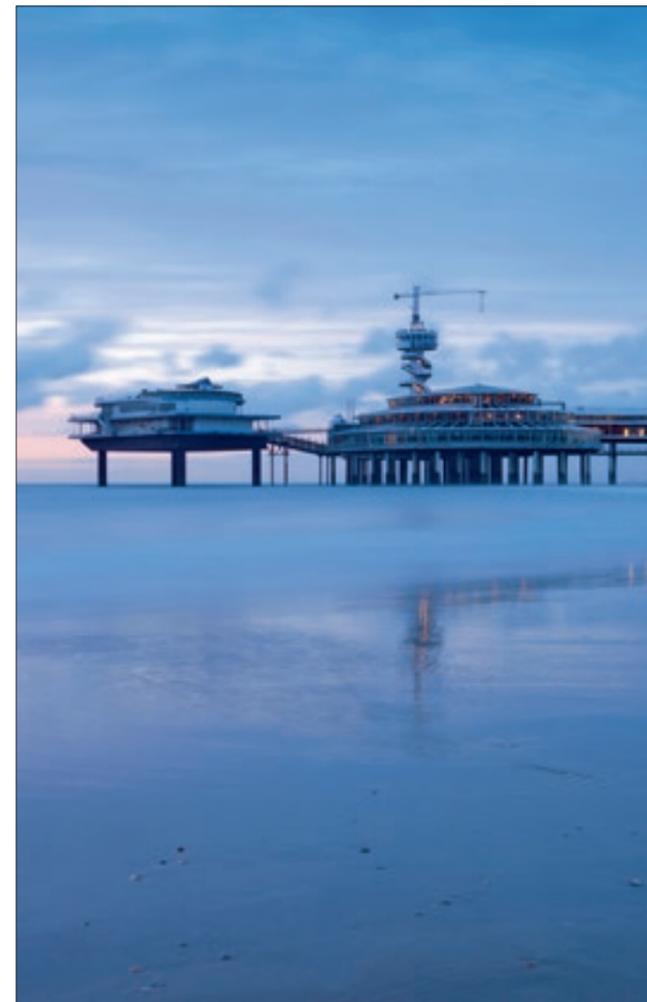
Business travellers will find unparalleled access to The World Forum, the city's premier convention centre and event space, hosting hundreds of conferences, exhibitions and concerts every year.

The Hague Marriott Hotel is a mere 300 metres from The World Forum, so guests may organise their pre-conference meetings or welcome cocktails at the hotel – a convenient solution that eliminates the stress and hassle of event-related travel.

For more information, visit marriott.com



Local attractions near the hotel include (clockwise from above) Gemeentemuseum, Madurodam (a miniature park of The Netherlands), Peace Palace and Scheveningen Pier.





12 THINGS TO DO IN MALAYSIA AT VISTANA HOTELS

FROM CULTURE AND SANDY BEACHES TO DELICIOUS FOOD, YOUR STAY AT A VISTANA HOTEL IN KUALA LUMPUR, PENANG OR KUANTAN WILL BE NOTHING SHORT OF AMAZING.

Words ELAINE LAU



KUALA LUMPUR

8.30AM Start your day with a jog or walk around Titiwangsa Park, which has jogging trails surrounding a large, shimmering lake. Wind down with some park-side sun salutations.

9AM Freshen up in your Club Deluxe room at Vistana Kuala Lumpur Titiwangsa and enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the Café, which serves a buffet spread of tasty Asian and Western fare.

11AM Get to know contemporary Malaysian art at the city's newest public art institution, Ilham Gallery, located in Ilham Tower in downtown KL. Also within easy reach by LRT is Chinatown and the Kuala Lumpur Craft Centre Market.

3PM The hotel's convenient access to the KL Monorail and LRT makes getting around the city a breeze. You're minutes away from Bukit Bintang, the city's business and entertainment quarter. Or, indulge in a spot of retail therapy at Starhill Gallery. Cap your day with cocktails and dinner at The Tokyo Restaurant at Lot 10 Shopping Centre.



VISIT KEK LOK SI, MALAYSIA'S LARGEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE COMPLEX BUILT IN 1890.

PENANG

8AM Before exploring Penang's famous heritage sites go for a round of golf at the Penang Golf Club, a championship 18-hole course situated on the slopes of Bukit Jambul.

1PM After golf, tuck into a tasty meal of curries and other delectable dishes at Kayu Nasi Kandar next to the hotel.

2PM Visit Kek Lok Si, Malaysia's largest Buddhist temple complex built in 1890, comprising monasteries, prayer halls, temples and beautifully landscaped gardens. The main attraction is the impressive pagoda of Rama VI.

7PM Head to a local hawker centre in the neighbourhood called Super Tanker Food Center for dinner. Then, explore Queensbay Mall, which is accessible with the complimentary hotel shuttle.





KUANTAN

7AM Start the day on an energetic note with a jog around Taman Gelora, a picturesque seaside park with a jogging track, a beautiful pond with water lilies, and food stalls selling snacks for post-workout pick-me-ups.

10AM Pack a beach bag and head to Teluk Cempedak, where you can laze on the beach or go for a dip in the South China Sea.

3PM Chill out at Barista, a spot overlooking the swimming pool at Vistana Kuantan to relax over a glass of wine or a freshly brewed coffee.

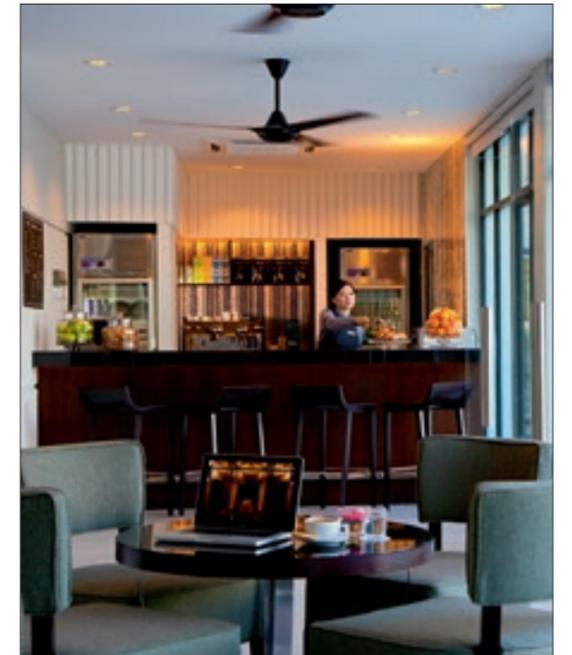
8PM Head to Tanjung Api, a five-minute drive away. Feast on an excellent selection of just-caught seafood all at reasonable prices.

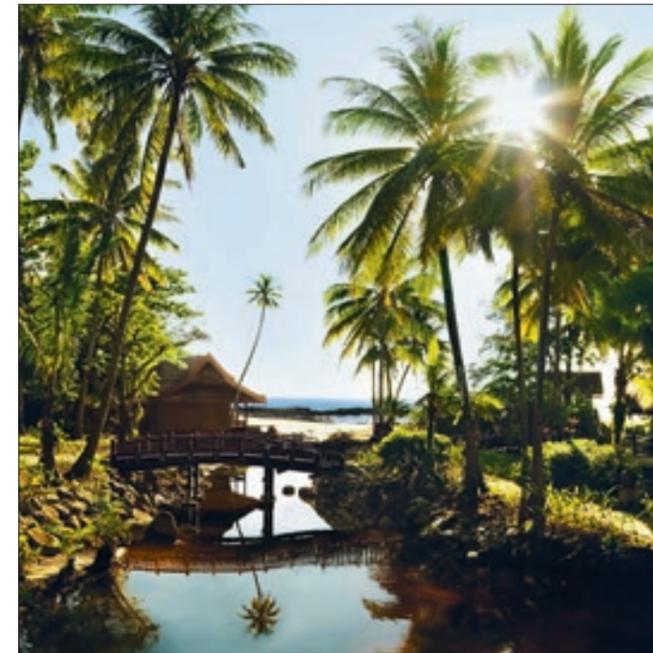
For more information, please visit www.vistanahotels.com

START THE DAY ON AN ENERGETIC NOTE WITH A JOG AROUND TAMAN GELORA, A PICTURESQUE SEASIDE PARK.



From top:
Tanjung Api; Barista.
Facing page:
sunrise in Kuantan.





Set within Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, Gaya Island Resort is a jewel located off the capital of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu. Golden sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters teeming with marine life are compelling attractions, while its Spa Village offers opportunities to sample authentic Borneo-inspired healing and wellness therapies.
www.gayastrandresort.com

This luxurious resort is set on a private tropical island on the Straits of Malacca. Villas either fringe the hillside or are gracefully balanced on stilts over water. An award-winning Spa Village offers world-class treatments derived from Chinese, Indian and Malay healing traditions.
www.pangkorlautresort.com

Tanjong Jara Resort on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia embodies the essence of Malay culture and traditions. Facing the South China Sea and surrounded by the lush green beauty of the local countryside, Tanjong Jara Resort reveals a quieter but equally attractive side to Malaysia.
www.tanjongjararesort.com

Evoking the splendour, the romance and the nostalgia of one of Malaysia's oldest hill stations and its grand colonial heritage, Cameron Highlands Resort with its luxurious rooms and award-winning Spa Village is the best place to take in the area's rolling hills, tea plantations, rose gardens and strawberry farms.
www.cameronhighlandsresort.com



THE RITZ-CARLTON

KOH SAMUI



THE RITZ-CARLTON

KUALA LUMPUR

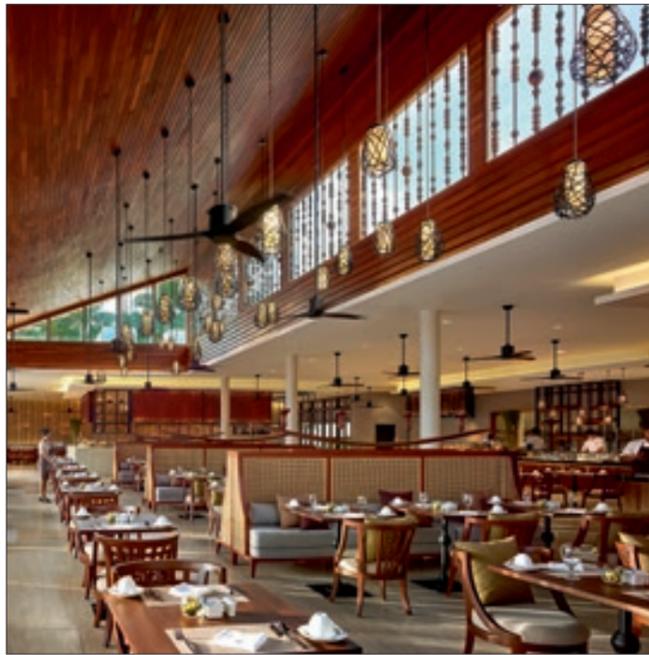


JW MARRIOTT

KUALA LUMPUR

HOTEL STRIPES
KUALA LUMPUR

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION
HOTELS



Nestled within the embrace of a private sun-kissed bay, The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui is surrounded by oceanfront beauty and quintessential experiences that artfully reflect the Samui way of life. This makes the beautiful property an ideal setting to embark on wellness programmes, cultural immersions or culinary journeys.

RITZCARLTON.COM/KOHSAMUI

Located in Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle business district, this stylish luxury hotel is conveniently positioned for upscale shopping, dining and entertainment. It is home to an award-winning spa, and gourmands will be delighted by the indulgent Afternoon Tea experience as well as Li Yen's stellar Cantonese cuisine.

RITZCARLTON.COM/KUALALUMPUR

Located along Bukit Bintang Road at the heart of Kuala Lumpur, JW Marriott is ideal for business and leisure travellers. With world-class shopping malls nearby, this conveniently located hotel with its extensive range of facilities is one of the city's finest.

JWMARRIOTTKUALALUMPUR.COM

HotelStripes is the second Autograph Collection hotel in Malaysia. It combines a modern vibe and historical references to its location, one of Kuala Lumpur's oldest neighbourhoods. With contemporary guestrooms and suites, the hotel is a convenient base to explore the Malaysian capital's many attractions.

WWW.STRIPESKL.COM

THE SURIN

PHUKET



SITUATED ON PANSEA BEACH, ONE OF PHUKET'S MOST PRIVATE STRETCHES OF SAND, THE SURIN OFFERS A PERFECT SLICE OF THAI BEACH LIFE. THE COTTAGES AND SUITES ARE BUILT INTO A CAREFULLY CONSERVED LANDSCAPE. FROM SUMPTUOUS CUISINE TO WATERSPORTS, THE SURIN COMBINES IDYLIC TROPICAL CHARM WITH THE WARMTH OF THAI HOSPITALITY.

WWW.THESURINPHUKET.COM

BLACK VOLCANIC SAND, THE MAJESTIC MOUNT AGUNG, THE DEEP BLUE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE MYSTICAL BALINESE WAY OF LIFE COME TOGETHER IN STYLE AT SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI. LOCATED IN THE NORTH OF THE ISLAND, THE RESORT IS A HAVEN OF WELLNESS, WHERE GUESTS CAN ENJOY ALL THE BENEFITS AND PLEASURES OF SPA LIFE IN TRANQUIL SURROUNDINGS.

WWW.SPAVILLAGERESORT.COM/TEMBOKBALI



REGARDED AS THE CRADLE OF MALAYSIAN HISTORY, MALACCA IN ITS HEYDAY WAS A PORT-CITY THAT WELCOMED SPICE TRADERS, SULTANS AND WARRIORS. SOAK UP THE MAGIC AND THE HISTORY AT THE MAJESTIC MALACCA, THE CITY'S FINEST HOTEL, BUILT IN THE 1920S, AND FURBISHED WITH INTERIORS INDICATIVE OF THE CITY'S RICH CULTURE.

WWW.MAJESTICMALACCA.COM

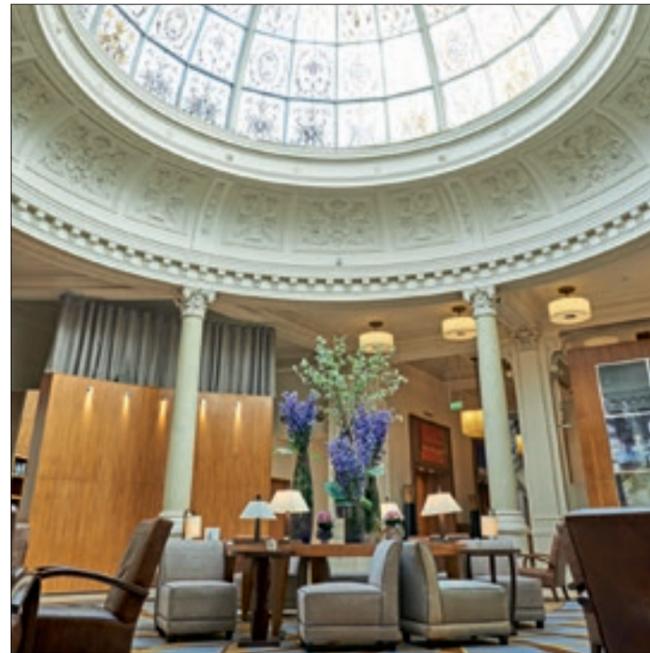
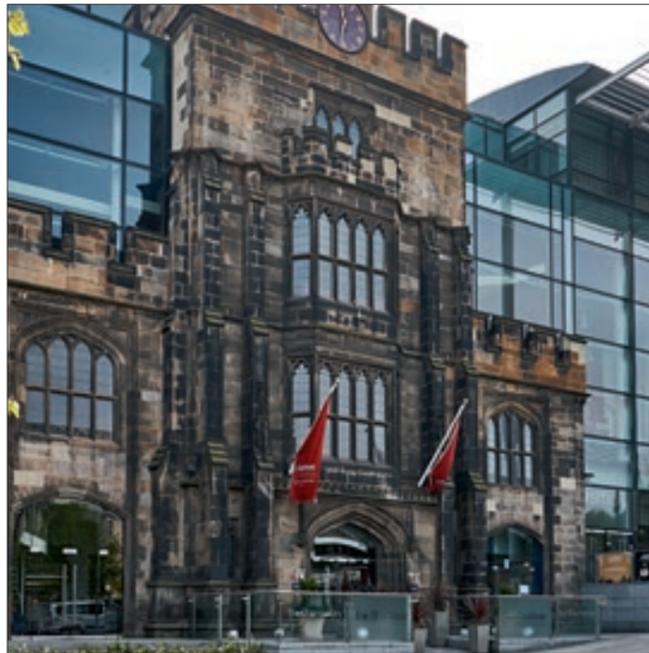
FULLY RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY, THIS ELEGANT 1930S PROPERTY MARRIES HISTORY WITH WORLD-CLASS HOSPITALITY. DINING OPTIONS INCLUDE HAINANESE FAVOURITES AT COLONIAL CAFÉ AS WELL AS AN INTERACTIVE DINING EXPERIENCE AT CONTANGO, WHILE THE ROOMS ARE A BLEND OF CONTEMPORARY STYLE AND OLD-WORLD FINESSE.

WWW.MAJESTICKL.COM

THE GLASSHOUSE
EDINBURGH

THREADNEEDLES
LONDON

THE ACADEMY
LONDON



THIS LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO STAY IN EDINBURGH, WITH COSY CONTEMPORARY INTERIORS, WARM SCOTTISH SERVICE AND CONSISTENTLY SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF THE CITY CENTRE AND CALTON HILL FROM THE HOTEL'S TWO-ACRE ROOFTOP GARDEN.

THIS FORMER VICTORIAN BANK HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A DISCREET, BOUTIQUE-STYLE HOTEL, CROWNED BY AN ELEGANT STAINED GLASS DOME, AN UNEXPECTED FIND IN THE CITY'S HEART. THE HOTEL EXUDES GRANDEUR IN A THOROUGHLY MODERN WAY, WHILE SERVICE IS POLISHED; IT'S ALSO UNPRETENTIOUS AMID THE BUSTLE OF SQUARE MILE.

SITUATED IN BLOOMSBURY, THE ACADEMY HOTEL LONDON COMPRISES A COLLECTION OF FIVE GEORGIAN TOWNHOUSES COMBINED INTO ONE CHARMING LUXURY HOTEL. THIS REJUVENATED 50-GUESTROOM/SUITE BOUTIQUE HOTEL JUXTAPOSES TIMELESS GLAMOUR AND A CONTEMPORARY TAKE ON TOWNHOUSE LIVING.

MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE IS LOCATED ON A PICTURESQUE ISLAND IN THE RIVER THAMES IN THE HISTORIC VILLAGE OF BRAY, BERKSHIRE. SET ACROSS SEVEN ACRES, THE PROPERTY FEATURES 41 EXQUISITE ROOMS DESIGNED BY THE AWARD-WINNING NEW YORK-BASED CHAMPALIMAUD DESIGN AS WELL AS SIX PRIVATE RESIDENCES.

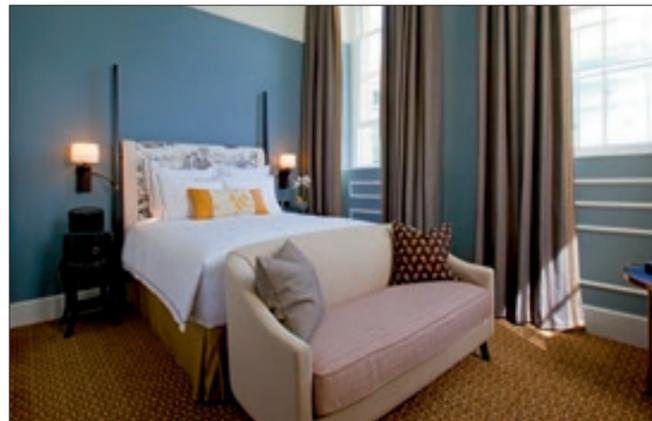
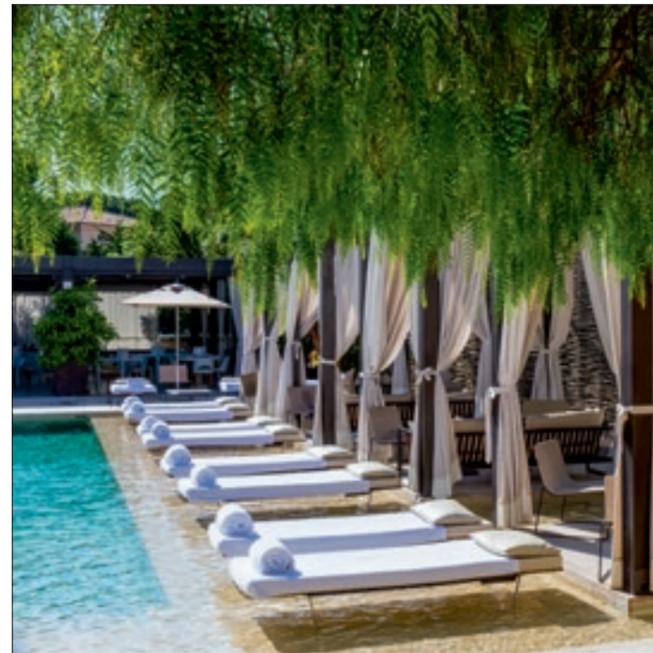
WWW.THEGLASSHOUSEHOTEL.CO.UK

WWW.HOTELTHREADNEEDLES.CO.UK

WWW.THEACADEMYHOTEL.CO.UK

WWW.MONKEYISLANDESTATE.CO.UK

THE
GAINSBOROUGH
BATH SPA



THE GAINSBOROUGH BATH SPA OFFERS THE ONLY NATURAL THERMAL SPA WITHIN A HOTEL IN THE UK. THE HOTEL IS A MOMENT'S STROLL FROM BATH ABBEY, THE HIGH STREET STORES ON MILSOM STREET AND THE ROMAN BATHS, WHICH MAKES IT A CHOICE LOCATION FROM WHICH TO EXPLORE THE CITY AND ITS NEARBY ATTRACTIONS.

WWW.THEGAINSBOROUGHATHSPA.CO.UK

A GLAMOROUS AND PRIVATE HIDEAWAY IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE, MUSE SAINT TROPEZ IS ALL ABOUT THE HIGH LIFE. LOCATED IN RAMATUELLE AND SURROUNDED BY FORESTS OF UMBRELLA PINES, THIS BOUTIQUE PROPERTY FEATURES JUST 15 SUITES, EACH OF WHICH IS NAMED AFTER FAMOUS 'MUSES'. MAKE THE HOTEL YOUR BASE TO EXPLORE THE SIGHTS, THE SOUNDS AND THE DELIGHTS OF THE RIVIERA.

WWW.MUSE-HOTELS.COM

NV Niseko Village
Always in Season



KASARA
NISEKO VILLAGE
TOWNHOUSE

THE
GREEN LEAF
NISEKO VILLAGE

Hilton
Niseko Village



THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE IS NISEKO VILAGE'S MAIN PULSE WHERE PAVED INTIMATE WALKWAYS ARE FLANKED BY CONTEMPORARY SHOPPING AND DINING OPTIONS. JUST MOMENTS FROM NISEKO VILLAGE'S AWARD-WINNING HOTELS, RESIDENCES AND LIFTS, ITS SLOPESIDE LOCATION ALLOWS FOR SEAMLESS SKI-IN, SKI-OUT ACCESS BETWEEN MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES AND INDOOR DIVERSIONS. BOTH MODERN AND TRADITIONAL INTERWEAVE, EVOKING A GENTEEL LIFESTYLE AT THE VILLAGE WITH ITS AUTHENTIC JAPANESE MACHIYA ARCHITECTURAL SETTING. APRÈS-SKI IS EXCITINGLY REDEFINED AT NISEKO VILLAGE.

WWW.NISEKO-VILLAGE.COM

FeastVillage

at STARHILL GALLERY



SOUTHEAST ASIA



FEAST VILLAGE AT STARHILL GALLERY IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN MALAYSIA. IT OFFERS UNPARALLELED DINING EXPERIENCES FEATURING 13 UPSCALE RESTAURANTS WITH AN EXOTIC ARRAY OF CUISINES RANGING FROM ASIAN TO MEDITERRANEAN. THE LANEWAYS OF THE RUSTIC VILLAGE AND ITS 'TIME TUNNEL' TAKE DINERS ON JOURNEYS OF SENSORIAL DISCOVERY.

WWW.FEASTVILLAGE.COM

THE EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS EPITOMISES THE GRANDEUR, LUXURY AND ROMANCE OF RAIL TRAVEL FROM A BYGONE ERA. JOURNEY AMID THE TRAPPINGS OF OLD-WORLD OPULENCE ACROSS THREE COUNTRIES, THROUGH THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, ON A ROUTE CONNECTING THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN METROPOLISES OF SINGAPORE AND BANGKOK.

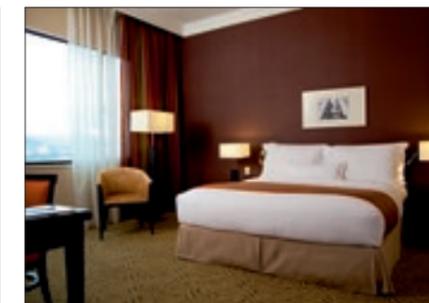
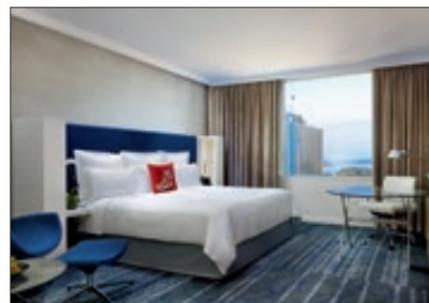
WWW.YTLHOTELS.COM



THE SPA VILLAGES CELEBRATE THE HEALING CULTURE OF THE REGION IN WHICH EACH IS BUILT. EACH SPA VILLAGE HAS ITS OWN CHARACTER AND AUTHENTICITY, HONOURING LOCAL HEALERS AND TRADITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN THE GENERATIONS.

PANGKOR LAUT | TANJONG JARA | KUALA LUMPUR | CAMERON HIGHLANDS | MALACCA
GAYA ISLAND | TEMBOK, BALI | HANGZHOU | BATH | STARHILL | KOH SAMUI

WWW.SPAVILLAGE.COM



EACH AUSTRALIAN MARRIOTT HOTEL IS SITUATED WITHIN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT OF ITS CITY AND IDEALLY POSITIONED TO SERVE BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRAVELLERS. THE 563-ROOM SYDNEY HARBOUR MARRIOTT IS SET IN THE HEART OF CIRCULAR QUAY, OVERLOOKING THE HARBOUR BRIDGE AND OPERA HOUSE. THE 186-ROOM MELBOURNE MARRIOTT IS CLOSE TO THE CITY'S THEATRE PRECINCT, SHOPPING DISTRICTS AND CHINATOWN. BRISBANE MARRIOTT, WITH 263 ROOMS AND FOUR SUITES, IS PLACED BETWEEN BRISBANE'S CBD AND THE FORTITUDE VALLEY HUB, CLOSE TO SHOPPING, RIVERSIDE DINING AND THE CITY'S COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS.

EMBRACE THE NEW VISTANA VIBES IN THREE CHOICE LOCATIONS ACROSS MALAYSIA. EXPERIENCE FRIENDLY, EFFICIENT SERVICE, BE IT AT CHECK-IN OR DEPARTURE. THE COMFORTABLE ROOMS COME WITH PRACTICAL AMENITIES THAT ARE SUITED TO WORK OR RELAXATION, PLUS THERE IS COMPLIMENTARY WI-FI THROUGHOUT THE HOTEL. RELAX AT BARISTA, THE 24-HOUR COFFEE BAR, AND ADJACENT COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE, HUB 247, FOR A QUICK BUSINESS BREAKFAST, OR SIT DOWN TO FRESH HOT MEALS AT CAFE. VISTANA HOTELS IS ALWAYS WELCOMING, ALWAYS CONNECTED.



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THREADNEEDLES LONDON
United Kingdom



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