

# YTL *Life*

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**GREEN *gb* LEAF**  
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**GAYA ISLAND RESORT**  
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YTL Hotels is involved on both the ownership and management of properties in the United Kingdom, France, Australia, China, Japan, Indonesia and Thailand, as well as Malaysia.

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hubs and artistic avenues. The Westin Perth is the cornerstone of Hibernian Place, an inviting central plaza of manicured lawns and mature trees surrounded by a thoughtful mix of trendy eateries, cafés and rooftop bars that pay homage to Western Australian gastronomy.

Cameron Highlands Resort in Malaysia, famed for its cool weather and colonial architecture, is set amidst lush rolling hills, blanketed by tea plantations and strawberry fields. Such ideal weather makes the resort the perfect base for leisurely treks through the area's many nature trails. Upon your return, visit the Jim Thompson Tea Room for a sumptuous treat: warm scones, clotted cream and the resort's own strawberry jam alongside a spot of tea.

**Y**TL Hotels is focused on giving our esteemed guests a unique and luxurious experience whilst anticipating their needs and leaving them with treasured memories. Visit any one of our hotels around the world and you'll enjoy world-class amenities, facilities and services. The location of our properties is also carefully chosen to enhance your stay, whether you're looking to connect with an authentic side of Bali or syncing with London's kinetic pace.

Surrounded by the powder-white hills of Hokkaido, the ski-haven of Niseko Village welcomes skiers as the snow starts to fall. The culinary bounties of this beautiful northern Japanese region are numerous: artisanal cheeses, potato miso ramen, a unique soup curry and many more delicacies are documented in this issue. After a day of rigorous skiing and sightseeing, cosy up at a teahouse with a hot cup of matcha or at Tomioka White with fine Japanese whisky.

This issue we celebrate a new addition to the YTL Hotels portfolio – The Westin Perth – situated at the rejuvenated east end of Perth's CBD. The hotel sits in the city's historic heart, comprising a rich collection of heritage-listed architecture, cultural

Wherever your adventure may find you at one of our hotels and resorts around the globe, you can be certain you'll be immersed in the vibrancy of the natural environment and cultural heritage of the region. We do hope you enjoy it.



From left: Professor Dr Habibah Ashari, YM Tengku Marina Ibrahim and Hamidah Ashari.



From top: handcrafted Cheminahsayang Tenun flap clutch by Solaris Bijoux; handcrafted mini Mutiara clutch in batik.

# FIT FOR A QUEEN

PINK JAMBU DEBUTED ITS RAYA COLLECTION 2019 AT HOTEL STRIPES KUALA LUMPUR, SHOWCASING ITS EXCLUSIVE RANGE OF SIGNATURE BATIK IN THE FINEST SILKS.

Words TIEN CHEW



Handpainted Baju Bugis batik on silk.

Local luxury batikwear brand Pink Jambu hosted its annual Raya collection preview at The Snug, Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur. The event showcased new and exclusive pieces inspired by the four seasons while keeping Pink Jambu's signature batik style. Weaving specialist Cheminahsayang also revealed its latest collection, 12 unique four-metre hand-woven silks. Her Majesty Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah, The Raja Permaisuri Agong XVI and The Tengku Ampuan of Pahang, graced the event as guests of honour.

To plan and host your event, please visit [www.stripeskl.com](http://www.stripeskl.com)



YM Puteri Suraiya Afzan (left) with YM Tengku Marina Ibrahim, CEO of Pink Jambu.

# A WORTHY HOMECOMING

DIANA CHAN, MASTERCHEF AUSTRALIA 2017  
WINNER, VISITS STARHILL CULINARY STUDIO TO  
IMPART COOKING WISDOM TO STUDENTS AT YTL  
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT.

Words TIEN CHEW



Diana Chan conducting a masterclass with students at the Starhill Culinary Studio in Starhill Gallery, Bukit Bintang.

A name familiar to both Malaysians and Australians, Diana Chan rose to fame when she became the second Malaysian to win *MasterChef Australia* in 2017. She quickly built a name for herself in Melbourne and Kuala Lumpur, thanks in part to her inventive Malaysian approach to contemporary cuisine, creating fusion fare that hits home for many in the two cities.

The bubbly *MasterChef*'s four-day visit to Kuala Lumpur included a stop at the Starhill Culinary Studio to hold a masterclass with the

culinary students of YTL International College of Hotel Management.

The students even joined Diana on stage, creating one of her signature dishes – seared eye fillet with lotus root crisps, enoki fries and miso butter.

Eager to inspire, Diana also took the chance to share her journey from starting as an accountant to now-aspiring restaurateur.

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



# CELEBRATING HERITAGE

THE MAJESTIC MALACCA TAKES GUESTS ON A VOYAGE OF CULTURAL DISCOVERY AS PART OF ITS FESTA SAN PEDRO CELEBRATION.

Words GWEN ONG

**F**esta San Pedro is synonymous with the Portuguese community in Melaka. Every year, the young and old gather to commemorate St Peter – the patron saint of fishermen. This occasion was also observed by The Majestic Malacca recently with an evening of traditional dance, music and Kristang cuisine. The lively affair was graced by distinguished guests and representatives from the Portuguese embassy in Bangkok including His Excellency Francisco Vaz Patto.

Guests enjoyed a folk dance performance by the Dommarina dance troupe at the courtyard before heading up to The Mansion restaurant for a hearty dining experience featuring Kristang cuisine. It was the perfect opportunity for guests to indulge in the multifarious nuances of the dishes which have been influenced by various cultures, namely, Dutch, Portuguese, Malay, Indian and Chinese. Local favourites such as Curry Debal, lady's fingers with dried prawn sambal, sea snail curry and soy eggplant were among the highlights.



1) A Portuguese folk dance performance by the Dommarina troupe to kick-start the festivity. 2) From left: Paulo Domingues, HE Francisco Vaz Patto, Maria João Liew and José Luís Carneiro. 3) Andre Gomes and Cindy Tey. 4) Kay Tian Rigby (left) with Shannen Jade Totten. 5) Cincalok fritters. 6) *Salada pipinyu nanas kung kambrang* (sea prawns and *belacan* served in a torched pineapple with cucumber). 7) Clockwise from left: Celia Tan, Eugene Tey and Alvin Tey.





WESTIN WESTIN

MERCURE HOTEL

LIFE FEATURE

# LIVE IT WELL

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO WELLNESS AND A COMFORT-LED SENSE OF RELAXED, EASY SOPHISTICATION LEADS THE CHARGE AT THE WESTIN PERTH.

Words RENYI LIM





**T**o the east of Perth's briskly paced CBD is The Westin Perth – a tall, elegant tower in Hibernian Place, which houses 368 guestrooms, all of which offer a level of five-star service that sets a new standard of hotel sophistication in Western Australia's capital. Since the property first opened, The Westin's Six Pillars of Wellbeing – Sleep Well, Eat Well, Move Well, Feel Well, Work Well, and Play Well – have been at the heart of everything it does, with the aim of leaving guests feeling better than when they arrived.

The hotel is located in Perth's historic heart, a rich concentration of heritage-listed buildings and culture- and arts-related venues. It's only a 10-minute walk from Elizabeth Quay, two minutes to the shopping precinct and a brisk 900-metre walk to the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

### SENSE OF ARRIVAL

The Westin Perth's entrance and lobby is both grand and welcoming; an aria of soaring ceilings, with an inviting feeling. As with the rest of the hotel, natural light pours through huge windows, while its neutral colour palette is a nod to Western Australia's landscape, allowing natural textures of timber, sandstone and leather to shine. The neighbouring Haven Lounge is spacious and very stylish, with lofty ceilings and comfortable couches, flowing outdoors to terrace seating overlooking the central square, an ideal spot for high tea.

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## THE WESTIN PERTH'S ENTRANCE AND LOBBY IS BOTH GRAND AND WELCOMING.

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### SLUMBER ON DOWN

Generous proportions take the lead in the design of The Westin Perth's guestrooms, starting from the 42-square-metre Deluxe Room which comes with a refreshing walk-in rain shower, White Tea amenities and the famous Westin Heavenly Bed. The latter, made exclusively for Westin Hotels & Resorts, comes with a plush, pillow-top construction, into which every weary traveller will be glad to sink.

Those who've arrived in Australia from the far side of the world will welcome small, thoughtful touches that encourage recovery from jet lag such as the Westin Sleep Well Lavender Balm – a roll-on blend of lavender and chamomile essential oils to soothe tense nerves. Guests feeling peckish in the wee hours of the night can also take comfort in the Westin Sleep Well Menu: a selection of sleep-enhancing superfoods available on the hotel's in-room dining service.

The Westin Perth welcomes guests with luxury accommodation, five-star amenities and a dynamic city location.

LIFE FEATURE



Above: from the lounge area to the lavishly appointed rooms, over 2,000 artworks are available throughout the hotel for your viewing pleasure.  
Below: The Westin Perth commands an impressive view of the city's East End, featuring a rich collection of heritage-listed buildings.



## LIFE FEATURE

More spacious room options include eight Westin Suites, 10 Club Suites, five Executive Suites and one Presidential Suite – the latter of which stretches to an impressive 240 square metres. Club Rooms offer access to The Executive Club Lounge for a gourmet breakfast in the morning, along with complimentary evening drinks and canapés. A little more space goes a long way, especially when you take the hotel's Westin HITT video into account: an in-room workout series led by brand ambassador Rachael Finch.

There is, of course, the option of heading to the WestinWORKOUT Fitness Studio on the Wellness Level, which is entirely for guests to continue pursuing their fitness goals on state-of-the-art Technogym equipment. Active travellers who've forgotten their workout kit needn't worry – the

hotel's WestinWORKOUT Gear Lending Program offers New Balance shoes and clothing for guests to use during their stay for a minimal fee.

### **HERE COMES THE SUN**

After a tough workout or a challenging session keeping up with The Westin Perth's Run Concierge during a group run session, it's equally important to reward yourself for a job well done, which is where Bodhi J Spa comes in. Established in partnership with Australia's leading skincare provider, Sodashi (its products are handmade in North Fremantle), its spa menu specialises in nurturing therapies such as reiki and chakra-balancing.

Guests have their pick of six tranquil treatment rooms, one being specially designed for couples, along with a luxurious steam room and an outdoor







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## JUST AS STIMULATING IS THE WESTIN PERTH'S COLLECTION OF OVER 2,000 ARTWORKS.

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terrace dedicated purely towards relaxation, offering wide-ranging views of the city and Swan River. The same Wellness Level boasts a 20-metre infinity-edge pool in case guests fancy a pre- or post-spa dip or simply want to catch a little of the Australian sun.

Just as stimulating – albeit visually, this time – is The Westin Perth's collection of over 2,000 artworks, curated by art consultants Ilana Rabinowitz and Sonja Brouard from Art Duo. Many of these pieces feature in the guestrooms as well as its public spaces, which can range from striking local artwork to photography showcasing unique Western Australian landscapes.

Besides a grand ballroom measuring 800 square metres – the largest of its kind in Perth's CBD, with a capacity of up to 520 for a sit-down event – the hotel also offers nine flexible meeting spaces flooded with natural light and fitted with cutting-edge audiovisual technology for flawless presentations. Clutter-free meetings and streamlined workstations are very much a signature, making way for efficiency and clarity of thought. As another bonus, The Westin Perth's wellness-inspired meeting breaks provide

nutritious snacks and nourishing smoothies for a much-needed energy boost.

### LA DOLCE VITA

It would be an enormous disservice to The Westin Perth – as well as to Australia's reputation for producing some of the world's most exciting food – not to mention Garum: an exploration of ancient Roman cooking and acclaimed chef Guy Grossi's first foray outside Victoria. Grossi is one of Australia's most respected chefs, an author of five cookbooks and a passionate fan of Western Australian produce and wines. Garum's standing as one of the leading chef-hatted Italian restaurants in Perth is bolstered by its terrific handmade pastas (especially the *bucatini all'amatriciana*), seasonal Roman-inspired dishes created with the freshest Western Australian ingredients, and a splendid breakfast table so decadent that you may never be satisfied with any other hotel breakfast ever again. Directly connected to the hotel, Garum is located in the heritage-listed Hibernian Hall dating to 1902, with its original high timber ceilings, brickwork and hardwood floors. The restaurant has made a home within a meticulously

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**THE MULTI-FACETED HIBERNIAN PLACE CONTAINS  
A CURATED MIX OF APPEALING VENUES.**

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preserved and regenerated space, bringing what was once a community hall for the Irish Catholic community back to life in a unique way.

The multi-faceted Hibernian Place contains a curated mix of appealing venues: Offshoot coffee roastery by Mary Street Bakery, Huxtaburger from Melbourne, Middle-Eastern-inspired rooftop restobar Hadiqa, Japanese whisky haven Goody Two's and Western Australian food-focused Arthur & Co.

At the heart is Central Plaza, an inviting 2,000-square-metre space which includes a rooftop garden, water feature, mature trees, manicured lawns, Wi-Fi hotspots and stylish yet comfortable timber and stone furniture. The

area also has the capacity to host corporate and private functions, and will feature a calendar of exciting city events throughout the year.

The Westin Perth's location makes it accessible to the many highlights in and around Perth, such as the Northbridge nightlife and entertainment districts, Kings Park or Rottneest Island – home of the Quokka (which is just a boat ride away). It's just as ideally placed as a starting or finishing treat for guests keen to venture to the Swan Valley vineyards and the unforgettable wineries and beaches of Margaret River.

*For more information, please visit [www.westinperth.com](http://www.westinperth.com)*

Garum is housed in the historic Hibernian Hall in Perth City's East End.  
Facing page: the Bodhi J Spa specialises in nurturing therapies such as reiki and chakra-balancing.



AT THE CENTRE  
OF IT ALL



# SYDNEY'S BEST IS ON OFFER WITHIN STEPS OF SYDNEY HARBOUR MARRIOTT AT CIRCULAR QUAY.

Words SASHA GEORGE



**A**ustralia's biggest and most vibrant city has much to offer those in search of superb dining, cultural delights, enriching activities and shopping havens. The city's bustling epicentre is undoubtedly found in the Circular Quay area hosting world-famous landmarks such as Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Overlooking this hot spot is Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel, which boasts scenic vistas coupled with luxury amenities, all set in the heart of the city's central business district. To take advantage of all that Sydney has to offer, here are some must-dos in and around the hotel's vicinity.

## SIGHTSEEING

No trip to Sydney would be complete without setting foot in Sydney Opera House. Make the most of your visit by hopping on board a water taxi which ferries you over to the Opera House entrance. While on the ferry, take in the city landscapes including the Royal Botanic Gardens and Sydney Harbour Bridge. Once you arrive at the Opera House, be sure to either take a tour of the building designed by Danish architect Jorn Utzon, or book a show in advance as the Opera House offers more than its name implies, with a splendid range of Broadway shows and local concerts.

Another Sydney landmark to add to your list



Darling Harbour (above) and the chef-hatted Silvester's (below).



is the popular recreational precinct at Darling Harbour. Some of the favourite attractions there include the Carousel, National Maritime Museum and Madam Tussauds. A lovely way to spend the afternoon would be to visit the teahouse at the serene Chinese Garden of Friendship.

### CULTURE

Circular Quay is also a hub for the culture vulture and a stroll through the hotel's neighbourhood will reveal the wonderful City of Sydney's public art collection as well as the Museum of Sydney and Sydney Observatory. Facing the quay, the Museum of Contemporary Art offers the gamut in contemporary art offerings. It also hosts one of the most significant representations of works by Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander artists.

Should you want to immerse yourself in understanding Aboriginal culture, head to the nearby neighbourhood of Barangaroo where you can partake in the Aboriginal Culture Tours programme. Extending into Barangaroo Reserve, this tour will enlighten you on the importance of Australian aboriginal heritage as well as the local flora and fauna. This enables the traveller to have a unique insight into the cultural and spiritual significance of the land.

### DINING

Circular Quay is very much a foodie haven topped off with stunning views of Sydney Harbour. Don't leave the hotel without making a reservation at the chef-hatted Silvester's, a perfect spot for lunch or dinner with menus focused on sustainable food by French Chef de Cuisine Raphael Szurek, who



trained under the legendary Paul Bocuse. The restaurant's Braised Darling Downs Wagyu Beef Cheek is a favourite, while the Signature Oysters are among the freshest produce you will taste.

You won't have to venture far for some of the most sought-after dining experiences in Sydney as the harbour area hosts some legends in Australia's culinary scene. Aria offers a bucket list dining extravaganza with a delicious degustation menu, paired with great views and unimpeachable service. Bennelong by renowned chef Peter Gilmore is another beautiful place for a meal, housed under the post-Brutalist arches of Sydney Opera House. Other particularly delicious options include Mr Wong's for Peking duck, Bar Patrón for authentic Mexican and Café Sydney for cocktails.



**SHOPPING**

Circular Quay is only minutes away from some of the city's best shopping spots. Walk along the water and head to The Rocks, which was the first European settlement in Australia. Its historic cobbled streets are full of heritage buildings and shopping pursuits. The Rocks Markets are held every weekend and are chock-a-block with unique Australian craft products. On Fridays, The Rocks Foodie Market offers artisanal foods to tempt your taste buds. With other shopping centres such as Pitt Street Mall, Bondi Junction and QVB mere minutes away from the hotel, you can be sure that your retail therapy needs are well and truly satisfied before heading back to the comfort of your room.



The luxurious rooms provide guests with a retreat that includes iconic views of Sydney Harbour.

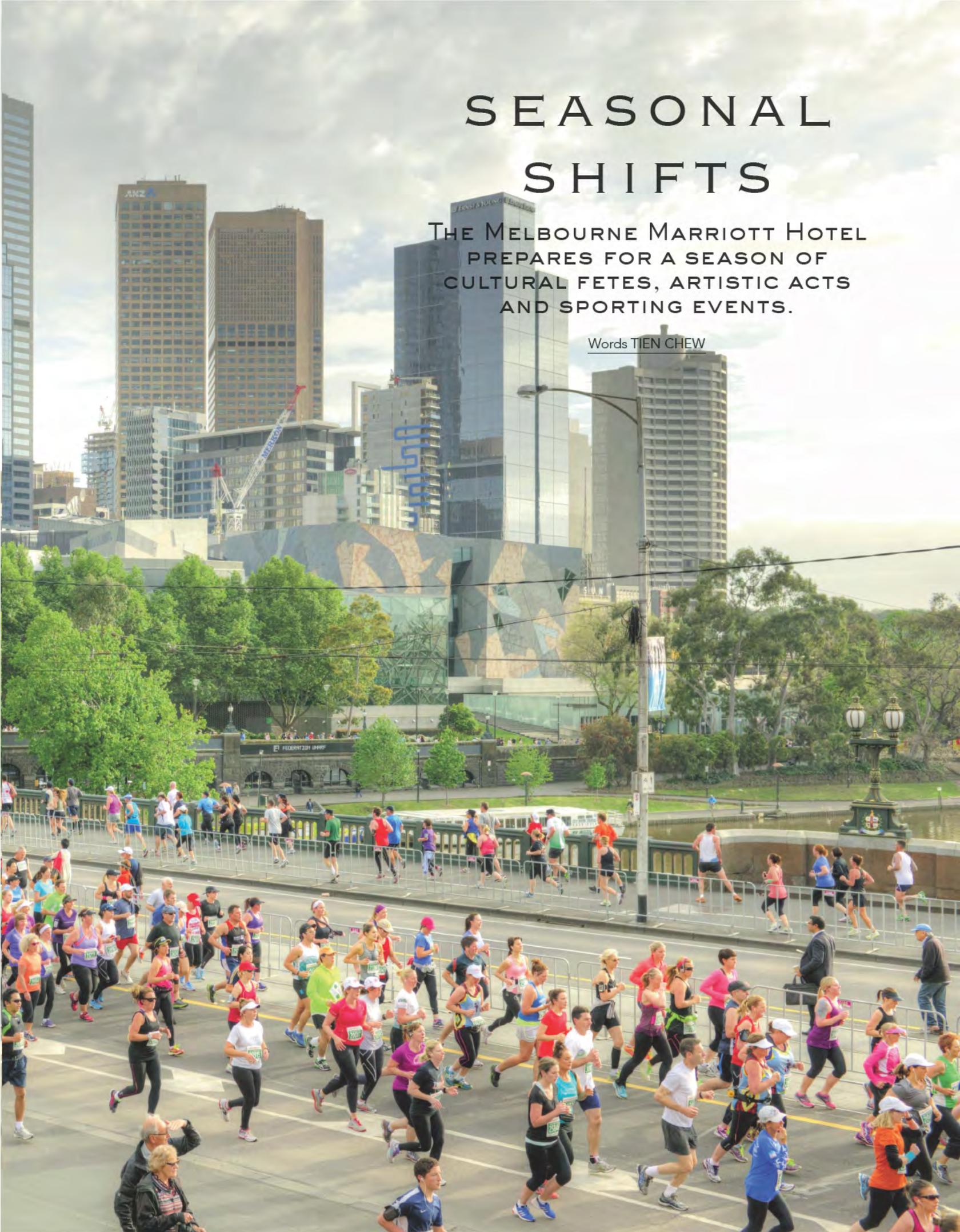
[www.marriott.com/sydmc](http://www.marriott.com/sydmc)



# SEASONAL SHIFTS

THE MELBOURNE MARRIOTT HOTEL  
PREPARES FOR A SEASON OF  
CULTURAL FETES, ARTISTIC ACTS  
AND SPORTING EVENTS.

Words TIEN CHEW





The Melbourne Marriott Hotel's guestrooms are the perfect place to unwind after a day of work or exploration.





Below, from far left: Melbourne Fringe Festival, Melbourne Cup and Melbourne Fashion Week.



**T**he Melbourne Marriott Hotel is all urban luxury, featuring direct access to some of the most iconic spots in town: Princess Theatre, Chinatown, the Yarra River and the Royal Botanic Gardens. Guestrooms and suites are well appointed, with a great location offering immediate access to many of the city's famed attractions and its vibrant dining scene.

The first tendrils of spring in Melbourne signify the bloom of exciting events on its calendar.

First in season is Melbourne Fashion Week which returns for its 25th year. At the heart of this nine-day celebration to couture is the iconic Melbourne town hall, playing host to a string of free programmes highlighting the nation's top designers, models and labels across runways, parties, workshops and exhibitions.

Trading one artistic discipline for another, the Melbourne Fringe Festival honours an important aspect of the city's essential identity – art.

Independent artists unite to put on various shows across every kind of art form, championing creative and cultural democracy. What makes this art festival unique is that it isn't curated, supporting over 3,000 artists who are free to present their works across more than 170 venues.

Melburnians – perhaps one of the world's greatest sports enthusiasts – will gladly lay claim

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**THE FIRST TENDRILS  
OF SPRING IN MELBOURNE  
SIGNIFY THE BLOOM  
OF EXCITING EVENTS  
ON ITS CALENDAR.**

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to two of Australia's biggest sporting events: the Melbourne Marathon and the Melbourne Cup.

The former features five event distances to allow everyone to experience the city's beauty at their own pace. All races start from Batman Avenue (named after an Australian grazier, entrepreneur and explorer) and end at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The Melbourne Cup, on the other hand, draws massive crowds annually to Flemington Racecourse to what is considered the richest handicap race in Australia and among one of the richest horse races globally.

The Melbourne Cup Carnival, a week-long spectacle of entertainment, fashion, food and sport to welcome the race, is a true springtime highlight.

[marriott.com/melmc](http://marriott.com/melmc)

# SUNNY SIDE UP

BRISBANE MARRIOTT HOTEL'S PRIME POSITION IN THE CITY'S CBD MEANS YOU'LL BE SPOILT FOR CHOICE WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING THE MOST OF QUEENSLAND'S BUZZING CAPITAL.

Words RENYI LIM







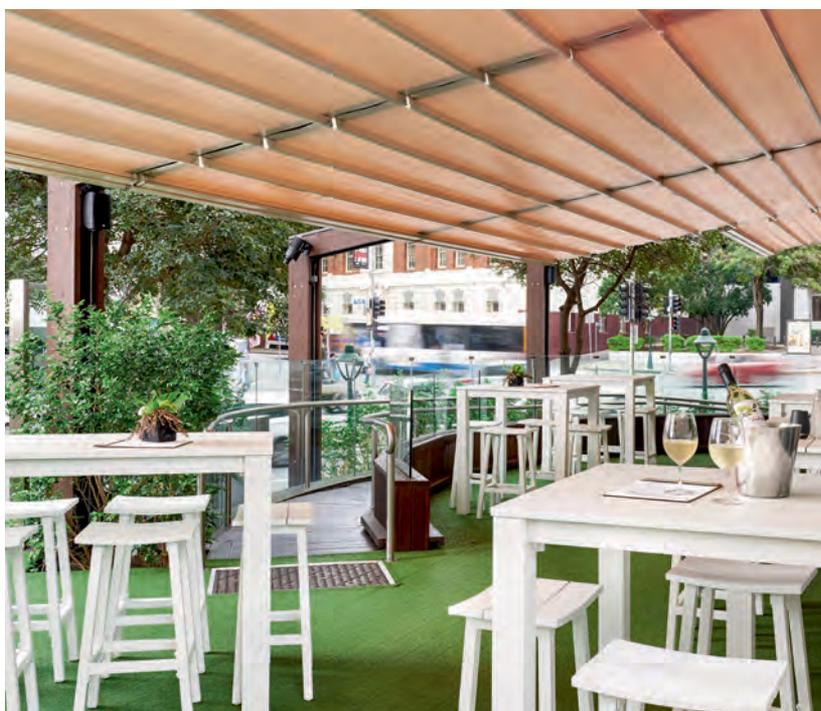
Indulge in an intimate meal at the private dining area of your Presidential Suite (above) or enjoy al fresco dining at M Deck overlooking the river (below).

Prepare to be somewhat run off your feet when you step outside Brisbane Marriott Hotel – not because it’s surrounded by the hustle and bustle of the city, but simply due to the fact that there’s just so much to keep you entertained. During the hours when you’re not taking in scenic views of the Brisbane River from within your five-star retreat, the hotel’s ideal location makes it incredibly easy to venture to and from Brisbane’s hottest spots.

There are rugby matches at Suncorp Stadium or music festivals and expos galore at Brisbane Showgrounds to get your blood pumping as well as a terrific selection of boutiques and retail outlets at Queen Street Mall should shopping be your cardio of choice.

Closer still is South Bank, considered the cultural epicentre of Brisbane and boasting 17 hectares of thriving green parklands, four key dining precincts and a range of events throughout the year.

The Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, collectively known as QAGOMA, is a must-visit destination for even the most reluctant gallery-goer. Its vision to be the leading institution for the art of Australia, Asia and the Pacific has led it to amass more than 17,000 works of historical, modern and contemporary art – much of which may be viewed for free in its permanent exhibitions.





Aside from that, its engaging programmes range from daily drop-in drawing sessions to a diverse selection of film screenings at the Australian Cinémathèque – the only dedicated cinema in an Australian art museum.

Close by, you'll find the world-class Queensland Performing Arts Centre, which has played host to musicals such as Andrew Lloyd Webber's *School of Rock* and theatre companies such as the Queensland Ballet along with Queensland Museum and Sciencentre, the State Library of Queensland (the ideal place for all incorrigible bookworms) and the Queensland Maritime Museum, which is one of the largest of its kind in the country.

The best view of the city arguably belongs to The Wheel of Brisbane. This iconic landmark lifts its passengers 60 metres above the ground in the safety and comfort of a fully enclosed, air-conditioned gondola.

Whether you choose to take a ride in the sparkling sunshine, as the sun sets or while the city lights are twinkling at night, you'll get a 360-degree panoramic view that you won't forget – and if you're eagle-eyed, perhaps you'll be able to spot Brisbane Marriott Hotel, too.

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

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**AUSTRALIAN CINÉMATHÈQUE IS THE ONLY DEDICATED CINEMA IN AN AUSTRALIAN ART MUSEUM.**

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The Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern art (top) and Suncorp Stadium (above).

# NATURE RESPLENDENT

A HIGH FASHION TOUR OF TANJONG JARA RESORT,  
FEATURING UNMISTAKABLY MALAY PIECES FROM TOP LOCAL  
DESIGNERS, UNDERSCORES THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THIS  
EAST COAST GEM.

Words TIEN CHEW  
Photography LOOI MENG CHUAN  
Styling MAX MAK



Swimwear, by Ozeroswimwear;  
and baju Melayu, by Melinda Looi.





Printed chiffon dress,  
by Melinda Looi.









Red gown, by Alia Bastamam.



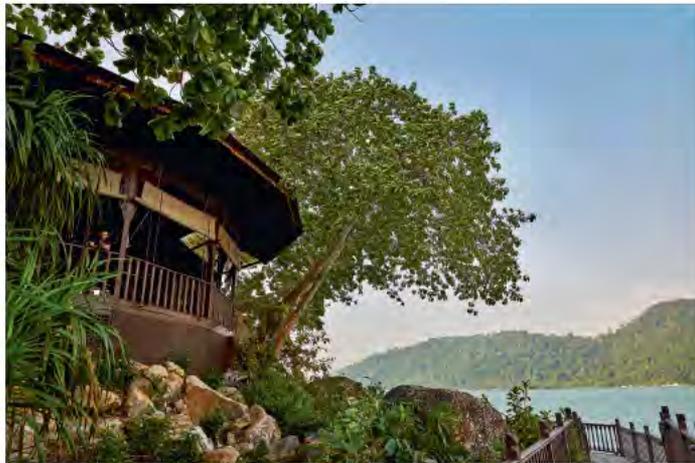


Hair stylist SIM POH LI  
Make-up artist CHONG SIEW CHENG

# AT THE CHEF'S TABLE

UNCLE LIM'S KITCHEN CONTINUES TO DELIGHT  
PANGKOR LAUT RESORT'S GUESTS WITH TRADITIONAL  
CHINESE DISHES EXCLUSIVE TO THE ISLAND RESTAURANT.

Words TIEN CHEW



Uncle Lim's Kitchen, perched atop a cliff and overlooking the turquoise waters of the Malaccan Straits, is a multi-faceted wonder. It is a Chinese restaurant on a private island, which is only open to guests of Pangkor Laut Resort. Over the years, Uncle Lim's Kitchen has become an institution and, up till the current day, sees its namesake chef, now 85 years old, buzzing around this dinner-only establishment. He does this to ensure dishes taste the way they should, 35 years after the restaurant's first meal was served. The culinary finds here are Nyonya and Hockchew Chinese-style home cooking, using locally sourced ingredients and seafood freshly caught off Pangkor's waters.

Start with duck spring rolls – tender slices of in-

house roasted duck, crunchy cucumber, sesame seeds and scallions, dressed in a sticky-sweet plum sauce and wrapped in soft wheat flour paper. The savoury tang of the duck contrasts with the sweetness of the sauce, creating an interplay of flavours that pair with a sip of pu-erh tea.

An essential order, calamansi chicken, is a great match to a steaming bowl of rice. Chunks of chicken breast are deep-fried and tossed with sesame seeds, finished with a tangy and refreshingly sweet calamansi sauce. The succulent chicken also goes well with a side of stir-fried greens, preferably Hong Kong kai lan cooked in a flavourful XO sauce and seared scallops.

No meal here would be complete without seafood and Uncle Lim recommends another signature – fantasy prawns. Tiger prawns, caught



Head Chef  
Fung Tai



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FOR A LARGER PARTY,  
THERE IS UNCLE LIM'S  
AROMATIC STYLE SNAPPER.

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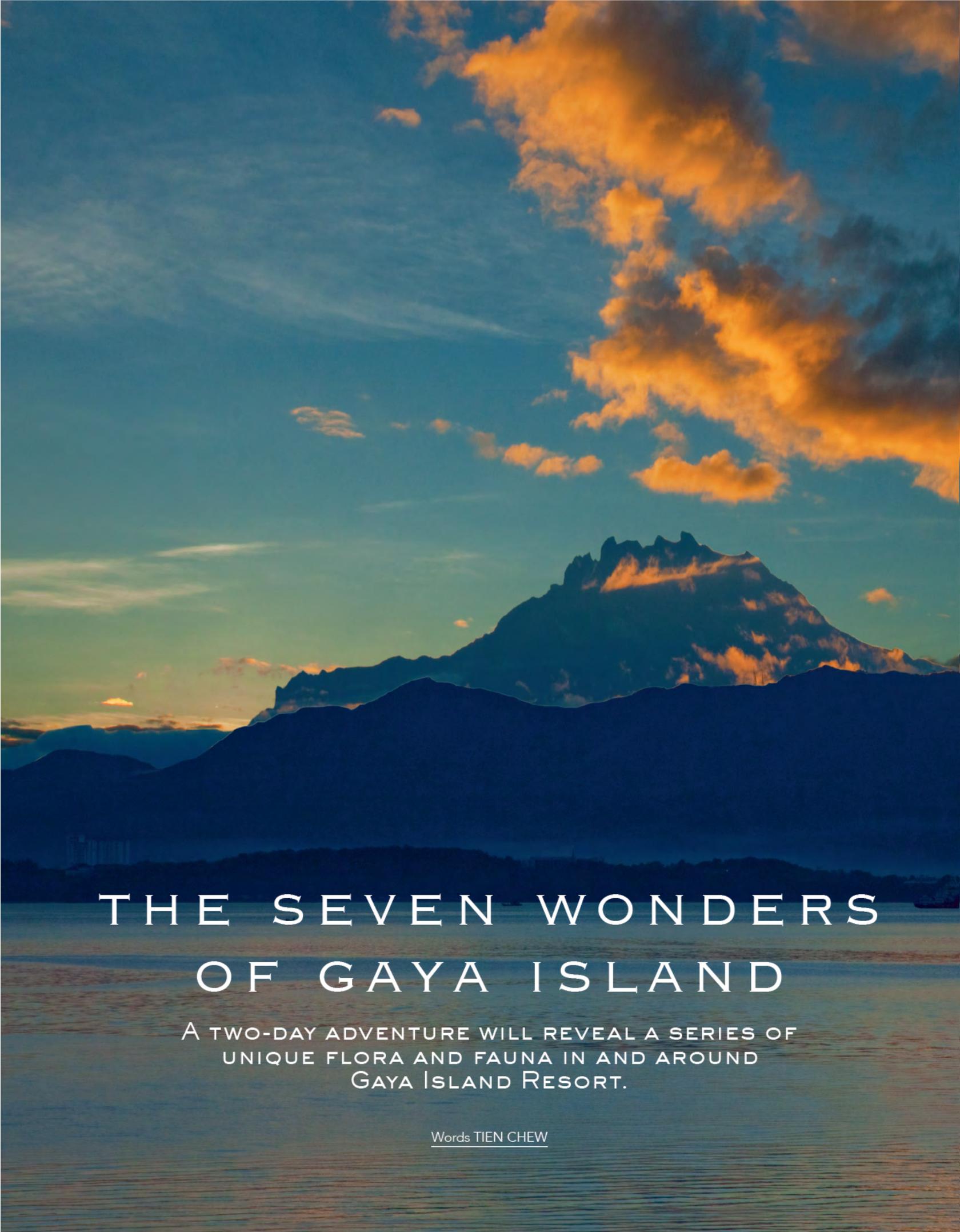
All dishes are inspired by the unique products available locally, and made to each guest's tastes and requirements.

from Pangkor's waters, are stir-fried in a black bean sauce that contains lemongrass, ginger flower, onion and fermented soybean. The umami-rich sauce enhances the plump prawns, with the flavours permeating into the tastes of sea and shell.

For a larger party, there is Uncle Lim's aromatic style snapper, steamed on banana leaves and marinated with a special paste comprising finely chopped kaffir lime leaf, lemongrass, coconut milk and a dash of green curry. "The paste used is measured according to the weight and size of the fish before steaming it," says Uncle Lim, explaining that doing so allows the fish's inherent oils and juices to shine through.

To end, consider the banana fritters – deep-fried sweet local bananas served with a dollop of vanilla ice cream drizzled in chocolate sauce and topped with almonds.

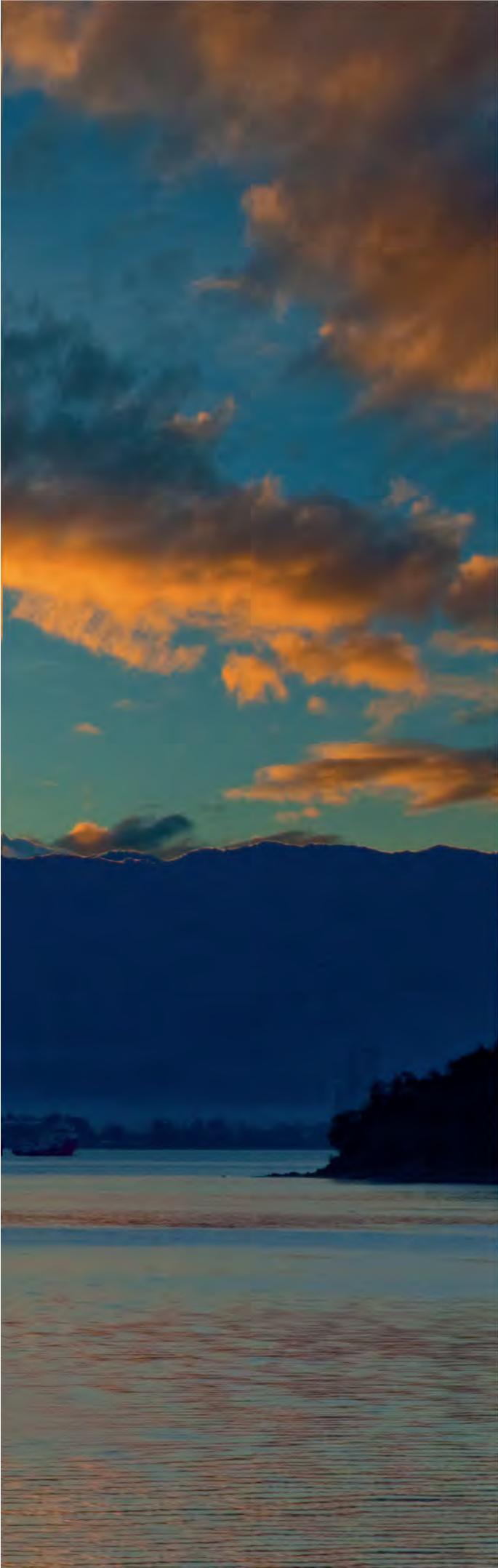
For more information,  
please visit [www.pangkorlaut.com](http://www.pangkorlaut.com)



# THE SEVEN WONDERS OF GAYA ISLAND

A TWO-DAY ADVENTURE WILL REVEAL A SERIES OF  
UNIQUE FLORA AND FAUNA IN AND AROUND  
GAYA ISLAND RESORT.

Words TIEN CHEW



## LIFE FEATURE

As the first rays of daybreak filter into the sky, Mount Kinabalu's awe-inspiring sight comes into full view from Feast Village, Gaya Island Resort's all-day dining restaurant. Such is the beauty of this kaleidoscopic backdrop that the breakfast line's enticing aromas almost go unnoticed. An omelette with the works, granola, fresh local fruits and a steaming brew will prepare you for a morning out with the hotel's resident naturalist, Sabah-born Justin Juhun. His accumulated wisdom of the local nature makes him the best guide to uncover the island's seven wonders – a collection of local flora and fauna that are unique to this region.



This journey of discovery begins with a kayaking tour at the nearby centuries-old mangrove forest. Here, in the cool stillness, one appreciates nature's resilience in the towering mangrove roots, rising high above the sea to deal with the water's salinity. This unique ecosystem has since become a home for monitor lizards, long-tailed macaques, oriental pied hornbills and mangrove crabs.

Kayaking into the 100-year-old mangrove forest occasionally surprises guests with the appearance of mangrove crabs, the oriental pied hornbill, monitor lizards and many more beautiful creatures.

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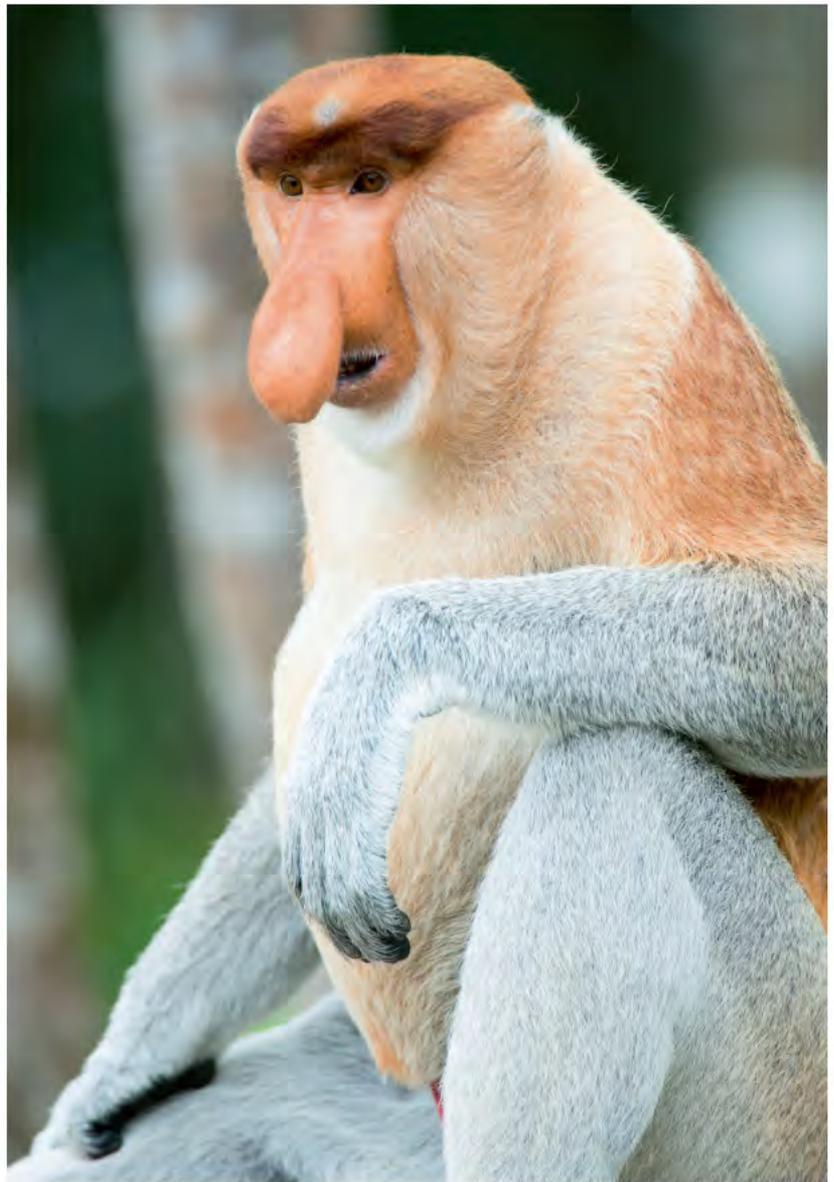
**GAYA ISLAND IS HOME TO AROUND APPROXIMATELY 100 OF THESE MONKEYS.**

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The early morning is also ideal for spotting the reddish-brown arboreal proboscis monkey, a species endemic to Borneo. A short trek from the hotel leads to an observation platform where, in peak season, the monkeys appear en masse. Gaya Island is home to around approximately 100 of these monkeys and the resort's partnership with Sabah Parks and Sabah Wildlife Development ensures the preservation of this distinct and almost emblematic species.

At Tavajun Bay, the hotel's private beach, a family of bearded pigs roams free and happy, the animal kingdom equivalent of beach bums. Adopted by the hotel, the alpha male (lovingly named Timmy) and his family spend their days in search of fallen fruits and plants. But it isn't just the animals that come for a meal; contemporary Asian cuisine is served for lunch under a shaded hut, set on the idyllic beach. If you prefer to get up close with nature, there's the option to pre-order a gourmet picnic basket.

Not all of the island's seven wonders are found off hotel grounds. Come evening, the elusive red giant flying squirrel emerges from its slumbers, gliding from tree to tree to forage for berries, young shoots and insects around the resort's gardens and Kinabalu Villas. The latter are so named for offering unobstructed views of the iconic mountain which gives its name to the state capital across the waters.



Clockwise from top: proboscis monkey, red giant flying squirrel and bearded pig.  
Facing page: mangrove forest.



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JUSTIN'S INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAND REVEALS  
PLENTY OF ODD CRITTERS DURING THE NIGHT WALK.

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As darkness falls, fireflies, residing at an established habitat in the resort, take centre stage with their enchanting dance of lights. Ongoing restoration efforts by the resort through the cultivation of *Excoecaria indica* plants, vital in providing food and nesting spots, have resulted in the firefly population's sustainability and growth.

A short distance from the firefly habitat, a bizarre looking edible plant – the elephant foot yam – thrives, thanks to Justin's cultivation efforts. Besides providing sustenance, the plant's most distinguishable feature is a single inflorescence

and solitary maroon leaf that blooms for approximately 115 days.

It's a different kind of jungle when darkness falls and night dwellers start their day. Justin's intimate knowledge of the land reveals plenty of odd critters during the night walk. If you're lucky, you may even spot the petite boobook owl – a small and brown-feathered nocturnal creature that will make the trek worthwhile.

*For more information on this experience, please visit [www.gayaislandresort.com](http://www.gayaislandresort.com)*

# TEA WITH A PERANAKAN TWIST

THE MAJESTIC MALACCA TAKES INSPIRATION FROM  
THE LOCAL CULTURE TO MAKE FOR MEMORABLE AFTERNOONS.

Words GWEN ONG



**A**s the story goes, afternoon tea – that most quintessential of English traditions – first came about in 1840 when the seventh Duchess of Bedford was hit by hunger pangs mid-afternoon. She requested a tray of tea, bread and butter, and cake to tide her over till dinner, which was usually served at close to 8pm – as was the fashion of royalty in those times. Soon, the notion of afternoon tea became a regular social event as the Duchess invited upper class and society ladies to join her. Queen Victoria was said to be rather fond of having a spot of tea and the practice grew in popularity and scale, hence the term ‘tea reception’ was coined.

Today, high tea has evolved and is no longer the reserve of aristocracy. Dainty sandwiches, mini desserts and other delectables are the natural order of the day and at The Majestic Malacca, one may partake in this afternoon affair, albeit with a twist. The hotel’s Peranakan-themed tea is an attractive offering which draws inspiration from local culture. A three-tiered set supplants the usual fare with delicious local delicacies.

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**“EVERYTHING THAT YOU SEE ON THE PERANAKAN AFTERNOON TEA MENU IS MADE FROM SCRATCH.”**

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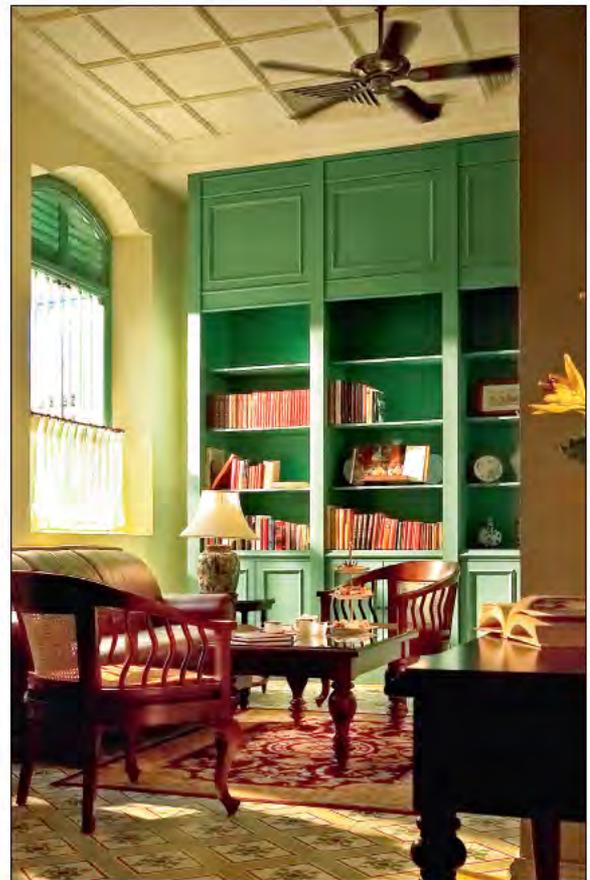
The parade of culinary highlights on this three-tiered set is a real testament to the rich heritage of Malaysia’s melting-pot culture, which has assimilated the diverse influences of Chinese, Malay, Indian and European cuisine into what is popularly known as Peranakan. One is served with *pai tee* (savory vegetables in a crisp cracker), *popiah* (minced meat and sweet turnip in rice rolls), *onde onde* (chewy rice cakes filled with liquid palm sugar), *kuih seri muka* (layered cake), *angku* (mung bean cake), *pulut tai tai* (steamed glutinous rice with a dollop of coconut jam) and *cendol* (an iced dessert of coconut milk with rice flour jelly).

“We are proud of our heritage and we want our guests to experience the local culture too,” explains the hotel’s resident chef. “Everything that you see on the Peranakan Afternoon Tea menu is made from scratch.”

If you’re wondering, scones also feature, served warm with jam and clotted cream together with a selection of mini tarts and sandwiches.

Part of the charm of an afternoon tea is its location and one would be hard-pressed not to fall in love with The Lounge at The Majestic Malacca. Within the walls of this restored 1920s private mansion, you’re bound to be entranced by the beauty of Peranakan architecture with its intricate porcelain tilework, stained glass windows and teakwood fittings – all reverberating with the glow of the Peranakan culture which blossomed a century ago.

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



Enjoy a Peranakan-style afternoon tea in the homely comforts of The Majestic Malacca.



# SAVOURING SHANGHAI

A TRIP TO JW MARRIOTT KUALA LUMPUR WILL SATISFY  
YOUR CRAVING FOR AUTHENTIC SHANGHAI CUISINE,  
TOPPED WITH MODERN CHINESE GLAMOUR.

Words URSULA POLO



Shanghai is the leading Chinese restaurant in Kuala Lumpur that specialises in exquisite Shanghaiese cuisine, such as Baked Royal Bridge Biscuit (facing page).

SHANGHAI-BORN CHEF WONG WING YEUK  
PRESENTS ONLY THE BEST OF THE BEST  
FROM HIS HOME COUNTRY TO MALAYSIANS.



From left: stir-fried flat glass noodles with dried scallops, crab meat and golden mushrooms;  
braised superior fish maw soup with sea cucumber, bird's nest, mushrooms and shredded chicken.  
Facing page: steamed Shanghainese meat dumplings.

Shanghai – once dubbed the Paris of the East and now a bona fide world city – becomes the culinary backdrop for one of the most unique restaurants in all of Kuala Lumpur. Here, you'll find the only restaurant in town which offers authentic Shanghainese food.

Shanghai's décor is inspired by the famous Shanghainese delights of the Snow Garden restaurant chain, Soh Chit Association of Hong Kong and Soh Chit Yuen restaurants, featuring a touch of modern Chinese glamour. Here you will find neutral tones of black Marquina marble and light grey Emperor marble. Adorning Shanghai's walls are a series of splendid Chinese ink paintings of birds and storks (to signify good luck) as well as panels of classical Chinese poetry.

The dining room is helmed by Shanghai-born Chef Wong Wing Yeuk, who presents only the best of the best from his home country to Malaysians. His tenure, two decades later, has seen over 200 dishes introduced, each reminiscent of Shanghai's culinary nous.

Among the stars of Chef Wong's repertoire are dim sum and classic Shanghainese dishes. The highlights include *xiao long bao*, chilled drunken chicken in Chinese rice wine, deep-fried French

goose liver wrapped in cod and a healthful double-boiled superior fish maw soup with bean curd leaves and Chinese ham. There's also the indulgent sautéed freshwater shrimps and fried noodles with lobster, assorted mushrooms and truffle oil. For those who prefer an apéritif before dinner, Shanghai's bar provides a comfortable yet glamorous lounge setting. You also have the option of a private dining room, opulently bedecked in Oriental motifs.

From late September to early December, the restaurant welcomes hairy crab season. Sought-after for their creamy highly prized roe, only the highest quality crabs are hand-picked by Chef Wong to create the dishes such as steamed hairy crab and *xiao long bao* with hairy crab filling.

The desserts run the gamut of glutinous rice dumplings in osmanthus-flavoured rice wine, steamed mini custard buns with salted egg yolk, deep-fried black sesame dumplings and Shanghai layer cake with custard.

All these and an unforgettable swish ambience will leave diners with memories of Shanghai at its sweetest.

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





# THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND



NOUVEAU-COLONIAL DETAILS INSPIRED BY  
THE LEGACY OF BRITISH MALAYA PERMEATE  
THE MAJESTIC SPA'S WONDERFULLY INDULGENT  
SIGNATURE TREATMENTS.

Words RENYI LIM



Guests who can't get enough of The Majestic Spa can take up a membership, which includes use of the gym and spa pool.

**A**s a national heritage site, The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur is firmly steeped in Malaysian history (its colonial structure was built in 1932) – and so, in turn, are its signature spa treatments.

The Majestic Spa by Spa Village revolves around the nuances and traditions of British Malaya and the prominent – often colourful – figures of Britain's colonial empire. Look closely at the spa's interiors, for instance, and its distinctive art deco style – modelled on Scottish architect and designer Charles Rennie Macintosh's Willow Tearooms – will soon become apparent.

Before you begin any signature treatment, which usually lasts between two and three hours, you'll be welcomed with a fruity Pimms cocktail (a

classic fixture at British summer sporting events ever since it was invented by James Pimm in the early 1900s as a health tonic) or a Gunner mocktail. There's also a pre-treatment ritual called Gifts from the Garden to enjoy, as a tribute to English lavender – one of the world's most treasured fragrances – involving a soothing lavender foot soak and a rosemary scalp massage.

Those with a particular fondness for English lavender can then dive straight into a three-hour Queen Victoria's Lavender treatment, which makes full use of this versatile herb – a fragrance so favoured by the iconic monarch that it was even strewn on royal palace floors to release its fragrance under foot traffic. Its deeply relaxing properties are further extended by a Tranquility breathing ritual, a gentle exfoliation, a lavender



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## THE MALAYA GOLDEN CHERSONESE EXPERIENCE REFLECTS THE PLENTITUDE OF FLORA AND HEALING INGREDIENTS IN MALAYSIA.

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and aloe vera gel mask, and a Drift Away lavender-scented massage.

Fun, feminine touches accompany the two-hour English Afternoon Tea treatment, which honours the quintessential British tradition of the taking of tea and cakes. A moisturising scrub of antioxidant-rich berries and cream preps skin beautifully for an oil massage sweetly scented with garden berries, followed by a fragrant English rose natural facial. (And, if you're feeling in need of a little extra pampering, you can add a soothing chamomile bath, too.)

Couples visiting The Majestic Spa can treat themselves to the two-and-a-half-hour Malaya Golden Chersonese experience, named after

the ancient term for the Malay Peninsula and the intrepid explorer Isabella Lucy Bird's account of her time spent in these exotic lands. This epic spa journey reflects the plentitude of flora and healing ingredients in Malaysia: the top-to-toe ritual for ladies includes a banana and honey hair masque, a papaya coconut scrub, a lime blossom bath and a massage with assorted *bunga rampai*. Gentlemen need not fear being neglected – in this signature couple's experience, a hair masque, a scrub with Malay herbs, a herbal steam treatment and an East Indian spice massage await them.

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

# THE GOLDEN HOUR

EXPERIENCE THE  
UNPARALLELED DELIGHTS  
OF THE RITZ-CARLTON,  
KUALA LUMPUR'S AFTERNOON  
TEA, NEWLY ELEVATED BY A  
FEW DECADENT HIGHLIGHTS.







Words RENYI LIM

As far as afternoon delights go, what better way to spend those languid hours than at the elegant and refined Lobby Lounge of The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur with a deliciously traditional English afternoon tea set in front of you? It's arguably one of the finest traditions that Malaysia inherited from the British Empire, with the taking of tea at around four in the afternoon and the addition of indulgent extras such as scones, finger sandwiches and pastries.

This charming pastime, thought to date back to the English aristocracy of the 19th century, is still honoured at many YTL Hotel properties, not least The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur. Its afternoon tea experience is one that plays by time-tested rules: a glorious array of loose-leaf tea, scones accompanied by clotted cream and preserves, and a tea set stacked high with handcrafted offerings.

Your selection of tea can be tailored to both your own tasting preferences as well as the flavours presented in your tea set – a task with which any of the Lobby Lounge's staff will readily assist you. While the menu runs the gamut from exotic

fruit infusions to an artfully matured imperial pu-erh from Yunnan, a perennial favourite is The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur's signature blend of Chinese *tie kuan ying*, a green oolong with marvellously round, creamy notes.

Those in a celebratory mood should opt for the Champagne Afternoon Tea, which includes two glasses of rosé champagne. For those who wish to appreciate the vibes of the Lobby Lounge's resident quartet, choose the slightly more sedate Traditional English Afternoon Tea, which comes with all the works.

If the idea of a three-tiered tea set seems a little too intimidating, guests with slightly less hearty appetites are encouraged to enjoy a more modestly sized Cream Tea Set for Two, consisting of freshly baked scones still warm from the oven, clotted cream, preserves and a choice of loose-leaf tea. Similarly, a Savoury Set for Two comprises a variety of delicate pies and quiches plus loose-leaf tea – although if the mood strikes you, a glass of rosé champagne is always on the menu.

For more information, please visit [ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur](http://ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur)

The elegant and refined Lobby Lounge is the ideal space to enjoy the quintessential afternoon tea experience in Kuala Lumpur.





# TREKS AND TRAILS IN THE HIGHLANDS

HIKE THROUGH THE MISTY MOUNTAINS OF CAMERON  
HIGHLANDS AND EXPERIENCE A COUNTRYSIDE RICH  
WITH LIFE, LEGENDS AND LEISURELY TEAS.

Words SASHA GEORGE



Enjoy an English Afternoon Tea in the Jim Thompson Tea Room.

**J**ust a short drive away from the bustling cities of Malaysia is a highland escape that will entice the nature lover with its abundant forests and cool climate. Situated 1,800 metres above sea level, Cameron Highlands was named after British surveyor William Cameron, who discovered the mountain plateau on a mapping expedition in 1885. Cameron had set out on elephants with a team of surveyors to explore the Titiwangsa Mountain Range and to seek out the origins of the Kinta river. While he had made note of this plateau, it was not till the 1920s when its location

was confirmed. By 1925, Sir George Maxwell proposed that a hill station be built upon it to support recreation, housing and perhaps most importantly to the British, tea plantations.

Today, Cameron Highlands maintains its renown for rolling tea plantations that cover most of its surrounding hills as well as the strawberry and flower farms that dot the main thoroughfare. However, the forest trails by which those first British explorers mapped out the mountain remain unchanged. For the hiking enthusiast, Cameron Highlands offers much to discover with as many as 14 trails.





Start your hiking adventure with the easy and scenic trail #4, which takes you to Parit Waterfall and ends at Cameron Highlands' sole golf course. Upon completion of this trail, get inspiration for your next hike with warm scones, clotted cream and home-made strawberry jam at the Jim Thompson tea room located at Cameron Highlands Resort, situated directly across from the golf course.

Here, the mid-afternoon reverie and English tea-room ambience brings to mind one of Cameron Highlands' most enduring mysteries; that of the disappearance of silk tycoon Jim Thompson. Legend has it that he went for an afternoon stroll one Easter Sunday and was never seen or heard from again. Many believe he may have been attacked by a tiger or kidnapped for his involvement in espionage. Cameron Highlands Resort takes you deeper into the heart of the matter with a nature trail experience combining Jim Thompson's love of nature with the various details of his disappearance.

Speaking of mysteries, a must-do for hikers would be traversing the ethereal Mossy Forest. This is a landscape unlike any other found in Malaysia and, within it, you find various species of ferns, orchids and pitcher plants all enveloped in

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## THE TRAILS OF CAMERON HIGHLANDS OFFER AN IMMERSION INTO AN ABUNDANCE OF FLORA AND FAUNA.

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mist. To reach the Forest, you could take a number of trails en route to the peak of Gunung Brinchang. Should you wish to experience the famous Boh Tea Plantation first, a shorter route after your visit there leads you onto a boarded walkway which cuts through the Forest. Once within the Forest, head to the watch tower to get an unmatched bird's-eye view of Perak and Pahang.

For nature lovers, the trails of Cameron Highlands offer an immersion into an abundance of flora and fauna such as rare fungi, millipedes and, if you're lucky, a civet cat or the rare mountain peacock pheasant. Having at least two to four hours for any one of the moderate to challenging trails helps as does a guide to ensure you have an expert on the lay of the land and weather conditions. For easy planning, Cameron Highlands Resort offers jungle-trekking adventures with a Resident Naturalist who can do just that, as well as point out a plethora of natural wonders in the surrounding terrain.

*For more information, please visit  
[www.cameronhighlandsresort.com](http://www.cameronhighlandsresort.com)*

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WESTERN, JAPANESE  
AND KOREAN FLAVOURS  
PRESENT SOME VERY  
INTERESTING BAOS LIKE  
THE HAR-HAR OUT LOUD  
AND THE KIM.CHI.KEN.

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# TAKE A BAO

HOTEL STRIPES KUALA LUMPUR OFFERS A ONE-OF-A-KIND AFTERNOON TEA EXPERIENCE FEATURING A MUCH BELOVED OFFERING, THE HUMBLE BAO.

Words URSULA POLO



This inspired afternoon tea set provides a delicious alternative to the usual Western option of scones and jam.

**T**aking you away from the usual tea accompaniments such as cakes, scones and the like, Hotel Stripes' Brasserie 25 makes an offer with an oriental twist – one that is mouthwatering and intriguing, to say the least. Its latest star? The Malaysian favourite – bao.

Paying homage to the nostalgia of Chow Kit's Jalan Kamunting is the hotel's Bao Tea Ful concept, perfectly described by the saying 'Have a bao, sip some tea and have a beautiful day'. Brasserie 25 gives you 10 delicious options from which to choose. You are guaranteed to get your fill as all baus are limited only by your appetite.

Western, Japanese and Korean flavours present

some very interesting baus like the Har-Har Out Loud (salted egg butter prawns, egg floss, edamame and wasabi mayo), the Kim.Chi.Ken (Korean fried chicken, cheese and kimchi) and the Kunyit Twist (turmeric chicken, cabbage and sliced cucumber with carrots). Other mouth-watering delights include the classic Siew Ngap (roasted duck) and Golden Sui Kow, while the Fried Ice Cream and Stylo Milo satiate the sweet tooth.

Accompanying teas include pu-erh, oolong and jasmine, while desserts also include Malaysian favourites such as cendol, bubur cha cha and red bean soup.

For reservations, please visit [www.stripeskl.com](http://www.stripeskl.com)





# MOMENTS OF JOY

**VISTANA HOTELS PROPOSES  
A REMARKABLE CHINESE  
BANQUET DINNER PACKAGE FOR  
WONDERFUL WEDDINGS.**

Words TIEN CHEW

**T**he Vistana Hotels, centrally located in key areas across Kuala Lumpur, Kuantan and Penang, has long held a reputation for being ideally located. Such strategic whereabouts make wedding receptions a popular choice, where guests may expect the hotels' signature vibrance, verve and value. Vistana's elaborate Chinese wedding banquet packages are customisable with the assistance of a professional wedding planning team and offer exceptional value.

The highlight of the wedding reception is an eight-course Chinese banquet dinner, crafted by Hong Kong master chef Ng Wing Lam and his experienced kitchen team according to your menu preferences. A skilled pastry team will also create a beautifully decorated wedding cake.

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**A SKILLED PASTRY TEAM WILL  
ALSO CREATE A BEAUTIFULLY  
DECORATED WEDDING CAKE.**

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Everything is taken care of to allow seamless enjoyment of your big day, from gorgeous decorations and personalised wedding backdrops to floral arrangements and wedding invitation cards. A bridal room is provided for garment changes and preferred guestroom rates are available for out-of-town guests. Special rooms may also be arranged for the traditional wedding tea ceremony.

When the dinner festivities conclude, the newlyweds can enjoy their honeymoon with a three-day/two-night stay at one of three luxury YTL properties of their choice: tranquil Tanjong Jara Resort, breezy Cameron Highlands Resort or the nature paradise that is Gaya Island Resort.

*For more information,  
please visit [www.vistanahotels.com](http://www.vistanahotels.com)*





# PARADISE WAITING

WITH THREE BEDROOMS, A FABULOUS PRIVATE POOL AND A VIEW THAT STRETCHES OUT TOWARDS THE GULF OF THAILAND, VILLA KASARA TRULY IS THE JEWEL IN THE RITZ-CARLTON, KOH SAMUI'S CROWN.

Words RENYI LIM

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SWEEPING VIEWS OF THE RESORT AND THE BAY ARE VISIBLE FROM NUMEROUS POINTS IN VILLA KASARA.

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A stay at The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui is all about being spoiled for choice – where to eat, where to sunbathe or how many spa treatments to have, for instance – and nowhere is that more true than at Villa Kasara, the grandest of the resort’s 175 suites and pool villas. Spread over 225 square metres and two floors, this three-bedroom villa can comfortably accommodate a maximum of six guests. It is located at the very centre of the 23-hectare estate and yet remains the epitome of tranquil, elegant tropical living.

Each bedroom – two with a king bed and one with two queen beds – has its own natural stone-designed bathroom, with an expansive interior housing a separate bathtub and shower, a double sink and an abundance of mirrors, all bathed in natural light. Look a little more closely and the subtle but luxurious details become increasingly apparent, from the Purple Water-scented bathroom amenities by Asprey to the lightweight cotton bathrobes in The Ritz-Carlton’s signature powder blue.

An enormous living room adds to Villa Kasara’s appeal as the ideal option for large groups or families visiting Koh Samui, as does an impressively sized 60-square-metre private swimming pool, around which an outdoor dining area, sun loungers and an outdoor shower are arranged.

Sweeping views of the resort and the bay are visible from numerous points in Villa Kasara, but the standout viewing platform is on the rooftop terrace, which really is nothing short of spectacular.

The villa comes with complimentary butler service to ensure that every guest’s stay remains effortlessly enjoyable. Upon request, it’s possible to call for in-villa spa treatments from the resort’s nearby Spa Village Koh Samui and a poolside barbecue with the freshest Thai seafood. Those inclined to get on the water may charter The Ritz-Carlton’s speedboat or Lumba-Lumba yacht for anything from an excursion to the nearby island of Phangan to a VIP snorkelling tour in Anghong National Marine Park.

It only takes an evening soaking in the sunset or a morning spent marvelling at the dawn sky to understand why the villa is also a popular venue for small private events: a soirée, a special celebration or even an intimate wedding.

Such occasions can easily be arranged by The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui’s events team or wedding advisers, leaving celebrants free to mingle with their guests and delight in the ambience of this particularly special setting – as, indeed, anyone who steps into Villa Kasara rightly should.

*For more information, please visit [www.ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui)*



Guests of Villa Kasara can enjoy its large private pool and spacious living room as well as the resort's many services such as the chance to dine by the pool or indulge in the finest spa treatments.



# FINDING THE ANSWERS

AT SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI,  
ONE DISCOVERS THE WISDOM OF LIFE  
IN THE MOST AUTHENTIC OF WAYS.

Words JASON TAN

**T**he global mecca of yoga tourism sits far away from Tibet and the Himalayas. Bali's sun, sea, sand and surf magnetise holiday pilgrims like an event horizon; they come and never want to leave. In the past two decades, the local tourism industry's pivot away from the region's generic clubbing model has rebirthed the island's original proposition to the Western literati of the 1930s: an authentic life.

I spent 72 hours at Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali recently, in the less-well travelled northeast.

Viewed from the sea, it is framed by Mount Agung to its left and Mount Batur a little further behind. Each of its spacious 31 rooms has its own courtyard or balcony and is blissfully devoid of a TV. You'll note the absence of children too; the age limit for guests is 16. For a more privileged or secluded hermitage, one-bedroom suites and pool villas are available.

Yoga is the resort's circadian rhythm; guided sessions in the morning and evening cater for beginners as well as guests more familiar with daily practice. Happily, we sat on the grass, facing the







The resort's yoga experts provide guidance on meditative postures and breathing.

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MY STAY COINCIDED WITH THE VISIT OF XIU LEI,  
THE RESORT'S CALIFORNIA-BORN INSTRUCTOR,  
WHOSE CONSCIOUSNESS AND KEEN EYE PUT  
EACH ONE OF US AT EASE.

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silent pool and invigorating sounds of the sea. My stay coincided with the visit of Xiu Lei, the resort's California-born instructor, whose consciousness and keen eye put each one of us at ease.

For good measure, she taught us a simple qigong movement that was deceptively calming and lightened the spirit. The fitness buff will appreciate the more physical forms of yoga on offer, including *pencak silat*, thought to derive from the martial arts of Agastya Muni, one of the seven Saptarishis to whom Shiva, the first yogi, imparted yoga.

Midnight yoga is also done at the resort. Performing one's *sadhana* (roughly, practice) during *sandhya kala*, or transition times between

night and day, accelerates your *sadhana*. It is in these twilight zones, which the Balinese call *Tri-kala Sandhya*, where you might more easily touch what is always greater than you will know: at dawn, noon and dusk. There is more to it than the nomenclature of *Tri-kala* implies: a fourth zone, around midnight, is used in classical yoga to obliterate boundaries and is thus not usually for the faint of heart. But in contemporary adaptations that are not full throttle, midnight yoga could simultaneously raise your alertness and relax your being, leaving you restful and awake.

For more information please visit [www.spavillageresort.com](http://www.spavillageresort.com)



# OUT BY THE BEACH

THE HAGUE MARRIOTT'S PROXIMITY TO THE SEA SHOWS  
YOU THAT THERE'S MORE TO THE NETHERLANDS THAN  
TULIPS, REMBRANDT AND CANALS.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN





**M**ention The Hague and you think of government institutions, embassies and international law courts. However, the city is much more than the sum of its administrative functions. By virtue of its location on The Netherlands' stretch of North Sea coastline, the city is home to marvellous beaches and sand dunes. This gorgeous getaway is a mere two kilometres north of The Hague's urban heart and easily accessible by tram or bicycle.

The Hague Marriott's eco-friendly dedication has resulted in a limited-time package inviting guests to be Dutch for a Day. You'll enjoy an overnight stay in a deluxe room, breakfast for two at The Gallery Breakfast Room and complimentary bike rental for two guests. The latter is all the invitation you will need to get to the beach as soon as you can.

Nearing the coast, you'll see the Kurhaus built in 1885 which reminds many of that Orientalist folly, the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. As you arrive on the beach, you may park your bicycles to walk out to the end of the pier for some bungee-jumping. Or continue cycling along the two-lane bicycle thoroughfare to a strandclub (a beach club and restaurant) of your choice.

Keep on cycling west of the domed Kurhaus and you'll be rewarded with the leading sculpture

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**AS YOU ARRIVE ON THE BEACH, YOU MAY PARK YOUR BICYCLES TO WALK OUT TO THE END OF THE PIER FOR SOME BUNGEE-JUMPING.**

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museum in the Netherlands, Beelden aan Zee. Some of their modern sculptural exhibits even spill out onto the esplanade.

If the combination of sand dunes, forest and beaches calls out to you, make your way a kilometre east of the pier towards a brick water tower. This tower is your landmark and entry point to Meijendel, a 1,875-hectare nature reserve. Even better, it offers the intrepid cyclist a joyous roller-coaster route along hills studded with low shrubs and trees, with occasional sweeping views of the dunes and lagoons.

In the afternoons, head to Kijkduin, a stretch of coast which has earned its renown as the country's kitesurfing capital. Several kitesurfing schools will provide the necessary primer (and kits) or dial back the adrenaline by taking it easy at the nearby cafés, watching the kitesurfers skimming over waves.

*For more information, visit [thehaguemarriott.com](http://thehaguemarriott.com)*

From top: go on a bicycle tour of the city; Museum Beelden aan Zee is the only Dutch museum that focuses exclusively on contemporary international sculpture.



An executive room at The Hague Marriott and Kurhaus.





THE FLOATING SPA

# ANCIENT REMEDIES

THE FLOATING SPA BY SPA VILLAGE AT  
MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE HARNESSSES THE  
12TH-CENTURY SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL WISDOM  
OF AUGUSTINIAN MONKS TO REJUVENATE GUESTS.



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THESE RITUALS UTILISE BRITISH ORGANIC PRODUCTS  
IN AN ARRAY OF SPA TREATMENTS AND THERAPIES.

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Words TIEN CHEW

**A**t Monkey Island Estate, The Floating Spa by Spa Village rests on the River Thames' tranquil waters in the village of Bray. Anchored at the private seven-acre Monkey Island, it is housed in a bespoke barge that recalls the floating apothecaries with elixirs and panaceas offered by 17th-century Augustinian monks. The spa – sporting royal blue livery – employs the ancient healing rituals of the monks who once inhabited the island. These rituals also utilise British organic products in an array of treatments and therapies.

The Monk's Elixir, the spa's signature 90-minute treatment, is crafted around the three Bs: booze, botany and beauty. The treatment begins with an experience called Elixir Tasting, a guided age-old custom examining the colour, aroma, texture and herbal notes of monk-brewed herbal tonics intended as an aperitif; choose from Chartreuse, D.O.M Benedictine or Frangelico. With a new sense of inner warmth, you then relax into a full body massage set to the gentle swaying of calm

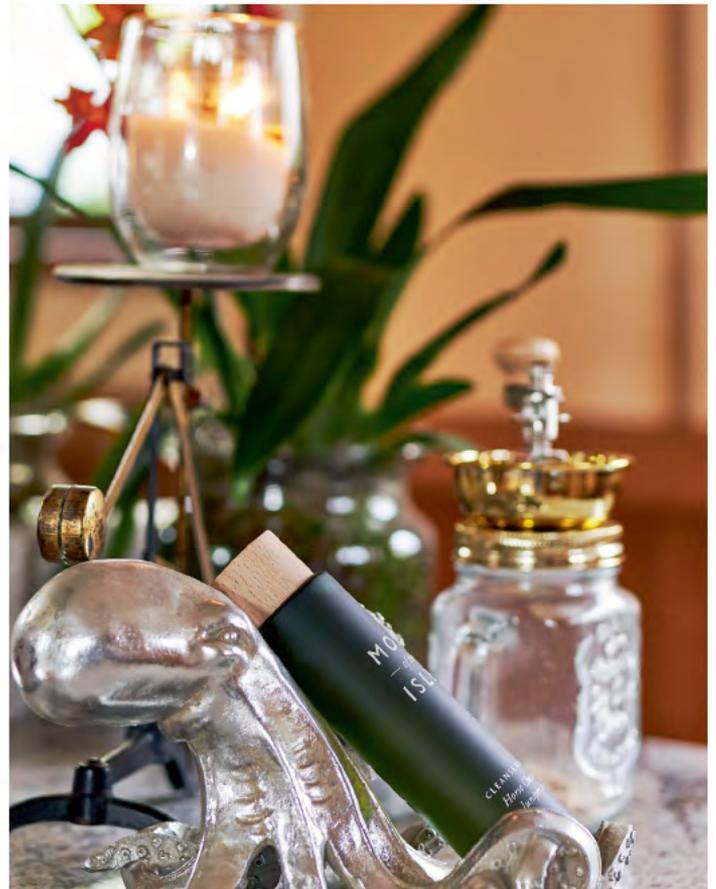
waters. Your skin will be anointed with a house-cured herbal oil infused with arnica, angelica and melisse, designed to soothe the mind, while long deep strokes work the infusion into your muscles. To finish, packs made from herbs grown in the hotel's experimental teahouse are placed on joints to relieve stiffness, improve mobility and encourage periods of contemplation.

Inspired by the spa's riverine surroundings, The Floating Massage – the other of its two signature treatments – is specifically conceived to undo deep-seated muscular tension. An aqua-cushion treatment bed – customised for this therapy – sets the stage for a 60- or 90-minute session. As you float on a cloud of warm water, intended to perfectly cradle and support your body, fluid and rhythmic movements are gently delivered to lull you into a state of deep relaxation. Pain-relieving essential oils of arnica, ginger and rosemary, assist with pressure release.

*For more information, please visit [www.monkeyislandestate.co.uk](http://www.monkeyislandestate.co.uk)*



The Floating Spa by Spa Village takes inspiration from the magnificent River Thames and continues its tradition as a silent watermark on the story of modern health and wellness.





# THE RIGHT TONIC

SPECIALITY GIN AND TONICS AT THE ALCHEMY BAR IN BLOOMSBURY'S THE ACADEMY MAKE QUINTESSENTIAL SUNDOWNERS.



The Alchemy Bar specialises in premium British-made bottles.

Words TIEN CHEW

Tucked inside a collection of five Georgian townhouses in central London, The Alchemy Bar is The Academy Hotel's love letter to gin. The bar echoes the rest of this luxury Bloomsbury establishment, a blend of modern and vintage, and an ode to the intellectual and cultural figures who brought fame to this district. Quaint floral patterned wallpaper and cushions at the bar offer a sense of fresh exoticism, which contrasts with white marble tabletops and the plush green and blue velvet seats.

Pick your tippie from the bar's dedicated gin menu and the Alchemist – the nattily attired bartender – will do the rest. Each selection is paired with hand-picked garnishes to enrich the

gin's natural flavours and botanicals. Tanqueray Bloomsbury, a rare limited edition – and now discontinued – bottle, makes its appearance at The Alchemy Bar. Juniper-rich with hints of a caramel apple, Tanqueray Bloomsbury is served by the Alchemist with Fever Tree Indian Tonic and a twist of lemon.

Other premium picks include Portobello and Sipsmith VJOP, both London-distilled gins born out of a loving connection to the city's gin culture. For something extraordinary, there is the Alkkemist Gin, made through an unconventional laborious distillation process achieved only under a full moon.

For more information please visit [www.theacademyhotel.co.uk](http://www.theacademyhotel.co.uk)



# IN PURSUIT OF TRIVIA

GO ON A HERALDIC SCAVENGER HUNT FOR  
ANCIENT COATS-OF-ARMS AT THREADNEEDLES HOTEL LONDON.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN



Mercers Hall on Ironmonger Lane (above) and the magnificent dome at Threadneedles Hotel (facing page).

**A**boutique hotel with character is almost impossible to find in the City, but the 74-room Threadneedles Hotel London, part of the Marriott's Autograph collection, combines an unmistakable elegance with modern amenities and service with a smile. The Threadneedles lobby, with its impressive stained glass dome, welcomes international business guests during the week and London visitors during the weekend – when the hubbub of the work week is replaced by peaceful respite. Families with children will love the 'attic' rooms on the top floor which confer an undeniable sense of adventure.

In this neighbourhood, history jostles shoulder to shoulder with ultra-modern architecture like the Walkie Talkie on 20 Fenchurch, the Leadenhall Building, Heron Tower and the Gherkin on 20 St Mary Axe. But Threadneedles also sits amidst six of the 12 Great Livery Companies of the City of London. Livery companies played an important role in developing the city and eventually supporting the British Empire. Even today, the activities of the liveries are intertwined with the daily life of Square Mile. These liveries began in medieval England as associations of tradesmen with similar interests. Later, they grew into trade bodies which were so important that, should you have wanted to work in a particular trade in the

The Drapers' Hall on Throgmorton Street (right) and The Skinners' Company on 8 Dowgate Hill (below). Facing page: London's most notable attractions are within easy reach of Threadneedles Hotel.



city, you had to begin as an apprentice, learning your trade for many years, before becoming a freeman of the city.

The hotel then, is the perfect stepping off point for a trivia pursuit of six of the top 12 Livery Companies found in the immediate vicinity. On this leisurely walk, you will find the Halls of the Companies bearing their magnificent coat of arms, rich in detail and heritage.

Start at Ironmonger Lane for Mercers' Hall. The Mercers sold fabrics and accessories, with the name originating from the French word *mercerie* – for haberdashery. Their coat of arms dates from 1425 and boasts the Mercer's Maiden. Next is Princes Street for The Grocers' Company. Originally known as the Ancient Pepperers, this group of merchants traded in spices and medicines, and worked with weights and measures. Their coat of arms sports nine cloves on its shield and a camel bearing a bag of peppers.

When you go in search of The Drapers' Hall on Throgmorton Street, look for the two spotted lions rampant under flaming clouds, capped with a smug-looking lamb on a patch of grass. The drapers dealt in wool and cloth, with their first royal charter awarded in 1364. The Fishmongers' Company lies a little farther afield, but is well worth hunting down for its breathtaking location by the river Thames, on the City side of London Bridge. Their royal charter is even older than the Drapers, granted in 1272. The coat of arms is a sight to behold with three dolphins, two pairs of stockfish, all bearing gold crowns and flanked by a merman and a mermaid carrying tridents.

At this point, the walk ambles back to Square Mile where you would have your eyes peeled for The Skinners' Company on 8 Dowgate Hill,

near the Cannon Street underground station. The Skinners traded fur in medieval times, when ermine and sable were reserved for the aristocratic classes and less exotic furs for common folk. This association's coat of arms depicts an ermine and a marten, flanking their shield with a lynx on top.

This pursuit of livery companies meanders back to your hotel but not before your last stop, The Merchant Taylor Hall, located on Threadneedle Street. They began as an association for tailors and linen armourers of knights, but grew so powerful that they governed the tailoring trade. Their coat of arms is quite magnificent, bearing three rich purple mantles lined with ermine, two camels and a white lamb standing before a blazing sun symbol.

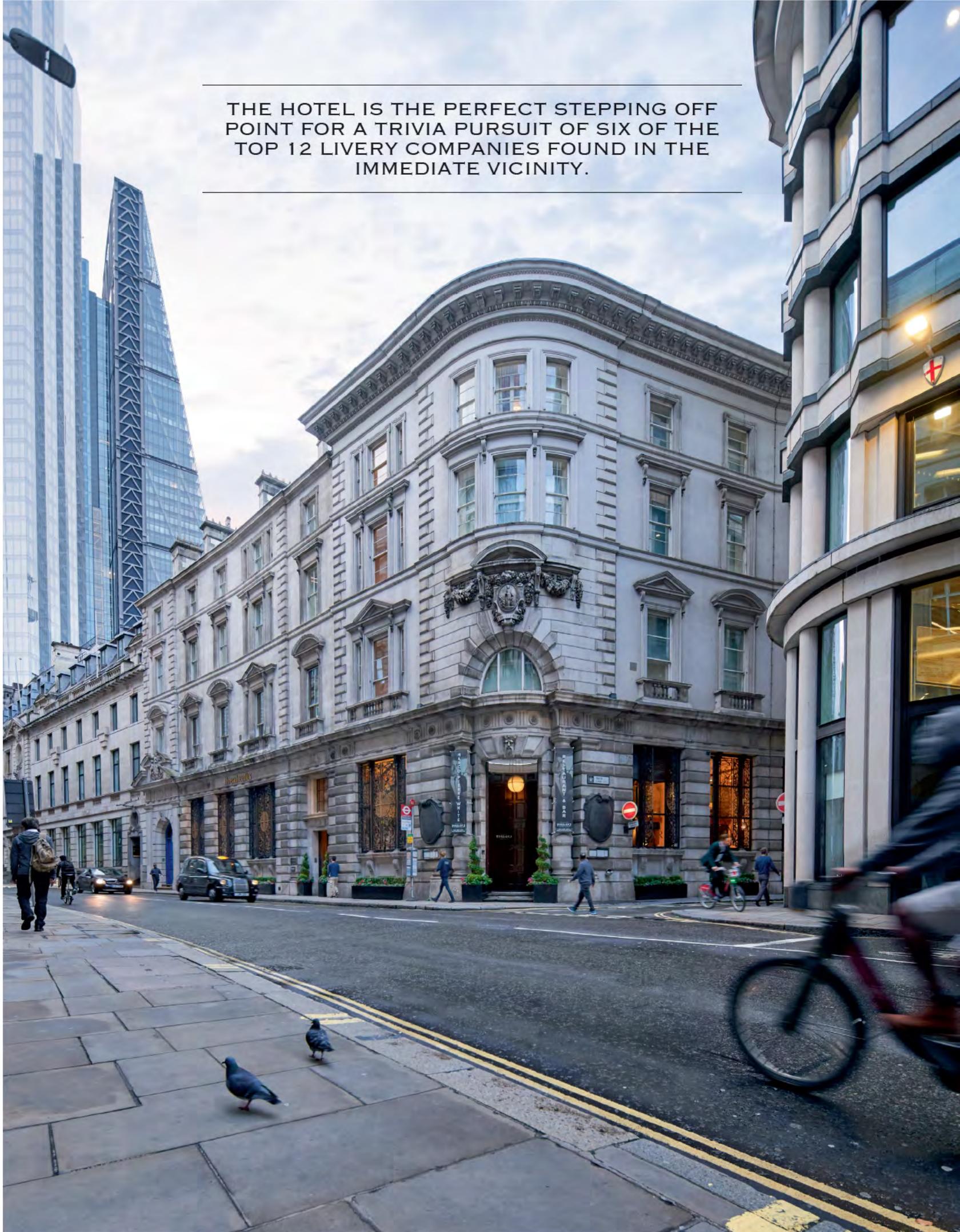
*For more information, go to [www.hotelthreadneedles.co.uk](http://www.hotelthreadneedles.co.uk)*



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THE HOTEL IS THE PERFECT STEPPING OFF  
POINT FOR A TRIVIA PURSUIT OF SIX OF THE  
TOP 12 LIVERY COMPANIES FOUND IN THE  
IMMEDIATE VICINITY.

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# BEES, BREAD, BREAM AND BATH ARTISANS

HOW A SPA HOTEL RAISED THE WATER-TABLE THROUGH  
ITS VITAL SUPPORT OF PRODUCERS AND GROWERS IN  
WILTSHIRE, SOMERSET AND CORNWALL.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN

**E**very first Saturday of the month, foodies and lovers of things handmade converge on the Bath Artisan Market held at Queen Square in Bath, England. This market in a green park surrounded by gorgeous Georgian architecture offers a taste of the wonderful food and craft producers that The Gainsborough Bath Spa is forging partnerships with. The local traders, growers and artisans are a microcosm of a larger network of tireless champions of locally grown produce and locally made products.

An example lies in John Godden's specialist seafood company Flying Fish, which sources the freshest quality fish from the best fishermen in Cornwall who sell at local markets in Brixham, Looe, Plymouth and Newlyn. Godden has relocated to Cornwall 'to be closer to source'. His decades of experience began with him collecting, cleaning and selling squid at the young age of 16. The top-quality seafood he supplies to the hotel is one of the reasons why diners return for the hotel's executive chef Dan Moon's tasting menu.

Alice of Teeny Weeny Farm, one of the specialist producers which The Gainsborough

Bath Spa supports, says she had wanted to forge collaborations between the tireless producers of locally grown food with those who want to support and buy locally wherever possible.

Her fabulous microgreens are delivered weekly to Moon's restaurant. These microgreens, which are concentrated with nutrients and aromatic in flavour, are used both as a visual component and ingredient by Moon in his inventive menus.

Breakfast at the same restaurant is a daily celebration of the incredible work of local apiarist David Wainwright. His honey originates from his hives in Wiltshire, Wales and Zambia. Starting out in 1974 with just one hive, he now maintains 750 bee colonies. Nine years after having his own hive, Wainwright worked with traditional bark hive beekeepers in Zambia to further his education in the subject.

"This tawny coloured, robustly flavoured honey is gathered by our bees high up in the Welsh hills around Llandegla, where purple ling heather stretches as far as the eye can see," Wainwright says. "We move the bees up from their summer sites to higher altitude bee pastures in late July. If conditions are warm and still, then the heather nectar pours into the hives, but it is a harsh and unforgiving landscape where the weather can quickly turn against the bees.



Dan Moon (top) uses the best locally sourced produce, such as the flavourful honeys of David Wainwright (above), to create the stunning dishes served at his restaurant at The Gainsborough Bath Spa.

### SALISBURY PLAIN HONEY HAS AROMAS OF CINNAMON MINGLED WITH SWEET YELLOW CLOVER.

Although the crop is small, the flavour and texture is distinct and unique and we return each year with the bees in search of this rare honey." Another interesting variant that Wainwright produces is Salisbury plain honey, with aromas of cinnamon mingled with sweet yellow clover.

In the same warm spirit of community and support for local handicrafts, the bread baskets and honey-stand for Wainwright's Welsh honeycombs are handmade by local Bath cabinet maker and former bar manager of The Gainsborough Bath Spa, Miguel Fernandes.

In the world of fine breads, there are the delicious loaves baked by Richard Bertinet. Originally from Brittany, Bertinet has resided in Bath for the last 20 years working as a chef, baker and cookbook writer. Happily, you'll find Bertinet bread at The Gainsborough Bath Spa; what is produced in the kitchen ovens is so beloved that Michelin-starred chef Angela Hartnett described heaven as a slice of Bertinet bread with butter.

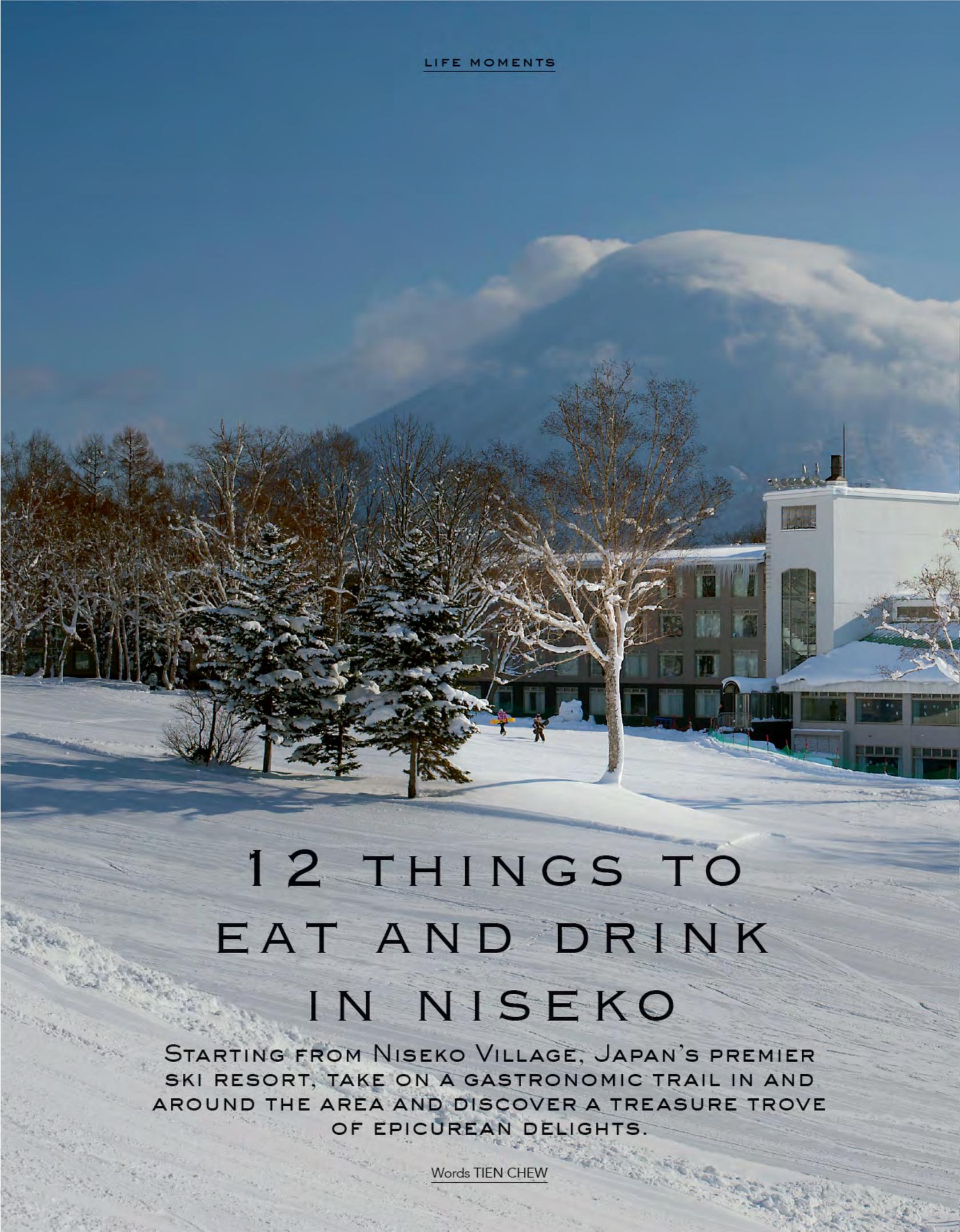


Savour the artisanal breads of Richard Bertinet (top and above) at The Gainsborough Bath Spa.

For more information go to [www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk](http://www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk)

PHOTOS BY WAINWRIGHT HONEY, THE BERTINET BAKERY

THE YTL LUXURY MAGAZINE



# 12 THINGS TO EAT AND DRINK IN NISEKO

STARTING FROM NISEKO VILLAGE, JAPAN'S PREMIER  
SKI RESORT, TAKE ON A GASTRONOMIC TRAIL IN AND  
AROUND THE AREA AND DISCOVER A TREASURE TROVE  
OF EPICUREAN DELIGHTS.

Words TIEN CHEW

LIFE MOMENTS



### 1. TRY HOKKAIDO'S FAMOUS SOUP CURRY

Two Sticks, Niseko Village's izakaya, is the perfect place to warm up with sake and soup curry, a dish originating from Hokkaido. Made fresh every day, the restaurant staple of tandoori chicken soup curry infuses Indian spices into a hearty broth of local potatoes, eggplant, peppers, pumpkin, mizuna leaf and egg, paired with white rice.

### 2. DINE LIKE GENGHIS KHAN

Genghis Khan (Jingisukan) is a born-in-Hokkaido dish that's served at The Crab Shack. It features lamb so fresh you can eat it rare, with meat, cabbage, peppers, beansprouts, pumpkin and onions grilled on a convex iron skillet for even heat distribution. This popular local delight is typically served with a dipping sauce made of soy sauce, fruits (mainly apple) and lots of garlic.

### 3. INDULGE YOUR SWEET TOOTH

Fluffy pancakes and waffles, topped with an assortment of berries, ice cream and syrups, are among some of the crowd pleasers at Village Patisserie. An assortment of fresh pastries baked daily, artisanal chocolates and Japanese cakes are also winners, especially alongside a steaming cup of gourmet tea or coffee.

### 4. TUCK INTO TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CUISINE

Yang Shu Ten, Niseko Village's casual restaurant for classic Japanese fare, is known for turning fresh Hokkaido produce and prize catches from the ocean into delicious sushi, tempura and teppanyaki dishes. Multi-course set meals are a speciality here, as is Wagyu shabu shabu, sashimi and simmered Kinki fish. Kamotsuru Gold, the sake which Prime Minister Abe chose to serve President Obama in Tokyo during his 2014 visit, is also available to pair with your meal.

### 5. IMBIBE RARE JAPANESE WHISKY

Tomioka White at The Green Leaf Niseko Village is a whisky lover's dream come true. Bedecked in plush Chesterfield sofas, leather upholstered lounge chairs, a modern ebony fireplace and a focused collection of rare Japanese whiskies, it's the perfect place to partake in a dram or two after a day of skiing.

### 6. BUY AWARD-WINNING CHEESE

Hokkaido cheese is a natural byproduct of a region famed for its dairy. At Niseko Cheese Kobo, this artisanal cheese factory produces award-winning products such as Momiji, a Mimolette cheese that won the gold Japan Cheese Award in 2014 and was served in Japan Airlines' first-class cabins throughout 2018.



1) Two Sticks serves popular Japanese Izakaya dishes alongside popular local brews. 2) Jingisukan (Japanese pronunciation of 'Genghis Khan') is a famous grilled mutton dish in Hokkaido. 3) Village Patisserie is a must-visit for dessert lovers.



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4) At Yang Shu Ten, fresh Hokkaido produce and the oceans' bounty are turned into sushi, tempura and teppanyaki dishes. 5) Tomioka White's full-service bar offers cutting-edge cocktails. 6) Niseko Cheese Kobo's award-winning cheeses are made from fresh local Niseko water and locally produced fresh milk.



5

PHOTO BY HARUMI SUZUKI



6

THE YTL LUXURY MAGAZINE



7



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7) Melt, Bar and Grill offers a fine selection of top-quality wines. 8) Don't leave Niseko without trying its famous creamy and fluffy potato ramen. 9) Purchase handmade tofu, soy milk and sweets at Wakimizu No Sato. 10) Niseko Gelato always has 20 different flavours on display. 11) Relax at Green Saso with delicious green tea treats. 12) Sprout Outdoor Espresso is taking Niseko's burgeoning espresso coffee scene to the next level.



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finished in soy milk instead of water for a richer taste, soy milk matcha pudding and tofu donuts.

#### 10. REWARD YOURSELF WITH GELATO

Niseko Gelato, approximately 12 minutes by car from Niseko Village, offers 20 flavours on rotation, featuring specialties like Grandma's apple pie, which draws its rich taste and aroma from actual apple pie. The Doraemon flavour is an inventive mix of ripe banana and marshmallow. Hokkaido milk also has its own spot, along with other local specialties such as Yoichi plum sorbet and *kinako* (roasted soybean).

#### 11. HAVE GREEN TEA BEER

In the radius of 10 minutes from Niseko Village, Green Saso is a café owned by a Japanese tea adviser Stephanie Watanabe who hails from Canada. The café's speciality is matcha beer – a refreshing blend showcasing the bitterness of matcha tea and hops. Guests can also try green teas from all over Japan.

#### 12. WARM UP WITH HAND-DRIPPED COFFEE

Sprout Outdoor Espresso combines its owners' love of the outdoors with coffee. All coffee beans at the café are roasted on premises by the owner. Among them are olfactory delights such as the in-house Mt Yotei blend using beans from El Salvador and Niseko Haute Route – a blend of Colombian beans used for the *caffè lattes*. This café is located near Kutchan Station, easily accessible via Niseko Village's free shuttle bus service.

#### 7. AND PAIR IT WITH WINE

Is there a more suitable match than cheese and wine? Melt, Bar and Grill at Niseko Hilton offers an impressive wine cellar to go with your cheeses, complete with majestic views of a snow-capped Mount Yotei. Taste the local terroir with a bottle of Hokkaido Zweigelt, a red made from grapes matured in Hokkaido's cool mountainside weather, making for a wine with a light berry character with hints of vanilla and spice.

#### 8. SAVOUR POTATO RAMEN

Ramen chef Kazuhiro Sagara moved to Hokkaido from Tokyo after falling in love with Niseko's nature and produce made possible by its favourable climate and fertile soil. Niseko Ramen Kazahana, 10 minutes from Niseko Village, pays tribute to the birthplace of miso ramen with its own special bowl – potato ramen – featuring an in-house broth made from a blend of 19 miso varieties covered in a potato-cream vichyssoise. This popular noodle joint even makes its own chilli oil to complement its signature creation.

#### 9. EAT WORLD-CLASS TOFU

The secret to Wakimizu No Sato's tofu is the crystal clear water that flows under Mount Yotei. High in mineral and magnesium, the spring water enriches the tofu maker's signature soy blend – Yüzuru – a masterful combination of soy beans native to Hokkaido. The result? Super smooth tofu. Other must-try items are the establishment's sugoi tofu,



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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](http://WWW.GAYAISLANDRESORT.COM)

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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.

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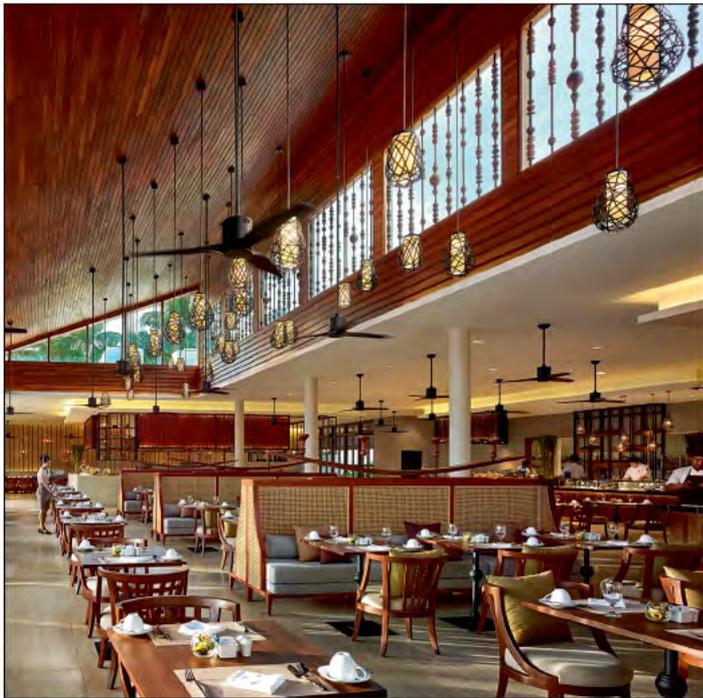
EVOKING THE SPLENDOUR, THE ROMANCE AND THE NOSTALGIA OF ONE OF MALAYSIA'S OLDEST HILL STATIONS AND ITS GRAND COLONIAL HERITAGE, CAMERON HIGHLANDS RESORT WITH ITS LUXURIOUS ROOMS AND AWARD-WINNING SPA VILLAGE IS THE BEST PLACE TO TAKE IN THE AREA'S ROLLING HILLS, TEA PLANTATIONS, ROSE GARDENS AND STRAWBERRY FARMS.

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THE RITZ-CARLTON

KOH SAMUI



THE RITZ-CARLTON

KUALA LUMPUR



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AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION®  
HOTELS



LOCATED ALONG BUKIT BINTANG ROAD AT THE HEART OF KUALA LUMPUR, JW MARRIOTT IS IDEAL FOR BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRAVELLERS. WITH WORLD-CLASS SHOPPING MALLS NEARBY, THIS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED HOTEL WITH ITS EXTENSIVE RANGE OF FACILITIES IS ONE OF THE CITY'S FINEST.

[JWMARRIOTTKUALALUMPUR.COM](http://JWMARRIOTTKUALALUMPUR.COM)

HOTEL STRIPES IS THE SECOND AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION HOTEL IN MALAYSIA. IT COMBINES A MODERN VIBE AND HISTORICAL REFERENCES TO ITS LOCATION, ONE OF KUALA LUMPUR'S OLDEST NEIGHBOURHOODS. WITH CONTEMPORARY GUESTROOMS AND SUITES, THE HOTEL IS A CONVENIENT BASE TO EXPLORE THE MALAYSIAN CAPITAL'S MANY ATTRACTIONS.

[WWW.STRIPESKL.COM](http://WWW.STRIPESKL.COM)

# THE SURIN

PHUKET



SITUATED ON PANSEA BEACH, ONE OF PHUKET'S MOST PRIVATE STRETCHES OF SAND, THE SURIN OFFERS A PERFECT SLICE OF THAI BEACH LIFE. THE COTTAGES AND SUITES ARE BUILT INTO A CAREFULLY CONSERVED LANDSCAPE. FROM SUMPTUOUS CUISINE TO WATERSPORTS, THE SURIN COMBINES IDYLIC TROPICAL CHARM WITH THE WARMTH OF THAI HOSPITALITY.

[WWW.THESURINPHUKET.COM](http://WWW.THESURINPHUKET.COM)

BLACK VOLCANIC SAND, THE MAJESTIC MOUNT AGUNG, THE DEEP BLUE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE MYSTICAL BALINESE WAY OF LIFE COME TOGETHER IN STYLE AT SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI. LOCATED IN THE NORTH OF THE ISLAND, THE RESORT IS A HAVEN OF WELLNESS, WHERE GUESTS CAN ENJOY ALL THE BENEFITS AND PLEASURES OF SPA LIFE IN TRANQUIL SURROUNDINGS.

[WWW.SPAVILLAGERESORT.COM/TEMBOKBALI](http://WWW.SPAVILLAGERESORT.COM/TEMBOKBALI)



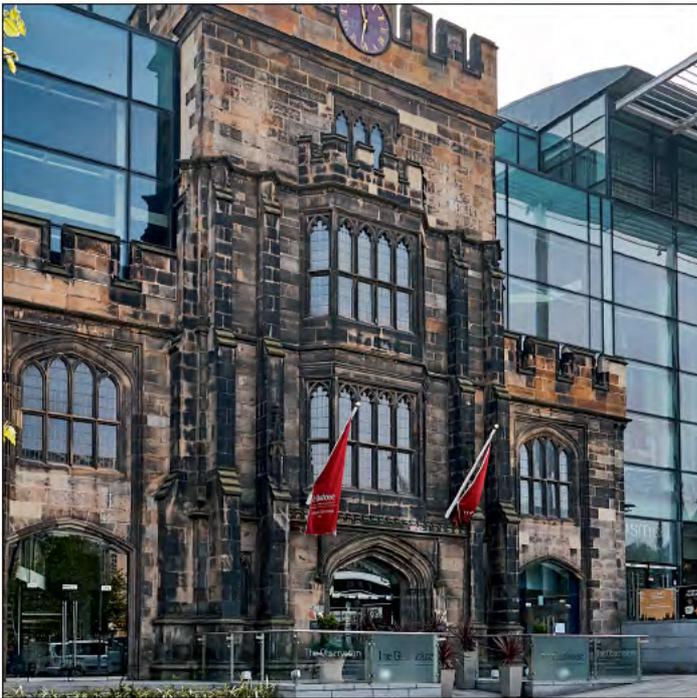
REGARDED AS THE CRADLE OF MALAYSIAN HISTORY, MALACCA IN ITS HEYDAY WAS A PORT-CITY THAT WELCOMED SPICE TRADERS, SULTANS AND WARRIORS. SOAK UP THE MAGIC AND THE HISTORY AT THE MAJESTIC MALACCA, THE CITY'S FINEST HOTEL, BUILT IN THE 1920S, AND FURBISHED WITH INTERIORS INDICATIVE OF THE CITY'S RICH CULTURE.

[WWW.MAJESTICMALACCA.COM](http://WWW.MAJESTICMALACCA.COM)

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](http://WWW.MAJESTICKL.COM)

## THE GLASSHOUSE EDINBURGH



THIS LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO STAY IN EDINBURGH, WITH COSY CONTEMPORARY INTERIORS, WARM SCOTTISH SERVICE AND CONSISTENTLY SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF THE CITY CENTRE AND CALTON HILL FROM THE HOTEL'S TWO-ACRE ROOFTOP GARDEN.

[WWW.THEGLASSHOUSEHOTEL.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEGLASSHOUSEHOTEL.CO.UK)

## THREADNEEDLES LONDON



THIS FORMER VICTORIAN BANK HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A DISCREET, BOUTIQUE-STYLE HOTEL, CROWNED BY AN ELEGANT STAINED GLASS DOME, AN UNEXPECTED FIND IN THE CITY'S HEART. THE HOTEL EXUDES GRANDEUR IN A THOROUGHLY MODERN WAY, WHILE SERVICE IS POLISHED; IT'S ALSO UNPRETENTIOUS AMID THE BUSTLE OF SQUARE MILE.

[WWW.HOTELTHREADNEEDLES.CO.UK](http://WWW.HOTELTHREADNEEDLES.CO.UK)

# THE ACADEMY

LONDON



MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE  
BRAY-ON-THAMES



SITUATED IN BLOOMSBURY, THE ACADEMY HOTEL LONDON COMPRISES A COLLECTION OF FIVE GEORGIAN TOWNHOUSES COMBINED INTO ONE CHARMING LUXURY HOTEL. THIS REJUVENATED 50-GUESTROOM/SUITE BOUTIQUE HOTEL JUXTAPOSES TIMELESS GLAMOUR AND A CONTEMPORARY TAKE ON TOWNHOUSE LIVING.

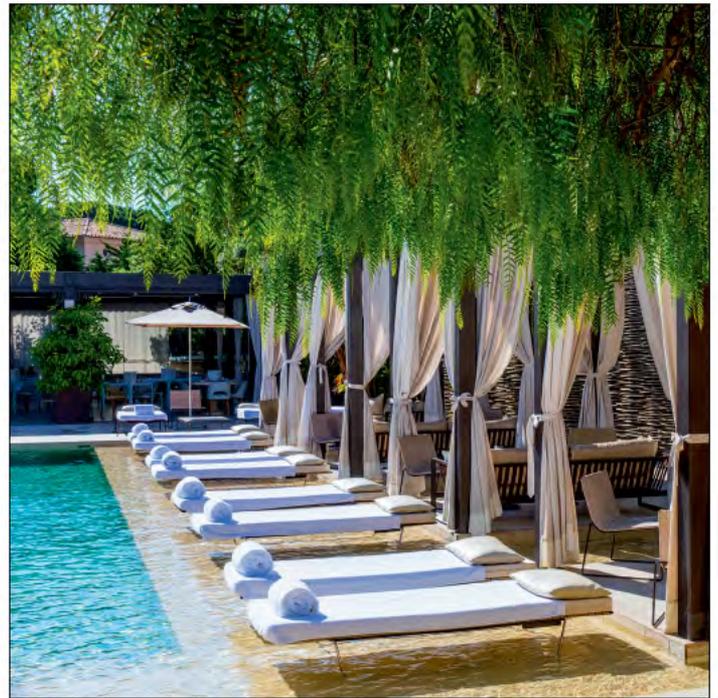
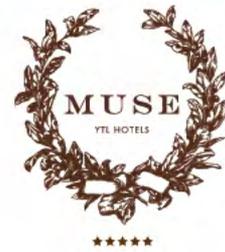
[WWW.THEACADEMYHOTEL.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEACADEMYHOTEL.CO.UK)

MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE IS LOCATED ON A PICTURESQUE ISLAND IN THE RIVER THAMES IN THE HISTORIC VILLAGE OF BRAY, BERKSHIRE. SET ACROSS SEVEN ACRES, THE PROPERTY FEATURES 41 EXQUISITE ROOMS DESIGNED BY THE AWARD-WINNING NEW YORK-BASED CHAMPALIMAUD DESIGN AS WELL AS SIX PRIVATE RESIDENCES.

[WWW.MONKEYISLANDESTATE.CO.UK](http://WWW.MONKEYISLANDESTATE.CO.UK)

# THE GAINSBOROUGH

BATH SPA



THE GAINSBOROUGH BATH SPA OFFERS THE ONLY NATURAL THERMAL SPA WITHIN A HOTEL IN THE UK. THE HOTEL IS A MOMENT'S STROLL FROM BATH ABBEY, THE HIGH STREET STORES ON MILSOM STREET AND THE ROMAN BATHS, WHICH MAKES IT A CHOICE LOCATION FROM WHICH TO EXPLORE THE CITY AND ITS NEARBY ATTRACTIONS.

[WWW.THEGAINSBOROUGHBATHSPA.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEGAINSBOROUGHBATHSPA.CO.UK)

A GLAMOROUS AND PRIVATE HIDEAWAY IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE, MUSE SAINT TROPEZ IS ALL ABOUT THE HIGH LIFE. LOCATED IN RAMATUELLE AND SURROUNDED BY FORESTS OF UMBRELLA PINES, THIS BOUTIQUE PROPERTY FEATURES JUST 15 SUITES, EACH OF WHICH IS NAMED AFTER FAMOUS 'MUSES'. MAKE THE HOTEL YOUR BASE TO EXPLORE THE SIGHTS, THE SOUNDS AND THE DELIGHTS OF THE RIVIERA.

[WWW.MUSE-HOTELS.COM](http://WWW.MUSE-HOTELS.COM)

**NV Niseko Village**  
*Always in Season*



**KASARA**  
NISEKO VILLAGE  
TOWNHOUSE

THE  
**GREEN gb LEAF**  
Niseko Village

**Hilton**  
Niseko Village



THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE IS NISEKO VILAGE'S MAIN PULSE WHERE PAVED INTIMATE WALKWAYS ARE FLANKED BY CONTEMPORARY SHOPPING AND DINING OPTIONS. JUST MOMENTS FROM NISEKO VILLAGE'S AWARD-WINNING HOTELS, RESIDENCES AND LIFTS, ITS SLOPESIDE LOCATION ALLOWS FOR SEAMLESS SKI-IN, SKI-OUT ACCESS BETWEEN MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES AND INDOOR DIVERSIONS. BOTH MODERN AND TRADITIONAL INTERWEAVE, EVOKING A GENTEEL LIFESTYLE AT THE VILLAGE WITH ITS AUTHENTIC JAPANESE MACHIYA ARCHITECTURAL SETTING. APRÈS-SKI IS EXCITINGLY REDEFINED AT NISEKO VILLAGE.

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



THE SPA VILLAGES CELEBRATE THE HEALING CULTURE OF THE REGION IN WHICH EACH IS BUILT. EACH SPA VILLAGE HAS ITS OWN CHARACTER AND AUTHENTICITY, HONOURING LOCAL HEALERS AND TRADITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN THE GENERATIONS.

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

[WWW.SPAVILLAGE.COM](http://WWW.SPAVILLAGE.COM)



SOUTHEAST ASIA

# THE WESTIN

PERTH



THE EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS EPITOMISES THE GRANDEUR, LUXURY AND ROMANCE OF RAIL TRAVEL FROM A BYGONE ERA. JOURNEY AMID THE TRAPPINGS OF OLD-WORLD OPULENCE ACROSS THREE COUNTRIES, THROUGH THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, ON A ROUTE CONNECTING THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN METROPOLISES OF SINGAPORE AND BANGKOK.

[WWW.YTLHOTELS.COM](http://WWW.YTLHOTELS.COM)

THE 368-ROOM WESTIN PERTH IS LOCATED IN THE REVITALISED EAST END OF PERTH KNOWN AS THE HISTORIC HEART OF THE CITY, CLOSE TO SHOPPING MALLS, ELIZABETH QUAY AND THE VIBRANT SWAN RIVER PRECINCT. THE HOTEL IS THE CORNERSTONE OF HIBERNIAN PLACE, FEATURING A LIVELY AND ECLECTIC MIX OF BARS, CAFÉS AND RESTAURANTS.

[WWW.WESTINPERTH.COM](http://WWW.WESTINPERTH.COM)

  
**MARRIOTT  
MELBOURNE**

  
**MARRIOTT  
SYDNEY HARBOUR**



THE MELBOURNE MARRIOTT IS CENTRALLY LOCATED, CLOSE TO THE CITY'S THEATRE PRECINCT, SHOPPING DISTRICTS AND CHINATOWN. FEATURING WORLD-CLASS SERVICE, ALL 186 WELL-APPOINTED ROOMS AND SUITES ARE MODERN AND ELEGANT. FACILITIES INCLUDE A HEATED INDOOR POOL, GYMNASIUM, SIGNATURE RESTAURANT AND VIBRANT LOUNGE.

THE 563-ROOM SYDNEY HARBOUR MARRIOTT IS SET IN THE HEART OF CIRCULAR QUAY, OVERLOOKING THE HARBOUR BRIDGE AND OPERA HOUSE. GUESTS WILL FIND THEMSELVES NEAR DINING, FASHION AND ENTERTAINMENT HOTSPOTS. THE SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE, OPERA HOUSE, THE ROCKS AND HYDE PARK ARE ALL MOMENTS AWAY.

MARRIOTT.COM

MARRIOTT.COM



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](http://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.

[WWW.THEHAGUEMARRIOTT.COM](http://WWW.THEHAGUEMARRIOTT.COM)

# VISTANA HOTEL



EMBRACE THE NEW VISTANA VIBES IN THREE CHOICE LOCATIONS ACROSS MALAYSIA. EXPERIENCE FRIENDLY, EFFICIENT SERVICE, BE IT AT CHECK-IN OR DEPARTURE. THE COMFORTABLE ROOMS COME WITH PRACTICAL AMENITIES THAT ARE SUITED TO WORK OR RELAXATION, PLUS THERE IS COMPLIMENTARY WI-FI THROUGHOUT THE HOTEL. RELAX AT BARISTA, THE 24-HOUR COFFEE BAR, AND ADJACENT COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE, HUB 247, FOR A QUICK BUSINESS BREAKFAST, OR SIT DOWN TO FRESH HOT MEALS AT CAFE. VISTANA HOTELS IS ALWAYS WELCOMING, ALWAYS CONNECTED.

[WWW.VISTANAHOTELS.COM](http://WWW.VISTANAHOTELS.COM)



PANGKOR LAUT RESORT  
ONE ISLAND. ONE RESORT



A LULLABY OF LAPPING WAVES COMPOSED JUST FOR YOU.  
THIS IS THE PRIVILEGE OF ONE ISLAND, ONE RESORT.

For enquiries or reservations, please contact YTL Hotels Travel Centre at [travelcentre@ytlhotels.com](mailto:travelcentre@ytlhotels.com) or call +60 3 2783 1000

A YTL LUXURY RESORT

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SMALL  
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HOTELS  
OF THE WORLD  
*Independently owned*

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. Worn by the Apollo 11 astronauts and on hand for all six lunar missions, OMEGA's Speedmaster Professional has earned a special place in our pioneering history.  
#MOONWATCH

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OMEGA**

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