

YTL *Life*

TREASURED PLACES, TREASURED MOMENTS

ISLE OF PEACE

Finding serenity at
The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui

MEETING MELBA AT THE MANSION

Learning about the soulful
cuisine of Chef Melba Nunis

CHIU CHOW EXPRESS

Dining at Feast Village
Starhill Gallery

Van Cleef & Arpels

Haute Joaillerie, place Vendôme since 1906



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rubies and diamonds.



The history of



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THIS IS THE PRIVILEGE OF ONE ISLAND, ONE RESORT.

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Mount Kinabalu appears mystically behind the parting clouds.
And once again, you remind yourself that you're not dreaming.
Your moment awaits.

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STARLIGHT GAZING

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A YTL LUXURY RESORT



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www.spavillageresort.com/tembokbali

YTL HOTELS
Treasured Places, Treasured Moments

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or an exciting morning aboard The Ritz-Carlton Speedboat, these experiences will make memories that will last a lifetime.

Pangkor Laut Resort, located on a private island in Malaysia's Straits of Malacca, offers diverse adventures with its exciting PURE programme. Designed to immerse guests in the vibrancy and natural environment of the island, these include jungle trekking, yoga and tai chi quan sessions, snorkelling and the exploration of nearby islands. The PURE programme, along with other specialised activities such as our immensely popular Crafted Experiences including ultimate spa treatments, sailing on a sports yacht and sunset cruises on an Oriental teak junk, continue to raise the bar in terms of guests' enjoyment and satisfaction.

Koh Samui, the second largest island in Thailand, is well-known for its pristine beaches, friendly locals and unique island culture. The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui, with its luxurious 175 suites and villas, offers guests the best of both worlds: engaging introductions to local island life paired with the signature hospitality that The Ritz-Carlton is renowned for. Whether it's a private barbecue on the beach with a spread of the freshest seafood, a traditional Thai dance performance that highlights the country's multi-textured culture

For those with culinary inclinations, a more palatable type of adventure awaits at The Majestic Malacca. This classic hotel is home to Melba at the Mansion, a restaurant that is a showcase of the tastes, flavours and culture of the Kristang community. Come taste the dishes of award-winning Chef Melba Nunis. Or learn the finer art of cooking and plating the acclaimed chef's family recipes, ones that have been passed down through generations. At YTL Hotels, it's these one-of-a-kind experiences that we hope our guests remember and are continually enriched by.



GREATER HEIGHTS

YTL HOTELS AND MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL
LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE WITH AGREEMENTS
FOR FOUR NEW HOTELS ACROSS ASIA.

Words KENNETH TAN

The long-standing partnership between Marriott International and YTL Hotels further deepened with the recent signing of Memorandums of Understanding in which the two parties agreed to develop two new luxury hotels in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the JW Marriott and the EDITION brands, and an EDITION and a W Hotel in Niseko Village, Hokkaido.

Commenting on YTL Hotels' growth, its Managing Director for the YTL Group of Companies, Tan Sri (Dr) Francis Yeoh, said: "Our partnership with Marriott is important not only because Marriott International is the largest hotel group but they are also very consistent in their approach, without taking shortcuts. YTL is always looking at very long-term business models and perspectives and our relationship has borne great results and experiences in which we have also learnt to complement Marriott's strengths through luxury, retail and dining experiences, which we have been doing with our malls."

"YTL IS ALWAYS LOOKING AT VERY LONG-TERM BUSINESS MODELS AND PERSPECTIVES AND OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS BORNE GREAT RESULTS AND EXPERIENCES."

From left: Mr Arne Sorenson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Marriott International; Dato' Mark Yeoh, Executive Director, YTL Hotels; Mr Craig Smith, President and Managing Director of Asia Pacific, Marriott International; and Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Francis Yeoh, Managing Director of YTL Group of Companies after signing the agreements.

A STAR REBORN

THE OFFICIAL RELAUNCH OF
JW MARRIOTT KUALA LUMPUR

Words KENNETH TAN



1) From left: Mr Mahmoud Skaf, Area General Manager; Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Francis Yeoh, Managing Director of YTL Group of Companies; Mr Arne Sorenson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Marriott International; Dato' Mark Yeoh, Executive Director of YTL Hotels; and Mr Craig Smith, President and Managing Director of Asia Pacific, Marriott International with the trinity rings that represent YTL Hotels, Marriott International and their friendship together.



2) Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Francis Yeoh, Managing Director of YTL Group of Companies presenting Mr Arne Sorenson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marriott International with a memento to commemorate the official relaunch of JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur.
3) Mr Arne Sorenson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marriott International, officiated the relaunch of JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur.

4) From left: Albert Tan, Datuk Seri Azman Ujang, Dato' Mark Yeoh and Martin Joseph.
5) From left: Marriott International's President and CEO Arne Sorenson, YTL Group of Companies' Managing Director Tan Sri (Dr) Francis Yeoh and Eric Benet.
6) Executive Director of YTL Hotels Dato' Mark Yeoh and Marriott International's President and Managing Director of Asia Pacific Craig Smith.



A lavish event marked the official relaunch celebration of JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur recently. Guests comprising corporate titans, diplomatic heads of missions and friends of YTL Group of Companies' directors sat down to an exquisite dinner of Maine lobster bisque, crab Agnolotti, scallops garnished with ossetra caviar, poached sea bass and tiramisu. A cheery opening speech by Arne Sorenson of Marriott International was followed by an equally good-humoured one by Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Francis Yeoh, who recalled a mirthful incident when hosting operatic tenor Luciano Pavarotti. The evening saw a cameo by R&B singer-songwriter and multiple Grammy-award winner Eric Benet and the evening segued into a high-octane finale with the dance-inducing music of Abba by tribute band Bjorn Again.



A LAVISH EVENT MARKED THE OFFICIAL RELAUNCH CELEBRATION OF JW MARRIOTT KUALA LUMPUR RECENTLY.

7) Soulful crooning by Eric Benet.
8) From left: Carmen Chua, Dato' Yeoh Soo Min and Tan Sri Chua Ma Yu.
9) Performance by ABBA tribute show, Björn Again.
10) From left: Dato' Thavalingam Thavarajah, Andrew Teh and Sharon Teh.



SHINE ON SAMUI

THE RITZ-CARLTON, KOH SAMUI CAPTURES
THE ESSENCE OF ITS STUNNING ISLAND LOCATION
WITH QUINTESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES AND
STANDOUT HOSPITALITY.



Exchanging lifetime vows on Sala Thai, an elevated pavilion with magnificent ocean views, will leave a lasting impression on every guest.

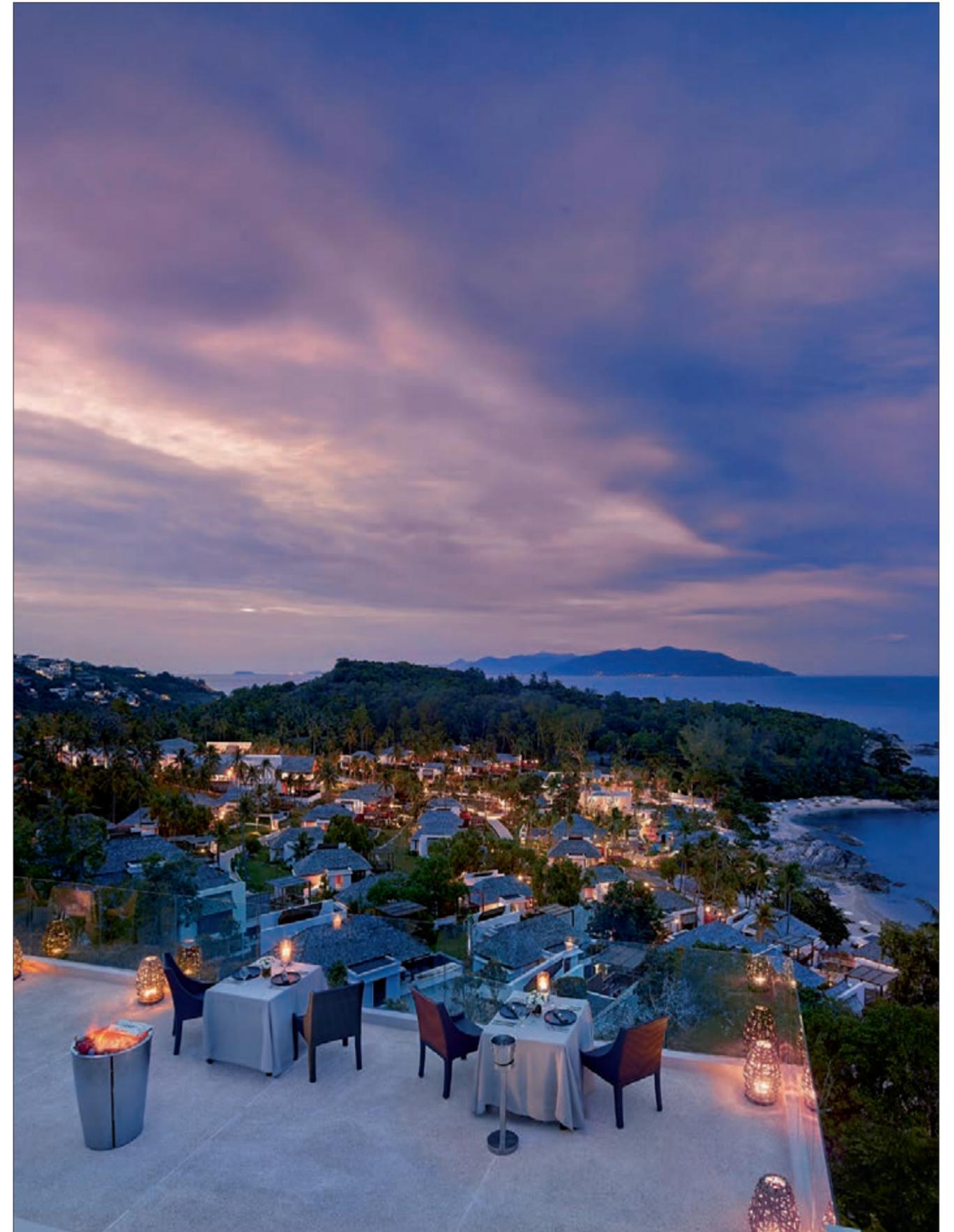
Words MARK LEAN

Since the 15th century, Koh Samui, Thailand's second largest island, has been a haven for fishermen, who found refuge from monsoon storms on its coconut-fringed shores. Today, though slightly more developed than centuries past, but still as verdant and welcoming, the island embodies a peaceful and laid-back style of life.

The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui, a sprawling 58-acre property stretching from hilltop to beach, brings to life the essence of its location. Located on the north-eastern part of the island, the resort

pairs the island's relaxed vibe with superlative luxury elements, including 175 well-appointed suites and pool villas. The property puts a game-changing spin on hospitality with its inimitable blend of The Ritz-Carlton and Thai cultures.

As a former coconut plantation, the property is encased in lush vegetation. Surrounded by nature, guests also enjoy the comfort of exceptionally well-designed and spacious suites. Sleek interiors with colour swatches of calming beiges and subtle creams will appeal to travellers who appreciate fine design and comfort. The large suites have separate seating areas to rest and unwind with





THE RESORT'S TOP-TIER ULTIMATE POOL VILLAS SHOWCASE STELLAR VISTAS OF THE GULF OF THAILAND, BRINGING TO ONE'S DOORSTEP THE ISLAND'S UNMATCHED NATURAL BEAUTY.



a glass of wine. King-sized beds and high thread count bedding are the pinnacle of luxury. Design aficionados will also appreciate the stylish oval standalone bathtubs. As a nod to its location, the accommodation is decorated with Thai craftware and subtle design accents gleaned from around the region. At nightly turndown, local snacks such as coconut candy, dried mango and pineapple are placed in the rooms as thoughtful reminders of the island's signature flavours.

The resort's Ocean View Pool Villas, each featuring a pool and deck area, are perfect for guests seeking their own space to relax, unwind or perhaps enjoy a special dinner. The resort's top-tier Ultimate Pool Villas showcase stellar vistas of the Gulf of Thailand, bringing to one's doorstep the island's unmatched natural beauty.

The island's postcard-perfect setting makes it a popular international wedding destination. The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui's outdoor Sala Thai pavilion overlooking the fine-sand beach is an ideal venue for nuptials and other special events.

Local and South American flavours influence The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui's dining experiences. At Tides, ceviche and tiradito dishes are popular with guests who wash down fresh lime-cured seafood with delicious cocktails such as the Koh Samui – a blend of Flor de Caña Extra Dry Five Year Rum, Mahiki Coconut Rum with freshly squeezed lime, pineapple and peach juices with a splash of pandan syrup, all of which pay fitting homage to the beach-resort setting.

On Sunday and Monday evenings, dine outdoors at the Sea Salt Deck with its tranquil beach setting. Savour a tasty selection of barbecued meats and seafood including rare Tomahawk steaks and fresh lobsters. For southern Thai dishes perfected through generations, head to the private dining alcoves of Pak Tai, each of which faces the resort's unique reef pool. Indulge

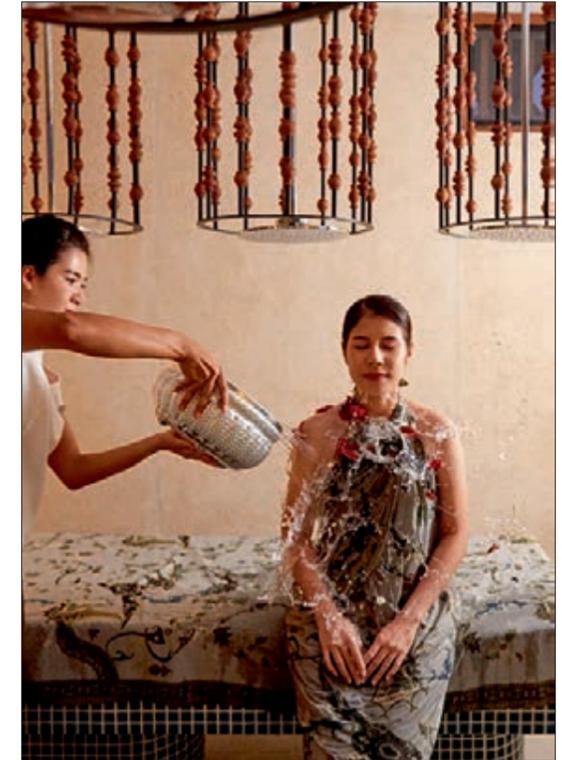
The contemporarily designed accommodation options are complemented by six distinctive dining experiences as well as on-property recreational activities.



The resort's dining adventures mirror Koh Samui's beguiling chilli-spiked southern cuisine, bustling street eats and natural local bounty – from the freshest seafood to just-picked tropical produce.



LIKE THE FISHERMEN AND THE SEA TRADERS OF THE PAST WHO FOUND SHELTER ON THE ISLAND'S WELCOMING SHORES, GUESTS AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, KOH SAMUI WILL ALSO DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES TO CREATE INDELIBLE MEMORIES OF THEIR OWN.



Inspired by the therapeutic properties of natural local ingredients and the age-old healing practices of the region, Spa Village Koh Samui respects the environment, culture and traditions to create holistic and rejuvenating spa programmes.

in regional Thai specialities such as Yum Pak Kood – a wild fern salad, tossed with roasted coconut, red onion and a mild spicy lime sauce, served with prawns. Or try the Gang Poo Bai Cha Plu – fresh blue crab and wild betel leaf simmered in a rich yellow curry.

Baan Talat ('market house' in Thai), a weekly outdoor dining experience, serves a vast and authentic selection of à la minute Thai street food dishes including grilled Isan-style sausages, beef satay, barracuda marinated in turmeric and coriander root, barbecued Samui baby squid, pork soup with meatballs as well as deep-fried chicken with fish sauce. Guests may also browse the market stalls where locally handcrafted accessories, bags and souvenirs are available for purchase. One must not miss the talented guest artist who can deftly sketch a portrait on the spot.

To work off the calories, opt for the low-impact but highly effective Thai Aquasana at Spa Village

Koh Samui. Conducted in the spa's lap pool and guided by a therapist, the aquatic fitness session is a powerful combination of yoga, karate and tai chi sequences, designed to improve balance, strength and flexibility. The spa, a fabulous 3,800-square-metre space, is composed of eight treatment suites, three massage pavilions, a yoga pavilion, a lap pool with cabanas as well as a relaxation sala. This well-being sanctuary celebrates the island's acclaimed culture of healing. Treatments are based on fruits, herbs and plants with efficacious healing properties.

Like the fishermen and the sea traders of the past who found shelter on the island's welcoming shores, guests at The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui will also discover opportunities to create indelible memories of their own.

For more information, please visit ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui



MAGNIFICENT CREATURES AND WHY THEY NEED SAVING

HRH PRINCESS MICHAEL OF KENT
SPEAKS EXCLUSIVELY TO YTL LIFE
ABOUT HER NEW BOOK, A CHEETAH'S TALE,
AND WHY CONSERVATION EFFORTS
ARE MORE CRUCIAL NOW.

Words RENYI LIM



IN HER LATEST BOOK, PRINCESS MICHAEL DESCRIBES HAND-REARING AN ORPHANED CHEETAH CUB CALLED TESS THAT SHE SUCCESSFULLY RELEASES INTO THE WILD.

Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent recently published her seventh book, *A Cheetah's Tale*, which focuses on her teenage years spent on her father's farm in Mozambique - a considerable departure from her previous works of historical non-fiction and fiction, such as *The Anjou Trilogy*.

In the exquisite surroundings of the JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur's Presidential Suite, Princess Michael is in full cheetah mode. She is wearing a pair of magnificent pearl earrings encircled by cheetah-patterned rims, and a necklace crafted from the shell of a Tahitian black lip oyster, which comes adorned with her own drawing of a cheetah's face.

"I am involved in cheetah conservation and wrote a cheetah into my trilogy, all of which made me aware of how endangered the cheetah is," says Princess Michael, Patron of the Hoedspruit

Endangered Species Centre in South Africa and of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia.

In her latest book, Princess Michael describes hand-rearing an orphaned cheetah cub called Tess that she successfully releases into the wild having taught it to hunt and survive on its own, as well as detailing her lifelong interest in cheetah conservation. "They're beautiful and fast - everyone knows that," she tells *YTL Life*. "But very few people know that they're endangered and will disappear unless we make a big effort."

Besides the fact that cheetahs have been driven out of nearly 91 per cent of their historic range, it doesn't help that they're being hunted for their skin and body parts, or even kept as luxury pets and status symbols in certain continents.

"The female cheetah is very discreet and always chooses her partner, which I think is a good idea. It's always better for a female to be selective, wouldn't you agree?" she says with a twinkle in her eye.

Princess Michael of Kent has pledged to continue supporting the cheetah after the species suffered a devastating decline in the 20th century.



FAST, FABULOUS FEASTS



PAK LOH CHIU CHOW INTRODUCES THE CHIU CHOW EXPRESS LUNCH, A DELECTABLE COLLECTION OF DISHES THAT DELIVERS BIG FRESH FLAVOURS IN LITTLE TIME.

Words MERRITT GURLEY



The nuances of Chiu Chow cuisine may have taken generations to perfect, but now diners can enjoy the centuries of refinement over a quick lunch. “The Chiu Chow people are profoundly rich in culture and their way of life is reflected in their beautiful cuisine” says Alex Au, the Executive Chinese Chef at Pak Loh Chiu Chow at Feast Village Starhill Gallery. “Most of our signature Chiu Chow dishes are prepared over a slow fire, braised, steamed, stir-fried or even pickled to perfection, bringing out the best in every dish.”

Though the preparation and plating are meticulous, the meals are served swiftly with the restaurant’s new Chiu Chow Express Lunch. Au is an expert in Chiu Chow fare, bringing a sense of artistry to the menu. A Hong Kong native, he has been making classic Chinese food for his siblings since childhood and 16 years ago he went on to join Hong Kong’s Pak Loh, where his Chiu Chow skills flourished under the tutelage of master chef Chan Tung. Chef Au’s careful selection and preparation of 25 recipes for the Express Lunch menu are the secrets behind delivering speedy service without compromising on quality.



THE CUISINE, WHICH COMES FROM THE EASTERN GUANGDONG PROVINCE OF CHINA, IS SAID TO BE A PALATE-PLEASING BLEND OF CANTONESE AND HOKKIEN HERITAGE, KNOWN FOR ITS DELICATE FLAVOURS.



Pak Loh Chiu Chow at Feast Village is a sister restaurant of the renowned Pak Loh Chiu Chow restaurant in Hong Kong, famed for its authentic Chiu Chow (also known as Teochew) cooking. The cuisine, which comes from the eastern Guangdong province of China, is said to be a palate-pleasing blend of Cantonese and Hokkien heritage, known for its delicate flavours. Oil is used sparingly and Chef Au relies on the freshness of ingredients rather than seasonings to deliver rich tastes.

Expect a mouthwatering medley of Chiu Chow greatest hits on the Express Lunch menu, with 25 delicious and promptly plated dishes to choose from, including braised pork belly with preserved *moi choy* rice; wok-fried *la mian* with pork collar; oyster rice porridge with minced pork; *la mian* soup with pork bacon; and the pièce de résistance — slow-braised goose with rice, a luxe oh-so-juicy take on the Hong Kong classic. Sometimes you don’t have to wait for good things to come to you.

For more information, please visit www.feastvillage.com

Clockwise from far left, top: the show kitchen at Pak Loh Chiu Chow; slow-braised goose with rice; braised sweet and sour spare ribs rice; braised pork belly with mantao.

ONE ISLAND, MANY ADVENTURES

PANGKOR LAUT RESORT IS THE EPITOME OF LUXURY, PAIRING FIVE-STAR FACILITIES WITH ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCES.





Words MERRITT GURLEY

Afloat on the Straits of Malacca, Pangkor Laut Resort is a private island retreat bringing modern luxury to a two-million-year-old jungle. Though the setting — with its palm trees, emerald bays and powder-white sands — is ideal for relaxation, the resort's PURE activities, a series of specially curated adventures, help acquaint guests with the island's culture and the landscape.

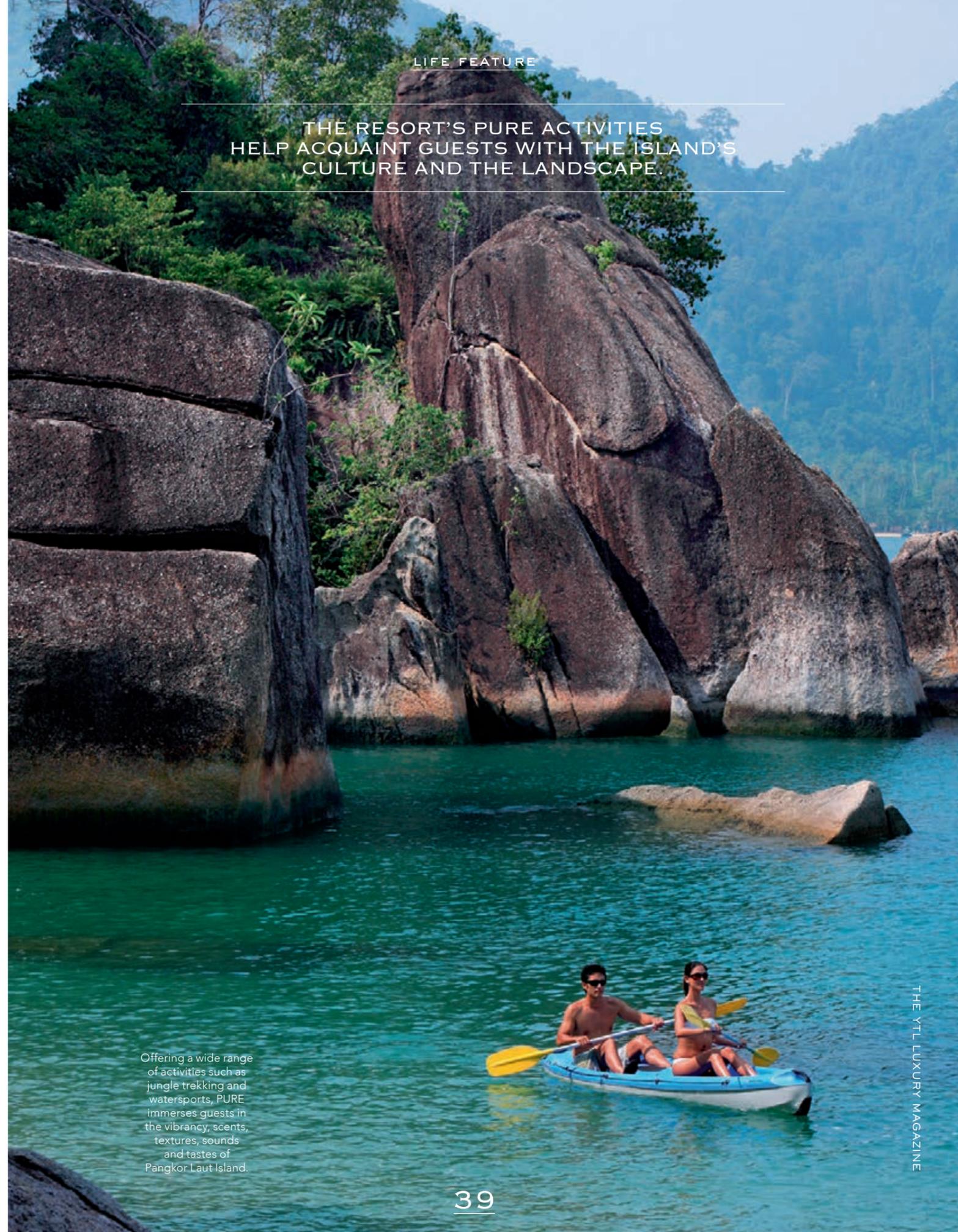
Ease into a perfect day with a Morning Revival session, choosing from either yoga or *tai chi quan* classes to get your blood flowing while the fresh ocean breeze boosts your energy. Channel this vim and vigour on a Jungle Trek through the ancient forests that lend this 300-acre island its lush prehistoric landscape. You can take the 500-metre short hike along the northern rim of the rainforest or opt for the longer 2,400-metre walk to the top of the island's southern coast for a sprawling sea view. The panorama of glittering ocean is spectacular, inviting you to dive in, and you can do just that on the Island Hopping and Snorkelling Excursion.

After exploring the land, uncover the mysteries of the deep on this sailing journey aboard a luxury yacht or a teakwood Oriental junk. The gentle pace of the journey is ideal for soaking in the stunning scenery. When you pass a coral-rich patch of sea or a hidden bay, you can stop to snorkel, swim or sun.

Sea-lovers who want a more hands-on experience of the briny blue can join a Fishing Excursion and feast on the bounties of the ocean; these clear waters are home to blue line grouper, yellowtail, bigeye tuna, barracuda, giant trevally and queenfish. But don't let fish have all the fun, you can also splash about in the waves, enjoying the many watersports available, including kayaking, waterskiing, wakeboarding, paddle boarding and catamaran sailing. Bridle the power of the sea as you explore the many wonders this lush and luxurious island has to offer.

For more information, please visit www.pangkorlautresort.com

THE RESORT'S PURE ACTIVITIES
HELP ACQUAINT GUESTS WITH THE ISLAND'S
CULTURE AND THE LANDSCAPE.



Offering a wide range of activities such as jungle trekking and watersports, PURE immerses guests in the vibrancy, scents, textures, sounds and tastes of Pangkor Laut Island.



A TOUCH OF SPICE

TASTING CELEBRITY CHEF MELBA NUNIS' AROMATIC MALACCAN-PORTUGUESE DISHES AT THE MAJESTIC MALACCA PROVIDES A FASCINATING INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF KRISTANG CULTURE.

Words RENYI LIM



You get a sense of Chef Melba Nunis' warmth the moment she welcomes you to her restaurant, Melba at The Mansion, located on the first floor of The Majestic Malacca. You can taste the fire in her cooking, too. It lingers on your tongue long after you've scraped the last morsel of her Kari Debal (also known as Devil's Curry) from the bowl, or sampled one of her fiery sambals – a paste made primarily from pounded chilli peppers and shrimp paste.

"I do love my dried chillies!" she laughs. "We use a lot of those in Kristang cooking, along with onions, lemongrass, galangal and turmeric. From these, we make the most basic pastes from which it's possible to cook different types of dishes. You just need the know-how about which extra elements to add." Needless to say, there are few in Malaysia with more know-how than Chef Melba when it comes to Kristang cooking.

Melba at The Mansion features a specially crafted menu stemming from Chef Melba's collection of treasured family recipes.



“IF I DON’T HIGHLIGHT THESE DISHES AT MY RESTAURANT AND IN MY BOOKS, THEY’LL BE FORGOTTEN,” SAYS THE AUTHOR OF TWO COOKBOOKS, A KRISTANG FAMILY COOKBOOK AND EVERYTHING KRISTANG.

A descendant of the Dutch and Portuguese settlers who, around the early 16th century married the local people of Malacca, she’s part of a community that still exists in modern-day Malacca, most notably in the city’s Portuguese Settlement or Ujong Pasir. While the creole language of the Kristang continues to be spoken among the 1,000-odd people who live in the Settlement, and their pastel-coloured houses withstand the test of time, it is through food that Chef Melba safeguards and celebrates Kristang culture. “If I don’t highlight these dishes at my restaurant and in my books, they’ll be forgotten,” says the author of two cookbooks, *A Kristang Family Cookbook* and *Everything Kristang*. The latter book garnered Chef Melba the Best in the World Award in the Best Woman Chef category at the 2016 Gourmand World Cookbook Awards.

Looking through Melba at The Mansion’s menu, the cuisine might seem exotic even to Malaysians, which goes some way to illustrating exactly how rare and under-the-radar Kristang cuisine is.

With influences drawn from Portuguese, Dutch, British, Malay, Chinese and Indian culinary traditions, it is perhaps the finest example of fusion cuisine done correctly – over a period of 500 years.

From her moreish silver *karing-karing* threadfish appetiser (fried to a crisp and excellent with a beer) to her grandfather’s show-stopping *chorka pretu* - slow-cooked squid in a sambal created from its own ink – there’s history, joy and the tantalising suggestion of discovery in every bite.

For more information, please visit www.majesticmalacca.com



With its original Straits Settlement windows overlooking the Malacca River and Kampung Morten, Melba at The Mansion provides a casual dining atmosphere with two private room options.

ON THE COAST

THROUGH ITS COMPELLING CULTURE AND TASTY CUISINE, THE AWARD-WINNING TANJONG JARA RESORT BLENDS THE BEST OF MALAYSIA'S EAST COAST.

Words [MARK LEAN](#)





The languid pace of life in Terengganu on Malaysia's East Coast is a throwback to a calmer age. From local market scenes to fishermen on boats returning from the sea, happy with the day's catch, life is perfected into an art form.

At the award-winning Tanjong Jara Resort, a similar spirit of sharing and hospitality comes to the fore. The property's staff, who hail from nearby towns and villages, are eager to show guests the ways of their homeland. From cultural dances to tasty snacks and even a game of sepak takraw, the country's version of volleyball, played with deft feet and legs, the daily pastimes of villagers are made available for guests willing to immerse in vignettes of authentic East Coast life.

Inspired in its design by 17th-century Malay palaces, the resort exemplifies an aesthetic and a spirit that are unique to Terengganu. All rooms, which face either the South China Sea or lush gardens, evoke a style of living that's the best of both worlds – plush

furnishings along with dark and rich woods, framed by classic Malay design.

Guests are encouraged to dive into Sucimurni – a state of being said to exemplify peace and purity, one that reflects a way of life respectful of one's fellow man and nature. Start the day with a Sucimurni class – a stretching programme focusing on the body's seven *chakras* or energy centres.

Or learn about the local flora and fauna by hiking up Jara Hill, followed by a tour of a Malay herb garden – an all-natural pharmacy with healing plants whose curative powers have been known for many millennia.

At dinner, the resort's restaurant Di-Atas Sungei transforms into a convivial spot where guests chat with Menu Masters who suggest a constantly changing selection of dishes, serving the tastiest curries, succulent grilled meats and fresh seafood.

After all, there is no better introduction to the East Coast than a delicious meal.

For more information, please visit www.tanjongjaresort.com

Tanjong Jara Resort reveals a personal insight into the Malay way of life that reflects their strong sense of community.



LEARN ABOUT THE LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA BY HIKING UP JARA HILL, FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF A MALAY HERB GARDEN.



HEALING TEA TRAILS

INDULGE IN A LITTLE PAMPERING AT SPA VILLAGE CAMERON HIGHLANDS, WHICH TAKES FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE CURATIVE PROPERTIES OF THIS ANTIOXIDANT-RICH BREW.

Words [DIANA HUBBELL](#)

Cameron Highlands' locals regard knowing the intricacies and subtle distinctions between the dozens of grades of tea as something akin to an art form. Yet it doesn't take long at all to grasp the healing benefits of an antioxidant-rich cuppa.

It helps explain why the luxe Spa Village at Cameron Highlands Resort takes advantage of tea's holistic properties, as well as those of other flora that grow wild around the fertile region. Upon entering the spa, all guests slip into a sarong and bathrobe before immersing themselves in a restorative bath of strong black tea and other aromatics such as chrysanthemum blossoms, yellow roses, mint leaves or fresh strawberries. During the bath, raw sugar gently exfoliates, limes calm aching joints and tea grounds rubbed on the face give the skin a natural radiance.



Set in the lush surroundings of Cameron Highlands, the Spa Village features healing therapies based on produce from the surrounding jungle and tea plantations. Six Treatment Rooms, eight Tea Bath Tubs, two Outdoor Cabanas and a fully equipped Gymnasium are housed within stunning colonial architecture.

A SLOW, SOOTHING MASSAGE WITH WARM, STRAWBERRY-PERFUMED ALMOND OIL PROVIDES THE FINAL TOUCH, ENSURING DEEP RELAXATION.

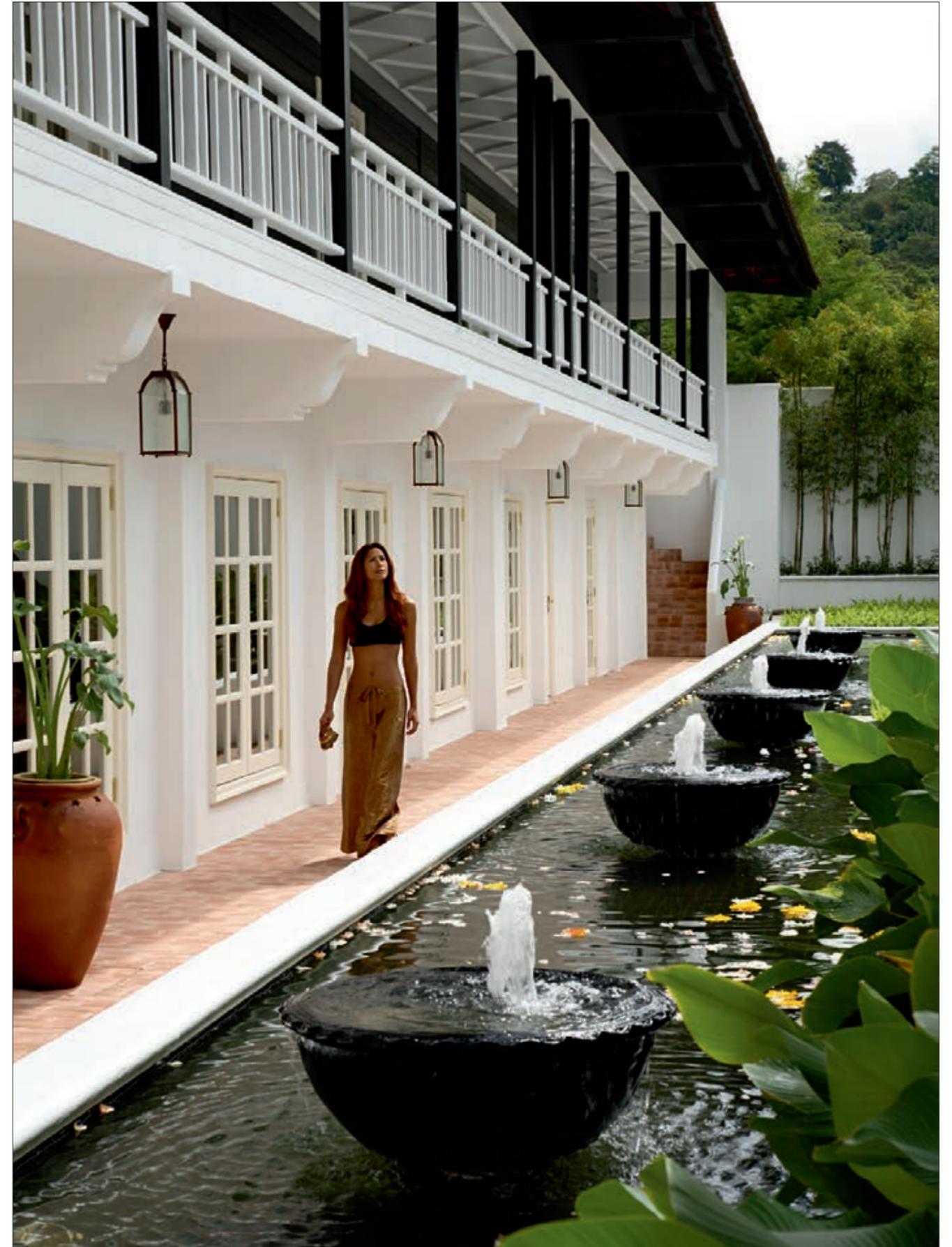


The ever-popular Strawberry Escapade takes full advantage of the luscious fruit that grows rampant in the cool climate. Following a leisurely soak, guests enjoy a rejuvenating scrub of puréed strawberries, yoghurt and crushed oats. The latter act to help rub away dead skin, while the former two are high in alpha hydroxy acids, which enhance the elasticity and softness of the skin. As the mixture sits, beneficial nutrients seep into the body to nourish, moisturise and revitalise guests from head to toe. A slow, soothing massage with warm, strawberry-perfumed almond oil provides the final touch, ensuring deep relaxation.

Local ingredients and traditions are equally central to other options on the spa menu. The famous Yellow Champagne Roses first planted by a Scotsman in the 1950s appear in a cleansing petal scrub, while the mint and thyme once loved by British officers are the primary components of a fragrant body wrap designed to boost circulation.

Even the ancient healing practices of the Semai, the area's original inhabitants, come into play. Also known as Orang Asli, the Semai possess a vast knowledge of the curative properties of plants foraged from deep in the jungle. Their centuries of accumulated wisdom are a boon to modern-day travellers seeking restoration. It all just goes to show how many surprises a simple cup of tea or a bundle of blooms may contain when placed in the right hands.

For more information, please visit www.cameronhighlandsresort.com



THE LIFE AQUATIC

GAYA ISLAND RESORT'S RESIDENT MARINE BIOLOGIST SCOTT MAYBACK ENCOURAGES THE GROWTH OF CORAL COLONIES AS WELL AS THE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION OF TURTLES.

Words RENYI LIM

Gaya Island Resort's Marine Centre is located on the quiet shores of Tavajun Bay, which is a five-minute boat ride away from the resort. Bearded pigs wander by nonchalantly and small monkeys occasionally scramble down from treetops searching for snacks, but the relative peace of Gaya Island Resort's private beach could be disrupted at any moment.

Scott Mayback, the resort's Resident Marine Biologist, might receive a call for assistance from the local Wildlife Department, the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park or a scuba diving company that has chanced upon a sea creature in need of serious help. Here, Mayback speaks about his work at Gaya Island Resort and the various essential ways in which the resort helps to protect the marine environment that surrounds it.



Scott Mayback (facing page, in wetsuit) shares his passion for the marine environment with Gaya Island Resort's guests.



“OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES HELP INFORM PEOPLE ON WHAT THEY MAY BE DOING WRONGLY AND TO REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO HAVEN'T BEEN EDUCATED ON THE SUBJECT.”

What sort of marine life do you usually deal with?
As part of Gaya Island Resort Marine Centre's conservation initiatives, I oversee the rescue, rehabilitation and release of turtles. We see a lot of Malaysian sea turtles – endangered green turtles or hawksbill turtles, which are considered critically endangered – that have been hit by boats. Others might have complications from ingesting plastic or have developed some sort of infection.

Coral planting and rehabilitation are a central part of the Marine Centre's work. Why?

We use the Centre's aquariums to propagate resilient *Porites cylindrica* corals in a controlled system quickly. We then return them to the marine environment. A big problem on the reef is erosion and shattered corals, so we collect large, broken corals and embed them in cement blocks to prevent them from falling.

Do educational outreach programmes play an important role too?

I love corals, fish and the ocean. Our educational

programmes help inform people on what they may be doing wrongly and to reach out to those who haven't been educated on the subject. For instance, we ran a two-year pilot programme with Kampung Gaya, the island's fishing village, to discourage practices like the dumping of rubbish into the sea.

The Centre's turtle hatchery is up and running, which is exciting news!

We will be housing turtle eggs confiscated from poachers by the Sabah Wildlife Department, and taking care of these eggs in the hope that we can give them a second chance at life. Although the predicted success rate will be fairly low because the turtle eggs have been disturbed and require special handling, just imagining that we (might be able to) hatch one out of 100 or even one of 1,000 is fantastic. It is still an additional life that can be saved.

For more information, please visit www.gayaislandresort.com

HISTORY IN THE SHAKING



BEHIND THE BAR OF THE SMOKE HOUSE AT THE MAJESTIC HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR, THE VINTAGE COCKTAILS - AND THE PERSONABLE BARMAN WHO MAKES THEM - HAVE AN INTRIGUING TALE TO TELL.



Words RENYI LIM

The moment you step into the 1930s surroundings of The Smoke House at The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, you're in for a taste of the past. Ask for Johnnie the Barman in his recognisable white jacket, who has been at The Majestic Hotel for seven years, stirring and shaking a multitude of concoctions steeped in Southeast Asia's surprisingly rich cocktail history. As he says with a wry wink: "Anyone can make a cocktail – but in order to maintain its originality, the element of storytelling has to be strong."

This is perhaps most evident in the hotel's most famous cocktail: Code 55 and 2 Bulat, which looks deceptively modern thanks to its test tubes of gin and whisky. The drink, which comes topped up with beer and lemonade, carries more than a whiff of scandal about it. The story dates back to the days of the original Hotel Majestic, when an enraged wife, who had found her husband in the dining hall with another woman, requested a "Code 55 and 2 Bulat" from the barman when he asked for her drink order. It was only after the unfortunate husband had managed to smuggle his dining companion out of the hall – without any blood being spilled – that the perplexed barman realised the wife had called for a "Colt 55 and two bullets".

Other cocktails, Johnnie explains, have more practical origins, such as Gin Pahit – an effective combination of gin and Angostura bitters (the Malay word *pahit* is a direct translation from 'bitters'). With a similar colonial profile, the East India Cocktail, a blend of cognac, maraschino liqueur, Cointreau, raspberry syrup and Angostura bitters, represents the colonies of the British empire in the 1800s through its cosmopolitan mix of liquors.

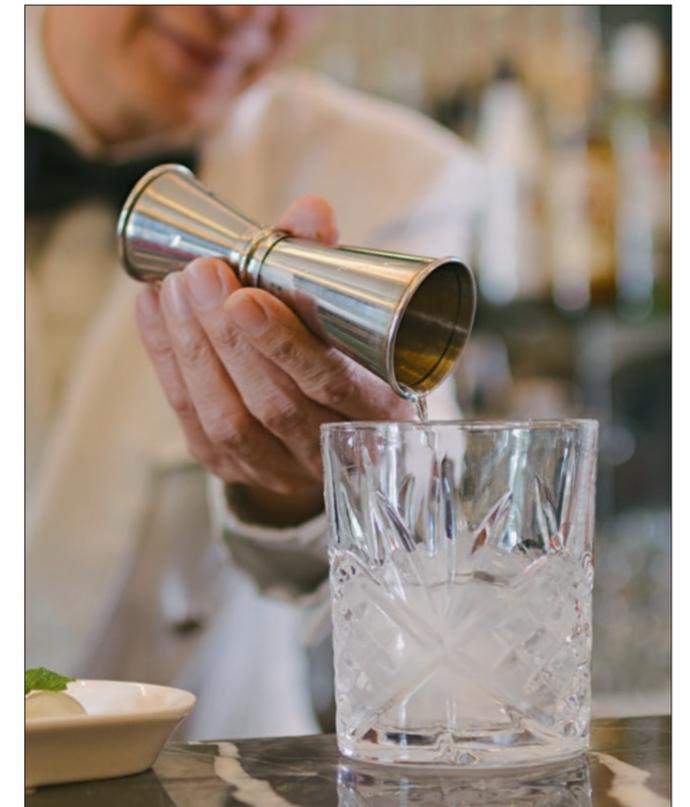
The Straits Sling – a pleasantly citrus-flavoured cocktail made from gin, Bénédictine D.O.M. liqueur and *kirschwasser eau de vie* – is what Johnnie terms "the thinking man's Sling", which plays up to its mythical status as the precursor to the iconic Singapore Sling.

For pure flamboyant fun, request an exotic, sunset-pink Jungle Bird, originally created in Kuala Lumpur's Aviary Bar in the 1970s. A delightful representation of the city's psychedelic heyday, this once-obscurer Campari, rum and pineapple juice cocktail is fully deserving of its status as a Malaysian bar classic – a drink that proves unforgettable once you've tried it at The Smoke House.

For more information, please visit www.majestickl.com



The personable Johnnie The Barman and his team are on hand to recommend and prepare your favourite tippie, be it an exceptional vintage cocktail or a single malt whisky.



SYMPHONY OF SERENITY

RELAXATION IS A WHOLE-BODY EXPERIENCE
WITH THE SENSORY SOUND BATH TREATMENT
AT SPA VILLAGE KUALA LUMPUR.

Words MERRITT GURLEY

The best travel experiences transform us. We return a better version of ourselves, enriched and enhanced by the journeys we've had along the way. At Spa Village Kuala Lumpur, located at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur, ancient arts, natural ingredients and modern technology team up in treatments that rejuvenate the body and relax the mind, so you emerge a more balanced being.

A highlight of this lush oasis in the heart of the capital is the Sensory Sound Bath, which wields the sense of sound — with its curative vibrations, frequencies and timbres — to bring your every element into perfect alignment. An innovative blend of healing methods, this holistic therapy



AFTER ENJOYING THIS 90-MINUTE TREATMENT, LOUNGE BY THE SPA'S TRANQUIL POOL AND BASK IN YOUR BODY'S TOTAL REQUIESCENCE.



begins with gentle vibrations that rise up through a specially designed floor, relaxing your muscles and preparing you for a deep-tissue massage.

Channelling Thai techniques and incorporating elements of Tui Na, a component of traditional Chinese medicine, your therapist uses warm stones and essential oil-infused compresses to loosen your back muscles. Once the body is totally at ease, it is time to move upward with an ayurvedic Indian head massage that targets the marma points on the shoulders, neck, face and scalp. Marma points are areas where muscles and tendons connect, and stimulating these with accupressure can open energy channels and relieve tension.

The denouement of the experience is a restorative 10-minute "sound bath," using the

baritone frequencies of a symphonic gong to balance the body's energies and regulate the nervous system. The enveloping sound of the gong, which echoes and crescendos with each strike of the mallet, acts as a cleansing cocoon and settles the mind into a state of meditative calm. Gongs have been used for healing since the Bronze Age and the sea of sound they produce resonates throughout the human body in a deeply soothing symphony.

After enjoying this 90-minute treatment, lounge by the spa's tranquil pool—blue waters encircled by tropical palm trees—and bask in your body's total requiescence. There is one word for what you'll be feeling: harmony.

For more information, please visit www.spavillage.com



THE ENVELOPING SOUND OF THE GONG, WHICH ECHOES AND CRESCENDOS WITH EACH STRIKE OF THE MALLET, ACTS AS A CLEANSING COCOON AND SETTLES THE MIND INTO A STATE OF MEDITATIVE CALM.



Spa Village Kuala Lumpur is an oasis of regeneration and beauty in the midst of the bustling city.

KITCHEN CONTINENTAL



YTL LIFE SPOKE WITH CHEF DE CUISINE KEVIN ALTIER FROM THE RESTAURANT 'M' AT MUSE SAINT TROPEZ ABOUT THE JOYS OF SHOWCASING MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE ALONG WITH HIS DISCOVERIES OF NEW INGREDIENTS.

Words [RENYI LIM](#)





“I’VE TRAVELLED HERE WITH THE AIM OF INCREASING MY KNOWLEDGE AS I DISCOVER NEW INGREDIENTS.”

While he can usually be found at MUSE Saint Tropez’s ‘M’ restaurant, Chef de Cuisine Kevin Altier took full advantage of winter to bring the tastes and flavours of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region to Kuala Lumpur.

So from the Hotel Stripes kitchen came a degustation menu filled with signature specialities, such as baked oysters with cream of leek and white wine emulsion, delicately stewed cod with aioli and saffron, and pears poached in spiced red wine.

Which ingredients would you like to showcase through your dishes?

The Provençal and Mediterranean kitchen is a mixture of flavours, cultures and traditions connected to the soil and the sea, so while in Malaysia, I’d like to highlight the region’s mixed herbs – thyme, rosemary and bay leaves – as well as garlic, olive oil and wine. I also enjoy cooking with fish.

How will you bring the culinary spirit of ‘M’ Restaurant to Brasserie 25?

As Hotel Stripes is the ‘little sister’ of MUSE Saint Tropez, we’ll be serving some typical dishes from our hotel and Provence that guests at MUSE

enjoy. I’m certain that diners at Hotel Stripes will love them too.

Will you be using any Malaysian ingredients, perhaps in place of traditional French elements? We have opted to use certain local fish instead of typical Mediterranean fish: for instance, instead of sea bass, we use barramundi, as both species are strongly alike. I’m looking forward to working with Malaysian produce! At the moment, I’d like to learn more about the country’s native seafood, spices, fruits and vegetables, as well as Malaysian dishes and authentic recipes. I’ve travelled here with the aim of increasing my knowledge as I discover new ingredients.

What experience do you hope to deliver to diners who have never tried Provençal cuisine?

I wish to bring my knowledge and passion of French and Provençal food, which is why we have composed menus that combine French and local produce with the aim of marrying French and Malaysian cuisine. My wish is that guests at Hotel Stripes, especially those unfamiliar with French cuisine, will travel to and discover Provence and the Mediterranean Sea thanks to our dishes. It will be a ‘travelling meal’, which their taste buds will remember.

For more information, please visit www.stripeskl.com



Diners at Brasserie 25 were given the opportunity to explore Provençal cuisine through Chef de Cuisine Kevin Altier’s specially tailored tasting menu inspired by Saint Tropez.





On Dana: Dress *Jim Thompson*
Shoes *Jimmy Choo*



SHADES OF LIGHT

THAI DESIGNERS MAKE WAVES WITH
COLLECTIONS EQUALLY SUITED FOR
BEACH PARTIES, EVENING COCKTAILS
AND EVERYWHERE ELSE IN-BETWEEN.

PHOTOGRAPHY ERIC CHOW/BLINK STUDIOS
LOCATION THE RITZ-CARLTON, KOH SAMUI
STYLING KATE LEE



On Dana: Dress *Wee*



On Ethan: Shirt and pants *P.mith* On Dana: Dress *Flynow*



On Dana: Dress *Asava*
 On Ethan: Shirt *Button Up*
 Suit *P.mith*
 Shoes *Christian Louboutin*



On Ethan: Jacket, shirt and pants *Jim Thompson*
 On Dana: Dress *Flynow* Shoes *Valentino*



On Ethan: Top and pants *P.mith*. Shoes
Christian Louboutin

Assisted by: Chang Tak Kar
Models: Dana Slosar and Ethan Ingle
Fashion assistant: Sarawut Lapa
Make-up: Chaidit Somsong
Hair stylist: Nawaphon Junpungton



On Dana: Dress Asava

JAMU: ELIXIRS OF LIFE

A LITTLE HERALDED BUT HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE HEALING EXPERIENCE AT SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI COMES IN LIQUID FORM.

Words [SIMON PRIDMORE](#)





LADIES REFERRED TO AS JAMU GENDONG WANDER FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE PLYING THEIR WARES.

DURING YOUR STAY, YOU CAN EVEN TRY YOUR HAND AT CONCOCTING YOUR OWN JAMU.



The resort is also home to a Spa Village Academy, which offers insights into Balinese philosophy, spirituality and healing, including classes on the theory of Balinese healing, *lulur* and *jamu* therapy.

A compelling attraction of Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali is the atmosphere. It inspires and repeatedly draws guests to return to this peaceful location with its beach of black volcanic sand. The Balinese cuisine served at Wantilan nourishes and fortifies the body; the spa treatments restore one physically, while yoga and meditation attune both mind and body to attain peak state.

Every day at the resort, on multiple occasions, something special happens that connects you to the ancient healing traditions of Java and Bali. While you are sunning by the pool after a swim, reading in the shade or basking in the after-glow of a luxurious massage, you will be offered a small glass of spicy liquid, poured from an unlabelled flask.

This is *jamu*, a range of herbal elixirs made from ancient Javanese recipes and a feature of rural life among the fertile valleys of these islands for hundreds of years. There are representations of *jamu* recorded in the 10th-century walls of the Borobudur temple. *Jamu* recipes are different for men and women and there are variations for particular ailments, as well as merely to enhance general well-being.

In the villages, the tonics are made by hand, using knowledge passed down through generations and common spices and cultivated herbs or ones that grow wild, such as ginger, turmeric, clove, cinnamon, *galangal*, *temulawak* and tamarind. Ladies referred to as *jamu gendong* wander from village to village plying their wares, a basket of bottles carried on their hip and secured over the shoulder by a tied sarong. A

bucket containing a number of cups is hooked over one arm and they sell their *jamu* by the dose, like roving pharmacists. The Spa Village Resort staff moving around the gardens will be similarly dressed and equipped.

During your stay, you can even try your hand at concocting your own *jamu*. Check the activities menu for the day and time. You will prepare the ingredients, pound them with a mortar and pestle; then watch with your fellow guests, gathered like alchemists around a bubbling cauldron, as your potion comes to the boil.

By adding a little raw honey or lime, preparing your own *jamu* is a satisfying process and can prove to be quite a delicious treat.

For more information, please visit www.spavillageresort.com

A TOAST TO NISEKO

NISEKO VILLAGE, WITH ITS SLOPES BLANKETED IN PIXIE-DUST SNOW AND ITS MIX OF HIGH-END ACCOMMODATION, SOPHISTICATED SHOPS, DELECTABLE RESTAURANTS AND RESTORATIVE ONSEN, IS MAKING A NAME FOR ITSELF AS ASIA'S — PERHAPS THE WORLD'S — MOST COVETED LUXURY SKI DESTINATION.

Words MERRITT GURLEY

THERE IS NO GREATER LUXURY THAN FRESH SNOW, AND POWDER CONNOISSEURS KNOW WHERE TO COME FOR THE WORLD'S FINEST FLURRIES: NISEKO.



The silence and expanse of snow engulf me. In front of me a rolling field of white is studded with snow-laden pines and in the distance Mount Yotei, a dormant stratovolcano, rises into the clouds. For those of us who love winter sports, there is no greater luxury than fresh snow, and powder connoisseurs know where to come for the world's finest flurries: Niseko. Here the white flakes are so smooth and dry they call it "champagne powder", thanks to weightless snowfall that travels across the Sea of Japan from Siberia.

On the 1,308-metre-high Niseko Annapuri mountain, 29 lifts and gondolas provide access to more than 100 runs, from virgin off-piste trails to Mizuno no Sawa, the peak with the steepest and most challenging terrain. While the snow is truly superlative, the accommodation options at Niseko Village — a collection of ski-in ski-out hotels, shops and restaurants at the mountain's base — are also world-class in calibre. Hilton Niseko Village and Green Leaf Niseko Village offer

spacious rooms with panoramic views of the slopes or Mount Yotei, but for the ultimate in elegance, book one of the Kasara Niseko Village Townhouses. These handsome two-storey, three-room homes exemplify the simple beauty of Japanese living, while the attentive service and optional perks, like having a personal chef prepare a custom dinner in the comfort of your own townhouse, add that touch of magic that make for a lasting memory.

After a legendary morning on the slopes — already firmly stamped in my mental scrapbook — followed by a hearty bowl of miso ramen at Goshiki Restaurant, I'm ready for a soak in the hot springs. I walk to Green Leaf Niseko's outdoor onsen, a Japanese-style natural-stone pool, and wade into its steamy, mineral-rich waters. A branch weighted with snow buckles and a cloud of white powder plops into the onsen, melting instantly. I'm the only person here and the quiet and calm sink so bone-deep that it feels like maybe I'm the only person anywhere.

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



Niseko Village is an internationally recognised haven for outdoor enthusiasts, nature lovers, adrenaline junkies, culture vultures and gourmet travellers.



OF CASTLES AND PALACES



THE PAST IS ALWAYS PRESENT ON EDINBURGH'S ROYAL MILE - A THOROUGHFARE WITH A STARRING ROLE IN SCOTLAND'S HISTORY.

Words MALCOLM ARNOLD



As the United Kingdom's "most walkable city", Edinburgh commands a tourist following for its history book setting, picturesque cobblestone lanes and amiable locals. With The Glasshouse Hotel Edinburgh's location at the heart of the city, guests enjoy bird's-eye views of Calton Hill and proximity to storied monuments, bars, cafes, restaurants and shops. On the to-do list of visitors are places on the Royal Mile, a mere 10-minute walk from the hotel. Amid the hustle and bustle of this centuries-old walkway, Edinburgh reveals one of its more unique aspects. Part of the Old Town, on opposite sides of the Royal Mile, are Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The former is one of the Scottish capital's most famous landmarks, with origins tracing to the 12th century when St Margaret's Chapel was constructed. The castle's expansion included the Great Hall, built by James IV in 1510; Regent Morton's Half Moon Battery, established towards the end of the 16th century; and the

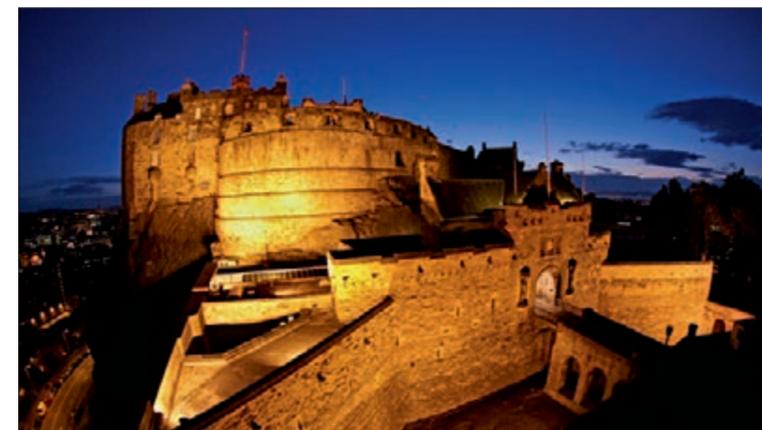
Scottish War Memorial, which commemorated the end of the First World War. Today, Edinburgh Castle is home to the Honours or Scotland's Crown Jewels; the Stone of Destiny; Mons Meg, a gun from the 15th century; the One O'Clock Gun; and the National War Museum of Scotland. At the end of this extraordinary thoroughfare is the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of Queen Elizabeth II. As the home of the kings and queens of Scotland, dating to the 16th century, the building is a vast repository of beautiful artefacts and artworks. Visitors are welcome to explore the 16th-century Historic Apartments of Mary, Queen of Scots along with the State Apartments, which function till today as venues for state events. Recorded guided tours are available in numerous languages for those keen to uncover little known nuggets of information about this location and its legendary former occupants.

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

PART OF THE OLD TOWN, ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE ROYAL MILE, ARE EDINBURGH CASTLE AND THE PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE.



The Glasshouse Hotel's location in the heart of Edinburgh's city centre makes it well placed for tourists interested in the city's historic attractions, including Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse.



DINING AT THE BANK

THE RESTAURANT IS PART OF CHEF, RESTAURATEUR AND TELEVISION PERSONALITY MARCO PIERRE WHITE'S PORTFOLIO OF ESTABLISHMENTS.



While the menu is inspired by Wheeler's seafood heritage, there are also a wide range of meat dishes ensuring there is something for everybody.



MARCO PIERRE WHITE'S RESTAURANT
WHEELER'S OYSTER BAR AND GRILL ROOM
PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE GRAND BRITISH
ROMANCE WITH SEAFOOD.

Words MARK LEAN

The Wheeler's of St James London's story began back in 1856. As "the world's oldest and finest fish brand", its clientele comprised the likes of Francis Bacon and Walt Disney. Today, the restaurant is part of chef, restaurateur and television personality Marco Pierre White's portfolio of establishments. White, a household name in the United Kingdom, was the first British chef awarded three Michelin stars. He is also a mentor to culinary giants such as Mario Batali and Gordon Ramsay.

At Wheeler's Oyster Bar and Grill Room, which is connected to the storied Threadneedles Hotel, an Autograph Collection Hotel, White presents

his interpretations of the grand British romance with seafood. There is the Dublin Bay Prawns with sauce Béarnaise, made up of a serving of grilled langoustines in a just-melted garlic butter sauce as well as the generously plated Wheeler's Plateau Fruits De Mer. The latter of which encompasses a heaped selection of Colchester oysters, langoustines, Morcombe Bay shrimps, brown crab from Weymouth, whole lobster and Atlantic prawns.

Prime Scottish beef also dominates Wheeler's menu. The restaurant's beef is sourced from the Duke of Buccleuch farmers' group where cows are raised on a diet of natural grass. The meat is matured on the bone, and is flavoursome and



Marco Pierre White has given this long-established brand a new lease of life with dishes that use the very best in fresh and seasonal products.

THE RESTAURANT
IS A POPULAR SPOT FOR THOSE WHO WORK IN THE
CITY OF LONDON.

succulent. Steaks such as the Chateaubriand 16oz that serves two people, are aged for 35 days by Campbell Brothers, Royal Warrant appointed butchers. All steaks are served with triple cooked chips and roasted vine tomatoes.

For dessert, Wheeler's Poached Pear is a play on subtle fruit flavours. The delicious warmed pear comes with vanilla cream and tangy passion fruit sauce. The restaurant is a popular spot for those who work in the City of London, and a dining destination for foodies who appreciate old school British cuisine prepared with flair and precision.

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



BATH FOR THE WEEKEND

KNOWN FOR ITS HOT SPRINGS SINCE THE ROMAN AGES, THIS HISTORIC CITY ALSO BOASTS THRIVING CULINARY AND WELLNESS SCENES.

Words MARK LEAN





Named after the artist Sir Thomas Gainsborough, the luxury hotel is centred around Spa Village Bath and, uniquely in the UK, has the exclusive privilege of having access to the natural thermal, mineral-rich waters.



WITH SUBTLE BRONZE, BROWNS AND BLUE TONES, THE ROOMS MARRY UPDATED BRITISH SENSIBILITIES WITH INTERNATIONAL PANACHE.

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987, the city of Bath is best explored on foot. For guests of The Gainsborough Bath Spa, which is located at the centre of the World Heritage Site, this means easy access to the museums, galleries and shops that are mere steps away.

STAY

The award-winning hotel with its gorgeous Georgian and Victorian facades is a Grade II listed building with elegantly appointed interiors by the renowned New York-based firm Champalimaud Design. With subtle bronze, browns and blue tones, the rooms marry updated British sensibilities with international panache. Recent awards include AA Hotel of the Year, England 2017/2018 as well as Condé Nast Traveler Awards (USA) Best Hotel in the UK, so guests can look forward to stays that are beyond the ordinary.

SPA

Spa Village Bath with its exclusive access to natural thermal, mineral-rich waters comprises two natural thermal pools of different temperatures, traditional and infrared saunas,

a steam room, an ice alcove and relaxation areas. On the spa menu is a variety of treatments created to pamper and relax. Try Ginger Renewal, a signature massage that combines healing minerals with invigorating organic ginger oil. For face treatments, the Lavender Facial has super hydrating benefits and is perfect for rejuvenating winter-weary dehydrated skin.

SAVOUR

Dan Moon at The Gainsborough with its recent three AA Rosettes awards is making a name for itself in the UK's food scene. Chef Moon constantly surprises with dishes made from locally sourced ingredients such as the Smoked Ballotine of Var Salmon with horseradish potato mousseline, apple and fennel. For the ultimate comfort food, there is the Wild Mushroom Risotto featuring poached quail's egg, Parmesan crackling and cauliflower. Meanwhile at The Canvas Room, the sweet – the yoghurt-infused scones – and savoury – the Coronation Chicken confit sandwiches – afternoon tea creations are quite possibly the reasons to visit Bath.

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



MAGICAL MELBOURNE

EXPLORING THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY IS BEST
DONE WITH THE CENTRALLY LOCATED
MELBOURNE MARRIOTT AS YOUR BASE.

Words M WILSON





THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE MELBOURNE MARRIOTT THAT MAKES ONE FEEL AT HOME. IT COULD BE THE WARM WELCOME WITH A SPEEDY CHECK-IN, THE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HELPFUL CONCIERGE OR THE WAITRESS AT ESSENCE ON EXHIBITION RECOMMENDING A DELICIOUS DISH WITH A QUINTESSENTIALLY AUSSIE TWIST FOR DINNER.



From gorgeously appointed rooms and suites to superb modern Australian cuisine at Essence on Exhibition, guests are spoiled for choice at the Melbourne Marriott.

The Melbourne Marriott has the distinction of being the first boutique hotel built in the city in 1982 by a former Lord Mayor. The heritage of Melbourne is unobtrusively honoured throughout the hotel. Black and white photographs of the city from the 1950s adorn the walls in the guestrooms and public areas, tempting you to venture out to find those places in today's world. More intriguing is that the carpets in the rooms were specially designed to portray the grid lines of the city's ubiquitous trams and tramlines.

There is something about the Melbourne Marriott that makes one feel at home. It could be the warm welcome with a speedy check-in, the knowledgeable and helpful Concierge or the waitress at Essence on Exhibition recommending a delicious dish with a quintessentially Aussie twist for dinner. It's just good old-fashioned service that comes from the heart across the board.

The 185 contemporary rooms and suites are spacious and comfortable with all the facilities

expected by travellers, including complimentary high-speed Internet, 42-inch flatscreen television, workspace with good lighting and iPod dock. The stylish rooms feature marble bathrooms with a separate dressing area and large wardrobe.

Staying in the Melbourne Marriott with its prime location on the corner of Lonsdale and Exhibition Street means you are in the Central Business District. This is a lovely city to explore on foot. Travelling by the historic trams in the city centre is free, as is the City Circle Tram.

The hotel is only minutes from Her Majesty's Theatre, Federation Square, the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the famous Queen Victoria Market. The popular Bourke Street shopping area and the cultural and culinary delights of Chinatown are within 10 minutes' walk. Indeed there is much to discover along Melbourne's tree-lined streets, with its historic buildings, museums, secluded laneways and beautiful parks.

For more information visit marriott.com/melmc

12 THINGS TO DO IN 48 HOURS ON KOH SAMUI



FROM MARKET VISITS AND COOKING CLASSES TO FIRE SHOWS, HERE IS OUR DEFINITIVE LIST OF WAYS TO GET UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH THE ISLAND SCENE.

Words MALCOLM ARNOLD



Amazing discoveries that await guests of The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui include Big Buddha Temple (left) and the region's largest swim reef.



EXPLORE UNINHABITED COVES, CAVES AND DENSE JUNGLES, AND DIVE INTO CLEAR WATERS TO DISCOVER AN ABUNDANCE OF MARINE LIFE.

9:30AM - MORNING YOGA AT THE BEACH

Welcome a new day with an empowering yoga routine in a panoramic ocean setting.

11:35AM - SWIM REEF SNORKELLING

Discover the largest, one-of-a-kind swim reef in Southeast Asia within a resort. Teeming with over 50 species of fish by the thousands, this unique attraction provides an up-close view of the marine world by snorkelling or joining the scheduled supervised fish feeding activities.

12:03PM - MUAY THAI TRAINING

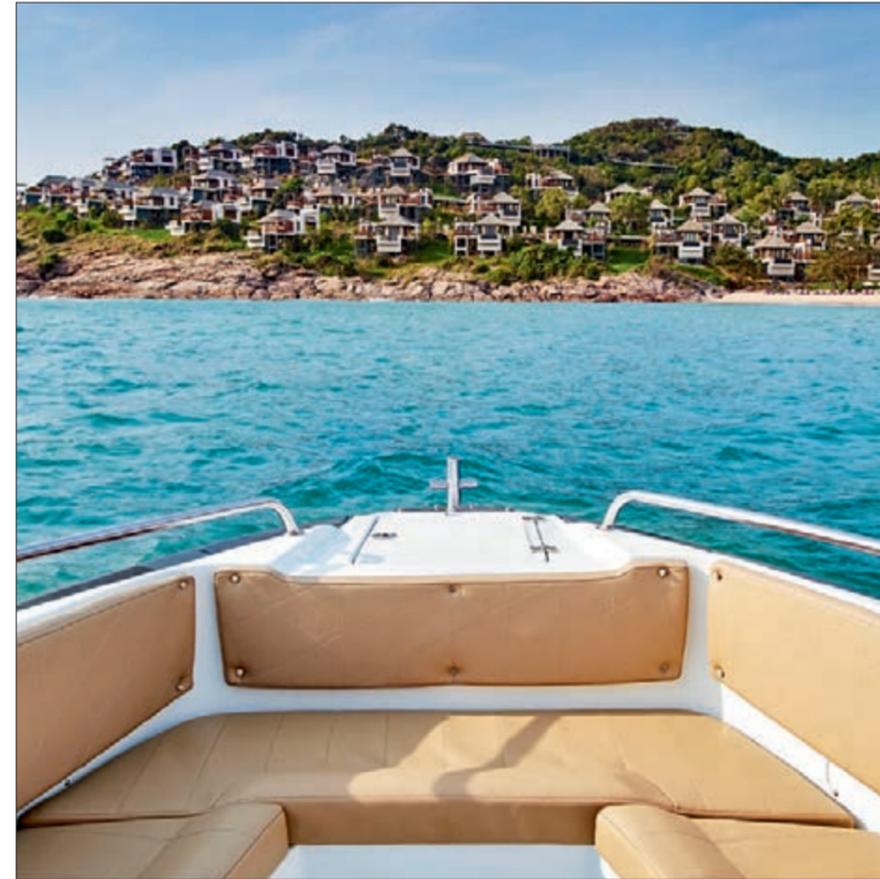
Muay Thai is referred to as "the art of eight limbs" as the body mimics weapons of war through the use of eight points of contact. Get a total workout at the resort's Muay Thai Gym under the guidance of a trained instructor.

2:15PM - ADVENTURES ON THE RITZ-CARLTON SPEEDBOAT

Embark on a seafaring adventure aboard a luxurious speedboat, cruising around the rugged coastal beauty of Koh Samui. Take in the stunning scenery of limestone cliffs, white sandy beaches and snorkel in clear azure waters.

3:31PM - ANG THONG NATIONAL MARINE PARK

On The Ritz-Carlton's speedboat, head to Ang Thong National Marine Park (Thai for the 'golden bowl'), an area stretching 250 square kilometres, including 50 square kilometres of a protected nature area comprising over 40 islands. Explore uninhabited coves, caves and dense jungles, and dive into clear waters to discover an abundance of marine life.



The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui seamlessly combines the brand's legendary service with the traditional spirit of Thai hospitality and colourful Samui island life culture.



EMBARK ON A SEAFARING ADVENTURE ABOARD A LUXURIOUS SPEEDBOAT, CRUISING AROUND THE RUGGED COASTAL BEAUTY OF KOH SAMUI.



START THE DAY WITH A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL DELICACIES BROUGHT TO YOUR VILLA.



From a Muay Thai Gym to varied dining and culinary experiences, The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui helps immerse guests in their destination in every possible way.



7:08PM - EXPLORE FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE WALKING STREET

Amble around this charming coastal area lined with old wooden shophouses and a walking street market that brings the tranquil town of Bophut to life every Friday. It sees the narrow bar and café-lined Beach Road and adjoining streets packed with market stalls and shoppers from across Koh Samui. In the evenings, sink into a cushy beanbag and take in a spectacular fire show on the beach at the outdoor bar, Coco Tam.

9:07AM - BREAKFAST IN BED WITH A VIEW

Start the day with a delicious breakfast of local and international delicacies brought to your villa. Dine in serenity by your private infinity pool with views of the Gulf of Thailand.

11:20AM - COOKING LESSON AND MARKET TOUR

Visit a local market with The Ritz-Carlton's chef to source seasonal produce, followed by a lesson on traditional southern-style Thai cuisine.

1:12PM - SAMUI'S COCONUT HERITAGE TREATMENT AT SPA VILLAGE KOH SAMUI

Coconuts are synonymous with Koh Samui, an island with a plethora of plantations. At Spa Village, learn about and experience the nutritional and beauty benefits of this amazing fruit.

4:01PM - WAT PHRA YAI

Make your way to Wat Phra Yai, also known as the Big Buddha Temple, a short drive from The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui. Built in 1972, the 12-metre statue and its adjoining temple are one of the island's most popular landmarks.

6:10PM - SUNSET COCKTAILS

Over drinks, watch the sun set on beautiful Koh Samui. This daily event is hosted by The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui, and provides opportunities to chat and mingle with other guests as well as get to know the resort's staff who call this island home.





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.gaya-islandresort.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

KUALA LUMPUR



THE RITZ-CARLTON

KOH SAMUI

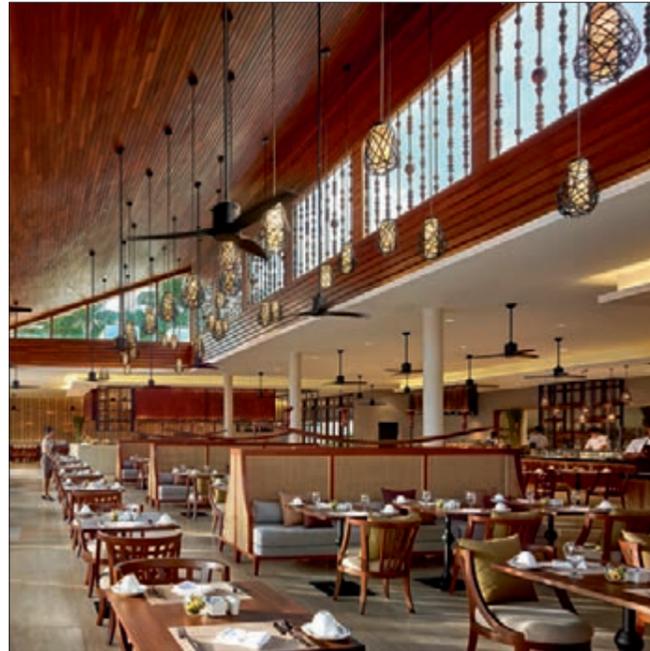


JW MARRIOTT

KUALA LUMPUR

STRIPES
KUALA LUMPUR

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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

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 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.

JWMARRIOTT.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.

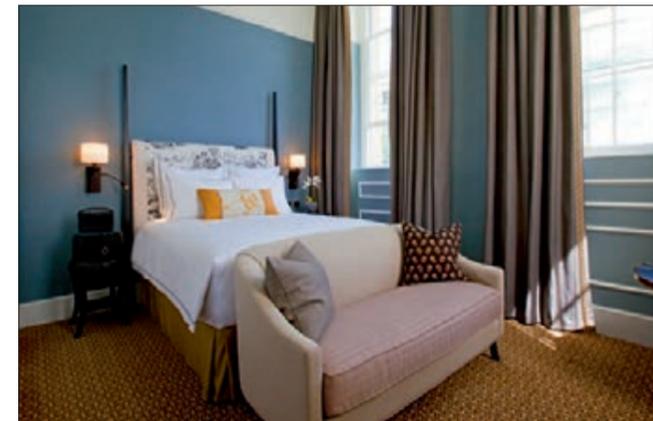
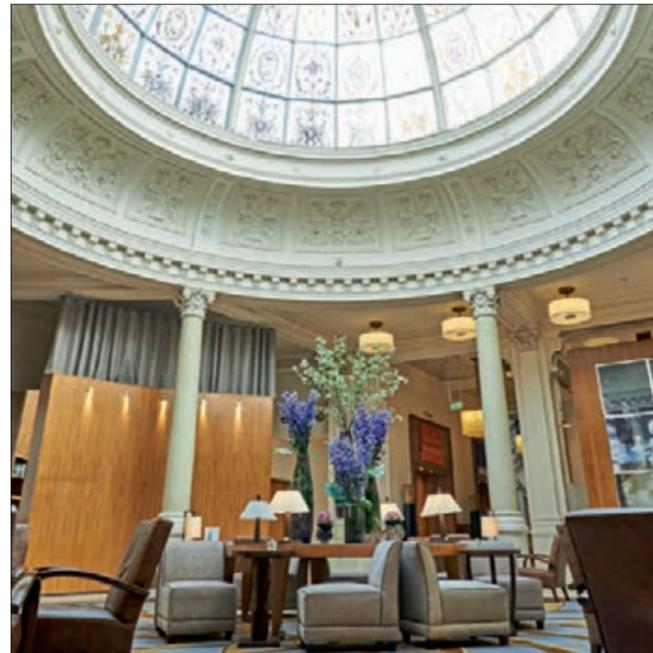
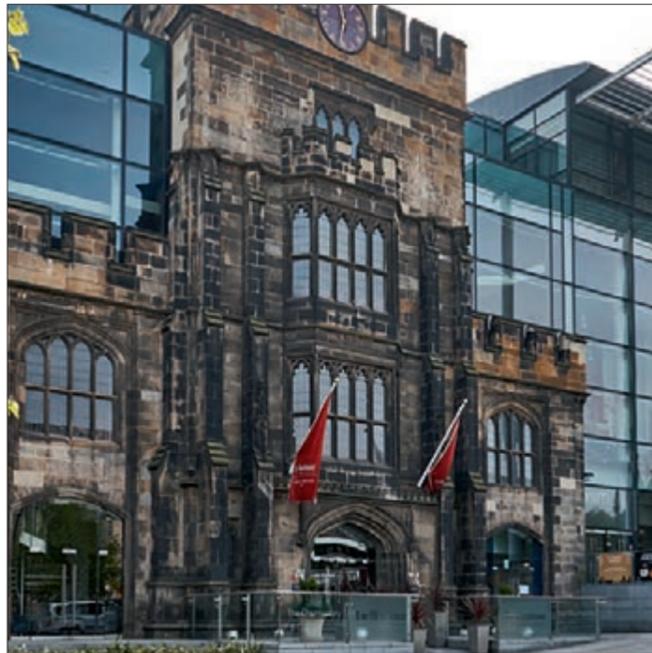
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BATH SPA

Shook!
RESTAURANT &
ROOFTOP TERRACE



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, CALTON HILL OR THE HOTEL'S 0.8-HECTARE ROOFTOP GARDEN.

WWW.THEGLASSHOUSEHOTEL.CO.UK

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.

WWW.HOTELTHREADNEEDLES.CO.UK

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.THEGAINSBOROUGHBATHSPA.CO.UK

SHOOK! SHANGHAI OCCUPIES THE PENTHOUSE FLOOR OF THE SWATCH ART PEACE HOTEL, A RENAISSANCE-STYLE 1906 HERITAGE LANDMARK ON THE BUND. THE CELEBRATED RESTAURANT FEATURES A SHOW KITCHEN WHERE SIGNATURE DISHES FROM FOUR CUISINE STYLES ARE CREATED AND ADAPTED FROM SEASONAL TRENDS AND INGREDIENTS.

WWW.SHOOKRESTAURANTSHANGHAI.COM



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.

TWO GORGEOUS AND LUXURIOUS VILLAS, WITH NINE AND SIX BEDROOMS RESPECTIVELY, OFFER COUNTRYSIDE LIVING, TRANQUILLITY AND PEACE, AS WELL AS THE SECURITY OF AN EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL ESTATE. THE VILLAS, IDEAL FOR EXPLORING THE FAMOUS COSTA DEL SOL, ARE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ALL TYPES OF AMENITIES.

WWW.MUSE-HOTELS.COM

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TOWNHOUSE

THE
GREEN LEAF
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Hilton
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WWW.NISEKO-VILLAGE.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

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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 METROPOLES OF SINGAPORE AND BANGKOK.

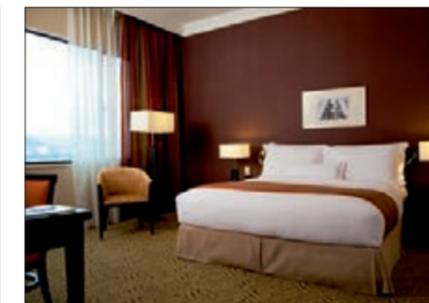
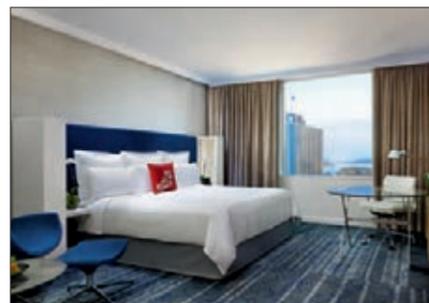
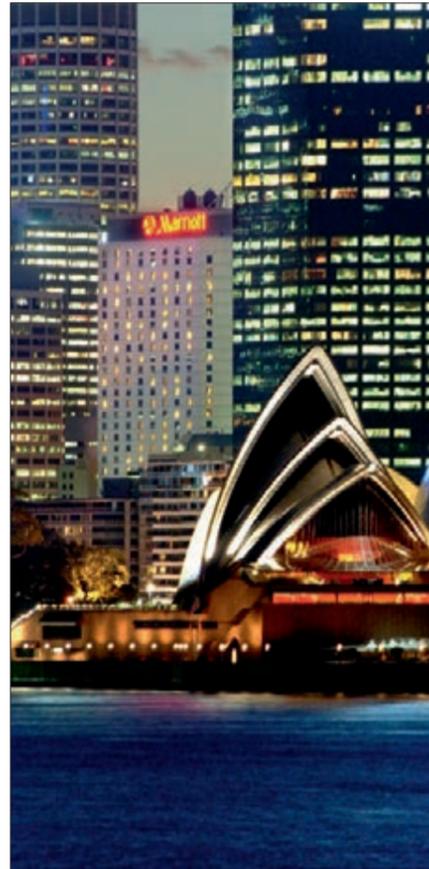
WWW.YTLHOTELS.COM



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.

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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.

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