

YTL *life*

The YTL Luxury Magazine



Underwater World

Marine Magic on the Malaysian East Coast

Past Perfect

Treading Through Time in Malacca

Wrist Watch

BaselWorld 2011 Report

Plus Bewitching Baubles • Eco-Friendly Chic • Oracle Retreat

FeastVillage

at STARHILL GALLERY

A destination where cultures are embraced with international flavours

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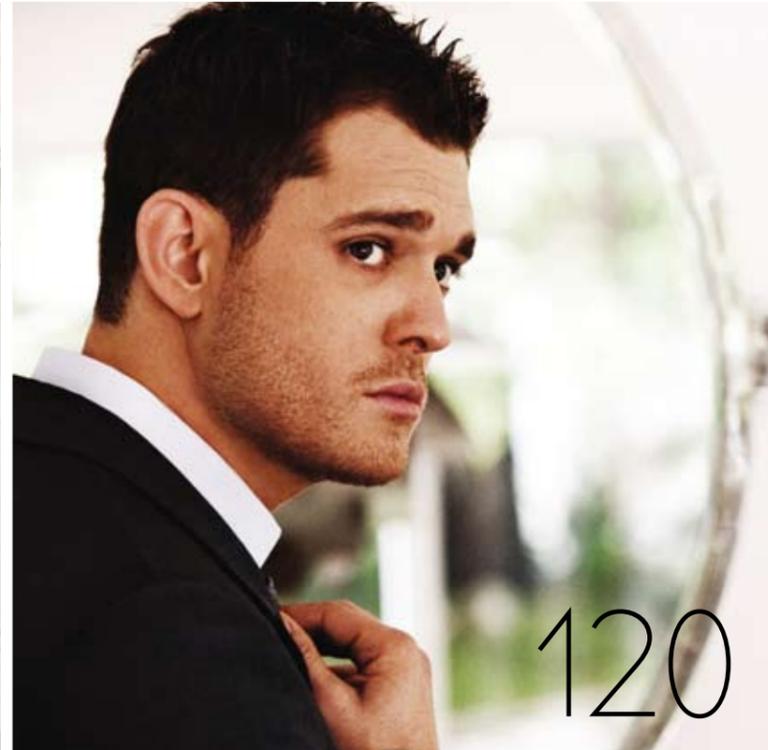
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Tel : +603-2710 3388 Fax : +603-2710 3807 Email : ligneroset@starhillgallery.com

YTL *life*

The YTL Luxury Magazine

Published By

YTL Hotels
11th Floor, Yeoh Tiong Lay Plaza, 55,
Jalan Bukit Bintang,
55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Produced By

Blu Inc Media Sdn Bhd
(Company No. 7408-K)
Lot 7, Jalan Bersatu 13/4, Section 13,
46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
Tel: +603 7952 7000
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E-mail: ytlife@bluinc.com.my

Colour Separation By

Digiscan Services Sdn Bhd
No. 26, Jalan 4/62A, Bandar Manjalara,
52220 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Printed By

Percetakan Zanders Sdn Bhd
No.16, Jalan BK 1/11, Bandar Kinrara,
47180 Puchong, Selangor, Malaysia

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Where else would you expect to
find heaven except in paradise?

The spirit of Bali itself permeates every aspect of the new Spa
Village Resort Tembok Bali. Soaring volcanic peaks add their magic
to every encounter, the ancient healing lore of the island textures
every treatment and the sublime serenity of this sanctuary creates
a slice of paradise unlike any other on earth.

Nestled along northeast Bali's exotic
coast of black sand, Spa Village Resort
Tembok Bali is a secluded 31-room
enclave that embodies the gentle
spirituality of this magical isle. Here,
every visit and healing programme is
touched by the beauty and magic of
Bali itself.



Our signature Discovery Paths focus
on Balance, Creativity, Vigour and
the Spa Village Academy. Our
Lifestyle Cuisine is crafted to
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CAMERON HIGHLANDS
KUALA LUMPUR
PANGKOR LAUT
TANJONG JARA
MALACCA



A Note from Tan Sri (Dr) Francis Yeoh

At YTL Hotels, preserving the heritage and cultures in the locations where our properties are located is something we value tremendously. In this issue of YTL *life*, we take readers to the past, to Tanjong Jara Resort on Malaysia's East Coast, which was designed to replicate the stately Malay *istanas* or palaces.

Embedded in this rarefied culture is an "Unmistakably Malay" way of life that we hope you will decide to experience first-hand in the not-too-distant future. In the same vein, our historic property The Majestic Malacca proffers a similar journey spanning cultures and continents; unforgettable elements which may be imbibed in a leisurely tour of the city organised by the hotel.

Further afield, in China, Shook! Shanghai, the restaurant housed in the iconic Swatch Art Peace Hotel, is coming into its own, making an impactful – not to mention delicious – entrance to the cosmopolitan city's dynamic dining scene. Turn to page 32, for an insider's view of the eatery's vibrant scene.

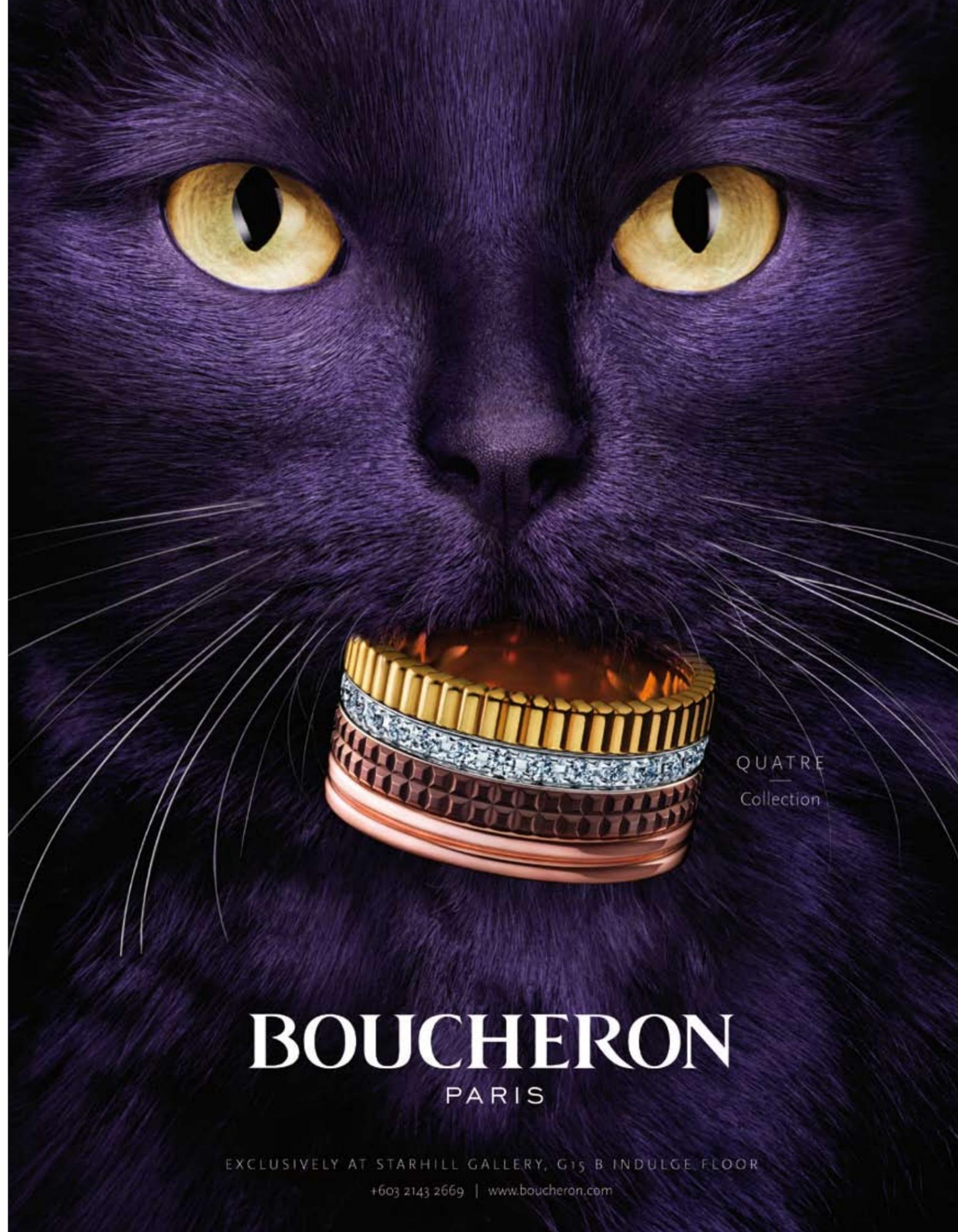
And, for watch aficionados, our exclusive BaselWorld 2011 Report, on page 76, presents the latest dazzling developments in the world of haute horology. This is an especially timely precursor to Starhill Gallery, Kuala Lumpur's fifth consecutive *A Journey Through Time* event, taking place during the latter part of 2011.

With that, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a happy, productive and memorable summer.



Tan Sri (Dr) Francis Yeoh
Managing Director
YTL Corporation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis" with a long horizontal line underneath it.



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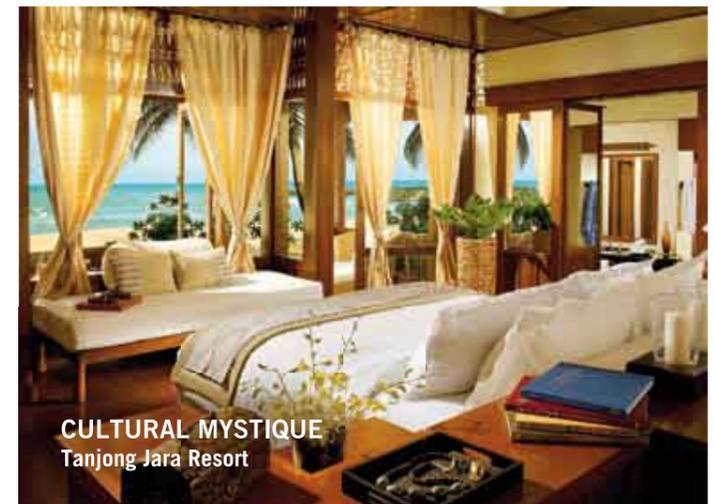
HISTORIC RETREAT
The Majestic Malacca



BALI ESCAPE
Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali



ONE ISLAND. ONE RESORT
Pangkor Laut Resort



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Tanjong Jara Resort

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YTL HOTELS
TREASURED PLACES, TREASURED MOMENTS.



Preserving the Great Reefs

Tanjong Jara Resort, in collaboration with Reef Check Malaysia and the CIMB Foundation, recently organised an education outreach programme for students of Garden International School, Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Abang, Sekolah Kebangsaan Seberang Dungun and Sekolah Kebangsaan Pulau Serai. These young children were educated on the ways to promote sustainability in both the sea and reefs, ensuring that they become supportive members of the local community who are sensitive to pressing environmental concerns.

Students of Garden International School from both Kuala Lumpur and Kuantan had the opportunity to experience a fun-filled three-day stay at the resort. Activities including a snorkelling trip to Tenggol island, a beach clean-up, and a sustainable reef and environment education session that proved to be both an educational and enjoyable experience for all. ❏

This page: Scenes from the student-led beach clean-up at Tanjong Jara Resort together with the snorkelling expedition on Tenggol island.



Saving the Tigers

An exclusive gala night in aid of endangered tigers was organised by The Clinton Partnership together with YTL Corporation, the Born Free Foundation, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and WildAid. Present were celebrities like Joanna Lumley, Bill Oddie, Jimmy Greaves, Ronni Ancona, Alistair McGowan, Jimmy Choo, television chef Ching-He Huang, Will Travers, Donal MacIntyre, Liz Bonnin and Steve Backshall, all of whom lent their support to the cause.

Amongst the attendees was Virginia McKenna OBE, the founder of the Born Free Foundation and the star of the original *Born Free* film. "The Clinton Partnership, with help from YTL Corporation, not only created a wonderful event but raised awareness and funds for the "Save the Wild Tigers" alliance, which is urgently trying to prevent tigers from disappearing from the world," stated McKenna.

Highlights of the evening comprised a blessing by monks from London's Buddhist Society, a rarely-performed dancing spectacle titled "King of the Forest", which was specially prepared for the occasion by famed Balinese dancer/choreographer Ni Madé Pujawati and Indian dancer/choreographer Gauri Sharma Tripathi, a traditional Chinese lion dance and music from a Thai orchestra. ❏

1. Auctioneer Nicholas Parsons, Ann Reynolds and Virginia McKenna. 2. Will Travers and host Donal MacIntyre. 3. Joanna Lumley and Jimmy Choo. 4. Blessing by Buddhist monks. 5. Joanna Lumley making her address. 6. Liz Bonnin and Simon Clinton. 7. Ronni Ancona, Alistair McGowan and Virginia McKenna.



Sephora lands at Starhill Gallery

With the unveiling of French beauty retailer Sephora's flagship 10,000 sq ft store at Starhill Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, beauty aficionados now have access to the ultimate cult beauty products. The store, a simulacrum of the brand's other flagship outlets in Paris, Milan and New York, features state-of-the-art architecture as well as international brands like Dior, Clinique, Estee Lauder, Lancôme as well as boutique beauty brands such as Amazing Cosmetics, Bare Minerals, Urban Decay and Sephora brand collection. 📌

1. The store's exterior facade. 2. & 5. An international assortment of cosmetics on offer. 3. Ravi Thakran, Violet Ho, Tan Sri (Dr) Francis Yeoh, Antonio Belloni and Christopher Delapuenta. 4. Performers at the store opening.



Culinary Tour De Force

Gonbei San recently held a little party to celebrate its reopening. Located at the Starhill Gallery, Gonbei San remains one of Kuala Lumpur's premier Japanese restaurants, ably headed by Master Chef Lew Tet Sin. Its superlative cuisine and exquisite décor, unsurprisingly, keeps it at the forefront of the gourmet scene in Malaysia. 📌

1. The restaurant's exterior. 2. Fresh sushi and sashimi. 3. Eric Eoon and Joseph Yeoh. 4. Lew Tet Sin, Koh Chan Wai, Chin Soo Kim, Robert Lee Moew Lim and Chai Ng Chew. 5. & 6. Traditional Japanese cultural and music performances.



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



01



02



03



04



05



06

01

Island Magic

Scheduled to open next year, Gaya Island Resort is an unspoilt vision of paradise. The luxury resort is situated on Pulau Gaya in an area known as the Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, a dedicated marine conservation area just off the coast of Borneo. The picturesque setting boasts impressive vistas of the majestic Mount Kinabalu in the background. Gaya Island Resort was designed to meld naturally with its surroundings. Notably, the adjacent Spa Village Gaya Island is housed in a mangrove setting, offering nature-inspired therapies that will be simply second to none.

02

Chef's Kitchen Experience

Discover top chef secrets at Pangkor Laut Resort in-between spending afternoons in the sun and partaking in the daily nature walk. For budding chefs, the not-to-be-missed Chef's Kitchen Experience allows participants the chance to learn from the resort's culinary masters. Begin the morning sampling the delicious international selection of cuisines at Feast Village's private dining room. A boat trip to a nearby fish farm comes next. This is followed by a cooking lesson back at the resort where guests will create a dish with their catch of their day and local condiments.

03

Inspired Treatments

The latest therapies at Spa Village Tanjong Jara hones in on age-old Malay treatments, ones whose secret techniques have been passed down the generations. This award-winning spa on Malaysia's East Coast introduces the following soul-renewing additions to the à la carte spa menu. These include the invigorating and balancing Traditional Malay Foot Massage, the energising Traditional Malay Dry Massage as well as the Queen's Royal Indulgence, a series of royal remedies targeted to stimulate blood circulation, balance the flow of energy and alleviate muscle aches.

04

Summer in Niseko

Niseko's stunning landscape is a spectacular summer setting for golf. It features the 6,805 yard 18-hole, Par 72 Niseko Golf Course, designed by none other than Arnold Palmer. The course, considered one of the most difficult and strategic in the area, enjoys views of Mt. Yotei. And for the adventure-inclined, other adrenalin-pumping summer activities at Niseko include trekking, horseback riding, white water rafting, paragliding, hot air ballooning, mountain biking, volleyball, nature walking and mountain hiking.

05

Jungle Trails

Fresh air and the pristine Cameron Highlands mountain setting is just the location where adventure-seekers and nature lovers may trek through the verdant local terrain. The highland area along with the mossy forest is the perfect setting for invigorating jungle walks, leading to the Parit Waterfall and Robinson Waterfall near Tanah Rata. While Gunung Brinchang, Gunung Beremban, Gunung Jasar, Gunung Perdah and Bukit Mentigi, all of which boasts spectacular vistas of the lands below, are best for mountain trekking.

06

New Chef Calling

Spa Village Resort Tembok Bali's new Chef Made Sirharta honed his talents in Ubud's finest kitchens. Equally skilled in Asian as well as an international mix of cuisines including Mexican and Chinese, Chef Made brings to the table a wealth of experience and knowledge in creating harmonious and healthful dishes. His cuisine style combines the delicious tastes of his native Bali with the element of fine dining, a talent that will no doubt be well-received amongst the resort's guests.

For more information on YTL Hotels' events and promotions, go to www.ytlhotels.com

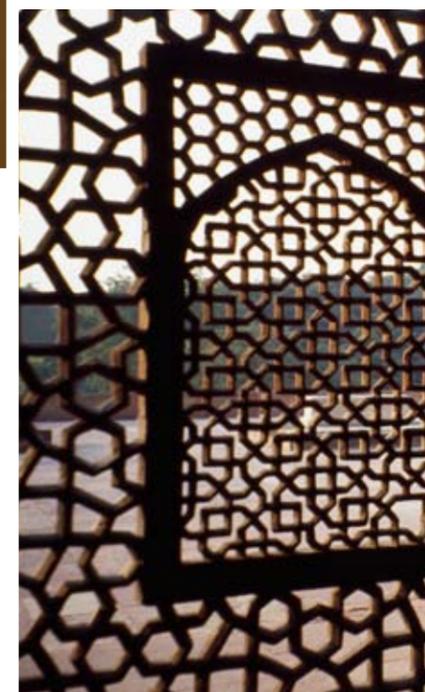
The Ages of Tradition

Inspired by the classic Malay palaces or *istanas* of yore, the majestic Tanjong Jara Resort is an architectural work of art as it is an unequalled luxury destination on Malaysia's east coast.

Text by **Christien Au**

Ornate woodcarvings have a place in the collective memory and heritage of the Malays for they clearly depict traditional ways of working, living and being. Crafting these works of art from treasured resources of the earth have, for centuries, been the lifelong vocation for these highly skilled craftsmen, men who have forged physical, emotional and spiritual connections to wood – a seemingly non-living material. However, like most other ancient races whose history runs deeply down the roots, the very origins of humanity, the Malays believe that all things – be they living or inanimate – are imbued with energy or life force.

As such, the master craftsman during the process of honing, shaping and conjuring a design that would personify a life spent in relentless pursuit to be the best artisan, would invariably invoke the assistance of a higher force, his inspirations. Of particular significance is the reverence



these individuals project onto this process of creation, the results of which remain in towns and cities on Malaysia's east coast till today.

Likewise, the popularity of certain pieces of woodcarving today is not merely due to its rarity or priceless value. Rather, the very reason these antique pieces are respected today and recognised for their unmistakable beauty is because of the master craftsman's connection to the primordial forces, his bond with his art, reflected in the objects' perennial appeal. After all, there must be an inherent reason; an underlying connection that ensures one's gaze lingers on a centuries-old piece of crafted wood.

When it came to constructing buildings, wood represented the building blocks that when harmoniously aligned, ensured that the structure emanated positive

energies. And like all cultures respecting both its past and forefathers, the Malays, by honing their skills in woodcarving, gave rise to both palaces and homes instilled with aesthetic, cultural and spiritual significance. The former was representative of a sense of material power and Malay identity. As such, these palaces were constructed with specific motifs and symbolisms, both of which held a particular significance – a power – that can never be underestimated.

This force has a purported function – to define the boundaries between the rulers and their subjects, the very foundation defining race and country. The Malay home, on the other instance, formed a network of buildings connecting the various fragments of society, linking families and clans, associations that can still be traced today.

As a nod to these compelling fragments of an archaic era, Tanjong Jara Resort on the east coast of Malaysia recreates a simulacrum of a traditional Malay palace and with it the trappings of its culture from a past time. The property authentically recreates an ambience infused with heritage and luxury. Examples of this span the ornate woodwork honed by local craftsmen, the *mandi bunga* (flower bath) procession taking place each morning as well as the soothing sounds of the *gamelan* instrument at the open air pavilion.

The resort's architecture references the beautiful design paradigm of the *istanas* or palaces of yore. These structures were designed to maximise the seasonal winds, and have managed to withstand time and tide. The property, a compendium of elegant wooden raised structures, a design feature encouraging air circulation

together with its steep pitched roofs with grilled gables, evoke an elegant setting derived from the past. More importantly, the building greets the sea, allowing for the coastal winds to gently sweep through, bringing forth a cool and calm breeze on a warm afternoon.

Local artisans and craftsman who have made their craft a lifelong vocation utilised naturally finished local hardwood to construct majestic gables and fretwork. Their handiwork in the form of detailed carvings embellished the buildings, added both authenticity and kept the flame of traditional Malay aesthetics burning brightly. As a result, in 1983, Tanjong Jara Resort, was the recipient of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. Till today, the property brandishes a similar respect for the craftsmen and builders who conjured a Malay palace on a picturesque spot skirting the coast, borne from an intricate heritage and respect for time-honoured traditions. ▣

Opposite page: The impressive lobby.
This page (clockwise from top): a master craftsman at work; close up of printing blocks; ornate window detailing.



Snapshots from a typical underwater dive off Pulau Tenggol.

Diving In

As this year's dive season commences, the warm and welcoming azure waters of Tenggol Island greet beginner and experienced divers alike.

Text by **Adel Lim**

A sparkling new twin outboard engine speedboat took us from the luxurious Tanjong Jara Resort to Pulau Tenggol (or Tenggol, for short) in just under 50 minutes. As the speedboat sliced across the waters, inching us closer to the promise of excellent diving, the buzz of smart phones were quickly forgotten and the frenetic bustle of the city faded away.

As we approached the island, divers and snorkelers alike leaned across the edge of the speedboat, peering through the crystal clear waters to the beckoning wonders of the underwater world. Upon arrival, the boys working on the speedboat helped us down into the warm inviting water. When my feet sank into the powder-fine sand, I thought that this must surely be what paradise feels like.

Five paces later (that's the distance from the speedboat to the beach), the friendly and helpful dive masters and their assistants greeted us with dazzling island smiles and cool drinks. They then assisted divers with the selection of their tanks and setting up of equipment. This was followed by a dive briefing on the selected dive site. Once the briefing was completed, all we needed to do was make our way to the dive boat where the gear was already waiting for us. There was no need to carry the heavy tank, or worry if you had forgotten anything as the professionals ensure you have all the equipment that you need.

There are over 20 near-immaculate dive sites around Tenggol, which means that divers are in for an amazing time with the astonishingly vibrant underwater world and its cornucopia of marine biodiversity. Located at the southernmost part of Terengganu's marine parks, Pulau Tenggol is about 50 hectares in size, and is one of the last beautiful, unspoilt, tranquil islands on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

The island, which was traditionally uninhabited, has lots of rocky cliffs with many excellent dive sites. Here, submerged rocks with excellent coral growth and



teeming marine life awaits discovery. The rocky terrain of the island extends from the centre of the island to the seas. It creates a spectacular drop off, providing a postcard-perfect canvas of marine life.

The friendly banter between the dive master and divers could be heard above the dive boat's engine. One can't help but sense the divers' buzzing enthusiasm. A back-roll or giant step later, we contact pristine water and immaculate coral gardens.

Tropical latitudes give the clear waters around the island perfect water temperatures [of between 27 – 29 degrees Celsius], which allow divers to be comfortable in the water even without a full-length 3m body suit.

Diving at Tenggol is akin to swimming in a giant aquarium. All a diver sees is the blue water and diverse marine life. Rare species of marine life make it one of the best places for diving in Malaysia. With an average visibility of between 15 to 20 metres, it is easy to observe the graceful blue-spotted sting rays, schools of jacks, bumphead parrotfish, snappers and groupers, all of which are a common sight at most of the dive sites on Pulau Tenggol. Lizardfish, gobies, nudibranches, and the occasional whitetip sharks also add to a tireless variety of underwater scenes.

With silence all around except the steady sound of breathing, it is easy to get lost in this world. Here, a variety of sponge and leather coral merges with the many colonies of brain, covering the sea bed with what looks like colourful coral carpets. The wide variety of hard and especially soft corals are a sight for sore eyes. Then there are the Gorgonian fans and submerged balconies of staghorn corals that create intricate and fragile labyrinths.

1. Bring some illumination when exploring Tenggol's underwater wonderland;
2. A starfish caught on camera;
3. Another underwater denizen caught by the writer's shutter 4. Tanjong Jara's dive boat; 5. The playful anemone fish;
6. Beautiful corals provide the underwater ambience.



Diving here, however, is not for the faint hearted. Divers will discover that Tenggol offers great diving experiences ranging from deep diving and drift diving to wreck diving. At certain times of the year, the waters can get rather rough, and divers are advised to be proficient before attempting to dive at Tenggol during these times.

With the unspoilt diving sites and its location away from the usual tourist traps, it is no wonder that the island was cited as "The Best Diving in Peninsular Malaysia" by *Asian Diver Magazine* in 2002. Tenggol and its surrounding dive sites offer unforgettable underwater experiences for beginners and exciting adventures for even the most experienced divers.

After a rewarding time diving on this pristine island, it was back to the luxurious world of Tanjong Jara Resort. Here, divers need not worry about returning equipment to the dive centre, allowing one to leisurely enjoy the five-star amenities at the resort, which includes an award-winning spa, a dazzling midnight blue-hued pool and fine cuisine from two sublime restaurants.

At the Water Sports Centre, dive equipment is readily available for hire as are a range of PADI licences (Open Water Diver, Advanced Open Water Diver, Emergency First Response and Rescue Diver courses). There is even an introductory diving class available. Above all, both the resort and Tenggol are unmistakably magical locations, deserving of a return visit when dive season comes around the corner next year. ■





Back In Time

History resides in Malacca, a city with profound respect for the past. In a unique three-hour walk through the city, visitors have the rare opportunity to traverse ancient lanes and quaint streets brimming with the aroma of spices.

Text by Mei Leong



For an unforgettable introduction to the city's 600-year history, stay at the gorgeous heritage hotel, The Majestic Malacca, and sign up for its daily walks organised specially for hotel guests. In a three-hour stroll led by the resident historian, Donovan Casimir Louis, guests weave their way through narrow alleys with stops at the landmarks of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Known as 'The Route to Malacca's History', the walk hones in on the lingering vestiges of Malacca's multicultural roots. These include the influences of Portuguese, Dutch, British, Chinese, Indian, Malay and Arab cultures beautifully reflected in the city's buildings, places of worship and trades of ages past.

The Chinese Mansion

The journey, like most eventful ones, begins at a point of greatness – **The Majestic Malacca**, a mansion built in 1927 by Canton-born tycoon Leong Long Man. At the turn of the last century, the British

property took a less salubrious form of a budget guesthouse.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the hotel hosted parties and banquets for the who's who of Malaya, movie stars and foreign dignitaries. "Quite a number of events were held here during that era," says Louis. "While in the 80s, the kitchen was renowned for its delicious chicken and pork chops." YTL Hotels acquired The Majestic Malacca in 2006, and later, restored and reopened the property in January 2008.

The building's original facade and unique characteristics reflect the city's multi-faceted cultures. Window shutters are painted in their original shade of green, the *pintu pagar* or double swing doors and the original ceramic tile flooring have also been restored.

"In the past, importing tiles from major port cities under Dutch rule like South India and Majorca, Spain, was how the city's

"Whoever is Lord of Malacca has his hand on the throat of Venice."

Government encouraged the planting of rubber, and invariably, Leong's immense fortune derived from his 150- hectare rubber plantation.

Sparing no expense, the self-made entrepreneur splurged on imported tiles, stained glass windows and expensive fittings. It took two years to complete the construction of the mansion. But tragically, two years after moving in, Leong contracted tuberculosis. Fearing the spread of the virus to his family, he hardly spoke a word until his death at the age of 59 in 1931.

Bequeathed the family estate, Leong's eldest son, Alex, eventually squandered his inheritance. The mansion was later sold to businessman Lim Heng Fang who converted the mansion into a hotel whose clientele comprised British planters. He named it The Majestic Hotel. Before it closed its doors in 2000, the

rich displayed their affluence. They would adorn the stairs and the frontage of homes and floors with these tiles," explains Louis.

With small yet memorable touches, The Majestic Malacca appropriates the centuries-old Baba-Nyonya heritage into their hospitality style. During turn down service, for example, mini *bakul siah* (basket) containing morsels of Nyonya *kuih* (traditional cakes) are thoughtfully placed in the guestrooms. In the past, these red-and-black or gold-gilded baskets were filled with oranges, *kuih bakul*, *angpow* (red packets filled with money) and roast pork, as dowry in Peranakan (Straits Chinese) marriages.

The Majestic Malacca's Spa Village focuses its therapies on the Peranakan heritage using remedies like Malacca palm-sugar and honey body scrub, *pandan*-coconut hair mask and nutmeg-rice paste for body massages.



1. An old school barber; 2. Signs in Chinese script illustrates the city's Chinese heritage; 3. A Famosa; 4. The Majestic Malacca; 5. Traditional spa condiments; 6. A storekeeper; 7. Ornate Chinese motifs.



The Spice Route

Stepping outside the hotel, guests will catch a whiff of the spices sold along the shops in **Jalan Bunga Raya** – a fragrant reminder that this strategically located ancient port was the prized trophy amongst the European colonial powers. Tome Pires, a Portuguese apothecary and diplomat who visited Malacca in 1512 described the city as such: "Whoever is Lord of Malacca has his hand on the throat of Venice."

In front of the hotel and across the Malacca River, says Louis, one will spot **Kampong Morten**, named after Mr J.F. Morten, the British Land Commissioner for Malacca in the 1920s. **Villa Sentosa**, a museum proffering a glimpse of Malay culture and history, is nestled in this quaint Malay village. The pretty, ornamental glazed tiles adorning the staircases of houses are characteristic of Malacca-style Malay houses.

A stone's throw from the hotel is a wooden walkway lining the Malacca River, comprising part of a 4.5km stretch that underwent a 15-year rehabilitation project.



8. Donovan Casimir Louis, *The Majestic Malacca's resident historian*; 9. *Nyonya spa therapies*; 10. *Inspiring architecture*; 11. *Spices at the market*; 12. *An artisan at work*; 13. *Colourful clogs*; 14. *The art of flower painting*.

Amble on the boardwalk shaded by a one-km stretch of greenery, which was once part of a lush mangrove forest in the area.

"The Dutch changed the morphology of the river", says Louis. "Huge waves used to topple the ships from Rotterdam and Amsterdam that headed to the Dutch enclaves, which is why they changed the course of the river into the meandering pattern it resembles today," he adds. "The river has also narrowed due to years of sedimentation."

Shop houses, built from the 1870s to 1930s line the riverbank. The building's walls are painted with murals depicting the history of Malacca during the era of the Malay sultanate.

"The British imposed a law that required all buildings to be constructed from bricks and terracotta tiles," says Louis. "The spiral staircases dating to the 1890s represent a unique feature of these houses." Used as fire escapes, these staircases are made from solid concrete. According to Louis, modern-day spiral staircases are made from steel or pre-cast cement because the old skills have been lost. "Unlike in other Straits settlements like Penang and Singapore, townhouses in Malacca are the only ones with kitchen chimneys," says Louis.

Vanishing Trades

Just before crossing **Kg Jawa Bridge**, we dropped in at a clogmaker's shop. Tham Fong Lin took over the business from her late father who was in the trade for half a century.

Tham's father used to make clogs out of Pulai and Jelutong wood with straps fashioned from used bicycle tyres. Now, the 50-year-old lady sources the readymade clogs from a factory. She then varnishes and

paints them before attaching plastic straps. Unlike the fancy clogs with elaborate prints their plain red or orange clogs are still sought after by ladies from the nearby villages.

"Clogs are remnants of the Dutch influence. In the past, nannies would stamp their

police used to target the wealthy Chinese businessmen. They were forced from their homes in the middle of the night, driven into an alley and decapitated," says Louis. Heads were then strung along the bridge and bodies flung into the river. This was done to instil fear amongst the locals. To appease these restless spirits, the Chinese

police painted the underside of the bridge red. Till today, many dread crossing the bridge at night.

The walk continues to the famous **Stadhuis**, which was built in 1650 as the official residence of Dutch Governors. A proud example of Dutch architecture, the building's original structure has been preserved and painted bright red. At a corner of the Stadhuis is the **Christ Church**. Built by the Dutch, the church houses 200-year-old handmade pews. It also features a glazed tile painting of the *Last Supper*.

Then, there is perhaps the most famous Malaccan structure of all, **A Famosa**, the oldest surviving example of European architecture in Asia. Constructed in

1511 as a fortress by the Portuguese, the building sustained structural damage during invasion by Dutch forces. What remains today is the fort's entrance.

At the end of the tour, Louis encourages guests to roam historical areas like **Heeren St** and **Jonker Street** before heading back to The Majestic where guests may indulge in a delectable afternoon tea spread. Tuck into freshly baked scones served with clotted cream and jam, *Nyonya kuih*, samosas, chicken pies and spring rolls, proving once again that the city's culinary traditions are just as intriguing as the city's ancient streets. ■





If you've sipped enough *oolong cha* amidst Song Fang Maison de Thé's quirky retro interiors or had enough of queuing up for the famous *xiao long bao* dumplings at Shanghai's famous Nanxiang in Yu Garden and, instead, are dreaming of an elegant, fine dining experience, Shook! Shanghai at the famous Swatch Art Peace Hotel might just be the palate-pleaser you're looking for. Facing the beautiful Bund and located right along frenzied Nanjing Lu, Shook! Shanghai hides behind the hotel's appealing Renaissance exterior only to reveal a sleek, modern face within. It boasts a unique open-kitchen concept, inspired by the original Shook! Restaurant in Kuala Lumpur, while its extensive menu is filled with creations crafted to excite even the most jaded palate.

Headed by the talented Kevin Cape, Shook! Shanghai's offerings circumnavigate the globe and include dishes as diverse as herb-scented cod with *gnocchi* and Wagyu beef burgers served with goose liver and truffle fries to spicy Thai-style *larb gai* and simple but sublime Japanese *sashimi*, all the while never veering away from its trademark elegance. Having worked before at world-class establishments all over the world, including in the US, France and Singapore, Chef Cape has also ensured Shook! Kuala Lumpur's signature dishes, particularly the snow white dancing prawns with hot mayonnaise and honey-glazed walnuts and the classic Malaysian noodle dish of curry *laksa*, can be found on the menu. Meanwhile, the culinary cognoscenti would also be thrilled to know the wine cellar is home to two rare vertical collections of claret, with vintages that date all the way back to 1945.

SHANGHAI TANG AND TEXTURE

There's more to Shanghai's food and beverage scene than the clubs and pubs of Xintiandi and the ubiquitous little basket dumplings known universally as *xiao long bao*. *Diana Khoo* discovers the multi-cultural flavours and sensations found at the historic Swatch Art Peace Hotel's Shook! Shanghai.

Dine in style overlooking the beauty of the Bund in Shanghai.

For guests who prefer more than a modicum of privacy, ask to dine amidst the luxurious confines of the Chiang-Soong Room, one of Shanghai's most iconic and historical private meeting rooms. The location of the First International Opium Conference in the early 1900s, it was also the venue of Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek's engagement to Soong May-ling, the youngest of the three legendary Soong sisters. And considering the weather in Shanghai is still pleasant from now till about early October, it might also prove an opportune time to consider dining on the hotel's stunning roof terrace, which offers a visual feast to complement your meal. With Shanghai's dramatic skyline all lit up for your viewing pleasure and the knowledge the Huangpu is meandering dreamily just below, that's definitely a complementary accompaniment anyone would be hard-pressed to resist, no? **■**

EXQUISITE SELECTIONS

The following are a selection of sublime pairings of signature dishes with wines and cocktails as recommended by the Swatch Art Peace Hotel's Director of Food and Beverage, Julien Laracine.

- Snow White Dancing Prawns with Shook! Shanghai's signature drink – Caviar Royal, a molecular interpretation of Kir Royal.
- Traditional Malay *Satay* with Cape Mentelle Chardonnay or Leeuwin Estate Chardonnay "Art Series".
- Pan-fried Scallops and Goose Liver with a sweet Sauternes like Château d'Yquem.
- Rib Eye or Rack of Lamb for two with Château Cheval Blanc from St Emilion.
- Crêpes Suzette with the restaurant's famous flame Shooktini.



Left to right: Julien Laracine; entrance of Shook! Shanghai.



Left to right: Deep-fried fruit spring rolls; a Shook! Shanghai chef creating one of the restaurant's signature dishes; one of the restaurant's private dining rooms.



Images from Corbis

NOW AND ZEN

Over the years, celebrity shoemaker Jimmy Choo has wowed the international fashion world. Now he is set to take London's restaurant scene by storm.

Text by **Helen Oon**

Fashion and spirituality don't often mix. But in the case of Jimmy Choo, the two disparate topics have achieved a rare equilibrium. Having designed his first pair of shoes at age 11 under the watchful eyes of his father, the young Choo went on to enrol at Cordwainers College (currently part of the London College of Fashion, one of five colleges comprising The University of the Arts, London) in 1980.

He has experienced phenomenal success after being discovered by Kate Phyllen, a fashion assistant at *Vogue UK* back in 1988. This was during the early days when he was operating out of a workshop in Hackney, east London. The magazine was so impressed by his work –they dedicated an eight-page spread to his collection, an exceptional achievement for a fashion newcomer.

“My favourite destination in Malaysia is my hometown Penang, but for the ultimate luxury getaway, Pangkor Laut Resort is my preferred choice for relaxation and spa treatments.”



Left-Right: The super luxurious Pangkor Laut Resort; Dato' Jimmy Choo with daughter Emily; A Jimmy Choo creation.



Today, Choo is as much a celebrated shoe designer as he is an international celebrity. He counts among his clients people like the late Princess Diana, the Duchess of York, the Duchess of Cornwall, members of Malaysian royalty, Madonna, Kyle Minogue, Natalie Imbruglia, Beverley Knight, Katie Holmes, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Debra Messing, Jada Pinkett-Smith, Liza Minnelli and Michelle Yeoh, amongst others.

Till today, Choo has in his possession the pair of shoes ordered by Princess Diana, which was supposed to be collected when she returned from Paris that tragic day in August 1997. Poignantly, the taupe-coloured pumps sit in a box marked 'Diana's flat pumps'.

The Other Side of Jimmy Choo

Choo is deeply spiritual. He is more at home being introspective than when amidst the world of glamour and high fashion. His spiritual guru, Master Wong Chee Yew, who is based in Penang, offers guidance in personal and business matters. This is done by channelling the energies of the 'Nine Heaven Goddess', one of the most revered deities in the Taoist pantheon.

"I believe I have a spiritual connection with the Goddess. Years ago, during one of the channelling sessions, the Goddess predicted that I am blessed with a 'next day star' that would bring fame and fortune. I was not sure what it meant then," he explains. But Choo's spiritual inclinations are by no means limited to Taoist beliefs. "As a child, I used to pass a church with the statue of the Virgin Mary. I would pray to her to give me good health and a bright future," he reflects.

Totally Charming

In his modest showroom that doubles as a workshop on Connaught Street near Hyde Park, a stone's throw from former Prime Minister Tony Blair's home, the celebrity shoemaker has designed his own private haven. Despite his considerable fame, this man of simple yet immaculate tastes remains discreet and humble. Here, as is always the case, the focus is on a master craftsman's skill and brilliance. Choo's disarming charm puts even the most high maintenance celebrity at ease. There is none of the fashion talk that many other famous designers are wont to engage their clients in. Choo remains an unassuming man whose own celebrity status still perplexes him occasionally.

For his many contributions to shoe design and the fashion industry in the United Kingdom, he was conferred the title of visiting professor of the University of the Arts in 2000 (then The London Institute); awarded the prestigious Order of the British Empire (OBE) by the Queen; and was recently elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce. He works closely with the British Council, taking on a role as spokesperson, and travelling on educational programmes to places like Japan, Taiwan, China and India.

The Malaysian Ambassador

In Malaysia, he was awarded a Datship both by the Sultan of Pahang (equivalent to a British Knighthood) in 2000 and the Governor of Penang in 2004. Nevertheless, his latest appointment as the Tourism Ambassador for Malaysia in August 2009 remains one of his proudest moments.

At each opportunity, he speaks about the beauty and appeal of Malaysia as a holiday and honeymoon destination, highlighting this fact to customers when they visit his showroom. As part of his inaugural duty as Tourism Ambassador in November 2009, Choo led a delegation of 12 travel journalists and tour operators to Malaysia. The delegation toured Penang and went on a shopping expedition in Kuala Lumpur followed by a sojourn at award-winning Pangkor Laut Resort.

"My favourite destination in Malaysia is my hometown Penang, but for the ultimate luxury getaway, Pangkor Laut Resort is my preferred choice for relaxation and spa treatments. Not only is the resort stunningly beautiful; its Spa Village offers the best selection of eastern-based spa treatments. I would highly recommend this resort especially for honeymooners. It is the perfect place for a romantic interlude," Choo declares.

"We have world-class luxury resorts and hotels with, great food and warm and friendly people who would respect their privacy. It is the perfect destination for celebrities to chill out," he adds.

With his shoe empire firmly established, this master designer and tourism ambassador has ventured into the restaurant business. Choo has teamed up with business partner Louise Lu, an entrepreneur from Beijing, to unveil an eatery located near Hyde Park in London.

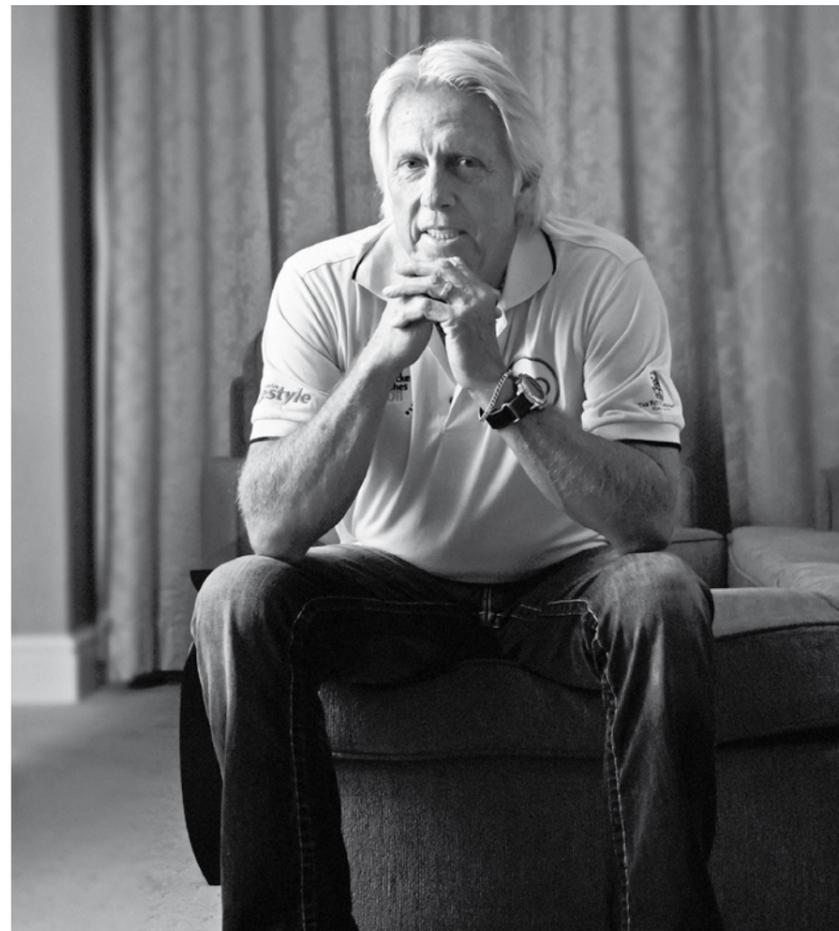
"I have always been interested in the restaurant business. I eat out a lot when I'm entertaining, clients and friends. I decided to team up with Louise. Aside from being an MBA graduate with great business acumen, she is a generous and hardworking and most importantly, trustworthy, lady. I feel comfortable with her as my business partner," he says, before adding, "My niece's husband Albert Koh is the main chef, and we have devised a Malaysian Chinese menu. Most Chinese restaurants in London serve Cantonese food. We have a point of difference."

Reflecting its boutique ambience, the restaurant is called Maximini. Small in size but big in flavours, the restaurant is nestled in a residential part of London in Sussex Place. In a short span of time, the restaurant has become an off-the-radar haute spot; and by most accounts, reviews have been encouraging. After all, Choo muses, "Like shoe designing, whipping up a great dish is an art." ■

Life's a Pitch

Legendary Australian bowler Jeff Thomson reminisces about his adventures on the field, his career highlights and the conundrum all those years ago of choosing to play cricket instead of soccer.

Text by Mark Lean Photography by Danny Lee



With straggly ash blonde hair and a grizzly yet friendly voice, Jeff Thomson could easily pass off as any tourist visiting Kuala Lumpur. But his firm handshake gives an indication that much more is present beyond the surface. As one of the fastest bowlers to play test cricket, Thomson, 'Thommo' for short, has, for many a time, awed fans the world over with his skills on the cricket pitch.

From a technical point of view, in 1978, his measured delivery of 147.9km/h was the fastest when pitted against the likes of Imran Khan at 141.3km/h and Michael Holding at 139.7km/h. Bowling speeds aside, even after all these years away from the centre of it all, Thomson appears to be philosophical about the game's highs and lows; the thrills and the spills as well as the injuries that have dogged him. Having successfully carved a second career as a sports commentator, he remains passionate about the game that defined him as a man and an enduring Australian sporting legend.

How has the game changed since the time when you were actively involved?

It's probably sped up a little bit; it's gotten a bit quicker, Twenty20 and that sort of thing has come around since I've been in the game. There are a few rule changes that I don't agree with and I find the game has gotten a bit more commercialised. It's the way the game is going. Spectators want to watch things happen quickly, they want to see a result. They want to see things in quick time. That's the way it has gone, and that's the way it is.

Is that a good thing?

There's good and there's bad. It has created a few monsters. It's good for the owners, but it creates complacency when the players concerned prefer shorter games to longer ones.

Who are the toughest players you have encountered?

I won't say toughest... but the three best players I've encountered are Greg Chappell, Richie Richardson, and Barry Richards.

What are the elements that are different?

The grounds have become smaller. The bats have gotten bigger, and the quality of the balls has become worse. The only thing a bowler needs is a ball, and in recent years, no one has come up with better cricket balls.

Who in your opinion are the standout cricket players today?

Dale Steyn from South Africa is probably a better pace bowler; I don't think there are any standouts.

What do you think about Australia's dismal performance recently?

Australia made some bad selections in the last World Cup. There has been bad organisation of late. It was a bit disappointing. But we do have quality players. Australia won't be down for very long, our players are there. It's just a matter of picking the right guys.

How about the rise of India?

A team that's going to suffer in performance after this is India; a team can be doing well for a while and then come crashing down.

How does cricket compare today with soccer, a game that perhaps has more exposure and media coverage?

I don't call soccer players glamorous by any means. I think soccer is a more working class game. Cricket always had a bit more tradition to it.

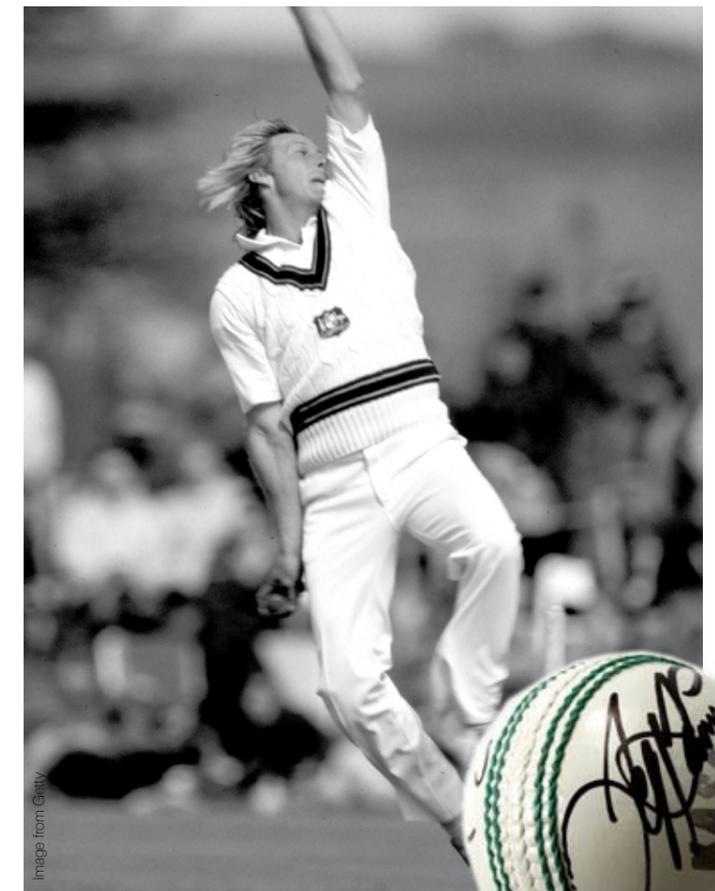
What have been your standout memories of the game?

To beat England, to play with the guys I played with, to play in a great team. It's

about constantly motivating yourself once you're at the top. But after that, what do you do? You've got to keep generating goals. Playing was always good, but it was often the practise, the continual training to keep in form... that was the boring part.

These days, when you pass by a cricket pitch, what are the thoughts that pass through your mind?

Well, I often ask myself: How did I do this for six hours a day? Why did I choose this over soccer? ■



Thomson, one of the greatest fast bowlers in action; A Jeff Thomson exclusive.

The Fast Lane

Formula One legend driver David Coulthard talks about life in general - family, chicanes, living out of a suitcase and the unexpected pleasures it can bring.

Text by **Kenneth Tan**



David Marshall Coulthard, also popularly known as 'DC', is a family man. There can be no doubt about that. UK tabloid *The Sun* famously ran a piece on him admitting to tearing up when he sees parents and their children, because it reminds him so much of his own child. When met in the plush lobby of The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur on his recent promo tour for Red Bull Racing, he admitted to just as much, saying he was standing at the passport line at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, observing a family with three kids "mucking about." Their mother was telling them to behave, because they were playing about and I was just standing there and smiling at them... and I suddenly thought that if anyone saw me standing and smiling at them, they'd think I was some crazy guy," he says. "But I'm not, it's nothing more than the fact that I now appreciate how remarkable that is."

A proud father to his son Dayton, Coulthard says, "I was home for a few hours yesterday before flying out, and my son was talking and coming away with funny little things," he says. For someone so used to being in the driver's seat, that surge of unpredictability from raising a child has been surprisingly pleasing for him. "It's something you can't control, that's the thing that's so remarkable about children. You can give them opportunities but they'll still be their own little personalities."

It's not as though he's seeing fatherhood through rose-tinted lenses. "The journey is everything people say it is and more; at certain points it's exhausting and horrible and terrible," he laughs. "And at other times, it's amazing and touches you in a way you never thought was possible, and opens an area of your heart that you never knew existed."

Above: 'DC' in the driver's seat. Right: David Coulthard, photographed at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur.



ROC™

RACE OF CHAMPIONS



“Happiness, for me, is being able to feel good about yourself and to be able to sustain your family. That's what happiness is all about.”

Above: David Coulthard in his Formula One glory days. Right: Red Bull racing promotions being held outside Kuala Lumpur's Lot 10 shopping centre.



Above: The high-octane thrills of racing.

Fatherhood would seem worlds removed from the high-octane sport of Formula One racing, a world in which Coulthard was very much a leading player, competing in over 246 races, and winning 13 of those. His decade-long involvement in motor sports, which resulted in an OBE honour, will always be an integral part of how he is regarded in the eyes of the public. So despite giving up both pedal and wheel, he still finds himself out on the track, as a consultant to the top team of the moment Red Bull Racing, and also doing race commentary for the BBC.

That association with Red Bull Racing, which began with Coulthard in the driver's cockpit to his present-day role, has been a unique peak in his career. “What's so nice about this story is that using Formula One as a marketing platform, Red Bull has engineered technology that can be used to make a better car,” he says. “Already the gearbox technology is being sold to team Lotus and in the longer term, the rights to the technology can be applicable to a wider sense.”

life feature //

More than anything though, Coulthard is an ardent believer in the investment on human capital – a quality he believes changes the playing field when determining success. “In the sport, it's not about who spends the most that wins, but who invests in the right people,” he says. “This is the same lesson the world over, whether it is hotels, newspapers, magazines – you're only as good as the people you put on the frontline.” He would know a thing or two about running a hotel, having owned The Columbus in Monaco for 10 years, before selling it off last year. “You can have an amazing hotel, but it's nothing without a human element, you need that sincere interaction from the staff, to the people who are coming in,” he says, pausing for a sip of coffee.

He gestures at the hotel's Lobby Lounge, where we are seated, indicating his approval of how well-run the place is. “I enjoy going to hotels to see how staff training is reflected in the service given,” he says. “Most of the time, people check in expecting something to not quite be right, in terms of the reservation or something. And if everything just works seamlessly, from check-in to check-out or if they deliver on something, it's such a great experience. And that again boils down to the staff.”

Coulthard has faced some of life's harsher realities, including a tragic plane crash and several accidents on the track and in that, he has formed an opinion that life goes on and, indeed, becomes beautiful when people display commitment and a can-do attitude. “By believing you can do more, that's what keeps you going. People need to have the desire to make the most out of whatever situation they're in, be it folding a napkin or driving a race car! Believing you can do it is all that matters.”

“At the end of the day,” Coulthard adds, “I've never been a fan-type person, but I admire success in all its forms, including seemingly-simple things like getting food on a table which, for a family living out in the country, can be quite difficult,” he says. “For me, happiness is being able to feel good about yourself and to be able to sustain your family.” He waits a moment before saying, “I'm 40 now so potentially, if I'm lucky, I'm already halfway through my life and, for me, happiness is to see opportunities for my family to move forward.” ■



Batik Shimmer
Carrera y Carrera Ruedo
yellow gold mother-of-pearl
bracelet RM21,500;
dress, Jendela KL.

Sparkling Chances

*The moment has arrived. Dazzle with the boldest and the brightest high
jewellery creations from the world's most opulent brands —
all available at Starhill Gallery, Kuala Lumpur.*

Photography Soon Lau/Show Up Pictures Studio Styling Sheila Cheah Makeup Annie Gho/Artists At Work
Photographer's assistant Cheng Xin & Ares Chan Hair Angeline Low Model Layla/ML Models



Spiralling in Red

Chopard *Happy Spirit* pendant with chain, RM95,630 and *Happy Spirit* ring, RM42,070; Red spandex rosier dress from Valentino.



Simple Chic

Chopard *Ice Cube* ring, RM26,090, *Ice Cube* bracelet in gold with diamonds, RM107,950 paired with *Ice Cube* bracelet in white gold, RM29,850; dress, Jendela KL's 'Fashionably Sustainable' collection.



Pure Elegance

Van Cleef & Arpels *Lotus* between-the-finger ring in white gold and diamonds, RM80,500 and *Dentelle* pendant in diamonds and white gold, RM143,300 paired with white gold and diamond chain, RM24,800; Black lace jersey dress from Valentino.



Seismic Shift

Boucheron *Dellah* pink gold chain scarf necklace, RM80,000; Gold lurex knitted dress from M Missoni.

Future Craft

This year, Fendi initiates another significant milestone with the “Fatto a Mano (Italian for ‘handcrafted’) for the Future” project, featuring a collaborative effort between the brand’s artisans and contemporary international designers.

Text by **Dazman Abdul Manan**

Following a series of sensational events in Aspen, Beverly Hills, New York, London, Abu Dhabi, Seoul, Hangzhou, Milan and Rome, the first “Fatto a Mano for the Future” event in Southeast Asia was held in Singapore on May 26 for six days. It showcased design works of Singaporean designer Donna Ong along with Fendi’s artisans.

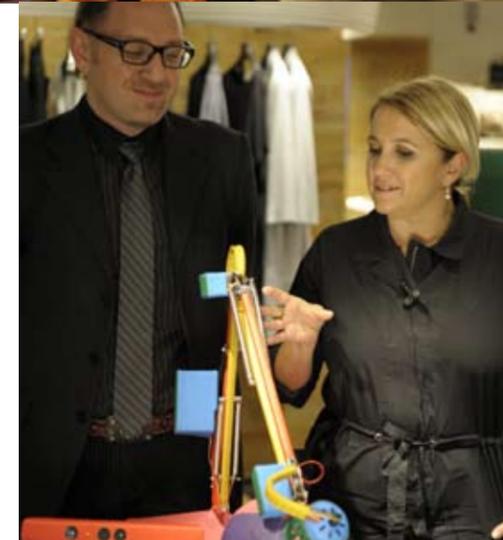
The Fendi store at Takashimaya Shopping Centre was transformed into a “creativity factory”; where the craftsman and designer worked together live to create a unique, limited edition design piece with the label’s fine leathers and materials.

Ong devised a unique design piece from Selleria leather, unveiling a narrative landscape of contrast between tradition and modernity, the emphasis was on fluidity and strength as personified by the elements and symbols of Peranakan heritage.



This page: an artisan hard at work perfecting the artist's vision

“Designer Ben Aranda, Chris Lasch and Esther di Sarno worked with a Fendi artisan in the brand's New York Fifth Avenue boutique to create several “modern primitives” using Selleria leather, brandishing them with a colourful finish.”



At Fendi's Galleria boutique in Seoul, designer Kwang Ho Lee, a graduate of Hong Ick University, expressed his unique symphony of design and craft.

The Fendi artisan he worked with made colourful Selleria leather hoses by a process involving stitching, folding and cutting. Lee then knitted and weaved these hoses to make stools in the same manner that he made stools with water hoses.

In Hangzhou last April, designer Zhang Lei created 12 pieces of furniture to depict a traditional Chinese living area right in the middle of the Hangzhou MixC Mall Atrium. Each piece of furniture incorporated Fendi's signature Selleria leather.

Earlier on at Harrods, London, designer Rowan Mersh gave a show-stopping performance. Real-time heart rate data collected from a Fendi artisan was fed into an adapted punching machine marking the data onto thin strips of leather. Mersh, a textile-based sculptor, created an interactive installation together with the artisan in front of customers' eyes with these strips.

Opposite page: the entrance of Rome's Palazzo Fendi. This page, top: Simon Hasan with his hardened leather vessels, crafted with a medieval armour-making technique; bottom: T. Robert Nachtigall and Silvia Venturini Fendi.



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Craftsman.



Designer Ben Aranda, Chris Lasch and Esther di Samo worked with a Fendi artisan in the brand's New York Fifth Avenue boutique to create several "modern primitives" using Selleria leather, brandishing them with a colourful finish.

Earlier this month, Simon Hasan, a British designer who graduated from the Royal College of Art, in his second collaboration with Fendi, customised and completed with the artisan a series of boiled leather vases. Traditional hand-stitched details and blocks of brightly-coloured Selleria leather were added to Hasan's hardened leather vessels, crafted with a medieval armour-making technique, creating fascinating contrasts in textures between soft and hard; old and modern.

American designer T. Robert Nachtigall came up with a lamp made of leather with a tactile-visual sensor. This first event in Italy featured live performances by three designers, Nicola Guerraz, Sandro del Pistoia and Mersh together with a Fendi artisan in the brand's Milan boutique. Mersh recreated his London installation made from leather strips.



Pistoia, a Tuscan sculptor, collaborated with the artisan by covering small wood frameworks with leather to conjure "the soul of Fendi artisanal unit." This work represents the union between different materials and craftsmanship.

Guerraz, a Roman conceptual artist, designed '3D Selleria scribbles' made from five pieces of copper tubular pipe covered with leather stitched by the artisan. These pipes are then worked and transformed by Guerraz into apparent tangles, which hosts a special plant known as Tillandsia. By doing so, both Fendi and Guerraz's intention to fashion a symbol of the future, is realised. ■

This page: a scene from the London exhibition. Opposite page, top: an artisan working in full view of passers by; bottom, close-up of the creative process in the Singapore exhibition.

Star Rocks

High jewellery and sleek fashion is this season's definitive formula for sartorial success.



Let's Get Personal

The iconic Reverso timepiece by **Jaeger-LeCoultre** celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. In line with the celebration, the esteemed watch brand has decided to increase Reverso personalisation options. Jaeger-LeCoultre is offering the chance to forever immortalise one's magic moments and celebrate the distinctiveness of one's personality be they initials, lucky numbers, symbols, badges, a map or fabulous designs, on one side of the reversible timepiece. Enamelling is the pinnacle of personalisation and one may choose to have an enameled portrait or reproduction of a famous painting done too.



A Cool Cat

Stylish and seductive, **Girard-Perregaux's** Cat's Eye watch collection has been updated with a beguiling new look. While its hallmark curves and oval form remain, its gold case houses an intricately worked dial in white or black mother of pearl. The date is clearly displayed in a window at three o'clock, while the discreet small second is situated at nine o'clock, enhanced by a ray motif delicately traced on the dial. The timepiece's appeal owes much to its mechanism, boasting an oscillating weight in pink gold engraved with the initials "GP".



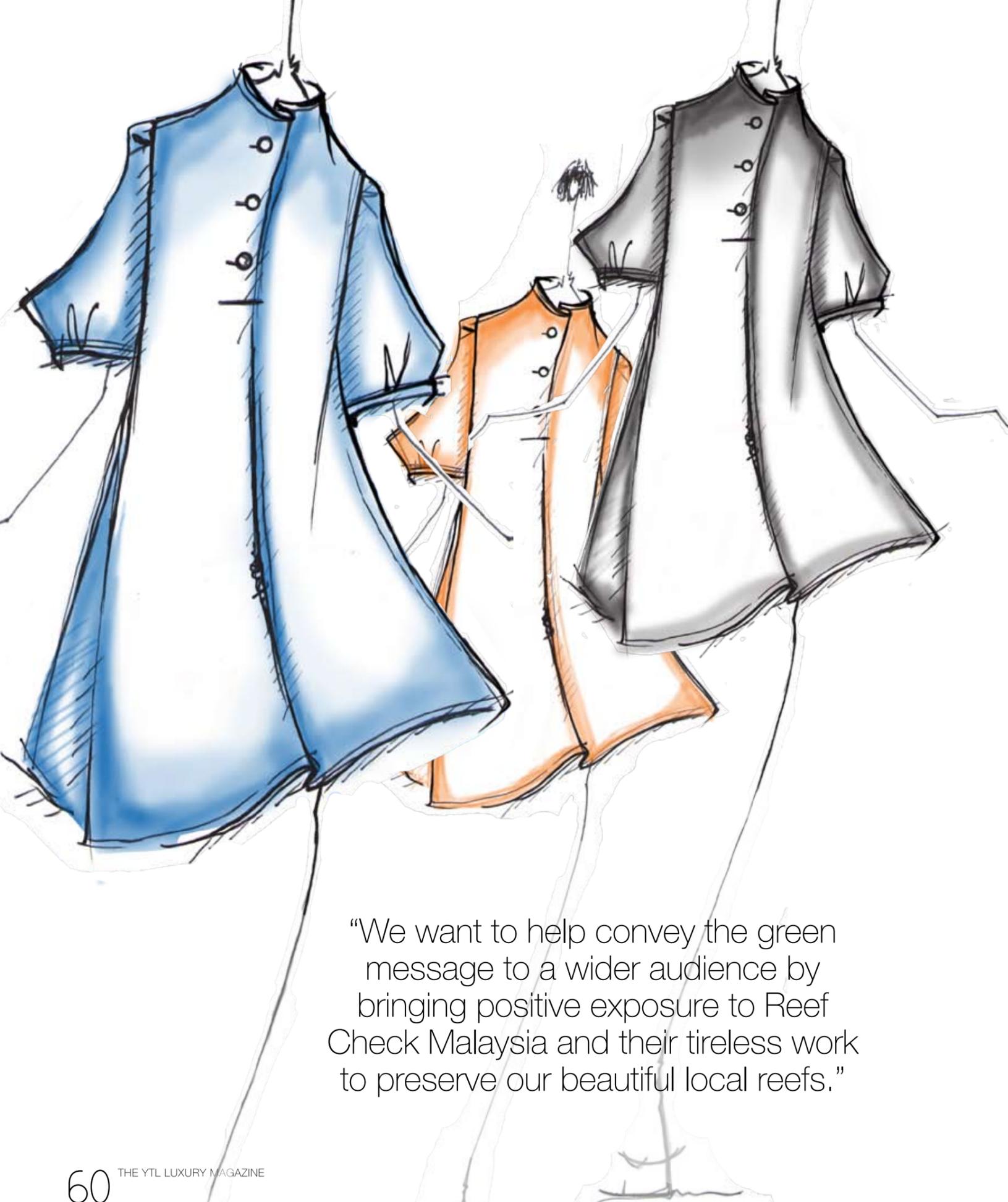
Raoul Goes Retro

Combine the smart uniform of 1970s Pan Am flight attendants, a touch of retro swagger and fuse these with the minimalist aesthetic of the 1990s, and you have the spirit of **Raoul's** Fall/Winter 2011 collection. For men, expect boxy jackets paired with super-trim trousers worn just short of shiny, polished shoes. Key colours are cognac, putty, maroon and navy, contrasted with bright tones or neutrals like black and grey. The women's collection includes high-waisted, wide-legged trousers, slight A-line skirts, tailored shirts, scarf and tie-blouses. Prints are graphic and purposeful such as narrow stripes or oversized paisleys. Shades of the season are porcelain white, eggshell, terracotta and navy, punctuated with fluorescent red and ultra-violet.



Bamboo Bling

Considered an auspicious plant, bamboo is made into beautiful bling by **Carrera y Carrera** this season. Its Bambu jewel line is a "light and colourful collection with a great deal of movement". The latter is achieved through an intricate setting work which gives the baubles a sense of lightness. Made up of rings, earrings and medallions, the materials used are yellow gold, white gold and red gold combined with sapphire, ruby, garnet, agate, carnelian and diamond.



Enterprising Eco-Chic

Designed exclusively for British retailer Debenhams, Jendela KL's "Fashionably Sustainable" capsule collection places an attractive new spin on altruistic fashion.

Text by **Dazman Abdul Manan**

Fashion designers like Stella McCartney and Phillip Lim have long embraced the green cause, presenting, often against the tide of convention, collections focused on organic fabrics and by utilising 100 per cent bio-degradable shopping bags.

Equally forward-thinking is Malaysian label Jendela KL. The brand's decision to create an ecologically responsible collection is an inspired one. The ready-to-wear range produced in collaboration with British retailer Debenhams, popular Kuala Lumpur shopping mall Lot 10, Magenta Branding and Reef Check Malaysia is aptly named "Fashionably Sustainable."

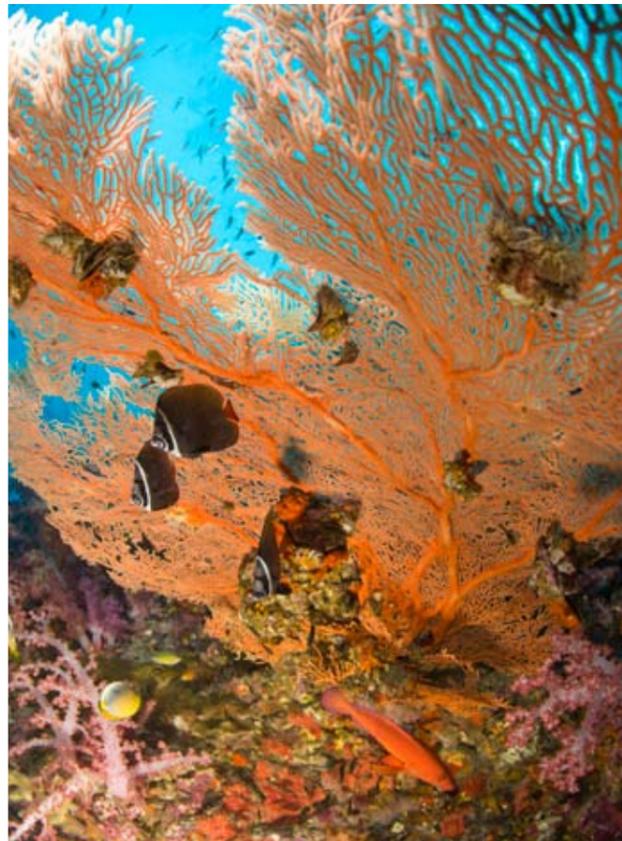
The Spring/Summer 2011 collection by Jendela KL comes in easy-to-wear designs, maximizing versatility and allowing the women wearing those designs the option to mix-and match the creations within the collection with an existing wardrobe. With these clothes, comfort is never compromised in the name of style.

In line with the collection's altruistic spirit, 20 per cent of sales from the collection will be channelled to Reef Check Malaysia. "We want to help convey the green message to a wider audience by bringing positive exposure to Reef Check Malaysia and their



Opposite page: The designer's sketches; This page: A gorgeous wrap dress from Jendela KL's "Fashionably Sustainable" collection.

"We want to help convey the green message to a wider audience by bringing positive exposure to Reef Check Malaysia and their tireless work to preserve our beautiful local reefs."



“It’s all about going back to the roots of fashion but tweaking it here and there so that the look is both relevant and timeless.”

This page: The world’s coral reefs are under threat. Opposite page, top: A bright orange slip-on dress; right: The designer’s sketches.

tireless work to preserve our beautiful local reefs,” says Jendela KL CEO and creative director, Faisal Abdullah. After all, he notes, “fashion today is not only about looking and feeling good, fashion is also about doing good.”

Faisal, who recently won the Mercedes-Benz Stylo Designer of the Year award for this particular collection says: “I believe that these designs allow the individual to style a look to complement her personality. And with that, the wearer becomes the designer too.” With modern detailing and strong silhouettes, the capsule collection, priced between RM250 and RM485, presents outfits that will stand the vagaries of style and time. Perfect for relaxed, refined and decidedly glamorous occasions, the collection was created with the intention to take the wearer from day to night, and back again. “Each piece has a modern classic vibe that will never go out of fashion,” Faisal adds.

One of the best-selling items is a long and loose cotton shirt available in light blue, beige, black and red-white stripes. This versatile number with its signature trapeze-cut can be worn with skinny jeans, leggings, Capri pants or hot pants by women of all sizes and shapes.

Then there is a t-shirt-style jersey top with a V-neck, which magically creates a streamlined look. Available in colours like black and striking orange, the outfit is a must-have as it can be worn casually with jeans. Better still, pair it with a long, slim skirt for those elegant evenings on the town. To add some dazzle and drama, combine with a sparkling brooch or twirl a pearl necklace.

Then there is the raw silk wrap-dress in black or blush nude, a unique neutral tone. “We all know the wrap-dress is the signature garment of a certain American designer but we’ve made ours a tad different by incorporating a collar as well as a broader neckline to create the illusion of a longer, slimmer neckline,” Faisal explains. Since it can be worn in the boardroom and at cocktail events or semi-formal dinner occasions he adds that this piece is suitable for the working woman who’s always on the move.

For a slightly more *avant-garde* look, opt for Jendela’s loose-cut jersey dress, resembling a long t-shirt in a grey and blush colour combination. What makes this number stand out is the fact that



it has pockets on each side that can be concealed or exposed, creating a style that’s cutting-edge, a design flourish made famous by Japanese designers.

The idea behind this cool creation is to give fashion a current feel and spirit, while retaining the essence of timeless fashion. Faisal says, “[With this line] it’s all about going back to the roots of fashion but tweaking it here and there so that the look is both relevant and timeless. And, what’s also important is that when you’re directly supporting a good cause when you buy any piece from the collection.”

“Fashionably Sustainable” by Jendela KL is available exclusively at Debenhams in Lot 10, Jalan Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur. ■

Cultural Immersion

Experience the ancient curative treatments of the Semai people at the superlative Spa Village Cameron Highlands.

Text by **Mark Lean**

With its undulating mossy terrain, crisp cool weather, teas of international renown and a near-forgotten a style of living, the bucolic Cameron Highlands is best described as a slice of England, a legacy from the colonial era. But the hilltop retreat, perched 1500 metres above sea level, is not just about freshly baked scones served with clotted cream and locally grown strawberries for afternoon tea.

Prior to the arrival of a British surveyor named William Cameron, back in 1885, the rolling valleys were populated by the Semai, an indigenous tribe who had lived in the forests for many millennia. For these masters of the land, each bark and twig had the power to heal, nourish or fortify. These elements of nature were held in the highest admiration and respect by the Semai elders.

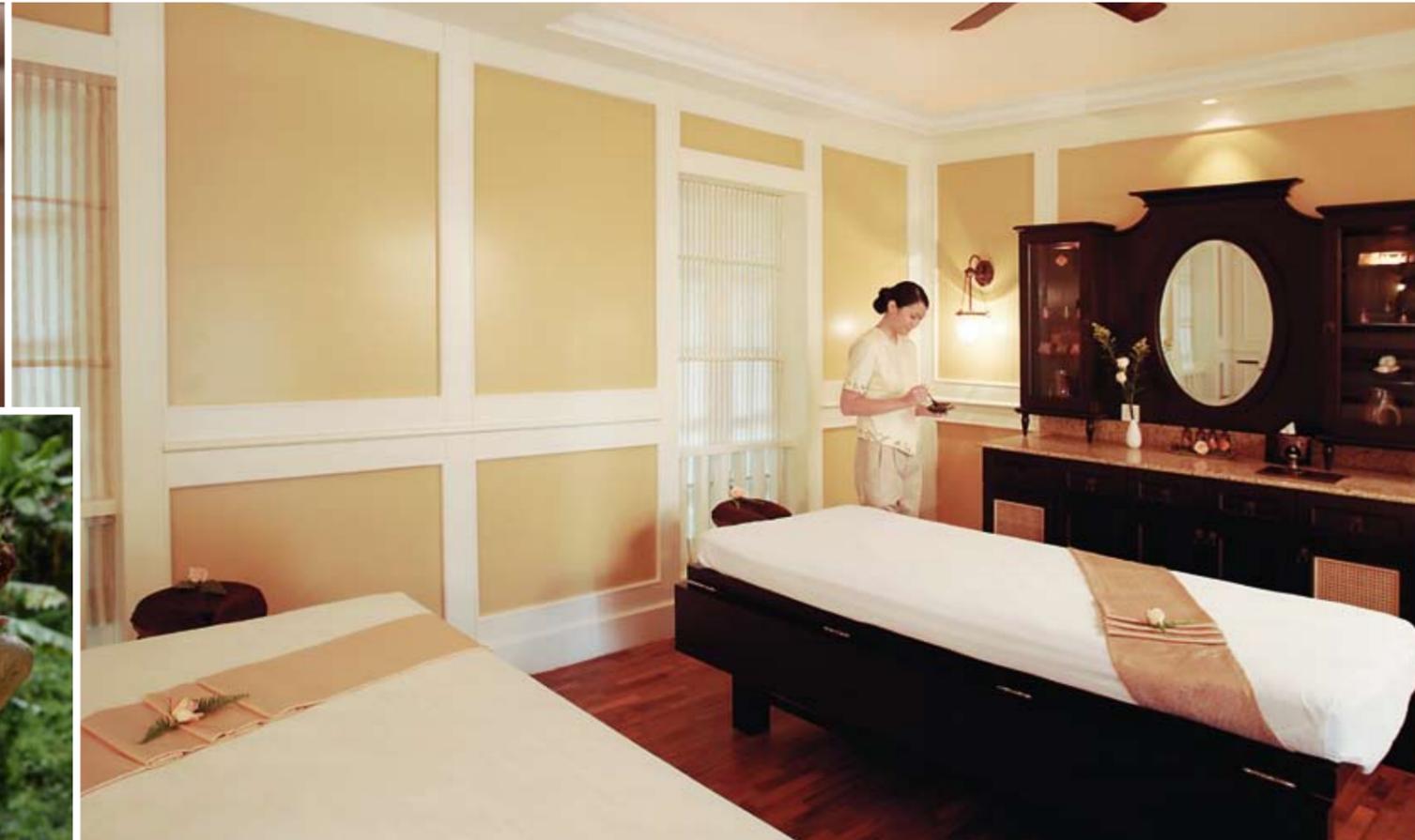
Long-cherished botanical secrets were passed down the generations by way of an oral tradition. As herbalists and healers, the Semai, had at their disposal, a living apothecary replete with tonics, poultices, lotions and juices made from plant shoots, barks and leaves for both internal consumption and external application.

But as the world's developed a fondness for tea-drinking at the cusp of the 20th century, much of the areas around the main towns of Tanah Rata and Brinchang were transformed into tea plantations, driving the Semai tribe deeper into the jungle to eke an existence.





This page, top-left: Tea-based spa treatments; experience the Semai scrub first-hand.



“The Semai treatments comprise indigenous massage techniques and just-plucked ingredients from the nearby jungle prepared by staff well-versed in these holistic arts.”

As a sign of respect for the Semai and through a close friendship with these people, Spa Village Cameron Highlands has included the priceless ancient knowledge of this tribe the cornerstone of its healing therapies, merging indigenous traditions with an internationally renowned spa setting unlike any seen in the region. The Semai treatments comprise indigenous massage techniques and just-plucked ingredients from the nearby jungle prepared by staff well-versed in these holistic arts. Two special rituals, for both men and women, lay the foundation of the Semai therapies.

The *Tok Batin Mystical Tradition*, a series of splendidly crafted treatments, is the ultimate in rejuvenation. Starting with the *Mandian Batin*, an invigorating hydrotherapy bath utilising the bounties of the forest like kaffir lime, green tea, sepang clove, cardamom and betel leaves. Skin is moisturised, stamina and strength restored and negative energy neutralised as one soaks in the nourishing goodness of this warm bath. Savour the experience in the private treatment room's his and hers free-standing bath tubs.

Next up, the *Urutan Batin*, a blood circulation-enhancing massage utilising an unique oil blend crafted from ingredients

like coconut oil, patchouli, tea, black pepper, cloves and cardamom. With signature strong strokes, the treatment is not for the faint-hearted. But its benefits far outweigh the initial discomfort. Regular sessions will alleviate muscle tension and joint pain, improve blood circulation and promote a feeling of immense well-being.

This is followed by the *Batin Tangas* wrap – a mini sauna that infuses the body with the curative properties of clove, cardamom, tea, betel leaves and patchouli. Besides promoting relaxation, the body wrap is great for reducing water retention, slimming, collagen renewal and the elimination of body odour.

Last but not least, the *Lulur Batin* scrub, created from clove, cardamom, tea, rice and turmeric, helps remove dead skin cells, leaving skin smooth and soft. A cup of Cameron Brew tea, made from pegaga and betel leaves, and ginger, is the piping hot reward that awaits the intrepid spa-goer. The tea blend is known to assist digestion and reduce water retention. And on an emotional level, it acts as an effective mood lifter.

Especially for women, the *Jungle Secrets of Anti-Aging* therapies have been designed to ensure complete rejuvenation and renewal. It starts with the *Semai Anti-Aging Herbal Bath* filled with kaffir lime, pandanus leaves, green tea, sepang and ginger. Like its male equivalent, the bath has anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory and moisturising properties.

As for the massage, the *Minjau Asli* technique is less vigorous compared with the *Urutan Batin*. The massage oil utilises ingredients like coconut oil, patchouli, tea and black pepper, while the skilled therapist using light strokes, will complete the process of detoxification. The *Muhak Herbal Sitz Bath*, on the other hand, is especially helpful for women after childbirth and menstruation. Ingredients like betel and henna leaves, green tea and sea salt combine to purify and strengthen the female reproductive area.

This series of treatments culminates with the *Semai Scrub*, a treatment pounded from the freshest ingredients like rice, turmeric, galangal, green tea and jasmine, leaving skin feeling soft and glowing.

At the end of the treatments, take time to relax at one of the outdoor with a cup of *Semai Fountain of Youth*, an antioxidant-rich herbal tea drink brewed with jasmine green tea, betel and pegaga leaves, and ginger. During your next visit to Cameron Highlands Resort, take the opportunity to experience these unique spa treatments that are rich in the bounties of the earth and wisdom from an ancient time. ■

Top: A treatment room at Spa Village Cameron Highlands.

Finding Paradise Within

The upcoming *Oracle Retreat* at the magical hideaway known as Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali is a unique opportunity to rebalance, renew and refocus one's life priorities.

Text by **Mark Lean**

As the pace of life around us shifts to light speed, it's sometimes difficult to grasp what's important, what inspires us and what makes us happy. We obsess about joining the dots till we lose sense of the bigger picture. With technology, we become increasingly connected to the world. But we are also becoming disconnected to partners, friends and family members. Personal interactions which, in the past, counted for a lot, have been reduced to electronic exchanges. This leads to messages, thoughts and feelings ending up jumbled and lost in transmission.

Signs of this might include: getting out of bed in the morning becomes a challenge, our relationships with the people around us are tense, worries multiply and stress levels sky-rocket. We feel more tired and more disoriented than ever before. Perhaps these are the moments when we ask the questions we should have asked a long time ago. Are we living the best versions of our lives? What is it we'd like to change? How will we do so?

By asking these questions, one taps into a familiar and sometimes uncomfortable place. By focussing on how one feels and by letting everything float to the surface, surprises emerge; once forgotten memories resurface. This is when a shift happens; the proverbial "a-ha" moment occurs.

As people around the world take steps to decide what they truly want out of life, they embark on a process of self-discovery. During this time, the chance to discover the things that have the potential to bring happiness and immense joys may well present itself. Such an opportunity converges at Spa Village Resort



Image from Getty Images

Tembok, Bali's *Oracle Retreat*, which takes place from 22 – 29 October 2011. This is a rare opportunity to learn ways to rebalance mind, body and spirit. Within the nurturing confines of this enchanting property, participants may take a breather from the stresses and challenges of day-to-day life.

Skirting a black sandy beach and backed by the powerful volcanoes of Mount Agung and Mount Batur, the luxury resort offers a perfect environment to take stock and to gain a new perspective on the issues and complexities that life throws at us. With the assistance of facilitators like Diana Manilova, Marc Cofer, Dewi Hopley and Wanny Winsloe, participants are taught techniques to connect the five elements through the five senses. The retreat's main facilitator, Diana Manilova, a friendly Russian lady, sums up the week-long experience as: "When we balance mind, body, and soul, we start to enjoy our lives. Having all three gives you enough energy to experience happiness, miracles and the beauty of creation. We find purpose in life, and magic in our hearts."

According to the United Kingdom-based Hopley, "The aroma therapy and massage workshops connect mind, body and soul through scent and touch. Participants are taught to connect with essential oils by exploring the ways each type of oil makes them feel." She adds, "They are then guided to create their unique essential oil blend used in their massage. I teach a basic but deeply relaxing massage routine. By raising awareness through the powerful combination of scent and touch, participants will experience a deeper appreciation of their senses."



Image from Getty Images



The awareness one gains helps participants contemplate what they think, feel and, ultimately, decide upon their life's direction. By connecting one's five senses to the five elements of wind, water, fire, earth and air, one learns techniques that help rebalance and refocus. And with regular practise, external circumstances become a reflection of one's inner state.

With the skills gleaned at the retreat, one's attitudes towards people and situations are transformed, self-doubt is replaced with a calm sense of focus. One learns to recognise the wonderful opportunities that feel right. And, with time, one's confidence levels surge.

According to facilitator Marc Cofer, an expert in a modality known as 'brain training', the retreat can be described as the following: "*Oracle* is a journey, a journey into the unknown; open yourself, open your heart, for an experience of a life time, in the beautiful surroundings of Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali. The resort is a world between worlds, a space in-between, a divider, a boundary. Take this chance to walk the razor's edge to discover something secret inside yourself, the inner message from your soul. Discover true happiness and glow... the gift of your heart's inner smile." In effect, this means that when balance between mind, body and soul is found, the heart is free to be the ultimate guide on one's life path.

Past participants of the programme have experienced profound changes, clarity in thought and renewed focus towards achieving their redefined goals in life. "Before the retreat, I was operating on an analytical and emotionless level. At the retreat, for the first time in a long time, I was having meaningful conversations again; not about money or success or the materialistic things that ultimately drain you, but the kind of conversations that help you make some sense of your life," explains Amanda, a previous participant.

She adds, "Being surrounded by incredible people, in particular the facilitators who had an endless supply of time to talk, understand and support you whenever you needed was invaluable. And then there is the setting... it is beyond paradise!" ■

www.oracleretreat.com



The Arrival of Summer

Sensational beauty products maximise fun in the sun this coming season.

Get The Glow

Guerlain celebrates summer with the radiant and sensuous Terracotta collection. The star product is the Terra Inca powder which warms the skin with an iridescent glow. The Terre Indigo eyeshadow highlights the eyes with intense shades while the Khol Kajal lends a smouldering look. For a metallic effect, hone in on the Ombre Fusion. In shades like bronze lame and copper, this cream eyeshadow is water resistant. And to complete the look, opt for the Terracotta Gloss for sparkling, shiny lips.

beautiful life //



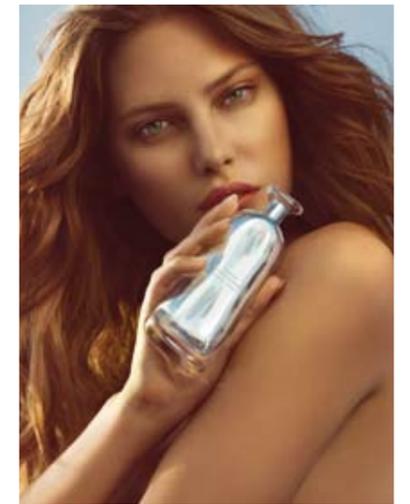
Shape Of The Future

Sisley's Phyto-Svelt Global Intensive Anti-Cellulite Remodeling Treatment contains extracts of exotic alkekengi calyx – an antioxidant. Benefits include collagen synthesis stimulation and skin slackening reduction. Then there is soya extract to improve skin elasticity. After a few weeks of use, skin becomes smooth, more toned and revitalised. The stomach's orange peel appearance is minimised, thighs and hips are slimmer, and skin becomes noticeably firmer.



Sounds From The Sea

Committed to its ocean heritage, **La Mer** has partnered with Soundwalk to celebrate World Oceans Day by creating the **Seven Seas Sound Mix**, a sea-inspired iPhone or iPad application available on iTunes. **The Seven Seas Sound Mix** is a journey across oceans from around the world in the company of seven individuals: world-leading British solo sailor Samantha Davies, British adventurer and environmentalist David De Rothschild, Japanese actress Rinko Kikuchi, French actress Melanie Laurent, Chinese actor Liu Ye, world-champion free-diver Guillaume Nery and French design master Philippe Starck.



High Notes

Fashion designer **Narciso Rodriguez** recently launched **Essence Eau de Musc**, a new variation of 2009's Essence for Women. Sensual and radiant, the scent is a fresh, dazzling and musky eau de toilette. It's a subtle concoction of citrus, floral and amber notes resonating around a heart of musc, the fragrance's signature. Other ingredients include bergamot, spices and iris. The almost sylph-like, slim and elongated bottle exudes pure mystery.



A message from John Chin, founder of Donna Spa ...

Re-discovering the 4,000-year-old Javanese Healing Heritage

Donna Spa is known for many successes. Today, I am pleased to share with family, colleagues and staff, suppliers and our customers, who hail from four corners of the world and have supported us the past 15 years, our achievements.

We are awarded the Best Day Spa 2011 by the Asia Spa & Wellness Promotion Council. We stand tall with well-known establishments like YTL Hotels, Shangri-la Hotel and Genting Highlands Hotel with this latest recognition.

I credit my dedicated my staff and partner/wife, May Ang, this success. My therapists provide the best massage and their healing touch ensures our guests feel relaxed and rejuvenated after each massage. I would also like to thank YTL for giving Donna Spa the opportunity to succeed in becoming the Best Day Spa.

It gives me the greatest joy to share with you the healing heritage of Javanese massage. This 4,000-year-old technique is the most effective health massage. It has been attributed to healing ailments like diabetes and high blood pressure while sedentary customers enjoy health benefits such as better blood circulation after the traditional Javanese massage.

The secret of the healing massage lies in the therapists' thumbs. Much like scanner, an experienced master therapist can "feel" blockage in the blood circulation and with strong strokes and kneading from the thumbs can "free" such blockages. This massage is the only technique in the world that improves blood circulation and allows chi and blood circulation to flow more smoothly. Our organs get sufficient oxygen and nutrition from our blood which is vital for better health, thus, builds the foundation of a healthy self!

Your health is your wealth. Let us at Donna Spa pamper you to good health!

The Lost Healing Heritage

Re-discovered In A Legacy Of 1,000 Years

Every morning in her village in eastern Java, small groups of villagers line up outside Mama Sulasia's modest but well-kept home. Mama Sulasia is widely known as the local "dukun" who has the gift to help people in all areas of their lives, including the mind, body and soul through ancient practices.

Innumerable stories from the miraculous to the commonplace continually arise from this Javanese village, many of them are about Mama Sulasia's therapy.

Such a gift, although unfamiliar to us, is an integral part of life for the locals who have many accounts of inspiring experiences, including testimonies that have been passed down from generation to generation.

Among these include noticeable improvements for a wide variety of ailments with Mama Sulasia's therapy – from diabetic and stroke patients and those suffering from high blood pressure and brides-to-be to newlyweds and women suffering from a prolapse of the womb and other women-related complaints.

Stroke patients have, for instance, been reported to gain considerable mobility after 6 sessions of her massage, and diabetic conditions alleviated. Even nurses in the nearby hospital have collaborated with her for additional assistance in women's health and physiotherapy, while couples have sworn that her massage greatly enhances their intimate relations.

"This gift is a legacy which our family has been blessed with for over 10 generations. But always remember, it is only with a good heart to help others that it will continue to be effective."



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S20 & S27, Pamper Level, Starhill Gallery, 181, Jalan Bukit Bintang, 55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

W THE WORLD OF TIME

In BaselWorld, one finds the world's largest concentration of cutting-edge watch-making. This year's edition delivered some fascinating novelties, and a whole lot of emotion.

Text by **Kenneth Tan**

Ask any timepiece collector why they collect what they do; the answer, most times, has to do with the emotional appeal of the pieces in their collection. That message underlining the novelty of limited editions, artistic-inspired pieces, and nostalgia-inducing models - is what expert craftsmen in watch ateliers have long endeavoured to transmit. Maverick Spanish watchmaker Franc Vila once expressed that he wished only to be remembered by the intense emotional experience which his clients receive from looking at and wearing his watches. This year, the many pieces presented at BaselWorld aspired to convey that same magic.

The noble tourbillon, long considered the paragon of complications along with the minute repeater, was given a novel positioning in Omega's Skeleton Central Tourbillon Co-Axial Platinum. In order to

have the tourbillon appear on stage centre, the mechanics it entailed was a complete reengineering of the hands, and reassembly of plates and bridges. A total of 540 labour hours later, the result is a single timepiece that perches loftily on the scale of rare and unique. The tourbillon also whirrs away enigmatically inside Franc Vila's FVI N°7 Tourbillon Intrepido. Its sleekly dark case is made with Deep Nano Tube Titanium (NTT) Carbon-Graphene Composite, a state-of-art material that has superior resistance to magnetism, heat and resistance, but four times less dense than steel and twice less than ordinary titanium. The phantasmagoria that dictates Vila's designs evinces a kind of awe that vacillates between bewilderment and wonderment, and this particular timepiece serves as a very good example. Maurice Lacroix also raises a similar feeling of curiosity with their Masterpiece Roue Carree Seconde, featuring an unconventional square gear that waltzes with a toothed clover-leaf wheel.

Naturally, minute repeaters, those aristocrats of complications, are never far from the minds of watchmakers. This year, Louis

Vuitton combines the afore mentioned complication with its distinguished travelling heritage in the Tambour Minute Repeater. The manual-winding calibre is encased in a choice of white, rose or yellow gold and the dial recites the story of home and away, to ensure its owner maintains an unbroken link to where the heart is. Additionally, the pieces, which are only available on custom order, can be personalised with initials, crests and elements in relief.

The quest for the purity of pitch and sound in repetition minutes also led to Ulysse Nardin's mechanically animated Alexander the Great. The great conqueror's battles are re-lived in the form of jaquemarts - a rare invention that breathes life into each of the golf 18k chiming figurines. On the dial, the troops move in sync to the Westminster chimes and gongs. For an extra touch, a tourbillon is also worked into the timepiece, to mitigate the effects of gravity on what is a very complicated piece of horology.

Quality timepieces in their various incarnations, provide a stunning vision of the brilliance of man. In the case of

“The thing about quality timepieces is that in all their various incarnations, they provide a singularly stunning vision of the brilliance of man.”

Left: Valero Gent Automatic from Davidoff.
Right: Patek Philippe 7180 is a 31.4mm case with an ultra-thin mechanical manually wound skeleton movement.



“Iconoclastic Romain Jerome blends seafaring myths and fact in their Titanic-DNA Octopus, a 46mm PVD-coated steel timepiece made with material from the salvaged RMS Titanic that rested on the seabed for 73 years.”



the Patek Philippe 7180, all the elements – jewels, bridges, sapphire case-back, balance spring, gears and barrels – combine to deliver a triumphantly visceral reaction. This gold ladies watch is completely skeletonised and manually decorated and engraved, and in addition to telling the time, is really a mobile exhibition of mechanical superiority.

Mechanics however, take a supporting role to ancestral arts from the Land of the Rising Sun in Chopard's Urushi line. The L.U.C XP Urushi is beautifully decorated by 'living national treasure' Kiichiro Masumura, whose *Urushi* lacquering techniques adorn the ultra-thin models. The fineness of the work in the pieces is a testament of the artist's mastery. In the nine different dials designed and painted by Masumura, gold powder is added in *maki-e* style by Yamada Heiando a fellow honouree of the 'National Treasure' status. Five legendary creatures: dragon, phoenix, tiger, genbuz and *qilin* form part of the collection of dials which also include

peacock, red fish and jungle fantasia motifs. In the wake of the tragedy that Japan recently encountered, Chopard's pledge of a portion of the proceeds from sales of these pieces was a cause worth celebrating. As are the 6.8mm-thick 18k rose gold cases that look set to be the artistic stars in many a collection.

Inspirations shift from ancient arts to fascinating legends, BaselWorld showed just how much contemporary timepieces are driven by historical and cultural milieu. Iconoclastic Romain Jerome blends seafaring myths and fact in their Titanic-DNA Octopus, a 46mm PVD-coated steel timepiece made with material from the salvaged RMS Titanic that rested on the seabed for 73 years. The myth of the Kraken, a giant squid-like creature, inspires the suction cups on the timepiece's strap.

On a relatively more modern scale, the genteel and bespoke era of Zino Davidoff, whose lifestyle of luxury epitomised the golden age of travel, is distilled into the



Left-right: Titanic-DNA Octopus by Romain Jerome, Maurice Lacroix's Masterpiece Roue Carree. Seconde blends geometry like never before, and the majestic Ulysse Nardin Alexander the Great.



Velero Gent Automatic Chronograph. Stylish designs, such as Clou de Paris or Horizontal Patterns on the dial, and classically moulded indices, present the image of a man at the zenith of the good life. Fashion and the chance to be set apart from the crowd, is the main motivation in Armand Nicolet's TM7 line, a tonneau-shaped timepiece carefully incorporated with the all-important curved lines and back. This design pretty much ensures a smooth and perfect fit to any wrist, and in the see-through case-back, one can view the cordlike pattern bearing the function of increasing water resistance of up to five atmospheres. Diamond cut dots on the guilloché dial add that extra level of detail to hint at its wearer's sense of style.

The good life too, is not far removed from the obvious delight that the Dior VIII conveys to its beholder. As the founder of the house once expressed, "luxury is above all simplicity." On the 38mm reference, a black ceramic case and bracelet provides an intriguing backdrop to the ineffable purity of diamonds.

And what are the trappings of luxury without the sighting of a Rolex amongst the star crop at BaselWorld? This year's Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona integrates the smooth elegance of Cerachrom on the bezel, and features a dial obtained via an incredibly scientific process of 'magnetron cathode sputtering PVD' which essentially leaves a fine layer of pink gold on the aforementioned. The design cues recall the '63 and '65 models but in the precision of its chronograph (up to 1/8th of a second) and range of innovations (Parachrom hairspring with Breguet overcoil made with new alloy and a tarnish-proof Everose gold case, among others) there's plenty of new fascination for its collectors to enjoy.

On a more contemporary note, the T-1000 by Rebellion was one of the newsmakers among the independents. Its gladiatorial innovation of the 1,000 hours of power reserve, which essentially means 40 continuous days of non-winding, is generated by six mainspring barrels, encased in a titanium case. This timepiece's achievement is an intimation to the dazzling progress of mechanical technology. ■



Left-right: Franc Vila FVi N°7 Tourbillon Intrepido, The bejewelled Dior VIII is set off by a ceramic backdrop, and Rolex's Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona recalls the adrenaline of high-speed racing.





Power Trip

Explore the emotion of light as well as the latest accessories and products to have now.

Light Effects

At the **Espace Louis Vuitton Hong Kong**, the French luxury brand embarks on a journey to the light in an exhibition featuring 11 artists who explore the notion of illumination and their personal representations of this brilliant force. Entitled "See the Light", the combined works of individuals like David LaChapelle, Tracey Emin, Leila Pazooki, Alan Chan, James Car, Kingsley Ng, Jiang Pengyi and a host of other leading talents project in vivid detail intellectual muscle and sublime aesthetics. The results conjure thought-provoking and sentimental pieces that speak to heart and mind.



life of luxury //



Smart And Sleek Printers

Reflecting **Canon's** design philosophy "No Boundaries", its latest printer products are not only good to look at but they're packed with high performance printing systems. The brand recently launched a fresh line-up of **PIXMA Office all-in-one (AIO)** printers that can print, copy, scan and fax, and an A3 Office Printer. Featuring five cost-effective individual ink tanks, the MX886 produces a 4" x 6" photo in just 20 seconds. Photo print quality plays up all details and is virtually grain-free with minimum 1 picolitre (pl) ink droplets, and up to 9600 x 2400dpi print resolution. Plus, the MX886, together with the MX426, MX416 and iX6560, each has a classy, black-gloss exterior that looks sleek and smart.



The Write Stuff

Automobili Lamborghini and **Omas**, premier symbols of Italian style, share the same passion for design, prestige and exclusivity. Which explains the introduction of the **Automobili Lamborghini by Omas** limited edition fountain pen and roller ball pen. Made of avional aluminium, an alloy with high mechanical features peculiar to the automobile and aeronautics industry, the triangular-shaped writing instruments come with an 18K gold Omas nib (for the fountain pen) and a polished PVD-treated aluminium tip (for the roller ball). Each comes packaged in elegant black eco-leather.

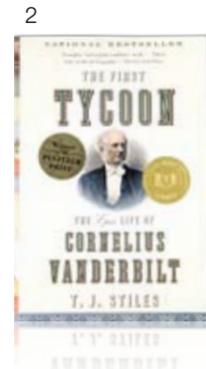
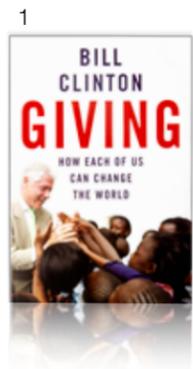


Double Duty

Following the success of iPad-dedicated products, **Targus** now offers an enhanced and advanced range of items for iPad2 that comes in various shapes, colours, materials and functionalities. Part of the range is the 360 rotating case-cum-stand (THZ045AP). It securely holds the iPad2 while the hardshell exterior provides a sturdy, protective cover and the microfibre faux suede interior stylishly lines and protects the iPad2 against scratches. It also doubles as a stand that allows presentation or use in both portrait and landscape orientations. What's more, it allows users to rotate the iPad2 vertically and horizontally inside the case with its patent-pending mechanism.

A Designer Selects

Malaysian-born fashion designer Zang Toi reveals the books and music selections that have shaped him into an international talent.



My Favourite Books

1. **Giving by Bill Clinton** – One of the most inspiring presidents of the United States. He inspires billions of us with his leadership, his philosophy – the power of giving through the William J. Clinton Foundation.
2. **The First Tycoon by T.J. Stiles** – The brilliant book is an epic story of a boatman's rise to become the creator of modern capitalism.
3. **Marie Antoinette-Queen of Fashion by Caroline Weber** – Marie Antoinette is the original icon of style. This is a sumptuous read about her reign as a sartorial trendsetter.



Zang Toi is clearly one of the fashion world's brightest luminaries. A Malaysian who graduated from the prestigious Parsons School of Design, the New York-based fashion designer has, for the past two decades, been the toast of Manhattan. Shortly after opening his atelier back in 1989, he was awarded the 1990 Mouton Cadet Young Designer of the Year award.

Since then, there has been no looking back for this Kelantan-born talent, a design wunderkind who has dressed celebrities like Sharon Stone, Gong Li, Eva Longoria, Fergie of the Black Eye Peas, Heather Graham, Devon Aoki, Farrah Fawcett, Patti LaBelle, Ivana Trump and Melinda Gates. Closer to home, Toi's immaculate designs may be found at Lot 10 Kuala Lumpur, while his eponymous Zang Toi Cafe located nearby, offers authentic Malaysian specialties served with his trademark style.



My Favourite Music

1. **My Funny Valentine by Chet Baker** – His fragile and haunting voice, combined with the matinee idol look, makes Chet Baker my personal favourite singer and musician!
2. **Women & Country by Jakob Dylan** – With his second solo album Jakob Dylan has taken a great leap forward as an artist. Hopefully, this will help the talented singer step out of the shadows of his legendary father Bob Dylan.
3. **The Last Emperor by Ryuchi Sakamoto, David Byrne & Cong Su** – This hauntingly beautiful and brilliantly composed soundtrack remains my personal favourite.

Creative Dim Sum

Enjoy inventive interpretations of classic dim sum dishes at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur.



Li Yen at the Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur presents tantalising new additions to their dim sum menu. Created by the restaurant's dim sum specialist Chef Tan, these delicacies are a tasteful mix of superlative Chinese teas and seven tailor-made dishes. Amongst the flavourful additions are the *Pu Erh Soup with Siu Mai* comprising superior broth, ginger, *Pu Erh*, glutinous rice skin, pork, shrimp, water chestnut, scallop and onion.

There is also the Chrysanthemum Bean Curd Puff with Shredded Lotus, combining chrysanthemum flower, chrysanthemum sauce, bean curd puff, shrimp dumpling, fish dumpling, salted egg, shredded lotus. The traditional *chee cheong fun*, or rice noodles, is given a make-over with the inclusion of *Tie Kuan Yin*, a renowned blend of Chinese tea. For dessert, there is the Green Tea Durian Spring Roll, a scrumptious mix of lemon, sesame seeds, spring roll skin, exotic durian and calming green tea.

Dim sum is served from 12.00pm until 2.30pm from Monday to Saturday; 10.30am until 2.30pm on Sundays and public holidays. For reservations, call 03-2142-8000.



SUMMER FEASTING

As one of Kuala Lumpur's leading yearly gourmet festivals, Starhill Gallery's Midsummer Nights' Feast takes place from 1 – 8 July 2011 at Feast Village's leading eateries. Five luminaries of the culinary world including Master Chef Manabu Ogawa, Master Chef Wai, Master Chef Jason Koppinger, Master Chef Moshik Roth and Master Chef Benoit Vidal will present imaginative cuisine inspired by the elements of earth, water, air, fire and space. For reservations, call 03-2782 3855.

Menu Master at Work

Introducing Tanjong Jara Resort's resident Chef Ann – a bubbly lady who amazes guests with her sense of fun and culinary expertise.

Text by Helen Oon



The hallmark of a great hotel is often not about grandiose buildings or the trappings of luxury. Rather, it is the human touch that keeps the hotel personable, ensuring guests return time and time again. At Tanjong Jara Resort, nestled on the golden coast of Terengganu, an amazing lady encompasses the attributes that make a stay at the resort memorable. She is often seen riding her bicycle that bears a personalised license plate 'Ann 042'. Guests on sun loungers by the pool have been known to say a cheery loud hello, receiving a hearty greeting in return.

She treats guests like old friends, making sure their stay is pleasurable and that they are well-fed. After all, she is the 'Menu Master' of Di Atas Sungei, the resort's main restaurant. Each night, she presents a 'walking menu', travelling from table to table explaining and recommending the dishes of the day.

Norbaya Mohamed, affectionately known as Chef Ann, was born and bred in Dungun. She left home at 17, and studied at the school of hotel and catering in Shah Alam, near Kuala Lumpur. She began her career in the hospitality industry at Cherating Villa Resort, followed by Club Med Cherating in Pahang. She joined Tanjong Jara Resort prior to YTL Hotels taking over. She stayed on after the property was rebranded by the hotel conglomerate as a luxury resort.

10 years on, Chef Ann has become one of the longest-serving employees there. She is a welcome sight for many returning customers who have forged a friendship with her. In her popular cooking classes, she has taught them the art of authentic Malaysian cuisine, venturing as far as taking these guests on excursions to the market in Dungun, a must-do activity.

Guests I'd met have raved about Chef Ann and her market expeditions. So when she invited me to join her on one of her trips, I jumped at the chance. We piled into the van and went on our merry way.

Our group comprised a German couple, an Indian family from Canada with two young sons, my husband and I. Chef Ann took delight in showing us round the market, pointing out fruits and vegetables seemingly exotic in tastes to tourists. The market place was bustling with traders and shoppers and the cornucopia of local products proved fascinating. Stall-owners were now familiar with her and her entourage of tourists. We ate our way through the market sampling local cakes and delicacies as she explained their preparation techniques and origins.

"You must try our local breakfast," Chef Ann announced. We had a feast of hot fluffy *roti canai* (Indian flat bread) with spicy curry and local cakes washed down with sweetened tea. She was

the perfect host and a great guide with her knowledge of local food, presented in her trademark animated style – her enthusiasm was infectious.

In the afternoon, the Canadian family decided to attend Chef Ann's cooking class held at Di Atas Sungei's outdoor pavilion. The two young boys, both aspiring chefs, were left in her capable hands. She makes cooking fun with her high octane personality served in large humorous portions.

"Don't worry, it's easy peasy, lemon squeezy" she reassured them as she engaged the interest of the two children and their parents. She guided them through the ingredients and taught them to create dishes like *rendang* (beef curry) and prawns with pineapple curry. Once the dishes were cooked and served, she lifted the hands of the boys in victory and shouted "Hurray, you are now a chef!" and presented them the Tanjong Jara apron as souvenirs.

Her rapport with the guests is incredible. "I enjoy my work meeting people from all over the world. I make it a point to remember our customers' names and make them feel special. I try to learn their languages on a basic level so I'd be able to communicate. YTL Hotels also offers benefits for employees. During the resort's low season, we can take time off to learn foreign languages at language schools. I took three months to learn basic Japanese, French and German."

It is amusing watching her practise her language skill when dealing with customers and they seem pleased that she has made an effort to talk to them in their native tongue albeit on a basic level. In turn, she attempted to teach them several Malay words.

Being part of the hotel industry can often be demanding. This makes leisure moments precious to Chef Ann. "How do you relax on your days off?" I enquired. "I enjoy driving and gardening, growing flowers, herbs and spices in my garden. I am always interested to improve my knowledge of food. I also love caring for my five cats." Renowned for her love of felines, she has been known to look after 20 stray cats at one time. Interestingly, the choice of names for her cats has been influenced by her friendships with international guests at the resort. There is the French-inspired Pascal, the German-inflected Wolfgang, the British-sounding Black, the Australian-influenced Sheila and finally, Milo for a decidedly local flavour.

That evening as I sat down for dinner at Di Atas Sungei, Chef Ann walked over to my table and recommended an array of mouth-watering dishes of fish and prawns. She added, "I



Top: Spicy Thai beef salad; Bottom: Chef Ann with her young charges



will make sure you taste your favourite dish of chicken Roselle and save some room for the lava cake." She remembered my partiality for this fantastic dish of chicken cooked in Roselle sauce, derived from the hibiscus plants growing in the area, along with the wickedly delicious chocolate pudding that drips deliciously with warm decadent molten chocolate. This is what makes a Menu Master fantastic. She remembers names and the favourite dishes of her guests, making them feel as if they are the most important people in the world!

Tanjong Jara Resort is an hour's drive from Kuala Terengganu and a 55-minute flight from Kuala Lumpur with Malaysia Airlines, Firefly and AirAsia. ■

Postcards from the East Coast

Experience the sights, sounds and flavours of Tanjong Jara Resort and the town of Dungun where traditional flavours and traditional crafts have stood the passing of time.

Photography by Damien Khoo

life moments //



Clockwise from top left: Songket, the age-old art of weaving is well and alive in Terengganu; A monkey selecting his coconut; A procession leads a couple to 'mandi bunga' - a traditional flower bath; Locally crafted silver ware.



Happy smiles!



Vibrantly hued batik.



A silver craftsman at work.

A row of shop houses in sleepy Dungun town.



Traditional anyaman (weaving) for sale at the local pasar (market).

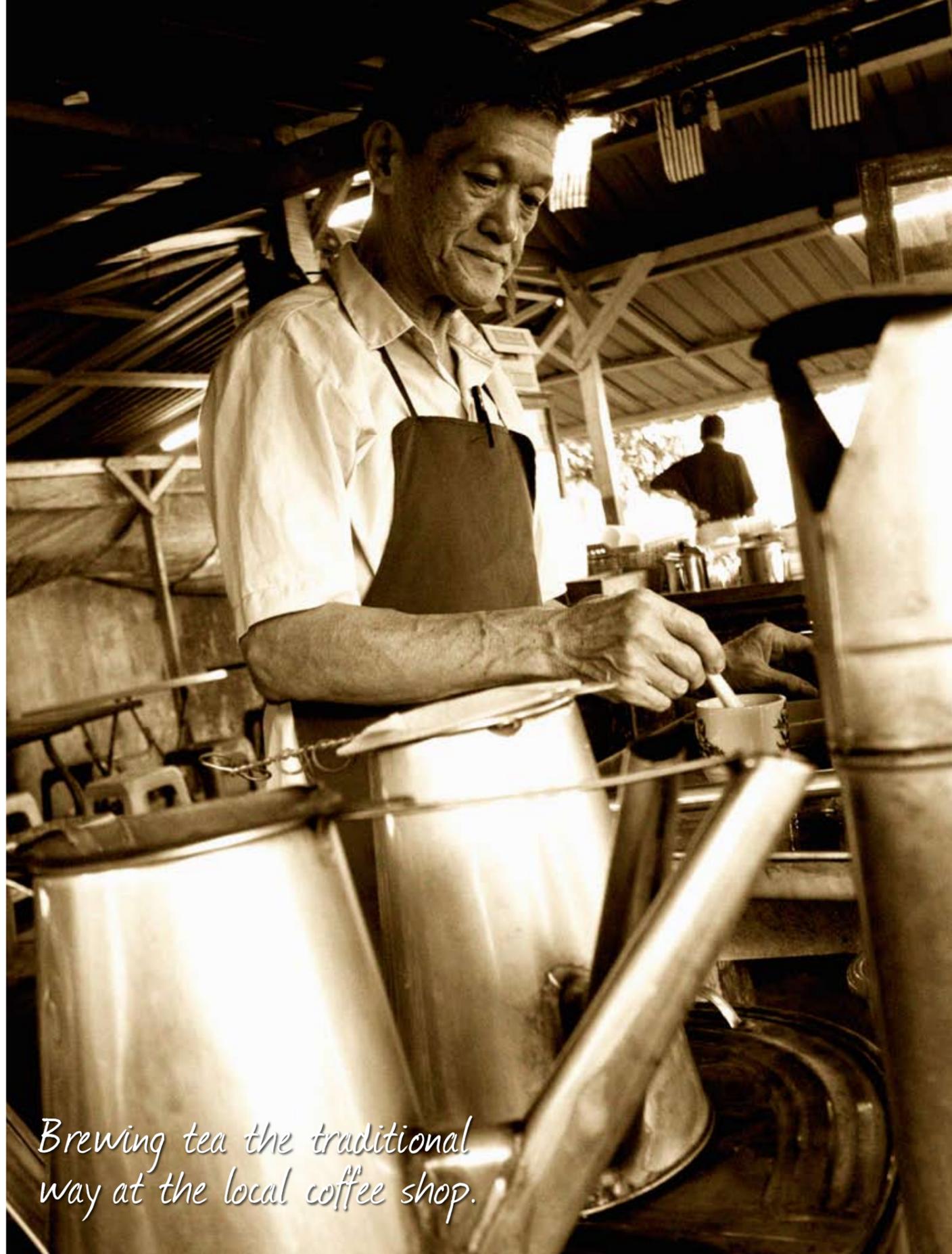


Floral motifs form the base of this piece of batik fabric.

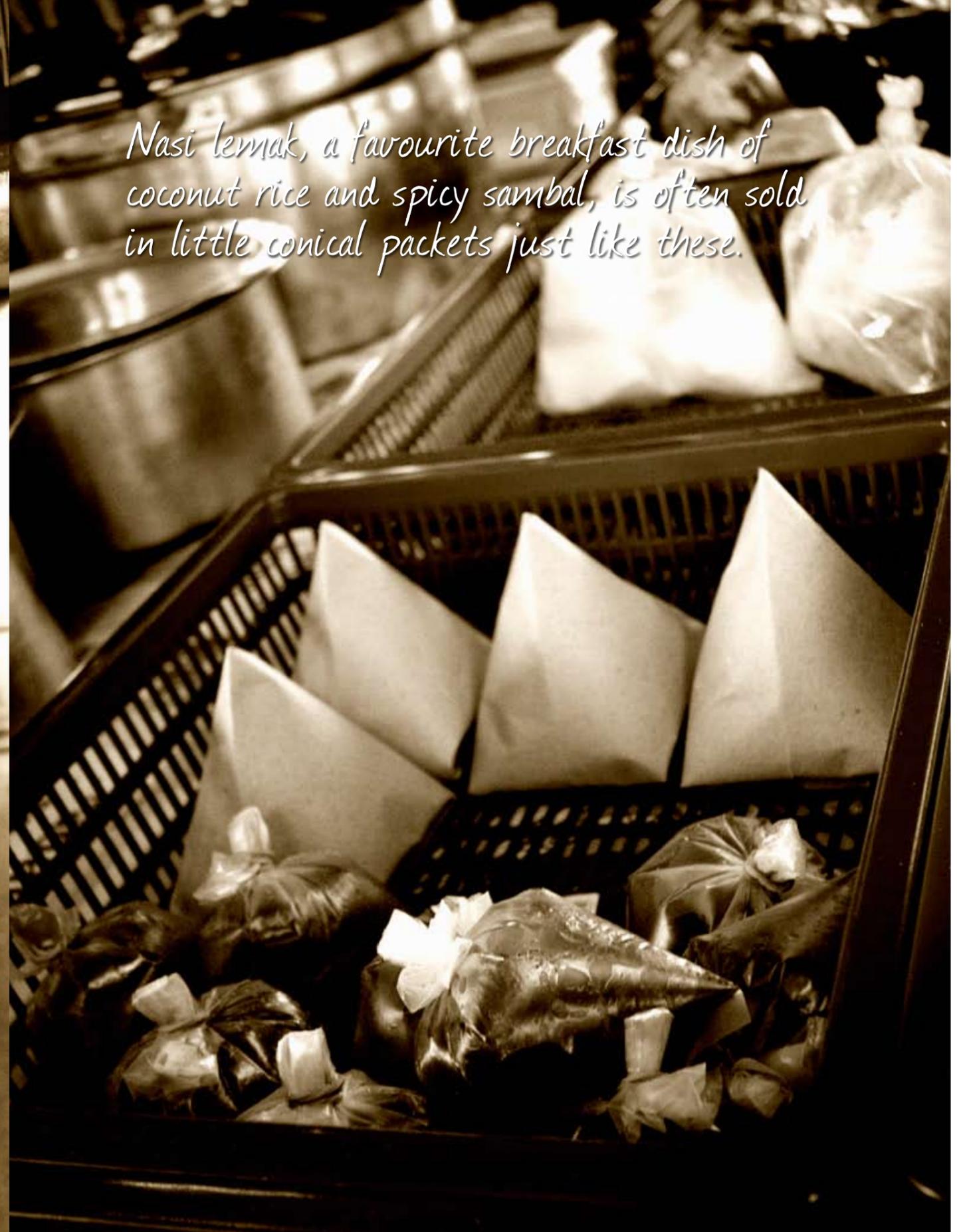


Jalan in Malay means 'road'.





Brewing tea the traditional way at the local coffee shop.



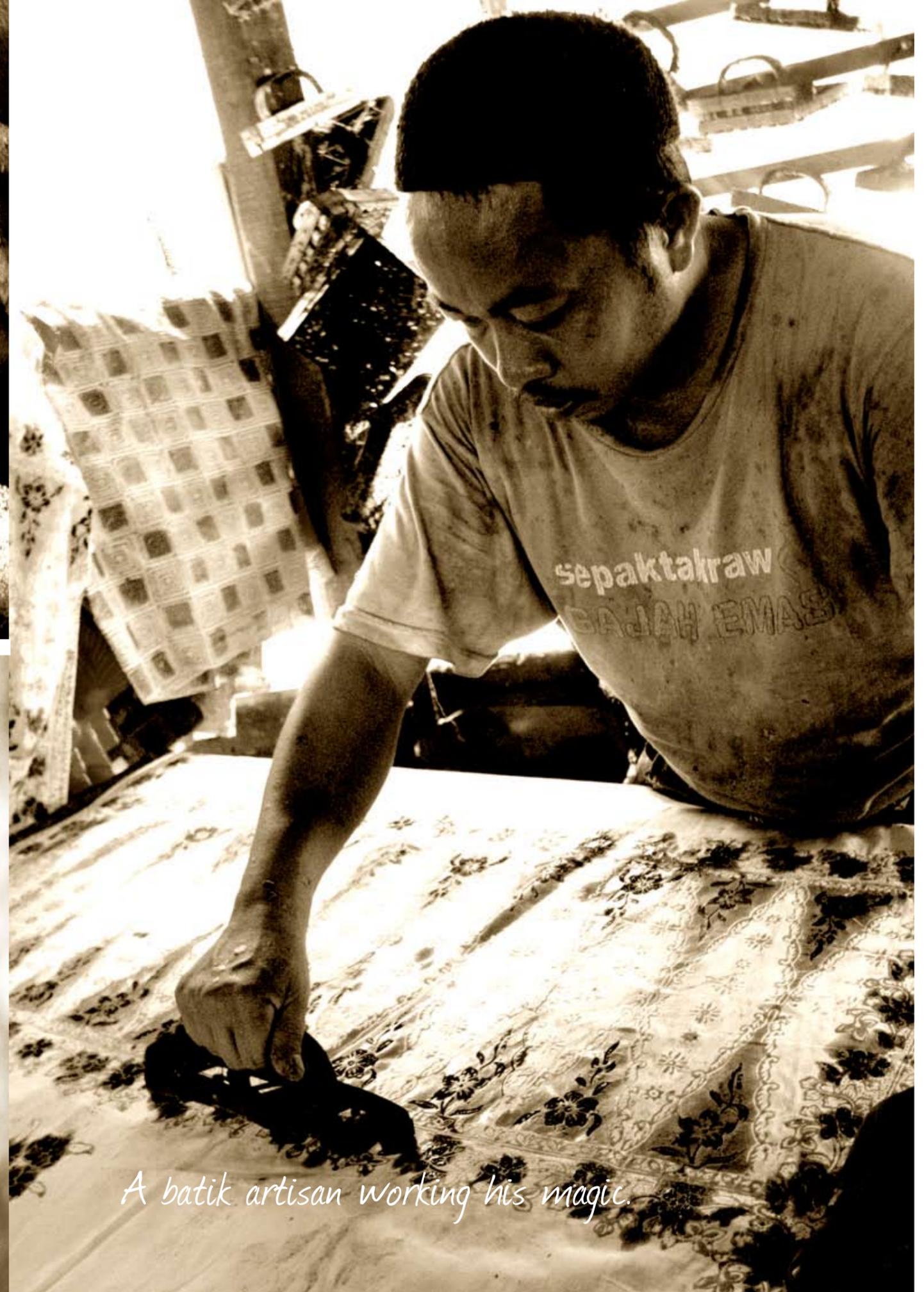
Nasi lemak, a favourite breakfast dish of coconut rice and spicy sambal, is often sold in little conical packets just like these.



Earthenware on display.



A reflective moment.



A batik artisan working his magic.



life moments //

*Top: Live gamelan music can often be heard on the grounds of Tanjong Jara Resort.
Bottom: A fishing boat returns to harbour.*



The local market is where you'd find the simplest and most delicious street food.

Explore The World of YTL Hotels...



SHOOK! SHANGHAI AT THE SWATCH ART PEACE HOTEL CHINA

(Opening 2011)

Perched on a space of symmetry and proportion, Shook! Shanghai features the skills of four epicurean chefs with four distinct cuisines. A show kitchen – dubbed the ‘Ferrari’ of kitchens, is where its signature dishes are created around the senses. The menu flirts with seasonal trends with whispers of Chinese, Japanese, Southeast Asian and modern Western, yet flexible enough to transport you anywhere your heart and palate desire. Another highlight at Shook! Shanghai is the showcase of the world’s finest wines and champagnes, including rare vintages from 1945 through 2000. Shook! Shanghai also houses The Time Bar and The Swatch Art Peace Hotel Terrace on the roof top overlooking a stunning backdrop of the Pudong skyline.

The Swatch Art Peace Hotel Residences which YTL Hotels will manage opens early 2011.

Tel: +86 (21) 6321 0021

www.shookrestaurantshanghai.com.cn



GREEN LEAF NISEKO VILLAGE HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

Located in the heart of Niseko Village in Hokkaido, the newly unveiled Green Leaf Niseko Village is the premium contemporary resort in Niseko, appealing to guests who want to enjoy a seamless experience of stay, snow and ski. The 200 room ski-in, ski-out resort is perfectly placed for all activities and a variety of dining options including the Lookout Café and the hotel's rooftop bar, Altitude. Alternatively relax in the forested *onsen*, a therapeutic natural volcanic hot spring guaranteed to soak away tension and time.



Tel: +81 (0)136 44 3311

www.thegreenleafhotel.com



portfolio of life //

THE MAJESTIC MALACCA MALAYSIA

The historic city of Malacca is steeped in a rich tapestry of multicultural influences reflected in its heritage architecture, diverse lifestyles and eclectic cuisine.

Located on the banks of the river which in yesteryear teemed with Chinese junks and spice-laden vessels from all over the world, The Majestic Malacca provides a glimpse into the splendid saga of an extraordinary empire.

The Majestic Malacca is an integral part of Malacca's colourful history. The original serene mansion, dating back to the 1920s, remains at the heart of the hotel, whilst a new building has been created, mirroring the original architecture, to house 54 spacious rooms and suites.

From the original porcelain flooring, teakwood fittings, intricate artwork and antiques, to the finely crafted Nyonya cuisine, every aspect echoes the history of the region, and offers a beguiling journey through this enchanting heritage.

Tel: +60 3 2783 1000
www.majesticmalacca.com



CAMERON HIGHLANDS RESORT MALAYSIA

Set amidst tea plantations and rolling hills, this tranquil hideaway promises visitors all the splendour, romance and nostalgia of Cameron Highlands' grand colonial heritage.

Cameron Highlands is Malaysia's largest hill resort and is largely unchanged since its colonial heyday, this 'little corner of England in Asia' is still dotted with Tudor-style cottages, a place where scones and afternoon tea will not seem out of place.

The resort with its tall French doors, timber-beamed ceilings, plantation shutters and a fireplace add old-world charm to the surroundings. It also houses a Spa Village as well as an eighteen hole golf course and 56 luxuriously appointed rooms and suites which weave in wondrous colours and textures of Jim Thompson's famous silks.

Tel: +60 3 2783 1000
www.cameronhighlandsresort.com





PANGKOR LAUT RESORT MALAYSIA

Pangkor Laut is a privately owned island located three miles off the west coast of Malaysia along the Straits of Malacca. This piece of paradise has been 2 million years in the making, and it is here one finds one of the world's premier award-winning resorts nestling in the shade of forest giants as old as the land.

There are no other resorts – just secluded bays curled around pristine beaches, evening skies woven with colour, and a deep sense of serenity reserved exclusively for guests. A combination of luxury, natural beauty and age-old wilderness woven together to produce an environment where peace and magically memorable moments are the currency.

Of the island's 300 acres, only a fraction has been developed to house the resort and its eight estates. Wooden buildings blend seamlessly with the forest as if nature had been the architect dictating how walls curve around foliage, and roofs open up to allow trees to continue on their journey to the sky.

Tel: +60 3 2783 1000
www.pangkorlautresort.com



THE ESTATES AT PANGKOR LAUT RESORT MALAYSIA

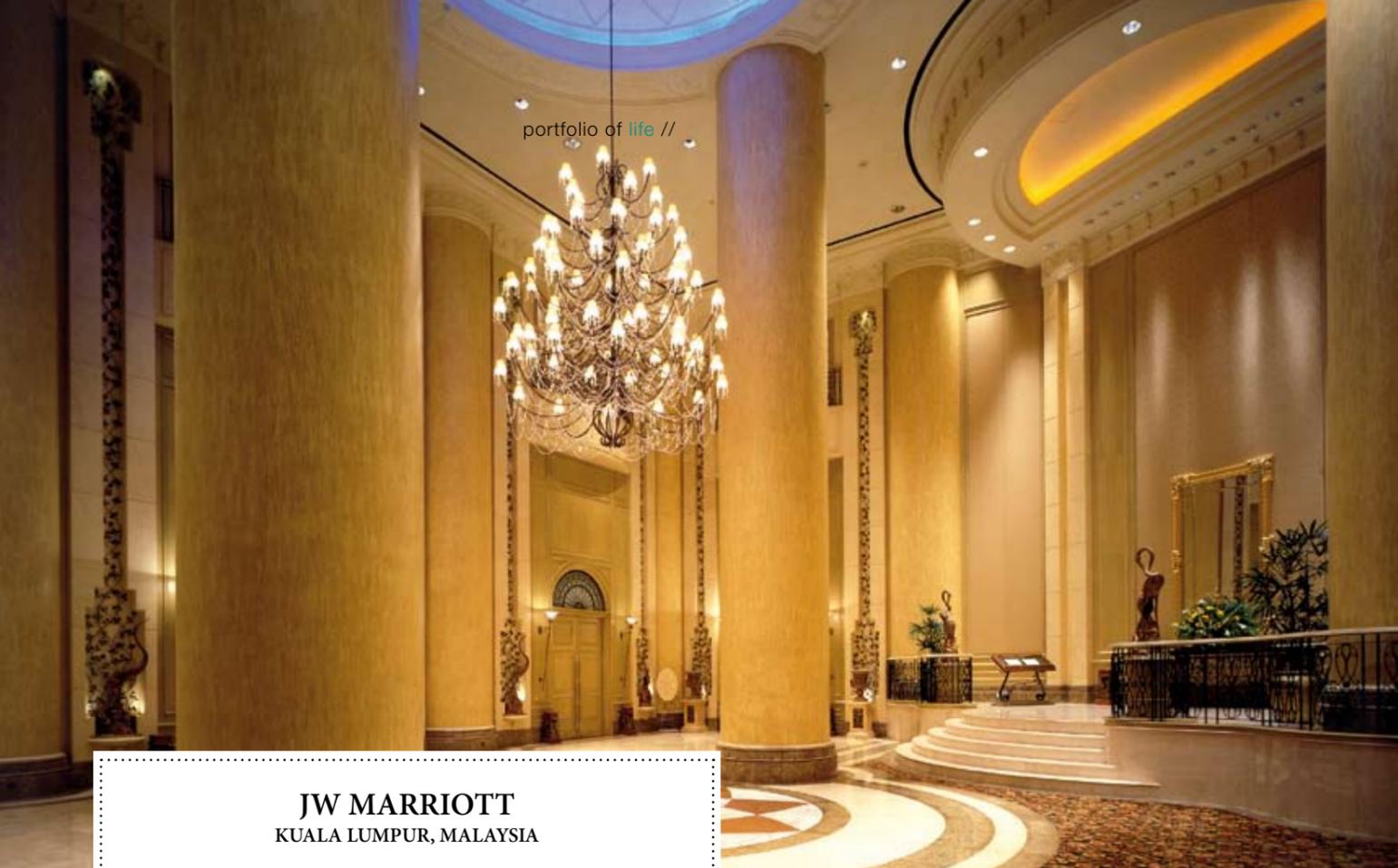
In a small secluded cove near Pangkor Laut Resort rests the eight wonders that comprise The Estates. Each of these individually crafted enclaves is reminiscent of the traditional south east Asian way of living of days gone by, when an 'estate' was made up of a number of special purpose buildings placed amidst gardens of astounding beauty.

Comprising two, three or four bedrooms, each Estate offers a private infinity-edge pool, as well as pavilions in various adaptations of Malay architectural traditions.

There is also a private vehicle and driver assigned to each Estate should guests decide to leave the seclusion of their villa to dine at one of the resort's restaurants or to go for a treatment at the Spa Village.

Tel: +60 3 2783 1000
www.pangkorlautesates.com





JW MARRIOTT KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Guest rooms at JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur offer the ultimate in comfort and convenience, designed with the discerning business traveller in mind. An ample work area with adjustable desk lighting and ergonomic chair provides a comfortable environment for executives. Desk-mounted electrical outlets, two-line speaker telephones with call-waiting facility, fax modem and voice mail make for easy communication around the world.

Accommodation comprises 561 guest rooms with 294 Deluxe Kings, 172 Deluxe Twins, 25 Executive Deluxe Rooms, 19 Studio Suites, 32 Junior Suites, 2 Executive Studio Suites, 2 Executive Junior Suites, 8 one-bedroom Suites, 3 two-bedroom Suites, 2 VIP Suites, a Chairman's Suite and a luxurious Presidential Suite.

The 29-storey hotel recently opened three new floors comprising mainly suites with contemporary design and luxury fittings. Marriott Marquis Platinum and Gold card members and guests occupying suites enjoy access to the JW Lounge – with its complimentary breakfast, light refreshments and evening cocktails.

Tel: +60 3 2715 9000
www.marriott.com



THE RITZ-CARLTON KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Discover the exclusive Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur and experience a place where ancient rivers converge and a modern city beckons guests to explore the sights, sounds and flavours of Malaysia. Located downtown in the Golden Triangle business district, this distinctive five-star luxury hotel in Kuala Lumpur is conveniently accessible to upscale shopping, dining and entertainment. At The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur, guests can indulge in soothing spa treatments, delectable cuisine or simply relax in the exceptional comfort of their rooms and take in the best the city has to offer.

The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur is the city's first award-winning full-buttler hotel featuring 250 guest rooms including 30 suites. The fresh style of The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur is influenced by a variety of themes reflecting Malaysia's diverse artistry of ethnic cultures. The dark toned woods with angular designs reflect masculinity while details like brass inlays add a touch of elegance. Rich earthy tones in the carpet and wall coverings are used to create a cosy, warm home-away-from-home ambience, while hidden modern technologies add a modern yet subtle flair.

Tel: +60 3 2142 8000
www.ritzcarlton.com





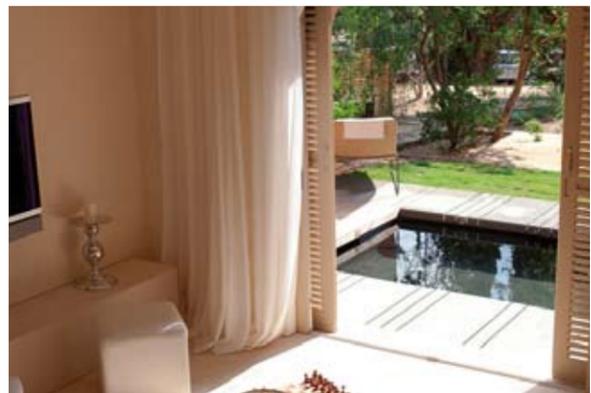
MUSE HÔTEL DE LUXE FRANCE

Bardot would no doubt approve of Saint-Tropez newcomer, Muse Hôtel De Luxe, just minutes from the Place de Lices by car, situated on the stunning Ramatuelle 'route de plages' road set amongst an ecological landscape of terraced gardens.

Fifteen ultra chic suites (ten featuring private plunge pools) are dedicated to famous muses such as 'Edith', after Edith Piaf, 'Catherine', after Catherine Deneuve and 'Lauren' after Lauren Bacall. Each suite sports a unique interior but all blend seamlessly with cool stone floors and mamorino wall finishes. Thoughtful touches include a 42" Loewe plasma screen with over 100 channels, a PlayStation, iPad and iPhone.

Designed with pure lines, a cool elegant reception area and outdoor water cascades, the hotel is a reflection of architectural simplicity, immediately stamping its original and stylish signature on the Saint-Tropezian landscape.

Tel: +334 94 430 440
www.muse-hotels.com



THE SURIN PHUKET, THAILAND

The Surin Phuket offers guests a choice of 108 thatched cottages that sit cosily under a canopy of coconut groves, where landscaped slopes gently descend to meet a private stretch of sandy shore.

The appeal of the spacious 89 one-bedroom and 19 two-bedroom cottages is further enhanced with private verandahs, secluded sun decks, and handcrafted teak floors.

Renowned for its warm island hospitality and rustic serenity, The Surin Phuket also provides spa services, dining venues, meeting facilities and recreational activities. The Surin Phuket – a veritable gateway to a tropical island paradise.



Tel: +60 3 2783 1000
www.ytlhotels.com



VILLA TASSANA PHUKET, THAILAND

Set amidst a tropical forest on a craggy cliff overlooking the beautiful emerald green of the Andaman Sea is a gem on the YTL Hotels portfolio of luxury holiday destinations. Located just 15 minutes away from Phuket International Airport on the island's quiet, undeveloped North Western coastline, Villa Tassana offers guests a vacation of modern sophistication married with Thai hospitality.

Spread over a generous 2,800 square metres, the villa features 2 large bedrooms with ensuite bath and dressing areas, a 15 metre swimming pool, separate living and dining pavilions, a kitchen and a maid's room. For those looking to get away from it all, Villa Tassana is staffed by one dedicated attendant and a chef specialising in delicious home-style Thai dishes.

Guests can also enjoy the first-class spa and sports facilities located at the nearby Trisara Hotel. There are three excellent golf courses nearby, including the exclusive Blue Canyon course, and a range of luxury motor yachts available to explore Phuket's many bays, islands and dive locations.

Tel: +60 3 2783 1000



BRAY HOUSE ENGLAND

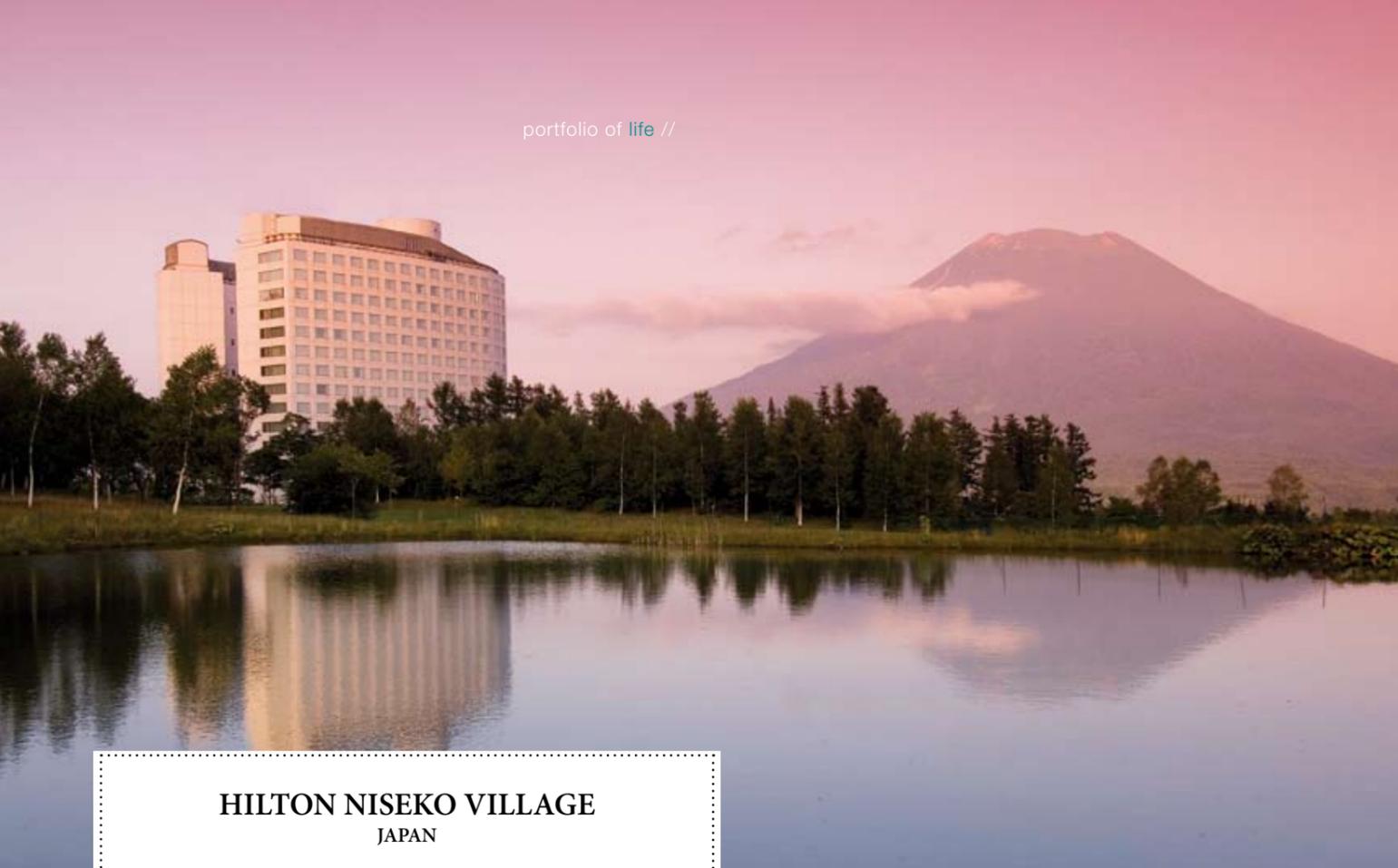
An elegant private home dating back to the late 17th century, Bray House has been restored and transformed into an elegant, high design boutique home stay. Featuring an eclectic mix of interiors spanning the Art Deco period of the early 1900s, Bray House is a unique experience of the gentrified English lifestyle complete with bespoke service and intimate atmosphere.

Designer furniture, vintage accessories and vivid splashes of colour create an atmosphere that marries the modern and the classic. Each of the bedrooms has its own theme: a lullaby of white or a symphony of Tuscany red in another. Bray House also features a private courtyard and a natural spring found in the garden.

The idyllic village of Bray, near Windsor, is quintessentially English with its period houses, traditional pubs with beamed ceilings and fireplaces and a beautifully restored church dating back to 1293.

Tel: +44 162 858 3505





HILTON NISEKO VILLAGE JAPAN

Set at the foot of the Niseko Annapuri Mountain, the Hilton Niseko Village is the perfect base from which to enjoy a huge variety of outdoor activities throughout the year. Ski on powdery slopes during the winter season, and enjoy family-friendly facilities such as the Niseko Ski Village ski school, Niseko Kids ski programme, a luxurious spa, and five restaurants.

There are also two 18-hole championship golf courses nearby (one designed by Arnold Palmer), a tennis complex, an equestrian centre and a unique nature-based activity area called 'PURE' complete with tree-trekking and beginners golf.

Tel: +81 136441111
www.niseko-village.com



EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS

The Eastern & Oriental Express is more than a train service: at its maximum length the quarter of a mile in length train is a haven of comfort, style and luxury and the perfect vantage point from which to tour the region. The Restaurant Cars, Saloon Car and Bar Car are located at the centre of the train, while the Observation Car with its open deck area is located at the rear.

The interior walls of the compartments are panelled with cherry wood and elm burr, with decorative marquetry friezes and intricate design inlays. The delicate embroidery work was done in Malaysia, and the bespoke carpets hand-tufted in Thailand. While guests dine at night, the steward transforms the compartment from a living room to a luxurious bedroom.

Chefs onboard the E&O Express are internationally renowned for their tantalising variety of Eastern and European dishes, using the finest fresh seasonal ingredients.

www.easternandorientalexpress.com





TANJONG JARA RESORT MALAYSIA

Located on the east coast of peninsular Malaysia, Tanjong Jara Resort is a sanctuary of luxury and well-being steeped in age-old Malay traditions. Designed to reflect the elegance and grandeur of 17th Century Malay palaces, Tanjong Jara is a 99-room resort embodiment of the gentle Malay art of service and hospitality.

The philosophy of the Resort is as unique as the Resort itself. Based on the Malay concept of *Sucimurni*, which emphasises purity of spirit, health and well-being, Tanjong Jara encourages true rejuvenation of both body and spirit.

Tanjong Jara is an opportunity to withdraw from the pressures of this ever-changing world by offering a chance to immerse oneself in a sanctuary of serenity and beauty.

Tel: +60 3 2783 1000
www.tanjongjararesort.com



SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK BALI, INDONESIA

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 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 peacefulness and calm, combining the therapeutic value of its 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 possible to recapture one's sense of self.

Tel: +60 3 2783 1000
www.spavillage.com



1. Spa Village Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

This unique retreat offers the world's most sophisticated therapies integrated with traditional healing practices of the region. Paying tribute to Malaysia's fascinating cultural diversity and rich healing heritage, this most stylish of spas seamlessly blends ancient and modern practices, using natural local ingredients to deliver blissful relaxation and rejuvenation.

2. Spa Village Tanjong Jara Malaysia

At Spa Village Tanjong Jara, time-tested health and beauty traditions are revived in the most comforting surrounds. Guests can benefit from a comprehensive programme of therapies created using unique ingredients from indigenous herbs and plants, along with the skills of resident Malay healers.

3. Spa Village Malacca Malaysia

The Spa Village Malacca 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 Chinese and Malay influences. The spa is spread across the first two floors of the new wing and provides a serene environment in which one can rest, recuperate and rejuvenate in the care of some of the world's best therapists.

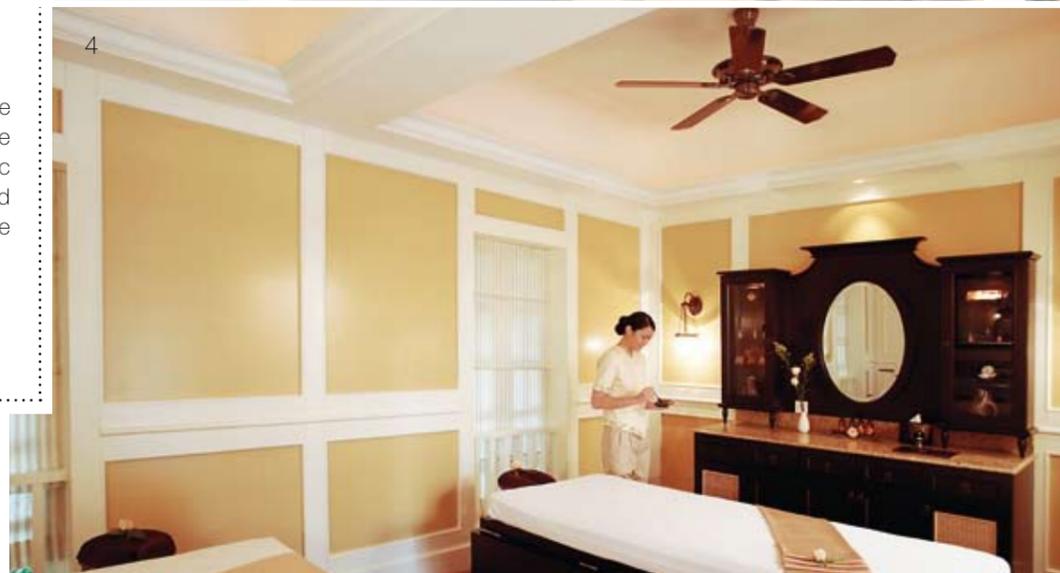
4. Spa Village Cameron Highlands Malaysia

Cameron Highlands Resort features the third wellness centre of the award-winning Spa Village brand with a wide range of sophisticated treatments and healing therapies inspired by the restorative properties of tea. Each guest luxuriates in a signature tea bath before every treatment. Cameron Highlands Spa Village offers tranquil indoor and outdoor treatment rooms, tea bath rooms and a fully-equipped gymnasium.

5. Spa Village Pangkor Laut Malaysia

The Spa Village at Pangkor Laut Resort is a unique ultra-exclusive retreat that extols the healing cultures of Malaysia's diverse history of people and cultures and vast abundance of exotic natural resources. The abundance of Malay, Chinese, Indian and Thai practices make this the ideal tranquil setting for complete rejuvenation of body and soul.

Tel: +60 3 2783 1000
www.spavillage.com





portfolio of life //

FEAST VILLAGE
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

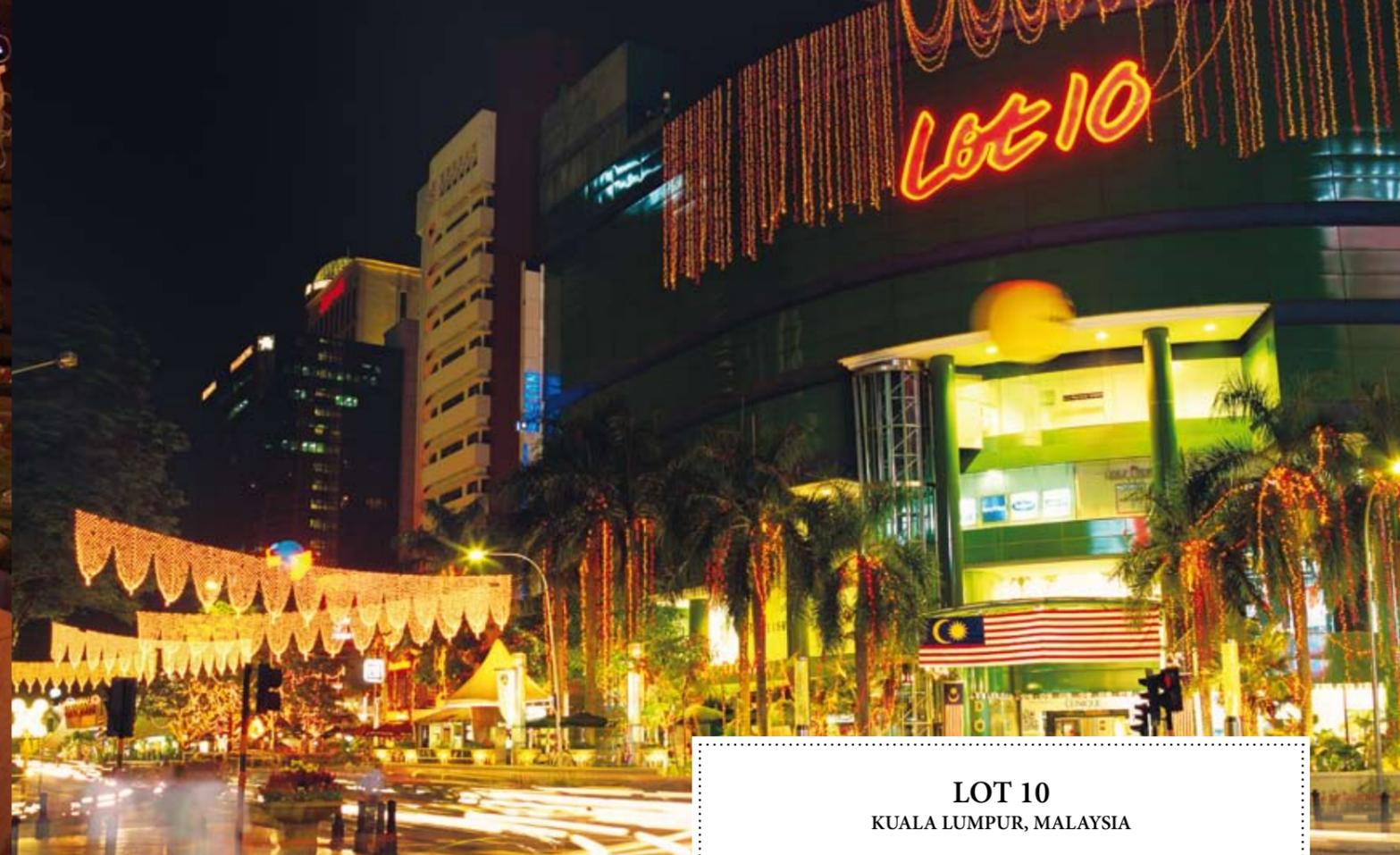
Feast till your heart is content in our Feast Village, a dramatic, stylish dining haven with a village charm. Here, you will find 11 uniquely designed restaurants serving a mix of world-class cuisine and providing a display of culinary skill embodied in a chic and contemporary atmosphere.

Restaurants and bars at Feast Village include Fisherman's Cove, Luk Yu Tea House, Pak Loh Chiu Chow, Tarbush, Sentidos Tapas, Shook!, Jake's Charbroil Steak, Vansh, KoRyo Won, Enak, My Thai and Village Bar.

The design of Feast Village is inspired by nature. Walls are asymmetrical and serve not to separate, but rather to provide peace enclaves where people may relax.

Rice paper from Japan combines with slate and ikat from Indonesia, granite from China, silk from Thailand, and timber on Myanmar to create the essence of Asia from a design perspective, making Feast Village truly one-of-a-kind.

Tel: +60 3 2782 3855
www.starhillgallery.com



LOT 10
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

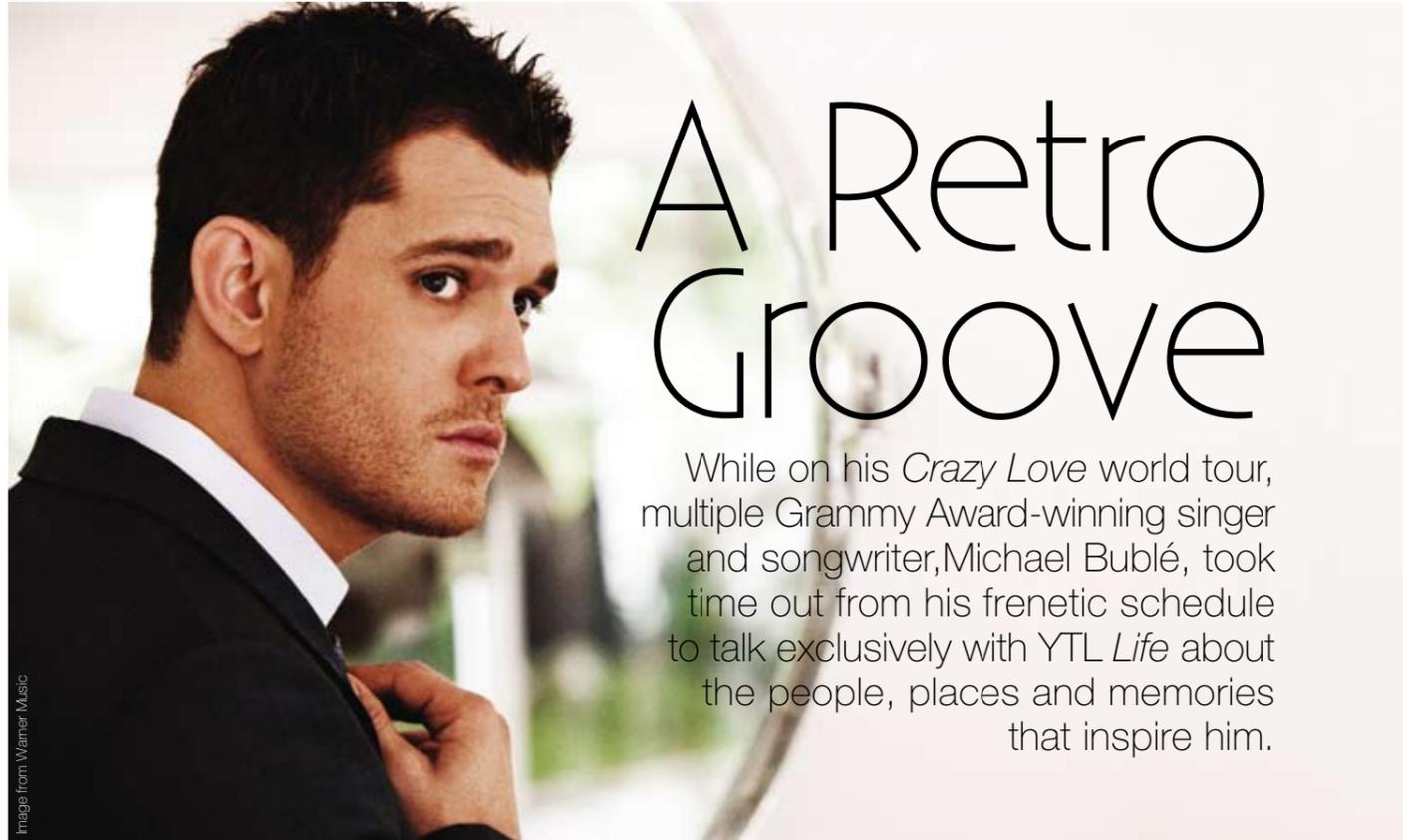
An iconic architectural landmark since the 1990s, the shopping and lifestyle destination, Lot 10, has undergone significant renovation from its basement to its rooftop bringing in a new age of modern style.

The Forest in The City theme is immediately apparent in the inspiring drama of the rooftop of Lot 10. Mature trees of dappled barks and emerging foliage rise above manicured shrubs to greet guests with a refreshing welcome of abundant green.

A dramatic landscape that emulates towering cliffs of overhanging ferns and flora, and a variety of tropical plants against the skies of Kuala Lumpur serve as the stunning backdrop for a unique host of urban lifestyle pursuits and experiences that are exclusive only to Lot 10 at the rooftop.

www.lot10.com.my





A Retro Groove

While on his *Crazy Love* world tour, multiple Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter, Michael Bublé, took time out from his frenetic schedule to talk exclusively with YTL *Life* about the people, places and memories that inspire him.

Image from Warner Music

A memorable place you've travelled to... They're all so memorable; I think a favourite is Australia. I really do like the people very much, I feel they're very Canadian. The United Kingdom is a big part of me now but, to be honest, the best audiences in the world are in America. My favourite crowd of all time, though, was in Portugal. They were just incredible! I had to kiss the stage – they were that good.

The people who inspire me are... Michael Jackson and Harry Connick Jr. People like Dean Martin, Bobby Darrin, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Ella Fitzgerald, Guns N' Roses and AC/DC also figure on the list. Even now, I'm partial to bands like The Killers and its front man, Brandon Flowers, as well as Coldplay. I love Adele and we're sort of becoming friends now. We talk on e-mail sometimes and she's just a fabulous girl. I also like Canadian artists like Bryan Adams and Jann Arden.

I'm currently working on... a new Christmas record right now, which will go out by end next year. My hope is to do six

or seven million copies. I'm working with David Foster, Bob Rock and Humberto Gatica so it's a really authentic Christmas record, with no original songs. One of my biggest inspirations as a kid was Bing Crosby's *White Christmas*, it was just a sweet, heartfelt song. It wasn't trying to be hip or cool; it reminds me of family, growing up and being a kid. And that's what I want to bring to this record – a feeling of authenticity. At the same time, I wanted people to grow up listening to this record, just like how I grew up listening to Bing.

My most memorable childhood experience is... celebrating Christmas. It was a really sweet time around my house. My father used to keep the Christmas decorations up in the attic and it was a big deal for me and my little sisters to get him to take us up and have the Christmas tree down. Even now, around late October, I'll start to get that Christmas feeling. Looking ahead, one of the things I'm most excited about is having kids so that I can recreate the memories I have for them. ▣



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