

YTL *Life*

TREASURED PLACES, TREASURED MOMENTS



CULTURAL CROSSROADS

Architectural icons abound near
The Hague Marriott Hotel

WEDDED BLISS

Get married in style at
Monkey Island Estate

SCOTTISH WARMTH

The Glasshouse honours its
deep connection to whisky



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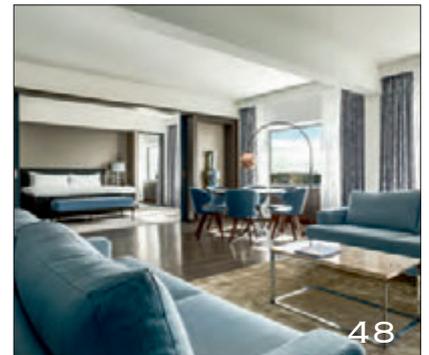


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On her: dress by Charlie Brear, ring and earrings by Lily Flo Jewellery, and veil by Jesus Peiro.
On him: suit by Gianni Feraud, shirt by Reiss and shoes by Ted Baker.



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Treasured Places, Treasured Moments

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



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Malaysia



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YTL Hotels is involved in both the ownership and management of the Spa Village brand in United Kingdom, China, Indonesia and Malaysia.

LUXURY SPAS BY YTL HOTELS

www.spavillage.com

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The world of YTL Hotels.



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contemporary 77-room hotel with the facade of a free church built in 1846 by the compassionate Lady Glenorchy. The Glasshouse's suites are named after famous whisky distilleries and regions, reflecting the hotel's deep connection to the spirit of Scotland, while The Snug offers the perfect place to cosy up to the fireplace with a dram.

Monkey Island Estate, our seven-acre private island hotel in the village of Bray with a legacy dating back to the 12th century, was once a respite for monks, royalty and showbiz celebrities. Today, the botanical wisdom of the monks lives on through the tipples that grace our bars and our signature rejuvenating treatments at the Floating Spa, the first of its kind on the River Thames.

Back in Malaysia, The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur carries its colonial charm into the 21st century. The hotel's original building that opened in 1932 has been lovingly restored as The Majestic Wing, boasting suites that come with a 24-hour butler service. Traditional recipes ensure our restaurants offer unique dining experiences that evoke the nostalgia of a bygone era.

There's much to discover at any one of our hotels around the globe, and we invite you to come celebrate the past with us by enjoying the present through the art of living.

Heritage is a precious gift that we should not overlook. We can learn much from the past, building on the knowledge of our forefathers and preserving our cultural identity through modern means. YTL Hotels embraces this ethos in everything that we do, whether it's enjoying a cup of Ipoh-style coffee at the award-winning Pangkor Laut Resort's new Hornbill Café or taking part in one of Niseko Village's many summer festivals.

This issue celebrates Edinburgh's rich history through The Glasshouse, a



A NEW AWAKENING

MALAYSIAN DESIGNER EXTRAORDINAIRE,
LEE KHOON HOON, GIVES YTL LIFE AN INSIDER'S
LOOK AT HIS MERCEDES-BENZ KUALA LUMPUR
FASHION WEEK 2019 SHOW.

Words [RENYI LIM](#)



Three looks from the Khoon Hoi autumn/winter 2019 collection.

Facing page: Malaysian fashion designer Khoon Hoi has received several fashion accolades, including the Mercedes-Benz Stylo Fashion Forward Award.

“There’s always a story behind our catwalk show,” Lee Khoon Hoi tells me. “The first look represents the entire collection, although it’s never too heavy, and then we progress to simple, easier pieces in the middle. Towards the end, we start to come out with our evening dresses, just to wow people as they appear.”

We’re at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur discussing his recent appearance at the Mercedes-Benz Kuala Lumpur Fashion Week 2019. The illustrious event featured prominent international names such as Venezuelan fashion

powerhouse Carolina Herrera. Khoon Hoi, of course, flew the flag for Malaysia alongside other local designers including Justin Yap and Brian Khoo, with a show that took its cues from the concept of a modern Renaissance.

“I’d just brought my autumn/winter 2019 collection back from Paris in March, so this was an opportunity to launch it locally,” he explains. “I called it Modern Renaissance because I wanted to explore the silhouette of Renaissance fashion while keeping those classic Khoon Hoi lines and looks. It’s common knowledge that Renaissance garments and dresses had a lot of things going on at once, so my team and I narrowed down the details and explored certain parts – the colours, the poofy sleeves, the beading – so that modern-day women would still be able to love wearing the pieces, rather than treating them as costumes.”

Equally as interesting was Khoon Hoi’s use of textured fabrics, such as brocade, and origami folding that gives plain material a voluminous three-dimensional effect.

“It’s fun yet classic, being able to bring the old Renaissance to the modern world,” says the designer, who established his label in 1999. “I believe the simple silhouette, combined with more structural pieces, will really appeal to women, and the fact that you can pair single pieces together and dress them up or down. In the end, it’s about how you play with it.”

The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur is the official hotel and dining partner of Mercedes-Benz Kuala Lumpur Fashion Week 2019.

On her: dress by Jesus Peiro,
ring by Lily Flo Jewellery and
earrings by YES.

On him: suit by Savile Row, shirt
and tie by Hawes & Curtis, shoes
by Ted Baker and ring by YES.

SUNSHINE OF YOUR LOVE

DREAMY MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE IN BRAY,
A PICTURESQUE DESTINATION ON THE RIVER THAMES
SET ACROSS SEVEN ACRES, IS THE PERFECT PLACE
TO GET MARRIED IN THE SUMMER MONTHS.

Words TIEN CHEW
Photography EMMA-JANE LEWIS
Styling PAULINA GZIK





On her: dress by Audrey Ashley Couture, earrings by Lily Flo Jewellery and headpiece by Jesus Peiro.
On him: suit by Gianni Feraud and shirt by Reiss.



On her: dress by Jesus Peiro, rings and earrings by Lily Flo Jewellery, and headpiece by Dolecka.
On him: suit by Marc Darcy, shirt by Reiss and bowtie by Savile Row.

LIFE ON THE COVER

On her: dress by Audrey Ashley Couture, jewellery by Lily Flo Jewellery, headpiece by Dolecka, and shoes by Paradox London.
On him: suit and shoes by Ted Baker, shirt by Hackett, tie by Henry Bucks and ring by YES.







On her: dress by Jesus Peiro, ring and earrings by Lily Flo Jewellery, and headpiece by Dolecka.
On him: suit by Sartoria Trenti, shirt by Hackett and bow tie by Saville Row.



On her: dress and headpiece
by Jesus Peiro.
On him: suit by Moss London, shirt
by Hackett, bow tie by Savile Row
and shoes by George Webb.





On her: dress by Jesus Peiro, ring and earrings by Lily Flo Jewellery, and headpiece by Dolecka.
On him: suit by Jaeger, shirt by Hackett and tie by Ted Baker.

Hair and make-up artist: Naomi Holdsworth
Flowers: Elle Sargant

DINING LIKE THE GREATS

WHEELER'S OF ST JAMES AT
THREADNEEDLES HOTEL IS THE WORLD'S
OLDEST AND FINEST FISH BRAND,
ENDURING THE TEST OF TIME THANKS TO
ITS EXCELLENT SEAFOOD.

Words TIEN CHEW





Savour a grand feast at Marco Pierre White's Wheeler's of St James's Oyster Bar & Grill Room.

With its high ceilings, elegant mix of wood and white walls and plush red chairs, Wheeler's of St James at Threadneedles Hotel is a relative newcomer to the historic centre and central business district of the City of London. The restaurant and oyster bar occupies a corner of what was once an important bank, with portraits of charismatic chef and restaurateur Marco Pierre White adorning the establishment's walls.

to start with, as is a surprising surf-and-turf duo of seared scallops and black pudding finished with cauliflower puree and crisp pancetta.

Nothing quite satisfies like the restaurant's legendary fish and chips, an iconic London treat. The flaky and juicy haddock has an irresistible crispy texture and is paired with creamy peas and tangy sauce tartare.

Dover sole is another dish that will vie for your attention, either grilled in classic British fashion and served with shallots, capers, pickled cucumber, *à la forestiere* with wild mushrooms or

WHITE HAS BREATHED NEW LIFE INTO "THE WORLD'S OLDEST AND FINEST FISH BRAND" BY ADDING CONTEMPORARY TOUCHES TO CLASSIC SEAFOOD DISHES.

White has breathed new life into "the world's oldest and finest fish brand" – it was established in 1856 – by adding contemporary touches to classic seafood dishes.

Business executives and gastronomes patronise the restaurant today, while prominent personalities the likes of artists Francis Bacon and Lucien Freud, as well as Walt Disney, have also enjoyed its fare in days past.

Flavourful Colchester oysters served with a glass of fine bubbly are an excellent combination

à la grenobloise with shrimps. Even the humble steak receives luxe treatment, aged for 35 days for a more flavourful punch and matched with triple-cooked chips, roasted vine tomatoes and the option to add grilled oysters.

For a fitting end to your meal, choose an English classic – Eton mess – a delicious mix of strawberries, meringue and cream.

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



BEING BATHSHEBA

BATHING AS A RITUAL HAS BEEN WATERMARKED INTO THE STORY OF HUMANKIND FOR MORE THAN 5,000 YEARS, A HERITAGE EXEMPLIFIED AT SPA VILLAGE BATH.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN



When we talk about bathing, we might think of the story of David spying on Bathsheba, David Hockney's pool painting or Cleopatra's bath of donkey's milk. Bathing plays a critical role in the story of humankind, with four important cornerstones relating to hygiene, religious purification, aquatherapy and social interaction. The thermal springs of the city of Bath (known as Aquae Sulis in Roman times) offers us a classic example of Roman bathing culture, where a bath was a hub for exercise, relaxation and socialising.

The Spa Village at The Gainsborough Bath Spa is the new guardian of the area's famous thermal spring waters and its traditions, designed around a complex circuit of rooms and spaces. This luxury 21st-century homage to the Roman bathhouse starts with a pre-treatment self-guided 45-minute circuit. This includes relaxing in a pool warmed to 40 degrees Celsius, a visit to either the infrared or traditional sauna, and a lavender ice rubdown before you're free to relax in the thermal pool.

The exfoliating scrub treatments at the spa even make use of the modern version of the Roman



THE SPA VILLAGE AT THE GAINSBOROUGH BATH SPA IS THE NEW GUARDIAN OF THE AREA'S FAMOUS THERMAL SPRING WATERS AND ITS TRADITIONS, DESIGNED AROUND A COMPLEX CIRCUIT OF ROOMS AND SPACES.

Spa Village Bath gently supports the brand's philosophy of honouring the healing traditions of the region.

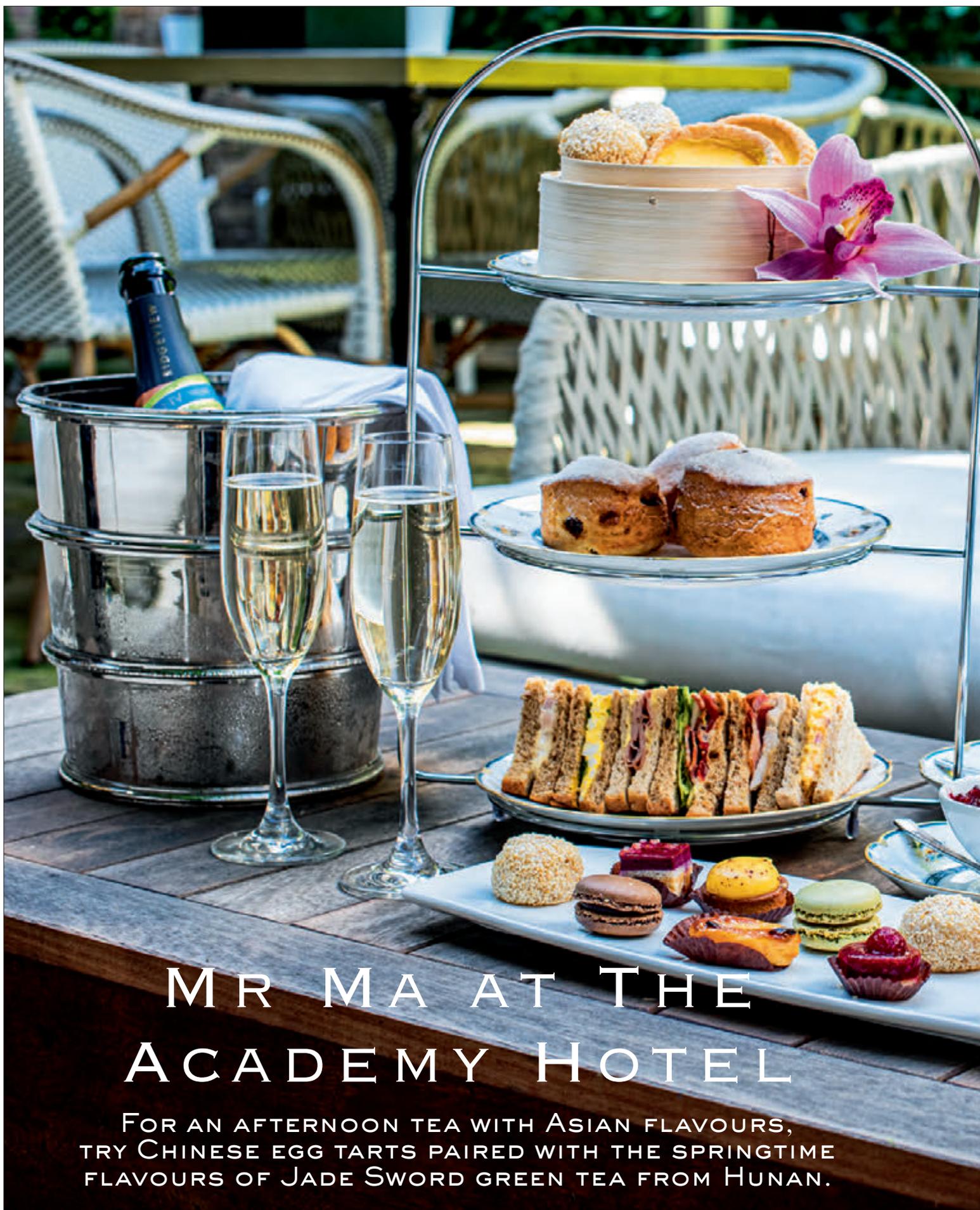


strigil (an ancient instrument used for cleansing the skin), but it is the spa's two signature water therapies that offer deep relaxation. Aquasana is an intense movement class done in thermal waters that combines strength-building and cardiovascular activities. Bringing together the best of two worlds, Aquasana employs yoga asanas to promote flexibility and the tai-chi form for balance. Freedom, however, is a water therapy session tailored to your needs. Your body will be supported by your therapist as you lie submerged in water, taking advantage of the fact that being weightless releases tension.

Spa Village Bath proudly continues the age-old healing tradition of bathing rituals around the world, like the Japanese onsen, the Korean jjimjilbang, the Ottoman and Moroccan hammam, the Finnish sauna, the native American sweat lodge and the Russian banya. But I believe that no greater culture has harnessed a more effective system of bathing than the one that the principles of the Spa Village are guided by, that of the ancient Romans.

To book your therapy session, please visit www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk





MR MA AT THE ACADEMY HOTEL

FOR AN AFTERNOON TEA WITH ASIAN FLAVOURS,
TRY CHINESE EGG TARTS PAIRED WITH THE SPRINGTIME
FLAVOURS OF JADE SWORD GREEN TEA FROM HUNAN.





Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN

The British singer Sting may have had a hit with his 1987 song *An Englishman in New York*, but there was no one to ‘sing’ about the Chinese in London at the turn of the century until 2013. It was then that William Dolby translated the 1929 novel, *Mr Ma and Son*, written by Lao She for Penguin Classics. He was one of the most important Chinese authors of the 20th-century, best known for his 1937 working-class novel *Rickshaw Boy*. However, when Lao She came to London in 1924 to teach Mandarin at the School of Oriental Studies, his experiences in England inspired him to write three novels in Chinese. One of them was *Mr Ma and Son*, which tells the story of how the titular protagonist was bequeathed a curio shop near St Paul’s Cathedral by his late brother. His son sailed with him from China to England and they lived in rented lodgings in Bloomsbury near the British Museum to try and settle into life in Roaring Twenties London as shopkeepers.

The Academy Hotel in Bloomsbury, a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, has introduced a teatime concept inspired by the protagonist of Lao She’s novel. Mr Ma’s Afternoon Tea was launched on the same day as the RHS Chelsea

Flower Show. This chimes perfectly with Mr Ma’s love of the floral blooms he observed in Regent’s Park and Hyde Park, remarking in the novel on the “deep red fuchsias” and “pale blue hydrangeas laughing in the sun”.

Created in partnership with fine tea purveyor Jing Tea, Mr Ma’s Afternoon Tea offers a delectable fusion menu of classic English teas such as assam from India, earl grey and English breakfast, as well as fine Chinese teas like the Jade Sword green tea and oolong tea.

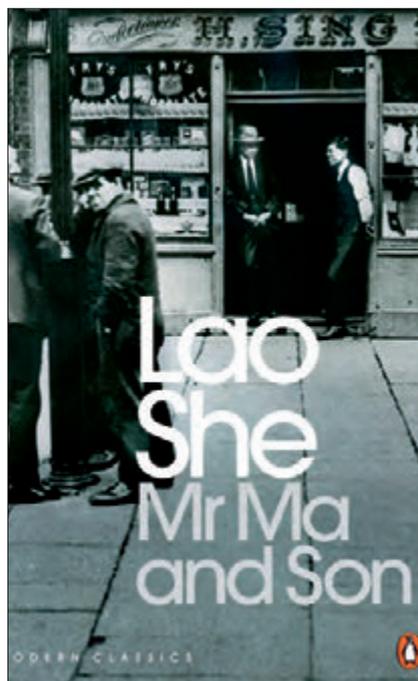
For an afternoon tea with Asian flavours, there are Chinese egg tarts paired with the sweet springtime flavours of Jade Sword green tea from Hunan. Ginger and cinnamon scones go exceptionally well with a pot of amber-hued and fruity oolong tea. And if you’re feeling extra thirsty, the afternoon can always be decadently rounded off with a cocktail from The Academy’s Gin Afternoon Tea menu.

Jing Tea has also crafted a unique tea called Mr Ma’s Special Blend for The Academy that would make Mr Ma and his son feel right at home in Bloomsbury.

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



MR MA AND HIS SON LIVED IN RENTED LODGINGS IN BLOOMSBURY NEAR THE BRITISH MUSEUM TO TRY AND SETTLE INTO LIFE IN ROARING TWENTIES LONDON AS SHOPKEEPERS.



This and facing pages:
Mr Ma's Afternoon Tea artfully
combines Chinese sweet treats
with classic British fare.



AN IDYLIC SCOTTISH SUMMER

THE GLASSHOUSE, EDINBURGH HAS A DEEP CONNECTION TO THE CITY, ITS LANDMARKS AND GREATER SCOTTISH HERITAGE, INCLUDING WHISKY.

Words TIEN CHEW





The rooms and suites at The Glasshouse offer some of the most dramatic views in Edinburgh.

It's easy to fall in love with the Scottish capital that is Edinburgh when you are standing atop the historical Calton Hill during the golden hour. From the top of this UNESCO World Heritage site, the majestic Edinburgh Castle sits mightily to the west, its presence made more prominent by the sun's dramatic orange hues. To the north rests the Royal Yacht Britannia, gazing contemplatively at the North Sea. Setting your sights southeast brings Arthur's Seat into view, an extinct volcano and popular hiking destination 251 metres above sea level.

Edinburgh is a city at the crossroads of past and present, renowned for its famed Georgian town planning which led to its New Town being referred to as the Athens of the North. It has over 4,500 listed heritage buildings at present. Modernity's influence on the capital has thankfully left its charm and 18th-century architecture intact, where buildings like The Glasshouse weave Scottish heritage and culture into their newfound identity. The hotel's facade is that of a 19th-century

church, lovingly preserved to showcase the building's origins. In the present day, the 77-room Glasshouse is part of the Marriott's Autograph Collection and is set right in the heart of the city, 25 minutes from the airport.

A CELEBRATION OF IDENTITY

The Glasshouse sits at the bottom of Calton Hill, which was originally the site of a free church built in 1846 by the compassionate Lady Glenorchy. Today, the hotel's exterior still has the grand appearance of a Gothic church, but a cool contemporary reception area quickly pulls you back to the present.

The Glasshouse proudly celebrates that Scottish gift to the world – whisky – with 17 plush suites named after famous Scottish whisky distilleries the likes of The Macallan, Glenkinchie and Dalwhinnie or notable whisky regions such as Islay, Speyside and so forth. Top-floor rooms and suites boast either direct access to the hotel's tranquil rooftop garden or close-up views of Leith Walk, Edinburgh's buzzy entertainment district

TODAY, THE HOTEL'S EXTERIOR STILL HAS THE GRAND APPEARANCE OF A GOTHIC CHURCH.









Enjoy Afternoon Tea or a seasonal all-day dining menu at The Snug.

AT THE HEART OF THE GLASSHOUSE IS THE SNUG, APTLY NAMED AS A COMFORTING LOUNGE, COMPLETE WITH AN INVITING OPEN FIRE PIT.

with bars, restaurants and a theatre. The two-acre rooftop garden offers uninterrupted, sweeping views of Calton Hill and a relaxing space to clear the mind, making it popular for small weddings and intimate celebrations.

At the heart of The Glasshouse is The Snug, aptly named as a comforting lounge, complete with an inviting open fire pit. Here, rare and coveted whiskies take the limelight, with over 150 bottles to choose from, 140 of which are single malt. Cast a wider net and order a tasting flight of whiskies to cosy up next to the fire with as the evening sets in.

Tom Gibson, The Glasshouse's General Manager, recommends The Cally 40 Year Old as an ideal dram to savour at The Snug. "It was produced by Edinburgh's now extinct local distillery The Caledonian, once the largest distillery of its kind in Scotland. Not only are there limited amounts left available, but for a grain whisky to have been aged for 40 years is incredibly uncommon. We are but a handful of bars in Scotland who stock it," he says. "The Laphroig 27 Year Old is another world-class example, demonstrating the impact ageing can have on the flavour of a whisky. The idiosyncratic medicinal notes that this whisky is renowned for give way to a complex, yet smooth, and luxurious dram. The 27 Year Old has also been discontinued, making it very rare to come across."

FROM NOSING TO DINING

To go with your favourite dram, The Snug offers a mix of Scottish and international favourites. For lighter options, haggis bonbons are served with whisky sauce and a rocket salad, while caramelised apple and black pudding sausage rolls make for decadent bites to pair with your Scotch.

If you're feeling ravenous, go for the surreal Ox and Venison burger, where five ounces of minced Scottish steak meet five ounces of highland venison in a double-patty extravaganza, sandwiched between fluffy toasted buns.

To balance things out, the vegetable platter comes with a selection of charred crudités, sun-dried tomatoes and marinated roasted peppers





that evoke the sweet and smoky notes of peated whiskies.

In the mornings, The Brasserie offers a continental breakfast spread, with a selection of à la minute dishes including the full Scottish breakfast – traditional haggis, blood pudding, eggs, sausage, bacon, potato cake, tomato and mushrooms. In summer, when the weather is fairer and warmer, The Glasshouse offers an afternoon picnic at the rooftop garden, complete with the trimmings. Sip on a refreshing cocktail before tucking into Scotch eggs, cold cut sandwiches, quiches, cheeses and jellied fruit while basking in the sun.

SIGHTS, SOUNDS & WHISKY

There's nothing quite like the Scottish countryside during the summer, where beautiful fields of rapeseed flowers and historical architectural landmarks dot the land. And the best way to experience this is with a private excursion, one which allows you to discover Edinburgh and beyond at your own pace. For this, The Glasshouse has partnered with local institutions like the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Deanston Distillery to offer unique adventures.

The Royal Botanic Experience is exactly what it sounds like, enticing to nature lovers. The experience begins with an overnight stay in The Glasshouse's Calton Hill suite and a hearty breakfast, before embarking on a private tour of the 70-acre Royal Botanic Gardens.

At the gardens, the experience includes entry to 10 glasshouses of different climate zones, in which over 3,000 plants from around the world are found. Upon your return, afternoon tea with scones, sandwiches, tarts and a variety of sweet treats awaits, with an optional gin cocktail.

The Elite Whisky Experience, on the other hand, is a whisky connoisseur's dream come true. The grandest suite in The Glasshouse – the 92 square metre Islay suite – is yours for two nights, with a dram of whisky from the suite's namesake region to commemorate the occasion.

A seven-course whisky tasting dinner is also on the agenda, with the freedom to dine privately in your room or at the hotel's garden.

Over the next two days, guests will visit selected whisky distilleries, inclusive of a bespoke tour and lunch. Back at the hotel, a three-course dinner in the Brasserie or The Snug completes the Elite Whisky Experience.

A 350-year-old national treasure of Scotland, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is set in more than 70 beautifully landscaped acres.

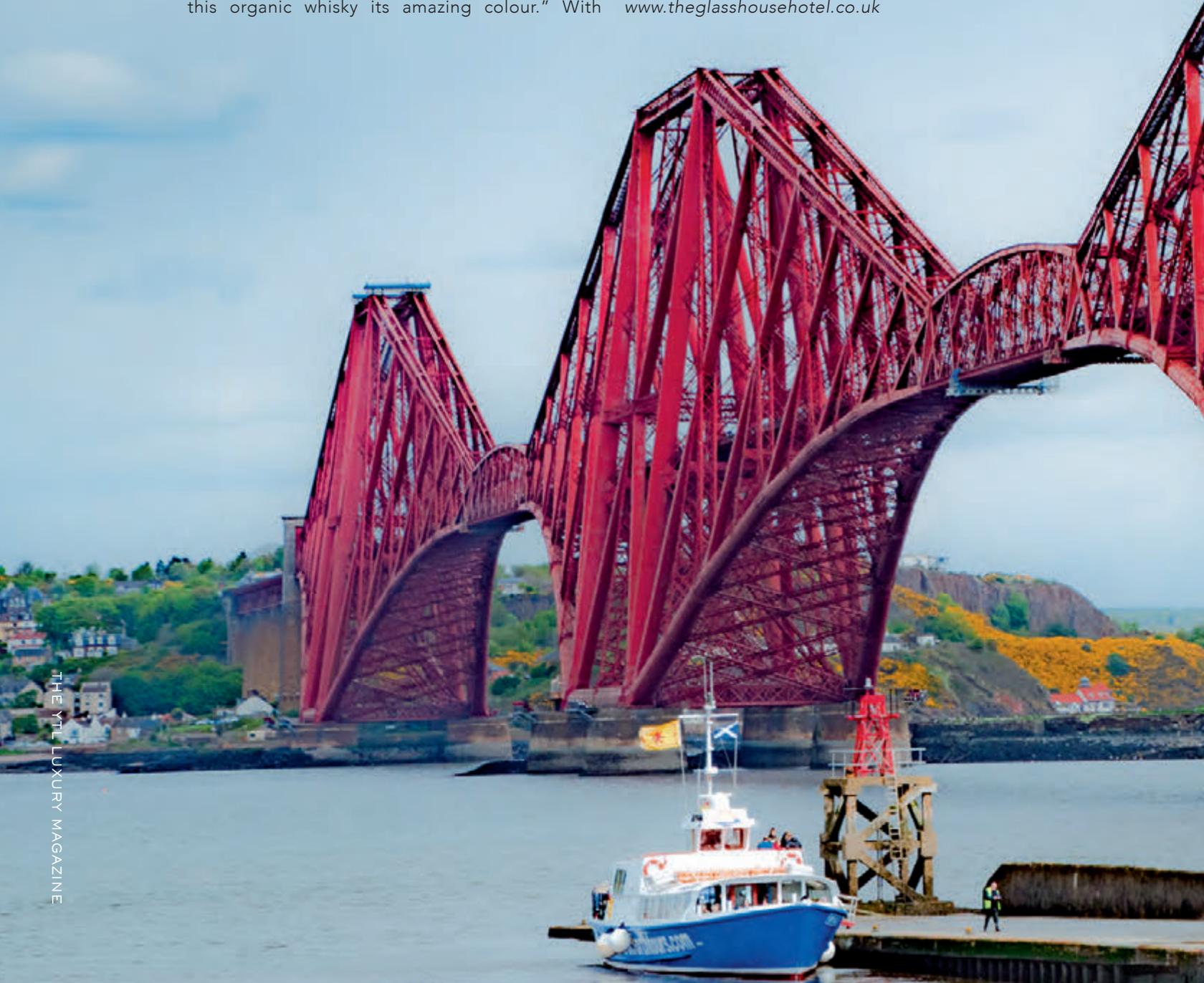
AT QUEENSFERRY JUST OUTSIDE EDINBURGH, ONE CAN ADMIRE THE THREE BRIDGES, A TRIO OF ICONS SIGNIFYING SCOTLAND'S PROGRESS FROM 1890 TO THE PRESENT.

Visiting established distilleries might seem like an attractive choice, but younger manufacturers can be just as rewarding. Deanston, established in 1966 in the Highland single malt region, is only an hour from The Glasshouse. The distillery's ambassadors, like Garry Ford, echo this youthful spirit, with warehouse tours that feel relaxed and encourage conversations. "When I'm here, I don't even feel like I'm working to be honest," jokes Ford, as he extracts whisky from a barrel labelled 'organic'. "This is one of the best whiskies we have ever made. The wood used for this is white oak, but it's seasoned by dark Fino sherry, giving this organic whisky its amazing colour." With

pleasant notes of chocolate and stewed fruit on the nose, Deanston Organic 2002 has a mild oily finish that continues to evolve the longer it stays on the palate.

On the way back to Edinburgh, other landmarks worth a visit include Stirling Castle and Linlithgow Palace, which were the main abodes of Scottish monarchs in the 15th and 16th centuries. At Queensferry just outside Edinburgh, one can admire The Three Bridges, a trio of icons signifying Scotland's progress from 1890 to the present.

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





CITY OF PEACE AND HARMONY

THE HAGUE IN SOUTH HOLLAND
IS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY WITH PLENTY OF
HISTORY AND CULTURE TO OFFER.







Hold an outdoor cocktail reception in The Hague Marriott Hotel's spacious private garden, which is ideal for corporate parties.

Words WAN PHING LIM

Along the coast of the North Sea lies The Hague, the third largest city in the Netherlands and the time-honoured seat of the Dutch government. With a long history of principedom, royalty, government and diplomacy, The Hague is one of The Netherlands' most vibrant townships, famed as a parliamentary city full of culture and heritage.

The Hague Marriott Hotel is situated a mere 10 minutes away from many landmarks, like the 13th-century Binnenhof (House of Parliament), Noordeinde Palace (one of the three official palaces of the Dutch royal family) and Peace Palace, whose library houses some of the world's largest collections of international, public and private law research.

With 306 modern rooms that exude comfort with excellent service, The Hague Marriott Hotel overlooks the lush Park Sorghvliet, where the official residence of the Prime Minister of the Netherlands is located. With an executive lounge, business centre and meeting rooms that can accommodate up to 700 guests, the hotel has

played host to many renowned global figures. The Hague Marriott Hotel is also within walking distance of the World Forum Convention Centre and a short drive from Madurodam park, with its scale models of famous landmarks. Its long history in internationalism makes The Hague a mecca of international law, global governance and security as enshrined in the city's coat of arms, Vrede en Recht (Peace and Justice). Indeed, it is the only judicial centre of the United Nations outside New York City as it seats the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

With rooms on higher floors overlooking the beautiful cityscape, it is easy to admire the leafy avenues of the city. The capital, Amsterdam, is only 50 minutes away by train or car and makes for a perfect day trip to explore its world-famous canals and historic landmarks like the Anne Frank House, Van Gogh Museum and the Rijksmuseum containing the works of Dutch masters Rembrandt and Vermeer.

For more information please visit marriott.com



THE HAGUE MARRIOTT HOTEL IS SITUATED A MERE 10 MINUTES AWAY FROM MANY LANDMARKS, LIKE THE 13TH-CENTURY BINNENHOF, NOORDEINDE PALACE AND PEACE PALACE.



Above:
Binnenhof & Ridderzaal (Inner Court & Hall of the Knights) has a visitor centre detailing the history of Dutch democracy and governance.

Right:
take a guided tour of The Hague's Peace Palace, located minutes from the hotel.

THE PLEASURES OF A BYGONE ERA

REST, EAT AND PLAY AT THE MAJESTIC HOTEL
KUALA LUMPUR, A NATIONAL HERITAGE ICON STEEPED
IN EARLY 20TH-CENTURY BRITISH COLONIAL CHARM.

Words TIEN CHEW



There's a certain charm to the way things were done in Kuala Lumpur back when the British played a part in shaping the country during the 19th and 20th centuries. The centre for glamorous social events when it opened in 1932, the 51-room Hotel Majestic, as it was known then, satisfied the demands of contemporary society. Sunday curry tiffin lunches and afternoon tea parties were the norm during the day, but at night, cocktails and star-studded acts captured guests' attention. Today, The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur expands the Hotel Majestic's size and scope while preserving its colonial ties.

Designated as a national heritage site under the Malaysian Antiquities Act, the original Hotel Majestic lives on as The Majestic Wing, a fully restored five-storey section of the hotel with suites that boast a 24-hour butler service. Rooms echo the original property's luxurious art deco nuances with timber flooring, plush carpets, and black and white tiled bathrooms with claw-footed bathtubs. The newer Tower Tower Wing, which houses 253 guestrooms and suites, is a more modern take, complementing the original building with its own contemporary vibe.

At The Colonial Café, traditional recipes ensure dishes the likes of prawn cocktail, mulligatawny soup, Hainanese chicken chop and boiled beef, are cooked just the way British officers enjoyed them. At midday, the same officers working in the tin mines and tea and rubber plantations would often take an essential afternoon tea break, a tradition still honoured at The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur's Tea Lounge and Orchid Conservatory. During dinner, musical renditions from local legends The Solianos enliven the atmosphere.

Celebrate the art of living at The Smoke House, a two-storey building embodying the delicious decadence of the 1930s. Here, vintage cocktails like Gin Pahit and single malt whiskies serve as social lubricants at the lounge and bar, manned by the personable Johnnie The Barman. There's also an intimate cigar room for quiet conversations, replete with smoking jackets, a private dining room with its own on-call chef, and a grooming room for today's discerning gentlemen.

For more information, please visit www.majestickl.com



Above:
the 47 luxurious suites in the Majestic Wing exude old world elegance.

Below:
the Bar at The Smoke House serves exceptional vintage cocktails and single malt whiskies.



THE ORIGINAL HOTEL MAJESTIC
LIVES ON AS THE MAJESTIC WING.



AT THE COLONIAL CAFÉ, TRADITIONAL RECIPES ENSURE DISHES ARE COOKED JUST THE WAY BRITISH OFFICERS ENJOYED THEM.



HARUMI SUZUKI

THE YTL LUXURY MAGAZINE

The Colonial Café offers authentic classical cuisine from the halcyon days of the colonial era.

CAMPUNG
POUR OVERS
RM 15
iced RM 15
iced RM 15
k Iced RM 15
ast tea RM 15
RM 15
ision RM 15
usion RM 15
RINKS
750ml RM 25
iced lemongrass
RM 15
RM 10

FOR SPECIAL COOKIES
Filled sweet, black sesame cookie RM 10
Filled sweet, five spice cookies RM 10
Seed, coconut, original flavour RM 10
Sweet, coconut, peanut, biscuit RM 10
Whole, biscuits RM 10
White sesame and peanut RM 10
Black sesame and peanut RM 10
Vibe biscuits sesame & spice RM 10
Infused biscuits & spice shrap RM 10
Filled sweet, savoury sesame cookie RM 10

A WALK AND A BREW

THE NEW HORNBILL CAFÉ AT PANGKOR LAUT RESORT IS A FITTING FLOURISH TO A NATURE TRAIL THAT TOOK TWO MILLION YEARS TO CRAFT.

Words KENNETH TAN





The quaint Hornbill Café is located at the base of the Hill Villas.

On the private island sanctuary that is Pangkor Laut Resort, its rainforest – which evolved over an estimated two million years – has become home to a diversity of flora and fauna including two protected wildlife species: the Great Hornbill and Sunda pangolin. The virgin rainforest is a continual source of wonder for guests venturing out of their commodious villas, with majestic hornbills arcing through the air and white-bellied sea eagles gliding overhead.

Here, amongst the 300 acres of sandy beaches and lush hilly interiors, the villas of Pangkor Laut Resort are artfully designed to blend into the natural landscape, be it among the bountiful greenery or following the curvature of its bays and coves. For guests of the Hill Villas, the trail to their rooms necessarily leads them to the central elevator, which ascends 20 metres before depositing them beneath the rainforest canopy where their villas are situated.

At the base of the villas, one finds the quaint Hornbill Café, a recent introduction to the island. This café promises lazy, contemplative afternoons over a cup of java, served in the authentic style of the coffee shops located in Ipoh on the mainland. This style of white or black coffee is made all the more flavourful with the customary addition of condensed milk, conferring a creamy consistency.

The resort offers its own blend of Arabica (a milder variant with notes of chocolate and

berries) and Robusta (a nutty, caramel blend for extra perk), with the beans specially roasted and packed for use by Pangkor Laut Resort. Another refreshing elixir is Jungle Spritz, a delicious combination of iced green tea and lemongrass, a great way to segue into your nature ramble which begins in the café's vicinity.

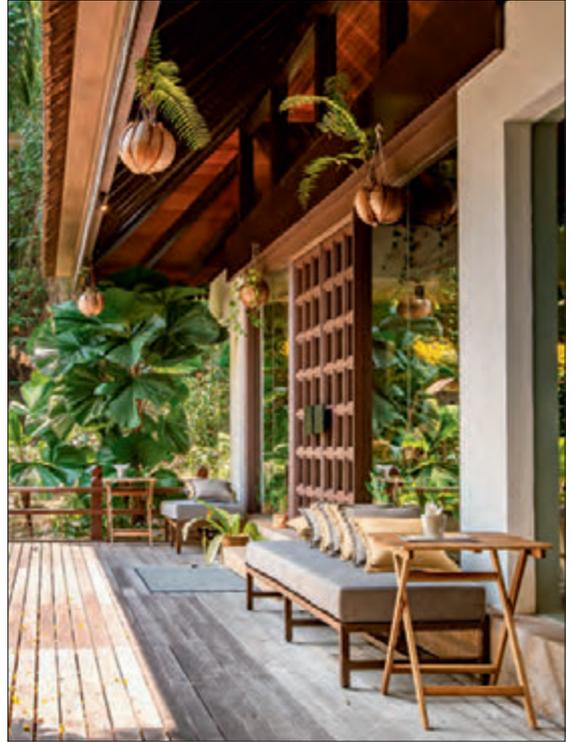
For guests, Aris – the resort's naturalist – offers an option of a steady 30-minute walk across the northern island or a one-hour trek through 2,400 metres of rainforest across the island's south, which finishes at Emerald Bay, so named for its shimmering waters. Throughout the walk, the naturalist highlights various indigenous plant species that have thrived in the forest's near-pristine state; from immensely useful rattan trees to the red-listed 30 metre Keruing tree.

Back at Hornbill Café, an occupied nesting box guarantees the sighting of a male hornbill returning with food. In a similar vein, should hunger pangs strike the viewer of this wildlife rhapsody, the Café offers teatime treats such as passion fruit and pandan financiers, marble brownies and calamansi tea cakes, created by the resorts' own pastry team. Here, the aromas of the coffee mingle with the verdant scent of the outdoors, a promise fulfilled of an afternoon spent witnessing some of the animal kingdom's finest theatre.

For more information please visit pangkorlautresort.com



Authentic Ipoh-style coffee, restful nooks and hornbill sightings – what more could one ask for on a relaxing vacation?



AT HORNBILL CAFÉ,
AN OCCUPIED
NESTING BOX
GUARANTEES THE
SIGHTING OF A MALE
HORNBILL RETURNING
WITH FOOD.





HATCHING A GRAND PLAN

THE GAYA ISLAND RESORT MARINE CENTRE, THE CRADLE OF MARINE CONSERVATION IN EAST MALAYSIA, SHARES A SLICE OF ITS VALUABLE UNDERWATER INITIATIVES.

Words JADE KANDILIS





Gaya Island Resort's resident marine biologist, Scott Mayback, operates a turtle rescue programme that sees to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sea turtles that the resort receives from the Sabah Wildlife Department.

Sabah, fondly known as the Land Below the Wind, is regarded as a mystical gem east of Peninsular Malaysia. Its capital city Kota Kinabalu is the gateway to tropical islands shrouded by rainforest and surrounded by gorgeous marine life thanks to their geographical vantage. Locals are a melting pot of cultures; a culmination of indigenous tribes and migrants hailing from a storied past.

Just a few kilometres offshore from Kota Kinabalu is the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park. Pulau Gaya, the largest island among a cluster of five within that park, is home to Gaya Island Resort, a luxury resort intent on honouring nature and preserving its marine wildlife.

Gaya Island Resort Marine Centre is committed to three conservation pillars: turtle rescue, coral reef restoration and conservation through education. Guests of the resort can observe the dedicated team at work or participate in

the varied programmes, which range from learning about the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sea turtles, to engaging in coral reef transplant and getting involved in the centre's outreach activities.

Since its launch, Gaya Island Marine Centre has rescued, treated and rehabilitated numerous green sea turtles and endangered Hawksbill turtles under the observant eye of its resident marine biologist, Scott Mayback.

The centre also hosts a coral nursery where the harvest of coral fragments takes place before they are returned to natural reefs. It's a move to rejuvenate the increasingly fragile ecosystem.

Through its Marine Centre, Gaya Island Resort has fully embraced its proactive role, spearheading conservation programmes to preserve the beauty of its natural surroundings.

For more information, please visit gayaislandresort.com

GAYA ISLAND RESORT MARINE CENTRE IS COMMITTED TO THREE CONSERVATION PILLARS: TURTLE RESCUE, CORAL REEF RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION.



BEFITTING BUSINESS STANDARDS

VISTANA HOTELS ACROSS MALAYSIA ARE THE IDEAL LOCALE TO HOLD BUSINESS CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS IN PRACTICAL COMFORT.



VISTANA HOTELS ARE SITUATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY
TO THE ENERGETIC BUSINESS DISTRICTS OF
KUALA LUMPUR, PENANG AND KUANTAN.



All three Vistana properties have everything you need to make your event a resounding success.

Words WAN PHING LIM

Vistana Hotels are Malaysia's value business hotels, ideally situated in close proximity to the energetic business districts of Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kuantan. A five-minute drive to Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) and a two-minute walk to Titiwangsa Monorail Station, Vistana Kuala Lumpur Titiwangsa features 12 meeting rooms and a 330-person versatile banquet room that can cater for all industries and functions.

Up north, Vistana Penang Bukit Jambul is only a 10-minute drive to Penang International Airport, the Bayan Lepas Free Trade Zone and SPICE Convention Centre – making it suitable for seminars, exhibitions or company dinners with its array of

10 meeting rooms and a 500-seat pillarless ballroom. On the east coast, Vistana Kuantan City Centre is ideal for corporate events thanks to its convenient location for businesses in the Indera Mahkota Industrial Area and Gebeng Industrial Area. Its variety of seven meeting rooms and a 480-seat ballroom benefit international standards.

With free Wi-Fi throughout the premises, a 24-hour business centre, grab-and-go coffee bar, comfortable rooms and, most importantly, brisk and efficient service, each event is sure to be a success. Our meeting planners are ever ready to assist you with Vistana's vibrance, verve and values.

For more information please visit www.vistanahotels.com



THE SPACE BETWEEN US

A BRILLIANT COMBINATION OF HIP, SOPHISTICATED SOCIAL SPACES WITH A SLICK INNER-CITY VIBE MAKES HOTEL STRIPES KUALA LUMPUR A TERRIFIC VENUE AT WHICH TO PLAN AND HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT.

Words RENYI LIM



Any event held at Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur is bound to be a memorable success thanks to its array of unique spaces and the professional services of its dedicated events team.



Experienced event organisers – even non-professional ones – will no doubt agree that when it comes to putting together a knockout party, the primary rule is almost identical to the one you use for real estate: location, location, location. With that in mind, Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur is perfectly located in the centre of Malaysia’s capital along Jalan Kamunting, without being penned in by neighbouring buildings and skyscrapers.

That means all the pluses of a luxury hotel in the city centre, minus the ferocious snarls of traffic or obstructed views of Kuala Lumpur’s skyline. Within Hotel Stripes are five versatile event spaces. There are three meeting studios, collectively referred to as Studio S/T/R/I/P/E, ranging between 50 square metres and 80 square metres, with a capacity of between 15 and 80 people.

For more ambitious events, particularly those that extend from day to night, there’s The Snug, which accommodates a maximum of 120 people. Hotly in demand, The Snug has hosted numerous events including pop-up fashion affairs, a Montblanc launch as well as a two-day event by the opulent batik house Pink Jambu, during which the brand showcased its tenun collection and held a dinner with Her Majesty Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah, The Raja Permaisuri Agong XVI and The Tengku Ampuan of Pahang.

There’s much to be made of the city’s colourful sunsets at Man Tao Rooftop Bar, where up to 100 people can make merry with music, drinks and a 360-degree panoramic view. Not only is it a scenic setting for post-meeting cocktails, movie premiers, product launches and birthday or anniversary parties, the outdoor urban roof

WITHIN HOTEL STRIPES ARE FIVE VERSATILE EVENT SPACES, WHICH RANGE FROM THREE MEETING STUDIOS TO THE SNUG AND MAN TAO ROOFTOP BAR.



garden also offers a unique Sizzling Sunday barbecue every week.

Best of all, you don’t have to be an expert at organising events as Hotel Stripes’ dedicated professionals will work closely with you to ensure your event runs smoothly. Just think of it as an inspiring, multifunctional space where the only limit is your imagination.

For more information, please visit www.stripeskl.com



INTO THE BLUE

WHY TENGGOL AND ITS MARVELLOUS
UNDERWATER BOTANIC GARDENS
ARE PENINSULA MALAYSIA'S BEST-KEPT
DIVING SECRET.

Words SAM YEN



Peer out the window of your room at Tanjong Jara Resort and you'll see the endless expanse of the South China Sea shimmering under rippling sunlight. A spectrum of brilliant blue hues, it seems to be beckoning you to wander along the golden grains that form the East Coast resort's sweeping beach or to dip into the sun-warmed seawater. And why stop there? There are treasures to be discovered; beyond this shoreline, underneath those waves.

You might be tempted to think that these pristine beaches and quiet villages – like Terengganu's Kuala Dungun, where Tanjong Jara Resort is located – mark the easternmost physical points of Peninsula Malaysia. But beyond these shores lie islands strung out like individual pearls running north to south. One such island is Tenggol, the last in a chain that includes the more famous Perhentian and Redang.

Obscurity has its benefits. Only 2km wide and 3km long, Tenggol has managed to avoid the concentration of commercial activity that has swamped its cousins. The tranquil and beautiful beach is dotted with a few chalets and shacks, but to find treasure, you must go look for it.

Diving season in Tenggol runs from March to October, peaking in May to August when the monsoons recede and the sea settles into a crystal-clear spectacular. With over 25 dive sites in a short range, the variety is astounding. At the beginner-friendly Turtle Point, keep an eye out for hungry green or hawksbill turtles lazily chomping away in between briars of wicked-looking staghorn coral. Take your time exploring Rajawali Cave, where every reef patch could be home to an incredibly beautiful – and incredibly tiny – nudibranch sea slug. Challenge yourself with the Five Sisters, a series of five shipwrecks that in death have become a new reef for grateful underwater fauna.





Don't forget to look out into the blue once in a while. Tenggol's location at the confluence of tides means that there is always plenty of microscopic food floating around. Big food means big fish. So larger pelagic species like manta rays and whale sharks sometimes step into the spotlight.

It might not feel like it at the time, but diving is hard work, which is why Tenggol is best experienced with Tanjong Jara Resort's Tenggol Divers' Delight Package. This includes two daily dives over two days and a hearty barbecue lunch in between to replenish. The package also includes a complimentary 50-minute couples massage, a perfect way to ease the muscles after all that swimming.

With recreation and rest sorted, isn't it time you experienced Malaysia's best-kept diving secret?

For more information, please visit www.tanjongjararesort.com

Tenggol Island, part of Terengganu Marine Park, is famous for its white sandy beaches, untouched coral gardens and diverse marine life.



THE HOLLYWOOD PACKAGE

WELLNESS AND FITNESS ARE EMBRACED AT THE JW MARRIOTT KUALA LUMPUR WITH FLYCLIMB, A WORKOUT THAT IS SAID TO SHAPE THE TONED PHYSIQUE OF TINSELTOWN'S STARS.

Words TIEN CHEW



The Wet Lounge has a whirlpool and plunge pool for a relaxing post-workout soak.

How does one achieve the proportional physique of a Hollywood superstar? Leave it to the JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur to pioneer a first in the city. The Happening Hotel has introduced a new type of workout class to its fitness line-up, partnering with FlyProject to offer Asia's first dedicated 'group' VersaClimber class.

Called FlyClimb, this low-impact cardio programme uses vertical climbing machines to improve athletic conditioning, burning calories and strengthening all major muscle groups without unnecessarily straining the body. Touted as "Hollywood's hottest celebrity workout", one may expect to climb an average height of between 3,000 feet and 6,500 feet and burn 660 calories within 30 minutes – the standard duration of a class.

FlyClimb's classes are built around music, curated by motivational instructors and bolstered by surround sound systems and LED lighting. The music plays

a big role, with a pulsating vibe of rhythms to help participants sync to the beat. Both beginners as well as the more experienced climbers will find plenty to work on, with the intensity and move set scaling up in difficulty.

To further tone those muscles and accelerate calorie burn, the hotel's gymnasium offers a full range of Technogym cardiovascular exercise equipment – treadmills, bikes and elliptical machines – as well as a variety of strength and weight machines.

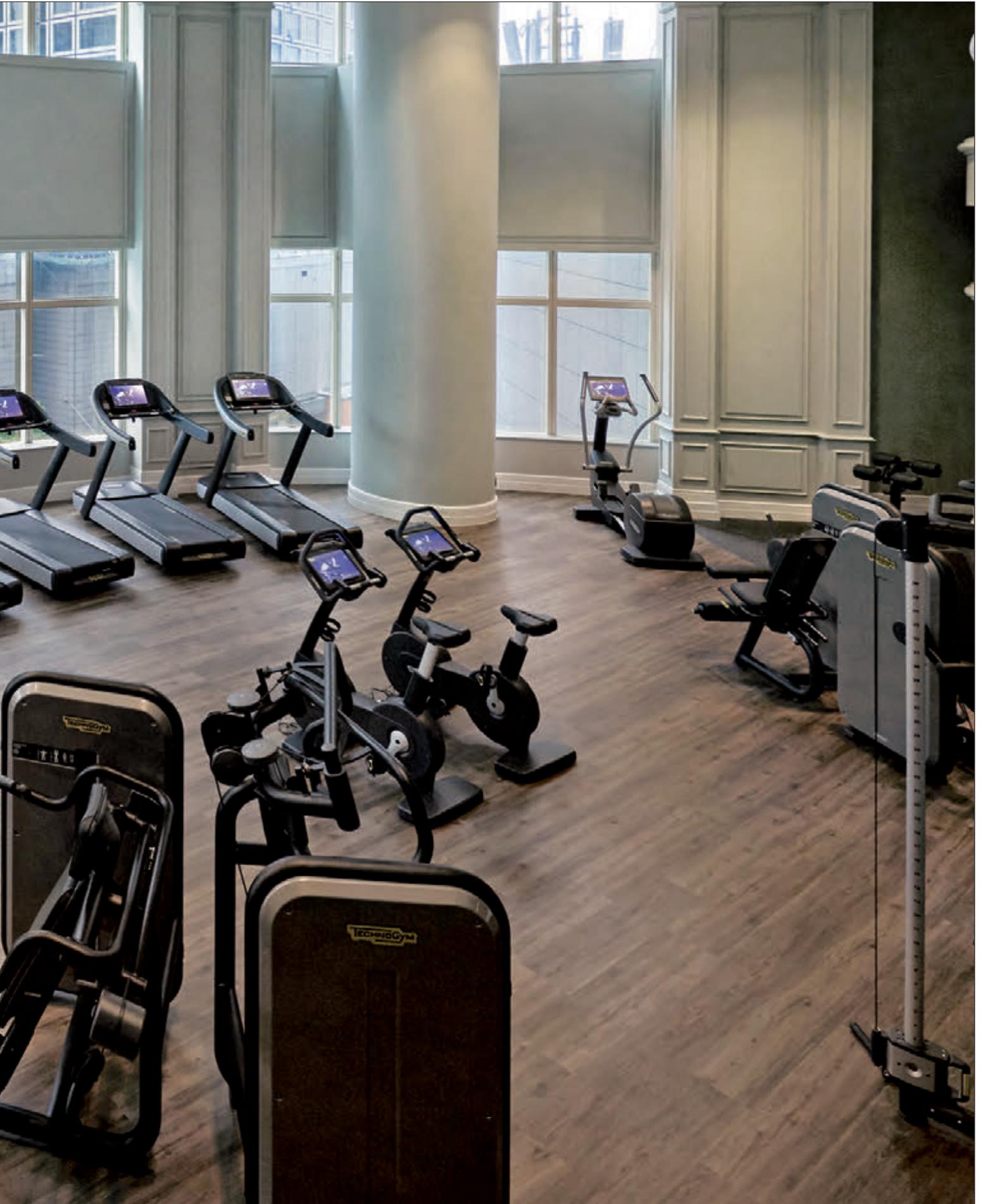
Those so inclined may wish to cool down at the adjacent Wet Lounge, so named for its variety of hydro-based amenities – a whirlpool, plunge pool, steam room and a sauna.

If you prefer a circuit of laps, the outdoor pool is just the spot, with the pool bar offering light refreshments to help with winding down from the day's workout.

For more information, please visit www.jwmarriott.com

TO FURTHER TONE
THOSE MUSCLES AND
ACCELERATE CALORIE
BURN, THE HOTEL'S
GYM OFFERS A FULL
RANGE OF TECHNOGYM
CARDIOVASCULAR
EXERCISE EQUIPMENT.





THE DAZZLE OF KRISTANG

COMPLEX AND PROFUSE IN SPICES, A MEAL
ROOTED IN PORTUGUESE AND EURASIAN
CULTURES BROADENS DINERS' TASTE BUDS AND
THEIR APPRECIATION FOR CULINARY GEMS.

Words JADE KANDILIS





Above: Alvin Kessler, the Comprador at The Majestic Malacca, is on a mission to introduce his Kristang roots to guests. Below: *sagu kung Sukri Malaka*.



“Did you know that the keluak nut is poisonous when eaten raw?” asks Alvin Kessler, the amiable Comprador of The Majestic Malacca. We are seated in The Mansion restaurant, tasting an array of dishes invoking Malacca’s cultural heritage. Using a narrow toothpick-like spoon, Alvin extracts a black paste from the nut, spreads it over his rice and takes a mouthful. I follow suit and am blown away by its rich and slightly tangy taste profile.

Alvin is one of the few descendants of the original Portuguese-Eurasian settlers left in Malacca, whose iconic presence has become a hallmark. There’s no better way to satisfy one’s curiosity about Malacca’s cuisine than with authentic Kristang dishes served here, their recipes passed on through generations of Kristang families. I start with the *inchimintu*

NO EXPERIENCE OF KRISTANG CUISINE IS COMPLETE UNTIL YOU TRY THE SPECIALITIES.

karangezu (baked stuffed crab). While I nibble on the golden morsels of crab, chicken, prawn and vegetables, and perceive oriental nuances, Alvin tells me about the dishes. “Kristang cuisine is heavy with local influences, rich in stews, seafood and pork. Rice is a staple,” he explains. The *kari keluak* comes next, tender braised chicken stewed in a hearty curry, eaten with rice-lathered keluak. *Sambal kambrang* arrives, sautéed juicy prawns drenched in a thick and mildly fiery sauce. How common are Kristang dishes and how authentic are they? I wonder aloud, polishing off a second serving. “We are one step ahead in serving only genuine Kristang cuisine and it has become a signature offering here,” Alvin confirms.

My favourite is *soy limang terung* (eggplant). Thinly sliced wedges are twice-fried until the flesh becomes soft and the skin is lightly crisp, before a gravy of soy sauce, tamarind, onions and lime is poured over the dish.

“You must have dessert,” Alvin recommends, and gets me a *sagu kung Sukri Malaka*. The coconut milk enhances the silkiness of the sago pearls, but the crowning joy is a burnt caramel sweetness of melted palm sugar.

Food is a universal language and no experience of Kristang cuisine is complete until you encounter the bold impressions of the specialities for yourself.

For more information, please visit www.majesticmalacca.com



Clockwise from top: *inchimintu karangezu* (baked stuffed crab); pineapple prawn sambal; soy *limang terung*.





A TRIBUTE WITH TEA

THE JIM THOMPSON TEA ROOM AT CAMERON HIGHLANDS RESORT PRESERVES THE BRITISH COLONIAL TRADITION OF AFTERNOON TEA IN A MOST ELEGANT MANNER.

Words JADE KANDILIS



THE HOME-BAKED SCONES ARE LEGENDARY HERE, SO TAKE YOUR TIME BY FIRST SLICING THEM IN HALF, THEN SLATHERING ON THE HOMEMADE STRAWBERRY JAM.



At 1,500 metres above sea level, Cameron Highlands Resort was built as an extension of an existing 1930s cottage, where traditional English charm meets warm Asian hospitality.

A weekend trip to Cameron Highlands is always a good idea for those who want a scenic escape from city life. British planters from the colonial era first discovered the cool weather of the Highlands that mimics their homeland and turned it into a retreat mirroring the pretty English countryside, complete with tea plantations and cool-climate crops like strawberries.

Among some of the traditions passed down to modern-day Malaysia is afternoon tea. British explorers considered it an indulgent pastime to sit down for a light nibble of dainty finger food accompanied by a pot of tea, between lunch and dinner.

What makes afternoon tea even more special is its emphasis on the proper etiquette, from the right way of taking tea to assembling your scone.

At Cameron Highlands Resort, the Jim Thompson Tea Room is the best place to soak

in the authentic experience of that bygone era. Here, the tradition is carried on with an elegant, tiered afternoon tea set that's as prettily presented as it is delicious. Each item on the delicate china plates is made from ingredients grown in the Highlands.

As etiquette dictates, start with the generously filled sandwiches before tucking into the savoury pastries and sweet, light-as-air delights. The home-baked scones are legendary here, so take your time by first slicing them in half, then slathering on the homemade strawberry jam – a must as it's one of the famous finds in the Highlands. Top with Devonshire clotted cream and you have yourself a slice of buttery goodness tinged with fruity sweetness. A mandatory complement to the delightful meal is the fabled Cameron Highlands tea – add milk first, if you must.

For more information, please visit www.cameronhighlandsresort.com



A RITZY WEDDING

THE RITZ-CARLTON, KUALA LUMPUR OFFERS CHINESE WEDDING OPTIONS THAT COVER EVERYTHING YOU'LL NEED FOR THE BIGGEST DAY OF YOUR LIFE.

Words TIEN CHEW

Your wedding is an incredibly important life moment, so it's fair to expect the best. Celebrate in style at The Banquet Hall at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur, which can seat up to 330 people across 486 square metres. You will be assigned a dedicated Wedding Butler to serve as your point of contact, helping you with everything from food tasting, floral arrangements and decorations to your departure after the ceremony.

Choose from a selection of Chinese wedding

packages, with the Puttin' On The Ritz package offering the grandest experience. On your big day, there's a feast for the senses – a canapés and barbecue hors d'ouvres during the welcome reception, a resplendent nine-course Chinese dinner and a Moët & Chandon champagne fountain, to name a few. The Private Room, a 261-square-metre space, is at your disposal for the tea ceremony. Your Wedding Butler will ensure you enjoy the impeccable hospitality and attention to detail synonymous with The Ritz-Carlton. The Puttin' On The Ritz package even



**YOUR WEDDING BUTLER
WILL ENSURE YOU
ENJOY THE IMPECCABLE
HOSPITALITY AND
ATTENTION TO DETAIL
SYNONYMOUS WITH
THE RITZ-CARLTON.**

offers a night's stay stay for the newlyweds in the luxurious Penthouse suite, along with two deluxe rooms and your choice of afternoon tea or Sunday roast for 20 people.

Your big day doesn't end at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur as a honeymoon in Thailand awaits. The package comes with return flights and transfers to The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui for a romantic three-night stay in an Ultimate Pool Villa. A 60-minute couple's treatment at Spa Village Koh Samui is also included, along with a private three-course dinner prepared just for you by your personal chef on your Villa terrace.

For more information, please visit
ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur





ISLAND BITES

THE RITZ-CARLTON, KOH SAMUI'S
DINING VENUES ENSURE YOU'LL NEVER
GO HUNGRY ON VACATION.

Words RENYI LIM

Dine outdoors in a casual beachfront setting at Sea Salt Deck.



The excitement of being in a foreign land with different foods and exotic flavours is just one of the allures of vacationing at The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui. Six distinct restaurants offer a dizzying array of cuisines and gastronomic treats at the resort, ranging from quintessential Thai dishes to flame-grilled steaks. Here are some favourites.

SEA SALT DECK

Situated at the resort's stunning pool, Sea Salt Deck is only a short stroll from your deckchair. The casual beachfront setting goes hand-in-hand with classic Thai dishes (the green papaya som tum salad is a must). Grilled freshly caught seafood is a highlight of the evenings, along with a daring fire show on Mondays. For dessert, cool off with a scoop of coconut ice cream, served in a shell with peanuts and sticky rice.



TIDES UPPER DECK

Soak in the ocean views from up high as you sip on one of Tides' island-inspired cocktails, such as Bangrak Pier – a heady concoction of Diplomatico Planas rum, Campari, lemongrass syrup, and lime and pineapple juice. Citrus-cured ceviche, crudos and tiraditos make superb accompaniments, while the grilled Kurobuta pork tenderloin and rock lobster antichuchos provide substantial padding for your next cocktail.

SOAK IN THE OCEAN VIEWS FROM UP HIGH AS YOU SIP ON ONE OF TIDES' ISLAND-INSPIRED COCKTAILS.



AFTERNOON TEA AT THE PEAK

Enjoy the charming English tradition of afternoon tea in style at the highest point of The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui. Take your pick of the finest Dilmah loose-leaf teas, with the option of a tea-inspired cocktail or a glass of Bollinger Special Cuvée champagne. Delights include rose, lychee and raspberry macarons, house-baked scones with Devonshire cream, and compressed local watermelon with feta cheese and mint.





THE RANCH AT SHOOK!

You can't leave The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui without visiting the steakhouse for dinner. Diners can select their own cuts of steak and have them cooked to their liking, whether it's a bone-in strip steak from Kansas City or a whole kilogramme of Wagyu porterhouse. The sides provide a Thai twist, especially if you've never had stir-fried morning glories or grilled sticky rice with your meat, partnered with a stellar wine from The Ranch's cellar.



IN A FESTIVE MOOD

JAPAN'S FAMILY HOLIDAY HAVEN NISEKO WELCOMES THE SUMMER SOLSTICE IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY THROUGH FESTIVALS CENTRED AROUND THE GREAT WEATHER AND LONG DAYS OF SUNLIGHT.

Words TIEN CHEW

Come summertime, popular family holiday destination Hokkaido warms up to offer travellers new ways to enjoy the lush nature the prefecture is blessed with. From June to September, the famous ski resort Niseko Village trades snow for emerald waves of grass, breathtaking floral beds and clear rivers. Soaking in an onsen to the soothing hymn of cicadas, hiking up picturesque Mount Yotei and indulging in some of the world's best seafood are essential bucket list items during your summer stay here.

The island's allure in summer is sweetened by the plethora of Japanese *matsuri* (festivals), which intersperse the long summer days with exciting highlights. On 14 July, Niseko Village gears up for an outdoor celebration



Slide across stunning landscapes at adrenaline junkie speeds.



ABOVE: SHAFIQ ANAK SALEH

with the Niko Niko Niseko Village Festival. Families staying at the Hilton Niseko Village and The Green Leaf Niseko Village can take a short walk to enjoy the festivities, with delicious offerings from local food vendors, games and crafts for kids, as well as live performances by local musicians.

From 26 to 28 July, balmy afternoons set the stage for the Niseko Yoga Festival, a three-day event led by yogis to celebrate nature and yoga. Stretch and unwind outdoors with the majestic Mount Yotei in full view, and let the cool breeze and sounds of summer soothe the mind. The Niseko Summer Art Festival is also slated to make a return in the first week of August.



Above: summer in Niseko Village is warm and pleasant with mild temperatures and low humidity.

**ENJOY THE APPETISING
AROMA OF YAKISOBA
(FRIED NOODLES) WAFTING
THROUGH THE AIR.**

Expect Japanese artists, both established names and rising stars, to put on a grand show of a range of visual arts. No summer vacation in Japan is complete without a stunning display of *hanabi* (fireworks) and the annual Niseko Town Tanabata Fireworks Festival on 3 August will feature a grand spectacle with over 1,500 fireworks. Don your *yukata* (summer kimono), buy the family a round of soft serve and enjoy the appetising aroma of *yakisoba* (fried noodles) wafting through the air.

For more information, please visit niseko-village.com





Below: Niseko Village offers something for everyone, from traditional handicrafts and food to gorgeous flora.



FAR RIGHT: JEREMY LAI



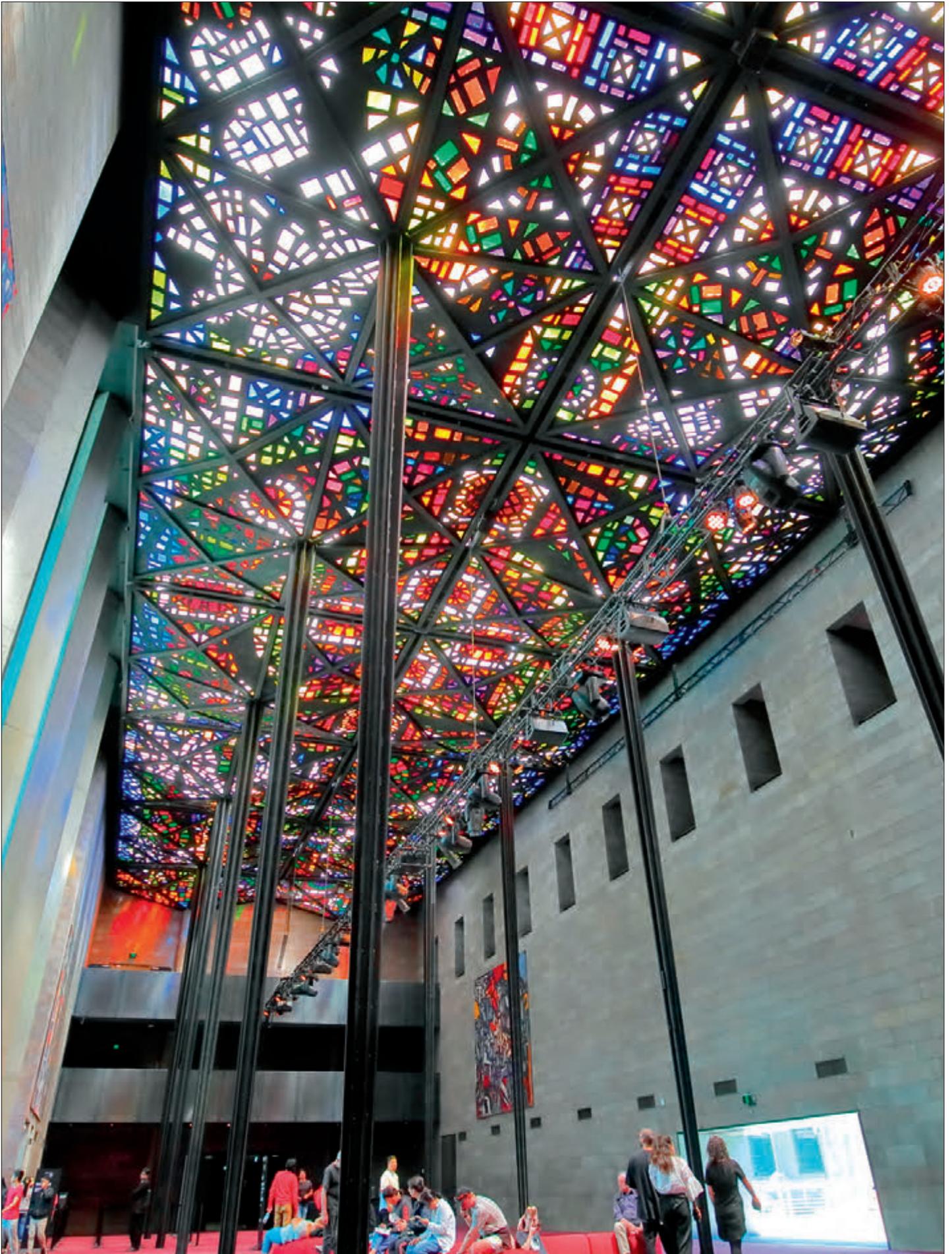
THE YTL LUXURY MAGAZINE

A MELBOURNE MINUTE



EXPLORE THE RICHNESS OF AUSTRALIAN CULTURE,
WORLD-CLASS COFFEE AND A TREASURE TROVE OF
ARTISTIC DISPLAYS ALL WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF
THE MELBOURNE MARRIOTT HOTEL.

Words TIEN CHEW





Recharge in the gorgeously appointed rooms and suites or go exploring in Melbourne Central or at State Library Victoria.

We are led to believe that a minute in New York is fast and precious. In Melbourne, a minute is best spent enjoying the moment. The charm of Melbourne is manifold, made vibrant by the various cultures that colour the city. Consistently ranking high on 'world's best' lists, Melbourne is a crossroads of art, cuisines and celebrations that offers something for everyone, whatever your fancy. Especially if you're here to sample the wine and looking for places to dine.

In the heart of the city, there's The Melbourne Marriott, a luxury cosmopolitan hotel ideally positioned for exploring. Situated a few minutes away are Princess Theatre, Her Majesty's Theatre and Regent Theatre, while hopping on a tram will quickly get you to art haven National Gallery of Victoria as well as bustling Melbourne Central and the inspiring State Library Victoria.

**HOPPING ON A TRAM
WILL QUICKLY GET YOU
TO ART HAVEN NATIONAL
GALLERY OF VICTORIA
AS WELL AS BUSTLING
MELBOURNE CENTRAL
AND THE INSPIRING
STATE LIBRARY VICTORIA.**

For nature lovers, there's the Royal Botanical Gardens to explore, perfect for a relaxing daytime picnic by the Yarra River or a midday stroll. For cafe hoppers, there are plenty of famously quirky coffee shops to appease your need for quality caffeine and pastries. And for just about anyone, there are many restaurants to visit, markets to shop at, wineries to tour and penguins to see. Not to mention the popular beaches nearby. You get the picture.

Adjourn to The Melbourne Marriott Hotel in the evening and pay a visit to the vibrant lounge to lift your spirits with a couple of cocktails, or dive into the heated indoor saltwater pool to relax and unwind. The hotel's location is so central that it makes it easy to return for a little R&R from sightseeing, shopping and discovering the little nooks and crannies that bring the city to life.

For more information please visit www.marriott.com.au



Board one of the many rivercraft at Southgate or Princes Walk or travel along the Yarra in your own boat to visit attractions such as the Royal Botanical Gardens.



BALI HIGH

FROM CREATURE COMFORTS TO EXCELLENT ADVENTURES,
SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI HAS IT ALL.

Words JASON TAN



**DAY 1**

We embark northeast from Denpasar airport in our Indo-Japanese MPV customised for Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali. I've met some great Indonesians, but never a driver like Mr A, whose affable nature made the long ride more pleasant. We climb higher on ribbons of tarmac made for close shaves, and catch sight of a smoking Mount Agung, the sacred active volcano, from across petite paddy fields and plantations. "It rumbled again yesterday," says Mr A.

It's my first visit to Indonesia. Like Phuket and Koh Samui, Bali is a byword for 'paradise', so I've avoided Google to keep expectations from messing with reality. Once we broke free from Denpasar in the south, Bali became fecund and splendid. I am taken by how compact and almost bespoke the villages are, featuring a geometrically similar architecture of courtyards, open-air places of worship and schools. Their relationship with the earth's contours appears calculated; all the built elements are aesthetically proportionate and seemingly feng shui-compliant. I spot papaya, banana and coconut trees on one parcel of land. "And durian and mangosteen," points out Mr A.

I ARRIVE AT THE ADULT-ONLY SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI GREETED BY A GENTLE SEA BREEZE AND FLORAL AROMAS.

We pass scenes of primordial creation; "a lava river", explains Mr A, made by the flow of molten rock. It's a glimpse into a big bang from way back; rebirth, fresh from the cauldron; ashen, rugged, raw; like the cavernous interiors of the planet turned inside out, rolling and toasting its way around the hills.

I arrive at the adult-only Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali greeted by a gentle sea breeze and floral aromas. The luxury resort has 27 deluxe rooms, two suites and two villas, and offers 800 square metres of authentic Balinese living.

DAY 2

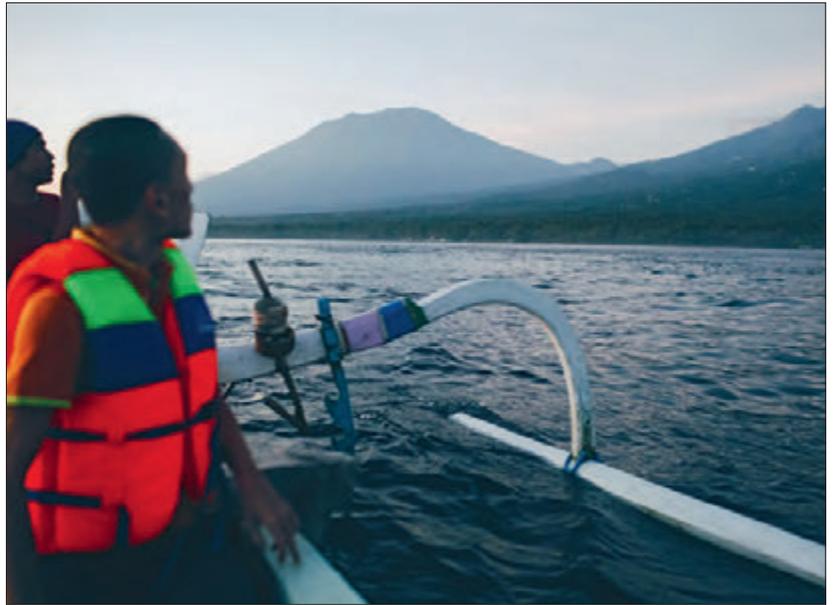
The hotel's receptionist has just given me the gentlest and most patient of wake-up calls for the sunrise cruise. My mission: to see dolphins in the Bali Sea. I walked the black-sand beach yesterday as big waves, called *gelombang*, pulled the ground from under my feet; I'm looking forward to

this. But alas, the skipper doesn't see the roiling seas subsiding. He postpones our mission.

DAY 3

The perks of travelling far from Bali's tourist hubs in the south are priceless. Desa Les is far from the Instagramming crowd and has one of the highest waterfalls, Air Terjun Yeh Mempeh. But it's only a quick drive from Spa Village Resort. If I get on my bike, I could take the 45-minute scenic route but I'm a city bumpkin.

The hiking trail, maintained by the villagers of Les, is quite *Eat, Pray, Love* (cute lodgings, hip desserts, adventure seekers) mixed with big rocks, roots and giant bamboo shoots. We get to the top in 15 minutes. There's no one else here. It's spectacular. I feel awed and small in the presence of nature's power and beauty.



Note to self: next time, get on your bike and cancel all other plans.

For single travellers like myself, Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali offers a Solo Adventure package that allows you to get in tune with yourself through meditation, spa treatments and various activities and experiences within the resort.

DAY 4

I make a last-ditch attempt to meet the dolphins. It's pitch dark and the sea gods are no longer angry. Our *jukung*, a canoe with outriggers, looks as unsinkable as a water skimmer. I'm reassured. The majestic animals don't appear despite all my efforts at telepathy. But the sun has risen. Mount Agung is illuminated.

For more information, please visit www.spavillageresort.com

The gentle spirituality of Bali and its rich culture infuses every encounter at Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali.



THE PERKS OF TRAVELLING
FAR FROM BALI'S
TOURIST HUBS IN THE
SOUTH ARE PRICELESS.

LIFE MOMENTS





12 THINGS TO DO WHEN STAYING AT MUSE SAINT TROPEZ

THIS VACATION HOTSPOT ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA IS NOTHING SHORT OF QUAIN. HERE ARE 12 THINGS TO DO IF YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THIS ONCE-QUIET FISHING VILLAGE.

Words SASHA GEORGE



1. EXPLORE PLACE DES LICES

Saint Tropez's legendary and very charming central square is studded with plane trees, cafés and pétanque players. Simply sitting at a café terrace watching the world go by or jostling with the crowds at its twice-weekly (Tuesdays and Saturdays) market extravaganza, jam-packed with everything from fresh fruit and vegetables to antique mirrors and sandals, is an integral part of the Saint-Tropez experience.

2. ENJOY THE VIEWS AT VIEUX PORT

This harbour is the very heart of Saint Tropez. After Brigitte Bardot made the port town as famous as she was in the 1956 film *And God Created Woman*, the harbour is where the jet set can be still be seen lounging alongside idyllic fishing boats and Mediterranean houses.

3. MEANDER THROUGH THE OLD TOWN (LA PONCHE)

History meets hustle and bustle at one of Saint Tropez's most picturesque areas. Stroll along the cobblestoned streets of La Ponche, as the locals call it, and get yourself lost browsing small artisanal shops and boutiques. There's also a tiny beach with stunning views of the Sea Alps.

4. CITY VIEWS AT THE CITADEL

The Citadelle de Saint Tropez is 400 years old and was originally built as a fortress. Its dungeons now house a maritime museum where you can learn about the lives of the locals who lived and fought on the seas.



This and facing pages: celebrities, glamour, luxury, tranquility – Saint Tropez has it all, and then some.





4



5

5. APPRECIATE ART AT MUSÉE DE L'ANNONCIADE

Built by monks in 1510, this building is now the location of an art museum with works by the likes of Henri Matisse and Paul Signac. The works of art on display are mostly by artists who lived and worked in Saint Tropez and are testament to its avant-garde past.

6. GET SPOTTED AT PAMPELONNE BEACH

The go-to spot to see and be seen, the white sandy beaches of the Pampelonne bay draw celebrities by the flock. Head on over to Club 55, the site Brigitte Bardot and her film crew made famous as their lunch spot.



6

7. SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH AT LA TARTE TROPÉZIENNE

A polish baker designed a new dessert in the 1950s based on the French brioche and his grandmother's recipe. When Alexandre Micka was then asked to cater for Brigitte Bardot's film, the eponymous tart was given a name and is now Saint Tropez's best-loved dessert.

8. HIKE THE SENTIER DU LITTORAL

One of the best coastline paths in the south of France will take you through rugged but beautiful terrain. Journey through pine- and juniper-covered paths and crystal-clear rock pools. After that, relax your muscles at the exclusive La Tente by Spa Village which is serenely tucked away in an

open-air luxury tent in the gardens of MUSE Saint Tropez and uses organic ingredients sourced from the region.

9. BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT MUSÉE DE LA GENDARMERIE ET DU CINÉMA

A museum of police and cinema might seem like an odd combination but there is a charming reason for that. The façade of this former police station has been used in numerous films, particularly a much-loved series of comedies about the Gendarmes of Saint Tropez.

10. VISIT CHAPPELLE SAINTE-ANNE FOR SOME ROMANCE

Romantics and Rolling Stones fans will be thrilled to know that Mick Jagger married Bianca Jagger in 1971 in this enchanting 17th-century chapel.

11. CRUISE THE SEAS AND TAKE A BOAT OUT

Everyone who visits Saint Tropez knows that this is the heart of the Cote d’Azur and what better way to explore its coastal areas than by boat? Options range from yacht charters to day trips to popular coastal towns like Cannes and the Lerins islands.

12. GET YOUR DANCING SHOES ON

Saint Tropez enjoys a buzzing nightlife. Two unmissable locations for those in search of a thriving night scene are Les Caves du Roy, a historic nightclub, and the VIP Room. Both venues boast all the glitz and glamour you would expect in Saint Tropez.

For more information, please visit www.muse-hotels.com



7



8



10



9



11

This and facing pages:
your itinerary may be packed with visits to romantic seaside spots and indulging in desserts,
but don't forget to relax and rejuvenate at La Tente by Spa Village at MUSE Saint-Tropez.



12



GAYA ISLAND RESORT
DISTINCTIVELY BORNEO



PANGKOR LAUT RESORT
ONE ISLAND. ONE RESORT



SET WITHIN TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN MARINE PARK, GAYA ISLAND RESORT IS A JEWEL LOCATED OFF THE CAPITAL OF SABAH, KOTA KINABALU. GOLDEN SANDY BEACHES AND CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATERS TEEMING WITH MARINE LIFE ARE COMPELLING ATTRACTIONS, WHILE ITS SPA VILLAGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO SAMPLE AUTHENTIC BORNEO-INSPIRED HEALING AND WELLNESS THERAPIES.
WWW.GAYAISLANDRESORT.COM

THIS LUXURIOUS RESORT IS SET ON A PRIVATE TROPICAL ISLAND ON THE STRAITS OF MALACCA. VILLAS EITHER FRINGE THE HILLSIDE OR ARE GRACEFULLY BALANCED ON STILTS OVER WATER. AN AWARD-WINNING SPA VILLAGE OFFERS WORLD-CLASS TREATMENTS DERIVED FROM CHINESE, INDIAN AND MALAY HEALING TRADITIONS.

WWW.PANGKORLAUTRESORT.COM



TANJONG JARA RESORT

UNMISTAKABLY MALAY



CAMERON HIGHLANDS RESORT

TRAILS, TALES AND TRADITIONS



TANJONG JARA RESORT ON THE EAST COAST OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA EMBODIES THE ESSENCE OF MALAY CULTURE AND TRADITIONS. FACING THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND SURROUNDED BY THE LUSH GREEN BEAUTY OF THE LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE, TANJONG JARA RESORT REVEALS A QUIETER BUT EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE SIDE TO MALAYSIA.

WWW.TANJONGJARARESORT.COM

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WWW.CAMERONHIGHLANDSRESORT.COM



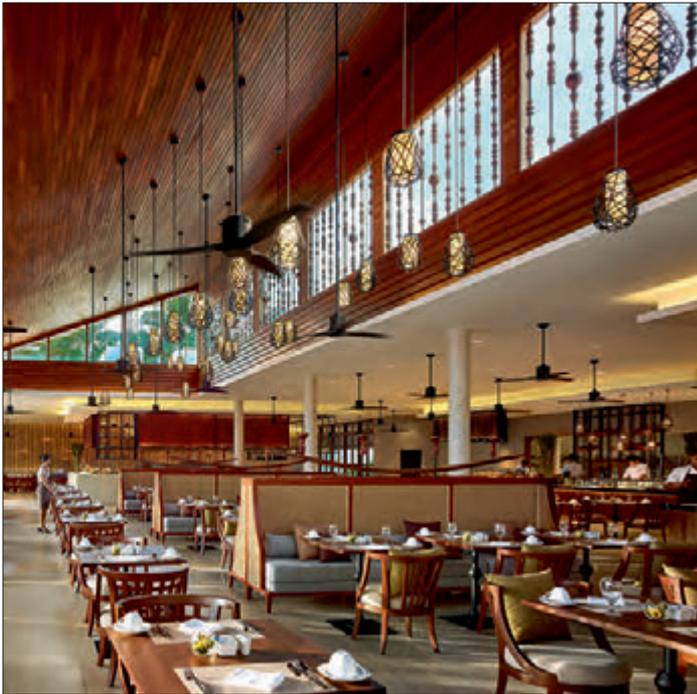
THE RITZ-CARLTON

KOH SAMUI



THE RITZ-CARLTON

KUALA LUMPUR



NESTLED WITHIN THE EMBRACE OF A PRIVATE SUN-KISSED BAY, THE RITZ-CARLTON, KOH SAMUI IS SURROUNDED BY OCEANFRONT BEAUTY AND QUINTESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES THAT ARTFULLY REFLECT THE SAMUI WAY OF LIFE. THIS MAKES THE BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY AN IDEAL SETTING TO EMBARK ON WELLNESS PROGRAMMES, CULTURAL IMMERSIONS OR CULINARY JOURNEYS.

RITZCARLTON.COM/KOHSAMUI

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RITZCARLTON.COM/KUALALUMPUR



JW MARRIOTT
KUALA LUMPUR

HOTEL
STRIPES
KUALA LUMPUR

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HOTELS



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JWMARRIOTTKUALALUMPUR.COM

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WWW.STRIPESKL.COM

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WWW.SPAVILLAGERESORT.COM/TEMBOKBALI



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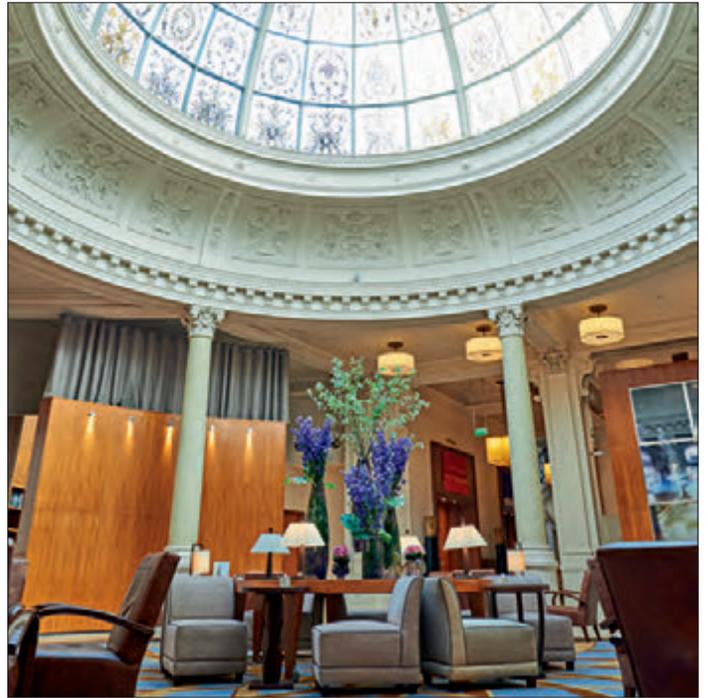
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FULLY RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY, THIS ELEGANT 1930S PROPERTY MARRIES HISTORY WITH WORLD-CLASS HOSPITALITY. DINING OPTIONS INCLUDE HAINANESE FAVOURITES AT COLONIAL CAFÉ AS WELL AS AN INTERACTIVE DINING EXPERIENCE AT CONTANGO, WHILE THE ROOMS ARE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

WWW.MAJESTICKL.COM

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THREADNEEDLES LONDON



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WWW.THEGLASSHOUSEHOTEL.CO.UK

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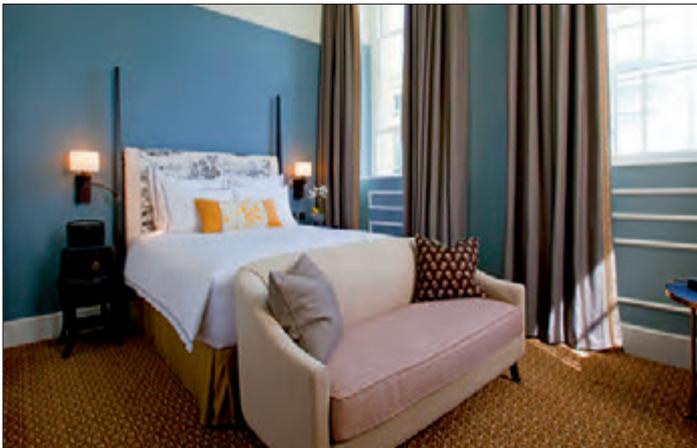
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THE
GREEN yf LEAF
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WWW.YTLHOTELS.COM



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

WWW.SPAVILLAGE.COM


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MARRIOTT
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MARRIOTT.COM

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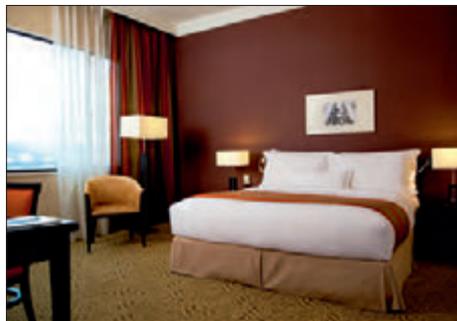
THE BRISBANE MARRIOTT, WITH 267 ROOMS AND SUITES, IS IDEALLY PLACED BETWEEN BRISBANE'S CBD AND THE FORTITUDE VALLEY HUB. WITH A STUNNING BACKDROP OF THE BRISBANE RIVER, STORY BRIDGE, KANGAROO POINT CLIFFS AND CITY SKYLINE, THE HOTEL IS CLOSE TO SHOPPING, RIVERSIDE DINING, THE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS.

MARRIOTT.COM

CENTRALLY LOCATED NEAR THE HAGUE CITY CENTRE AND THE NORTH SEA COAST, THE HAGUE MARRIOTT HOTEL FEATURES CONTEMPORARY STYLE WITH A WARM AMBIANCE. 306 COMFORTABLE AND SPACIOUS ROOMS AND SUITES ARE THOUGHTFULLY APPOINTED WITH STYLISH DESIGN ACCENTS AND COMPLIMENTARY WI-FI. MANY OF THE CITY'S ATTRACTIONS ARE LOCATED NEARBY.

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YTL HOTELS
Treasured Places, Treasured Moments



THE FIRST WATCH WORN ON THE MOON

On the 50th anniversary of the first lunar landing, OMEGA is reflecting on the golden moments that defined that iconic day. Nobody remembers it quite like Buzz Aldrin, who wore an OMEGA Speedmaster when he stepped onto the dusty surface and left his footprints in history.

Ω
OMEGA

#MOONWATCH

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