

# YTL *life*

The YTL Luxury Magazine

## Riviera Revelry

Sweet Summer in  
Saint-Tropez

## West Lake Awakening

Spa Village Hangzhou

## Time's Treasures

The Best of  
BaselWorld 2013

Bali Adventure • Hutong Guangzhou • Malacca & Metaphors



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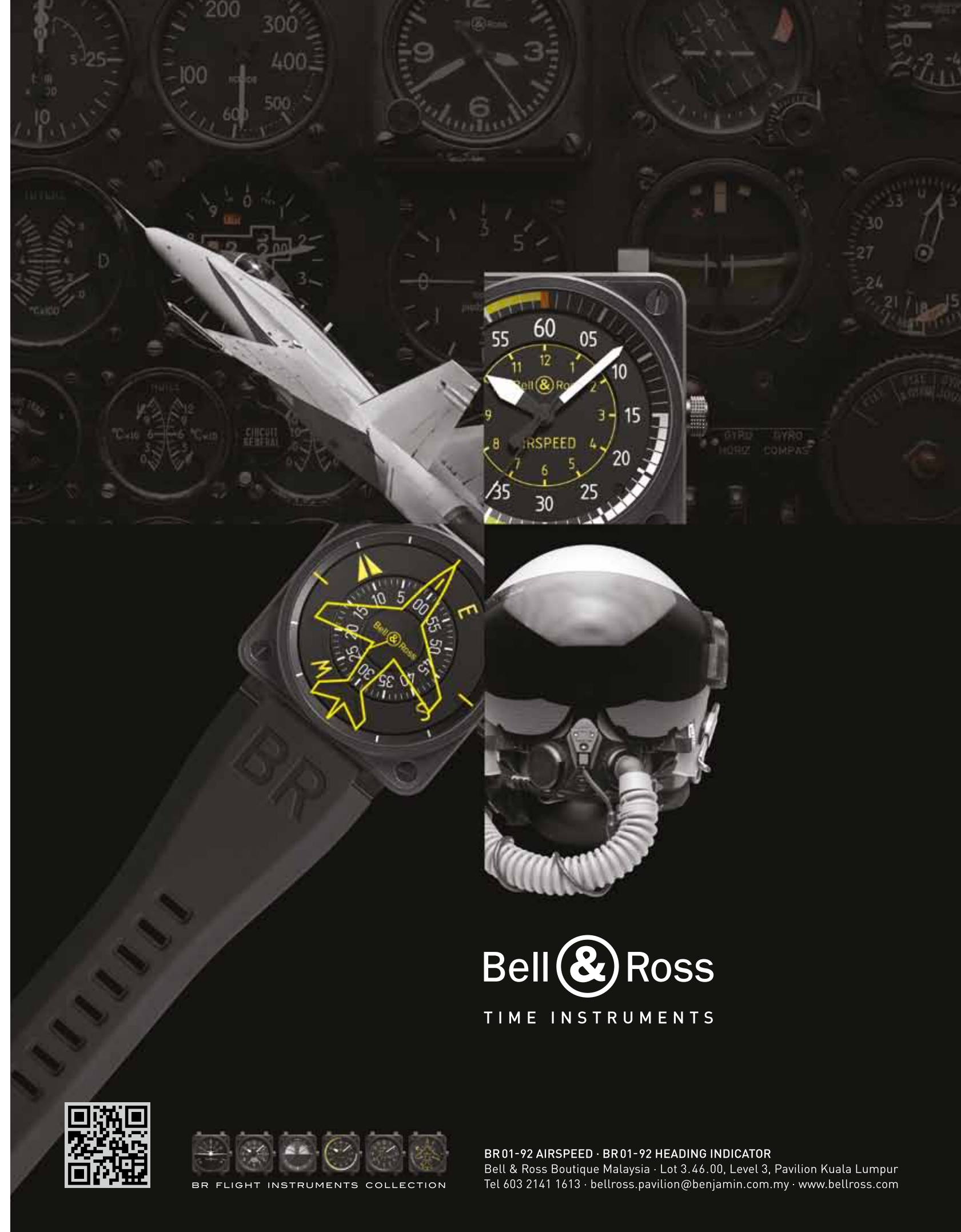
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Mount Kinabalu appears mystically behind the parting clouds.  
And once again, you remind yourself that you're not dreaming.  
Your moment awaits.

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# YTL *life*

The YTL Luxury Magazine

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UNMISTAKABLY MALAY



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

## M A N D I B U N G A

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

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Treasured Places, Treasured Moments



# A Note from Tan Sri (Dr) Francis Yeoh



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

This quarter marks a particularly exciting time for us at YTL Corporation as we launch the first-ever international outlet of Lot 10 Hutong in Guangzhou, China. I am pleased to see the growth and global expansion of a product that was created as a way to preserve and share Malaysia's culinary heritage and the richness of our local street food. I remember how my father, Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Yeoh Tiong Lay, would take the whole family all over town to enjoy the best and most famous local hawker dishes, be it in the back alleys of Petaling Street, along the road in Campbell Street and further beyond to Petaling Jaya and Klang. The success of Lot 10 Hutong, listed by *The New York Times* as 'Asia's Top Odysseys' for its heritage hawker brands and unsurpassed selection of world-class dishes, now expands its wings to China as we open within the Tsai Lan City of Fusion Foods in the Fuli Yingxin Building of Zhujiang New Town Development, in partnership with renowned food critic and personality Chua Lam and Ralph Hu. After being away across the Nanyang for centuries, we have not forgotten our cultural and culinary roots. The concept of Hutong actually represents the culture of hard work, long-suffering and perseverance, something embodied by the Chinese immigrants to Malaya, who could prepare very good food at affordable prices as a means of catharsis, to fight another day, if you will. This culture and what it represents must not be forgotten. So, today, I am extremely proud to be able to bring back something of value to my grandfather's homeland with the culinary legacies of Nanyang's best of the best comfort food to be shared with everyone.

China has also warmly welcomed our award-winning Spa Villages, with two successfully opened in the cities of Hangzhou and Shaoxing, and one more to open by the year's end in Xiao Shan, all in Zhejiang Province. In this issue, please read all about the world-class spa journeys available at Spa Village Hangzhou on page 78. Summer also means it's high season in the French Riviera and, if your schedule permits, don't miss spending a few days luxuriating at the Muse Saint Tropez, our beautiful boutique property in one of the most desirable destinations in the South of France, the subject of our cover story this issue. It's an exciting summer for all of us at YTL Corporation. We hope yours will be equally memorable. God bless and happy reading.

*Francis*



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1. Ooi Chean Ling, Puan Sri Christine Khir Johari, Rayce Han and Datin Kok Poh Thiam.  
 2. Pan-fried barramundi with vegetable ragout and Pommery cream sauce. 3. A model wearing dazzling creations from Tiffany & Co's Gatsby collection.  
 4. The Solianos were on hand to entertain that night. 5. Jeff Mong, General Manager of The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, welcoming guests to the Gatsby-themed dinner. 6. Joseph Yeoh, Vice President of YTL Hotels, and Diana Khoo, Editor-in-Chief of YTL Life 7. GT Low, TS Yap, Shawna Yap and Ana Garcia de Barañano. 8. Marianne Liow of Tiffany & Co and Mala Chandran.



# Of Jay & Daisy Fay

The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur proved to be the venue par excellence for a recent dinner thrown by *The Peak* and New York's preeminent jewellers Tiffany & Co to celebrate the recent premiere of Baz Luhrmann's much-anticipated screen adaptation of *The Great Gatsby*, starring Leonardo di Caprio and Carey Mulligan. The evening began with classic cocktails at the hotel's The Smoke House, where *Sidecars* and *Cointreapolitans* were served up aplenty, followed by a sumptuous dinner at The Colonial Café. Guests dined on lobster thermidor, Beef Rossini with foie gras mousse and trifle as models paraded the latest baubles from Tiffany's *Gatsby* collection. The Solianos, Malaysia's most renowned musical family, entertained as a quartet while, to ensure the Fitzgerald feeling lingers on longer than most, exclusive tickets to see the movie were given out as party favours to all guests.





9. Dato' Kok Yul Shin and Dato' Raymond Liew.  
10. Puan Sri Pernille Goh, Tan Sri Dato' Wira Dr Jason Goh and Folco de Luca Gabrielli. 11. Honey-roasted chicken with glazed papaya salad. 12. Key Soon Yue and Dato' Kok Wee Kiat. 13. Ric Tan and Colin Ng. 14. Kenneth Tan, Terry Lim and Christy Yoong.



15. The evening began with cocktails at The Smoke House. 16. Rémy Martin's Summit Cocktails to help close the evening. 17. A classic English trifle for dessert. 18. Dr Casey Chow and Ashley Chow. 19. Roasted organic pumpkin soup with crème fraiche. 20. Benjamin Yong, Sherin Wong and Ming-Ne Tan.





YTL's newest events, attractions and not-to-be-missed experiences.



01

# 01

## Waking Up In Style

Start your day in sumptuous style the next time you stay at the Art Deco-rific **The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur**. Your suite at the historically-luxurious Majestic Wing comes with 24-hour butler service, who will serve you your choice of Continental or traditional Hainanese breakfast, the latter starring charcoal-toasted Hainanese bread slathered with butter and *kaya* (coconut jam), in the privacy and comfort of your suite. If you fancy the full monty, mosey over to the hotel's popular **Contango** restaurant for a truly worthy breakfast buffet spread.



02

# 02

## Asana Hour

Imagine greeting the morning over a session of yoga and fresh sea breeze? At **Pangkor Laut Resort**, complimentary yoga sessions are offered daily, from 0830hrs to 0930hrs, excluding Wednesdays, at the **Spa Villa Pavilion**. Combining physical postures, breathing techniques and meditation, it encourages us to unite the body and mind, while improving strength, flexibility and muscle tone. The resort's pristine surroundings, tangy sea air and the visually-calming effects of being around water, all merge to offer a perfect setting in which to regain physical and mental harmony.



03

# 03

## Spiritual Life Retreats

The **Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali**, tucked away on the remote north-eastern coast of Bali, resumes its hugely-popular Guest Artist Programme for the fifth consecutive year. From July, shiatsu master Yutaka Homma and kinesiology specialist Esther Kivi will take up residence for specific time frames to share their expertise and unique healing touches with guests. Meanwhile, October sees the return of world-renowned clairvoyant Diana Manilova, recognised as a daughter of the sky by shamans, *sadhus* and *rinpoches*, who will impart her wisdom via spiritual life consultations.



04



05

# 04

## Poetic Escape

For centuries, poets, painters and sages have waxed lyrical about Hangzhou's enchanting natural beauty, even proclaiming that "above there is heaven, and on earth there is Hangzhou". Evoking this spirit is **Spa Village Hangzhou**, whose range of treatments varies according to the season and may range from classic Tui-na massage to Shiatsu and the Emperor's Facial, designed specifically for men, using a blend of wild-crafted blue lotus, rice germ, bamboo, lemon, algae extracts and tiger grass to purify the skin. Each treatment is also preceded by a session of Dry Fried Herbal Rolling, an extraordinary experience that prepares you perfectly for the spa journey ahead.

# 05

## Summer Holiday

The award-winning **Tanjong Jara Resort**, on the east coast of Peninsula Malaysia, offers holidaymakers a special Summer Stopover package. Starting from RM1,625++ per night for a minimum of three nights' stay, enjoy full board stay with airport transfers from Kuala Terengganu and your choice of one adventure getaway (choose from snorkelling, diving, waterfall excursion or an eco-cruise along the Marang River), one cultural activity (a visit to a local market, tour of Dungun town, batik cloth painting, cooking class or a bicycle tour through a nearby fishing village), one private dinner and one 50-minute spa experience per person at the luxurious **Spa Village Tanjong Jara**. Available from now until 31 October 2013.



06

# 06

## The Brunch Bunch

Located atop the **Swatch Art Peace Hotel** along Shanghai's Bund 19, the award-winning **Shook! Restaurant and Rooftop Terrace** makes summery weekends all the more sublime with its Mimosa Brunch every Saturday and Sunday, from 1130hrs to 1500hrs. Ease your way into the feast with glasses of champagne and orange juice *Mimosas* or perhaps a *Bloody Mary* or classic *Bellini*. Chef Matthew Ona's spread includes a delectable line-up of appetisers like heirloom cherry tomato salad and salmon tartare, as well as eggs, prepared in a medley of styles, braised beef in a Cabernet Glaze and the fluffiest wild berry pancakes ever.



# Summer In The South Of France

When summer hits France, there's no more glamorous place to be in than sun-drenched Saint-Tropez. Here, explore the world-class offerings of this exceedingly-chic old fishing town from your luxurious base at the Muse Saint Tropez.

Text Diana Khoo Photography Yong Keen Keong

Inspired by legendary muses, it's safe to say you won't find a better (or more luxurious) place to bed down for the night in Saint-Tropez than at the Muse Saint Tropez. Located just a short drive from the bustling Place des Lices, the elegant boutique hotel is set on the stunning *route de plages*, perched atop a little bluff in Ramatuelle and surrounded by rambling gardens filled with local flora. The reception area is designed to resemble the *moulins* (windmills) commonly found in the region, but modernised with sleek, clean lines and a contemporary touch. "True luxury is never about excess," shares Celia Gumbau, Brand Manager for YTL Hotels'

Muse Collection, of which Muse Saint Tropez is a part. "Our brand of luxury lies in our attention to detail, like the really heavy chestnut wood doors we use and the little touches that all combine to inspire our guests during their stay. We want to be their muse, if you will."

The hotel itself boasts just 15 *trés chic* suites, each dedicated to famous muses, like 'Edith' for the legendary *la môme* Piaf and Catherine, after screen goddess Catherine Deneuve. Settling into each suite will undoubtedly prove soothing. The beds are lined with nothing less than 800-threadcount Egyptian silk and cotton-

Saint-Tropez is, undeniably, the rich and famous' preferred playground.







1. Dreamy summer evenings at the Muse Saint Tropez.  
2. Aperitif hour at the Muse Saint Tropez equal cold cocktails and oven-fresh bread smeared with tapenade, a Provençal staple.

blended sheets, while the furniture is all custom-made by Henriot, one of France's oldest manufacturers, who used to create furniture for the royal court at Versailles. Done up in soft earthy tones, cool stone floors and marmorino wall finishes, you may be among the lucky few to have your own private plunge pool (so refreshing to dip into after a sunny day out soaking in Saint-Tropez's sights and sounds) or perhaps have a little patch of garden to call your very own. Pull up a sun-lounger and immediately ring for room service to send up a bottle of the local chilled rosé, ideally by Domaines Ott.

Meals at the Muse are an exercise in the finest, freshest ingredients presented with great style. Breakfast on an assortment of freshly-baked breads and other assorted *viennoiseries*, brought to your table by a wait staff in a wicker basket heaped with herbs and wild flowers. Lunch and dinner bring more substantial delights, like foie gras mousse topped, perhaps, with white

“Barbarac, the most famous ice cream and sorbet shop in Saint-Tropez is particularly famous for French-inspired flavours like *macaron*, *tarte citron*, *canelé* and *speculoos*.”

asparagus foam and parmesan crisps, saddle of lamb with rosemary jus and fresh vegetables, stuffed Provençal-style baby squid and John Dory served on a bed of artichokes *à la Barigoule*. You must, of course, always save room for dessert while in France and the Muse Saint Tropez is no exception. Sweet treats include an assortment of sugary delights, like apple and almond pie, as well as a selection of ice creams from Barbarac, the most famous ice cream and sorbet shop in Saint-Tropez and particularly famous for French-inspired flavours like *macaron*, *tarte citron*, *canelé* (the famous Bordelaise pastry) and *speculoos* – a famous spiced rusk-like biscuit.

To work off the fabulous meals you'd inevitably enjoy here, the azure-hued swimming pool is conveniently located right next to the dining room and few pleasures beat swimming leisurely laps before retreating to a nearby cabana. As you relax with a cocktail, feast your eyes



on the iconic *pin parasol* (umbrella pine) trees in the distance or alstroemeria arrangements found everywhere you look. For nature lovers, the Muse's gardens are particularly enchanting. Designed by celebrated landscape architect Sophie Agata Ambroise, the talent behind The Bulgari Hotel in Milan, the gardens span three acres and serve as a restorative oasis of serenity. If you have a poetic soul or wish to capture the colours of the land on canvas, we can't think of a better place of inspiration.

Should you wish to wander the town and its surrounds (and why wouldn't you?), you'd be pleased to know the hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to the city centre, the Place des Lices, La Croix de Fer and Pampelonne Beach. If you're an early riser, do visit the small but well-stocked fish market at the Porte de la Poissonnerie to see what the fishermen have hauled up from the sea that morning. If you're feeling adventurous, pick out some shiny-eyed fish or luscious langoustines and work your charm on the Muse's chefs to see if they'd whip you

3. Saint-Tropez is filled with lanes and alleys studded with charming stores, like this bakery. 4. A great selection of local cheeses await at the hotel's acclaimed dining room.



### LIFE'S A BEACH

Summers in Saint-Tropez are all about its world-famous beach clubs. Here's our pick of the top four.

**Moorea** – Having celebrated its 60th anniversary last year, this beach club is still going strong. Quite the Pampelonne legend and very much a local institution, it is contemporary and chic, and serves up delicious Mediterranean cuisine in a restaurant set a little away from the beach club area and its tanning beds. *Chemin des Moulins, Ramatuelle. 04 94 971817.*

**Le Club 55** – It's billionaires and the international jet-set galore at this high network favourite. It, of course, shot to fame after having catered for the cast and crew (most notably Brigitte Bardot and Roger Vadim) of *And God Created Woman*. *43 Boulevard Patch, Plage de Pampelonne. 04 94 555555.*

**Tahiti** – Located just below the Camarat lighthouse, this is possibly the biggest of the Saint-Trop beach clubs. There's a large pontoon so it's particularly ideal if you plan on pulling up in your private mega-yacht. *Route de Tahiti, Ramatuelle. 04 94 971802.*

**Nikki Beach** – Oozing money and beauty, Nikki Beach equals summer fun. The DJ helps keep the crowd heaving and the tables are almost always filled by beautiful blondes daintily nibbling on sushi. The hedge-funders can, meanwhile, be found busying themselves with opening magnums of champagne. *Route de l'Epi, Ramatuelle. 04 94 798204.*



up something special. Also, don't miss exploring the riotous and colourful market at the Place des Lices, held on Tuesday and Saturday mornings, which is studded by red and white striped umbrella-ed stalls proffering everything from *confitures artisanales*, jars of shiny black tapenade or anchoïade and handmade *saucissons*, to gleaming antique silver bric-a-brac, Baccarat crystal and even vintage Hermès and Louis Vuitton handbags. For those with a magpie-like eye, be warned it's all too easy to drop over €10,000 at this market if you're not careful. If the walking makes you peckish, grab a *croissant pignons* (a local crescent-shaped pastry made with pine nuts and almonds) from one of the *boulangeries* or look out for La Pizza du Marche, a van that sells the most delicious pizzas on market days at the Place des Lices. Continue to wander and shop as you munch away on a slice of *jambon Emmental*. If you're wandering the square at other times, sit

5. Retail therapy is undertaken on a grand scale in Saint-Tropez, where the world's best names in luxury often occupy turn-of-the-century mansions, enabling shoppers to browse and buy in true Riviera style.





6

6. Don't leave town without a pair or two of its famous Tropeziennes sandals. 7. Gariguettes strawberries in a crunchy pastry with light vanilla cream for dessert at the Muse. 8. A stall selling local olives on market day at the Place des Lices.



7



8

“Although Saint-Tropez remains a fishing town, it’s not short on world-class boutiques that could rival the best of Paris and Milan.”

down and watch the locals while away a sunny afternoon playing pétanque under the shade of plane trees or stop by one of the local cafes for a slice of Tarte Tropezienne, a round cream-filled brioche. The most famous place to indulge in this local sweet, though, would have to be at Senequier, the famous portside café located along the Quai Jean Jaurès and a favourite of Jacques Chirac. Established in 1887, the café became a hot favourite among the fashionable set after Karl Lagerfeld chose it as the venue for his cruise collection fashion show a few years back. Sit back on one of its iconic scarlet director's chairs and order one of its famous *Senequier* cocktail, made with gin, strawberry puree and champagne, and settle back to people-watch in style. A note, though – Senequier doesn't accept credit cards so, if you wish to order more

than a few bottles of Dom Pérignon, make sure you don't leave your stash of Euros in the hotel safe.

On the topic of high-end fashion, the well-dressed set would be pleased to know that, although Saint-Tropez remains a fishing town, it's not short on world-class boutiques that could rival the best of Paris and Milan. The main shopping areas are concentrated around the Place de la Garonne and the Rue Gambetta. Every desirable label may be found here, from La Martina polo tees to Vilebrequin swimmers, Dior dresses, woven leather Bottega Venetta carry-alls and Chanel handbags. But every chic visitor to Saint-Trop knows, of course, never to leave without picking up a few more pairs of *spartiates Tropeziennes*

(gladiator sandals) from either K Jacques (a favourite of Madonna's) or Rondini as well as a Panama hat from Truffaux to look effortlessly chic while ensuring your face stays shaded.

There's certainly been no shortage of hype on why Saint-Trop remains the glossiest place to be come summertime. But the minute you get here and see the gleaming waters off Pampelonne Bay, party the day away at one of the achingly-hip beach clubs or even from the moment you bite into a slice of sweet, spongy *tarte Tropezienne*, you can't help but fall in love with the place – regardless of whether you travelled here humbly *à pied* or in your private mega-yacht. Saint-Tropez embraces everyone. That's something everyone who's been never forgets. ▣

# Donna spa

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**PRICE: RM390**

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- Served with Ginger Tea & Refreshment

Usual Price: RM580

**PRICE: RM390**

PROMOTION PACKAGE



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- Excellent Donna Massage
- Scalp Massage
- Served with Ginger Tea & Refreshment

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**PRICE: RM390**

PROMOTION PACKAGE



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- 45 minutes RM90 nett



\* **Best Exotic Spa Experience Award**  
(Harpers Bazaar 2012)

\* **Best Massage in Kuala Lumpur**  
(Time out Magazine 2010)

\* **Things to do in Kuala Lumpur**  
(Lonely Planet)



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See a different side of Bali on a jukung.

life feature //

# Art And Action In North Bali

More than just the perfect place to lounge and be pampered in, Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali is also where you find unforgettable adventures and mesmerising art.

Text **Simon Pridmore**

Getting away from it all – relaxing in the peaceful atmosphere of a top resort, being pampered in the spa every day, waking up with no more taxing decision to make than which *balé* to choose from around the pool, and enjoying wonderful meals in an ocean-side restaurant – what more could anyone reasonably want? Such is human caprice, however, we did want more! And we wanted the three As – art, action, and adventure – from our Bali holiday as well as all the relaxation and pampering on offer. There was only one place to go: Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali.



“If you want art, action, and adventure as well as all the relaxation and pampering on offer, there's only one place to go: Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali.”

### On the Ocean

In the early hours of morning, the ocean is like gently undulating liquid glass and the horizon seems impossibly far in the distance. Waiting to take us out on a dawn cruise, drawn up photogenically on the black sand, is a shiny, white wooden outrigger canoe called a *jukung*. Boatman Wayan waits to welcome us on board, the white flash of his smile rivalling that of our cameras as he wishes us a bright *Selamat pagi* (Good morning).

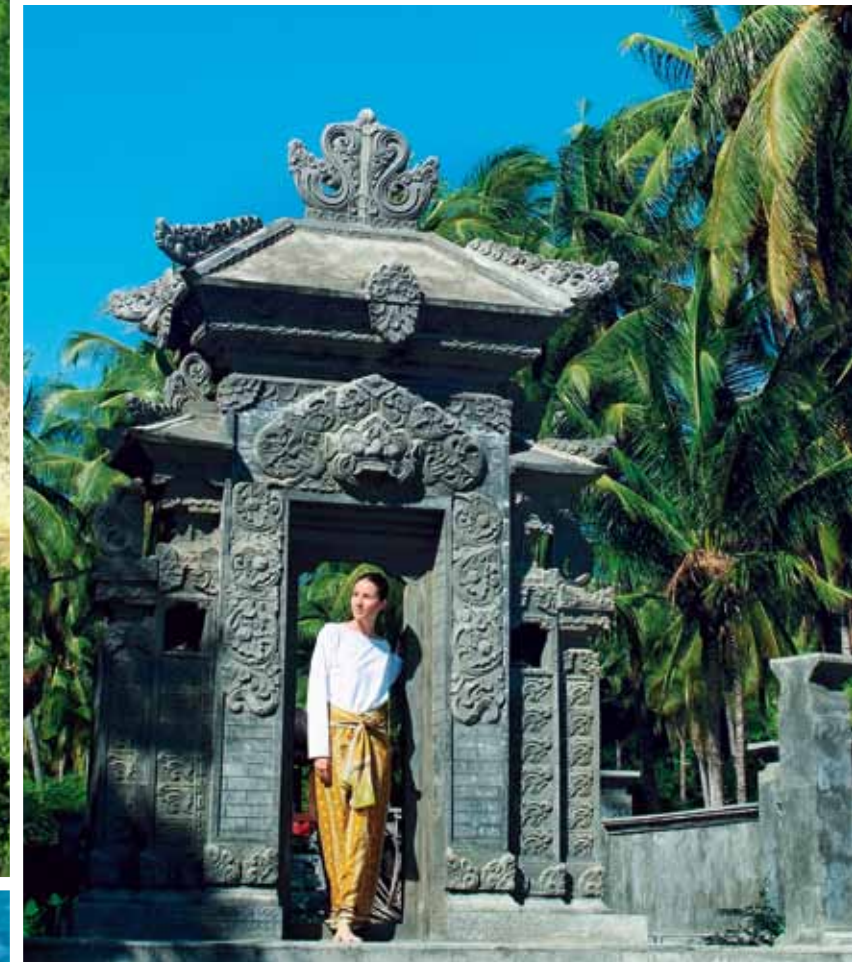
We clamber over the side and take our places as Wayan holds the *jukung* steady with the help of his assistants. They push the boat into the ocean and, once we are afloat, Wayan hops up onto a small platform at the back, where he expertly manipulates the rudder and motor to get us going. Looking back at the beach as we head out to sea, the symmetry of the resort is apparent but it soon becomes just part of the palm-lined coast, with the green mountains of Bali's jagged spine rising behind. Wayan cuts the motor and we sit absolutely still in the middle of the flat inky blue-black sea. By chance, we are looking in exactly the right direction when several fins break the surface a few metres away – dolphins, a pod of a dozen or so making their way slowly towards shore. Wayan starts the motor and we drift gently towards them. Then, as one, the dolphins arch their backs further out of the water and dive. They are gone. Wayan manoeuvres us ahead before cutting the motor again. We wait and, suddenly, they are all around us. He has anticipated their path perfectly and we sit in complete silence, just watching in awe. They move on, leaving us behind and we exchange a secret smile of an unforgettable experience shared.



1. Towering cliffs and lush vegetation add to the rich experience of being in Bali.  
2. Experience an unforgettable encounter with dolphins in the waters around Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali.



3. The resort also teaches you how to create a traditional offering for the Balinese gods.





“We saw hundreds of electric blue damselfish scurrying between small boulders and, to the west of the resort, a large area of coral, pulsating with life.”

As we return to shore, a light breeze ripples the ocean, but the sun is higher and we can now see through the clear water. Surfing on a ripple, Wayan guides us back onto dry land, where we thank him for such a memorable morning. Walking back to a late breakfast, we pass the beachside lawn and spy a poster, showing a plan of the resort's reefscape, with sets of masks, snorkels and fins leaning against the wall below. It was, we agree, a new adventure for the next morning.

#### Under the Sea

As soon as we dipped our heads below the surface just off the beach, we saw exactly what American humorist Dave Barry meant: “When you finally see what goes on underwater, you realise that you've been missing the whole point of the ocean. Staying on the surface all the time is like going to the circus and staring at the outside of the tent.”

Just below us were large coral outcrops, each an oasis of life in the desert of the sand flats and home to a host of fish, large



and small. Many had been colonised by anemones and the resident clown fish would bob and spiral up curiously towards us as we approached. Elsewhere, we saw hundreds of electric blue damselfish scurrying between small boulders and, to the west of the resort, a large area of coral, pulsating with life, covering the ocean floor. We pottered about for hours above the reef, fascinated by all the activity going on below.

#### Into the Hills

A little light trekking on the slopes of Bali's central mountains was what we requested and a few minutes in the car took us to Les, a pretty hillside village with narrow lanes and numerous exotic temples. Striking out across the surrounding rice fields, we found ourselves on a path, which skirted a stream, and then climbed through plantations of banana, rambutan, jackfruit and pineapples. Meeting a woman cutting open an enormous jackfruit to expose the fruit within, we asked to taste some and she obliged. She watched as we bit into the rubbery flesh and smiled broadly when she saw that we liked it.

A kilometre or so further along the increasingly forested track, having been alerted several minutes beforehand by the steadily growing thunder of crashing water, we came upon the Yeh Mempeh Waterfall, where the river drops some 40m in a long narrow horsetail. We had brought swimsuits and climbed gingerly over the wet rocks into the shallow pool formed below the torrent. The spray was instantly cooling after our walk in

4. Traditional Balinese dancers offer both entertainment and enrichment.

5. Terraced rich fields that lead up to Bali's central mountains.

6. Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali is more than just a place to relax and be pampered in.



the midday heat from the village and we backed carefully into the waterfall to test the strength of this natural power shower: bracing but bearable.

### Culture at Home

We need not have worried that our artistic and cultural needs might not be fulfilled. Those were taken care of on a daily basis at the resort itself, with regular opportunities to learn about as well as practice Balinese crafts and customs. These included writing on *lontar* palm leaves, mixing traditional health-giving elixirs called *jamu jamu* from herbs and spices, and creating traditional offerings for the Balinese gods, small woven palm dishes containing flower petals, rice, a clove cigarette, a piece of candy and a burning incense stick.

Then, on our last evening, we were invited to watch a dance performance by a local troupe. It was astonishing to see how effortlessly young village boys and girls in t-shirts and shorts became elaborately dressed warrior princes and exotic princesses before our eyes, exhibiting discipline, poise and grace beyond their years. Flashing eyes and flirting hands accompanied the hypnotic rhythmic crash of the drums, cymbals and industrial-size xylophones of the accompanying *gamelan* orchestra. It was enchanting throughout, just like everything that we experienced in the past few days. Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali more than fulfilled our expectations of the three As, so much so that we immediately planned a return. Whatever more we might want to add to our escape from the real world – scuba diving, perhaps, or even climbing a volcano – this is the place to be. ■



7. Writing on *lontar* palm leaves is one of Bali's traditional crafts.

8. A colourful *jukung* heading out to sea.

9. Luxuriously comfortable accommodation in Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali.



### SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI

Dawn rises and an indigo curtain of stars is drawn back from the sky, exposing a dramatic landscape of soaring peaks that sweep down across grassy lowlands to the black volcanic sand that kisses the intense blue of the Bali Sea. You are in Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali and the day has just begun.

Inspired by the award-winning Spa Village Pangkor Laut, Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali embraces the same healing ethos of celebrating the local culture, honouring the ancient remedies of the region and infusing each visit with the essence of the surrounding scenery.

Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali is a place of peace and calm, combining the therapeutic value of this beautiful location with an ancient and rich cultural heritage. Reflecting the spirituality of ages, the environment here is soft and serene; its people go about their days in a caring manner that brings calm to the harried and peace to the stressed. Here, at Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali, it is indeed possible to recapture one's sense of self.

For more information, visit [www.spavillage.com](http://www.spavillage.com)





# Malacca and Metaphors

Celebrated artist and conservationist **Victor Chin** explores history-soaked Jalan Hang Jebat in Malacca.

Malacca, the richest spice trading port in the East, from the 15th to 19th centuries, was served by the once-busy Malacca River, which still meanders through the city on its way to meet the Straits of Malacca. The eastern side of the river, on a natural hillock, is where most of the colonial Europeans – Portuguese, Dutch and British – left their historical and cultural landscape. This area was once surrounded by a Portuguese fortress, built in 1511 but destroyed 300 years later by the British.

The western side of the river, near the Tan Kim Seng Bridge, is where all the rest of the other early traders and settlers – Chinese, Malay, Indian, Javanese and

Bugis – congregated. They first set up camps and, later, established homes, businesses, mosques, temples and community centres. The non-Europeans on this side of the river didn't have the benefit of any protective wall to defend themselves during those dangerous and warring years. What was the secret of their defence?

The answer lies in the architecture and, a walk down Jalan Hang Jebat, will reveal how the early residents lived, looked after the well-being of their families and secured their fortunes.

Jalan Hang Jebat, named after one of the five legendary Malay warriors of Malacca



(the others being Hang Tuah, Hang Lekir, Hang Kasturi and Hang Lekiu), was formerly known as Jonker Street, a Dutch word for 'servant or subordinate', and Jalan Gelanggang ('arena' in Malay). Now, it is the most well-known and frequented tourist street in Malacca. This bustling road caters to a host of tourist needs, including food, foot reflexology, antiques and collectables. It also has some of the best examples of the earliest Chinese traditional architecture in Malacca. This unique architectural style belongs to a hybrid culture called the Peranakan or Baba Nyonya.

Many of the early settlers from China came during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). After 500 years of residence in Malacca, they had assimilated with the local Malay/Western/Indian cultures and the resulting Peranakan tradition blended their own distinctive language, dressing, customs, cuisine and music with some significant traditional Chinese religious practices and beliefs from ancient China.

One of the first beauties on the south side of the street is No 11. This was once the family home of a Peranakan merchant but, today, the current tenant uses it as a ladies' fashion outlet. The façade is now a dark brown, obscuring many of its interesting architectural features and details.

In a painting I made of No 11, I attempted to bring out some of the eastern and western influences on the façade, like the two French style louvered windows topped with fanlights, which used local Malay wood carving motifs, and the two European classical pilasters framing the frontage. These pilasters have the typical Greek capital motifs, including the

dentil finishing. Below the windows is a relief plaster decorative frieze with local floral motifs and it sits elegantly above the Chinese style roof overhang for the entrance below.

A few doors away is No 17 Jalan Hang Jebat and this is a gem of a façade. In my artistic impression, I tried to capture the Baba Nyonya aesthetic essence. At one time, many rich Peranakans spent lavishly on themselves and on their family homes. They would commission a group of skilful artists or craftsmen, usually from China, to build and decorate their homes.

The most outstanding feature is the beautifully executed frieze, across the whole width of the elevation, made up of the two mythical birds (a *luan* and a phoenix) on either side of a floral bouquet. The piece of sculpture is made up of

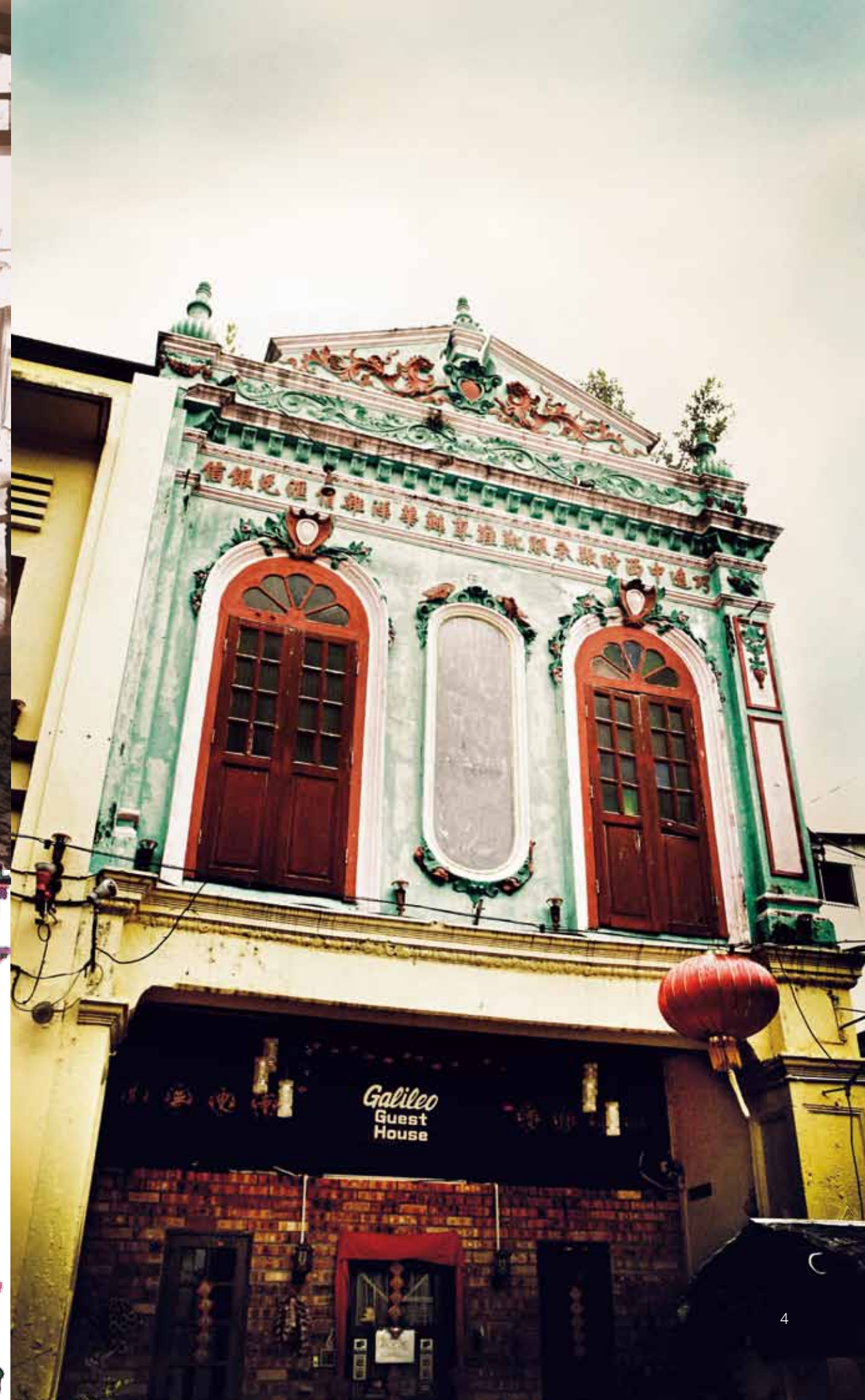
1. Architectural details on the houses in Malacca's Jalan Hang Jebat reflect both the beliefs and wealth of the Peranakan culture. 2. The Majestic Malacca retains its original porcelain flooring and teak fitting as well as intricate artworks and antiques. 3. The writer's watercolour of No 17 Jalan Hang Jebat details the building's beautifully-executed frieze. 4. Jalan Hang Jebat is a tourist hot spot today and caters to their needs like accommodation.



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many colourful glazed cutout ceramic pieces of different sizes and then cemented together to fit the design. This is a traditional Chinese decorative art form not much in vogue these days. What the Babas and Nyonyas preferred at that time were flowers like peonies, fantastic birds like phoenixes, and powerful creatures like lions or dragons. These icons have deep roots in Taoist, Buddhist and Confucian philosophies.

The residents believed the phoenix and the *luan* to be auspicious birds that bring peace. They are also symbolic of the male and female, or *yin* and *yang*. The floral aspect – probably peonies, the queen of flowers – is widely known to represent noble character. Read together, this piece of metaphoric sculpture evokes the family's longing for conjugal blessings and many offspring.

The pilasters on both sides of the building are decorated with vertical plaster relief with geometric patterns which represents traditional Chinese lucky charms popular with the Taoists. Covering the entire surface of this façade are many painted flowering plants including orchids, bamboo, peach blossoms and peonies, all implying nobility, longevity and peace.

The artists who created these images and their patrons believed that these

decorations had the metaphysical power to protect the family from any unforeseen dangers and harm. This imaginative thought process opened the Chinese mind to build a metaphoric fortress around the home. The Portuguese too wanted to protect their possessions but they believed in putting all their army and workforce into building a stone wall that was 18m high and 4.5m wide, only to be destroyed later by the British. What is left of the Portuguese fortress now is just an old gateway, the A Famosa. The Chinese heritage, however, is still to be found widely and in many streets of Malacca today.

Just next door to No 17 is No 21 Jalan Hang Jebat, built in 1911. It is many years older than No 17 but not as decorative. The balustrade, lined with European dark green baluster, sits proudly across the façade. It also announces the building's date of construction. The main focus of this frontage is the framed plaster relief of a traditional Chinese landscape, with fantastical birds and creatures, set between two wooden louvered windows. This artwork on the wall is symbolic of auspiciousness and happiness.

There is also a second plaster relief of a nature landscape sprouting from the top of the framed artwork. This additional layout was perhaps an afterthought by the

“Jalan Hang Jebat has some of the best examples of the earliest Chinese traditional architecture in Malacca.”



5. The fantastically decorated roof of the Lui Chiew clan association building on No 97 Jalan Hang Jebat features auspicious details like a vase and medallion, flowers and mythical creatures.





owner, who obviously wanted to double his fortune and so ordered the artist to do the necessary add-on. But it does look odd in an otherwise elegant mix of the eastern and western architectural motifs of that period.

One of the most impressive buildings on Jalan Hang Jebat is No 97, the Lui Chiew association building with its unmistakable roof. In the middle of this colourful and flamboyant roof line, there is a flag staff. Below it is the date of this building – 1926. This was a time of great wealth and confidence in the region and in the city. Standing proudly in the hollowed out pediment is a beautifully shaped vase, an auspicious object that evokes in the Chinese mind the ideas of peace and prosperity. Sitting below the vase is a medallion with arabesques of interlocking foliage and flowers on both sides. To the Babas and Nyonyas, this conveys nobility and purity. The final touch is the two fantastical creatures – half lion and half tiger – standing guard on both sides of the gable, as if warding off any potential invaders or ill omens.

Jalan Hang Jebat has a long and rich cultural history. This was not just a street for the Peranakan homes but also their temples, schools, a variety of traditional services and trades, restaurants, markets, funeral parlours, hospitals, clubs, and sporting and cultural associations.

The Lui Chiew clan association building is one of the many social institutions along this street. Once, the various ethnic Chinese clans were important political and trade organisations responsible for resolving trade and territorial disputes,



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6. Sculptures on the roof of Cheng Hoon Teng (Temple of Green Cloud) in Malacca are commonly reproduced in homes to symbolically ward off any invaders or ill omens.  
7. The Majestic Malacca dates back to the 1920s and encapsulates the city's unique spirit and heritage.

and also providing security and protection for their members. Today, they still come together to celebrate local and religious holidays, and the association buildings are a place to socialise and learn Chinese traditional culture and current interests.

At one time, the Chinese artists and their patrons knew by heart all these cultural metaphors for family and community happiness, wealth and longevity. One wonders how many locals and visitors take the time to look up from the busy road and take in some of this fantastic public art or know the cultural significance behind them. Since 2008, however, when the cities of Malacca and Penang were listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, there has been an awakening. This has brought much more local and international interest in the cultural significance and preservation of the two historic cities. And, therein, lies the value. Not just for Malaysia, but for the world. ■



7



### THE MAJESTIC MALACCA

The historic city of Malacca is steeped in a rich tapestry of multi-cultural influences reflected in its heritage, architecture, eclectic cuisine and diverse lifestyles. Located on the banks of the Malacca River, which, since the 1400s, has seen it teem with Chinese junks and spice-laden vessels from the known world, The Majestic Malacca today provides the cultured traveller a sophisticated and refined place in which to stay and soak up the city's unique spirit. Part of Malacca's colourful history, the hotel was originally a tycoon's mansion and dates back to the 1920s. The core structure of the house forms, today, the heart of the hotel, while a new building, mirroring the original architecture, houses 54 spacious rooms and suites, as well as a world-class spa offering unique Peranakan treatments and therapies. From the original porcelain flooring and teakwood fittings, to intricate artworks and collection of antiques, every aspect of The Majestic Malacca echoes the history of the region and offers a beguiling journey through its enchanting heritage. For more information, visit [www.majesticmalacca.com](http://www.majesticmalacca.com)



# The Marine Master

Gaya Island Resort's resident marine biologist Scott Mayback thrills at the beauty of Sabah's underwater treasures and the challenge of preserving them.

Text **Helen Oon**

Hugging the shore of Malohom Bay, with a ringside view of the majestic Mount Kinabalu across the waters, Gaya Island Resort is what the doctor would have ordered for stress-busting. The perfect place to recharge your batteries, it's the ideal tropical hideaway, with a stretch of sandy beach gently lapped by the South China Sea, while a hill, canopied by virgin rainforests and teeming with nature's bounty of exotic flora and fauna, forms the backdrop. YTL Hotels' latest resort in the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park in Sabah showcases the company mantra of responsible tourism by minimising the environmental impact of its construction and reducing carbon footprints in its operation. It offers guests the best of Borneo by creating PURE activities of Discovery, Vigour, Creativity and Balance. These holistic activities are designed to encapsulate the "vibrancy, scents, textures, sounds and tastes of the natural environment and cultural heritage of the region".

One of the most popular PURE activities, understandably in a marine park, is aquatic sports under the Discovery programme helmed by Scott Mayback, the resident marine biologist. Originally from Long Island, New York, Mayback came to Sabah nearly five years ago to work on a project called the Green Connection, an aquarium and marine science discovery centre in Sabah, before joining Gaya Island Resort. While some are interested in outer space, 'inner space' is Mayback's thing. Marine exploration and

*Clown fish find sanctuary in one of the tanks in Gaya Island Resort's Marine Centre.*



"The Marine Centre is where guests can learn about the magical world of the deep and its fragility."





1. Three stripe damselfish in the Gaya Island Resort Marine Centre. 2. The Marine Centre includes a nursery for the breeding of pipe fish. 3. Originally from New York, Scott Mayback has been smitten by the sea ever since his first scuba dive. 4. Enjoy stunning views from the Kinabalu Villa overlooking the jetty at Gaya Island Resort.

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“Gaya Island Resort's Marine Centre includes a nursery tank for the breeding of seahorses and pipe fish.”

conservation are his passion, and, as a child, Mayback was always intrigued by the underwater world and fascinated by the interactions and interconnections between marine organisms. He pursued his interest at the University of Oregon and spent a year at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology learning about coral propagation. It was love at first dive when he took up scuba diving and he has been smitten ever since by the secrets of the deep. After graduation, he travelled around Central America before ending up in Sabah while looking for a diver's paradise.

A typical day in the office for Mayback is spent teaching guests how to enjoy snorkelling on the reef without causing unnecessary damage. That aside, his main focus is working on the Gaya Island Resort Marine Centre. Mayback explains: “The exhibition centre will include four species of coral nursery tanks, one for the breeding of seahorses and pipe fish, and one turtle rescue centre, which will provide a safe and stable environment for sick or injured sea turtles to give them the best chance for survival. The coral nursery is to establish an artificial environment to aquaculture coral fragments that will be returned to the sea to help rejuvenate and enhance our natural reefs. The Marine Centre is an education and outreach plan, to educate our guests on the importance of coral conservation and to engage the local community in protecting our ocean environment. Our services will include guided tours, weekly conservation talks, adopt a coral/turtle schemes and the Be A Marine Biologist for a Day programme.” The centre



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Gaya Island Resort, a 15-minute boat ride from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, offers divers the Marine Magnificence package, which includes four nights' accommodation with breakfast, transfers, Sabah Parks' conservation and diving permit fees, and five leisure dives. Diver's Dream offers a similar package but with PADI certification upon successful completion of the Scuba Diver course. The Marine Magnificence and Diver's Dream packages start from RM1,150++ and RM1,290++, respectively, per room per night based on double occupancy, with the travel period until 31 March 2014. For further details, visit [www.gayaislandresort.com](http://www.gayaislandresort.com)



is located at Tavajun Bay, a beautiful, secluded bay next to the main resort, where guests can spend the whole day relaxing on comfortable sun loungers, while learning about the magical world of the deep and its fragility.

While there is a plenty of publicity and banner-waving about saving the rainforest in Sabah, Mayback has greater interest in saving the waters around it. Asked how he would contribute to this cause, he says: "The bigger picture of conservation in Sabah requires governmental intervention to minimise habitat loss and further degradation, as well as education to inculcate a love for the environment from an early age. I will help by teaching those around me to conserve our natural resources before it is too late."

Since coming to Sabah, Mayback has immersed himself in the local culture and even picked up Bahasa Malaysia. In his downtime, he relaxes by exercising, playing sports and indulging in his passion for travel. He has travelled all around Sabah and, as expected, his favourite spots are Sipadan, listed by the BBC as one of the top 10 dive sites in the world, and the lesser-known Banggi Island, just off Kudat on the northern coast, where the marine life is just as abundant and conditions are perfect for diving. Asked



5. Sun and sea at the pool in Gaya Island Resort. 6. Sabah has some of the world's best dive sites. 7. A rescued sea turtle undergoing rehabilitation at the Marine Centre. 8. The coral nursery.

what he misses most about America, he says: "My friends and family, of course, and I really miss the food."

For now, though, Mayback has something to accomplish and is here to stay as he works on marine conservation, and responsible and sustainable fishing. "End blast and cyanide fishing so that coral reefs will have a chance to re-grow and return to its natural beauty once again", he says. "Sabah's coral reef is in good shape but still need research and protection to keep them for future generations." His personal mission is, as he puts it, "to help create a sense of environmental stewardship and inspire those around me to take action." The marine master has spoken. ■





# Of Flowers & The Sea

It's all about nature this issue – being by the sea, waking up to a vista where, in the horizon, sky and sea melt beautifully into each other, and potions as well as elixirs that are inspired by Mother Earth.



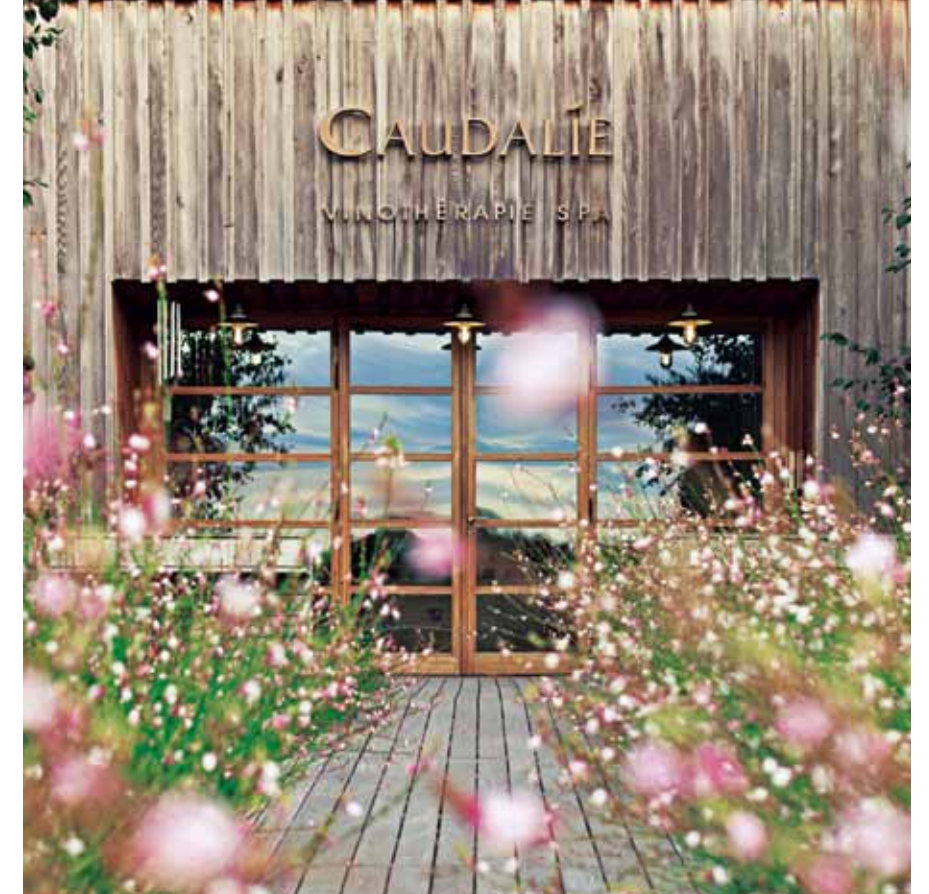
## The Constant Gardener

Renowned perfumer Thierry Wasser introduces yet another *Aqua Allegoria* to complement the house of **Guerlain's** opus of Eaux Fraîches. "For this, I imagine the world of a gardener perfumer, a gatherer of aromas," he said. "A life lived according to the seasons". For the new *Aqua Allegoria*, be prepared to enjoy all the treasures of the bigarade orange tree, from its essence to orange blossoms and even its branches, from which petitgrain essence is obtained; a fragrant new interpretation of freshness and delicacy.



## Marine Essence

The legendary *Crème de la Mer* adds a wonderful new treatment lotion to its family of efficacious skincare products. Designed to resemble 'liquid energy', the new **La Mer** treatment lotion works by helping to 'jumpstart' skin's natural renewal. Formulated with 73 sea minerals and scenedesmus, an ancient desert algae retrieved off the ocean floor, it is said to boost skin hydration immediately by at least 75 per cent.



## Simply Di-Vine

**Caudalie's** philosophy is simple – harvest all the unique benefits of the vine and grape to create exceptional beauty products that are, not only effective, but also natural and luxurious. The grapevine has been proven to be an inexhaustible source of natural riches and active substances. If you can't get yourself to one of its critically-acclaimed vinotherapie spas, pick up some of the brand's celebrated products, like its *Vinexpert* firming serum or the *Premier Cru crème*, for a Bordelaise beauty fix wherever you may be.



## Be Beloved

Created by its team of illustrious perfumers in Grasse, France, **Amouage's** latest luxury fragrance, *Beloved*, is a sensory treasure. For men, the fragrance is distinctly woody, with notes of spicy black pepper, cardamom, orange and grapefruit, while *Beloved Woman* embraces fresh accents, with aromatic purple rose, jasmine and lavender. Amouage fragrances are available only at select and exclusive locations around the world, including Lane Crawford Hong Kong, Bergdorf Goodman New York, Harrods of London and its very own standalone boutique at Starhill Gallery, Kuala Lumpur.



# Enchanted Isle

As Shakespeare wrote in *The Tempest*, 'the isle is full of noises, sounds and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not'. Indeed, there are few things that soothe the soul as much as a getaway to a remote island, dressed in your colourful best, of course.

Photography **Ian Wong** Styling **Calvin Cheong** Assistant **Ong Poh Siong** Hair & Makeup **Bong** Model **Irina Stremyakova/Icon Model**  
Location **Gaya Island Resort, Kota Kinabalu**



## *Walk on water*

Green lace bralette,  
high-waisted hot  
shorts & jacket,  
**Khoo Hooi**;  
*Papaya* snakeskin  
heels, **Bally**.





*Even keel*

Floral print structured princess dress, McQ Alexander McQueen.

*Mountain view*

Sweatshirt top, REDValentino; Metallic shorts, McQ Alexander McQueen; Tina Sparkle freshwater pearl bracelets, Bowerhaus.







*An harmony*

Chiffon kaftan  
with side slit and  
shoulder studs,  
Khoon Hooi.





*Solitary retreat*

Floral chiffon blouse, McQ Alexander McQueen.



*Stroll through nature*

Leopard print satin top, front pleated flare pants & sunglasses, Kenzo.





*On the terrace*  
Lace dress,  
Delfina bag &  
heels, Bally.



*Azure invitation*  
Off-shoulder  
pencil dress,  
leather belt &  
leopard print  
stilettoes, Gucci.





*Pillar of society*  
Floral print dress,  
REDValentino.

*Print goddess*  
Leopard print  
satin top &  
matching maxi  
skirt, Kenzo.







*The life aquatic*  
Medusa studded  
halterneck swimsuit,  
Versace.





# Bejewelled Beauties

Taking a leaf from café society darling and style icon Daisy Fellowes' fondness for wearing her jewels to the beach, we present some of the most dazzling baubles to sport this season.



## Red Carpet Rocks

Dreamt up by Caroline Scheufele, co-president and artistic director of the house of **Chopard**, the luxury house's Red Carpet 2013 collection is inspired by the world's greatest actresses and the love stories of the silver screen. "Love is universal. It illuminates women's beauty, like a beautiful piece of jewellery. I very much wanted to pay tribute to the finest sentiments. The Red Carpet collection is thus adorned in shimmering colours and red accents... like the fire of passion and heart-shaped precious stones, one of my favourite cuts," she says.



## All You Need Is Lava

Inspired by the raw force and beauty of nature, **Mouawad's** latest Lava collection features an exquisite line of handcrafted jewellery, fashioned using 18K rose gold, citrines and black and white diamonds. The designs are mostly free-form, mimicking molten lava in its natural state and include exquisitely-detailed earrings, necklaces, pendants, rings and bracelets.



## Quatre Season

Not that it's all about the women, though. Celebrated Parisian maison **Boucheron** has created a marvellous pair of cufflinks for its signature Quatre collection, using four different types of gold: yellow, white, rose and the patented Boucheron chocolate gold, in an exquisite shade of brown. Elegant, sophisticated and unobtrusive, it is the perfect touch of luxury to finish off any ensemble.

## All Hail The Alhambra

Created in 1968, **Van Cleef & Arpels'** Alhambra collection has long been favoured by the world's most elegant and beautiful women, including French *chanteuse* Françoise Hardy, HSH Princess Grace of Monaco and actress Romy Schneider, who wore an *Alhambra* long necklace in Michel Deville's film *Le Mouton Enragé*. For a touch of classic luxe to any look, treat yourself to several variations of the *Alhambra*, in gold and camelian, lapis lazuli, turquoise malachite, white mother-of-pearl or classic yellow gold and diamonds.



# Basel's Shining Lights

At *the* watch exhibition of the year, hundreds of renowned brands descended upon the halls of Basel's Messeplatz to show off their latest and most audacious timepieces. *YTL Life* brings you some of BaselWorld 2013's highlights from a stellar line-up of brands found in Kuala Lumpur's Starhill Gallery.

Text: Kenneth Tan & Weng Sheng Thong

**ULYSSE NARDIN** – Crafted in collaboration with musician Dieter Meier, *Stranger* by Ulysse Nardin demonstrates the brand's affinity with musical timepieces. This wristwatch emulates a classic music box and uses a rotating disc with 10 individual blades, recreating the musical chimes of Frank Sinatra's renowned *Strangers in the Night* on the hour or at your whim.



**RADO** – Once again, the brand demonstrates its mastery over ceramic with the unveiled *DiaMaster RHW1*. This timepiece presents a 44.0 x 52.8mm case forged of a rugged 'old bronze' coloured high-tech ceramic composite (Si3N4 TiN), offering superior durability at half the weight of regular ceramic. At the heart of this featherweight yet hard-as-nails timepiece beats the aluminium manual-winding RHW1 mechanical movement.

**HERMÈS** – This über-luxe French maison manifests its commitment to immaculate attention with the *Dressage Chronograph*, the newest addition to the revered Dressage collection first conceived a decade ago. Available in two versions, an opaline-silvered dial as well as a black dial, the timepiece houses the Manufacture H1925 self-winding mechanical movement within a 40.5 x 38.4mm tonneau-shaped stainless steel case. As expected of a brand such as Hermès, the finishing of the dial presenting the hours, minutes, seconds at 3 o'clock, date and chronograph is second to none.



**DAVIDOFF** – For lovers of luxury, it is essential to equip yourself suitably in a cosmopolitan world. Harness time with impeccable fashion using Davidoff's *Velocity Gent Automatic Moonphase* timepiece. It presents a moonphase at six o'clock, the day at 11 o'clock and month at one o'clock, alongside its hours, minutes and seconds indicator within a 40mm stainless steel case.

**BEDAT & CO** – Drawing inspiration from the iconic N°3 collection, Bedat & Co presented this year's stunning limited edition Extravaganza Collection 2013 – Ref 325. This feminine piece features two intertwining bezels and a mother-of-pearl dial displaying delicate Roman numerals and indexes, and finished with more than six carats of diamonds.

**TUDOR** – Inspired by the Ducati motorcycle, the Tudor *Fastrider Black Shield* presents a 42mm-case forged of menacing black monobloc ceramic. At the fiery heart of this timepiece is Tudor's self-winding calibre 7753 movement, which powers the hours, minutes, small seconds at 3 o'clock and chronograph function.

**CECIL PURNELL** – BaselWorld 2013 saw the introduction of Cecil Purnell's inaugural ladies' piece, the seductively beautiful *Lady Lacroix*. This mystical timepiece features an 18K gold-engraved floral frame against a translucent green enamel dial, to enhance the subtle beauty of the CP-V11 tourbillon movement.

**RJ-ROMAIN JEROME** – Let your imagination soar with the formidable *Moon Orbiter* as your intergalactic companion. This outworldly timepiece has been designed to ensure no detail of the RJ3000-A mechanical self-winding movement goes unnoticed. To top off the space-faring theme, the *Moon Orbiter* incorporates steel from the Apollo 11 shuttle into its structure, with extraterrestrial moon-dust layered into the dial where the flying tourbillon is housed.

**ANTOINE MARTIN** – With most modern watches running at 4Hz, Antoine Martin has decided to throw conformity to the wind with



1. Ulysse Nardin's musical *Stranger*.  
2. Bedat & Co's Ref 325 is finished with six carats of diamonds.  
3. Cecil Purnell's *Lady Lacroix* features a green enamel dial.





4. Armand Nicolet's LS8.  
5. Hautlence's Destination.  
6. Hublot's MP-05 LaFerrari.  
7. Rebellion's T-1000 Gotham.  
8. Antoine Martin's Slow Runner.  
9. Omega's Moonwatch.

very first dual time-zone watch with a day/night indicator. This timepiece makes use of an externally sourced Sopord 9351/A10-2 self-winding mechanical movement and builds on Hautlence's DNA of architectural design, pure lines and a sense of three-dimensionality.

**FRANC VILA** – Brace yourself for the tongue-twisting *FV N° 8 Tourbillon Intrepido SuperLigero Skeleton*. Like its predecessors in the Intrepido collection, this timepiece makes use of Lighthium, an aluminium-lithium alloy used in aeronautical engineering for its lightness and high-tensile strength. This allowed for the creation of the lightweight yet extremely durable hand-wound tourbillon FV N° 8 movement, visible through the skeletonised dial.

**ARMAND NICOLET** – Ever renowned for its mastery in producing beautiful timepieces with classical movements, Armand Nicolet did not disappoint at Baselworld 2013 with the *LS8* timepiece. The *LS8* features a skeletonised open-faced guilloché dial through which the wearer can behold the majesty

of its *Slow Runner*. This timepiece takes the mantle as the world's slowest wristwatch, ticking away at a glacial 1Hz. However, thanks to the kinetic energy stored up in the colossal 24mm balance wheel (four times the size of a standard balance wheel), the *Slow Runner* does not compromise on any accuracy and is also more resistant to sudden movements and shocks. This timepiece is powered by the in-house AM36.001 hand-wound movement within a 42mm case of stainless steel or rose gold.

**REBELLION** – Fear not the night with the futuristically dark and gritty *T-1000 Gotham* strapped to your wrist. With six mainspring barrels resembling ammunition racks arming this timepiece, the *T-1000 Gotham* packs over 1,000 hours of power reserve. Encased in an armoured shell of black titanium, this juggernaut of a timepiece resides on your wrist with surprising comfort and lightness. At the heart of this monster grows the manual-winding REB T-1000 movement with a state-of-the-art winding lever.

**HAUTLENCE** – The aptly named *Destination* by Hautlence marks a milestone in this young independent's history as its



of the manual winding mechanical movement AN0711S. In a 43mm stainless steel case with an 18K rose gold bezel and crown.

**HUBLOT** – The earth shook in Basel this year when Hublot unveiled its definitive ode to power reserve. On the dial of the *MP-05 LaFerrari* were 11 barrels arranged as a spine, concealing a total wire length of 77 metres. This innovation translates into an insane 50-day power reserve, with 637 components providing the physical method to the madness. Only 50 pieces will ever be produced, in black PVD titanium.

**OMEGA** – An all-black timepiece on the wrist is sure to generate attention and curiosity. This year's Omega's *Moonwatch*, nicknamed 'Dark Side of the Moon', is an attention-grabber with 18K white-gold indexes and blackened sub-dials that update it from its predecessor. On both front and back is scratch-resistant sapphire crystal with anti-reflective treatment, while its Co-Axial calibre 9300 within means the timepiece comes with the comforting feeling of a full four-year warranty.

**LOUIS VUITTON** – Rewriting the rules of a chronograph, Louis Vuitton's La Fabrique du Temps decided to go ahead and make history with its *Tambour Twin Chrono*. This chronograph features a first-in-the-world differential display, with two measured times on separate subdials. Encasing the LV175 movement is an 18K white gold case that matches its 18K white gold hands.

**TAG HEUER** – At BaselWorld, an impressive crowd built up daily at the entrance of the main hall. The reason for this gathering of onlookers was an actual Porsche *Carrera* which inspired Jack Heuer, fourth generation of the Tag Heuer family to design the timepiece homage to this iconic automobile. That this happened





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10. Maurice Lacroix's Masterpiece Seconde Mystérieuse.  
11. Bell & Ross' Vintage Falcon BR126.  
12. Louis Vuitton's Tambour Twin Chrono.  
13. Girard-Perregaux's Constant Escapement LM.  
14. Chopard's Imperiale Joaillerie Améthyste.



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half a century ago was cause for a celebration, and the 2013 animation of the *Carrera Calibre 16 Day Date* went down a treat; its three chronograph subdials, tachymetre scale and red hands recalling white-knuckled thrills on the road.

**MAURICE LACROIX** – It was almost expected really. Two years after the brand made a square wheel – you'll have to look it up to believe it – Maurice Lacroix dazzled again with its *Masterpiece Seconde Mystérieuse*. An ML215 calibre is the magnificent conductor that moves the floating seconds hand in a zany way across a subdial. Again, you'll have to see it to believe.

**GIRARD-PERREGAUX** – The universe is a weird one. In the entirety of its vastness and the logic of its existence, sometimes it is the tiniest thing that makes the most sense. Case in point: the silicon blade in Girard-Perregaux's *Constant Escapement*

*LM* measuring at a sixth of the thickness of human hair. This innovation increases chronometric precision by a giant leap. Half of the team behind this father-and-son triumph is commemorated with the initials behind the timepiece's name. Luigi 'Gino' Macaluso – the elder – passed away before this timepiece came into being. Ah, the universe.

**BREITLING** – How often does a watch save your life? In the case of Breitling's *Emergency*, the correct answer is a couple of dozen times. This timepiece, first introduced in 1995,



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is a triumph in miniaturisation, concealing two antennas that will broadcast both digital and analog signals via a microtransmitter over a 24-hour period. This enables the international network of satellites to identify distress situations and sends search-and-rescue teams out to home in on the situation and person. This year's *Emergency II* upgrade includes an easily deployed antenna system and longer battery life, with a choice of three variations in dial colour.

**BELL & ROSS** – It's not so much step, as it is hurtle, into the past with Bell & Ross' nod to 60s-era civil aviation. Its *Vintage Falcon BR126* is a reminder of the 10-seater *Falcon* private jet built by Dassault Aviation. Sand-coloured hands and numerals, a round case and bulging sapphire crystal are but some of the recall triggers in this 1960s time capsule.

**CHOPARD** – Something for the ladies comes in the form of Chopard's *Imperiale Joaillerie Améthyste*. One might ask, is it a timepiece or jewellery? The answer lies somewhere in between,

looking at the sparkling 40mm 18K white gold case set with brilliant-cut diamonds and cabochon- and baguette-cut amethysts, while a mechanical self-winding movement proves the other half of the equation, powering rhodium hands across a mother-of-pearl and diamond-set dial.

**ROLEX** – A giddy combination of pearl and diamonds can be found in the *Oyster Perpetual Lady-Datejust Pearlmaster*. An earlier model was worn on a balmy evening in 2006 by the mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli, who sang *Exsultate, Jubilate* at a gala concert celebrating the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. The same high-spirited music will likely resound in the mind of the lucky lady owner of this piece of art; a 29mm case of Everose gold, with 34 brilliant-cut diamonds set in its bezel and a polished gold bracelet alive with the fire of 226 brilliant-cut diamonds. Y



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# À La Mode

There's no better time than now to enjoy the South of France. Sunshine, beach clubs, aquamarine waters and the champagne lifestyle – all beckon the glamorous jet-setter to Saint-Tropez. To ensure you're kitted out in style, here are some must-haves for the season.

## Let There Be Light

Whether or not you're dining at Chez Bruno or dancing the night away at Les Caves du Roy, ensure your ensemble is nothing short of a knockout with **Emilio Pucci**. Forget in-your-face sexuality but, instead, opt for a cool femininity, best expressed in this flowing toga-style creation (left) by the brand's creative director, Peter Dundas. Soft, sensual and serene, we can't think of a better thing to wear after dark.



## Daisy, Daisy

Few women epitomise the image of pin-up girl of the French Riviera better than Daisy Fellowes can. The society darling of the Cecil Beaton-era was renowned for being the last word in chic. Channel her spirit this season by pairing all your outfits, from evening gowns to bathing suits, with lashings of eye-popping jewels. What we really like? **Tiffany & Co's** diamond medallion punctuated by a cushion-cut fancy vivid 3.60 carat Tiffany Yellow Diamond, with Keshi and cultured pearls – a perfect gem-encrusted daisy, to honour the legendary fashion icon.



## Arm Swag

High temperatures equal miniscule maillots and swimwear. To ensure your look is effortlessly chic, try pairing your poolside ensemble with **Hermès'** bright and beautiful quartet of mega-wide enamel bracelets. These monochrome arm jewels play with a scarlet-inspired palette and are adorned in designs inspired by the celebrated French luxury house's iconic scarves.



## C'est Chic

It's not all about the ladies this summer as **Alfred Dunhill** brings its brand of English flair to French shores via smart little touches, like classic double-sided travel cufflinks in rose gold and mother-of-pearl, a perfect holdall for weekends exploring la champagne and, our favourite and a veritable summer essential, a Panama hat which comes with its own khaki twill canvas tube to ensure long-lasting shape and protection for the delicate panama weave.





Master Akira Yamamoto and Tengku Marina Ibrahim teamed up to merge the worlds of kimono and batik and create a new art form.

# When East Meets East

A master dyer from Kyoto, Japan, teams up with a contemporary Malaysian batik maison to stunning effect.

Text **Diana Khoo** Photography **Patrick Chan**

At 70 years of age and dressed in a supremely elegant kimono, Akira Yamamoto looks every inch the master craftsman that he is. Having journeyed recently from Kyoto to Kuala Lumpur, the renowned Japanese dye master boasts an illustrious career, beginning as a *kyo-yuzen* dyer in the 33rd year of the reign of Showa. For those unfamiliar with the name, *yuzen* is the Japanese art of dyeing, not too dissimilar from batik. The main difference is in its usage of stencils and rice paste, as opposed to wax. It was said that this method of dyeing was introduced to Japan in the eighth century and legend credits the artist Miyazaki Yuzensai of Kyoto for being the first to create hand-painted *yuzen*. After spending 11 years mastering *yuzen*, Master Yamamoto then decided leave Japan to travel the world, visiting countries as diverse as India, Egypt and Greece, in order to study the origin of the dye technique, which is said to date back at least five thousand years. Upon his return, at the age of 30, he became a student of Ujyo Maeda, one of the most famous Japanese masters of natural dye, who had once been tasked by the late Emperor Hirohito to revive and preserve this traditional art form and technique. "Natural dye is more subtle... very fine and delicate. It is also very difficult to create as there are many challenges in its production process and techniques. For example, we use only what can be collected, like scraps of wood bark or leaves that has fallen to the ground," he shares, bringing new meaning to the word 'natural'. Traditionally working with ingredients like plum moss and *kihada*, a type of tree bark which is then boiled in order to extract a delicate hue, Master Yamamoto

was pleased to share that he had spent some time exploring Penang Hill, in Malaysia's north, where he had chanced upon some new natural ingredients that he will take back to Japan for experimentation.

All this is being done in collaboration with Pink Jambu, a renowned name in contemporary Malaysian batik. Tengku Marina Ibrahim, the brand's CEO and Design Director, points out that "batik has, for far too long, been regarded as a souvenir handicraft from Malaysia. Just as kimonos are a work of art, we want to show too that there is very high-quality batik. We are also planning to launch a line of kimono fabrics and it is hoped that, by marrying fine quality batik fabric with the art of Japanese natural dyeing, a whole new audience might open up in appreciation. We believe this is the way forward." Tengku Marina adds: "Also, Pink Jambu has always been dedicated to creating the very best in textiles."

"It is my first visit to Malaysia," adds Master Yamamoto. "Did you know the technique of natural dye originates from this part of the world? And I can tell you I am very glad, because working with Pink Jambu and Malaysian batik, I feel my technique has, at last, come full-circle. It has come home." ■

*Pink Jambu's Renaissance of Natural Dye collection, created in collaboration with Master Akira Yamamoto, is available for sale and viewing at The Majestic Spa boutique in The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur. For more information, tel: +603 2785 8070.*





# Telling Tales

Leaving behind the legal profession, Tan Twan Eng has successfully penned a new career as a wordsmith, most recently with his sophomore novel, *The Garden of Evening Mists*. The winner of the 2013 Walter Scott Prize speaks to *YTL Life* about history, his inspiration and home.

Text **Helen Oon**

*The Penang-born Tan's books are known for their lush writing.*

Born in Penang and currently residing in Cape Town, Tan Twan Eng's debut novel, *The Gift of Rain*, was long-listed for the 2007 Man Booker Prize and translated into Italian, Spanish, Greek, Romanian, Czech, Serbian and French. The former lawyer followed that up with *The Garden of Evening Mists*, winner of the 2012 Man Asian Literary Prize as well as the 2013 Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction. Both novels are based on historical events – the first before and during the Japanese Occupation, and the second during the Malayan Emergency.

*The Garden of Evening Mists* is the haunting tale of Yun Ling, the sole survivor of a Japanese prison camp physically and mentally scarred by her horrific experience and the loss of her sister. While working on a Japanese garden in memory of her sister, Yun Ling's life takes a dramatic turn when she takes up an apprenticeship under a former Imperial Japanese gardener, a man of mystery and intrigue. Set in Cameron Highlands,

this book received rave reviews and is a must-read for anyone interested in historical fiction. Beautifully-written and with a gripping storyline, it takes the readers through a rollercoaster journey of emotions against a background of guerilla warfare.

**I'm interested in the progression of our past.** The Second World War and the Japanese Occupation was one of the most devastating events to have happened to Malaysia. It's a dividing line between the past and the present: the Occupation marked the end of the British Empire in Asia; after the war, the Dutch and British colonies in South-East Asia began to fight for independence from colonial rule. I'm also fascinated by how memory works, how we use, remember, interpret and revise our memories. The Emergency hasn't been written much about in fiction and I wanted to explore this period. It was another step on the journey to our country's independence.

**My research is conducted through books and memoirs,** and anything that will add to the depth and richness of the writing: photographs, paintings, poetry and music. Writers are magpies – we use everything we discover, read and hear, and we weave all of it into our writing. A lot of the research has to be

discarded if it gets in the way of the narrative's momentum. It's painful because, like many writers, I'm reluctant to waste all that information I've spent months acquiring; but, more often than not, the book becomes much improved once I've cut away the fat from the text.

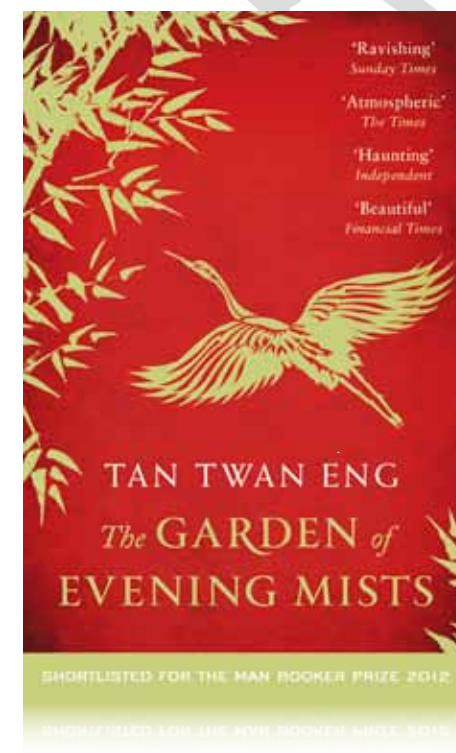
**I have had an admiration for Japanese culture** ever since I practiced *aikido* for nearly 10 years. It's one of the more traditional martial arts and I realised that, to be proficient, I would have to know its historical and cultural roots. My book touched on the art of creating an Imperial Japanese garden as the anchor of the plot. My research was primarily through books and observation. On my book tours, if the city I was visiting had a Japanese garden, I'd make it a point to visit it. In the course of my research, I spoke to landscape designers, and gardeners and gardening enthusiasts – but not Japanese gardeners.

**I've lived in Cape Town** on and off for about eight years. I speak a bit of Afrikaans but understand more. It's a very scenic city, with very warm and friendly people. I have no plans to move back to Penang at the moment, although since the George Town Literary Festival was established, I've been going back to Penang regularly every year.

**I have a passion for heritage buildings** and I would love to play a part in their conservation. (Local historian) Khoo Salma Nasution and the Penang Heritage Trust are doing remarkable things in conserving Penang's history.

**I am planning to write my third novel** but I prefer not to say what it's about at the moment. It tends to dissipate the momentum and energy.

**My favourite destination in Malaysia** is my birthplace Penang – for its history, atmosphere, robust arts scene and, of course, the food. ■



*Tan's second novel won this year's Walter Scott Prize.*

*The Garden of Evening Mists is published by Canongate Books and Myrmidon, UK.*



# Hot In The City

Summertime in the poetically-pretty city of Hangzhou in China's Zhejiang Province can be a sweltering affair. Take respite from the heat with Spa Village Hangzhou's sybaritic three-hour *Summer Joy* spa journey, guaranteed to let your living be easy.

Text **Diana Khoo**

*Spa Village Hangzhou offers one of the city's most state-of-the-art spa experiences.*



Rich in history, culture and heritage, there's no denying that Hangzhou in China's Zhejiang Province is a gem. Famed for its beautiful scenery and, of course, its legendary West Lake, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and which has been a source of inspiration for poets and artists for several centuries now, Hangzhou has long attracted travellers. Marco Polo himself was said to have passed through the city during the course of his travels through China. Summertime, however, can prove a hot and sticky affair. Should you be visiting during this humid time, said to run from early June to September, it is worth noting that Spa Village Hangzhou offers an enticing three-hour summer spa experience that guarantees to uplift spirits.

Set on the second level of Tower 5 at the luxurious Dragon Hotel, Spa Village Hangzhou is a serene yet decidedly

sophisticated urban retreat that mirrors West Lake's natural poetic beauty. Guests will be greeted by a Zen-like pool fashioned out of ice-like engravings and adorned with exquisite *liu li* glass lotus flowers, before being led to the relaxation room, designed to resemble a traditional octagonal *ba gua* mirror, complete with a *yin* and *yang* in its centre. An important tool in the Chinese life science of *feng shui*, *ba gua* mirrors are used to create good fortune, to protect oneself against bad energy and to harmonise the environment. Here, sip on cups of hot honey lemon water as you relax and hone your senses for the spa journey ahead.

Just as winter is all about introspection, dark days and ice, summer is all about light, heat and brightness. Taking this into consideration, the team at Spa Village Hangzhou has created a summer spa journey designed to cool and refresh, while



“Every spa journey at Spa Village Hangzhou ends with a nourishing herbal tonic or tea to bring about radiance, vitality and overall physical harmony.”

calming one's inner fire as *yang* energies are said to be at their most intense during this time. Begin by being enveloped in a cooling mask of barley and cucumber to draw heat away from the body, while your therapist proceeds to wrap you in warm blankets to draw out impurities from the skin, soothe inflammation and calm any irritation. As you luxuriate in your cocoon, she will proceed to treat you to a deeply-relaxing head massage. You'll soon find yourself dipping in and out of a dreamy state of consciousness. After about 20 minutes, you are invited to have a hot shower before proceeding to immerse yourself in a Silver Moon Bath – a lotus and peony soak that is designed to battle hypertension and regulate any lingering sleep issues. Lotus, a popular symbol in Hangzhou, is long-regarded as a symbol of vitality and purity. Its seeds are said to possess astringent qualities and work wonders at calming irritability – a hot weather probability. Scattered rose and carnation petals add to the languorous experience.

The highlight of the Summer Joy experience follows – the Lemon-Aid massage, so named due to the lemon essential oils used

in this bodywork treatment, which will bring mind, body and spirit to a place of balance and calm. My therapist was particularly skilful with her hands, blessing me with firm acupressure, powerful fingerwork and deep, flowing tension-releasing strokes, all performed Swedish-style, complete with kneading and the rhythmic tapping known as *tapotement*. And although three hours might seem fairly long for a treatment, I chose to augment my experience with a further 90-minute facial session. Opting for the Amala Platinum Facial, which uses Ute Leube's renowned range of luxurious organic skincare products from Germany, I was pampered with a very-thorough facial ritual which used several key bio-botanical active products, including Amala's soothing rose water, a sea algae peel-off mask and a second collagen mask that is rich in natural firming agents and Vitamin A. This treatment is designed to nourish and rejuvenate while working on tightening and firming up the skin – a necessity if your job involves late nights and long hours.

It was the haunting music from a Tibetan singing bowl that lulled me back to consciousness. While its harmonious resonance is audibly irresistible, the



soup with goji berries and lotus seeds or green bean soup as they repose in rather sumptuous style.

Hangzhou may long have been a treasured place of inspiration for poets, painters and sages. But with the sybaritic charms proffered by the team at Spa Village Hangzhou, it is equally likely that luxury spa experientialists will be flocking here the minute word gets out to the world. ■

*The Summer Joy spa journey (180 minutes) is priced at RMB3,980 per couple or RMB2,380 for individuals, while the Amala Platinum Facial (90 minutes) is priced at RMB1,900. For bookings, tel: +400 838 5599 or visit [www.roonspavillage.com](http://www.roonspavillage.com)*

sounds generated by these mysterious bowls are said to be based on an ancient but potent way of healing via sound, affecting, not just a feeling of wellbeing, but also physical healing by bringing to light more awareness of the connection mind and body share, and by self-correcting and rebalancing one's *chakras* through its cosmic sound waves. It was with great difficulty that I finally left my luxurious treatment room, my haven for close to five hours, but the Spa Village Hangzhou softens the blow a little by allowing you to luxuriate for as long as you wish in the aforementioned relaxation room. Guests are also served sliced fruit and bowls of nourishing white fungus



# Wok The World

The Lot 10 Hutong in Kuala Lumpur has long been the go-to destination for those wanting to sample the best of Malaysia's justifiably-famous street cuisine all under one roof. Now, the Lot 10 Hutong concept goes international with the opening of its first hugely-awaited outlet in Guangzhou, China.

Text Diana Khoo Photography Ting Yang Shan



It's inconceivable to come to Kuala Lumpur and not sample its dizzying array of street food. From the charcoal-fired black beauty of a dish of Hokkien noodles to the herbal goodness of a bowl of *bak kut teh* (pork rib soup), there is something deeply-comforting about tucking into a dish that is hearty and robust while embodying the flavourful soul of a nation. Granted, Malaysian street food is already renowned the world over, but true foodies and connoisseurs alike know that there is street food and there is *street* food.

Malaysia's hawker food culture has undeniably been greatly enhanced by the Chinese Diaspora. Having settled in the country since the days of the Malaccan sultanate, the Chinese have adapted their cuisine to local tastes and, in fact, boast a unique culinary heritage and richness that is all their own. In Kuala Lumpur, for example, there are stalls and establishments that have been pleasing palates for several generations now and have since become household names themselves. Soong Kee, for example, is considered the *nec plus ultra* when it comes to beef noodles, while Ho Weng Kee's *wonton mee* has kept several generations of Malaysians happily satisfied since it was first established along Petaling Street by Ho Weng, an immigrant from Guangdong, in 1930. "My father and I have always had a soft spot for hawker food," shares Tan Sri Francis Yeoh, Managing Director of YTL Corporation, who's credited as the mastermind behind Lot 10 Hutong. "Many generations of immigrants travelled here from China and struggled and worked hard to make a living. And I think I speak for many others when I say that good food, comfort food, is a catharsis. Give a man a really good plate of *char kway teow* and he'll work even harder. I remember my father taking the whole family out all over town to enjoy the best, the most famous local street dishes and the thought that many of these families might not continue their trade any longer, as the world increasingly hankers after fast food, had me panicking a little!"



Malaysian street food takes on the world, one city at a time, beginning with Guangzhou, China.



Not wanting his children and the younger generation to forget their cultural roots and culinary heritage, Tan Sri Francis set off on a personal mission to find the best hawkers in town and persuade those on his *crème de la crème* list to set up at a dedicated destination where the best of Malaysia's street food might be enjoyed in comfort and convenience. Thus, was the Lot 10 Hutong born. Established in 2009, only hawkers who boast of a two- or three-generation heritage or at least a proven



track record of 40 years of culinary success are invited to set up shop within the Hutong, each handpicked and distinguished by an all-time favourite signature dish that foodies hail as 'national treasures'. And, clearly, the formula has worked as thousands of visitors throng the Lot 10 Hutong daily to sample the best street food they can find, be it fried oyster omelettes or classic chicken rice. "It's about nostalgia," continues Tan Sri Francis. "My family came from China as well and I can't begin to tell you how pleased I am that Nanyang now returns to the motherland as our Hutong brand goes global, starting with the opening of our first outlet in Guangzhou this August."

Created in collaboration with renowned food critic and personality Chua Lam and Ralph Hu of Zhujiang New Town Development, Hutong Guangzhou will occupy the first level of the Tsai Lan City of Fusion Foods in the Fuli Yingxin Building. With interiors mirroring the Kuala Lumpur flagship and done up, as before, by Japanese ID maestro Yuhkichi Kawai, residents and visitors to the southern Chinese city may now enjoy the unique taste and flavour of Malaysian street food as no less than 19 hawker stalls with long,



Chua Lam, flanked by Tan Sri Francis Yeoh (left) and Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr) Yeoh Tiong Lay, is one of the personalities driving the opening of Hutong Guangzhou, where a dazzling array of Malaysian hawker delights will be available to tempt Chinese palates.

"Granted, Malaysian street food is already renowned the world over, but true foodies and connoisseurs alike know that there is street food and there is *street food*."

rich heritage gear up for business, while the second level is devoted to Hong Kong and Taiwanese favourites identified and personally selected by Chua Lam himself. "The prospect of winning over the tastebuds of fellow Chinese in the greater China market is indeed enormous," muses Tan Sri Francis. "China was the natural choice as we realised we already had huge numbers of mainland Chinese guests visiting Lot

10 Hutong consistently. Our target for Hutong in China is to eventually open 33 outlets over seven years, with a forecasted billion ringgit sales target."

Chua Lam is equally optimistic about the success of Hutong in China. "There are food courts all over the world but none can boast of such high-quality culinary tradition like what Tan Sri Francis has put together." Already, all the key staff are in place in Guangzhou and great emphasis has been placed to replicate the taste and flavours of Malaysia flawlessly. "It's as if an army of our best hawkers are going to China. But it's more than just setting up a branch for them," emphasises Tan Sri Francis. "It is about ensuring the originality, taste and flavour. China is going to be a big mind-opener for them. And who knows? Once they get the hang of doing business over there, there's no reason why they can't expand independently. And, once China is ready and steady, there's the rest of the world to see to," says Tan Sri, with his signature enthusiasm. "I've already had so many requests asking Hutong to open up elsewhere. So, who knows? London might be next or imagine it going to Melbourne. But now, China first!"

*Lot 10 Hutong is located at the lower ground floor of the Lot 10 Shopping Centre, 50 Jln Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur. Opening hours are from 10am-10pm.*

**YOUR GUIDE TO LOT 10 HUTONG, KUALA LUMPUR**

If you can't make it to Guangzhou just yet, don't panic. There's always the original Lot 10 Hutong to visit. Here's a quick foodie's roll-call of star things to try, stall by stall.

- Kim Lian Kee – For over 80 years, Hokkien noodle addicts have been visiting Kim Lian Kee for their fix. Its original shop can still be found near Petaling Street. A true KL specialty!
- Woo Pin – Famous for its fish head and fish paste noodles, this is a dish to savour slowly as each bite of noodle or sip of the milk-enhanced stock is heady and joy-inducing.
- Layumcha – Enjoy the art of yum cha at this newly-opened
- stall. The top three things to try? *Har gow*, *siu mai* and *loh mai kai* – the holy trinity of dim sum whose quality is the base factor that makes or breaks any establishment.
- Tai Lei Loi Kei – Macau's best-loved pork chop bun debuts in Kuala Lumpur at the Lot 10 Hutong. A sweet bun encases a huge chunk of juicy Brazilian pork chop, measuring no less than 5cm thick. Other things to try include curried fish balls, curried squid and curried brisket and ribs.





# Sun, Sea & Sauté

With Executive Chef Hemant Dadlani at the helm of your dining experience, expect an added gastronomic frisson that will make your stay at Pangkor Laut Resort just that much more enthralling.

Text Helen Oon

A dream holiday is like a grand banquet – great location, excellent service and an epicurean maestro to create food that tastes and looks sensational. Food is of primal importance in a holiday as it feeds your soul through your body and, when set in a paradise island, the elixir of life is complete. That's my idea of a perfect holiday – sun, sea and a satisfied stomach – and I discovered it in Pangkor Laut Resort. Just 300 acres in size, largely covered by a pristine rainforest and fringed by a craggy coastline punctuated by sandy coves, the sole resort on the island is a gourmet's delight. While the accommodations are luxurious and the natural beauty of the island is stunningly enchanting, the cuisine is the icing on the cake.

There are seven food outlets here – two fine dining restaurants, Fisherman's Cove and The Straits, two informal diners, Uncle Lim's Kitchen and Feast Village, and three casual lunch outlets, Royal Bay Beach Club, a poolside bistro, Chapman's Bar on Emerald Bay and Jamu Bar at Spa Village. Commanding this diverse and complex catering operation is Hemant Dadlani, the resort's young and talented executive chef. Fresh from his last post as executive chef of the Rosewood Little Dix Bay resort in the British Virgin Islands, Dadlani, who hails from India, is no stranger to running an upscale culinary operation, having spent years working for various luxury brands in the hospitality industry in the Caribbean.

With Malaysia's cornucopia of fresh products, it is like a blank canvas for a kitchen wizard like Dadlani, who confessed that he has "an allergy towards bland food". Right up his street, he explains: "I am having the experience of a lifetime being in Malaysia. The local food culture is spectacular and immensely

diverse. This is unlike any country where I have ever lived. Being partial towards Malay or Indian cuisines is natural because that is my comfort zone. Many ingredients and processes involved are still alien to me, but I am trying to close this gap. I am learning Chinese cuisine and, once I get there, I am hoping to be able to balance my interests."

Describing his food as "contemporary tropical cuisine", Dadlani explains: "Having lived for most of my life in the tropics, I combine bold local flavours (depending on where I am) with modern cooking methods. My favourite ingredients are seafood. My Indian background provides me with an interesting palate. Having grown up in India, one develops a strong sense of taste for bold flavours. This has helped me over the years in deciding on combination of flavours." He has an extensive repertoire of exciting dishes for the menu but his favourite signature dishes, such as olive oil poached halibut in mild coconut curry, tandoori silver pomfret with squid ink risotto and miso tuna with agave honey and avocado, reflect his distinct trademark in using local produce and embracing the cooking style of other cultures. He has fun experimenting with various local staples. "I have been heavily influenced by Creole cuisine for many years. I like combining tropical fruits and seafood. Some interesting things we did here are lobster *laksa* with rambutan dumpling, grilled squid with watermelon and bird's eye chilli salsa, and pandan leaf sorbet with frozen strawberry powder," he enthused.

Being in a "one island, one resort" can be quite challenging for a chef as some fresh products and other essentials can only be delivered once a week. To alleviate this problem, the resort is planning a "farm to plate" concept with small-





Pangkor Laut Resort's Fisherman's Cove serves up fresh seafood caught from surrounding waters.

scale farming of tropical ingredients in progress, allowing the chefs and guests a chance to experience locavore cuisine (dishes prepared from food grown locally). Fortunately, Pangkor Laut's sister island, Pangkor Island, supplies most of its seafood requirements and the resort's farm will complement the larder. Dadlani enjoys the intimacy of an island resort where he can really work closely with his executive sous chefs to plan the menu and to bond as a team.

As a foodie and a mediocre cook, I was keen to sharpen my skills with Dadlani under the Chef's Kitchen Experience. The programme started with a tour of the kitchen of the Feast Village to observe behind-the-scene activities of a working professional kitchen. After breakfast, it's off to Pangkor Island by boat and visit the local market to see first-hand where the resort gets its fresh



seafood. This is followed by a stop to an *ikan billis* (dried anchovies) factory to witness the production of this ubiquitous ingredient in Malaysian cuisine, before watching fresh noodles being made at the island's famous noodle shop. Back at the resort, it's spa time to rejuvenate those tired muscles after the morning's outing and get ready for a cookery class in the early afternoon with Dadlani in the show kitchen. Under his expert tutelage, I assisted in the preparation of an impressive menu of *rasam* soup, chicken *tandoori*, Rajasthan *dal* and prawn *masala*, which I will add to my bragging rights when I next host a dinner party. I even have a certificate to show for it. On my final night, Dadlani prepared a mini banquet for me and my companions at The Straits with a sampler menu of his signature dishes, each of which was an art on a plate. With such a sumptuous feast delivered with artistic flair against the setting of a silvery moon over the sea, it would be hard-pressed not to bill Pangkor Laut Resort as a gourmet paradise.

*The Chef's Kitchen Experience is a gastronomic journey which includes a tour of Feast Village, breakfast with the chef, visit to Pangkor Island's fish farm, spa session and a cookery lesson of South-East Asian dishes with Chef Dadlani. Pangkor Laut Resort is four hours from Kuala Lumpur by road and boat. For more details, visit [www.pangkorlautresort.com](http://www.pangkorlautresort.com)*



### Poached Halibut in Mild Coconut Curry with Watermelon & Chilli Salsa

#### Ingredients

250g halibut fillet  
150 ml olive oil  
2 sprigs fresh thyme

#### For curry sauce:

1tbsp olive oil  
2 cups fish stock  
1tbsp ginger (finely chopped)  
½ cup onion (finely chopped)  
1tbsp lemongrass (finely chopped)  
1 tsp lemon zest  
1tsp turmeric powder  
½ cup coconut milk  
Green chilli to taste

#### Salsa:

1 cup watermelon (diced)  
1tsp orange zest  
1tsp lemon zest  
½tsp ginger (finely chopped)  
1tsp fresh lemon juice  
1tbsp fresh orange juice  
Bird's eye chilli & sea salt to taste

#### Method:

1. Slice halibut fillet in half and remove skin (if any). Heat olive oil in a 3in deep sauté pan to 120°F or about 50°C. Maintain oil temperature and drop in fresh thyme. Place fish in the heated oil

and gently cook for about 15 minutes. Maintaining the temperature between 115°F and 122°F (47°C and 50°C).  
2. While the fish is cooking, prepare the curry sauce. Heat olive oil in a sauce pan. Add ginger, onion and lemongrass. Cook at low heat and add turmeric powder. Once the onion is translucent, add chilli and fish stock. Bring to a boil and cook for 10 minutes. Add coconut milk and whisk the sauce for five minutes. Season with salt and lemon zest, and strain.  
3. For all the salsa ingredients and season to taste.  
4. Serve fish in a bowl with curry sauce and top it with watermelon salsa.

### Chicken Rendang

#### Ingredients

500g chicken leg  
50g dried chilli  
50g garlic, minced  
50g shallot, minced  
5 pieces lemongrass  
1 stick cinnamon  
4 pieces cardamom  
2 pieces star anise  
1 cup coconut milk  
4tbsp vegetable oil  
1tsp turmeric powder  
1tsp fennel powder  
1tsp cumin powder  
2tsp coriander powder  
1 cup dessicated coconut  
30g palm sugar  
1 piece turmeric leaf  
3 piece lime leaf

Pinch of minced ginger and minced galangal  
Salt and sugar to taste

#### Method:

1. Heat vegetable oil and fry cinnamon stick, star anise, cardamom and lemongrass till fragrant. Add minced garlic, shallot, ginger and galangal, and stir until golden brown.  
2. Add chilli paste and cook for another two minutes while stirring continuously. Add turmeric powder, cumin powder, coriander powder and fennel powder, and cook for another two minutes.  
3. Add desiccated coconut and cook for another two minutes. Add chicken and coconut milk. Cook over a medium heat until chicken is browned.  
4. Add lime leaf, palm sugar and season to taste. Stir until most of the liquid has evaporated and chicken is tender.  
5. Garnish with sliced turmeric leaves and serve hot with steamed rice. ■







# Cook with Wai

Satisfy your inner chef and gourmet with lessons at the shiny new Starhill Culinary Studio in Kuala Lumpur.

Text Helen Oon

Budding chefs, inspired by the plethora of cooking programmes on television, looking for a place to sharpen their cooking skills can now head for the Starhill Culinary Studio, on Starhill Gallery's Muse Floor. There, all gleaming in chrome and glass with shiny work-tops, are state-of-the-art teaching kitchens set in a 12,000 sq ft beautifully designed culinary haven. Helmed by YTL Corporate Executive Chef, Wai Look Chow, the objective is to deliver rewarding experience, teach new skills and different cooking techniques. Chef Wai has cooked for many celebrity guests and his impressive catalogue of haute cuisine recipes has, hitherto, been held close to the chest. Now, guests will have the privilege of learning from the master himself and his team of talented chefs.

Paula Conway, the studio's Operations and Marketing Manager, who has vast experience in operations and new set-ups in the food and beverage industry, is tasked in overseeing the running of the culinary studio. She explains: "The aim is to entice people to attend our creative culinary classes for them to experience



At Starhill Culinary Studio, learn all the tricks of the trade and then some from its team of F&B experts.



“The aim is to entice people to attend our creative culinary classes for them to experience what I can only refer to as ‘magic’.”

what I can only refer to as ‘magic’. There certainly is something miraculous that takes place during class: either a few strangers attend a class and the experience brings them together and they leave as friends, or someone with little confidence, for whatever reason, joins and, by the end of the class with his or her chef’s hat on, has cooked up a storm!”

This unique approach to cooking classes in a relaxed and informal atmosphere has struck a chord with the public. Conway says: “There are, indeed, a number of truly great cooking schools in Kuala Lumpur and beyond, but the Starhill Culinary Studio is the largest, for sure – with five different studios or kitchens: the Baking Studio; Pastry Studio; Wai’s Kitchen (named after Chef Wai), with a state-of-the-art demo kitchen and a professional kitchen with both Western and Chinese stoves; Wai’s Dining Room, a private space for Chef’s Table luncheons and dinners; and a Wine Studio, where our sommelier conducts fun and informative wine classes. Participants love that our classes are hands on and that they ‘never leave with an empty stomach’. They all get to sit together and enjoy what they have made, with the chefs rustling up a few extra dishes if need be for lunch or dinner.”

There is something for everyone at the Starhill Culinary Studio, from Malay, Chinese (hot wok and *dim sum*), Western, Indian and Japanese cuisines to pastry and baking. To complete the gastronomic lesson, there are lifestyle classes in wine tasting, while future plans include table setting, decorating and flower arranging, and useful tips to inspire a person to be the perfect dinner host. The Wine Studio offers lessons in wine appreciation and tasting using the collection from the famous wine cellar of Shook!, YTL’s signature restaurant in Kuala Lumpur, which boasts the largest collection of vintage wines in Malaysia.

Starhill Culinary Studio attracts an interesting profile of people. Some prefer private lessons while others want to learn in a social setting. Then, there are corporate clients who invite either their



Guests can participate in a wide range of culinary arts, from wine-tasting to Japanese cooking.



staff to attend as a form of team building or their clients and entertain them via the medium of a cooking class. One thing that every participant loves is the facility and they are always surprised that the talented chefs are so humble and happy to share their secrets. Lessons are available for a class of a minimum of one to a maximum of 100. The most popular classes for the ladies are *Memorable Macarons*, while men prefer *The Perfect Roast*, tourists prefer Peranakan and children enjoy Japanese cuisine. Guests receive certificates in recognition of their efforts and participation.

Starhill Culinary Studio is more than just a cookery school; it is a place for social meetings, bonding and forming friendship among people with an interest in cooking. As Chef Wai says: “Starhill Culinary Studio goes beyond making dishes; it is also an environment that creates friendships.” Or, perhaps, even a Master Chef in the making. ■

Recipes taught at the Starhill Culinary Studio are often served in YTL Hotels’ resorts and hotels. For more information, visit [starhillculinarystudio.com](http://starhillculinarystudio.com)



# Spa Heaven

Savour a truly soothing and pampering Balinese spa treatment right in the heart of busy Kuala Lumpur.

Text Loo Kit Choong Photography Yong Keen Keong

My pampering begins the moment I stepped off the frenzied street of Bukit Bintang, after shopping all day, and right into Starhill Gallery's Donna Spa. This Balinese-inspired sanctuary promises a complete spa experience to rejuvenate the weary body, soul and mind. Be greeted first with a cup of sweet ginger tea, before the friendly manager helps you select your choice of treatment oils and scrubs. Rose geranium, lemongrass, lavender and ylang ylang are just some of the exotic oils for your picking, complemented with over 15 scrubs like cinnamon, nutmeg and green apple.

My treatment starts with a steam bath, or a sauna if you prefer, followed by a cold or warm bath in the Jacuzzi. The treatment room is carefully dimmed and temperature controlled – even the bed is heated. The therapist makes sure that I wasn't too cold or too warm before beginning the Herbal Heat Revival treatment. Soaked in warm ylang ylang-infused water, these little therapeutic bags are pressed and rocked gently on my back to produce a pleasurable drowsy experience. As I drifted off, my therapist began sloughing me off with a scrub made from ground toasted rice, which is all natural, as are Donna Spa's other ingredients used in their treatments. The exfoliating treatment is gentle and precise, beginning with my back, legs, arms and finishing with

my upper body. This has to be my favourite part of the entire treatment, as I feel very revived and renewed afterwards. Shedding old dermis must be good.

The luxury rose petal milk bath came next. With warm water and milk, and a generous amount of rose petals, I blissfully settle into the Jacuzzi for 20 minutes of pure decadence and was just the perfect thing to soak off the scrub and soothe my body.

I decided on the traditional Balinese massage with ylang ylang oil for my next treatment. You also have the choice of a pressure point massage too and this is where all the magic happens. In the hands of a skilled therapist, gentle soothing fingers apply just enough strength to unknot all of my worries and tired muscles. She knows exactly where the kinks are and how to smooth them out. The relaxing scalp massage came next, her finger tips pressing into my scalp and releasing all the tension. It was a pleasure that ended all too soon as she gently massaged my eyes and brows to tease out the last of my worries. Galvanised and refreshed, I was extremely reluctant to leave the warm bed and back into busy Bukit Bintang. Still, I left secure in the knowledge that, the next time I need some rejuvenation or just some pampering, Donna Spa will be right here in Starhill Gallery. ❧



Donna Spa in Starhill Gallery is an oasis of calm and rejuvenation within the ever-busy street of Bukit Bintang.

## Signature Packages:

**Harmony Extreme (3 hours)**  
Recommended for couples to relax, and relieve stress and tension. An exotic, luxurious and unforgettable moment of indulgence. This is the ultimate spa experience, enjoyed in the luxury of your own Grand Spa Suite with someone special.  
• Welcome drink • Herbal heat revival • Rose body mask or rose salt scrub • Luxury rose petal milk bath • Balinese massage • Donna refreshment & ginger tea  
Usual price: RM1,280  
Now: RM980

**The Refined Man (3 hours)**  
This will help to improve blood circulation, and relieve your tired and aching body. This pampering package will leave

you with a feeling of total rebirth.  
• Welcome drink • Herbal hot compress • Coffee scrub • Herbal bath • Excellent Donna massage • Scalp massage • Donna refreshment & ginger tea  
Usual price: RM880  
Price: RM580

**Donna Tropical Paradise (3 hours)**  
The Royal Donna massage and facial treatment will ensure your complete relaxation and total well-being, preparing you to face the world again.  
• Welcome drink • Herbal heat revival • Orange yogurt wrap or scrub with your choice • Seven flower traditional ritual • Excellent Donna massage • Donna facial treatment • Donna refreshment & ginger tea  
Usual Price: RM880  
Now: RM580

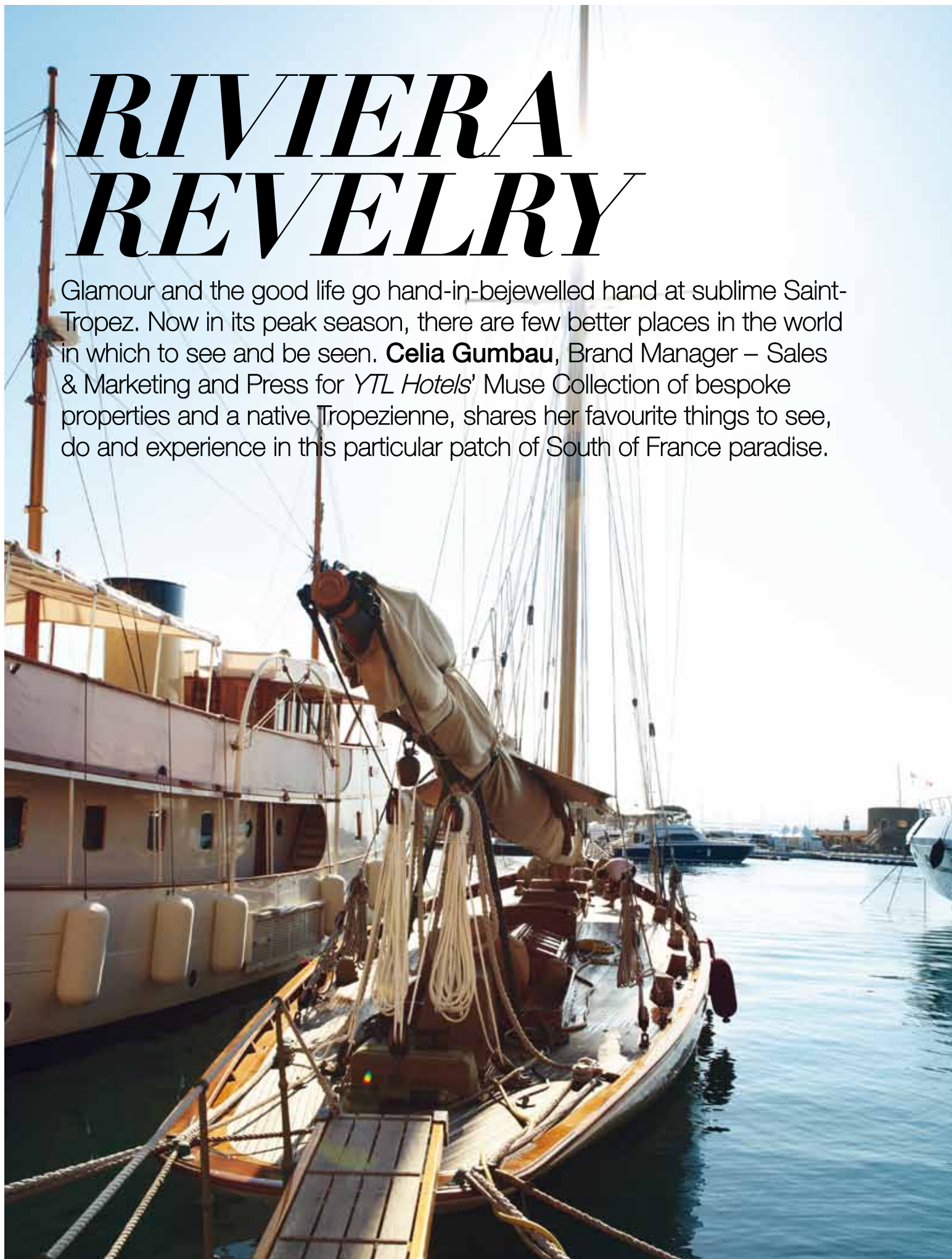
Donna Spa is located on the Pamper Floor of Starhill Gallery.





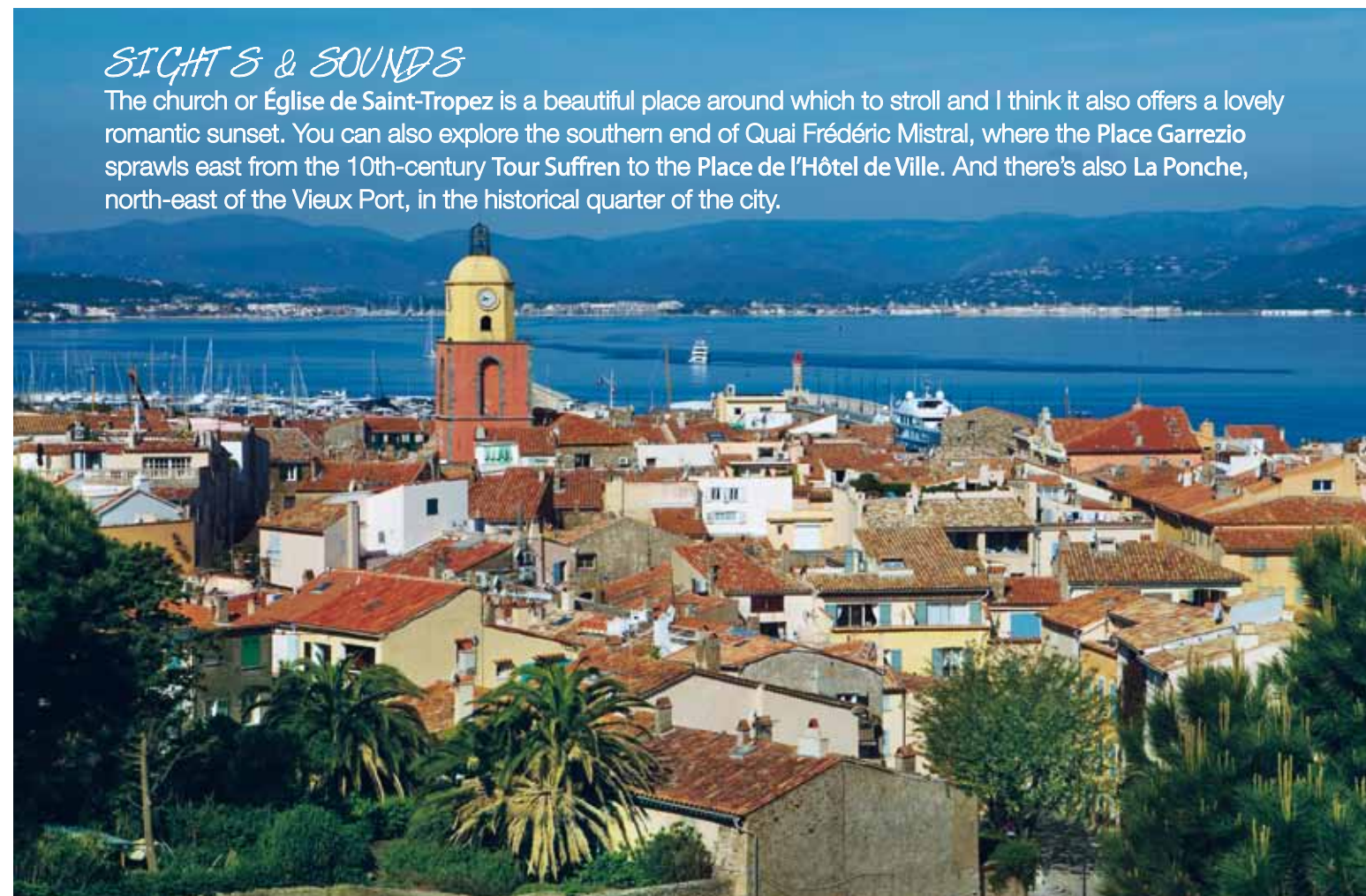
# *RIVIERA REVELRY*

Glamour and the good life go hand-in-bejewelled hand at sublime Saint-Tropez. Now in its peak season, there are few better places in the world in which to see and be seen. **Celia Gumbau**, Brand Manager – Sales & Marketing and Press for *YTL Hotels'* Muse Collection of bespoke properties and a native Tropezienne, shares her favourite things to see, do and experience in this particular patch of South of France paradise.



## *SIGHTS & SOUNDS*

The church or Église de Saint-Tropez is a beautiful place around which to stroll and I think it also offers a lovely romantic sunset. You can also explore the southern end of Quai Frédéric Mistral, where the Place Garrezio sprawls east from the 10th-century Tour Suffren to the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville. And there's also La Ponche, north-east of the Vieux Port, in the historical quarter of the city.







### *SALUT!*

Saint-Tropez is justifiably famous for its rose wines and, if you happen to be staying in the Muse Saint Tropez, there are many vineyards around the village you can easily visit – our concierge would also be happy to help you make the arrangements. My winery of choice would be Château des Marres, a mere five minutes' walk from the hotel, a beautiful property with delicious wines to offer. fires as well!



*The Muse Saint Tropez's suites are all named after legendary muses.*



### *BE AMUSED*

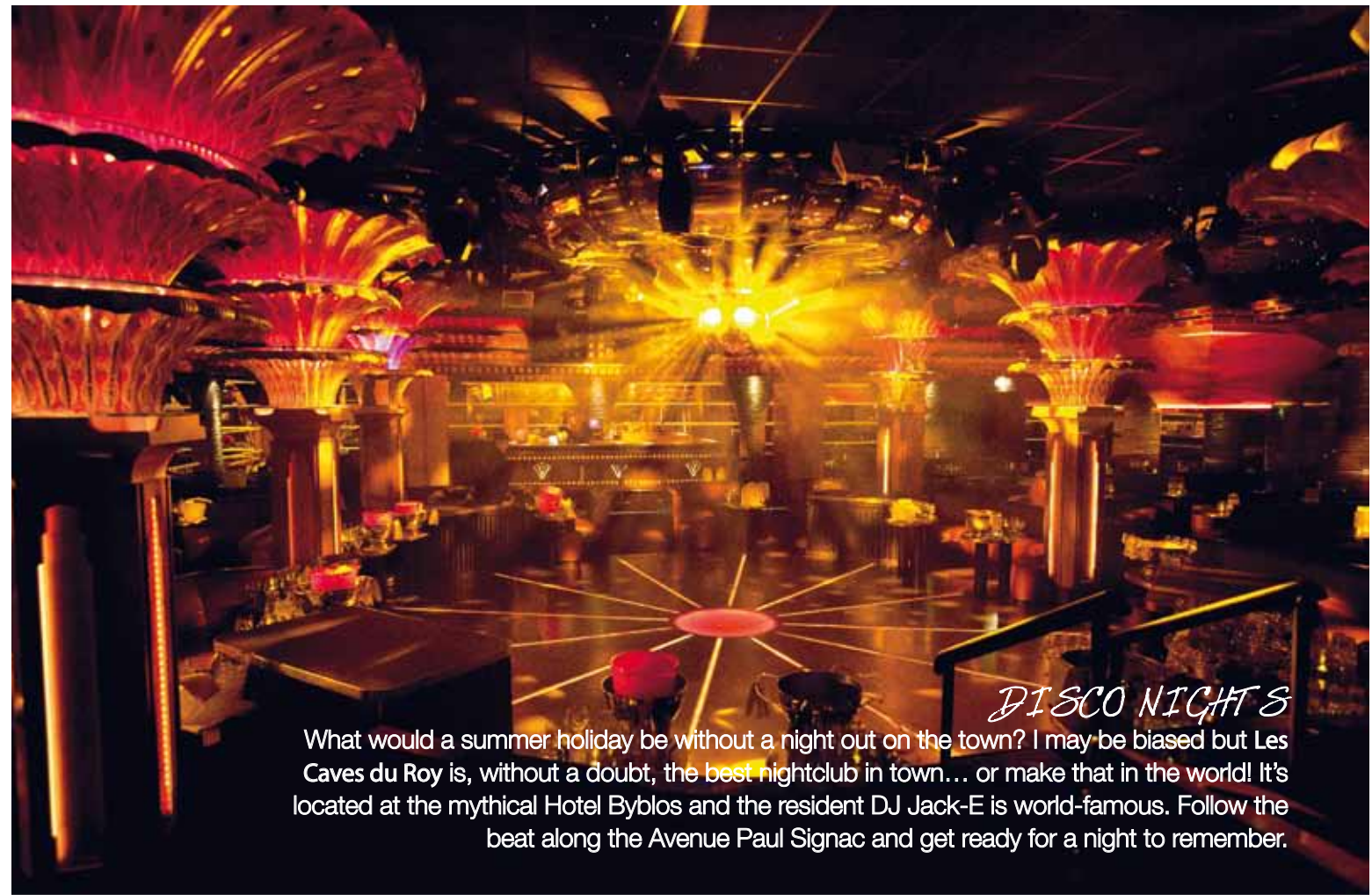
What can I say? The **Muse Saint Tropez** is, in my opinion, the best hotel in town and the only place to stay in. It is indeed a rare sanctuary and minutes from the Place des Lices, the most elegant epicentre in the world.





### NATURAL BEAUTY

There are few places as inspiring and rejuvenating like the Sentier du Littoral – a coastal path and hiking trail that starts at Saint-Tropez and ends, many hours later, around the peninsula in Gigaro or Cavalaire. It captures perfectly the essence of the South of France and is essentially 25 miles of wild nature and raw beauty. You will also pass several of the area's most famous beaches, including Pampelonne Beach and the Plage des Salins.



### DISCO NIGHTS

What would a summer holiday be without a night out on the town? I may be biased but Les Caves du Roy is, without a doubt, the best nightclub in town... or make that in the world! It's located at the mythical Hotel Byblos and the resident DJ Jack-E is world-famous. Follow the beat along the Avenue Paul Signac and get ready for a night to remember.



### 55 AND COUNTING

What started out as a simple canteen, set up for the film crew of Roger Vadim's *And God Created Woman*, is now very much an icon of Saint-Tropez. For those who come for the summer season, it is unthinkable not to spend some time at Le Club 55, named for the year it was established... just like YTL Corporation, which owns the Muse Saint Tropez. It is, of course, the best, hippest and most famous beach club in Saint-Tropez and remains a magnet for the rich, famous and beautiful.



### LIFE'S A BEACH... NIKKI BEACH

Although this famous beach club originates from Miami and pioneered the beach club concept, where you party on until the day's end, Nikki Beach is still one of the best places to see and be seen in. A quintessential element in anyone's Saint-Tropez summer.





## BLACK DIAMONDS

I'm a passionate lover of truffles and, around here, Clément Bruno is known as the 'king of the truffle'. A visit to Chez Bruno, his eponymous restaurant in Lorgues, about an hour's drive from Saint-Tropez, is a must, especially if you are a gourmet. He also recently opened a little bistro – Bistrot à la Truffe de Bruno – in the historical district of Rue de l'Église... just amazing!



## TO MARKET, TO MARKET

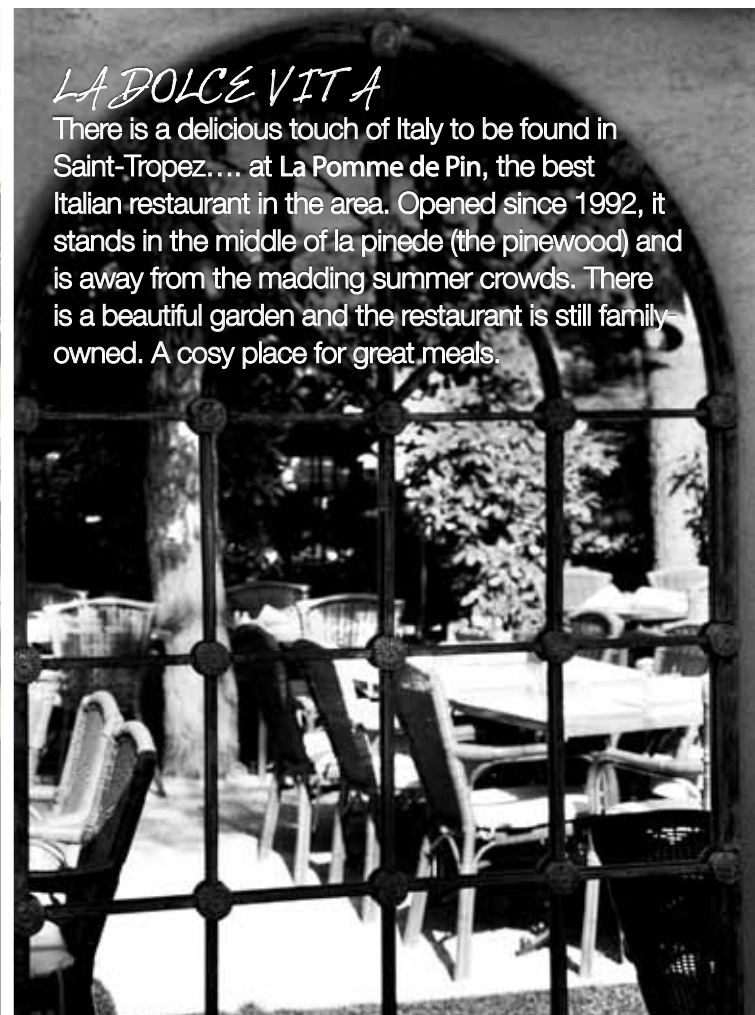
The massive Places des Lices hosts an open-air market every Tuesday and Saturday, and the square positively explodes with colour. It becomes a jam-packed kaleidoscope of everything, from fruit and vegetables to antique mirrors and slippers. It's truly legendary. Towering plane trees provide shade for groups of petanque players – a regular sight whenever the market's not on – a scene that depicts authentic Tropezian life.





*STRAP HAPPY*

Everyone who visits Saint-Tropez needs a pair of its legendary Tropezienne sandals, made by the Rondini family for over 80 years now. Each pair is handmade and is as close to sandal perfection as you can get. It's safe to say Rondini's Sandales Tropeziennes are de rigueur footwear here. You can own a wearable icon of Saint-Tropez for just about €120. Affordable luxury and a veritable must-have!



*LA DOLCE VITA*

There is a delicious touch of Italy to be found in Saint-Tropez... at La Pomme de Pin, the best Italian restaurant in the area. Opened since 1992, it stands in the middle of la pinède (the pinewood) and is away from the madding summer crowds. There is a beautiful garden and the restaurant is still family-owned. A cosy place for great meals.



Soak up the sun at the Muse Saint Tropez.



Celia Gumbau is the Muse Collection's Brand Manager – Sales & Marketing and Press.



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WWW.MAJESTICMALACCA.COM







### THE RITZ-CARLTON, KUALA LUMPUR

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



### JW MARRIOTT KUALA LUMPUR

LOCATED RIGHT ALONG BUKIT BINTANG ROAD IN THE HEART OF KUALA LUMPUR, THE JW MARRIOTT IS IDEAL FOR ALL TRAVELLERS. FROM BUSY EXECUTIVES TO FAMILIES WISHING TO SOAK UP THE CITY'S SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND WORLD-CLASS SHOPPING, THIS WELL-PLACED HOTEL WITH ITS EXTENSIVE RANGE OF FACILITIES IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE PERFECT CHOICE. WWW.YTLHOTELS.COM



### HILTON NISEKO VILLAGE

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



### THE GREEN LEAF NISEKO VILLAGE

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### THE SURIN PHUKET



## THE SURIN

SITUATED ON PANSEA BEACH, WITHOUT DOUBT ONE OF PHUKET'S LOVELIEST AND MOST PRIVATE, THE SURIN OFFERS A PERFECT SLICE OF THAI BEACH LIFE. FROM SUMPTUOUS CUISINE TO WATERSPORTS, A WORLD-CLASS SPA AND SPECTACULAR SUNSETS, IT COMBINES IDYLIC TROPICAL CHARM WITH ALL THE WARMTH AND GRACE OF THAI HOSPITALITY.  
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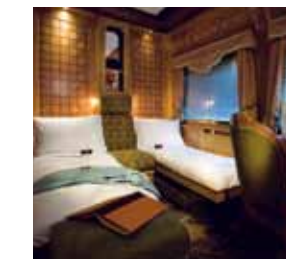
## SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI

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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### SHOOK! SHANGHAI AT THE SWATCH ART PEACE HOTEL

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



### MUSE BRAY COTTAGES

MUSE BRAY COTTAGES ARE SITUATED IN THE HEART OF THE PICTURESQUE VILLAGE OF BRAY-ON-THAMES, BERKSHIRE, ENGLAND. THE RENOVATED PERIOD PROPERTIES CONSIST OF BRAY HOUSE, ORIGINALLY THE STABLES FOR THE NEARBY MANOR HOUSE OF BRAY IN THE 1780'S. DORMER COTTAGE IS A PARTICULARLY QUAIN AND BEAUTIFUL 500 YEAR OLD COTTAGE WHILE LAVENDER HOUSE IS ONE OF THE MOST STUNNING HOUSES IN THIS BEAUTIFUL 14TH CENTURY VILLAGE. WWW.MUSE-HOTELS.COM



### MUSE SAINT TROPEZ

A GLAMOROUS YET PRIVATE HIDEAWAY IN STUNNING SAINT TROPEZ, LIVING THE SOUTH OF FRANCE LIFESTYLE DOESN'T GET BETTER THAN AT THE MUSE SAINT TROPEZ. LOCATED IN RAMATUELLE AND SURROUNDED BY FORESTS OF UMBRELLA PINES, THIS BIJOU PROPERTY BOASTS JUST 15 SUITES, EACH NAMED AFTER FAMOUS 'MUSES'. MAKE IT YOUR BASE TO EXPLORE ALL THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND DELIGHTS OF THIS JEWEL OF THE RIVIERA. WWW.MUSE-HOTELS.COM



### MUSE CASA MARBELLA

TWO GORGEOUS AND LUXURIOUS VILLAS, WITH 9 AND 6 BEDROOMS RESPECTIVELY, OFFER COUNTRYSIDE LIVING, TRANQUILLITY AND PEACE AS WELL AS THE SECURITY OF AN EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL ESTATE, YET REMAIN IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ALL TYPES OF AMENITIES AND ARE IDEAL FOR EXPLORING THE FAMOUS COSTA DEL SOL. WWW.MUSE-HOTELS.COM







### MUSE VILLA TASSANA PHUKET

SET AMIDST A TROPICAL FOREST ON A CRAGGY CLIFF OVERLOOKING THE ANDAMAN SEA, VILLA TASSANA IS A BIJOU GEM. SPREAD OUT OVER 2,800 SQ M AND BOASTING FOUR LARGE BEDROOMS WITH EN SUITE BATH AND DRESSING AREAS, THIS PRIVATE VILLA IS THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR THOSE WHO WANT NOTHING BUT PERFECTION AND PRIVACY IN PHUKET.

WWW.MUSE-HOTELS.COM



### MUSE PANGKOR LAUT ESTATES

A CLUSTER OF EIGHT INDIVIDUALLY-CRAFTED ENCLAVES OFFERS GUESTS TO THE ISLAND OF PANGKOR LAUT A UNIQUE AND EXCEEDINGLY-PRIVATE TROPICAL ESCAPE. COMPLETE WITH PRIVATE VEHICLE, DRIVER, CHEF AND BUTLER, YOU WILL WANT FOR NOTHING, COCOONED WITHIN THIS UNIQUELY LUXURIOUS HIDEAWAY.

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### SPA VILLAGE CAMERON HIGHLANDS

FEATURING A WIDE RANGE OF TREATMENTS AND THERAPIES INSPIRED BY THE RESTORATIVE PROPERTIES OF TEA FOUND GROWING IN THE HIGHLANDS. AVAILABLE ARE TRANQUIL INDOOR AND OUTDOOR TREATMENT ROOMS, TEA BATH ROOMS AND A FULLY EQUIPPED GYMNASIUM.

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### SPA VILLAGE TANJONG JARA

TIME-TESTED MALAY HEALTH AND BEAUTY TRADITIONS ARE REVIVED IN LUXURIOUS SURROUNDS. SKILLED MALAY HEALERS CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF THERAPIES USING UNIQUE INGREDIENTS FROM INDIGENOUS HERBS AND PLANTS.

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### SPA VILLAGE PANGKOR LAUT

YTL HOTELS' FLAGSHIP SPA VILLAGE EXTOLS THE HEALING CULTURE OF MALAYSIA AND ASIA'S DIVERSE HISTORY OF PEOPLE AND CULTURES AND ABUNDANCE OF EXOTIC NATURAL RESOURCES. THIS TRANQUIL ISLAND RETREAT IS IDEAL FOR COMPLETE REJUVENATION OF BODY AND SOUL.

WWW.SPAVILLAGE.COM







### SPA VILLAGE KUALA LUMPUR

THIS UNIQUE AND STYLISH URBAN RETREAT OFFERS THE MOST SOPHISTICATED THERAPIES INTEGRATED WITH TRADITIONAL HEALING PRACTICES OF THE REGION. ANCIENT AND MODERN PRACTICES BLEND SEAMLESSLY TO DELIVER BLISSFUL RELAXATION AND REJUVENATION.

WWW.SPAVILLAGE.COM



### SPA VILLAGE MALACCA

THIS IS THE WORLD'S ONLY SPA TO BASE ITS THERAPIES ON THE HEALING HERITAGE OF THE BABA-NYONYA OR PERANAKAN CULTURE, A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF MALAY AND CHINESE INFLUENCES. IT PROVIDES A SERENE AND RESTORATIVE ENVIRONMENT IN THIS HISTORIC CITY.

WWW.SPAVILLAGE.COM



THE MAJESTIC SPA  
by SPA VILLAGE



### THE MAJESTIC SPA

DISTINCTIVELY APPOINTED IN THE ART NOUVEAU STYLE OF CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH'S FAMOUS WILLOW TEAROOMS OF SCOTLAND, AND TRUE TO THE SPIRIT OF COLONIAL TIMES, THIS SPA REFLECTS UPON A GOLDEN ERA IN MALAYSIAN HISTORY. THE LUXURIOUS TREATMENTS ON OFFER HAVE A DECIDEDLY BRITISH FLAVOUR.

WWW.MAJESTICKL.COM



### SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI

THIS DESTINATION SPA COMBINES THE THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF ITS BEAUTIFUL LOCATION WITH AN ANCIENT AND RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE. THE GENTLE SPIRITUALITY OF THE ISLAND WEAVES THROUGH EVERY ASPECT OF EACH SPA TREATMENT, PRODUCING A UNIQUE IMMERSIVE AND RESTORATIVE EXPERIENCE.

WWW.SPAVILLAGE.COM



### SPA VILLAGE GAYA ISLAND

SET AMIDST LUSH MANGROVES, THIS IS A TRANQUIL HIDEAWAY SURROUNDED BY DISTINCTIVE ISLAND FLORA AND FAUNA. A RICH TAPESTRY OF SPA PROGRAMMES REFLECTS THE CULTURAL HEALING TRADITIONS OF SABAH'S MANY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.

WWW.SPAVILLAGE.COM



### SPA VILLAGE BATH

TAPPING INTO THE ORIGINAL ROMAN BATH SPRINGS, SPA VILLAGE BATH OFFERS A CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE ON THE CITY'S THERMAL WATER HERITAGE, INTEGRATING THE TREASURED WATERS OF BATH WITH PRIVATE AQUATIC BODY THERAPIES AND CLASSIC TREATMENTS THAT FOCUS ON PERSONALISED AROMATHERAPY.

WWW.THEGAINSBOROUGHSPA.CO.UK







### SPA VILLAGE HANGZHOU

SPA VILLAGE HANGZHOU IS THE SHOWCASE DEBUT OF MALAYSIAN SPA GROUP 'SPA VILLAGE' IN CHINA. IN LINE WITH THE SPA VILLAGE PHILOSOPHY OF "HONOURING THE HEALING CULTURE OF THE REGION", SPA VILLAGE HANGZHOU HIGHLIGHTS THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF NATURE BY OFFERING A NEW SERIES OF TREATMENTS WITH EACH CHANGING SEASON. WWW.ROONSPAVILLAGE.COM



### SPA VILLAGE SHAOXING

NESTLED IN AN ANCIENT VILLAGE VEINED BY TRANQUIL WATERWAYS, SPA VILLAGE SHAOXING IS THE IDEAL PLACE TO RELAX AND RECONNECT WITH YOUR INNER CALM. SURROUNDED BY THE GROUNDING ELEMENTS OF WOOD, STONE AND WATER, GUESTS EXPERIENCE A FEELING OF PEACE EMBEDDED IN THE STEADY POWER OF THE EARTH. WWW.ROONSPAVILLAGE.COM



FeastVillage  
at STARHILL GALLERY

### FEAST VILLAGE KUALA LUMPUR

THIS IS A DRAMATIC AND STYLISH DINING HAVEN WITH A VILLAGE CHARM LOCATED IN THE EXCLUSIVE STARHILL GALLERY. 12 UNIQUELY DESIGNED RESTAURANTS AND BARS SERVE A MIX OF WORLD CLASS CUISINE IN A CHIC AND CONTEMPORARY ATMOSPHERE. WWW.STARHILLGALLERY.COM



Lot 10  
Always Setting Trends

### LOT 10 KUALA LUMPUR

TRENDY LOT 10 SHOPPING CENTRE IS LOCATED WITHIN THE HEART OF THE POPULAR BUKIT BINTANG SHOPPING PRECINCT, DIRECTLY ON BINTANG WALK. KEY TENANTS INCLUDE ZARA, H&M, ISETAN AND HUTONG, A HERITAGE GOURMET VILLAGE LOCATED IN THE REVAMPED BASEMENT. WWW.LOT10.COM.MY







# Toi's Story

Celebrated couturier and the toast of New York's fashion scene, Zang Toi looks to the art of travel, good food and luxurious hotels as his favourite sources of inspiration and relaxation. *YTL Life* catches up with the Malaysian-born but quintessentially New York designer.

**A typical day for me** in New York City is simple: I get up at about 8am and I always start my day with black coffee and fresh fruit. I then sort out the 200 to 300 e-mails I'd get overnight before showering and getting to the office. Once I'm there, it's like a doctor's clinic. I normally work till 8pm, unless it's collections time, then I'm there, like, forever. But if the weather's good, nothing beats squeezing in a quick run around Central Park.

**I'm quite the night owl** and I really do function on only four hours' sleep each night. On weekends, especially Sundays, I make up for it by sleeping for 14 or 15 hours straight.

**My favourite sources** of inspiration are travelling to wonderful destinations, staying in the most luxurious hotels and eating at

fine restaurants. I'm really very happy just parking myself in the most luxurious hotel room around and sketching.

**I'm lucky** to have visited many great places. One recent trip that really stands out, though, was when my brother See Luon and I went to St Petersburg. It was my first time there and I didn't know what to expect but we had the most fantastic time, enjoying incredible cuisine and soaking up all the culture and architecture. My favourite was the Peterhof Palace.

**My ideal checklist** for a holiday would be: a great hotel, good food and cold weather. I really enjoy being in a cold climate.

**My travel list** next year includes Iceland and Antarctica. I also want to go on a safari again. That's something I enjoy

greatly. I want to try staying in a tented camp, albeit a luxe one, in Botswana.

**My showroom's playlist** revolves entirely around theme songs from the James Bond movies. I am also obsessed with Adele. At home, I love Jakob Dylan, Bob's son, who has the most amazing voice. But when I sketch, I listen to Chet Baker a lot.

**To really relax**, nothing beats heading to the spa. I'm the ultimate spa junkie and love everything – facials, scrubs, manicures... you name it, I love it!

**I love Malaysia** and need to spend more time here. I'm planning to spend some time relaxing on an island, perhaps, over the Thanksgiving holidays. I've heard Pangkor Laut Resort is stunning and I'd like to spend a week there, sketching and creating my new collection. ■



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