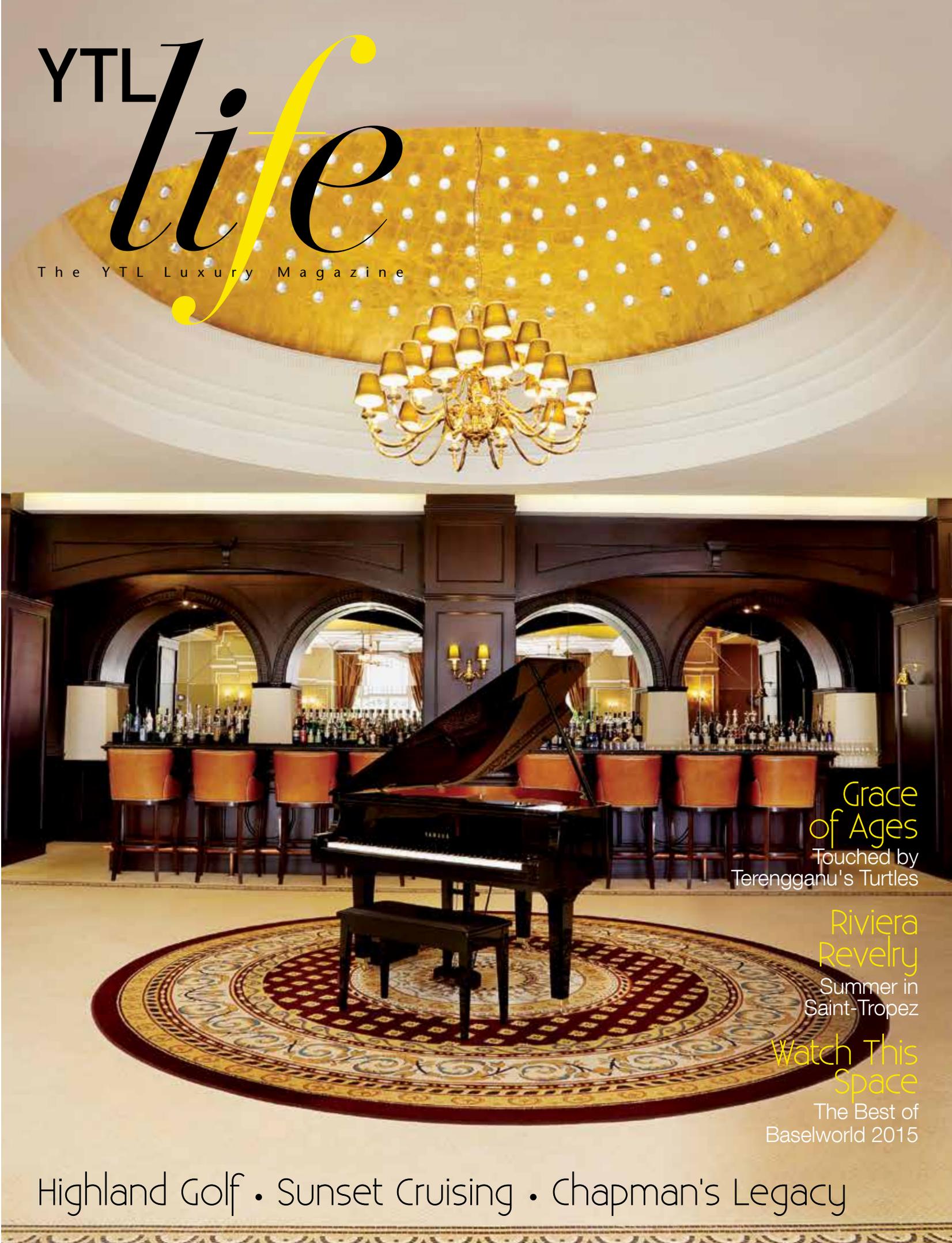


# YTL *life*

The YTL Luxury Magazine



Grace  
of Ages  
Touched by  
Terengganu's Turtles

Riviera  
Revelry  
Summer in  
Saint-Tropez

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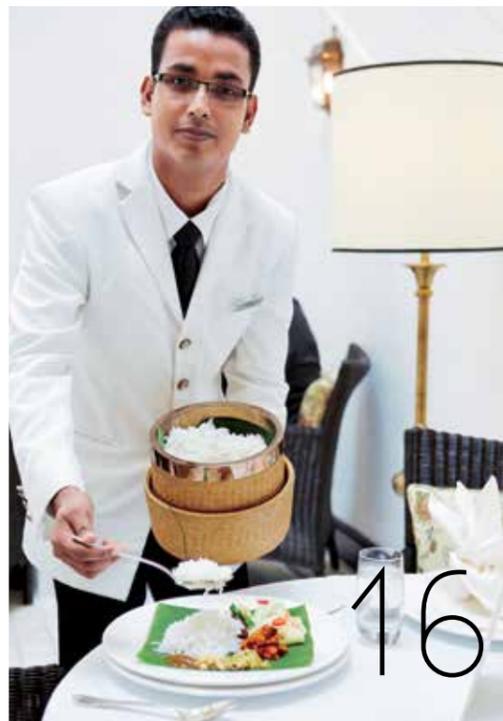
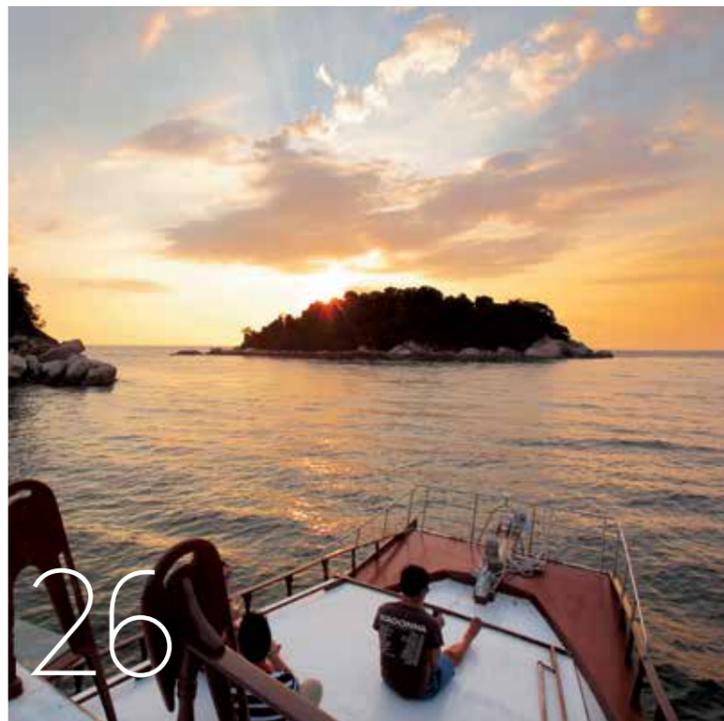
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# Contents



PANGKOR LAUT RESORT  
ONE ISLAND. ONE RESORT



## Life Events

**10** A round up of parties and events in the world of YTL.

## Life Bites

**14** Hot happenings at YTL Hotels.

## Life on the Cover

**16** History, elegance and colonial-era refinement all come together in style when one dines at The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

## Life Feature

**22** If you ever find yourself craving sumptuous Japanese cuisine while in Kota Kinabalu, be sure to secure a reservation at Omakase, the latest luxury dining experience at YTL Hotels' Gaya Island Resort.

**26** It is not every day that one gets to watch the sunset on board an ancient Chinese junk, albeit a

replica of it. This is only possible at Pangkor Laut Resort, where the sunset cruise is fuelled by wine, food and gorgeous Mother Nature.

**30** The much-anticipated opening of The Gainsborough Bath Spa, YTL Hotels' latest classic property, this summer only means one thing: time to pack and head for the shining jewel of England's West Country.

**34** Cameron Highlands is just the tonic for tired city souls. All the better if they are golfing enthusiasts.

**38** *YTL Life* speaks to Chris Spencer Chapman, youngest son of British Colonel Freddy Spencer Chapman, after whom the iconic Chapman's Bar in Pangkor Laut Resort's Emerald Bay is named. Summer in Niseko is all about the

**42** outdoors – embracing nature, getting active and delighting in the warmth of the sun.

**46** The culture of the Peranakan or Straits Chinese is still a major, and very colourful, element contributing to the charm of Malacca today.

**52** Balinese home compounds are built following a fascinating set of rules laid down by tradition and religion.

**58** For celebrity presenter and businesswoman, Lexie Rodriguez, spa sessions help her recharge and reboot while juggling a hectic professional as well as social life.



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**YTL HOTELS**  
Treasured Places. Treasured Moments



**76** It has been a tumultuous year for horology. The dawn of the smartwatch is nigh, the Swiss Franc hit a record high in January, and luxury market hotspots appear to be cooling around the world. Despite this, Swiss horologists remained undeterred as they showed up at Baselworld in grand fashion to display this year's novelties.

**82** While there used to be more turtles on the beaches of Terengganu, conservation efforts are helping to protect the ones that remain.

**86** The MUSE Saint Tropez welcomes a new Executive Chef, who puts the chic into French Riviera cuisine.

### Beautiful Life

**60** Summer may be fading away, but it's never too late to keep it fresh in mind (and body) with these sensory and beautifying delights.

**62** Play up your feminine side and drape yourself with these exquisite jewellery and deluxe timepieces.

**64** Searing summers call for equally high-temperature looks. Take the body-conscious approach with these versatile yet wearable designs.

**92** Deck yourself in these latest fashion pieces to remain effortless chic, always!

### Life Cuisine

**90** If ever a tart were to be accorded royal status, chances are it would go to the legendary Maids of Honour tarts by the celebrated and historical Newens Tea House near London's Kew Gardens.

### Spa Life

**94** Let Spa Village Kuala Lumpur weave its unique brand of healing magic on you, with its assortment of restorative treatments inspired by the cultures.

### Life Guide

**98** Sabah has always proven enchanting. From the majestic Mount Kinabalu to lush rainforest and all the treasures of the underwater realm, it's the perfect year-round destination. Here, Kirinjit Singh, Hotel Manager of Gaya Island Resort, shares his favourite things about this tropical wonderland.

### Portfolio of Life

**106** Explore the world of YTL Hotels.



You're in the middle of an indigenous healing massage,  
engulfed by rustling mangroves.  
And the only thing on your mind is how to stop time.  
Your moment awaits.

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**YTL HOTELS**  
Treasured Places, Treasured Moments

# YTL *life*

The YTL Luxury Magazine

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Jade Park (Miss Scuba 2013)



### EXCELLENT DONNA MASSAGE

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- Herbal Hot Compress
- Excellent Donna Massage
- Scalp Massage
- Served with Ginger Tea & Refreshment

Usual Price: RM530

**PRICE: RM420 nett**

**PROMOTION PACKAGE**

### FLOWER BATH PACKAGE (2hours)

- Bath of your choice
- Excellent Donna Massage
- Scalp Massage
- Served with Ginger Tea & Refreshment

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**PRICE: RM420 nett**

**PROMOTION PACKAGE**

### SCRUB PACKAGE (2hours)

(Best Stress Relieving) Harper ' Bazaar 2012

- Scrub of your choice
- Excellent Donna Massage
- Scalp Massage
- Served with Ginger Tea & Refreshment

Usual Price: RM550

**PRICE: RM420 nett**

**PROMOTION PACKAGE**

### NECK & SHOULDER MASSAGE

- 40 minutes RM150 nett

### FOOT MASSAGE

- 40 minutes RM120 nett
- 60 minutes RM150 nett

### MANICURE

- 45 minutes RM110 nett

### PEDICURE

- 45 minutes RM110 nett



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\* **Best Traditional Massage Award**  
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\* **Things to Do in Kuala Lumpur**  
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# A Note from Tan Sri (Dr) Francis Yeoh



Tan Sri (Dr) Francis Yeoh  
Managing Director,  
YTL Corporation

Sometimes, the best tonic in life is as simple as a rejuvenative getaway. So, we've ensured this issue of *YTL Life* covers all bases, from beach retreats to highland hideaways. YTL Hotels' flagship property of Pangkor Laut Resort showcases the sybaritic charms of a sunset cruise, while Niseko Village in Hokkaido, Japan, gears up to celebrate its equally famous 'Green Season', with a plethora of outdoor events and activities. For those whose idea of a holiday isn't quite complete without a set of clubs, perhaps it's time to consider heading for the hills – to Cameron Highlands, to be exact – for a long weekend of golf, spa and wholesome cuisine. Flip to page 34 to find out more about a golf getaway in what is long acknowledged as Malaysia's premier hill station.

We are also excited with the opening of YTL Hotels' much-anticipated Classic Hotel, The Gainsborough Bath Spa in the historical city of Bath, England, happening this summer. And, if you happen to be in London, don't miss the charm and cuisine of Newens Tea House, a historical little gem just outside Kew Gardens. If you have yet to try it, you might be interested to know this quaint tea room has just opened its second outlet – and first outside London – right in the heart of Kuala Lumpur at Starhill Gallery, offering guests the chance to try its acclaimed Maids of Honour tarts, a delicacy that dates back to the Tudor era, with inextricable links to Henry VIII and the ill-fated Anne Boleyn. And, given Starhill Gallery's reputation as one of the best places in the world to buy timepieces, don't miss our special report on what's new and what's hot from Baselworld 2015, the world's greatest watch and jewellery fair. It's all on page 76.

Until then, God bless and enjoy the issue.



"Most Innovative Spa In The World" by Tatler UK, Spa Awards

## MANDI BUNGA

Seven jars of scented flowers. Seven showers of blessings.  
Secrets of ancient Malay healers, now a Spa Village ritual.

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# Green Goodness

The GreenTech Awards event was held to recognise and honour Malaysia's Top 30 Green Catalysts for 2014, comprising individuals and organisations that have had significant impact in expanding the country's green technology sector. Selangor Crown Prince, HRH Tengku Amir Shah ibni Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj was the guest of honour. GreenTech Malaysia's Chief Executive Officer (Ir) Ahmad Hadri Haris gave an inspired speech to over 500 guests on the growth and potential of the green technology sector. Throughout the event, guests were treated to soulful music from Poova Plachciak, an

enchancing classical performance by Datuk Ramli Ibrahim and the Sutra Dance Theatre, as well as a beautiful soprano performance by Syafinaz Selamat. Among the eight individual recipients of the awards were Gurmit Singh (CETDEM), Ruth Yeoh Pei Cheen (YTL Corporation), Tan Sri Datuk Eddy Chen (MKH Berhad) and Tan Cheng Li (The Star). Companies and organisations that were also recognised included, among others, the police force, Malakoff, Penjana Bebas, Majlis Perbandaran Subang Jaya, Tan Chong Motor Holdings, Bandar Eco-Setia, Maybank Berhad and Panasonic Malaysia. ■



# Starry Night

Precious stones took the spotlight during an exclusive dinner hosted by Gübelin for readers of *The Peak*.

Jeweller extraordinaire Gübelin celebrated the recent launch of its new boutique in Starhill Gallery Kuala Lumpur by hosting an exclusive dinner for readers of *The Peak* magazine. Sara Gübelin, a member of the sixth generation of the family to lead the firm, and Hanspeter Pieth, Managing Director of Gübelin, were present to welcome the guests, who enjoyed an insight into the world of precious stones, a fashion show as well as a memorable dinner specially prepared by Matthew Ona, Executive Chef of YTL Hotels and Feast Village. ■



1. Puan Sri To' Puan Datuk Shariffa Sabrina Syed Akil receiving her award from HRH Tengku Amir Shah. 2. Dance performance by Datuk Ramli Ibrahim and the Sutra Dance Theatre. 3. Ruth Yeoh Pei Cheen receiving her award. 4. Ahmad Hadri Haris and Maya Karin. 5. Patricia Tan, Marco Winter, Dato' Paduka Prof (Dr) Ir Hj Keizrul Abdullah, Datuk Loo Took Gee and Tan Sri Peter Chin Fah Kui. 6. Dato' Syed Muhammad Tun Syed Nasir; Puan Sri To' Puan Datuk Shariffa Sabrina Syed Akil and Tan Sri Syed Yusof Tun Syed Nasir. 7. Jamiyah Jaafa receiving her award. 8. Syafinaz Selamat.



1. Gübelin's greatly expanded new boutique, which measures over 1,800 sq ft. 2. Pauline Gan and Christine Cheah. 3. Datin Dr Kalpna Maghji. 4. Christina Brand and Yves Brand. 5. Datin Winnie Loo and Dato' Richard Teo. 6. Dato' Eric Ong and Datin Kate Ong. 7. Hanspeter Pieth, Sara Gübelin and Tan Sri Francis Yeoh. 8. Mei Low and Datin Sri Joey Tor.





1

# Turn Down for Earth

YTL Hotels honoured Mother Earth by hosting a myriad of activities across its properties for Earth Hour 2015 on 28 March. At the stroke of 8.30pm, the **Tanjong Jara Resort** gong rang loud and clear, signalling the start of Earth Hour. Guests at the resort spent a culturally enriched hour with lanterns and a *wayang kulit* (traditional shadow puppet) show. **Gaya Island Resort**, meanwhile, geeked it up with a Scientific Night Expedition and its Fisherman's Cove restaurant served a low-energy menu.

At **The Majestic Malacca**, the faces of guests were aglow in flickering candlelight that spelled out 'Earth Hour'. Spirits were kept high with a sing-along session at The Mansion with the resident pianist. Guests were also surprised with a *pandan* rose attached with 'thank you' notes in their rooms and enjoyed an Earth Hour menu as they dined in candlelight. There was a special restaurant setting around the frog pool and lanterns in the courtyard as lights were dimmed at the **Pangkor Laut Resort**. A raw menu was featured at the courtyard, while a barbeque was held at Emerald Bay.

House guests gamely lit tea candles to form the figures '60' at the main entrance of the **Cameron Highlands Resort**. Its Dining Room and Gonbei restaurants featured Earth Hour mocktails and an Earth Hour menu. The resort took it a step further by switching off all back-of-house lights and computers by 6pm.



4



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3

Candles were lit in the lobby and walkways of the **Vistana** hotels in Penang, Kuantan and Kuala Lumpur. Guests were treated to complimentary canapés and a special Earth Hour-themed drink served from Barista, the hotels' café.

**Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali** turned magical with walkways and common areas aglow with tea lights. There was also a special Earth Hour barbeque dinner menu and candlelight dining at the poolside. **The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur** joined in by switching off all outlet lights. Overall, it was a truly meaningful and memorable Earth Hour for guests at all the YTL Hotels. 🌱

1. Tea candles lit by guests at The Majestic Malacca in honour of Earth Hour. 2. Guests on the Scientific Night Expedition at Gaya Island Resort. 3. Guests posing with traditionally dressed locals at Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali. 4. A magical beachside candlelight dinner at Pangkor Laut Resort. 5. Candles lit to form the numbers '60' at Pangkor Laut Resort.



5



2



2

# Style for the Stars

It was a glittery night indeed at the spectacular launch of Starhill Gallery's Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2015, as celebrities, fashion designers and style icons enjoyed the opening party for the four-day event. The glitzy event saw the biggest brand names in the fashion industry taking to the catwalk with stylishly breathtaking garments, contemporary trends and the most up-to-date accessories. These were followed by infectious DJ beats and an array of handcrafted *sushi* and a carvery prepared exclusively for the event by Shook! restaurant's Executive Chef Matthew Ona. As the guests sipped on GH Mumm champagne and Absolut Vodka cocktails, Starhill Gallery pulled out all stops to pamper the party-goers with luxurious pop-up carts, with exquisite chocolate sampling by Armani/Dolci and Fragrance du Bois' interactive display of the world's rarest elixirs proving extremely popular. A complimentary nail service, which included a hand massage, manicure and nail art design, by BMIC Nail Spa Salon completed the VIP treatment, while delighted guests got creative at the VIP photo booths. 📸

1. Malaysia Airlines crew flank Kohinoor Kaur, Carey Ng and Sugeeta Chandran. 2. Sarah Lian. 3. Jimmy Koay, Corinna Tan and Magdalene Yee. 4. Zamri Zailani and Leslie Varyan.



3



4





01



02



03

# 01

## All Eyes On Bath

With **The Gainsborough Bath Spa** opening any time now, there's every reason to visit Bath all-year round as often as you want. Summer 2015 looks set to be particularly exciting, with the internationally renowned Iford Arts Festival taking place nearby in the exquisite Peto Garden of Iford Manor. Classical music fans will rejoice. For those who prefer more action and colour, the Rio-inspired Bath Carnival is also a summer extravaganza, with samba music, dancers and a whole host of activities for the family and community to enjoy. Check it out! Oh, don't forget to mark September down in your calendar for the Jane Austen Festival as well.

# 02

## Organic Eats

You are what you eat and you can't go wrong with organic! Come along to **Cameron Highlands Resort** as it takes you on an organic culinary journey to nourish body and soul. In a world where safety of food is doubtful, take some time to appreciate the labour and love put into nurturing each crop by hardworking farmers. It's about time we learn where our food comes from with the chef and farmers sharing the details of organic farming as you wander through undulating plots of vegetable beds. A live cooking demonstration by the chef will leave your senses tingling with the natural sweetness of freshly harvested vegetables. You'll be sure to kick-start a healthful journey in good taste. While you're at it, why not rejuvenate yourself with a selection of massages by Spa Village Cameron Highlands to celebrate the new lifestyle?

# 03

## An Exotic Tea

Complimentary afternoon tea is a favourite among **The Surin's** guests. After all, swimming and sunbathing can work up quite an appetite. So, it's delightful to be able to just sashay over to the poolside for tea-time treats. Served several times weekly (check with your butler for details), there's usually a hot Thai dish as well as a selection of tropical fruit, freshly baked pastries and tempting cakes. Hot coffee and tea are also available, making your day out under the warm Phuket sun as perfect as possible. Attention to detail and a gracious touch? What else did you expect from The Surin?



04



05



06

# 04

## Naturally Green

The village life has always been associated with the simple life. Now, **Niseko Village** is adding the green life to that notion. The resort is the perfect escape for nature lovers who long to lie in the lap of luxury. For what better way to escape the hustle and bustle of life but being pampered in the peaceful embrace of nature? The Pure Zip Line Guided Tour and mountain biking activities are sure to satisfy the hearts of adrenaline junkies. There's a saying: the family that plays together stays together, so play along with your rambunctious little ones with Niseko Village's Pure Action and Pure Adventure activities. Animal lovers can rejoice with horseback riding and a dog run so man's best friend can join in the fun too! Activities at Niseko Village are available daily until October 2015.

# 05

## Decades Of Delicacy

Hankering for hawker fare? Malacca's **Lot 10 Hutong** is guaranteed to make your mouth water with its authentic heritage meals. The food court houses 19 street food stalls, starring a myriad of hawker fares such as "Pin Qian Klang Bak Kut Teh", "Imbi Road Original Pork Noodle", "Soong Kee Beef Noodle", "Hon Kee Porridge" and "Kim Lian Kee Hokkien Mee". Each stall is hand-picked by YTL Corp Bhd group managing director Tan Sri Francis Yeoh with the intent to preserve their culinary arts for the enjoyment of future generations. The food court can seat up to 700 people, so anyone who feasts there will walk away with bellies full of Chinese cuisine legacy. Look for it at The Shore Shopping Gallery in Malacca.

# 06

## Daddy's Day Out

If you have a super dad, treat him to a Father's Day Hi-Tea buffet at **Newens Tea House** at Starhill Gallery Kuala Lumpur. Priced at only RM75 per person, dear dad will be all smiles with free-flow Irish Whisky Cream tea, pastries and desserts. Newens Tea House also has a new star with chef John Burton-Race as the newly appointed chef-in-residence who owns The New Angel in Notting Hill, London. He will titillate your taste buds with the Newens Collection retailing at RM25, where each month highlights a tasty treat. Nibble on Westmorland Tart and Scots Pie in June, savour Lemon Meringue and Torbock's Pie in July and bite into Chelsea Buns and Partan Bree Tart in August. Good eats indeed! ■

life on the cover //

*Be transported back to the  
glory of the colonial era  
whenever you sit down to a  
meal at The Majestic Hotel  
Kuala Lumpur.*

# TIME'S TABLES

History, elegance and colonial-era refinement all come together in style when one dines at The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

Over 80 years old and still turning heads, The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur is hailed as one of the grande dames of Malaysian hospitality with ample good reason. Ever since it was established in 1932, the elegant property, perched atop a little hillock in the heart of 'olde KL', has always been a bastion of colonial elegance. Designed by the Dutch architect Van Leangeanderg of Messrs Keys & Dowdeswell, the Art Deco-Neo Renaissance structure has been given an extensive facelift by YTL Hotels and exhaustively restored, before reopening in all its former glory in December 2012.

Today, aside from being a grand historical property, it is also one of the most elegant dining venues in town. Its afternoon teas, accompanied always by the music of renowned resident pianist Ooi Eow Jin, are practically a hallowed city institution, while





life on the cover //

“The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur’s team is renowned for its attention to detail and all-out effort to ensure every guest leaves happy.”

**WHAT A MARVELLOUS IDEA!**

Here are some ideas to create your uniquely unforgettable ‘Majestic’ moment.

- The hotel’s iconic **Orchid Conservatory** is a favourite venue for small events. With its comfortably cool temperature of between 22°C to 24°C (said to be ideal for the flowers), it is also bathed in natural light by day and romantically dim by night – illuminated only by as much candlelight as you wish. It is a favourite, naturally, among ladies, who take over the entire space for private birthday luncheons or teas. But don’t let your imagination stop there. Consider the space for a baby shower, perhaps? Innovative guests have also chosen to pop the all-important question, on bended knee and with diamond ring in hand, of course, at the Conservatory, complete with hundreds of roses, which vie for attention among the beautiful orchids, and in situ violinist.
- **Contango** at the Tower Wing undeniably serves up one of Kuala Lumpur’s most popular buffets but, did you know, just by its entrance, is a beautiful glass-walled **walk-in wine cellar** that’s perfect for an intimate private dinner? Like we said, the only limit is your imagination.
- For a slightly more clubby effect, there’s the ever-popular **Smoke House**. Ideal for more interactive, inclusive dining experiences, it has seen several whisky dinners held in its premises, including a particularly popular master class dinner hosted by Ian McWilliam of Glenfarclas. Its set-up, complete with bar and enough space for pre-dinner cocktails is, but of course, a bonus.
- Always look up, as the saying goes. The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur’s **contemporary rooftop garden** is a great venue if you want to blend old and new. Its modern setting overlooks the historical old railway station and its dreamy, Moorish-style minarets, while its reflective pools and spacious gazebo is great for anything, from intimate soirees to al fresco parties.

the *Sunday Curry Tiffin Lunch*, held at the Colonial Cafe, is fast becoming the best way to end the week for well-to-do Malaysian and expatriate families. But, what’s fast making waves on the local culinary scene is also the hotel’s bespoke dining experiences.

“The hotel started to make a name for itself in offering bespoke dining experiences when we began to showcase our inspired menus, each created by our master chefs, paired with great names in our wine and whisky collections,” notes Jeffrey Mong, General Manager of The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, a YTL Classic Hotel. Offering its knowing clientele an out-of-the-ordinary dining experience, guests can expect to be thrilled by culinary creativity that may range from a specially crafted menu paired only with the finest single malt whiskies to, perhaps, a dinner to remember in the hotel’s glass-enclosed wine cellar at the Contango restaurant matched with different vintages of Opus One, quite possibly the United States’ most celebrated wine.

“These bespoke dining experiences only serve to enhance and complement the tastes of our discerning customers, who appreciate these unique choices and who keep coming back for more,” adds Mong. “This year alone, we have had customers who returned on three separate occasions to enjoy distinctively different dining experiences. In fact, one guest is in the midst of planning a fourth event – which is his daughter’s birthday meal to be held in our beautiful Orchid Conservatory.”

As the old adage goes, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur’s team is renowned for its attention to detail and all-out effort to ensure every guest leaves happy. Already, any dining experience set amidst the hotel’s refined historical atmosphere proves memorable enough but, with the addition of a bespoke menu and unique set-up, the event would, undoubtedly, be even more unforgettable. “Who doesn’t love something special?” asks Mong. “But every event for

*From garden parties to pre-prandial pick-me-ups and blossoming brunches, there’s always a fun and novel way to indulge here.*





life on the cover //

us is always memorable as this is our raison d'être and what we are trained for. And nothing pleases the team more than attaining perfect customer satisfaction each and every time. We also have truly special locations that are exclusive to the hotel. Our iconic Orchid Conservatory, with its hundreds of pots of blossoming Phalaenopsis orchids is one, as well as our expansive contemporary rooftop garden, which overlooks the minarets of Kuala Lumpur's historical old railway station. The hotel also has numerous other intimate nooks and corners that our team is more than happy to transform into something astounding, depending on the event or the effect you want to achieve."

For something with a slightly more masculine feel, there is The Smoke House, which is modelled after the gentlemen's clubs of London's West End in the 18th century – then the preferred haunt of aristocrats and the peerage. For those who enjoy the occasional (or regular) Cohiba, it would be pleasing to note, then, that The Smoke House is just as its name suggests and guests are welcome to light up, preferably with a snifter of something amber-hued and warming by one's side. Here, aside from all the gentlemanly distractions of bar, pool table and even a barbershop, operated by London's Truefitt & Hill, guests can also rely upon the services of a chef-on-call to create private dining experiences in any of the spaces within The Smoke House.

So, with a wealth of spaces and places to choose from within The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, it would seem the sky's the limit when it comes to enjoying bespoke experiences. Go ahead and play. Let its hallowed hallways, which have borne witness to some of Kuala Lumpur's landmark moments, to its shiny, contemporary new Tower Wing, which is a gleaming addition to the city skyline, be your imagination's playground for your next occasion to remember. After all, as the modern-day oracle Oprah Winfrey once remarked: "The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate." Let The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur help you celebrate more moments in life from here on. ▣

*From high note afternoon teas to curry tiffin lunches, every meal is memorable at The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur.*





# Foodie Paradise

If you ever find yourself craving sumptuous Japanese cuisine while in Kota Kinabalu, be sure to secure a reservation at Omakase, the latest luxury dining experience at YTL Hotels' Gaya Island Resort.

Text **Maya Michael** Photography **Edmund Lee**

Ask any Sabahan what he misses most while abroad and, chances are, he will say the fresh seafood of his birthplace. Located at the northern part of Borneo Island, this geographical location is home to a thriving ecosystem replete with marine life. This is especially good news for the local fishermen who supply the local markets with fresh seafood.

Also known as the "Land Below The Wind", the term for Sabah was initially bestowed by seafarers in the past to describe the lands located south of the

typhoon belt. Fast forward to today, notice how the state is making waves among foodies who can appreciate the simple pleasures of indulging in a lip-smacking seafood spread.

As for those in search of a more distinctive dining experience, a reservation at Omakase would be a great place to start the culinary journey.

**Delightful Dishes**  
As the latest dining addition to the exclusive Gaya Island Resort, Omakase



*Opposite: Be entertained by Omakase's skillful chefs. This page: Crunchy tempura with marinated seaweed, crab and crabstick roll; Succulent teppanyaki beef with bell peppers.*



Clockwise, from below: Indulge in the incredible views of the surrounding Malohom Bay; delightful appetisers to tantalise your tastebuds; fresh ingredients used for nabe.

opens daily for dinner from 7pm to 10.30pm. For those curious about the name of the restaurant, it stems from a Japanese phrase, which means "I'll leave it to you."

In staying true to this philosophy, diners at this two-storey restaurant will get to experience *teppanyaki*, *shabu-shabu* or *nabe*. From there, the *itamae* (chefs) will then demonstrate their various artistic and culinary skills to create sublime Japanese dishes using only the freshest ingredients combined with the catch of the day. This, in a way, ensures that no two dining experiences at Omakase is ever quite the same.

To cater to these preferences, the restaurant has been divided into

## "The name of the restaurant stems from a Japanese phrase that means 'I'll leave it to you'".

three sections for a personalised and unique dining experience. There is the "teppanyaki room", which offers diners a choice between a seafood or meat-based main course prepared on the *teppan* (iron plate), and is paired with scrumptious appetisers, fragrant garlic fried rice and delightful desserts.

For those hankering for heartier dishes, a visit the "tatami room" to indulge in *shabu-shabu* would more than satisfy their cravings. Diners are first offered a superb selection of freshly cut sushi and sashimi. Here's a fun fact about *shabu-shabu*: the name stems from a Japanese onomatopoeia, which literally means "swish, swish", and is based on the motion of the chopsticks swishing around in the simmering pot of beef broth, while cooking fresh ingredients including seafood, cooked meats, vegetables and udon noodles.

As for the final dining room, this houses the perennial Asian delight known as *nabe*. A traditional Japanese soup that is savoured during the colder months, this meal consists of a variety of fresh vegetables, seafood, meats and noodles cooked in a fragrant chicken broth and served with a variety of dipping sauces.

### Scenic Surprises

While Sabah is famous for its seafood restaurants, what sets Omakase apart from the rest would have to be its natural surroundings. Perched on a hillside surrounded by ancient rainforest, diners will appreciate its strategic location, while taking in spectacular views of Malohom Bay and Mount Kinabalu. Diners who are especially observant might even get a chance to stumble upon some of the wilder inhabitants that call this island home. For example, a majestic eagle was spotted circling near the premises during this writer's visit.

Of course, fine cuisine is not the only attraction at Gaya Island Resort. Guests can indulge in various activities such as water sports, jungle excursions and spa sessions at the award-winning Spa Village. With so many things to experience and explore, you'll definitely whip up an appetite in no time! ▀



### TASTE OF THE HIGH SEAS

Feast your eyes on these tantalising dishes at Omakase.

- Garlic egg fried rice.
- Sushi and sashimi platter.
- Tempura with marinated seaweed, crab and crabstick roll.
- A combination of prawn tobikko mayo, marinated baby octopus, deep-fried crabstick and marinated seaweed cucumber.
- Seaweed gelée and seared unagi paired with creamy pumpkin sauce.
- Teppanyaki beef with bell peppers.
- Teppanyaki chicken with mushroom.
- Teppanyaki tuna and prawn.

# Sailing Into the Sunset

It is not every day that one gets to watch the sunset on board an ancient Chinese junk, albeit a replica of it. This is only possible at Pangkor Laut Resort where the sunset cruise is fuelled by wine, food and Mother Nature in all her glory.

Text **Brian Cheong** Photography **Law Soo Phye**

*The sunset cruise is one of the most popular activities among the guests at Pangkor Laut Resort.*

When you are staying on an island as idyllic as Pangkor Laut, one of the best ways to spend the evening before dinnertime is to take a boat ride out to sea to watch the sun bid goodbye to another wonderful day. The amber glow of the setting sun is said to cast surreal shadows around the landscape to create postcard-worthy scenery that is best enjoyed out in the open water.

It is no wonder that the sunset cruise at Pangkor Laut Resort is one of its most popular activities, especially with honeymooners – in fact, I wouldn't be surprised to see a marriage proposal on board, such is the romantic setting that this excursion inevitably conjures. It is also a well-known fact that the sunset cruise is a favourite item on wedding itineraries at Pangkor Laut Resort.

Located a few minutes away from the coast of Perak state along the Straits of Malacca, Pangkor Laut is a lush private island with its own ancient rainforest and a number of hidden coves. One of these houses the Estates, a super luxurious collection of abodes shielded from prying eyes. It was during a recent stay at Estate One, a two-villa beachfront property complete with its own infinity pool, that I took the opportunity to check out the view of the magical sunset that I have heard so much about from the boat. And it is no ordinary boat either. Built in the shape of a Chinese junk, it exudes a rustic charm with its teakwood construction – the only thing missing from the motorised vessel are the sails.

A soft knock on the door of my villa alerts me that it is time to head down to the jetty. A short drive later and I am welcomed by the captain and his friendly crew. The mid-sized boat comfortably seats up to 12 people and, as expected, it is full house that evening. Although there are benches next to open windows on the lower deck,



Enjoy wine and canapés like mini chicken pies as you sail into the sunset.



our instincts are to head up to the upper deck for an uninterrupted view.

The back of the upper deck is lined with cushions and soft mats and most of the guests make this their viewing station for the rest of the evening. I choose to wander around a bit, settling first at the tip of the boat, feeling the gentle force of the salty evening breeze in my face and hair.

I had expected the junk to sail further out to sea. As it turns out, it is merely circling Pangkor Laut, thus affording us the pleasure of "inspecting" our living spaces for the next few days. The lush greenery becomes even more apparent from this point of view, making it even harder to resist taking up my Estate butler's recommendation of going on a guided nature walk through the jungle.

*Built in the shape of a Chinese junk, the boat exudes a rustic charm with its teakwood construction.*

I move back to the upper deck, settling in the front part, resting my body against

the wooden barrier with my legs dangling off the sides. By now, the sun is hovering just above the horizon, the magical moment when day gives way to night. Stars are beginning to appear in the sky, too. I am not quite sure where to point the camera of my smartphone, the distant sea with its majestic scene of the setting sun or the island where the treetops are being embraced by golden rays.

A member of the crew turns up to offer me a glass of wine. The choice of beverage includes beer and soft drinks, but there is really no better companion in my book than a glass of chilled white wine to enjoy the sunset in this balmy weather.

I decide that the view is too good to be spent updating Instagram posts. I put away the smartphone and sit back to enjoy the cruise, sipping wine along the way. Just as the stomach starts to grumble, the crew member appears again to serve canapés.



The selection is decidedly local, with fried banana balls and *vadai* (a popular South Indian doughnut-shaped snack) thrown into the mix that also includes mini chicken pies.

After the boat passes the villas of the Estates – which are suitably hidden from view by shady trees – it makes a final turn for the main jetty. And it is here when it gets more interesting. This part of the ride includes navigating between a couple of large rock formations in the water. By now, the sun has melted into the horizon, but there is still enough light for some gorgeous shadow effects. Needless to say, the smartphone is out again.

As darkness descends all around us, it is heartening to see the lights of the resort in the near distance. I look up only to discover a sky full of twinkling stars, a rare sight for an urbanite like me. And so I lie back on the cool, white deck floor to enjoy these last precious moments of pleasant solitude before we dock. ■

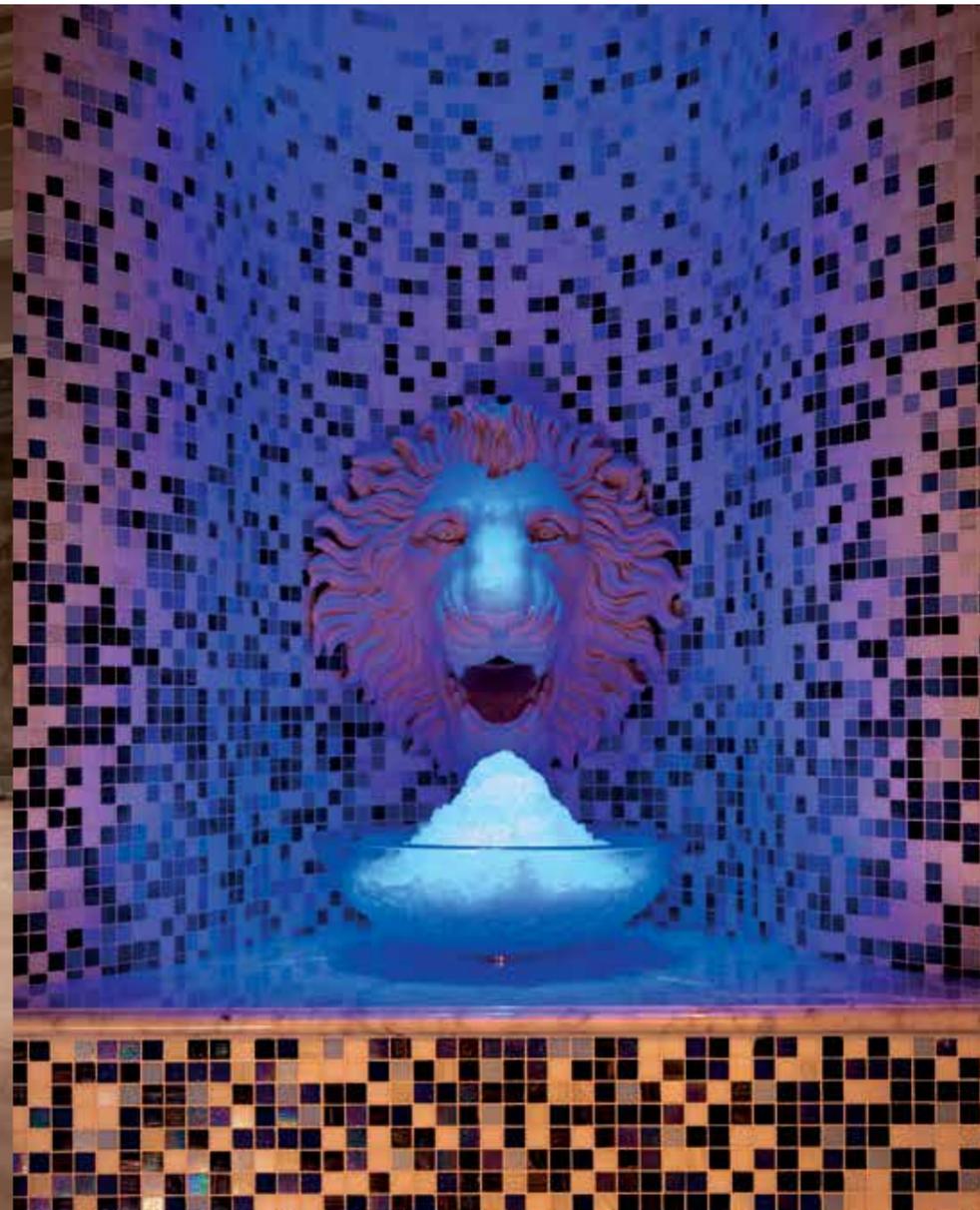
# It's Bath Time!

The much-anticipated opening of The Gainsborough Bath Spa, YTL Hotels' latest classic property, in the UK this summer only means one thing: time to pack one's bags and head to the shining jewel of England's West Country.

Beautiful, historical and rich in culture, there are a million and one reasons to visit Bath already. But, with this summer's much-anticipated opening of The Gainsborough Bath Spa, the latest jewel in YTL Hotels' portfolio, it really is Bath time right now.

Located in picturesque Somerset, Bath's history is shrouded in myth and legend. Ancient lore says Bath was founded by the mythical king, Bladud. Although not an immediately familiar name, fans of the great bard Shakespeare would know him as the father of King Lear. In myth, Bladud, the son of King Ludhudibras,

*Immerse yourself in all the curative pleasures of Bath's famous waters of Spa Village Bath at The Gainsborough Bath Spa.*



was said to have been cast out of the royal court after contracting leprosy. Left to fend for himself and wander the land, he eventually became a swineherd. It was during one cold morning that he noticed his herd of pigs emerging free from scabs and lesions after a lengthy wallow in a steaming swamp. Deciding to try it out for himself, he found himself cured and wasted no time returning to his father's kingdom to reclaim his rightful position. In thanks and in the hope that others may benefit likewise, he went on to build the city of Bath around the now-famous hot springs.

Today, Bath remains the only place in the UK where natural hot springs exist. A natural phenomenon unique to the city, there are three main springs: the King's Spring, which feeds the famous Roman Baths and was considered sacred; the Cross Spring, which feeds the Cross Bath; and the Hetling Spring, which feeds the waters of The Gainsborough Bath Spa. Naturally, no visit to Bath is complete without bathing in its renowned waters, which have long been associated with healing and wellness. After all, the word 'spa' is derived from the Latin acronym – *Salus per Aquam* (health through water).



Bath is a city that is best explored on foot (clockwise from below): Grand Parade and Pulteney Bridge over the River Avon; the famous Sally Lunn's; Bath Abbey.

The opening of The Gainsborough Bath Spa now makes it even easier (not to mention, comfortable and luxurious) to explore Bath and its surrounds. Located in the heart of the thriving city, all the sights, sounds and experiences of Bath are just steps away from the hotel. The magnificent Bath Abbey is a mere stroll while, if it's a wellness break you're after, simply to walk down from your beautifully-appointed room to the spa.

Spread out over two levels, the 1,300 sq m Spa Village Bath, designed by the award-winning Champalimaud Design, looks set to be the ultimate spa destination in the country. Offering direct access to Bath's celebrated thermal waters through three therapeutic pools, it is a destination in itself. After all, no other hotel in the UK can lay claim to having a natural thermal spa right on its property! Exuding the spirit of the city's Roman past, the design of Spa Village Bath revolves around a beautiful, light-

flooded atrium. From here, guests may retreat to the pools or treatment rooms to enjoy sessions of *watsu*, pampering facials or massages, or simply to soak up the essence of the water. Given YTL Hotels' international portfolio, naturally, global touches of luxe may also be detected – from the world-class spa team to Japanese-style overflowing tubs that bring a touch of *onsen* culture to the West Country.

As much as Bath is about its waters, one mustn't forget to venture out either. Bath is a famously historical and cultural city, with just about something happening every week. There are dozens of well-appointed museums and galleries, while the entire city is considered to be a living, breathing open-air museum, much like Rome itself. Stroll from the Abbey to the magnificence of the Royal Crescent; spend a day in one of its verdant parks with an ice cream and book in hand.

“As much as Bath is about its waters, one mustn't forget to venture out either. Bath is a famously historical and cultural city.”



Make time for tea... and a Bath bun or two.

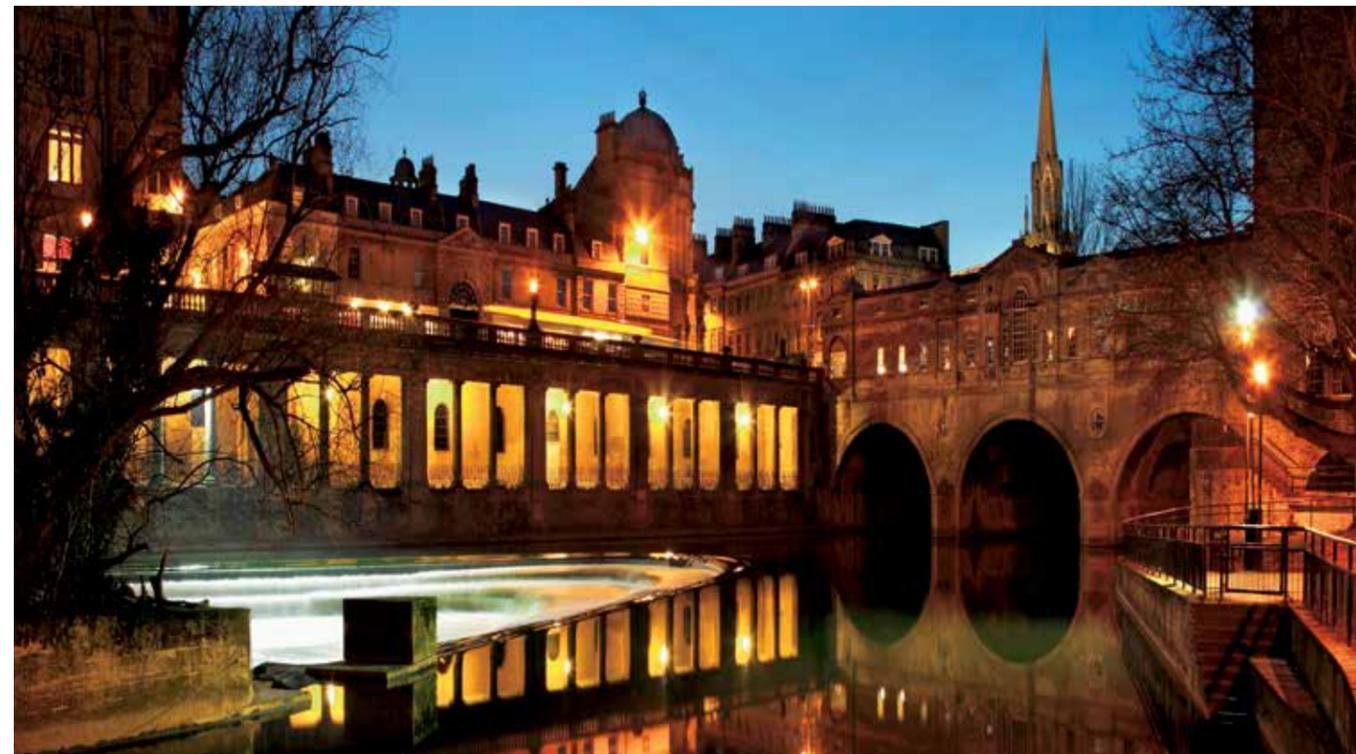
of Jane Austen's most famous novels, *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*, are set. If you are a fan, don't miss stopping by Gravel Walk – the scene of Anne Elliot and Captain Wentworth of *Persuasion*'s happy denouement – or visit in September, when the city's annual Jane Austen Festival is held.

Exploring the city on foot is, undoubtedly, the best way to enjoy Bath. Fans of architecture would enjoy the city's dominant Georgian look and feel, much of which was designed by the father and son duo of John Wood the Elder and John Wood the Younger, the latter of whom is the talent behind the awe-inspiring Royal Crescent, one of Bath's premier addresses as well as one of the world's most recognisable buildings. Fans of the famous play, *Scarlet Pimpernel*, set during the French Revolution, would do well to note that No 15 at the Royal Crescent was purportedly the home of Sir Percy Blakeney, according to Baroness Orczy.

Whiling away an afternoon by the picturesque weir is certainly pleasant and, of course, there's the history, grandeur and splendour of the Roman Baths, one of the most complete ancient sites in the world. Sit down to tea to try the city's famous Bath buns or spend hours in the beautiful bookshops that dot the city, all the while not forgetting that Bath is also the city in which two

Whatever your fancy, it's undeniable that there's something for everyone at Bath. From culture to the arts, food and wine to the great escape of your life, Bath is a multi-faceted destination that captures your heart and soul with its heady mix of past and present in one perfect jewel box of a city. Bath time? Yes, please! ■

*The Gainsborough Bath Spa is located at Beau Street, Bath BA1 1QU, England.*





*The rebuilt Kelab Golf Sultan Ahmad Shah in Cameron Highlands allows you to tee off in cool comfort.*

The original clubhouse has since been rebuilt and modernised with improved facilities and renamed Kelab Golf Sultan Ahmad Shah (SAS) Cameron Highlands after the Sultan of Pahang. The 18-hole course, which is open to the public, is managed by the state district council and remains the only golf course in Cameron Highlands.

The 18 holes is made up of the old nine, while a second nine was designed by Australian architect, Nigel Douglas. The renovation of the course was a federal project under the Tourism Ministry. Works on the second nine started in October 2013 and the course was re-opened by the Sultan of Pahang in February 2015.

Golfers can stay at the adjacent Cameron Highlands Resort. This YTL Classic Hotel exudes a colonial heritage that can be felt the moment you walk through its main entrance. The 56 rooms and suites boast tall French doors, timber-beamed ceilings and plantation shutters to evoke a colonial charm. Grand poster beds ensure a good night's rest, while a wood fireplace keeps the body warm on cold nights. The family can relax in the Jim Thompson Tea Room, and for leisurely activities, indulge in visits to the Boh Tea Plantation, jungle walks or strawberry picking.

Avid golfers can leave their cars at the hotel's parking lot and walk over to the golf club, which takes less than five minutes. Most days, the course is pretty quiet and a quick nine or a pleasurable 18 holes is an enjoyable way to pass the time in a cool setting. The caddies include *orang asli* and trained caddies from a Kuala Lumpur caddy academy. As it is a walking course, one can play a round before retreating to the hotel's Spa Village to soothe the



# Highland Bliss

Cameron Highlands is just the tonic for tired city souls. All the better if they are golfing enthusiasts.

Text **Patrick Ho**

Pete Dye once said: "The ardent golfer would play Mount Everest if somebody put a flagstick on top." The quote certainly describes the hardcore golfer who would travel anywhere in the world in search of some of the game's finest courses.

In most cities, golfers often seek respite from the daily grind by travelling to a far off location to feed their craving. And the family gets to tag along for some R&R. There are some 200 golf courses in Malaysia. But where would one go to enjoy golfing in cool comfort in a tropical country? Enter Cameron Highlands.

First discovered in 1885 by surveyor Sir William Cameron, Cameron Highlands in Pahang was chosen by the British as their outpost – a weekend retreat from mining tin, farming and military duties. The highlands is made up of Ringlet, Tanah Rata and Ulu Telom. There are eight sub-districts comprising Ringlet, Brinchang, Bertam Valley, Kea Farm, Tringkap,

Kuala Terla, Kampung Raja and Tanah Rata, which serves as the administrative centre. These areas are located at elevations of 1,100m to 1,600m above sea level. Being on the Titiwangsa Range, the annual temperature of the retreat is about 18°C. During the day, the temperature seldom rises above 25°C. At night, it rarely drops below 9°C, unless you travel to a higher plateau.

The cool weather was ideal for planting tea and to set up nurseries and farmlands, and so the British colonial masters did. They also found out it was perfect for playing golf, with a course established in 1935. The Cameron Highlands Golf Course heralded in a new social scene in the highlands, as the game was only played by the wealthy at the time. Records revealed that during the early days of the club in Brinchang, golfers would find tiger paw prints in the bunkers as they set out to search for their best round under par. Shortly before World War II, the six-hole course was upgraded into a nine-hole facility.

“Golfers can walk over from the adjacent Cameron Highlands Resort in under five minutes.”

body aches away. What's more, the highlands has become a popular destination for foreigners, with many Japanese visitors, for example, returning yearly in January to enjoy the cool and calm of the hill station.

### Playing The Course

The par 71 SAS course is not a long one but it presents golfers with challenges in the form of narrow tree-lined fairways, severe elevation changes, elevated greens and strategically placed bunkers. From the blue tees, the Brinchang Nine measures 2,881m, while the new Tanah Rata Nine plays 2,720m for a total yardage of 5,601m.

One must remember before teeing off that the course is located in a valley 5,000ft above sea level. At this altitude, the ball does travel farther and it is a must for long-hitters to take note. One wouldn't want to hit the ball out of bounds into a charming colonial house next to the golf course!

While the course may not be as pristine due to the damp weather, it does have character and demands skilful shot-making. The opening hole is an Index 9 par-5 test, measuring 467m. Tee shots should ideally find the right side of the wide, downhill fairway to set up a possible two-on chance for long hitters. It is a pleasant opening hole that calls for a slight uphill approach to a small green guarded by a few bunkers.

The fun on the first nine actually begins on Hole 5, a short par-4 playing to 236m. Play a draw with a 5-wood on your tee shot



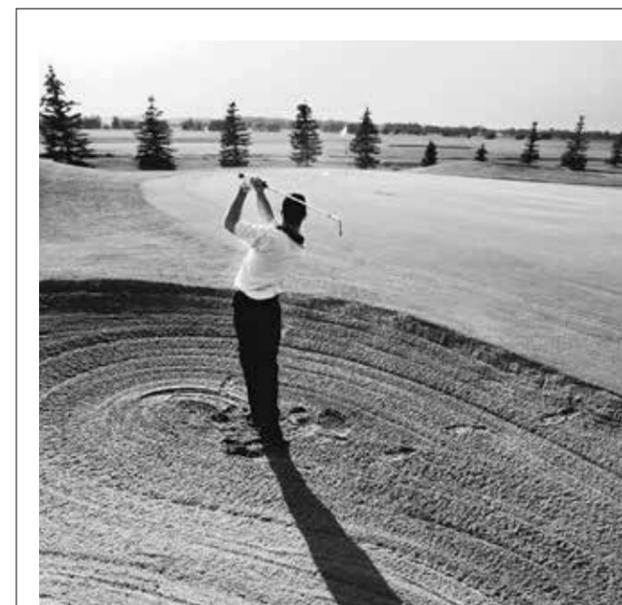
Stay at YTL Hotels Cameron Highlands Resort, which exudes a colonial heritage and offers all the pampering you need.

Golfers will find the greens smaller on the back nine, while the fairways are as narrow as the land accords it. There are also three par-3 holes on this nine (12th, 15th & 17th), while the first nine has two. The longest par-5 of the course presents itself on Hole 13. This hole looks simple enough but its narrow characteristic will severely punish wayward shots from the tee to green. It certainly has a much more open feel to it and is akin to common parkland courses. Once you play here often enough, you would even know how strong the winds will blow. ■

and you're merely left with a short iron into the green. One would notice a Chinese and Indian temple behind the perimeter fence right next to the green.

The next hole presents a tough uphill test. Not that it plays tough, but the fact that golfers have to trek up an elevation of at least 50m to the green. From there, they have to climb up to the next tee box located at least 20m uphill. The 7th hole is a par-5 with a severe dogleg that would suit players that naturally draw their shots. Making par here would boost one's confidence before facing the course's longest par-3 at 195m.

The 9th is a severe dogleg right finishing hole that demands tee shots to take a 'tiger-line' over a tree line on the right. Long hitters may try to go for it and possibly convert an eagle. The second nine does not present severe heart pumping climbs up hills but presents water hazards that require good club selection.



### GETTING THERE

The drive up to Cameron Highlands is a great way to see the country. Holiday-makers can get here from Kuala Lumpur by road via Tapah, Simpang Pulai, Gua Musang or Sungai Koyan. Tapah and Simpang Pulai are the two approaches from Perak. Gua Musang and Sungai Koyan are the roads from Kelantan and Pahang respectively.

**Green Fees:** MYR101.12 (Weekday)  
MYR161.81 (Weekend & public holidays)

**Caddy Fee:** MYR30

**Golf Equipment Rental:** MYR40

**Golf Shoe Rental:** MYR10

**Course rating:** 132 (Blue)

**Slope rating:** 69.4 (Blue)

### CONTACT

Kelab Golf Sultan Ahmad Shah  
39000 Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands, Pahang, Malaysia.  
Tel: +60 5 491 1126



# The Jungle's Unsung Hero

*YTL Life* speaks to Chris Spencer Chapman, youngest son of British Colonel Freddy Spencer Chapman, after whom the iconic Chapman's Bar in Pangkor Laut Resort's Emerald Bay is named.

Text **Ong Chin Huat**

Being an unsung hero was something adventurer and naturalist Freddy Spencer Chapman didn't plan on becoming. Born in 1907, fate dealt him a harsh blow at the age of two when he was orphaned. His mother died of blood poisoning and his father left England because of debts and to escape bailiffs. His father was later killed in the Battle of Ypres in Belgium in 1916. As a result, little Chapman was sent off to live with a clergyman relative in the Lake District.

But Chapman didn't just lose both his parents in the unfortunate turn of events; he also lost interest in life. But a strong character proved to be his redeeming feature and he bit his stiff upper lip and soldiered on. Growing up in the Lake District, Chapman got his first taste of the wild, and his entrepreneurial spirit also emerged – he earned extra pocket money poaching rabbits in the forest. Eager to prove his mettle, both physically and mentally, Chapman once asked his fellow students to hit him on the head as hard as they could, just to see if he could endure the pain.

This trait, of pushing the limits of his own endurance and pain threshold, seemed to be a recurring theme in his life. At Cambridge, where he obtained a geography degree, he climbed a lot of spires. He was later attached to the legendary Gino Watkins's British Arctic Air-Route Expedition and a subsequent Greenland Expedition, where he learned to survive in extreme conditions. Losing a few fingers and toe nails as a result, he managed to survive more than 20 hours in a sealskin kayak during a huge storm at sea. He scaled the mountains in the Himalayas where he got caught in a blizzard and had to assist his

“Blowing up trains, bridges and enemy soldiers were all in a day's work for Chapman, who also had to endure a bout of malaria, survive starvation and recover from a coma, all the while taking copious notes on the wildlife and natural flora and fauna of the Malayan jungle!”

Sherpa to safety, stopping off in Tibet where he became one of the first Europeans allowed to watch the New Year celebrations at the Potala Palace. He returned safely home to England with 500 plant specimens for the Kew Gardens.

With such a daredevil and adventurous streak running in his veins, it seemed like everything he did prior to World War II breaking out was just a preparation of sorts for him. Serving as a fieldcraft trainer in Scotland, Chapman was deployed to Singapore in 1941 and charged with preparing 'left-behind' parties of soldiers who could mount insurgent attacks in the event of Singapore falling to the Japanese. As a special operations officer, Chapman had set out from Kuala Lumpur in January 1942 on a mission to sabotage Japanese supply lines.

But Singapore's subsequent surrender caused Chapman to seek refuge in the jungles of Malaya as a result. Hunted by

*Freddy Spencer Chapman's legacy lives on in those whose lives he saved.*



## CHRIS SPENCER CHAPMAN

Born in 1950, Chris Chapman is the youngest son of British Colonel Freddy Spencer Chapman who spent over three years in the jungles of Malaya living in hiding from the Japanese. Blowing up trains, bridges and enemy soldiers were all in a day's work for Chapman, who also had to endure a bout of malaria, survive starvation and recover from a coma, all the while taking copious notes on the wildlife and natural flora and fauna of the Malayan jungle!

In January 2015, Chris made his maiden visit to the Pangkor Laut Resort, located one and a half kilometres (one nautical mile) to the south-east of the main island of Pangkor, off the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Visiting this idyllic resort together with his wife Sue and his nephew Neil, Chris tells *YTL Life* over drinks at the popular Chapman's Bar – named after his father – that he has had numerous memories of his father. "Wherever we were, my father enthusiastically imparted his love of nature, wildlife, art and history to

me and my two older brothers," Chris says, while sipping beer.

Although Chris says he doesn't have any memory of his father relating any particular incident to him, he does recall all the stories his father told him about the time he spent in the jungles of Malaya. "His stories about his time in the jungles have

always been very familiar to me and I do remember a scar on his arm from when he was wounded during a Japanese attack."

Chris says his favourite moment with his father was one when he was 13 years old. "It is difficult to single out one particular memory but I do remember when I was about 13, my father took me (my two other brothers were elsewhere) duck shooting in Sussex. We sat by the edge of a reservoir, talking whilst watching the wildlife as the sun went down. We didn't shoot any ducks as, after his wartime experiences, he didn't like to kill anything." Chris says he also remembers family skiing holidays, as his father enjoyed the physical activity in the mountains and being surrounded by nature.

Coincidentally, Chris met someone who remembered his father when he was rescued on that fateful day back in May 1945. "My father only spent 36 hours on Pangkor Laut but I have no recollection of him speaking about it. But by an extraordinary coincidence, about 30 years

ago, I met a gentleman who had been on the submarine, which rescued my father – this gentleman remembers 'a thin, yellow-skinned European coming aboard'."

Chris says he has read his father's book *The Jungle is Neutral* – about the time Freddy Chapman spent in the jungle in Malaya – many times. "The book was first published in 1949 and although I first read it in my younger years and many times since, as I get older and read it in more detail, I began to appreciate the terrain and vegetation and with the help of my father's maps, it has resulted in my thinking his time in the jungle was even more incredible."

When asked how he felt visiting Pangkor Laut Resort and seeing a bar named after his father, Chris said it was special. "It was my first visit – although I was fully aware of it as my mother often talked about her visit to Pangkor Laut. My daughter, Hazel, also made a brief visit while travelling during her gap year." Chris was also suitably impressed with the resort, saying it was luxurious, combined with natural beauty and an unspoilt jungle. He singles out the warm welcome given to him and his wife during their stay as one of their more memorable moments.

As Chris retraced his father's footsteps in Pangkor Laut, we asked him what might have gone through his father's head when he arrived there after hiding in the jungle for over three years. "While we walked to Emerald Bay through the jungle, I tried to envisage the sudden relief he must have experienced on arriving on an idyllic, tropical beach with open sky, sea and freshwater after spending three and a half gruelling years in the jungle, combined with the fear of being spotted by enemy aircraft and the anticipation of being rescued the following night." And what would be his reaction if he saw the Pangkor Laut Resort today? "Astonished!" came Chris's reply.

4,000 Japanese soldiers, the conditions which Chapman and two other British soldiers had to endure were deplorable to say the least. Hungry, infected with malaria and sore from leech bites, Chapman and his gang braved the conditions in the jungle and managed to blow up railway bridges, derail trains and attack military vehicles using homemade bombs, causing over 1,000 enemy casualties.

Always keeping a few steps ahead of the Japanese, Chapman taught fieldcraft to Chinese guerrillas in jungle camps when he wasn't in a coma or suffering from high fever. Once he was captured by the Japanese but managed to charm and talk his way out of immediate torture by telling the Japanese soldier that a Japanese prince was a good buddy of his at Cambridge, with both sharing a keen interest in bird-watching. He soon managed to escape in the dead of night.

According to a biography of Chapman by Brian Moynahan, what kept him going during those three and a half years in the jungle was his love of nature and wildlife. For Chapman, everything was in the mind.

He believed that nothing was either good or bad – it is our own thinking which makes it so and, hence, the title of his book chronicling his adventures in the Malaysian jungle was aptly named *The Jungle is Neutral*.

Finally, in May 1945, Chapman managed to make his way to Emerald Bay on the island of Pangkor Laut, where he stayed for 36 hours before escaping by submarine back to England. Even though his sojourn on this magical island was only just over a day, its beauty and tranquillity must have made a lasting impression on Chapman. Certainly, the tranquil charms of Emerald Bay proved a world apart from the sweltering difficulty of life in the dense jungle. Moreover, it marked the end of war for Chapman at last – no more a fugitive and a new beginning to look forward to.

He got married after his return to England and had three children, one of whom, Chris, recently visited Pangkor Laut for the first time. After the war, Chapman worked for Outward Bound initially before being appointed the first headmaster of a British Forces School in Germany where he stayed for a number of years. Although he was fêted and decorated upon his return (both Earl Wavell and Lord Mountbatten thought Chapman should have been honoured with the Victoria Cross Award), Chapman was plagued with depression – an ailment he suffered since his student days at Cambridge.

Add to that the post-traumatic stress disorder from those years spent running and hiding from the Japanese in the jungles of Malaya. It all proved too much for Chapman; he committed suicide aged 64. Heroic, courageous and exhibiting tremendous fortitude, Chapman may not be a household name in the pantheon of celebrated war heroes but his legacy lives on in the minds and spirits of those whom he touched and the lives he helped save. ☑

*Chapman's Bar, named in his honour, is located on Emerald Bay at Pangkor Laut Resort, Pangkor Laut Island, 32200 Lumut, Perak, Malaysia.*

*Left: Chris Spencer Chapman with Ross Sanders, General Manager of Pangkor Laut Resort. Below: The charming Chapman's Bar, located in Pangkor Laut Resort's Emerald Bay.*





This little Japanese destination, located in its northernmost island of Hokkaido and a good three hours' drive from the New Chitose airport, is tiny but mighty. Impossibly wonderland-like in winter, it can be equally magical in the warmer months, but with a distinctively more varied colour palette. Summer in magical Niseko is all about the outdoors: embracing nature, getting active, shedding off layers and delighting in the warmth of the sun. Surrounded by pristine countryside, guests who come to Niseko in summer luxuriate in its soft, warm light. Idyllic in itself, the only possible problems are deciding how to do it all during one's stay here.

The minute the snow melts, boards and skis are quickly traded for a variety of summer staples, including bicycles, hiking shoes and clubs. No secret among the golfing community, the upmarket destination of Niseko Village, which includes Hilton Niseko Village, The Green Leaf Niseko Village and Kasara Niseko Village Townhouse – all part of YTL Hotels – boasts several golf courses but the undisputed favourite is, of course, Niseko Golf Course. World-class in every aspect, golfing here is also a more relaxed affair, with none of that snobbery or stiffness associated with some of the other golf destinations in the world. The Arnold Palmer-designed Niseko Golf Course is a Par 72, 6,805-yard course and is as picturesque as they come, surrounded by silver birch trees and bushy *sasa* bamboo – a magnet for wayward golf balls, may we add. Views of Mount Yotei, a dead-ringer for Fuji, are a welcome bonus.

# Summer Sun, Something's Begun

So sang John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John in *Grease*. But for a summer getaway that's less all-American and, instead, wholesomely Japanese, now might be the time to look north to Niseko, young man.



*As Niseko welcomes the warmer months, its famous produce explodes in a riot of taste and colour.*

With an abundance of virgin forest, crystal-clear streams and well-marked trails, Niseko is heaven for the active tree-hugger. Trekking is one of the most popular pastimes although mountain bikers are fast becoming addicted to the steep slopes and challenging trails of the surrounding terrain. If your idea of activity is better done with four legs, do know that horseback riding is equally popular with a well-run stable just a short drive away from Niseko Village.

If your Niseko summer is a family affair, there's always something exciting planned for the precious knee-high set, be it a variety of bouncing castles, fun maze or activity centre. All you need to do is ask your concierge what's planned for the week. Certainly, Summer 2015 at Niseko Village promises a flurry of activities. The second Niseko Village Golf Cup will be making a return for its second year, as well as the globally popular International Cow Parade coming to town. The Hilton Niseko Village also turns seven and connoisseurs in the vicinity should not miss the property's gala dinner, which promises a world-class culinary event, complete with top guest chefs

“With an abundance of virgin forest, crystal-clear streams and well-marked trails, Niseko Village is heaven for the active tree-hugger.”

and sommeliers. There will also be daily activities taking place throughout summer, including the setting up of a Japanese-style beer garden, seafood-serving street stalls and a curry fest at Niseko Village's popular Two Sticks bar. The eighth month will see a two-day Japanese summer festival known as Natsu Matsuri – a colourful coming-together of street stalls, cultural performances and firework displays.

Come harvest time, Niseko is at its most charming, with the entire population giving thanks for a bountiful year. At such times, it is common to see bright, cheerful pumpkins displayed everywhere from the steps of homes to public planter boxes



Once the snow melts, visitors to Niseko Village quickly trade sticks and boards for golf clubs, hiking shoes and jodhpurs.



and even on the curbs of main streets. It is during this season that foodies should make their way to Niseko as few other destinations can boast of such fresh and delicious produce.

Certainly, the seafood is renowned throughout the world, but Hokkaido also boasts of amazing fruit of the earth, including several varieties of tasty potatoes, the sweetest melons, pearl-like corn that tastes amazing eaten raw and, of course, sweet and earthy pumpkins. If you are staying at the Hilton, don't miss the amazing buffet spreads where you can try a little of everything. If you happen to be lodging at the Kasara Niseko Village Townhouse, make it a point to visit the local farmers market so you can whip up memorable meals in the comfort of your own home away from home.

It's a good thing that summers at Niseko balance up an abundance of meals with full, active days. Summer days might drift away to summer nights but few places do it in such wholesome style than at Niseko Village. Get ready for a whole lot of summer fun. Or, as the locals say it, *tanoshinde kudasai!* 🍷

*Peranakan culture has made a colourful impact on the Malacca that we know today.*

The word Peranakan conjures up exotic images of another time; of cultures entwined; of religions, languages and customs intermingled; of culinary recipes combining the best of several worlds; of ceremonies, feasts and festivals that belong to a former time but still echo down to us through the centuries today. Peranakan is a Malay word meaning “descendants” and the root of the term is *anak*, the Malay word for child. The Peranakan heritage dates back 600 years to a time when the body of water that we now call the Straits of Malacca, the sea road linking China to India, was a major trading crossroads. The ports along the strait, of which Malacca was the most important, attracted Chinese and Indian traders, many of whom settled down and took local wives. Their descendants were the ancestors of the Peranakan.

### History Lesson

According to the 17th century *Sejarah Melayu (History of the Malays)*, Parameswara, a prince who claimed descent from Buddhist kings of the ancient state of Srivijaya across the sea in Sumatra, founded Malacca. He picked the perfect spot to build his capital. The city was ideally located midway along the strait, it grew rapidly and by the 15th century, was a prosperous commercial hub and the seat of one of the most powerful Sultanates in South-East Asia.

During this time, Gujarati traders introduced Islam to the Malay Peninsula from western India and by the 1430s, the rulers of Malacca were Muslim. During the same period, the seven great Chinese trade expeditions led by Admiral Zheng He (Cheng Ho) came a-calling: 200 ships and 27,000 sailors, soldiers, merchants and envoys straining Malacca’s resources to the limit. The port was an international centre for the trade of Eastern treasures – silk and porcelain from China, textiles from India, spices from the Moluccas, gold from Sumatra, camphor from Borneo, sandalwood from Timor and tin from west Malaya. These, together with its important strategic position from a military point of view, made Malacca an attractive target for European sea powers spreading their tentacles eastwards. In 1511, the Portuguese arrived and thus began a European colonial presence in Malacca that was to last for the next 450 years, with the Portuguese followed by the Dutch and then by the British.



# Malacca's Peranakan Legacy

The culture of the Peranakan or Straits Chinese is still a major, and very colourful, element contributing to the charm of Malacca today.

Text **Simon Pridmore**

## Peranakan Ascendance

The early foreign traders, who settled in Malacca and married into Malay families, were ideally placed through their cosmopolitan connections to profit from the trade between nations and they went on to found Peranakan dynasties that thrived through the colonial centuries in Malacca and other Straits settlements, including Singapore, Penang and Semarang. The major groups were the Chinese Peranakan, mostly of Hokkien (Fujian Province) ancestry, and the Chitty Malaccans and Jawi Peranakans of Indian descent.

The largest group, and therefore the one that had the most influence, was the Chinese Peranakan community. They came to be referred to as the Baba-Nyonya. The term was derived from *bapak*, the Malay word for father or Sir, and *nyonya*, an honorific Javanese word used for foreign, married ladies. The nomenclature reflected the position they held in society, which could best be described as moneyed and upper middle class. Their hereditary qualities of entrepreneurial skill and adaptability led them to take on a commercial management role in 19th century Malaya, supporting the British administrators and governing local workers.

The Baba men often received English education, enabling them to speak impeccable English, and they adopted Western customs, overlaying their already complex cultural heritage. It was during the British colonial era that they also became known as the Straits Chinese, a term designed to clarify their elevated social status.

## Culture

Traditionally, the Baba-Nyonya embraced a mix of Taoism, ancestral worship and folk beliefs. Altars at home were dedicated to gods, ancestors and both good and evil spirits, and rites and offerings were enacted to gain favour with or pacify these spiritual forces. Banners in Chinese characters quoting aphorisms to bring good fortune adorned the walls, although only few could read them. The lingua franca among the community in Malacca was not Chinese; it was Baba Malay, a variety of the local tongue incorporating Hokkien words. Eventually, as the Baba-Nyonya became more integrated into the British colonial regime, many adopted Christianity and those of the customs of their old world that did not sit well with the new religion fell into disuse.

## Attire

The Baba-Nyonya were distinguished as much by their clothing as by their language. This was heavily influenced by Malay customs, particularly the styles affected by the Nyonya. They would wear a long dress (*baju panjang*), a decorative wrap-around cloth (*batik sarong*), beaded slippers (*kasut manik*) and a set of three brooches (*kerongsang*) instead of buttons to keep everything in



Beaded slippers or *kasut manik* were de rigeuer for stylish Nyonyas.

the right place. Over time, the long dress was replaced by the *kebaya*, the nyonya version of which was a short, tight-fitting sheer fabric blouse, worn over a camisole, paired with a *batik sarong* and decorated with embroidered motifs. Embroidery and beadwork were two distinctive features of Peranakan fashion and young ladies were expected to excel in both.

## Food

The Nyonya were also taught to perform wonders in the kitchen and the Peranakan cuisine passed down through the generations could be said to be the most enduring aspect of the Baba-Nyonya legacy. Many Nyonya dishes are staples of regional diets; they blend the best of Chinese and Malay cooking, they are often labour-intensive to prepare but are heavenly to taste.

It is difficult to spend much time in South-East Asia without coming across *laksa*, possibly the most famous Nyonya dish, which consists of rice-noodles cooked in prawn and chicken curry gravy. Typically spicy and flavourful, connoisseurs often add a generous helping of prawn paste chilli (*belacan*) to give their *laksa* even more zest! Coconut is a frequently found ingredient in Nyonya cooking and colourful sweet rice cakes with coconut toppings (*kueh*) appeal to both the eyes and the stomach.

## Way of Life

Being among the more affluent citizens of Malacca, many Baba-Nyonya lived in large homes near the waterfront, originally built by the Dutch and vacated when the British arrived. These were long terraced buildings with no windows in the walls along the sides. Instead, sunshine came in via skylights set in open interior courtyards. The style of the hardwood furniture was Chinese, decorated with intricate motifs, the most elaborate work reserved for the four-poster bed in the family bridal chamber.

“Banners in Chinese characters quoting aphorisms to bring good fortune adorned the walls, although only few could read them.”

“Walk through Malacca’s old town today and you would be transported back through the centuries to the heyday of the Peranakan.”



Typically refined Nyonya touches include ornate ceramics, symbolic sweets and culture interwoven into every aspect of daily life.



Second only to Baba-Nyonya cuisine in terms of the visible legacy of this culture in the modern world is the porcelain typical to Peranakan households. Completely different from Chinese porcelain ware, the pieces have intricate motifs of flowers, butterflies and phoenixes in bright yellow and rose pink and other pastel shades.

### Down and Up

With the end of the colonial era and the rise of modern states in the region, the Peranakan communities initially found it difficult to retain their identity. However, UNESCO-recognised restoration and conservation projects in Malacca and Penang have raised awareness of this unique culture, and associations and museums have been established to ensure the traditions are not forgotten.

The legacy lives on today in family scrapbooks and stories passed down over the centuries to today’s Peranakan descendants, now scattered all over the world, although many remain in the cities along the Straits of Malacca, predominantly in Singapore. Many famous names in South-East Asian commerce, public affairs and politics are descended from the Peranakan, pre-eminent of whom the late founder of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, whose mother was a hardworking, resourceful third-generation Hokkien Peranakan.

### The Legacy

Walk through Malacca’s old town today and you would be transported back through the centuries to the heyday of the Peranakan. Their homes are now hotels, furniture stores, private houses and in one case a little museum where time stopped a hundred years ago. Wander along narrow lanes, where cafes and restaurants serve up exotic dishes that were first concocted in these very streets. In Jalan Tukang Emas, along a 50m stretch of pavement, you will find the variety and tolerance of the old days reflected in the presence of the oldest mosque on the Malay Peninsula, side-by-side with major Chinese and Hindu temples. This lane is also known as Harmony Street!

Wander up the Malacca river, past colourful old shop houses and decorative bridges and you will come to a beautifully restored mansion that is a homage to the city’s Peranakan past. This is The Majestic Malacca. The hotel’s teakwood fittings, original porcelain flooring and antiques whisk you back in time. Details like huge glass jars of small biscuits and candy evoke memories of childhood in older visitors who grew up in South-East Asia in the middle of the last century and, as you might expect, the restaurant specialises in Nyonya cuisine. Even the spa massage menu features Peranakan elements with treatments involving nutmeg, pandan, coconut and Malacca palm sugar! ▣



# Home of the Balinese Soul

Balinese home compounds are built following a fascinating set of rules laid down by tradition and religion.

Text **Simon Pridmore**

Take a turn off the main roads in Central Bali, following byways where there are no street signs, no stores selling bric-a-brac, bamboo furniture, paintings, silver jewellery or wooden giraffes, no tempting little eateries or coffee shops and you will find yourself passing through the villages that are Bali's cultural heartland.

What you will notice first are the stone walls, punctuated by narrow doorways and, on one side of the road only, what looks like an endless series of temples, with their tell-tale pagodas and dark thatch roofs. Actually, behind the walls on both sides of the road lie private residences, family compounds called *karang*, that are the traditional homes of the Balinese, sometimes housing several generations at the same time.

The Balinese people you meet in the city and in resorts around the island may not all live in homes like these on a daily basis but they were all born in such compounds and these are where

they return for ceremonies and other important events. Much of the traffic on Bali's increasingly busy roads consists of people commuting between the modern world and the old world to fulfil their obligations to their extended family and ancestors. Home may be where the heart is but the family *karang* is where the Balinese keep in touch with their soul.

Of course, there are *karang* in Denpasar, Kuta, Legian, Sanur and other tourist areas, too. After all, these were all traditional villages before the hotels, villas, convenience stores and surfwear shops arrived. They may be hard to spot, though, tucked away as they are in back alleys and behind high walls.

## Behind the Walls

There are no windows in the walls. Balinese homes look inward, not outward. There is a single narrow entrance on the street side called the *angkul-angkul*. The design of this gateway represents a compromise, reflecting the Balinese

ambivalence towards entrances in general. On the one hand, they allow residents and guests to enter the compound, which is good. On the other hand, they can also allow evil spirits to get in, which is something that must be prevented. So, inside the entrance, they build a short wall, called an *aling-aling*, extending across the doorway. As evil spirits are handicapped by being unable to travel other than in straight lines, this device denies them access. Just to make sure, shrines called *apit lawang* are placed outside the gateway to confuse and distract any evil spirits thinking about trying to get in. The *aling-aling* also gives people in the compound some privacy, concealing them from prying eyes in the street.

## Two Worlds

As you may have already guessed, the *karang* are built according to rules dictated by both the spirit and physical worlds. The design owes everything to religious needs entwined with traditional



laws and customs or *adat*. Once through the doorway, you will find yourself in a rectangular compound consisting of a garden courtyard with several pavilions or *balé*. These are mounted on raised pedestals to keep them off the ground, where the evil spirits reside. Some of the pavilions are entirely open, some are partially closed off and others, these days, are closed completely and air-conditioned.

When someone wants to build a new *karang*, he must take advice from a holy man who will choose good dates on the Balinese calendar to buy the land and start work. He will also consult a master builder, an *undagi*, who will take a selection of body measurements from the man of the house and determine the size of the *karang* based on these. The Balinese believe that the *karang* is related to the human body and that the layout of the compound and its buildings need to conform to the physical characteristics of the owner.

### Balinese Compass Points

There are other crucial factors that govern the design of the *karang*. One of these is Agung, Bali's highest volcano and its most sacred mountain. Mount Agung has enormous religious significance. As well as being a source of spiritual energy, it is a physical fount of strength as the courses of water that pour down its slopes nourish the massed banks of rice terraces at its base, giving sustenance to the island's people.

In Bali, people do not talk of north, south, east and west. They refer instead to *kaja*, *kelod*, *kangin* and *kauh*. Wherever you are

in Bali the direction facing Mount Agung is *kaja* and this is the most sacred and pure point on the compass. Generally speaking, if you live in the south *kaja* is northeast; if you live in the north, *kaja* is southeast. The opposite and most impure direction is *kelod*; that is facing away from Mount Agung and, always on Bali, towards the sea. *Kangin* means facing the rising sun that evokes birth and beginning. *Kauh* is the direction looking west towards the setting sun, a symbol of ending and death.

### Three's Magic

The *karang* is divided into three sections. Returning to the concept that the design reflects the human body, the area at the *kaja* end represents the head and is the most important. This is where the most important elements are located. The family temple, a collection of small shrines placed on high pedestals dedicated to the ancestors and specific Hindu god or gods, is always placed in the corner where *kaja* and *kangin* coincide, as these are the most sacred directions. This is why, as you walk through the villages, one side of the street seems to consist of temple after temple. Also on the *kaja* side, but less *kangin*, is the *balé daja*, the pavilion where the head of the household sleeps.

In the middle of the compound, pavilions on both sides flank an open area representing the navel. The *balé duah* or guest quarters are on the *kauh* side and the *balé dangin* or ceremonial pavilion is on the *kangin* side. These represent the body's arms. Although secular rooms for guests and less important family members may be located on the less auspicious side of the compound, nevertheless great



The Balinese believe evil spirits can only travel in straight lines. So, homes are built with a short wall called *aling-aling*, which extends across the doorway, to deny them access.





One of the unsung joys of a stay at the Spa Village Resort in rural Tembok on the north coast is the opportunity to chat with the Balinese people who live and breathe culture and tradition.



Make time to explore the area surrounding Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali. Who knows? A friendly local might just let you have a peek inside his karang or traditional family compound.

care is taken to position all beds with the head towards *kaja*, to benefit from the beneficial forces emanating from Agung and the feet towards *kelod*. Otherwise, nobody will ever sleep well!

The third section of the *karang* at the *kelod* end represents the legs and feet and this is where you find the *lumbung*, the rice barn and the *paon* or kitchen as well as vegetable gardens, fruit trees and the well. Facilities such as toilets, rubbish dumps and pig pens are situated on this unclean side of the compound too, if possible beyond the compound wall. This means, of course, that the most impure areas of one's *karang* are adjacent to the most pure elements of the neighbours' *karang* but this irony is considered inevitable and therefore ignored.

The buildings inside the compound are usually plain and functional. There is no living room or dining room as, with Bali's

benign climate, living and eating take place on smaller open-sided pavilions looking out into the garden. The most decorative elements of the *karang* are the doors, which are panelled and elaborately carved. They are made from expensive teak or jackfruit tree wood and brightly painted. In homes belonging to wealthy or high-caste families, they may even have gilt applied. Gates sealing the narrow entrances will also be highly ornamental and often feature the shark-toothed head of Bhoma, child of Vishnu and killer and consumer of evil spirits.

### Extended Families

In traditional families when the youngest boy in the family gets married, a new pavilion is constructed for the couple in the boy's family *karang*. Their duty is to look after members of the older generation as they age. This means that it is very common for three or four generations to be living together in the same compound.

This has a number of advantages, one of which is that babies never lack someone to hold them. This is essential, as during the first 210 days of life, a child must not touch the ground. Why? Because that is where the evil spirits dwell, remember?

### Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali

The unique and complex customs surrounding Balinese home design are just a small part of the rich tapestry of life on the island. One of the unsung joys of a stay at the Spa Village Resort in rural Tembok on the north coast is the opportunity to chat with the Balinese people who work there and hear about their culture and traditions. There are a number of ancient villages on the mountain slopes close to Tembok, where you can see homes built in the style I describe here and maybe, if you are fortunate, some friendly local folk might just allow you to have a peek inside! 📌



spa life //

*For celeb-about-town Lexie Rodriguez, spending time in Donna Spa offers a peaceful and relaxing escape in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.*

## Urban Utopia

Lexie Rodriguez is a famous face-about-town. For the celebrity presenter, sought-after emcee and businesswoman, spa sessions are sometimes needed to recharge and reboot while juggling a hectic professional as well as social life.

"It's my first time at Donna Spa," says Lexie Rodriguez. "And my personal rule of thumb in gauging the quality of an Asian spa is by how good their ginger tea is." Sipping a hot cup of it, while waiting to start her spa session, she smiles and says: "Donna Spa's packs a punch."

Most Malaysians would be familiar with the half-Spanish, half-Filipina stunner who used to be based in London, working as a professional dancer and performing alongside top acts such as Justin Timberlake, Rihanna and Lady Gaga. It was during a holiday to Kuala Lumpur that another door opened and Rodriguez soon found herself hosting a radio show. One opportunity led to another and, today, she is much sought-after as a presenter, emcee and fashion personality. Ever-enterprising, Rodriguez is also the co-founder of a drinks company called Cocktail Solutions.

Understandably, life can get pretty hectic and, as Rodriguez points out: "Spa sessions are always, always welcomed! If I could, I would say I need a massage every day," she laughs. "It's hard to find time to get to a spa usually but I try to make time, definitely. It's tough when you're in the city and you get caught up with work, friends and a million other things. But, whenever I am on holiday, I can tell you that spa sessions are staples on the itinerary."

Located on the Pamper Floor of Kuala Lumpur's luxurious Starhill Gallery, Donna Spa offers six treatment rooms as well as two for

"Relaxation and unwinding all at once. If anyone is looking for a quick escape in the heart of KL, this is the place!"

couples, each named after flowers like Lavender and Jasmine. Rodriguez's experience begins with a floral foot bath, whereby her therapist, Ann, gently scrubs her feet with sea salt before rinsing them with chrysanthemum water. An invitation to soak in a Seven Flower Bath follows – a traditional cleansing ritual designed to relax and help get you into the spa frame of mind.

Asians believe it also purifies the body and helps cleanse away negative energy. Donna Spa's version is indeed a sight for sore eyes, using a painter's palette of petals: multi-coloured chrysanthemum blossoms, jasmine, rose petals as well as nubby kaffir limes. As a treat, a glass of chilled juice and slices of watermelon are also prepared so you can soak, sip and nibble the time away. Donna Spa's well-known Avocado Scrub comes next, as well as a lengthy deep-tissue massage using sweet almond oil with notes of citrus, lavender and cedar wood.

Says Rodriguez: "Ann, my Balinese therapist, was absolutely amazing and to end my spa day out with more ginger tea as well as homemade banana bread is peace, relaxation and unwinding all at once. If anyone is looking for a quick escape in the heart of KL, this is the place!" ■



# Skin & Scents

Summer may be fading away, but it's never too late to keep it fresh in mind (and body) with these sensory and beautifying delights.



## Diffusing Delight

Treat your olfactory senses with *Un Air de Diptyque* electric diffuser. The elegantly designed room perfumer offers a contemporary approach to the art of home fragrance. Using the patented cold diffusion system for its capsules, the most faithful fragrances are generated, promising 40 hours of perfumed bliss. The perfumer Olivier Pescheux has worked with **Diptyque** to create two new fragrances: ginger and orange blossom flower.



## Tinted Benefits

**La Mer's** new *Reparative Skin Tint SPF 30* is bound to delight fans who swear by the brand. Boasting a weightless formula using translucent pigments, skin is instantly evened and perfected. Deep-Sea Red Algae and Translucensea Ferment power the protecting and repairing effects, while the patented cell-renewing Miracle Broth immerses the skin in the healing powers of the sea, infusing it with energy to focus on natural repair and renewal.



## Genie's Wish

It's never too soon to protect your skin. Thank goodness, **Cosme Decorte** is here with its latest offering, the *Cellgenie* anti-ageing formula. The early anti-ageing skincare aims to prevent sagging and oxidation, keeping your skin supple and resilient. *Andrographis Paniculata* provides the magical touch that makes this product so effective in keeping that youthful glow. Prevention is better than cure, we always say.



## Lime Fresh

Enhance your shaving experience with **Truefitt & Hill's** West Indian Limes collection. The refreshing and zesty citrus blend will be sure to invigorate your senses as you go about your grooming needs. The blend comes with top notes of Citrus, Litsea Cubeba, Lemon, Orange and Lime enveloping a floral heart of Orange Blossom, Lilac and Rose, finishing on a bed of Oakmoss.

# Lavish Luxuries

Play up your feminine side and drape yourself with these exquisite jewellery and deluxe timepieces.



## Tune Of Time

The *Rendez-Vous Ivy Minute Repeater* is the first minute repeater to make its entrance in a feminine **Jaeger-LeCoultre** collection. The 18-carat white gold timepiece took 10 years to develop and is adorned with an ivy motif. Two rows of diamonds on the bezel and push piece further showcases the jewellery craftsmanship. Presented on a satin bracelet, it is water resistant to 30m and meets all the exacting requirements that make the Grande Maison a major exponent in the art of fine watchmaking.



## Memories of a Rose

**Christian Dior** has released a new jewellery line inspired by the founder's childhood in a villa overlooking the sea. The *Rose des Vents* collection by Victoire de Castellane, creative director of Dior Joaillerie, brings together Dior's penchant for lucky charms, roses and voyages. The delicate jewels are available in yellow gold and mother-of-pearl, lapis lazuli or turquoise, or rose gold with pink opal. The twisted chain of gold encircling the medallion is an echo of the ocean and the ship rigging used to navigate it.



## French Regality

**Breguet's** *Plume* Collection is inspired by the story of Queen Marie-Antoinette of France who had during her lifetime never stopped writing with a quill to her husband, King Louis XVI, and her family in Austria. The newest addition to this collection, *Rêve de Plume*, is a masterpiece in rose or white gold. The sides of this jewellery watch are finely engraved with feathers embedded with brilliant-cut diamonds of varying sizes and set with diamonds on the bezel and the flange while the crown is surmounted by a briolette-cut diamond. Diamonds of over 4 carats adorn this watch fitted with the self-winding calibre 586, a movement with a silicon balance-spring. The satin strap with a folding clasp set with 26 brilliant-cut diamonds adds to the imperial feel of this timepiece. ■



## Love & Beauty

The rosette or rose symbol, a source of inspiration since time immemorial, has appeared in art, architecture, fashion and jewellery. Now, **Mouawad's** *Rosette* Collection exalts the romance of the rose and brings it to life. Featuring rose-cut stones set in 18K white gold, the *Rosette* pieces are easy to wear day and night. This collection sparkles with a colourful array of Mouawad diamonds, rubies and sapphires available in heart lockets, earrings, necklaces, pendants, rings and bracelets (as shown above).





One shoulder  
bodycon tube  
dress, Versace.



Raw silk ruched  
sleeve top and  
leather judo  
trousers, Loewe.

Cardigan,  
M Missoni.  
Pumps with  
acrylic heels,  
Versace.



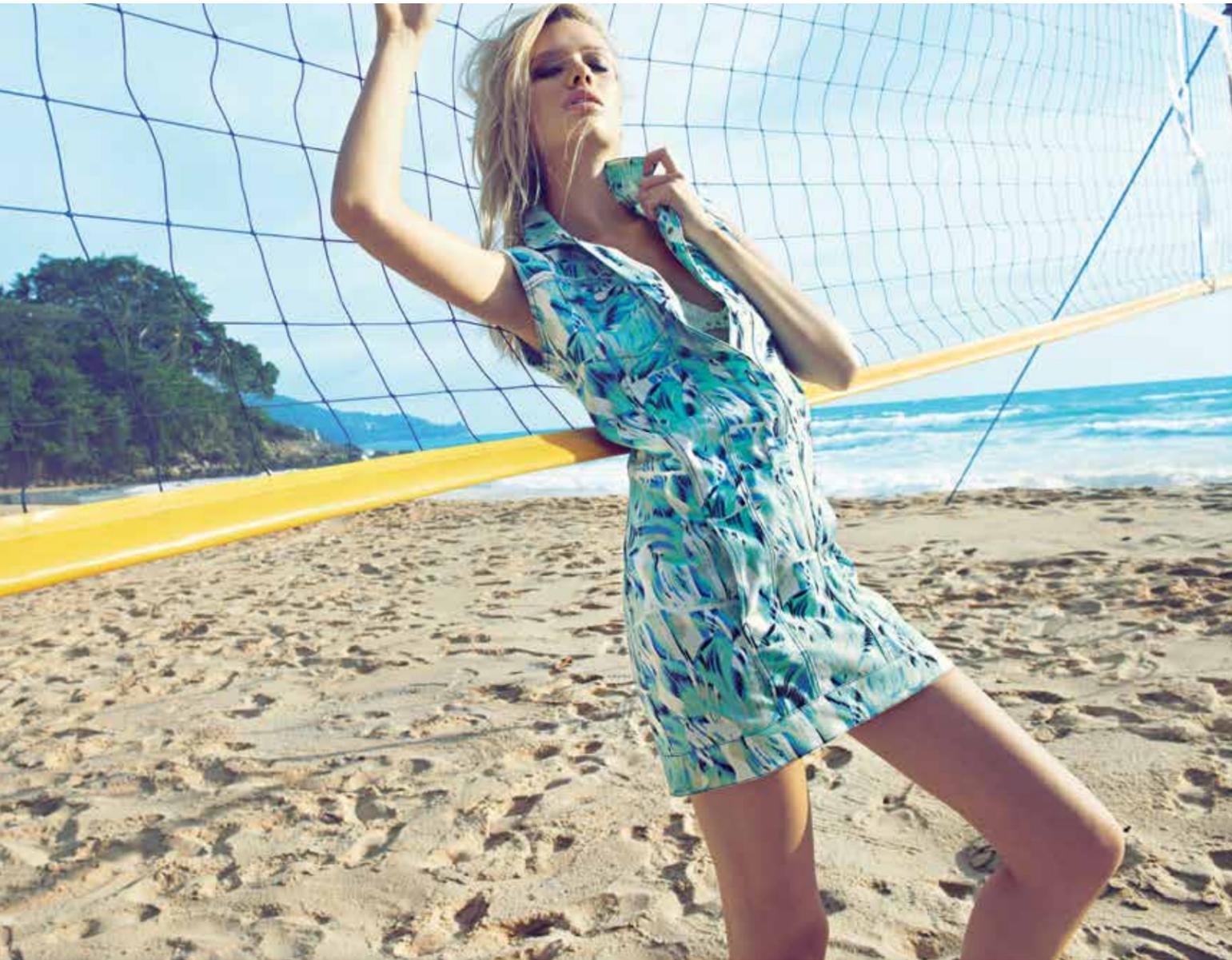
Chevron knit bolero  
wrap, M Missoni.



Oatmeal ribbed knitted halter dress with linen skirt, Loewe.



Mesh shirt with monogram embroidery, Kenzo. Sunglasses, Rayban.



Floral print  
denim button up  
dress, Kenzo.



Stripe-printed  
lace top and  
lace pants,  
Michael Kors.



Pendant necklace,  
fringe knitted top  
and structured flared  
pants, **Celine**.  
Acrylic-heeled  
pumps, **Versace**.

Pink flare pants,  
**Khoon Hooi**.  
Mesh sweater with  
embroidery, **Kenzo**.



# Time Will Tell

It's been a tumultuous year for horology. The dawn of the smartwatch is nigh, the Swiss franc hit a record high in January and luxury market hotspots appear to be cooling around the world. Despite the tenuous outlook, Swiss horologists remained undeterred as they showed up at Baselworld in grand fashion to display this year's novelties.

Text **Weng Sheng Thong & Maya Michael**

## Breguet Tradition Chronographe Indépendant 7077

Breguet's new *Tradition Chronographe Indépendant 7077* continues its proud legacy of making the impossible a reality. With this timepiece, you're actually getting two movements, one for timekeeping and the other for the chronograph, under one roof. Beating within the 44mm 18K white gold case are two independent gear trains that allow the chronograph to be activated without adversely affecting the timekeeper's chronometric performance. The chronograph also comes with a flexed blade spring that winds it to its maximum energy levels each time the chronograph is reset. Viewed upon the dial are two regulating silicon balance springs at 6 o'clock, the hours and minutes on the

guilloché finished sub-dial at 12 o'clock, the 50-hour power reserve indicator at 2 o'clock and the chronograph's 20-minute counter at 10 o'clock.

## Glashütte Original PanoMaticLunar

There are few horological entities that can execute dials as well as Glashütte Original, thanks to the brand's own dial manufactory in Pforzheim, and no timepiece shows off the Saxon watchmaker's mastery of this fine art better than the new *PanoMaticLunar*. Presented in a 40mm stainless steel case, the *PanoMaticLunar* certainly sets itself apart with its deep midnight blue dial that has been laid out according to the Golden Ratio, a law that defines perfect aesthetic harmony.

## Omega Seamaster Aqua Terra 'James Bond'

Even as James Bond prepares to do battle with the forces of evil for Queen and country in the upcoming *Spectre*, Omega is doing its part to ensure the superspy is suitably prepared for whatever dangers may befall him with an aptly named *Seamaster Aqua Terra 'James Bond'*. Proudly displayed upon the 41.5mm stainless steel case is the Bond's family coat of arms, presented in an interlocking pattern across the blue dial. To ensure this timepiece will overcome whatever dastardly schemes Agent 007's nemeses have in store, Omega has outfitted the *Seamaster Aqua Terra 'James Bond'* with the new Master Co-Axial Calibre 8507, a movement that is not only resistant to magnetic fields up to 15,000 gauss, but also features a silicon balance spring for improved chronometric performance and resilience to physical shocks.

## Corum Heritage Bubble

After a hiatus of 15 years, Corum's *Heritage Bubble* is back and crazier than ever. Playful in nature yet packing serious horological prowess, the *Heritage Bubble* is bigger than its predecessor, with a case size of 47mm, compared to 44mm, and offers its iconic bubble-shaped sapphire crystal inspired by experimental deep-sea diving watches of the 1960s. The bubble is one of the largest sapphire crystals known to horology – it clocks in with a height of 8mm – and serves to distort the dial in such a cartoonishly fun manner that we'll just have to forgive it for making time reading extremely impractical under most circumstances. The *Heritage Bubble* is

available in three versions: skeletonised, black DLC and a bronze-tone PVD coating that happens to be our favourite.

## Chronoswiss Sirius Artist Régulateur Jumping Hour

Harkening back to a time when mechanical timepieces were used as scientific timing instruments, the new *Sirius Artist Régulateur Jumping Hour* offers the hours and minutes on separate sub dials. This timepiece ensures the hands will never be 'hidden' behind one another for optimum chronometric clarity. As a nod to its vintage heritage, the *Sirius Artist Régulateur Jumping Hour* is presented in a classically sized 40mm case, with an oversized onion-style crown fitted with a semi-fluted bezel. Viewed on the dial is a rich blue enamel coating hand-finished with a guilloché pattern.

## Girard-Perregaux Minute Repeater Tourbillon With Gold Bridges

Half-musical instrument, half-kinetic sculpture, Girard Perregaux's latest beautifully highlights the various intricate details that go into creating the charming chime of a minute repeater. Housed inside the 45mm pink gold case is an orchestra of components that have been thoughtfully assembled to produce a clearer, stronger chime. Instead of the usual caseback placement, the hammer and gongs of the minute repeater mechanism have now been transported to face the inner side of the hour circle on the dial. This seemingly minute detail actually allows for the acoustic waves to reverberate without being



James Bond will wield the *Seamaster Aqua Terra 'James Bond'* into battle in the upcoming *Spectre*.

“On the case of the *Omega Seamaster Aqua Terra 'James Bond'* is the Bond family coat of arms, presented in an interlocking pattern across the blue dial.”

“To achieve this captivating effect, the artisans at Chopard painstakingly applied mother-of-pearl and gold leaf to the body of the fish, before topping it off with a single red jasper eye.”



confined by the proximity of the wearer's skin, resulting in a delightful timepiece that entertains both the ears and the eyes.

### Louis Vuitton *Escale Worldtime Minute Repeater*

Bold yet beautiful, this latest incredible watchmaking effort from the La Fabrique du Temps Louis Vuitton Manufacture combines two complications – a minute repeater and time-zone function – into a single timepiece. Similar to its predecessor, the dial of the 44mm case showcases a colourful array of hand-painted motifs, which represent time zones in 24 major cities. An arrow located on the winding crown is used to set the time zone, while a bolt, disguised as the lower-left lug of the watch, causes the mechanism to chime when pushed. The lovely sound is further enhanced by using titanium for the central portion of the timepiece, as it offers a higher degree of resonance and clarity than denser metals like gold or steel.

### Chopard *Happy Fish*

Inspired by the ethereal wonders that lie beneath the sea, this charming addition to the Happy Sport collection – launched in 1993 by Caroline Scheufele – features a glittering 18K rose gold case paired with a shimmering white alligator strap. The highlight would be the surreal tropical fish design on dial, which illuminates under UV light. To achieve this captivating effect, the artisans at Chopard painstakingly applied mother-of-pearl and gold leaf to the body of the fish, before topping it off with a single red jasper eye. In keeping with the collection's signature trademark, seven setting-free diamonds, representing bubbles, float about against the turquoise background, which was created using different shades of blue sapphires.

### Concord *C1 Tourbillon*

Concord raises the tempo with the *C1 Tourbillon*, a timepiece that brings together the best of classical horological



craftsmanship with sleek 21st century design. Viewed upon its sleek black 47mm PVD-finished titanium case fashioned in the *C1*'s signature eight-block construction is a dial featuring a unique brick pattern meant to symbolise the building blocks of Concord's horological expertise that has slowly but steadily been established over the centuries.

### Patek Philippe *Ref 5524 Calatrava Pilot Travel Time*

The horological world has irrevocably been split into two camps following the reveal of this surprising pilot's watch. This masculine timepiece was inspired by old aviation instruments made in the past by Patek Philippe. Powering the *Calatrava Pilot Travel Time* is the Calibre 324 SC FUS, a self-winding mechanical movement that includes a date function and fully adjustable GMT hand for tracking a second time zone. This is easily adjusted using the pushers located on the left side of the 42mm case made in white gold and paired with a black, hand-stitched alligator strap. This travel complication might appear an odd model for Patek Philippe, but it certainly showcases the 175-year-old brand's ability to continually keep its competitors on their toes.

### Hublot *Big Bang Unico Italia Independent*

Designed in collaboration with Italia Independent, the newest iteration of the iconic Big Bang *Unico* features a new exclusive alloy known as Texalium. Despite the formidable heft of the 45mm case, the timepiece remains both light and durable. Another benefit of this aluminium-coated carbon fibre material is its ability to display colours with remarkable brilliance. Currently available in grey and blue, with a matching studded strap, each timepiece will also include a stylish customised display case and a matching pair of sunglasses crafted using the same alloy.

### Hermès *Slim de Hermès Perpetual Calendar*

Simplicity has never looked so sleek. Considered the highlight of the new Slim d'Hermès collection, the *Slim de Hermès Perpetual Calendar* attempts to portray the art of telling time in its purest form. At the heart of its 39.5mm case is the Manufacture Hermès H1950, an ultra-thin mechanical self-winding movement that measures at an almost unbelievable 2.6mm. Despite the multitude of complications on display – which includes a perpetual calendar,



Patek Philippe's *Calatrava Pilot Travel Time* is a masculine timepiece inspired by old aviation instruments.



a moon phase and dual-time display – the overall look remains clean, further emphasised by the unique, original typeface created by graphic designer Philippe Apeloig.

### Rolex Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master

There's a bit of a running joke that Rolex never changes, because why mess with what isn't broken? It turns out, however, that 2015 is the year that Rolex is shaking things up a little with its sporty new *Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master*. This latest addition to the Rolex family is the first ever *Yacht-Master* to feature a black dial and ceramic bezel, which strikes that perfect sense of contrast with the warm hues of the 18K Everose gold case and bezel. The dial is treated with Chromalight appliques for low-lighting illumination, befitting its status as a sporty diving piece. Another new feature is the Oysterflex bracelet, a new patented design, comprising of an ultra-strong thin metal blade over-moulded with high performance, flexible

black elastomer that is more durable and resistant than rubber strap. This model comes in either 37mm or 40mm variants and is waterproof up to 100m.

### Hautlence Invictus 01

The daring independent Hautlence, also affectionately known as the 'gentlemen rebels', continues its fine tradition of defying conformity with the new *Invictus 01*. Elegant yet sporty, the *Invictus 01* sees the return of the independent's signature 1970s television screen-inspired case forged of 18K red gold, which houses a skeletonised chronograph movement within. Also sharing this space on the dial is Hautlence's emblematic honeycomb motif and 3D indexes, set in such a way that they appear to be suspended in thin air.

### Rado Limited Edition HyperChrome Automatic Diamonds

Diamonds have never looked so delectable. Inspired by the master chocolatiers who made Switzerland

synonymous with delicious chocolate, the newest additions to Rado's *HyperChrome* family present a dazzling display of timepieces in rich brown ceramic. The decision to combine the brown hue with the ceramic material also results in an interesting effect that consistently changes throughout the day depending on lighting conditions. As for the highlight of this sweet collection, it would have to be the automatic chronograph model, paired with classic rose gold detailing and topped off with 56 Top Wesselton diamonds.

### TAG Heuer Carrera Heuer 01

TAG Heuer made waves at Baselworld 2015 with the announcement of a new line-up of young social-media savvy ambassadors, its own smartwatch and the new *Carrera Heuer 01*, a rare beast of a timepiece that features an in-house chronograph movement for a competitive price tag of less than CHF5,000. One of TAG Heuer's more complex-looking pieces, the motorsports-inspired *Carrera Heuer 01* has already earned the moniker 'Hublot-Lite', for its resemblance to the *Big*

*Bang* models (no doubt influenced by its CEO's time at Hublot), and presents itself in a masculine 45mm stainless steel case with a skeletonised dial that shows off the column-wheel chronograph movement in all its mechanical glory.

### Ulysse Nardin Hannibal Minute Repeater

A limited edition of 30 timepieces, the *Hannibal Minute Repeater* pays tribute to the crossing of the Alps by the great Carthaginian general, Hannibal Barca, in his attempt to crush the Roman republic once and for all. This brutal expedition is portrayed by four jacquemarts amidst a mountainous backdrop, which were meticulously hand-carved from 18K white gold before being mounted on granite sourced from the Alps. When the repeater is activated, four gongs linked to the jacquemarts bring the battlefield to life, depicting Roman legionnaires fighting for their lives against Hannibal's war elephants. At the heart of the watch lies a calibre UN-78 one-minute tourbillon, located at 6 o'clock. ■



This latest addition to the Yacht-Master range from Rolex features a new black dial paired with a ceramic bezel.



The newest member of Rado's HyperChrome family is a delectable timepiece set with 56 dazzling diamonds.

# The Turtles of Terengganu

Turtles were once abundant on the beaches of Terengganu but increasing natural as well as man-made obstacles are driving them to extinction. Conservation efforts now hope to protect the ones that remain.

Text **Simon Pridmore**

The female green sea turtle emerged from the sea and dragged herself up and across the beach until her nose touched the strip of foliage where the sand meets the forest. She patiently dug out a pit with her fore and aft flippers and laid her eggs as we watched from a distance. As soon as she was done, the rangers scooped the eggs up to move them to a sanctuary, tagged the turtle in her left foreleg and measured her. Then they left: their work done for the night.

We stayed. The turtle was bogged down in wet sand and seemed exhausted, flapping her flippers but making no progress. She was just digging herself into the pit. We watched uselessly for 10 minutes then finally thought we should do something to help. We had seen the rangers induce the turtle to turn by tapping on one side of the shell so we did the same to try and direct her out of her ever-deepening hole. It worked. She finally found some traction and started moving ponderously back towards the sea. She moved in short bursts, each of which seemed to demand huge effort and left her exhausted for a few minutes. After almost an hour, she finally reached the edge of the pounding surf, then a large wave engulfed her and when it drew away again, she was gone.

## Release From Sanctuary

The next day, we visited the turtle sanctuary and were invited to help in the release of a batch of hatchlings that were born a few days earlier. The eggs are removed from the nests as the conservation teams do not have the resources to protect them from either human or animal predators when they are left in their original nests along the beach. The tiny baby turtles were carried in a small bucket to the beach, where we were invited to dip our hands in, grab a handful and place them gently onto the sand.

As soon as we let go, no matter which way they were originally pointing, the hatchlings turned and headed for the waves that were lapping on the sand about 20m away. Their four flippers flailed away wildly as they scurried instinctively towards the sea and when they arrived at the water's edge, the action that looked so awkward on land became a graceful swimming stroke. They dived into the spume of the next little wave and were soon out of sight.



*Pantai Kerteh offers a protected beach where turtles may find a safe haven for their eggs.*

Some would be back, one day, with luck. At least, some of the females among them might be back if they were able to survive to produce offspring of their own. Their instinctive GPS system would guide them to return to the beach where they were born to lay their own eggs. Sadly, it is this predictable behaviour that has partly led to the turtle's downfall.

## Where Dinosaurs Once Roamed

Terengganu, located in the eastern Malay peninsula, used to be known as the "Land of Turtles". The stars were the giant leatherback turtles, magnificent creatures that could measure up to 3m in length, weigh up to 900kg and could trace their history to the time of the dinosaurs. In 1956, more than 10,000 leatherbacks were reportedly nesting on the beaches of Terengganu. They became a major tourist attraction in the area from the 1960s to the 1980s. The survival chances for turtle hatchlings are very slim as many marine predators lie in wait. However, this is an age-old problem that turtles have evolved to deal with by producing large quantities of eggs, sometimes up to 1,000 eggs per breeding season.

However, in recent decades, the turtles have encountered new threats to their survival and these lie not in the ocean but on land. In Terengganu, as in other parts of South-East Asia, turtle eggs have been consumed as a delicacy for centuries. But, in the past, rural populations were small and the number of eggs available was large. With the expansion of the road system in the area and better transportation, local entrepreneurs found new, more distant and more substantial markets for leatherback turtle eggs. They became a trade-able commodity and a lucrative source of income for impoverished villagers. A rapidly developing fishing industry along the coast meant that leatherback turtles were also increasingly being caught in nets as they made for their home beaches. By 1965, only 3,000 clutches of leatherback turtle eggs were found and conservationists and the state began efforts to protect the leatherbacks. Opinions differ as to whether these conservation efforts were too late, insufficient, insincere, ineffective, poorly managed and/or poorly enforced. Whatever the reasons, they did not work.



**TANJONG JARA RESORT**  
Embodying the essence of Malay culture and tradition, Tanjong Jara Resort on the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia offers the perfect experience of Malay hospitality. Fronted by the South China Sea and surrounded by the lush green beauty of the local countryside, Tanjong Jara offers you an experience of Malaysia like no other. [www.tanjongjararesort.com](http://www.tanjongjararesort.com)

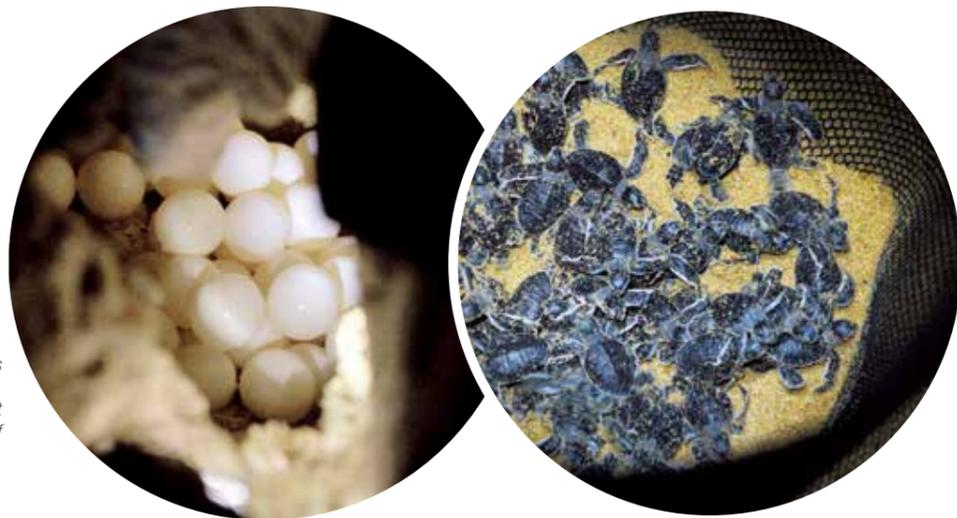
In 2002, only three (yes, not a misprint) leatherback turtles were sighted. Now, despite the fact that leatherback turtle spotting trips are still touted by unscrupulous operators in the area, there are none to see. One lone leatherback turned up in 2010. Experts agree that, while they would love to hope that the leatherback population might somehow recover, all signs are that the species is "locally extinct". Once a population of breeding turtles has disappeared, it is gone forever. With no females being born, there are none out there to return.

### Let History Not Be Repeated

It may be too late to save the leatherbacks of Terengganu but there is still a chance other species could be saved from a similar fate. One species that is still around is the green turtle, although it is already listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List as an endangered animal. Near the Tanjong Jara Resort in Dungun, Terengganu, is a protected beach where, between May and September, green turtles come ashore to lay eggs. The warm, grainy sands and the gentle slope make it relatively easy for them to negotiate their way across. To keep the eggs from harm, they are retrieved from the nest and reburied in warm sand in a safe, guarded hatchery.

Burying the eggs in sand of the correct temperature is crucial, as it is believed that warm sand produces more females, while cooler sand favours males. The greater need is for female hatchlings. The protection is necessary because it remains legal to eat turtle eggs and they are still much in demand. In fact, you may even see them on sale at roadside stalls; they look like ping pong balls. If you are staying at the Tanjong Jara Resort, you may have a chance to visit the beach where you can watch a green sea turtle laying her eggs and you may also be able to start some of the young hatchlings on their journey in life. Then, by sharing the experience with friends, you could pass on your newfound knowledge of how fragile the existence of turtles is and perhaps expanding awareness will ensure they have a future. ■

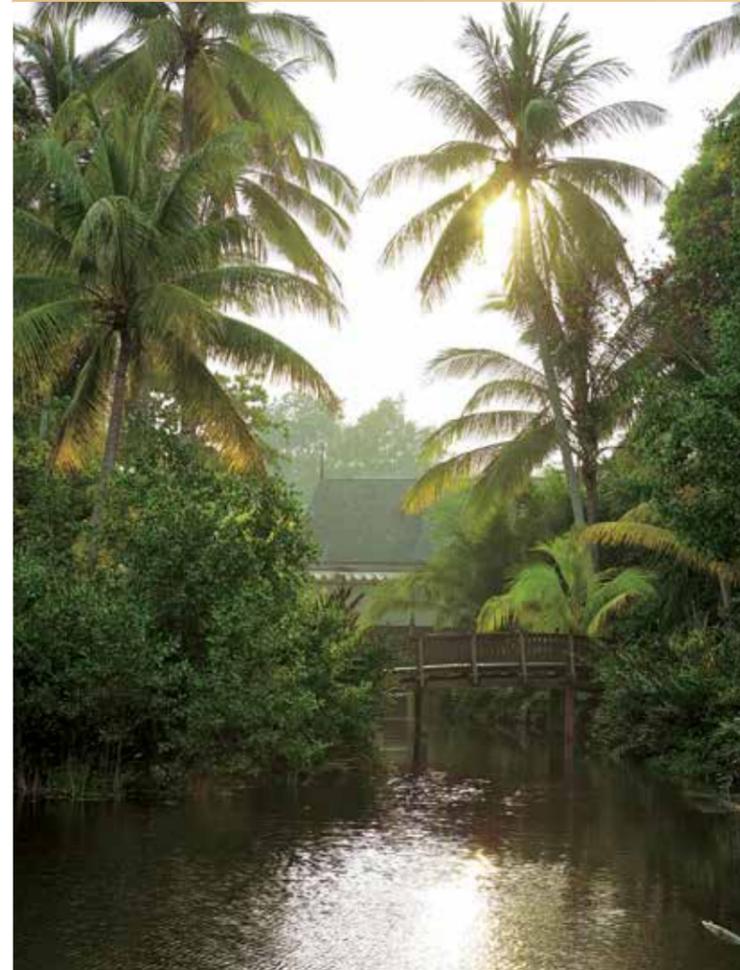
*If you want to know how you can do more to help protect turtles in Terengganu, go to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Malaysia website [wrf.org.my](http://wrf.org.my).*



*Between the months of May to September, Tanjong Jara Resort offers the rare treat of turtle-watching.*



“Near Tanjong Jara Resort in Dungun, Terengganu, is a protected beach where, between May and September, green turtles come ashore to lay eggs.”



*Sea turtles are a glorious and graceful sight to behold underwater.*

# M for Magic

The MUSE Saint Tropez welcomes a new Executive Chef, who puts the chic into French RIVIERA cuisine.

Text **Natasha Kraal**



*Megawatt glamour aside, Saint-Tropez is also a serious foodie's idea of heaven.*

“The open-air market at Place des Lices invites both locals and tourists to enjoy fresh local produce.”

Every day is a perfect day to pack a *pique-nique* picnic to enjoy by the waterfront, before shopping for more truly Tropezienne sandals by K Jacques. It was here that we sighted the resident chef at MUSE Saint Tropez – where we were staying for a blissful five nights – hand-pick menu ingredients, and so, decided to cancel the reservation at the two-star Le Girelier to head “home” for a special dinner.

The MUSE is YTL Hotels' gem in the South of France that gives a sparkling experience of the Riviera chic lifestyle. We stayed at the Lauren suite that came with its own library of Assouline books to read by our private plunge pool, or in the spacious lounge tastefully appointed with cream linen, beige marble, and scented candles. Pure pleasure, and then some more when it was time to dine. And well, we did.

M is the moniker of the restaurant overlooking the pretty poolside that serves up classic continental breakfasts, easy-breezy lunches, and culinary creations for dinner. This summer, Emilie Myotte joins the resort as Executive Chef, bringing with her invaluable experience, garnered at a Michelin-starred restaurant in Megève. The menu takes inspiration from the spirit of Saint-Tropez, with its perfect balance of light vs luxe, with the freshest produce from the area. There's much respect for original flavours and textures, where Chef Emilie works her magic in combining both, with the sparkle of her signature effervescent sauces. Think succulent lamb saddle served with crisp Mediterranean vegetables, and the divine duck breast drizzled with balsamic and paired with polenta and tomatoes. Her favourites are the two fish dishes – “They're truly a reflection of Saint-Tropez,” she says – slow-cooked sea bass beautifully delivered with fennel and rosemary; and a delightfully crispy monkfish fillet flavoured up with chorizo and fresh garden vegetables. A touch of mango and passion fruit *millefeuille*, or two scoops of sorbet from Maison Barbarac – where else? – make the perfect meal for the perfect summer's day. ■

As much as its jet-set legend holds from the day Brigitte Bardot brought her brand of va-va-voom to the provincial town in the 1956 Roger Vadim film *And God Created Woman*, to Beyoncé and Jay-Z superyachting in some serious celeb-kaching today, Saint-Tropez is also a gastronomic hotspot for anyone seeking sybaritic pleasures in the South of France. After all, the holiday hotspot boasts about 60 Michelin-starred restaurants that serve up culinary expertise worth the helicopter ride in, be it for the organic-chic cuisine at La Voile or the Mediterranean-rich three-starred treats at La Vague d'Or.

And yet, dinner doesn't have to come all that fancy. You can also dine heartily on the freshest catch of the day, prepared Provençal style at Auberge des Maures; delight in a double scoop of pistachio ice-cream at Maison Barbarac; or fork into that famous cream-suffused La Tarte Tropezienne while watching the boats and babes go by.

On Saturdays, the open-air market at Place des Lices invites both locals and tourists to enjoy fresh local produce, from homemade duck sausages to divine artisanal cheeses and artichoke salads.





**Describe your cooking style.**  
Mediterranean and minimalist.

**Your idea of the perfect holiday breakfast?**  
As we're in France, freshly baked bread is really important, as well as the eggs with a thyme flavour, pancakes and our home-made smoked organic salmon. We can also prepare meals that cater to all special needs, including gluten-free and other allergies.

**What are your other culinary recommendations in Saint-Tropez?**  
Authentic *bouillabaisse*, lunch at the beach and *artichaut barigoule*, which is one of the specialities from the South of France.

**What would be a perfect day for you at Saint-Tropez?**  
Start early with a tour of the fresh fish market, stop at the fromagerie Place aux Herbes to taste the best cheeses in town, coffee or fresh juice on the harbour, lunch at Club 55 and dinner at MUSE!

### A Moment with Emilie Myotte

#### How would you best describe the cuisine at M?

The food at M is Mediterranean. It is also a little bit like being a private chef, recommending the best of local produce, be it fresh fish, the best cheeses and seasonal vegetables, every day to our guests.

#### How are they reflective of Saint-Tropez, and the spirit of MUSE?

The spirit of MUSE and of YTL Hotels in general is to craft experiences – the cuisine here at MUSE can be custom-made for our guests, and for any meal.

#### What are your favourite creations on the menu?

All the fish dishes because they're truly a reflection of the Saint-Tropez area.

#### What are your signature or favourite ingredients – and why?

I don't have a signature ingredient but I have many favourite suppliers that produce only in small quantities for us and few other restaurants.

#### What's sparking your imagination now?

The summer menu! We have three different menus throughout the season which always includes seasonal produce.



*From artisanal produce to fruits de mer that Neptune himself would covet, forget the diet when holidaying at Saint-Tropez.*



*The MUSE Saint Tropez's pool is the perfect place to plunge into, in-between Riviera-chic feasting sessions.*

“The MUSE Saint Tropez is YTL Hotels' gem in the South of France that gives a sparkling experience of the Riviera chic lifestyle.”

# The Queen of Tarts

If ever a tart were to be accorded royal status, chances are it would go to the legendary Maids of Honour tarts by the celebrated and historical Newens Tea House near London's Kew Gardens.



The old nursery rhyme may have gone "The Queen of Hearts she made some tarts, all on a summer's day" but it's clear it certainly wasn't Her Majesty but, instead, a very clever cook with the lightest of hands who was responsible for dreaming up the Maids of Honour tart. Certainly, its origins are steeped in royal history. Legend has it that Henry VIII chanced upon Anne Boleyn eating one of the delectable tartlets. At that time married to Catherine of Aragon, his first wife, but already in love with Boleyn, then the Queen's maid of honour and lady-in-waiting, he immediately declared the tarts to be for his tasting pleasure alone.

The story also goes that the King went on further to seize the recipe, ordering it to be kept under lock and key in Richmond Palace. Whether true or false, it's safe to say few pastries have such a tale to tell. Over the course of time, the recipe was discovered and its contents leaked to a nearby bakery. Today, the historical Newens Tea House in Kew is said to be the only one baking the Maids of Honour tarts according to the original recipe. Certainly, if you've ever tasted the tart, a light crisp puff pastry filled with cheese curds, you'd probably do a King Henry and want them all to yourself as well. Thankfully, though, there are now two places in the world in which you may indulge all you wish: first, the original Newens Tea House in London and, second, its latest outpost in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Opened in December 2014, the Newens Tea House at Starhill Gallery is an elegant space at which the city's privileged set may indulge in fine teas paired with delicious treats. Afternoon tea is hugely popular here, with the Original Maids of Honour Afternoon

Tea for 2 set proving to be the unanimous favourite. Here, guests may enjoy two of the famous tarts as well as two scones, served with clotted cream and strawberry preserves, and a pot of tea.

To keep things interesting and guests' palates consistently intrigued and delighted, Newens Tea House's chef-in-residence, John Burton-Race, has also ensured two promotional items to be featured on the menu every month – one sweet, one savoury – with the most recent being Cullen Skink tarts and hot cross buns. The *de rigueur* drink, of course, is tea. And diners should make it a point to ask for the Starhill Jewel blend, created just for Newens' Kuala Lumpur salon, with a green tea base and notes of mango and citrus. However, in tribute to its second, exotic outpost, Newens at Starhill also ensures the locals can enjoy afternoon tea with their drink of choice, thoughtfully providing for hot Milo and *teh tarik*, a local sweet and sticky brewed tea, on the menu. Purists, however, may choose from a mind-boggling tea menu, offering everything from Earl Grey and Darjeeling, while the hedonists need only ask for Laurent-Perrier.

If your cup of cha runs more to the tune of fancy Japanese green or smoky Pu-Erh from Yunnan, it might be a good idea to ask for the Oriental Afternoon Tea set, which comes with dainty dim sum and steamed lotus buns – a better match for the tea, if we do say so ourselves. Whatever you order, don't forget the Maids of Honour; after all, you'd have to brave a 13-hour flight to find them, if not. Whether in London or in Kuala Lumpur, you'd find these delicious little tarts worth the time, trouble and travelling for just to taste them. ☒



Clockwise, from top left: A myriad of fine teas is offered, each a perfect match for something sweet or savoury at Newens Tea House; relax in style after a luxe session of retail therapy at Starhill Gallery Kuala Lumpur; the legendary Maids of Honour tart, with its historical links to Anne Boleyn.



# Dress To Impress

Deck yourself in these latest fashion pieces to remain effortlessly chic, always!



## Super Shiatzy!

**Shiatzy Chen**'s ready-to-wear Fall/Winter 2015 collection is one for a glamorous goddess who leads a global life with a Parisian sense of style. The collection boasts a mélange of silhouettes that marries intricate handiwork with contemporary cuts. The pieces consist of a pink chromed leather mini-skirt, a simple red dress belted with a length of leather, to even a black cape coat with a fur collar. Ranging from youthful to elegant, Shiatzy Chen promises style for every occasion.



## Micro Mini

Embracing the connotations of *kawaii* ('cute' in Japanese), the *Micro Lady Dior* bags from the Pre-Fall 2015 Esprit Dior Tokyo collection by the house of **Dior** are a must-have for the fun and adventurous fashionista. Available in black, white, and metallic leather with embroidery, sequins and appliqué details, but with much thicker straps, the micro bags are a futuristic take on the classic handbags. The metallic *Micro Lady Dior* also comes with a micro Cannage motif that seems to resemble mesh details from afar.



## Retro Space

Seventies style with an intergalactic twist. That's the aura of **Louis Vuitton**'s 2015 Spring/Summer collection. In-house designer Nicolas Ghesquière outdid himself with a cohesive set showcasing state-of-the-art construction techniques and modern fabrics. The collection features fitted 'mixed media' dresses and tops, woven together with an array of knitting techniques to create a textural eye-catching design, a selection of stripy eel pieces and some playful items covered in print that feature floating household objects. It's truly for the bold woman who brings her past to the future.



## Miss Mex

Frida Kahlo was the muse of **Missoni**'s Summer 2015 Accessories Collection, where her talent and Mexican spirit permeated throughout. The colourful zip handbags present fresh and inviting basket-weave stripes. Fine raffia elements, pom-pom trims, wooden detailing painted with fruit-flower designs also show up randomly on all kinds of shoes in the collection, capturing an upbeat and carefree mood. A widish belt also makes for a bold statement in clear Plexiglas squares with raffia edging, leather ribbons and laces. ■

# Oasis of The Orient

Let Spa Village Kuala Lumpur weave its unique brand of healing magic on you, with its assortment of restorative treatments inspired by the cultures of Asia – all conveniently available in the heart of one of South-East Asia's most diverse and dynamic cities.

Photography Jason Lee & YTL Hotels

It is fitting that one of Spa Village Kuala Lumpur's most distinctive treatments reflects the city's multi-faceted past. Founded in the late 1800s "by accident" – the happy result of the discovery of tin by Chinese prospectors at the meeting point of the Klang and Gombak Rivers, who then proceeded to set up camp – Kuala Lumpur takes its name, literally, from the Malay word for "muddy confluence".

Today, the Malaysian capital is the picture-perfect reflection of the country's multi-racial diversity and is also, undoubtedly, its most dynamic city. Here, Spa Village Kuala Lumpur pays tribute to this chapter of its history with the unique Chinese Peranakan Treatment, a combined nod to its origins as well as Malaysia's unique Peranakan, or Straits Chinese culture.

The environment in which we live constantly reminds us to strive for perfection – to do more with less, to constantly power up, to take on more at home and at work and, in short, to have it all. Thankfully, the rise of spa culture in daily life gives the driven individual little

pockets of respite. It is in therapeutic journeys like the Chinese Peranakan Treatment that we can retreat from the world for a good three hours in order to seek respite, soothe soul and body and emerge, chrysalis-like, rejuvenated to face the world once more.

Those who are familiar with Spa Village Kuala Lumpur would know that the approach to its doors alone helps slow down the heartbeat and deepen the breath a little. Surrounded by teal-coloured pools and lush greenery, it's easy to forget you're in the heart of the city's famous "Golden Triangle" – an area chock-a-block with world-class dining and retail, comparable to Ginza in Tokyo and, closer to home, Singapore's Orchard Road.

Upon arrival, you will be welcomed with a cold towel and something to drink before being led away by your assigned therapist to change. If you're feeling particularly harried, it would be ideal to precede your Chinese Peranakan Treatment with the spa's signature Sensory Exploration. Performed in a

*Find tranquility in the heart of the city at Spa Village Kuala Lumpur.*

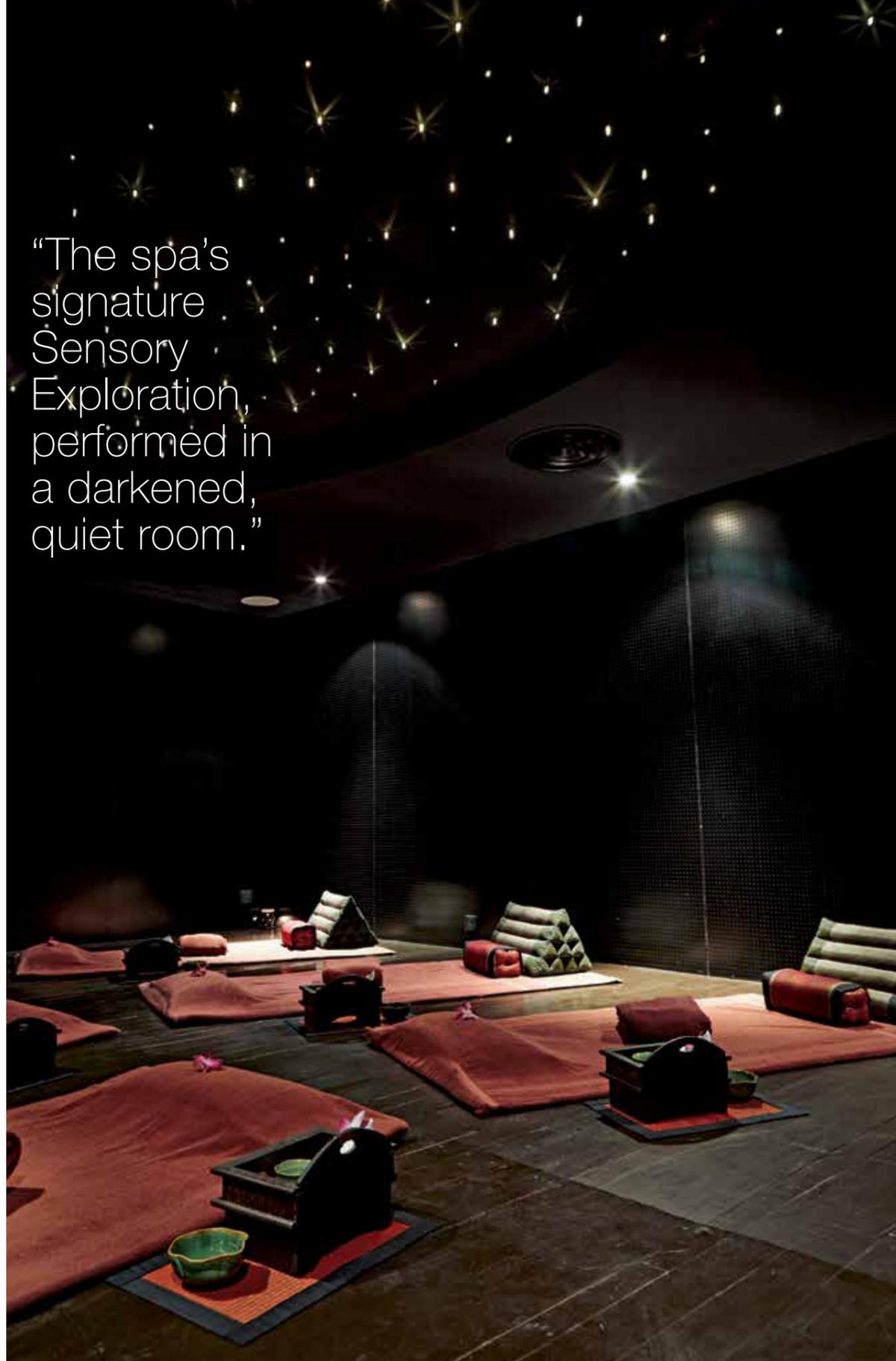
darkened, quiet room, your therapist acts as a guide, leading you through a series of exercises, including meditation as well as an in-depth process designed to re-awaken as well as heighten awareness.

Medical reports have long lauded the mental and health benefits of reconnecting with one's five senses and many of Spa Village's clients have sung the praises of this unusual but effective therapy. This treatment ends, on a more familiar note, with a scalp, neck, shoulder and foot massage, designed to calm and relax you while ensuring you are in the ideal state of mind for your spa experience ahead.

By now, you should be almost floating towards your private outdoor sunken bath as your therapist hands you a sarong to change into. The Chinese Peranakan Treatment begins, most decadently, with a languorous soak in an outdoor, flower-strewn tub. As you luxuriate like a Sino-Cleopatra in the milk and sandalwood-infused water, designed to soften skin, lower blood pressure and calm nerves – the perfect first step in any spa journey, we say – your therapist will prepare a trove of treasures with which to pamper you, including boiled eggs (yes, you read that right), rice powder and precious jade. After a quick rinse and a change into loose pants and shirt, a facial, using a mixture of crushed rice and pearl powder, will be applied to the face – an ancient beauty ritual favoured by the ladies of the Imperial Chinese court.

If you'd undergone the Sensory Exploration session, you would immediately pick up a slight sulphuric scent next as your therapist quickly shells two hard boiled eggs and then proceeds to gently rub them all over your face and forehead – a process that is as soothing as it is nourishing and calming to the skin. This most unusual facial was once common practice among Straits Chinese *bibiks* (ladies) to restore glow and vitality to their complexion.

“The spa's signature Sensory Exploration, performed in a darkened, quiet room.”



*Clockwise, from left: The Sensory Exploration session is a great primer for treatments; the ancient Chinese art of tiao da fa is administered with bundles of rattan sticks; hard boiled eggs and jade rollers are part of the exotic accoutrements used in the Chinese Peranakan Treatment.*

From *yang* to *yin*, the warmth of the eggs gives way to cooling jade rollers. These are gently rolled over the face to lift and tone facial muscles. Jade is significant in many ancient cultures, from the Mayan to the Maori, as a healing stone. It is particularly revered by the Chinese who believe the stone represents harmony, growth and tranquility. In fact, many Chinese wear jade as a protective amulet as well as for its metaphysical qualities. Bodywork follows, in the form of, first, a unique treatment called *tiao da fa*. Believed to have originated 1,500 years ago from China, *tiao da fa* is administered by lightly beating the body with bundles of rattan sticks – an ancient healing ritual believed to remove “wind” and chills from the body while boosting metabolism and blood circulation.

Once the physique has been prepared, the therapist will then administer traditional *tui na* massage. Chinese for “pushing” and “grasping”, this treatment is focused on unblocking energy channels within the body in order for *chi*, the Chinese belief in

life force, to flow more freely through the meridians. As its name suggests, *tui na* isn't about sweeping strokes as much as it is about deft and firm thumb-work (*na*) and concerted pushing with the palms (*tui*). Nevertheless, it is still deeply relaxing and you'd find yourself quickly in a spa state of mind, deliciously slipping in and out of consciousness.

The Chinese Peranakan Treatment lasts for three hours but, in a clear case of time flying when you're having fun, you'd find yourself ushered, once again, to the relaxation lounge. Every treatment at Spa Village Kuala Lumpur ends with a pot of hot ginger tea, sweetened with honey and perked up with lemon. It's nowhere near comparable to a massage but you'd find yourself greatly welcoming this small but sweet gesture as it really does help in easing the transition, sip by warming sip, from therapeutic cocoon to real world.

*Spa Village Kuala Lumpur is located at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur and is open daily from 10am-10pm. ❖*



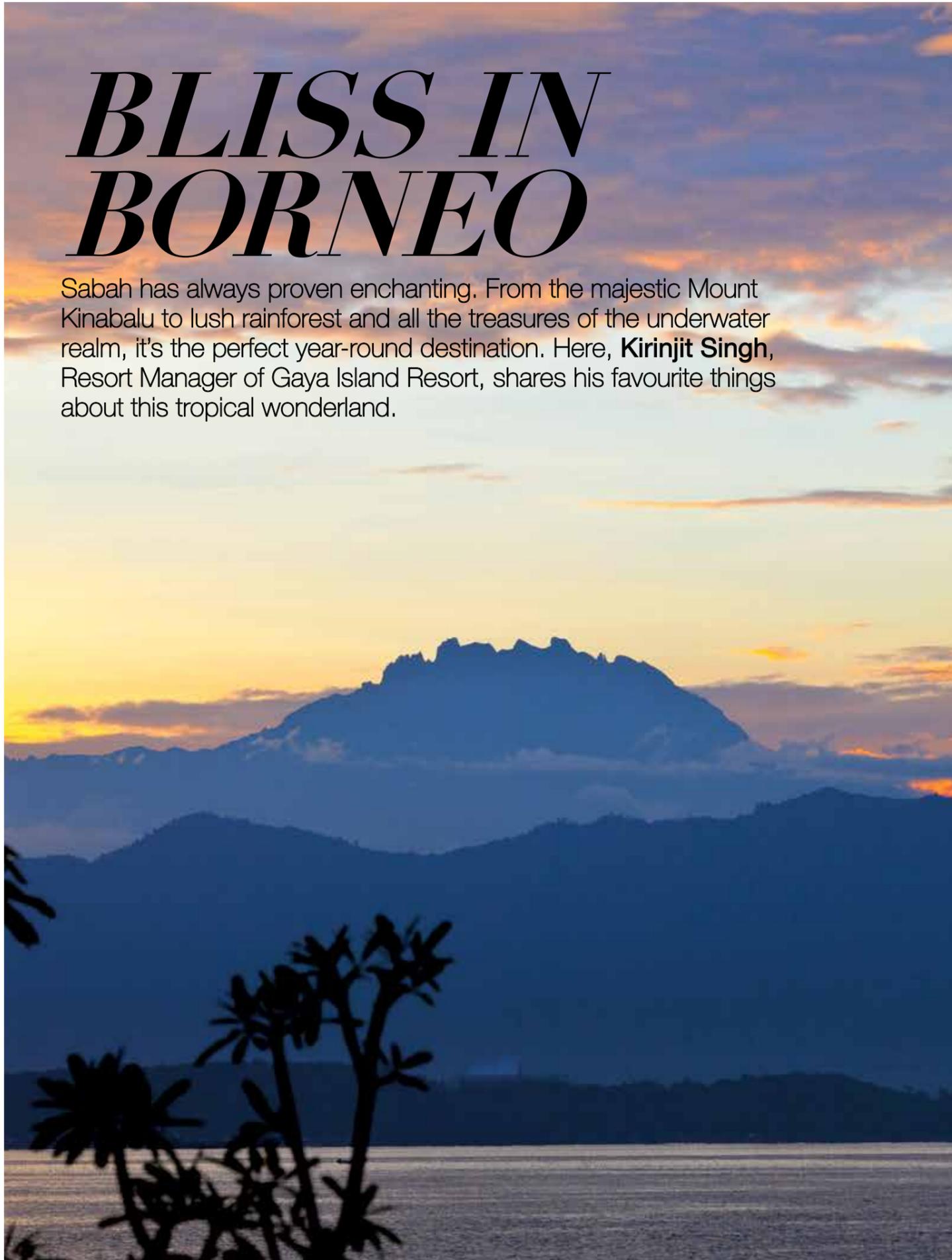
# BLISS IN BORNEO

Sabah has always proven enchanting. From the majestic Mount Kinabalu to lush rainforest and all the treasures of the underwater realm, it's the perfect year-round destination. Here, **Kirinjit Singh**, Resort Manager of Gaya Island Resort, shares his favourite things about this tropical wonderland.

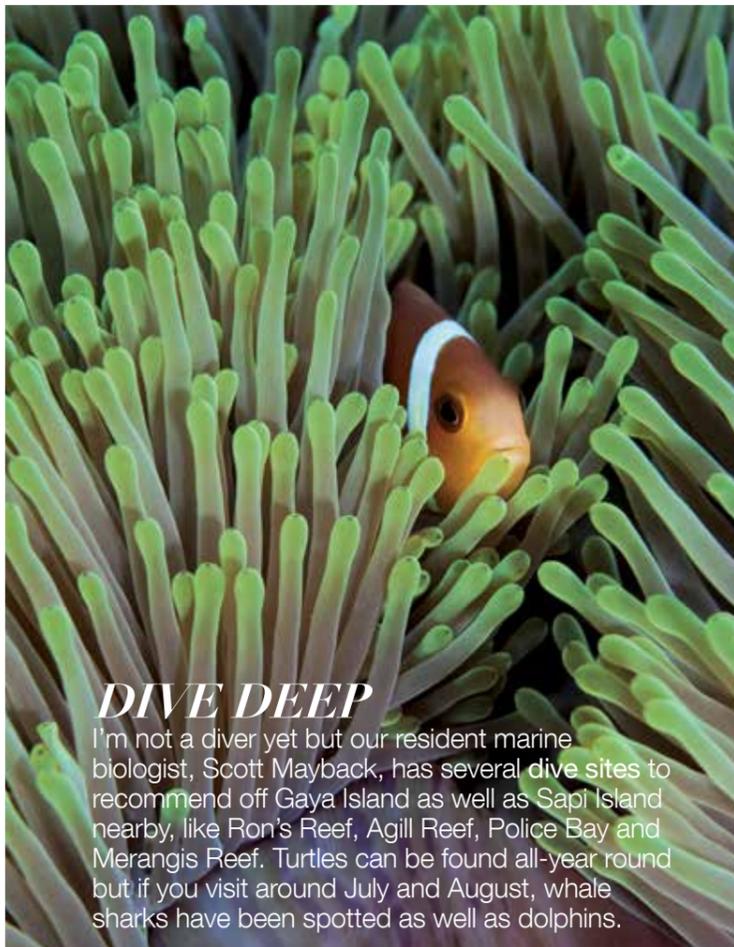


## BUSY IS GOOD

I admit our swimming pools are tempting but do go on a nature walk with Justin Juhun, our resident naturalist. I always enjoy a morning trek with him, where, depending on the time, season and a spot of luck, you can spot proboscis monkeys, macaques, species of wild bamboo and orchids.

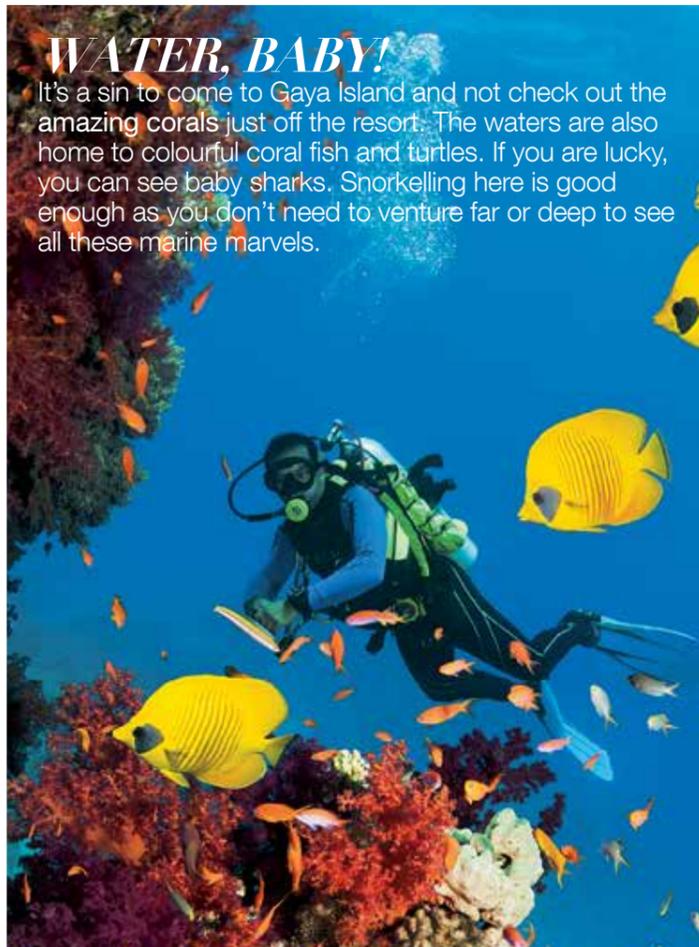


Discover the beauty of nature at Gaya Island Resort.



### ***DIVE DEEP***

I'm not a diver yet but our resident marine biologist, Scott Mayback, has several dive sites to recommend off Gaya Island as well as Sapi Island nearby, like Ron's Reef, Agill Reef, Police Bay and Merangis Reef. Turtles can be found all-year round but if you visit around July and August, whale sharks have been spotted as well as dolphins.



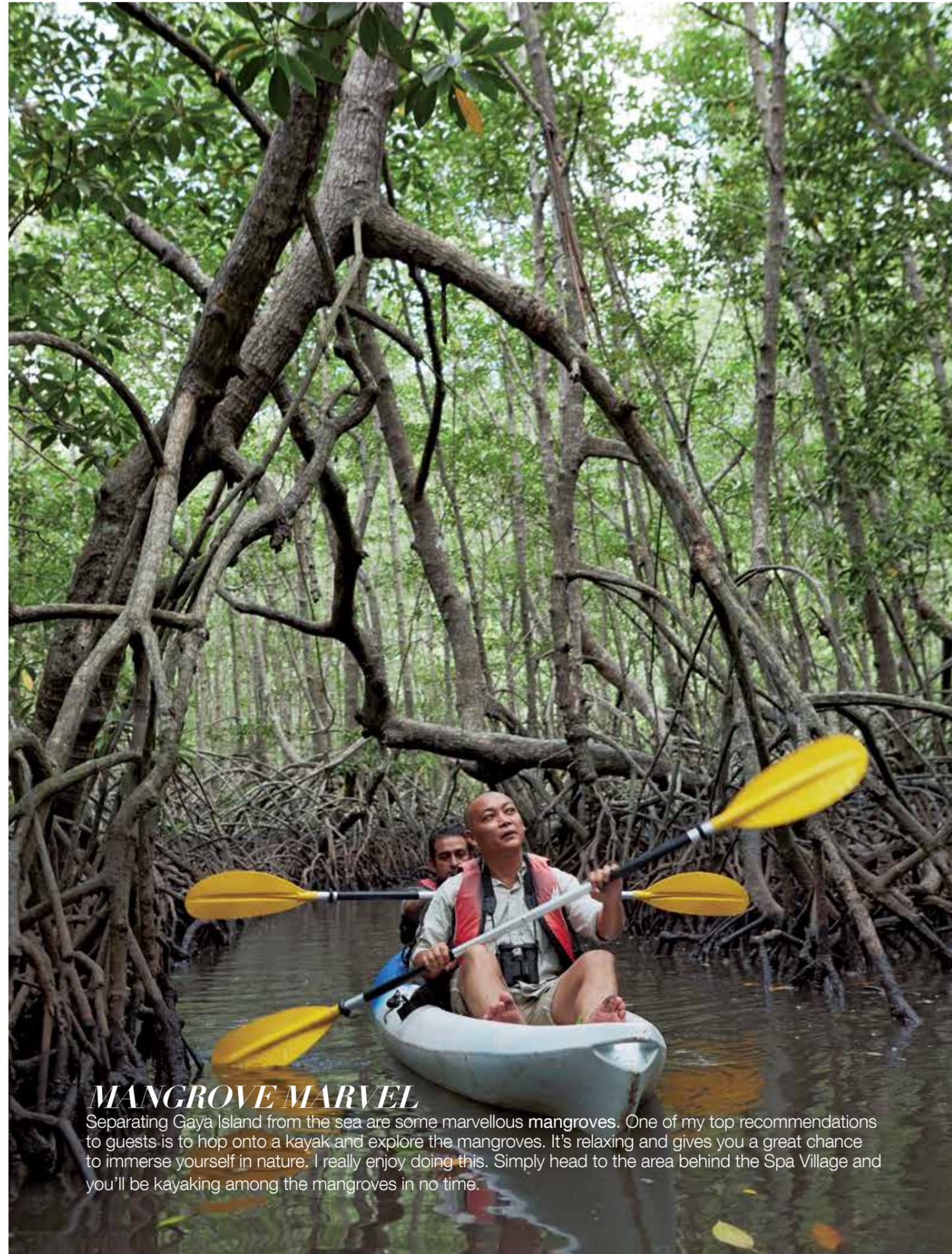
### ***WATER, BABY!***

It's a sin to come to Gaya Island and not check out the amazing corals just off the resort. The waters are also home to colourful coral fish and turtles. If you are lucky, you can see baby sharks. Snorkelling here is good enough as you don't need to venture far or deep to see all these marine marvels.



### ***MEET ME AT THE BAY***

Tavajun Bay at Gaya Island Resort offers a near-perfect patch of beach – it's long and covered in fine white sand. The waters surrounding it are crystal clear and it's the perfect place to spend a relaxing day in the sun. Don't leave your room without a few good books to read, cold cans of beer and a packed picnic, which our team is only too happy to prepare for you.

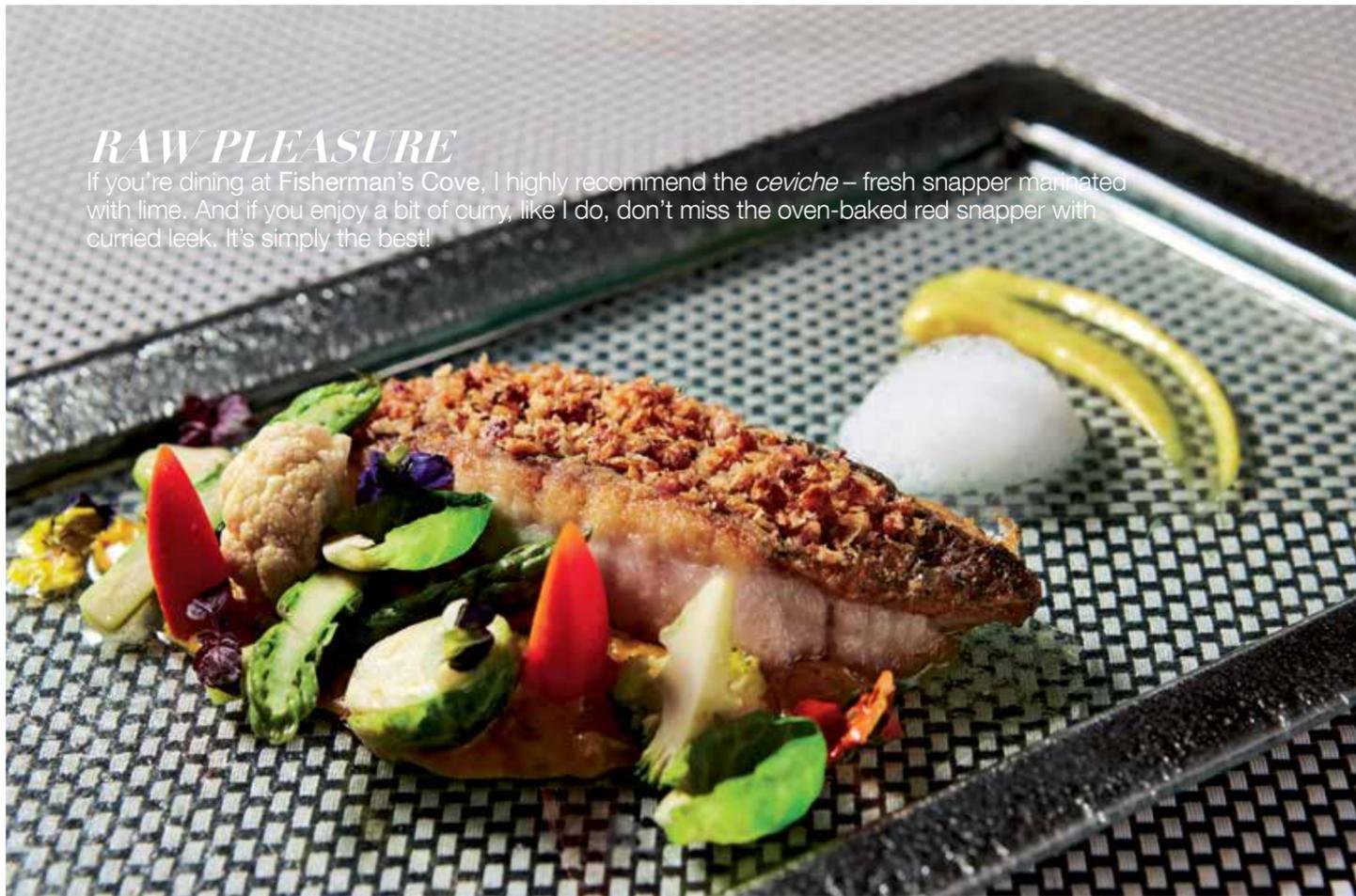


### ***MANGROVE MARVEL***

Separating Gaya Island from the sea are some marvellous mangroves. One of my top recommendations to guests is to hop onto a kayak and explore the mangroves. It's relaxing and gives you a great chance to immerse yourself in nature. I really enjoy doing this. Simply head to the area behind the Spa Village and you'll be kayaking among the mangroves in no time.

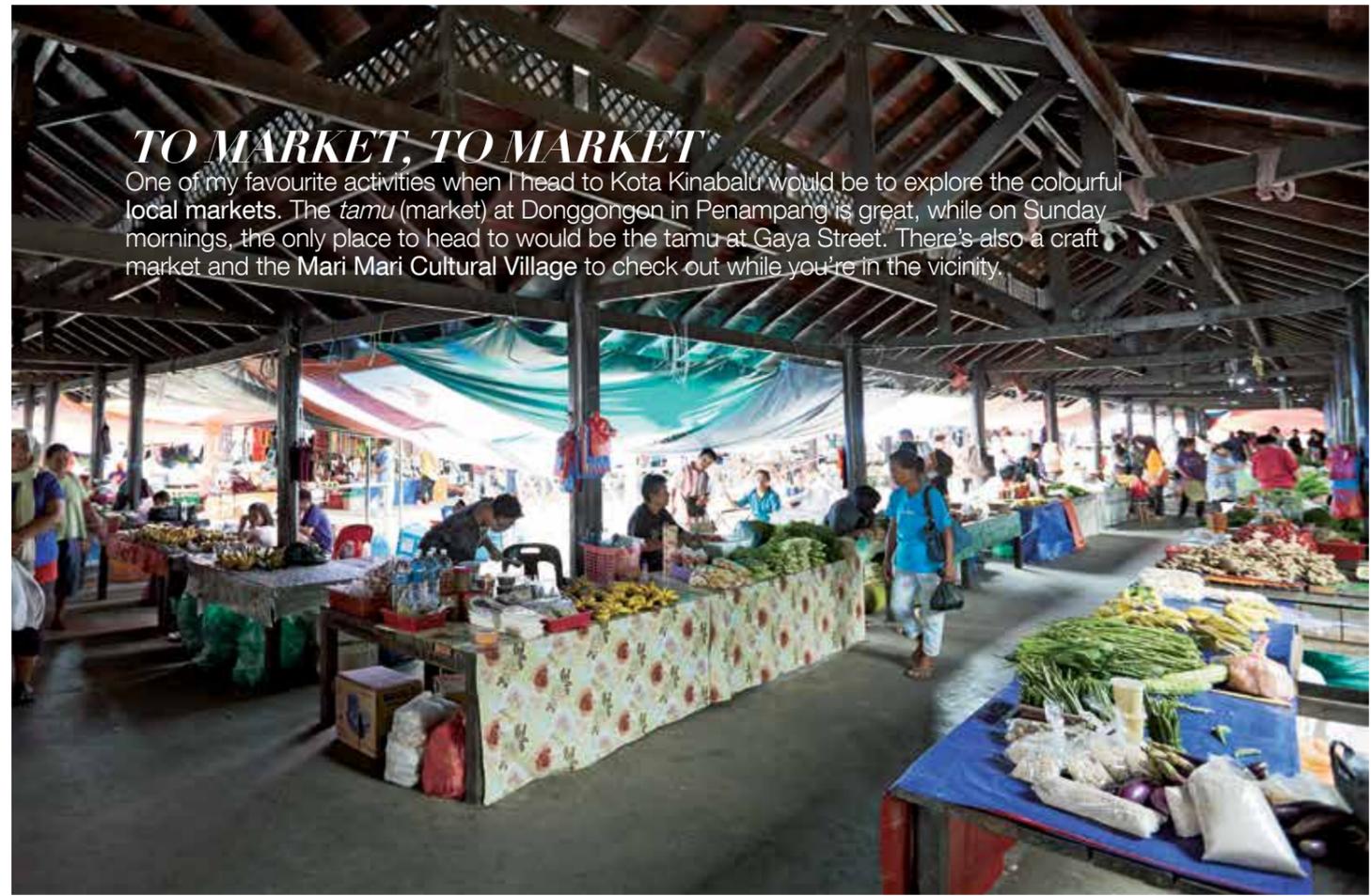
## RAW PLEASURE

If you're dining at Fisherman's Cove, I highly recommend the *ceviche* – fresh snapper marinated with lime. And if you enjoy a bit of curry, like I do, don't miss the oven-baked red snapper with curried leek. It's simply the best!



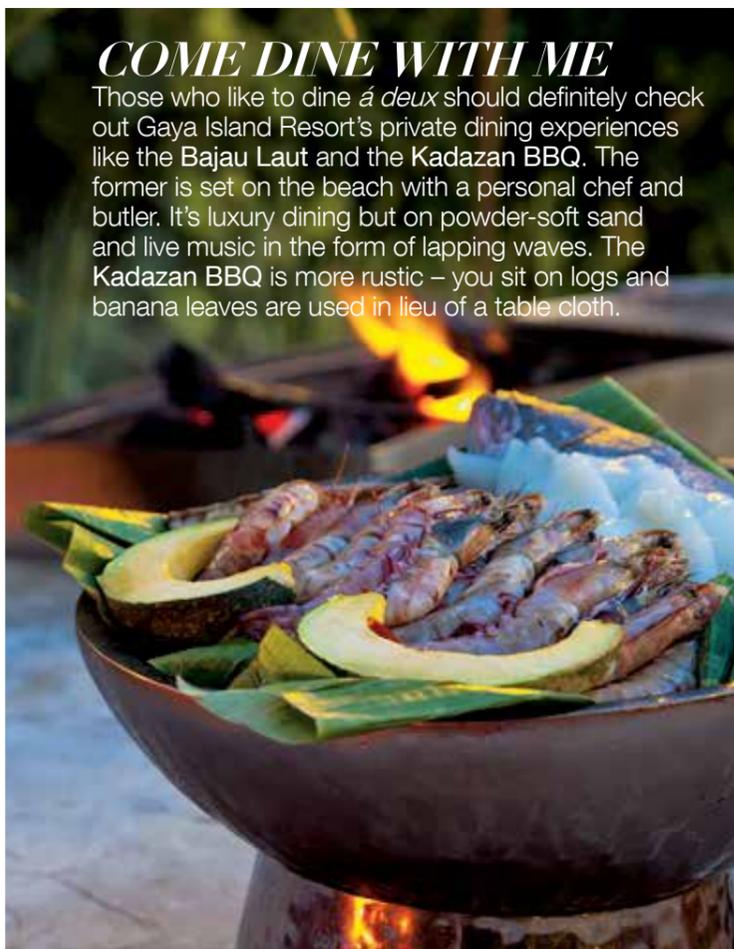
## TO MARKET, TO MARKET

One of my favourite activities when I head to Kota Kinabalu would be to explore the colourful local markets. The *tamu* (market) at Donggongen in Penampang is great, while on Sunday mornings, the only place to head to would be the *tamu* at Gaya Street. There's also a craft market and the Mari Mari Cultural Village to check out while you're in the vicinity.



## COME DINE WITH ME

Those who like to dine *à deux* should definitely check out Gaya Island Resort's private dining experiences like the Bajau Laut and the Kadazan BBQ. The former is set on the beach with a personal chef and butler. It's luxury dining but on powder-soft sand and live music in the form of lapping waves. The Kadazan BBQ is more rustic – you sit on logs and banana leaves are used in lieu of a table cloth.



Explore another side of Kota Kinabalu when you visit its colourful local markets.



## SOUL-SOOTHING

The Spa Village at Gaya Island Resort has many interesting treatments to try and I try to fit in a treatment at least once every two months, schedule permitting. My treatment of choice? The *Papakang*, one of its signature experiences.



Treat yourself to a pampering session with treatments inspired by the local culture at Gaya Island Resort's Spa Village.

## ROOMS WITH A VIEW

One of the highlights of staying at Gaya Island Resort would be its unbeatable location. Depending on your room, you can ask for one with a view of majestic Mount Kinabalu – South-East Asia's highest. The best way to enjoy this, in my opinion, is to wake up really early. Make a cup of coffee, sit on the *sala* and watch the sun slowly illuminate the mountain. It's a sight for sore eyes! Suites 801-801 have great vantage points, as do suites 833, 825-828 and 852-854.



Kirinjit Singh is the Resort Manager of Gaya Island Resort, Sabah.



**GAYA ISLAND RESORT**  
DISTINCTIVELY BORNEO



Set within the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, Gaya Island Resort is a gem located just off Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Golden sand beaches and crystal clear waters that teem with marine life beckon, while the Spa Village offers guests a unique experience of Borneo-inspired healing and wellness traditions.  
[www.gaya-islandresort.com](http://www.gaya-islandresort.com)



**PANGKOR LAUT RESORT**  
ONE ISLAND. ONE RESORT



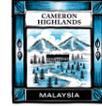
Located off the Straits of Malacca, this luxurious resort boasts an entire tropical island all to itself. Villas are tucked into the hillside or gracefully perched on stilts above the water, while an award-winning Spa Village offers world-class treatments to leave you feeling recharged, relaxed and rejuvenated.  
[www.pangkorlautresort.com](http://www.pangkorlautresort.com)



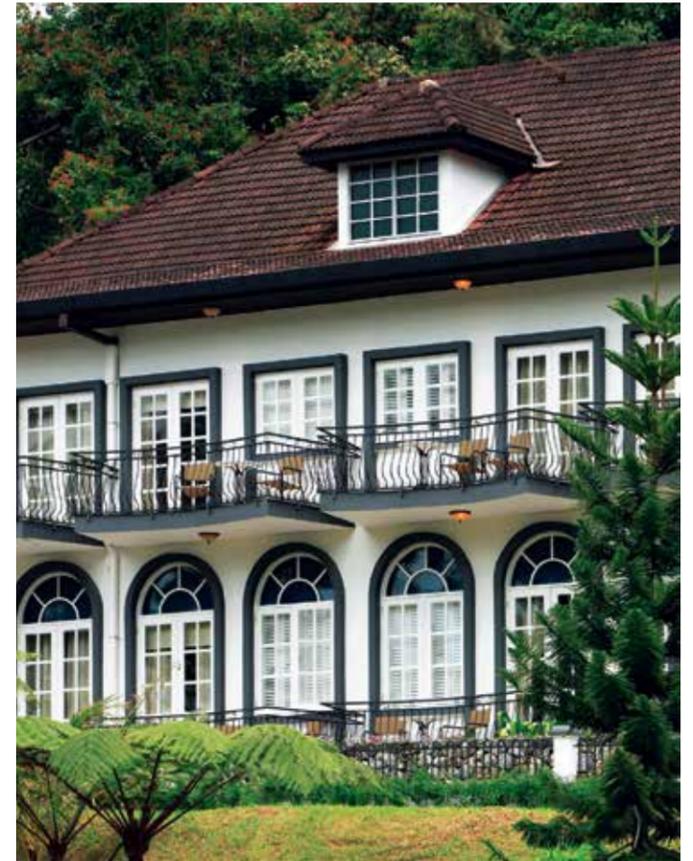
**TANJONG JARA RESORT**  
UNMISTAKABLY MALAY



Embodying the essence of Malay culture and tradition, Tanjong Jara Resort on the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia offers the perfect experience of Malay hospitality. Fronted by the South China Sea and surrounded by the lush green beauty of the local countryside, Tanjong Jara offers you an experience of Malaysia like no other.  
[www.tanjongjararesort.com](http://www.tanjongjararesort.com)



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This unique hill station combines all the splendour, romance and nostalgia of the area's grand colonial heritage while the resort, with its luxurious rooms and award-winning Spa Village, remains the best place to experience it all, from verdant hills, tea plantations, rose gardens and strawberry patches.  
[www.cameronhighlandsresort.com](http://www.cameronhighlandsresort.com)



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REGARDED AS THE CRADLE OF MALAYSIAN HISTORY, EXPLORING MALACCA IS LIKE STEPPING BACK IN TIME, WHEN THE PORT-CITY USED TO WELCOME SPICE TRADERS, SULTANS AND WARRIORS FROM BYGONE DAYS. SOAK UP ALL THE MAGIC AT THE MAJESTIC MALACCA, ONE OF THE CITY'S FINEST HOTELS WHOSE STRUCTURE DATES BACK TO THE 1920S AND WHOSE INTERIORS ARE A REFLECTION OF THE CITY'S FINE PAST. WWW.MAJESTICMALACCA.COM

ITS NAME ALREADY CONJURES UP IMAGES OF OLD WORLD ELEGANCE AND OPULENCE. LOCATED IN KUALA LUMPUR'S DOWNTOWN GOLDEN TRIANGLE BUSINESS DISTRICT, THIS LUXURY HOTEL IS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED TO UPSCALE SHOPPING, DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT. IT ALSO BOASTS OF ITS OWN AWARD-WINNING SPA WHILE GOURMETS WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND BETTER CANTONESE CUISINE THAN AT LI YEN, ITS FINE DINING CHINESE RESTAURANT. WWW.YTLHOTELS.COM

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*Always in Season*



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[WWW.NISEKO-VILLAGE.COM](http://WWW.NISEKO-VILLAGE.COM)

**KASARA**  
NISEKO VILLAGE  
TOWNHOUSE

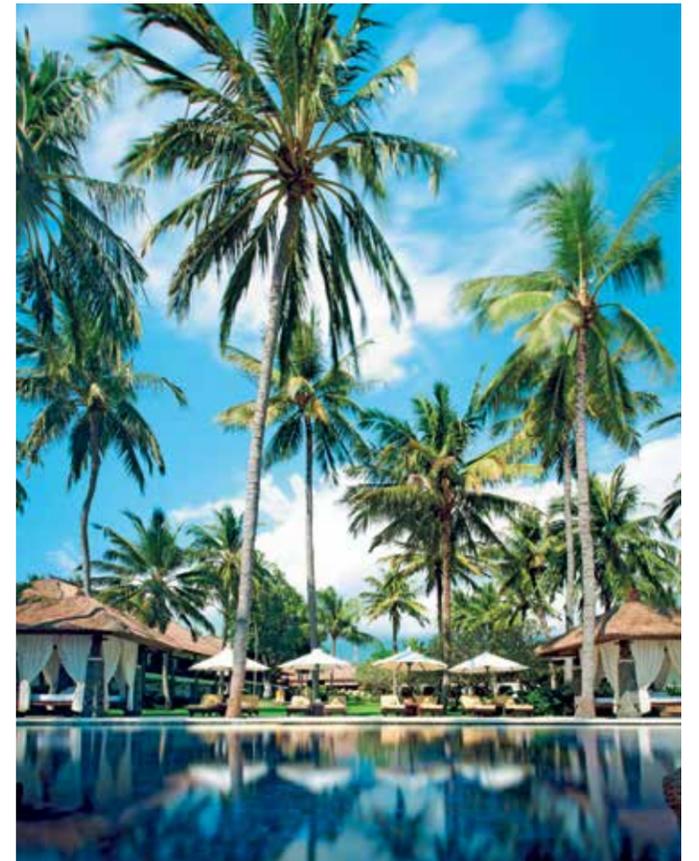


SITUATED AT THE BASE OF MOUNT NISEKO ANNUPURI, KASARA NISEKO VILLAGE TOWNHOUSE OCCUPIES A UNIQUE POSITION AT THE HEART OF NISEKO VILLAGE. EIGHT EXCLUSIVE 3-BEDROOM TOWNHOUSES MARK THE FIRST HIGHLY ANTICIPATED PHASE OF YTL HOTELS' REDEFINITION OF ALPINE LIVING AT NISEKO VILLAGE WITH SKI RUNS AND LIFTS A MERE HEARTBEAT AWAY. EMBODYING AUTHENTIC JAPANESE CHARM WITH CONTEMPORARY ELEGANCE AND SENSITIVITY TOWARDS NATURE, THE DWELLINGS ARE AN ODE TO JAPAN'S HERITAGE TOWNHOUSES THAT WERE INHABITED BY CRAFTSMEN AND WEALTHY MERCHANTS TOWARD THE END OF THE EDO PERIOD.  
[WWW.KASARA.COM](http://WWW.KASARA.COM)



THE GREEN LEAF  
Niseko Village

THE SURIN  
PHUKET



Set at the foot of Mount Niseko Annupuri, the Hilton Niseko Village offers year-round activities, from skiing during the winter season to a host of wholesome, family-friendly activities during summer. There are also two 18-hole championship golf courses, a tennis complex, an equestrian centre and a nature-based activity centre.  
[www.hiltonnisekovillage.jp](http://www.hiltonnisekovillage.jp)

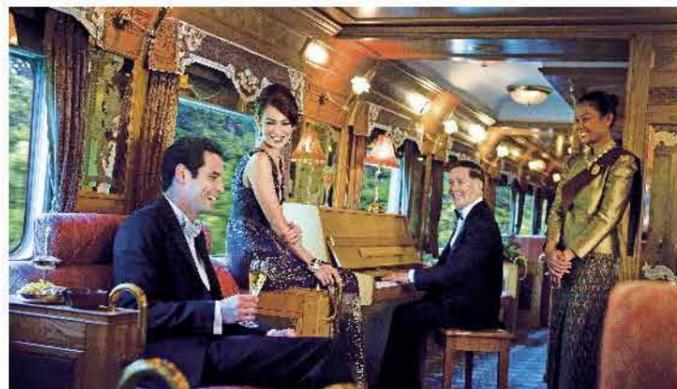
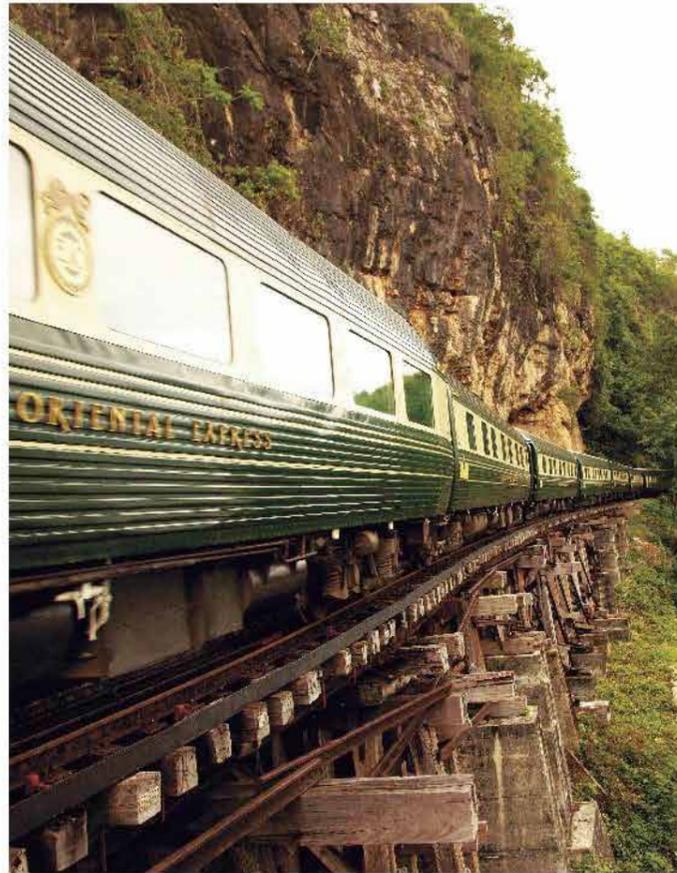
Located in the heart of Niseko Village in Hokkaido, Japan, this premium contemporary resort offers guests a seamless experience of stay, snow and ski. Goshiki offers a wide range of flavours to suit every palate while après-ski drinks are best enjoyed at the contemporary Tomioka White Lounge.  
[www.thegreenleafhotel.com](http://www.thegreenleafhotel.com)

Situated on Pansea Beach, without doubt one of Phuket's loveliest and most private, The Surin offers a perfect slice of Thai beach life. Charming cottages and suites are all discreetly built into a carefully conserved landscape amidst coconut trees. From sumptuous cuisine to watersports, a world-class spa and spectacular sunsets, it combines idyllic tropical charm with all the warmth and grace of Thai hospitality.  
[www.thesurinphuket.com](http://www.thesurinphuket.com)

Black volcanic sand, majestic Mount Agung, the deep blue of the Indian Ocean and the mystical Balinese way of life all come together in style at the Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali. Set in the north of the island, it is a place of enchanting peacefulness and a haven of wellness, where guests can enjoy all the benefits and pleasures of spa life in tranquil, spiritual surroundings.  
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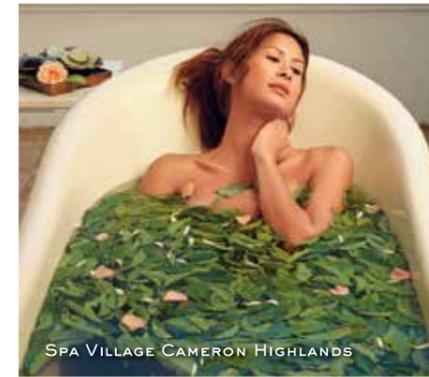


GUESTS WHO WISH TO ENJOY A MORE SPACIOUS STAY WHILE EXPLORING THE HISTORICAL SOUL OF BATH WOULD DO WELL TO CONSIDER THE ELIZABETHAN CHARMS OF THE MUSE TOWNHOUSES. SPREAD OUT OVER FIVE LEVELS, EACH WITH ITS OWN INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER, THE MUSE TOWNHOUSES COMBINE SPACIOUSNESS, MODERN COMFORT AND QUIET ELEGANCE ALL WITHIN THE HEART OF THIS FINE ANCIENT ROMAN SPA TOWN.  
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SPA VILLAGE PANGKOR LAUT



SPA VILLAGE CAMERON HIGHLANDS



SPA VILLAGE MALACCA

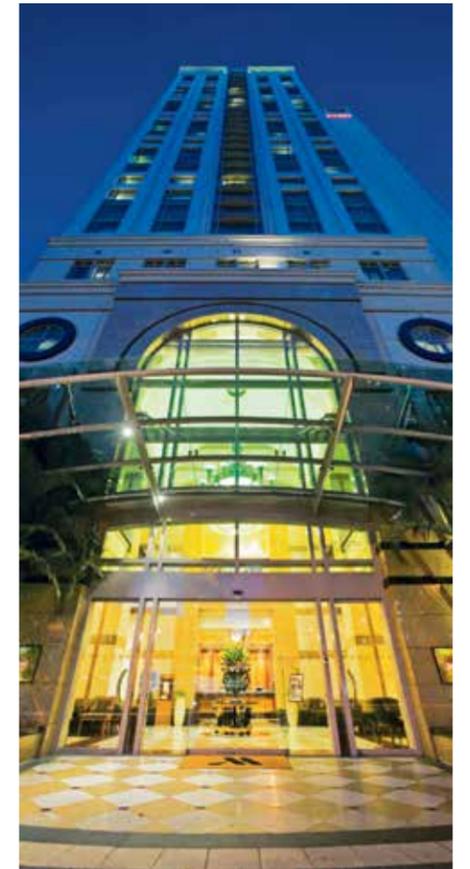
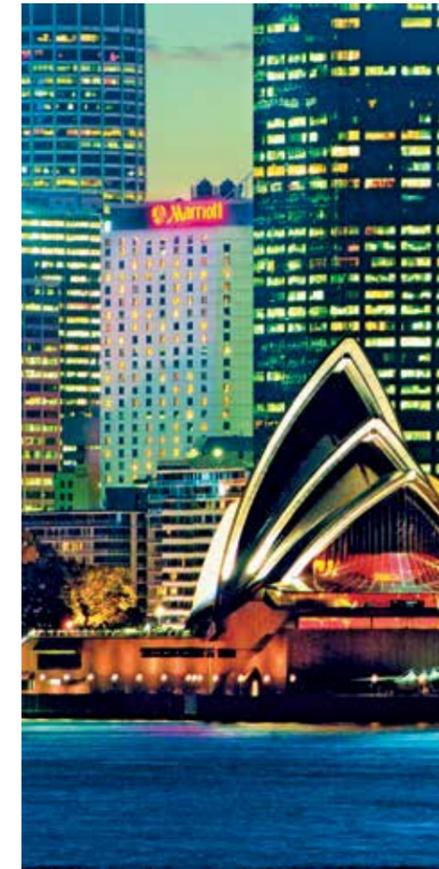
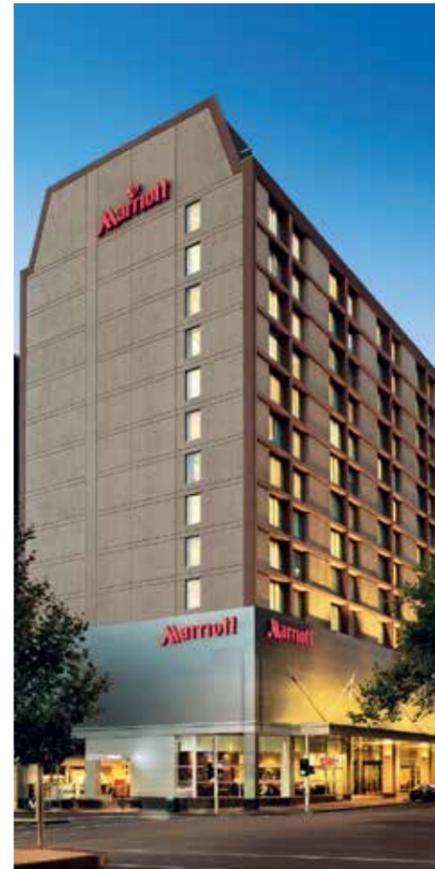


SPA VILLAGE GAYA ISLAND

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THE SPA VILLAGES HONOUR THE HEALING CULTURE OF THE REGION IN WHICH EACH IS BUILT. EACH SPA VILLAGE HAS ITS OWN CHARACTER AND AUTHENTICITY, WORKING WITH LOCAL HEALERS AND TRADITIONS.  
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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 FOR FOUR DIFFERENT CUISINES ARE CREATED AROUND THE SENSES, FLIRTING WITH SEASONAL TRENDS. [WWW.SHOOKRESTAURANTSHANGHAI.COM](http://WWW.SHOOKRESTAURANTSHANGHAI.COM)

CHOICE IS THE KEY WORD WHEN IT COMES TO DINING AT SHOOK KL AND LOT 10 HUTONG. THE FORMER OFFERS FOUR CUISINES FROM FOUR LIVE KITCHENS, INCLUDING ITALIAN, JAPANESE, CHINESE AND THE GRILL, WHILE THE LATTER IS THE DE FACTO DESTINATION WHEN IT COMES TO ENJOYING THE BEST OF MALAYSIAN STREET FOOD UNDER ONE WELL-FORMED ROOF. [WWW.STARHILLGALLERY.COM](http://WWW.STARHILLGALLERY.COM) [WWW.LOT10HUTONG.COM](http://WWW.LOT10HUTONG.COM)

EACH AUSTRALIAN MARRIOTT HOTEL IS SITUATED WITHIN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT OF ITS CITY AND IDEALLY POSITIONED TO SERVE BOTH BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRAVELLERS ALIKE. THE 563-ROOM SYDNEY HARBOUR MARRIOTT IS SET IN THE HEART OF CIRCULAR QUAY, OVERLOOKING ICONIC LANDMARKS THE HARBOUR BRIDGE AND OPERA HOUSE. THE 186-ROOM MELBOURNE MARRIOTT IS CLOSE TO THE CITY'S THEATRE PRECINCT, THE SHOPPING DISTRICTS AND CHINATOWN. THE BRISBANE MARRIOTT, WITH 263 ROOMS AND 4 SUITES, IS SITUATED BETWEEN BRISBANE'S CBD AND THE FORTITUDE VALLEY HUB, CLOSE TO SHOPPING, RIVERSIDE DINING, AND THE CITY'S CORPORATE AND CULTURAL LOCALES. [WWW.MARRIOTT.COM](http://WWW.MARRIOTT.COM)

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