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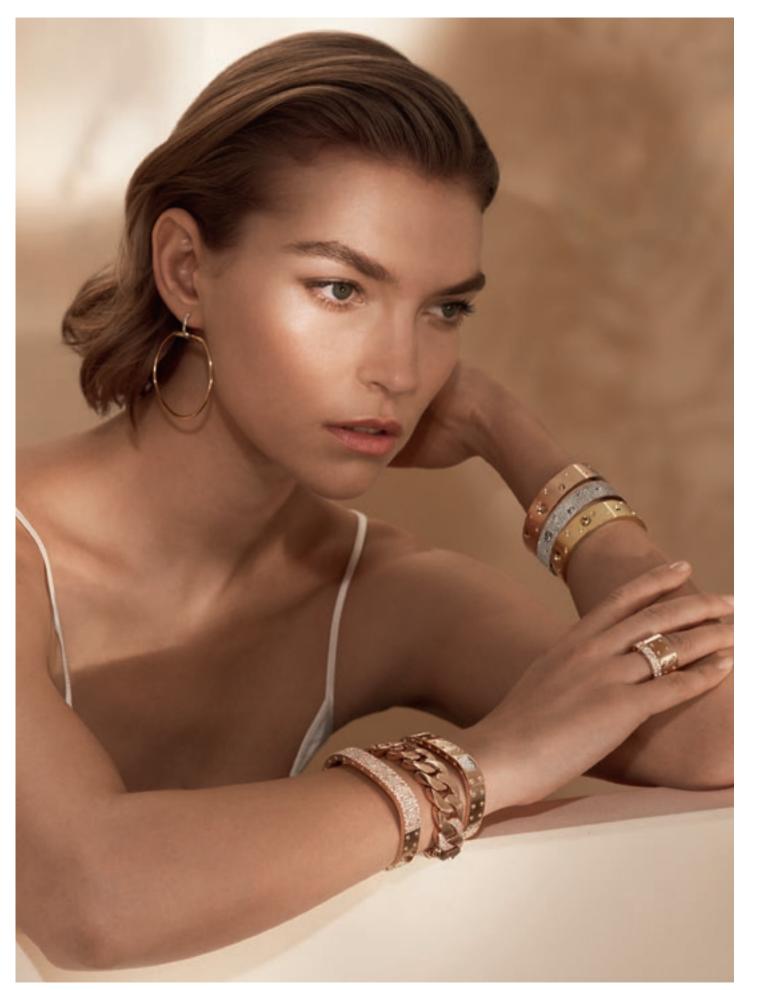
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Your eyes lock with a Proboscis monkey's for the first time. It makes a strange noise. And you don't know whether to stand in awe or run. Your moment awaits.

For enquiries or reservations, please contact YTL Hotels Travel Centre at travelcentre@ytlhotels.com or call +60 3 2783 1000





– A YTL LUXURY RESORT —

www.ytlhotels.com www.gayaislandresort.com



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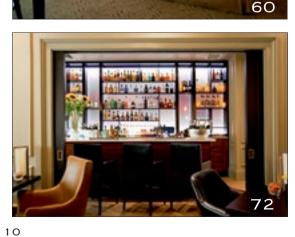
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Extraordinary encounters, unique healing practices, bespoke services. Anchored in the principle of honouring the healing culture of the region with modern approaches to health and well-being, Spa Village is more than just a place...it is a philosophy. For a private consultation, please contact the YTL Hotels Travel Centre at +60 3 2783 1000 or email travelcentre@ytlhotels.com to handcraft your experience.

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THE

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n

every now and then. What better way is there to rest and recharge the mind and body than being surrounded by lush greenery, inviting blue waters or white powdery sands to act as your agents of therapy?

Gaya Island Resort with its deep roots in nature is located off the coast of Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, surrounded by rich waters and an untouched forest filled with diverse wildlife.

A NOTE FROM TAN SRI (DR) FRANCIS YEOH

this era of fastpaced technological advancements, it seems judicious to balance the hustle and bustle of life by embracing the natural splendours around us

A haven for nature lovers, you can embark on guided nature walks, spend the day at the marine centre or even head out to sea to fish and bask in the gorgeous East Malaysian vista. Your connection to nature is evident in all that you do at the resort, whether you enjoy a private seafood dinner on the beach or indulge in a spa treatment surrounded by the ancient rainforest.

Over on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia, our flagship Pangkor Laut Resort is once again gearing up for the annual Chapman's Challenge. You can run the road and rainforest trails and swim across Emerald Bay in an event inspired by the brave escape of Colonel Frederick Spencer Chapman during World War II.

Our love of nature is further reflected in our other properties around the globe, such as Niseko Village in Hokkaido, Japan, where you may still relish a day on the slopes in the spring sunshine, relax in an onsen or go on a trek to witness Hokkaido's majestic scenic beauty.

We at YTL Hotels are proud to celebrate nature in all its glory through every season at each of our hotels and resorts, and it brings us joy to be able to give our guests memorable experiences to enjoy this wonderful planet we call home.



LIFE EVENTS



16



Petuna ocean trout, watercress, kelp



Wagyu medallion

hef Wai Look Chow, YTL's velouté served to guests during the unveiling Corporate Executive Chef, has dinner showcase a wonderful harmony of flavours unveiled a new dining concept from the earth and sea. at The Library, The Ritz-Carlton, Gourmands looking to sample a taste of The Kuala Lumpur. His good friend Library's new à la carte menu can do so at The and Michelin-starred Austrian Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur. Available daily, the creations chosen by Chef Wai to satisfy even the

Chef Johann Lafer, celebrated the momentous restaurant now features a number of bold culinary occasion with him, as The Library's new dining direction is based on the two chefs' successful most discerning diners. coffee-table book collaboration, Two Friends -One Cuisine. Dishes like Petuna ocean trout with For more information and reservations, please watercress and kelp or brown crab with avocado visit ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur

FOUR HANDS

CHEF WAI LOOK CHOW AND CHEF JOHANN LAFER UNVEIL A NEW DINING CONCEPT FOR DISTINGUISHED RESTAURANT THE LIBRARY.

Words TIEN CHEW

Brown crab, avocado velouté





Passion fruit mousseline, guanaja gâteau

CULINARY CAMARADERIE

La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs in Malaysia holds ITS ANNUAL INTRONISATION GALA DINNER AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, KUALA LUMPUR.



Words WAN PHING LIM

members in more than 80 countries, held its annual at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur. canapes, hamachi with hearts of palm, The Malaysian chapter, known as octopus causa, as well as a choice Bailliage de Malaisie, inducted over of Skuna Bay salmon or Wagyu beef 40 new members into the *confrerie* cheek for the main course. with a gala dinner to welcome new members, promote existing ones and Bailli Delegue Datuk Dr Jagjit Singh enjoy an unforgettable evening of Sambhi gave the welcome address good food and wine.

a Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, A delicious six-course dinner was a gastronomic society carefully prepared by Chef Frankie with around 25,000 Lee of YTL Hotels and his team, who received a certificate of appreciation that night. The menu included such *intronisation* gala dinner tempting delights as lobster bellini

and thanked members for an

CLAES

CHONG

1) Bailliage de Malaisie at the intronisation ceremony. 2 and 3) Magdalene Low and Chef Frankie Lee of YTL Hotels receiving the the certificate of appreciation from Peter Wyss, the Bailli Delegue of Taiwan who was the Officiating Officer at the intronisation ceremony. 4) Patrick Lim of DC Restaurant, winner of the Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseurs 2018 (Young Chef Award). 5) Datuk Dr Jagjit Singh Sambhi, Bailli Delegue.







intronisation ceremony that went smoothly. An evening of toasts with fine champagnes and wines were enjoyed late into the night bringing together enthusiasts who share the same passion for fine dining, friendship and continuing the great and noble traditions of the culinary arts.

For more details and reservations on dining and rooms, please visit www.ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur

BAILLI DELEGUE DATUK DR JAGJIT SINGH SAMBHI GAVE THE WELCOME ADDRESS AND THANKED MEMBERS FOR AN INTRONISATION CEREMONY THAT WENT SMOOTHLY.

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BORNEO PARADISE

AT GAYA ISLAND RESORT, LEISURE IS THE ONLY THING ON THE AGENDA. FROM SUN-SOAKED ACTIVITIES TO BLISSFUL SPA SESSIONS, THIS INTIMATE LUXURY BEACHFRONT HAVEN HAS IT ALL.





With its youthful vibe and sun-dappled moments, Gaya Island Resort has much to offer those looking for an unforgettable holiday.





Words ELAINE LAU

22

ying in a hammock by the turquoise sea, lulled by the undulating waves and languid breeze, I breathe a contented sigh. I am at Gaya Island Resort, a slice of tropical paradise on the largest island of Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park off the western coast of Sabah. This idyllic vacation destination is nestled amid pristine rainforest and embraced by the South China Sea, and when you're here, the only thing on the agenda is to revel in the art of leisure.

This intimate beachfront haven is a mere 10-minute speedboat ride from the Jesselton Point ferry terminal at Kota Kinabalu city, where the resort has a welcome lounge for guests. Alighting at the jetty on Malohom Bay at Gaya Island, I see the sun-kissed resort beckoning with convivial charm. An enchanting walkway with cascading morning glory vines leads to the stylish lobby, where I am served a refreshing ice pop whilst being checked in. The service is warm and attentive, and I feel instantly at home.

Gaya Island Resort offers three types of villas -Bayu, Canopy and Kinabalu – in addition to the luxurious two-bedroom Suria Suite, each one harmoniously built into the natural landscape. Depending on the villa, guests can enjoy gorgeous views of the rainforest, mangrove forest or the sea, with Mount Kinabalu painting the horizon on a clear day. With interiors of wood and warm earthy tones, each villa is outfitted with a large open bathroom, and all the mod-cons and amenities (including a beach bag and mosquito repellent) one would need for a hassle-free holiday.

I stayed at Kinabalu Villa, which is perched on a tree-lined hillside and offers a breathtaking bird'seye view of the glistening sea below and Sabah's famous mountain beyond. I took the suggestion of the resort staff and awoke at 6am the next morning to catch the sunrise from the daybed on the veranda – the spectacle was nothing short of stunning. What a gorgeous way to start the day!

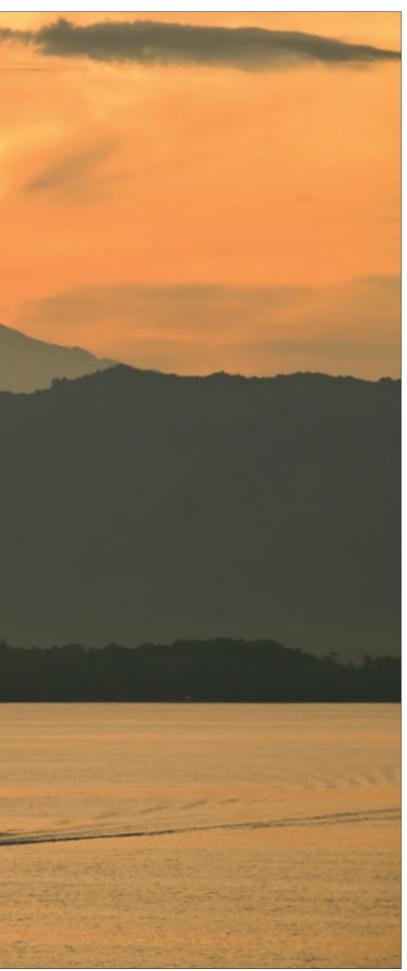
Guests navigate the resort by walking and this enabled me to soak in the lush flora and towering

LIFE FEATURE

GAYA ISLAND RESORT OFFERS THREE TYPES OF VILLAS - BAYU, CANOPY AND KINABALU - IN ADDITION TO THE LUXURIOUS TWO-BEDROOM SURIA SUITE, EACH ONE HARMONIOUSLY BUILT INTO THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE.









The regional cuisine and exquisite fresh seafood prepared by the resort's skilled chefs set the stage for guests to recount the day's adventures with family and friends, new and old.

WHEN IT COMES TO DINING, ONE HAS QUITE A FEW OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM.

majestic oriental pied hornbill.

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

When it comes to dining, one has quite a few options to choose from. The all-day dining restaurant, Feast Village, serves a tantalising buffet Mayback, the resident marine biologist. of Asian and Western dishes to please even the pickiest of eaters, while the Pool Bar and Lounge is perfect for a quick bite and sundowners. There on the beach, a gourmet dinner at the pool are two dinner-only venues: Omakase offering teppanyaki, shabu-shabu and nabe, and the al fresco Fisherman's Cove.

I had an exceptional candlelight dinner of exquisite seafood at Fisherman's Cove. Under a traditional tiffin carrier, from comforting soups moonlit sky, with the soothing sound of lapping waves, I dined on a three-course meal, starting with fresh tuna tataki, followed by an excellent pan-fried, crusted red emperor fillet, and ending special after-dinner treat: a reading copy of Land with a pineapple tart for dessert.

Guests can also opt to have a simple barbecue lunch on the beach at Tavajun Bay, which is North Borneo.

trees. I was even rewarded with sightings of the accessed via a five-minute boat ride from the resort. This bay is perfect for a dip and sunbathing, so be sure to pack your swim things. Also located here is the resort's marine centre, where I learned about their eco-friendly initiatives (conservation, education and rescue programmes) from Scott

> I highly recommend booking a private dining experience. Options include a sunrise breakfast pavilion as well as the North Borneo Straits Tiffin, which I had one evening. Served in the comfort of my villa's spacious veranda, the nine-course dinner features Malaysian cuisine served from a and appetisers like meat skewers to mains of rustic grilled lamb, fried fish, stir-fried local vegetables, and dessert. The repast came with a Below the Wind, Agnes Newton Keith's delightful 1939 memoir of her time in Sabah, then known as



LIFE FEATURE

YTL LUXURY MAGAZINE

THE



INDULGE IN THE ART OF LEISURE

There's plenty to do at Gaya Island Resort, from guided nature excursions to sea explorations and cultural experiences. Alternatively, you could just take it easy and laze by the pool or on the beachfront with a libation or two. There's also a mini library and lounge just for reading. As for me, I did a little bit of everything.

In between dips in the sea and lounging by the pool with a book, I went kayaking in the mangrove forest with the resort's resident naturalist Justin Juhun. We rowed from Malohom Bay to an inlet a short distance from the jetty. Justin explained the important role that mangroves play in protecting an island's shoreline and maintaining water quality. Being in the midst of the forest was incredibly serene – there is a palpable meditative quality to being in the centre of these gnarly trees.

After a day of sun and sea, a session at Spa Village is just what the body needs. Cocooned by dense forest, the resort spa is a balm for the senses. A symphony of chirping birds and insects greeted me, and I was ushered to a plush sofa to enjoy a glass of fresh juice and take in the lush foliage. The spa lounge is a large bungalow with a koi-filled water feature and wooden deck from which a network of private treatment rooms and pavilions branch off.



A rich tapestry of spa programmes reflects the cultural healing traditions of Sabah's many indigenous peoples.

AFTER A DAY OF SUN AND SEA, A SESSION AT SPA VILLAGE IS JUST WHAT THE BODY NEEDS.



LIFE FEATURE



Every Spa Village is unique and offers one-ofa-kind regimens inspired by the healing culture of its location using fresh local ingredients. The result is an authentic spa experience that marries age-old traditions – such as the rice scrubs and masques of the Kadazandusun and the age-old practices of the Bajau sea nomads - with modern approaches to rejuvenate body and soul.

The treatment I did, Unduk Ngadau, is named after the Kadazandusun beauty pageant held at the end of the harvest festival in Sabah annually. It is an indulgent three-hour session comprising a body scrub, hair masque, indigenous massage and a facial.

Seated on the balcony of a private treatment room, my therapist performs a pre-ritual warm foot soak and scrub using an invigorating blend of fresh ginger, sea salt and pepper. Back in the room, a concoction of local avocado mixed with coconut milk is massaged on to my scalp and hair, followed by an orchid-infused conditioner. The polishing body scrub – an earthy blend of coarsely ground, mountain-grown red rice blended with corn, avocado and cinnamon – is gently spread all over my body. After washing it all off, my skin and hair felt wonderfully soft and smooth.

The urutan pribumi or indigenous massage employs techniques traditionally used to restore mobility and flexibility – long and short masterful strokes of fingers, palms and forearms to apply pressure. Emphasis is placed on the manipulation of the superficial and deep layers of muscles and fascia of the spine. Aided by an aromatic and energising massage oil of ginger, ylang-ylang and rosemary, the tension was deftly kneaded from my body, while small heated pouches of rice were strategically placed, infusing a comforting warmth.

The Unduk Ngadau spa session concluded with a facial where my skin was gently exfoliated with a nourishing blend of yoghurt, avocado seed and honey, ending with a honey and cornflour mask.

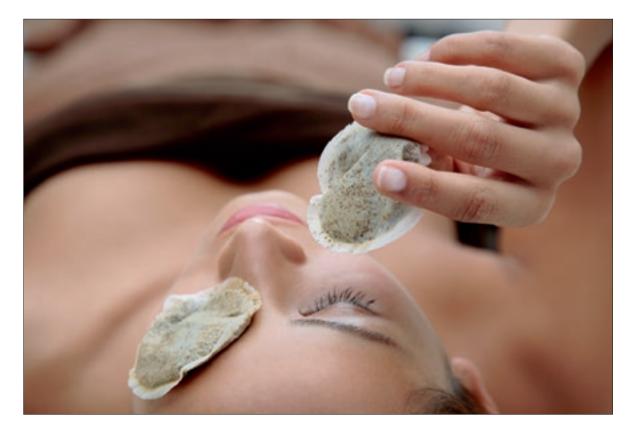
Sipping a warm cup of ginger tea after the treatment, I luxuriated in a sense of deep relaxation – a blissful way to end my time here on Sabah's island paradise. From the warm service and comfortably appointed rooms to the distinctive dining options and varied array of activities available, Gaya Island Resort is truly a leisure seeker's dream destination.

For more information please visit www.gayaislandresort.com

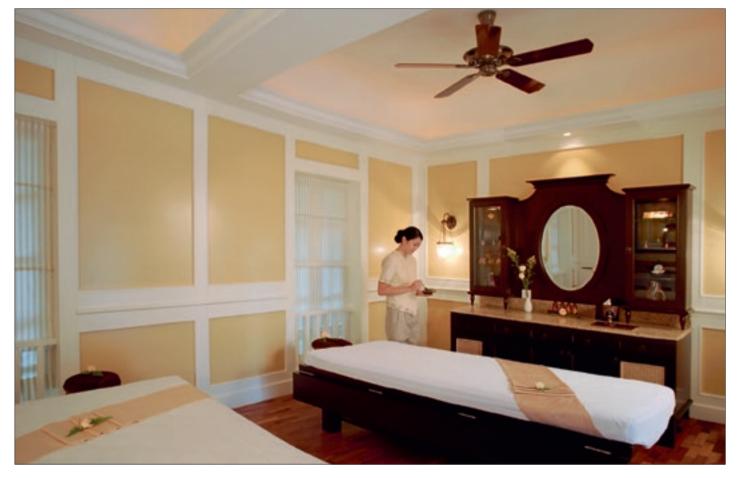
WHERE TROUBLES MELT LIKE LEMON DROPS

Up in the cool hilly retreat that is Cameron Highlands is a spa that combines traditional healing rituals with natural ingredients, making for a serene experience.

Words TIEN CHEW







Spa Village Cameron Highlands is a unique haven for relaxation and rejuvenation where tea is the foundation of the experience.

32







icture this: lush green hills, a pleasantly cool and crisp temperature and a luxury boutique hotel steeped in Malaysian colonial heritage. Your order of the day? To soak in the rich tapestry of the

land – tea plantations, rose gardens, strawberry fields and other scenic settings – and eventually retreat to the hotel's spa for a rejuvenating afternoon indulgence.

with delightful old world charm and a view of the Highlands' verdant 18-hole golf course, it is also home to an award-winning spa. Spa Village Cameron Highlands features therapies based on the healing know-how of the indigenous Orang Asli, using produce from the surrounding jungle as well as ancient tea rituals to restore and rejuvenate the body.

The Semai are the Orang Asli of the state of Pahang and masters of forest products of the land they inhabit. The Semai is also the name of Spa Village Cameron Highland's signature treatment, using their knowledge of traditional medicine and techniques to create specialised therapies for both him and her. Dubbed Tok Batin Mystical

Tradition for men and The Jungle Secrets of Anti-Aging for women, these feature multiple rejuvenating experiences.

For men, treatments range from hydrotherapy such as the Batin bath to a traditional Batin massage, a steam bath and a scrub, finishing off with an exotic elixir, the Cameron Brew. Women, on the other hand, have an anti-ageing herbal bath, a Minjau Asli massage, a Semai scrub and additional focused treatments to undo the effects Cameron Highlands Resort isn't only blessed of time, including the invigorating herbal drink, Semai Fountain of Youth.

> Spa Village Cameron Highlands also has a number of other experiences that utilise botanical treasures of the land to regenerative effects. Pamper yourself with Chrysanthemum and Avocado Escape - comprising a chrysanthemum flower bath, an avocado oil massage and scalp treatment - or evoke the powers of Cameron Highlands' strawberries with a strawberry tea bath, body polish and massage. There's a wide range of treatments to choose from but whatever your pick, you'll definitely be in for a treat.

For more information please visit www.cameronhighlandsresort.com



CHAPMAN'S CHALLENGE

Pangkor Laut Resort, set in the gorgeous Straits of Malacca, holds its fourth annual competition to celebrate the accomplishments of a daring British commando.

Words TIEN CHEW



35



Be part of The Chapman's Challenge honouring the determination of Colonel Spencer Chapman who escaped the Japanese army during World War II.

ature is the pièce de résistance of Pangkor Laut Resort, a luxury resort located on a private island between an ancient rainforest and beaches with white powdery sands. Nestled along the Straits of Malacca about three miles off the West Coast of Malaysia, the resort has been voted 'Number One in the World' by Condé Nast Traveller and dinner after the event make the competition all was a favourite secret vacation retreat of famous the sweeter. tenor Pavarotti. With a scenic vista made of lush greenery and azure waters, it's not hard to see why this island was chosen to be the location for a world premier resort.

Guests wishing to fully immerse themselves in the sublime nature surrounding the resort can partake in The Chapman's Challenge. Fitness buffs, nature enthusiasts and thrill seekers looking for an exciting way to experience the natural splendour of this secluded destination can join this trial of athleticism. The duathlon is hosted by Pangkor Laut Resort in honour of British Colonel Spencer Chapman, who made his daring escape from Japanese forces in World War II by swimming across Emerald Bay.

Consisting of a 3.8km run around the island, a 2.4km hike through untouched forests, followed by a 1km swim across Emerald Bay, the challenge will culminate at Chapman's Bar, where refreshments and drinks will be awaiting participants. Winners will be rewarded with memorable stays at luxury properties within YTL Hotels' global portfolio. Pre-dinner cocktails and a lavish barbecue

The Chapman's Challenge returns for its fourth consecutive year in 2019, taking place from 10 to 12 May. Those interested will be happy to know that Pangkor Laut Resort is offering a special package that includes accommodation for two nights for two adults, full board included, along with entry to the competition and a goody bag to commemorate the occasion.

The cherry on top of the cake? The resort's relaxing Spa Village will also offer spa treatments at a special price when you make your booking.

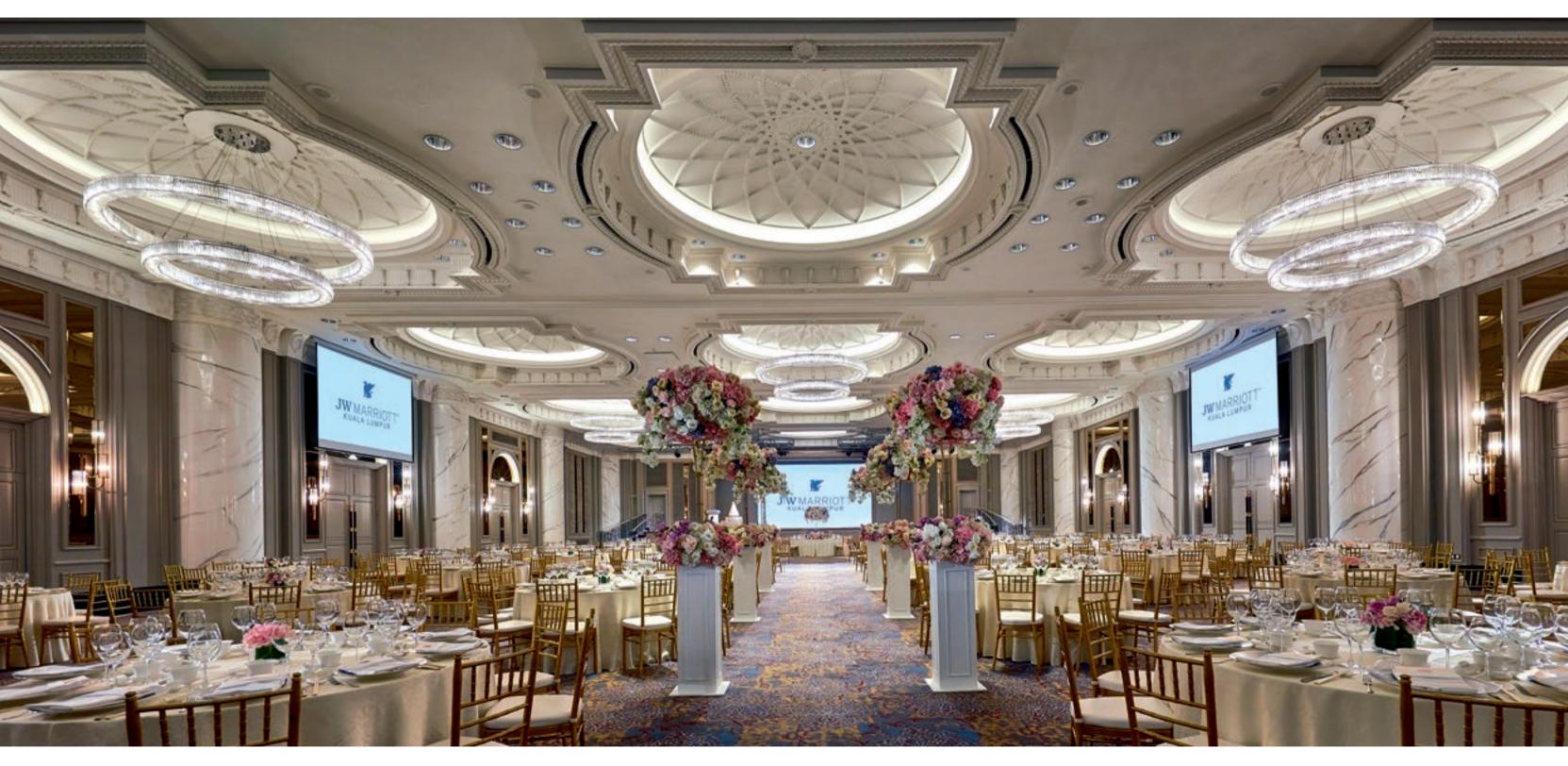
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LIFE FEATURE

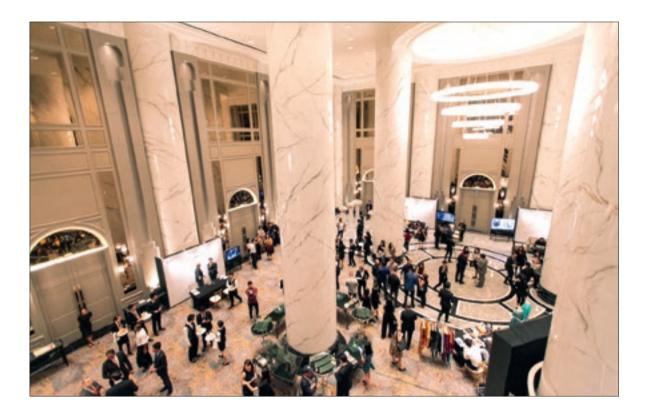
THE CHALLENGE CONSISTS OF A 3.8KM RUN AROUND THE ISLAND, A 2.4KM HIKE THROUGH UNTOUCHED FORESTS AND A 1KM SWIM ACROSS EMERALD BAY.



ANY WAY YOU WANT IT

JW MARRIOTT KUALA LUMPUR'S REFRESHED COLLECTION OF NEW AND BESPOKE CONCEPTS AND EXPERIENCES FOR ANY EVENT MAKES IT THE PERFECT CELEBRATORY VENUE.

THE DEDICATED EVENTS TEAM CAN CUSTOM-MAKE YOUR CELEBRATIONS TO YOUR LIKING, DOWN TO A T.



Words TIEN CHEW

elebrations, no matter the occasion, can be magical affairs filled with fun and joy for all. However, they can be a daunting challenge and that is where professional help comes into play. The experienced events teams at luxury hotel JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur, having hosted some of the most memorable events in town for the past two decades, recently unveiled Kuala Lumpur has 20 flexible function and meeting their 2019 collection of excitingly new ways to celebrate any occasion in true elegance and style. And the best part? The dedicated events team can custom-make your celebrations to your liking, down to a T.

Be it a lavish wedding to announce your wedding or a birthday party to celebrate with your family and friends, every facet to enrich any experience is well thought of. This is further complemented with the hotel's wide network of brands and services that range from bridal studios and floral designers to luxury jewellery retailers, professional photographers and home décor and accessories firms that guests can tap into.

Celebrating at JW Marriott also means having access to sublime culinary choices, with the

hotel's experienced culinary team able to create menus from a large list of international cuisines. Opt to have live cooking stations to make your guests part of the experience or choose set menus to allow your guests to sit back, relax and simply enjoy. From canapés to dessert, the hotel has every aspect covered.

When it comes to the events space, JW Marriott room options with two beautiful ballrooms to choose from.

The majestic and pillarless Mayang Sari Grand Ballroom has been newly renovated and accommodates 700 people for an exquisite banquet, while the new Bayu Ballroom at the poolside seats 300 for smaller formal events. The most intimate setting at the hotel, in contrast, can still seat 40 people comfortably in a banquet style configuration. This, combined with the fact that the hotel is strategically situated in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, makes it perfect for any gathering or celebration.

CLIFF

CHOONG

For more information please visit www.jwmarriot.com



JW Marriott is a renowned venue for meetings, conferences and special events in Kuala Lumpur.







Words TIEN CHEW

s one of the great landmarks of the city, The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur has been the site of many impressive events and celebrations throughout the years. No matter the size of the affair, be it an intimate gathering of family and friends or a more elaborate event that will see more than a thousand attendees, the hotel has the elegant spaces complemented by stylish décor to

When it comes to intimate and charming spots, the open-air Roof Garden provides a unique outdoor setting for the exchange of wedding vows, discerning corporate events and social functions. The gorgeous Kuala Lumpur cityscape as a backdrop at twilight is almost guaranteed to elevate any occasion. With the evening breeze and a selection of culinary delights to sweeten the deal, the Roof Garden offers the best spot in the hotel for those looking for something romantic and picturesque.

At the other end of the spectrum, the hotel boasts a breathtakingly magnificent pillarless ballroom that can easily seat 1,200 guests for a banquet or 1,500 participants if arranged theatre-

THE ATTENTIVE STAFF WILL OVERSEE EVERY ASPECT OF EACH EVENT. ALLOWING YOU TO SIMPLY ENJOY THE MOMENT.

style. The Majestic Ballroom is equipped with one of the largest LED walls in any ballroom in Malaysia, superb audio equipment, plush carpeting, a built-in stage and dramatic crystal chandeliers. There is an extensive reception area for pre-function cocktails, decorated in the same rich, warm hues. The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur also has 13 smaller meeting rooms, seating from 20 to 120 guests, and offering more variety in the nature and extent of events the hotel can host.

To ensure that everything will go smoothly, there's the hotel's legendary service. One of The Majestic Hotel's defining trademarks, the attentive staff will oversee every aspect of each event, allowing you to simply enjoy the moment. No matter the kind of celebration, The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur will ensure it is memorable

in every way. The Roof Garden at The Maiestic provides a unique outdoor setting for all manner

For more information please visit www.majestickl.com.

help make your experience unforgettable.



of events.

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TAKE A BREAK FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF KUALA LUMPUR'S SHOPPING AND ENTERTAINMENT HUB AND RETREAT TO THE RITZ-CARLTON, KUALA LUMPUR'S LOBBY LOUNGE FOR A SOOTHING SPOT OF TEA.

AN AFTERNOON OASIS

Words TIEN CHEW

ΥTL AGAZINE

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THE HOTEL'S SIGNATURE BLEND IS MADE FROM EXCEPTIONAL GREEN OOLONG TIE GUAN YIN THAT HAS BEEN STEAMED IN BOILING MILK.



Afternoon tea is the centrepiece of The Lobby Lounge's offerings.

a life of luxury, it is surely afternoon tea, a leisurely pastime filled with pastries, savoury treats and a soothing pot of tea designed to relax the mind. Perhaps the best spot in town to experience this is at The Lobby Lounge at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur, an elegant space with marble floors crowned by a gold-leafed ceiling. Stylish performance complete the refined ambience.

In this inner city oasis, afternoon tea is the highlight of the day, featuring an impressive collection of 40 luxury teas from German tea maker Ronnefeldt and a classic three-tiered tray filled with scrumptious delicacies. Available daily from 3pm to 6pm, guests will be treated to an amuse bouche made of toasted bread served with whipped ricotta cheese and truffle honey to whet the appetite before moving to the main draw.

While you may be tempted to pick exotic tea Kuala Lumpur. choices, such as Irish whisky cream or wild cherry, when browsing through the tea menu, the hotel's signature and exclusive blend is a luscious delight.

fthere's one epicurean activity that signifies Made from exceptional green oolong tie guan yin that has been steamed in boiling milk, this unique tea produces aromatic floral sips with a distinct light body and a satisfyingly creamy finish.

This light yet bold tea makes for a perfect companion paired with savoury titbits and sweet confections. Selections with bold flavours, like smoked salmon with chive and cream cheese armchairs, warm hospitality and a live musical on pumpernickel bread or egg with paprika mayonnaise and rocket on focaccia toast, are delicious, yet heightened when enjoyed with the hotel's exclusive tea. Fluffy strawberry- and clotted cream-smothered scones or desserts such as red velvet cake, vanilla mille feuille or madeleines, are just as delectable.

> Social catch-ups with family or friends, midday breaks from shopping and sightseeing or even casual business meetings are all viable excuses to partake in this time-honoured indulgence. All you need to do is rendezvous at The Ritz-Carlton,

For more information please visit ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur



LIFE FEATURE



SUNDAY SIZZLES

MAN TAO ROOFTOP BAR AT HOTEL STRIPES KUALA LUMPUR IS A CHARMING DOWNTOWN HAVEN, ALLOWING YOU TO ENJOY THE CITYSCAPE WITH A FANTASTIC BARBECUE SPREAD TO COMPLEMENT THE VIEW.



Words TIEN CHEW

<u>51</u>

here are many incredible spots in the city to observe Kuala Lumpur's charm, if only one knows where to look. Man Tao is such a place. Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur's modern rooftop bar boasts a resplendent view of the cityscape, complemented by a lowkey yet lively atmosphere with plenty of titbits and libations to enhance such a vista. While the bar's namesake, fluffy and delicious mantao buns, takes the spot as the establishment's signature snack, the weekend barbecue spread is also a strong contender in the popularity stakes.

Running from noon to three o'clock every Sunday, a sumptuous array of sizzling meats, lip-smacking ribs and refreshing drinks to beat the heat is available to bookend the week with a meal that will please anyone. Chat with family and friends over meaty delights such as lamb shoulder, Cajun chicken, beef rope sausages and short ribs to complement classic sides the likes of mac and cheese, smoked beans stew, garlic bread or even paella.

FEEL FREE TO INDULGE IN MAN TAO'S SIGNATURE COCKTAILS TO SPICE UP YOUR BARBECUE EXPERIENCE.

If you're one who enjoys adding a little extra flavour to spice up your palate, a number of sauces are also on deck. Not forgetting that a balanced diet is a healthy one, a selection of crowd-favourite salads like coleslaw and Caesar are available, while a small dessert section offers a sweet ending should you desire it.

Feel free to indulge in Man Tao's signature cocktails to spice up your barbecue experience. A refreshing bottle of Tsingtao beer will go well with the bounties of the grill, but it is the bar's light and inventive twist on the humble beer that will give you new ways to appreciate this beloved beverage. Using Tsingtao beer as a base, the cocktails - named China Doll, Moon Goddess, Spicy Rooster And Tsingtini – offer exciting flavour mash-ups that are light enough for the afternoon yet robust enough for a Sunday treat.

For more information please visit Tsingtao beer-themed www.stripeskl.com cocktail programme.







Man Tao offers views across the city, a

sumptuous Sunday barbecue and a

LIFE FEATURE

NATURE CALLS

Malaysia is home to a wealth of gorgeous natural splendour and Tanjong Jara Resort's emphasis on celebrating this fact is one of its best qualities. Embark on a scenic jungle walk up Jara Hill to get a taste of what a tropical rainforest can offer nature seekers.

IFE FEATURE

Words TIEN CHEW



LIFE FEATURE

Discover interesting facts about the local flora and fauna still used by many of the nearby villagers in their daily lives.



TANJONG JARA RESORT IS A SECLUDED RETREAT THAT CELEBRATES AGE-OLD MALAY TRADITIONS ON THE EAST COAST OF MALAYSIA.

f you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of life, one where nature plays an integral role in helping you to melt your stresses away, there's just the place for you. Idyllic turquoise waters teeming with marine life and an ancient tropical rainforest with secrets ready to be uncovered are highlights of Tanjong Jara Resort, a secluded retreat celebrating age-old Malay traditions on the East Coast of Malaysia. There, guests are invited to partake in a popular activity, the Jara Hill Walk and Malay herbal garden visit, a short trek that offers a peek at the rich flora and fauna the land has to offer.

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EVEN AFTER YOU'RE DONE WITH THE TREK, THE ADVENTURE ISN'T REALLY OVER, AS TANJONG JARA RESORT OFFERS A PLETHORA OF ACTIVITIES THAT CELEBRATE NATURE.

Your journey begins with an introduction to the task at hand from the resort's resident naturalist, Captain Mokh, who will act as your guide and encyclopaedia to the lay of the land. Your first stop is at the hotel's Malay herbal garden, located right next to Di Atas Sungei (Malay for 'above the river'), Tanjong Jara Resort's breakfast and dinner restaurant serving delicious local cuisine. Ever wondered what makes Malaysian cuisine so palatable? Captain Mokh will happily divulge some culinary secrets in the form of a crash course on the many herbs and spices used in Malaysian dishes such as curry and sambal.

After that it's onwards to the rainforest, where you will be led on a gentle climb up the steps of www.tanjongjararesort.com

Jara Hill, witnessing unique mushroom formations that harbour pretty ladybirds and the like. The walk culminates with a panoramic view of the coastline, giving you the chance to spot the sea eagles' nesting grounds and admire the surrounding landscape in all its glory.

Even after you're done with the trek, the adventure isn't really over, as Tanjong Jara Resort offers a plethora of activities that celebrate nature, including snorkelling and diving, a river cruise or even a bicycle ride through a nearby fishing village to explore the surrounding countryside.

For more information please visit



WORK HARD, REST HARDER

VISTANA HOTELS ACROSS MALAYSIA ARE DESIGNED WITH BUSINESS TRAVELLERS IN MIND, BOASTING ESSENTIAL FACILITIES AND COMFORTABLE AMENITIES TO ENSURE THAT EACH VISIT AWAY FROM THE OFFICE DOESN'T SKIP A BEAT.

Words TIEN CHEW

vailable at three locations in Malaysia, Vistana Hotels is the ideal to its dedication to making your out-of-office experience enjoyable and productive. Situated in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kuantan, all properties variety of light bites and local titbits to fuel up provide a fuss-free and value-for-money home before you head out the door. Café offers fresh, away from home that is known for being efficient tasty meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner. when it comes to quest satisfaction.

Extraordinary comfort is a priority for Vistana Hotels, and this is reflected in the stylish and recharge as well as providing a quiet working station. This is complemented by the warmth of the your stay as pleasant as possible. Connectivity is also important, with complimentary Wi-Fi available throughout the hotel. But why have a meeting someplace else when Vistana Hotels offers well-appointed meeting rooms that are perfect for board meetings, seminars, and more.

If you need to respond to an important email, check the stock market or even print vital business traveller's choice thanks documents, Vistana's Hub 247, a working space situated just off the lobby, can aid with on-the-go business communications. Adjacent to Hub 247 is the grab-and-go coffee bar Barista, serving a

Staying at Vistana doesn't mean you have to sacrifice wellness either, with a 24-hour gym equipped with the latest fitness equipment to spacious rooms that serve as a place to rest and help unwind and a pool if a relaxing swim is more your style.

All of this, combined with the hotels' strategic experienced staff at each locale who aim to make location in the heart of business across three cities, as well as shared DNA that prioritises efficiency, comfort and value, ensures that you will never see a dip in productivity.

> For more information please visit www.vistanahotels.com





THE EXPERIENCED STAFF AT EACH LOCALE AIM TO MAKE YOUR STAY AS PLEASANT AS POSSIBLE.

LIFE FEATURE

Be it for work, rest or leisure, Vistana Hotels has everything busy corporate executives need to stay on top of their work day.

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SPRINGTIME BOUNTIES

It's the beginning of spring in Niseko, Hokkaido, bringing into season delicious seafood and crisp vegetables ripe for culinary indulgence. Words TIEN CHEW

Beginning in March, juicy and delicious Hokkaido asparagus comes into season.





NISEKO VILLAGE, JAPAN'S PREMIER SKI DESTINATION, FEATURES A WONDERFUL MIX OF THE TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY.

okkaido is a prefecture often thought of as a place blessed with some of the best produce Japan has to offer. Three important factors – a year-round cool climate, clean water and fresh air – play an important role in helping Mother Nature with bountiful harvests of crisp lettuce, juicy tomatoes and crunchy bamboo shoots. Hokkaido's surrounding sea is also home to plenty of magnificent marine life, from meaty scallops to creamy flavour-packed sea urchin perfect for sushi.

Enter Niseko Village, Japan's premier ski destination that features a wonderful mix of the traditional and contemporary. Here, you'll find a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, thrill seekers and gourmets, who will surely appreciate the worldclass restaurants and bars that populate this picturesque destination.

To enjoy Hokkaido's best springtime produce, have dinner at The Crab Shack, Niseko Village's seafood-focused restaurant that welcomes guests to dine with their hands. Imitating the look and feel of a Hokkaido boathouse, diners are invited to select their seafood of choice from a marketplace display that changes daily and seasonally. The restaurant's signature cooking methods are steamed *kaizoku-yaki* and *konro* grilled, but they can also cook to your preferred style.

ΠΗΕ

LUXURY

MAGAZ

Come spring, from March to May, strawberry, alpine leek and asparagus are the freshest rock

stars of the fruit and vegetable world. From the sea, herring, spear squid and horsehair crab will make a return to most restaurants' menus, Yang Shu Ten included. Focusing on the casual and classic, this modern Japanese restaurant specialises in using fresh Hokkaido produce to make sushi, tempura and teppanyaki. Open for lunch and dinner, it's another stop food lovers will want to mark down on their list.

Also a must try is delicious jingisukan or 'Genghis Khan' Mongolian barbecue, a local dish that consists of grilling lamb and vegetables on a special grill at the table. A Hokkaido-style spring is not complete without eating *jingisukan* while viewing the cherry blossoms at the beginning of Mav.

There's more to be found at Niseko Village and its immediate vicinity. Travelling within an hour's radius takes you to the top-rated restaurant on TripAdvisor for all of Hokkaido called Misaki, specialising in the exotic bafun uni (available only in the warmer months). Nearby in the canal city of Otaru, you'll find the Onze Harukayama lily garden and further east, the Takino Suzuran national park famed for its tulip blooms. And for those who enjoy a tipple, the Yoichi whisky distillery offers yet another natural wonder, aged single malt whiskies produced from the crisp and clear waters of Hokkaido's pristine springs.

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



Jingisukan, a Hokkaido speciality made of grilled mutton.



Above: Bafun uni is one of the highest grades of sea urchin. Below: Hokkaido scallops are world-renowned.



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TEO

LIFE FEATURE



Above: Jenn Chia enjoys a soft serve ice cream. Below: ripe strawberries ready for the plucking.





GENIUS AT PLAY T THE ACADEMY LONDON

THE WALLPAPER PATTERNS ARE REAL CONVERSATION STARTERS, WHICH CAN ONLY BE AN ADVANTAGE FOR THE GENIUS LAB AS A SPACE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND MATRIMONIAL PROMISES.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN





The Genius Lab has hosted poetry readings and author talks.

> he Academy in London is quite possibly the only member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World whose ambiance, ethos and interior décor has been so inspired by Virginia Woolf. She is often considered the

sun around which a group of artists and writers known as the Bloomsbury Group revolved, playing hard and fast with many social conventions of the day. Their avant-garde lifestyle's philosophy underpinned the tenets upon which the 20thcentury literary movement called Modernism was based.

"They lived in squares, painted in circles and loved in triangles" is an oft-quoted line by writer Dorothy Parker about the Bloomsbury Group. It was precisely this sort of heady mix of intellectual savoir faire and the pushing of the creative envelope of boundaries which inspired The Academy to name its event space The Genius Lab. Located in the light-filled lower-ground floor next to The Refectory, The Genius Lab can accommodate up to a maximum of 50 people for any event from a book launch to a reading, from a small conference to a wedding reception. It has been extremely popular with the academic and research institutions in the Bloomsbury and Marylebone area, and The Genius Lab has hosted poetry readings and author talks.

The refurbishment of the 50-room luxury hotel was spearheaded by designer Alan Mainer of the renowned New York-based Champalimaud Design, and it's no surprise the event space sparkles with colours and motifs made iconic by the art deco and mid-century modernist movements. The wallpaper patterns are real conversation starters, which can only be an advantage for The Genius Lab as a space for the exchange of ideas and matrimonial promises. Charles Darwin, whose blue plaque is on the wall of the University College London just minutes away, would certainly approve. Some people might say he's a bit of a aenius himself.

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





THE ENCHANTED

SITUATED ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA, MUSE SAINT TROPEZ IS A BESPOKE RETREAT THAT PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE WHIMSICAL LORE OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY, WITH A GORGEOUS ECOLOGICAL GARDEN TO EMPHASISE ITS CONNECTION TO NATURE.



erging the laid-back allure of the French Riviera with the elegance of chic world-class amenities, MUSE Saint Tropez is an ideal destination to soak in the sun and spoil yourself with some of life's greatest luxuries. The hotel's architectural pure lines and simplicity promotes the beautiful nature surrounding it, with 15 majestic suites, each dedicated to famous muses and individual in décor and ambience, opening onto either a terrace or private garden, some with a plunge pool.

For its elegant integration into the French countryside, the hotel's award-winning garden plays a large role in elevating your time at this dreamy destination. Wander across the three acres of sun-kissed self-sustaining garden and you will easily experience its soothing effect on the soul. Acclaimed landscape architect Sophie Agata Ambroise, famed for the Bulgari Hotel garden in Milan, is responsible for the sublime ecological grounds, which won the Gold Victory accolade at the Landscape Victory Award 2012.

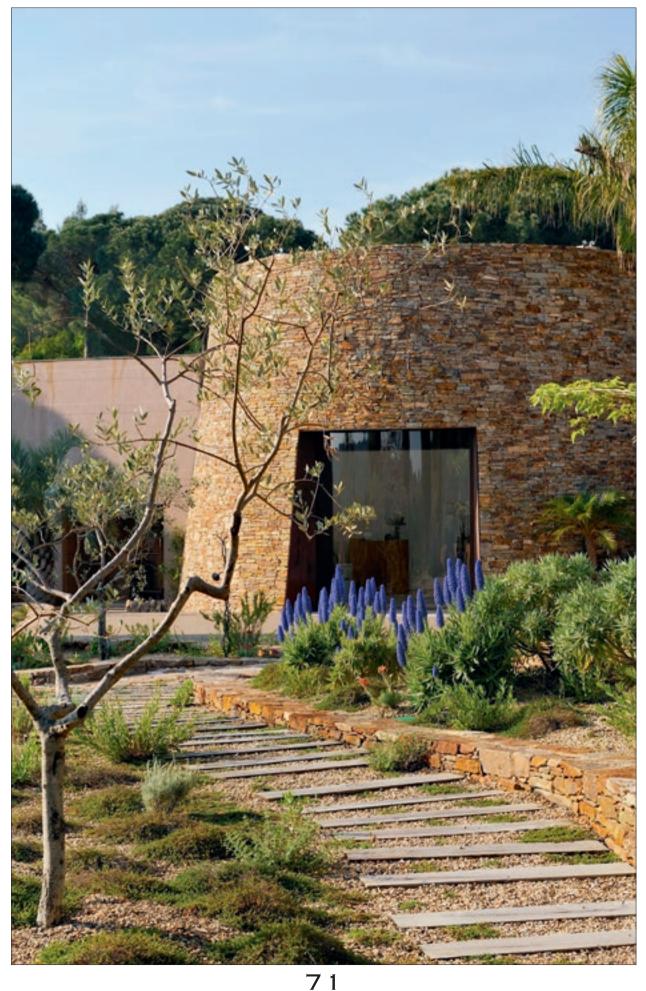
THE HOTEL'S AWARD-WINNING GARDEN PLAYS A LARGE ROLE IN ELEVATING YOUR TIME AT THIS DREAMY DESTINATION.

The delightful terraced garden weaves around the hotel's charming mill-inspired reception area, its luxurious suites and inviting spa; at its heart the shimmering pool and stylish bar.

With over 160 varieties of local flora to enrich the land with an enchanting palette of Mediterranean shades of white, purple and grey, the garden itself is a main attraction between the forest of pines and the azure sea. Whether to inspire the imagination or to relax the mind, the beautiful garden provides an ecological escapade where indulgent luxury, in its many forms, resides in harmony with nature.

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

Offering excellent facilities and dedicated service that surpass expectations, MUSE Saint Tropez is the perfect setting for elegant gatherings.





CALL ME BY YOUR NAME

The Gainsborough Bar's bespoke drinking experience uses rum and vodka infusions of seasonal fruits, vegetables and herbs to create your own unique cocktail.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN

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THE YTL LUXURY MAGAZINI



t's the equivalent of having your monogram on your cocktail. Or a new orchid named after you. Or a star in a new constellation with your initials on it. Okay, I may be embellishing the facts, but the creative impresarios at The Gainsborough Bar in Bath love the challenge of tailoring drinks to your preferences. The bar has a wonderful cocktail list, but the bar team will happily set that aside if you ask for a tailor-made cocktail.

and botanicals the key to the universe. The Gainsborough bartending team infuse spirits

with seasonal fruits, vegetables and herbs and use these infusions to create your own unique cocktail. As a nod to the hotel owners, there are Asian inspirations steering their creations.

Inspired by the Lemongrass & Ginger Tea herbal infusion by Jing Tea is the bar's vodka version finished with mango, lemongrass and ginger, all fresh and macerated with the vodka and tea for a killer dry martini taken with a twist of lemon or simply on the rocks. Or take the home-spiced rum Seasonality is the name of the game, fruits for example, warmed by spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, star anise and then steeped in Jing's Blackcurrant & Hibiscus Tea for two days.



AS A NOD TO THE HOTEL OWNERS, THERE ARE ASIAN INSPIRATIONS STEERING THEIR CREATIONS.

The Gainsborough Bar is the perfect venue for a refreshing drink, pre-dinner cocktail or after-dinner liqueur.

It's used in The Gainsborough Bar's infused rum-based Old Fashioned and we have the recipe right here.

You'll need:

- 50ml of Infused Gainsborough Rum
- Splash of soda water
- 2 dashes of Angostura bitters
- 1 cube of brown sugar
- Ice cubes
- Orange peel

1. Pop a cube of brown sugar into a whisky glass with the Angostura bitters and soda water and crush them all together. Add ice cubes.

2. Stir the mixture until the ice cubes have melted and the sugar is dissolved.

3. Add a couple more ice cubes and 25ml of Infused Gainsborough Rum and stir for about a minute.

4. Add more ice and the other 25ml of Infused Gainsborough Rum, then stir for another minute.

5. Cut a thumb-sized piece of orange peel, and squeeze drops of orange oil into the drink.

6. Finally, put the orange peel into the drink, stir and serve. It's well worth the wait.

As you are unlikely to have any Infused Gainsborough Rum at home, we suggest you ask the hotel bartender to make this for you on your next visit. You just might get to try the new fruitinfused single malt whisky too.

For more information please visit www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk LIFE FEATURE



OLD-WORLD CHIC

THE MAJESTIC MALACCA OFFERS A RARE SLICE OF PERANAKAN HOSPITALITY, WHERE CHARMING NYONYA DESIGN MOTIFS STILL HOLD UP THEIR STYLISH QUALITIES DESPITE THE PASSING OF TIME.

> Words TIEN CHEW Photography Lock Chee Wei Styling Max Mak

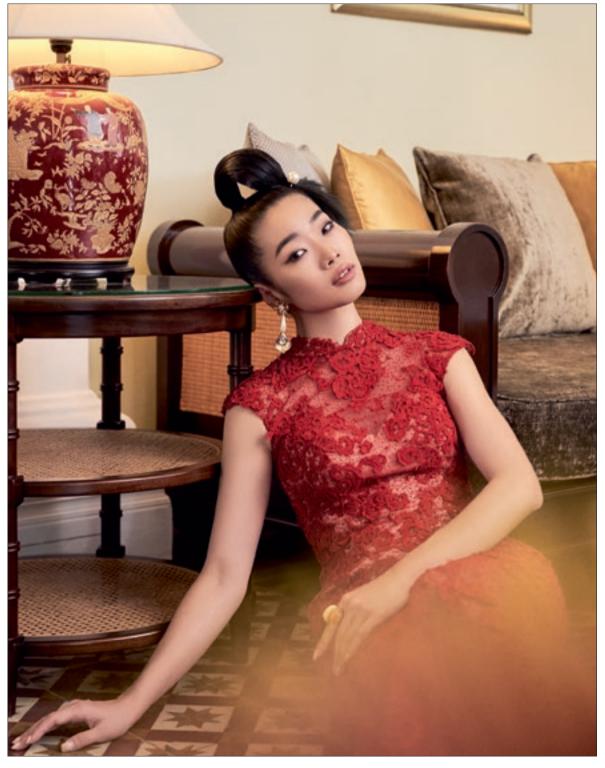
THE ΥTL LUXURY MAGAZINE



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Gold lace cheongsam by Kenneth Hoong

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FROM MONKEY ISLAND TO WINDSOR

Spend a fantastic summer day in a boat on the River Thames armed with a picnic basket from Monkey Island Estate.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN



here cannot be anything more British than a punt down a river and a flutter at the horse races. If you're planning a holiday to good old Blighty, there is absolutely nowhere else that can offer you

both in genteel spades than the parish of Bray in Berkshire. Bray-on-Thames village hugs three miles of the banks of the eponymous river.

In the summer, YTL Hotels will open a splendid luxury hotel in Bray after 18 months of meticulous renovation of an 18th-century former fishing pavilion of the Duke of Marlborough. A jewel in the crown of YTL Hotels' UK properties, Monkey Island Estate is named after the islet in the Thames on which the property resides. Staying at the Estate will give you the chance to indulge in this pampering pastime.

As you leave the Estate and drive into Bray village you'll spot the colourful yachts and motor-

A JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF YTL HOTELS' UK PROPERTIES, MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE IS NAMED AFTER THE ISLET IN THE THAMES ON WHICH THE PROPERTY RESIDES.

launches of Bray marina. Sailing in your boat along the river will reveal the beautiful timber-framed and Georgian homes lining the banks. To quote what the Water Rat said to the Mole in Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*: "Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Armed with a boating picnic from Monkey Island Estate, I recommend you sail upstream towards Cookham. Besides being the childhood hometown of Grahame it was also where Stanley Spencer, an important 20th-century British artist, grew up. Do stop to visit the former Methodist chapel which is now a converted gallery containing some of his paintings. His famous work, *Swan Upping*, painted between 1914 and 1919, is about the annual tradition of catching swans and marking them as Crown property.

As you sail back downstream you'll soon glimpse a row of beech trees on the grounds of the 350-year-old Cliveden House. Once owned by the immensely rich Astor family, the vast grounds are open to the public even if you are not a guest of the country house hotel. Managed by the National Trust there are three stunning gardens LIFE FEATURE



Clockwise from above: Monkey Island, Cookham, St George's Chapel, Windsor Great Park and Windsor Castle.



and a six-acre parterre which runs down to the Thames. In 1919, Nancy Astor became the first woman elected to Parliament and until her death in 1964, the stately property was famous for its political soirees.

Your boat will also pass under two Grade 1 listed bridges - the 18th-century Maidenhead Bridge and Isambard Kingdom Brunel's worldfamous Sounding Arch railway bridge built in 1849 - before you'll see the Roux brothers' Michelinstarred Waterside Inn at Bray.

When staying at Monkey Island Estate, ladies, don't forget to pack a millinery head-stopper, and gentlemen, your coat and tails. If you fancy a flutter on race days, then get ready to choose your fillies at Windsor Racecourse.

A visit to Windsor Castle and Windsor Great Park is another lovely lazy afternoon outing from Monkey Island. Or you might just want to pop into St George's Chapel, a royal weddings venue staple that most recently witnessed the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, or Harry and Meghan to you and I.

For more information please visit www.monkeyislandestate.co.uk



IN 1919, NANCY ASTOR BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT AND UNTIL HER DEATH IN 1964, THE STATELY PROPERTY WAS FAMOUS FOR ITS POLITICAL SOIREES.



LIFE FEATURE

Miss South Africa 2018 and Miss Universe South Africa 2018, Tamaryn Green, speaks to YTL Life about her #BreakTheStigma campaign AND PERFECTING HER BEACH BODY FOR THE SHORES OF THE RITZ-CARLTON, KOH SAMUI.

LIFE FEATURE

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LIFE FEATURE

GOLD AND GREEN

Words **RENYI** L

018 was guite a year for Tamaryn Green: not only was she crowned Miss South Africa, she also went on to represent her home country at the 67th Miss Universe pageant in Thailand. At Koh Samui, Green was also a part of the annual World Swimsuit photo shoot. The 24-yearold would eventually be selected as the first runner-up of Miss Universe. Taking her reign into 2019, Green, who hails from the city of Paarl in the Western Cape, is passionate about assisting with the reconstruction of a better South Africa.

"Besides representing my country on the global Miss Universe platform, my responsibilities are to be a role model, speak up for those who cannot be heard and to dedicate my campaign to making a significant difference in the world," she asserts. As a sixth-year medical student at the University of Cape Town (she eventually hopes to specialise as a paediatrician), one of the causes closest to her heart is her #BreakTheStigma campaign, which focuses on removing the stigma around tuberculosis (or TB).

"My experience with TB was a tough one as it is still stigmatised because people are not properly educated about the disease, if at all. Taking





medication for six months and dealing with the side effects of those drugs was horrific. Tuberculosis savour the resort's stunning seascapes. is seen as a dirty disease - one that couldn't possibly affect someone who's Miss South Africa, for instance. By sharing my story, I am relaying the message that tuberculosis can affect anyone."

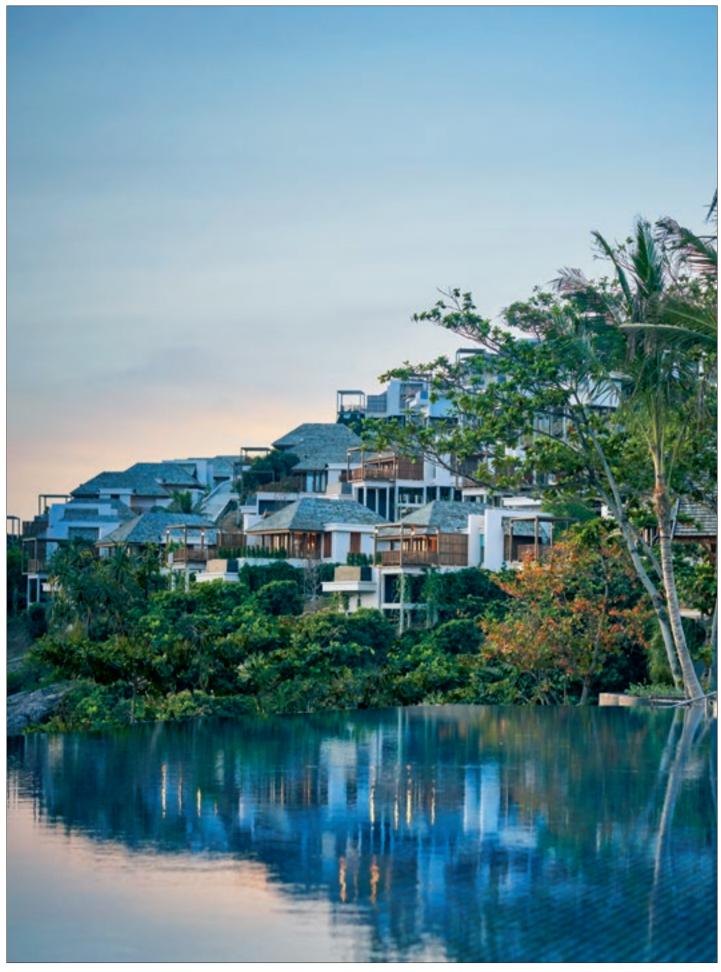
in Green's approach to her World Swimsuit photo shoot, which took place at The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui. "You've got to eat healthy, stay active and For more information please visit keep your goal in mind," she says. That being www.ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui

said, the self-confessed water babe had time to

"I loved the pool area with its beautiful ocean view! I could spend every day bathing in the sun and swimming there," she smiles. "I will forever have great memories of the resort, especially the That same drive and determination was reflected breathtaking sunsets, hospitality and friendliness of all the staff, and lastly, the really good food."

JACQUES

WEYERS



Before enjoying the beauty and hospitality

of The Ritz-Carlton,

Koh Samui, Tamaryn

Green was at the TB

Innovation Summit

in New York City

to launch the TB

Innovation Charter.

REINVENTION OF THE TIMELESS LUXURY IN THE RIVER CITY

LIFE FEATURE

A PRIME LOCATION, ICONIC VIEWS AND A FRESH NEW LOOK AT THE BRISBANE MARRIOTT HOTEL.

at the heart of the central business of the iconic Brisbane River, Story of the river city. Bridge, Kangaroo Point Cliffs and

the atmospheric river boardwalk.

A multi-million dollar renovation has seen an completing the sophisticated and grand sense impressive transformation of the hotel's 267 guest of arrival. All rooms feature natural light with views to rooms and suites, executive lounge, signature restaurant and two floors of event space. The either the Brisbane River or the city skyline. original, finest quality marble used throughout Light coloured timbers, textured wallpaper and the hotel has been carefully restored, while a soft colour palette all combine to provide a sophisticated designs and finishes incorporate welcoming and airy setting. The majestic, ceiling-



Words M. WILSON

he Brisbane Marriott Hotel stands elegant colours and fabrics. The design reflects Brisbane's cosmopolitan appeal and enviable district and offers stunning views lifestyle, creating understated luxury in the heart

The unique, contemporary ambience of the city skyline. Just a stone's throw lobby provides an inspiring first impression. away, you're perfectly positioned for the city's chic Marble, granite and Grecian sandstone columns shopping, cultural precincts, riverside dining and span 3.6 metres in diameter and the handforged chandelier is truly the lobby centrepiece,

THE HOTEL'S SIGNATURE RESTAURANT, MOTION DINING, HAS BEEN STYLISHLY REVIVED TO BE INCLUSIVE OF AN ARRAY OF DINING SPACES THAT MAXIMISE THE HOTEL'S PICTURESQUE LOCATION.



Savour seared-to-perfection steaks or explore the weekend seafood buffet and fine wine selection of Motion Dining, the hotel's vibrant signature restaurant.

height fabric bedheads feature backlighting which creates a soothing evening ambience. Today's sit at high set tables in M Bar, or enjoy al fresco savvy traveller will also appreciate the flexible and multi-functional work surfaces. The stunning marble bathrooms feature thoughtful lighting, supporting Queensland producers, it's a vibrant roomy baths and separate shower.

The hotel's signature restaurant, Motion Dining, has been stylishly revived to be inclusive of an array of dining spaces that maximise the hotel's picturesque location. Here diners can perch at www.marriott.com

tables overlooking the theatre of the open kitchen; dining overlooking the river on M Deck. Focusing on the importance of sourcing local produce and destination at any time of the day.

For more information please visit





LIFE FEATURE

The most stunning feature of the Brisbane Marriott Hotel is the exquisite use of marble, which has been carefully restored.

LIFE'S ALWAYS A PICNIC

PRETTY VIEWS OF CALTON HILL WITH A ROOFTOP PICNIC IN THE LUSH GARDEN OF THE GLASSHOUSE IS A SUMMER MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN.

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Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN





t was the French who first used the word pique-nique in the 17th century. And French Impressionist painter Édouard Manet's 1863 Déjeuner Sur l'Herbe (Lunch on the Lawn) is surely the most famous painting of a picnic – a naked woman sits on the woodland grass beside two dandies. But there's no denying that they do picnics best in the United Kingdom. No nudity required. In fact, they do it very well indeed at The Glasshouse.

The lush oasis that is the two-acre rooftop garden of The Glasshouse, a five-star luxury boutique hotel, is the perfect place in Edinburgh for an outdoor repast. In the summer when the days are long and warm, and the sun sets after 7pm, enjoy the afternoon with a rooftop picnic and stunning views of historic Calton Hill. On long summer days, no one should be expected to engage in any activity much more energetic than the partaking of a picnic.

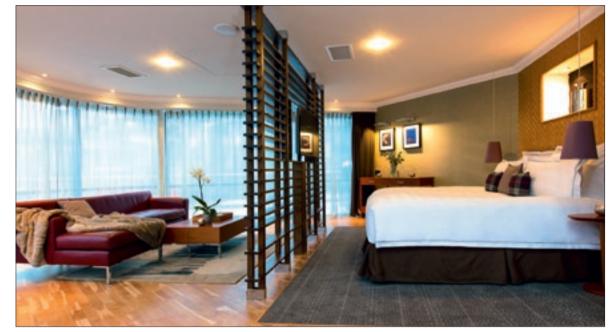
In The Wind and the Willows, Mole asks Rat what is in the picnic basket. "There's cold chicken inside it," replies Rat briefly; then gives the full list. "Cold tongue, cold ham, cold beef, pickled gherkins, salad, French rolls, cress sandwiches, potted meat, ginger beer, lemonade, soda water."

ENJOY THE AFTERNOON WITH A ROOFTOP PICNIC AND STUNNING VIEWS OF HISTORIC CALTON HILL.

It might be a tall order for the hotel to match that menu but a green oasis on a rooftop can match a riverine setting any day. The Glasshouse will prepare a wicker picnic basket with proper plates, cutlery and glasses, replete with fresh Scottish savouries and sweets, accompanied with the guests' choice of beverages from the rooftop bar.

Apart from picnics in the summer, the garden can also host weddings as well as private parties in The Calton Suite. Home to 77 rooms, The Glasshouse offers 29 rooms with direct access to the rooftop garden where you can relax at sunset in your private garden seating area.

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



Many of the rooms at The Glasshouse boast expansive outside space with private terraces or direct roof-garden access.



12 THINGS TO DO IN LONDON AT THREADNEEDLES HOTEL

THE SECRET TO SEEING LONDON IS TO ENJOY IT AT ITS BEST, WHEN IT'S LEAST CROWDED. CHECKING INTO A CITY BOUTIQUE HOTEL WITH EXCELLENT ROOMS, SERVICE AND FAB ARCHITECTURE IS KEY. THREADNEEDLES HOTEL IS WHERE YOU WANT TO BE STAYING FOR A SPOT OF WEEKEND SIGHTSEEING. WITH 12 WONDERFUL THINGS TO DO WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN







1. THE BOAT RACE

When two friends, one of them William Established in 1932, Regent's Park Open Air Wordsworth's nephew, decided to set up a challenge, it spawned the first Boat Race on 10 June 1829 at Henley on Thames with Oxford winning easily. Watch the men's race from the support the women's race too at 2pm.

2. REGENT'S PARK OPEN AIR THEATRE

Theatre has an al fresco stage and auditorium. The theatre welcomes an audience of over 140,000 each year during its 18-week season. Watch performances of Hansel & Gretel from 14 banks of the Thames on 7 April at 3pm. Cheer and to 22 June and A Midsummer's Night Dream from 28 June to 27 July.



From above Boat Race; Regent's Park Open Air Theatre

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From left: Leadenhall Market; Borough Market; Sky Garden at the Walkie Talkie.





3. THE SHARD

This 1,016-foot high crystal obelisk has probably pipped the London Eye as the city's most famous landmark. Approach it by walking across London Bridge as it looms before you, but the best views are from the 800-foot viewing platform. And a drink at Aqua Shard Bar is pretty unbeatable, too.

4. LEADENHALL MARKET AND THE OLD SPITALFIELDS MARKET

Visit these two famous markets, one for Harry Potter and the other for its East London vibe. Leadenhall Market was used for Diagon Alley when Hagrid and Harry walked through it to get to the Leaky Cauldron pub. Old Spitalfields Market saw the French Huguenots bring their lace-making to London in the 17th century. Today, it's a great place for food, gifts, souvenirs and fashion.

5. BOROUGH MARKET

Whether you're a foodie or just hungry, Borough Market is just for you, a landmark that showcases a part of life on the waterfront and docklands that dates back to 1014. In the 16th and 17th centuries, it was alive with market traders, pubs, theatres and other less wholesome entertainment. In contemporary London, it's the best open-air food market in the city.

6. SKY GARDEN AT THE WALKIE TALKIE

There is a very special public garden at 20 Fenchurch Street, nicknamed the Walkie Talkie building. It's the glass-domed Sky Garden, laid

LIFE MOMENTS

out over three floors with a series of planted terraces. There are also three restaurants and a lovely bar after you have had your fill of the views from the observation deck.

7. BLAVATNIK BUILDING AT TATE MODERN

Here is another venue from which to enjoy stunning panoramic views of the English capital's skyline. The top floor of the building is an open viewing terrace. If you're feeling peckish, grab a bite and a drink from the bar to munch on as you take in the gorgeous view.





8. BARBICAN CENTRE – **CONSERVATORY GARDEN**

The Barbican is one of London's best examples of Brutalist architecture. It's also Europe's largest arts centre and home to the London Symphony Orchestra. But if it's nature you're after, then head over to the Barbican's Conservatory, which is home to exotic fish and over 2,000 species of tropical plants and trees.

9. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

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Remarkably surviving four fires in London in its history, the English Baroque-style cathedral opened in 1708 and was designed by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of London





in 1666. Here's a tip that you may like: while walking around look out for Henry Moore's 1943 limestone carving of the Mother and Child. It's in the north choir aisle.

10. MUSEUM OF LONDON DOCKLANDS

Located on the Isle of Dogs in East London, this **12. WHEELER'S AT THREADNEEDLES** museum is housed in a massive warehouse. It tells the history of London's River Thames and the growth of Docklands. Wonderful permanent galleries include No. 1 Warehouse, London, Sugar & Slavery, First Port of Empire, Warehouse of the World and Docklands at War.

At Wheeler's, 'bad boy' chef Marco Pierre White puts a twist to classics like fish pie and grilled Dover sole. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. For more information please visit



LIFE MOMENTS

11. TOWER OF LONDON

This 900-year-old castle and fortress has been a royal residence, barracks, armoury, prison and museum. It also houses the breathtakingly beautiful Crown Jewels.

www.hotelthreadneedles.co.uk.

Clockwise from far left: Tate Modern; Museum of London Docklands; Tower of London; Wheeler's; St Paul's Cathedral; Barbican Centre – Conservatory Garden.

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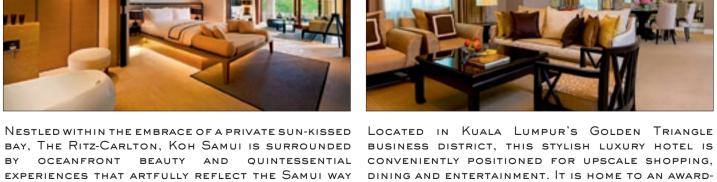
THE RITZ · CARLTON

KUALA LUMPUR





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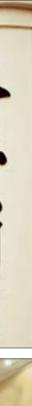


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THREADNEEDLES LONDON

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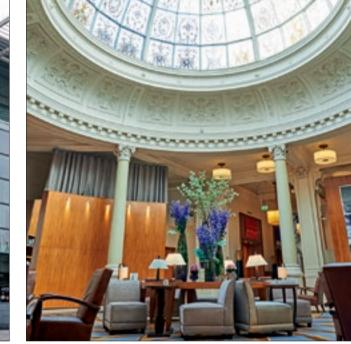
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