

YTL *life*

TREASURED PLACES, TREASURED MOMENTS

HOME OF THE TASTEMAKERS

Epicurean heaven
at The Starhill Dining

SPANISH PANACHE

Asia welcomes its
initial trio of AC Hotels

ETHEREAL DEBUT

Introducing Japan's
first Ritz-Carlton Reserve

BORN IN LE BRASSUS



AUDEMARS PIGUET
Le Brassus

RAISED AROUND THE WORLD





LOVE IN VERONA COLLECTION

ENJOY A GUARANTEED COMPLIMENTARY 5-STAR HOTEL OR
RESORT STAY WITH EVERY ONLINE PURCHASE.

WWW.ROBERTOCOIN.COM/EN-MY

*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY





TRUEFITT & HILL

EST. 1805 • ST. JAMES'S • LONDON

FROM THE
OLDEST BARBERSHOP
IN THE WORLD



GROOMING MEN FOR GREATNESS SINCE 1805

Suria KLCC +603 2165 1805 • Bangsar Shopping Centre +603 2011 4321 • The Majestic Hotel +603 2785 8000

The RuMa Hotel and Residences +603 2778 0692

www.truefittandhill.com.my



TRUEFITT & HILL

EST. 1805 • ST. JAMES'S • LONDON

GROOMING MEN FOR GREATNESS SINCE 1805

Founded in 1805 by William Francis Truefitt, Truefitt & Hill has the honour of being recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest barbershop in the world.

Today, the company leads the way in offering a wide range of grooming products and grooming services, curated to provide a unique experience to discerning gentlemen, who look for sophisticated luxury, efficacy and unmatched quality. Staying relevant to the needs of our customers has always been the key to our brand's long lived success and innovation has always been deeply rooted in the DNA of Truefitt & Hill throughout our storied history. There is no other company in the world which combines male grooming expertise, experience and tradition, which stretches back for over two centuries. This unique positioning forms a solid base from which Truefitt & Hill looks to the future and in which the innovative product development, superb service quality as well as the importance of staying relevant at all times, lead the way.



SHAVING



FRAGRANCES



HAIR CARE



FACE & BODY

CONTENTS

LIFE EVENTS

14

AC Hotels debuts in Malaysia with a launch party at its Kuala Lumpur Titiwangsa property.

15

Berry Bros & Rudd, Britain's oldest purveyor of wine and spirits, holds a whisky masterclass at Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur.

LIFE ON THE COVER

16

The Starhill Dining promises a new and elevated gastronomic experience that will fuel your imagination, right in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.



16



36



34

LIFE FEATURE

26

AC Hotels by Marriott makes its Asian landfall with a trio of properties in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kuantan.

32

The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur elevates the art of afternoon tea with its very own certified tea sommelier.

34

Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur's thoughtfully designed spaces and central downtown location make it the perfect meeting place.

36

Pangkor Laut Resort's grandest suite is named after the legendary Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti.

38

The rich tapestry of heritage in Malaysia's historic state is proudly celebrated at The Majestic Malacca.

CONTENTS

LIFE FEATURE

66

The Melbourne Marriott's central location makes it the ideal nexus to see the city's iconic spots on foot.

70

Make the most of Queensland's famous sunshine and explore the city by kayak on the Brisbane River.

72

Discover the landmarks around Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel at a leisurely pace by bicycle.

74

The Great Room Lobby and Bar at The Hague Marriott offers a smorgasbord of delicious international dining choices.

76

Japan's powder mecca of Niseko welcomes the country's first Ritz-Carlton Reserve in the form of Higashiyama Niseko Village.



44

40

The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur's new guest attraction offers a city insider's – and history buff's – view of how a muddy estuary evolved through the direct confluence of colonial powers and a certain Queen Victoria.

44

Tanjong Jara Resort's Spa Village invites couples to go on a restorative journey once reserved for royalty.

58

Lounge by the poolside and indulge in deliciously healthy eats at The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui's Sea Salt Shack.

62

Dine as the Romans did at celebrity chef Guy Grossi's Italian restaurant at The Westin Perth.

LIFE STYLE

48

The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur's elegant decor and JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur's fresh vibes set the stage for a stylish examination of both hotels.



32



74

CONTENTS

LIFE FEATURE

80

The Glasshouse welcomes a bespoke limited-edition whisky available at all five of YTL Hotels' UK properties.

84

The beautiful garden spaces at Monkey Island Estate instil an air of romance and serenity.

88

The Townhouse at The Gainsborough Bath Spa offers four floors of indulgence in the heart of Bath.

92

Experience the historic charm of Threadneedles Hotel. Once home to London, City and Midland Bank, it now houses Marco Pierre White's Wheeler's Oyster Bar and Grill Room.

96

London-based book clubs meet at The Academy once a month, honouring the hotel's literary connection.



84



92



98

LIFE MOMENTS

98

There's plenty to eat, see and do at Cameron Highlands Resort. Examine vintage artefacts at a nearby museum, go for a hike in the misty Mossy Forest or enjoy a picnic in a tea plantation – our guide has it all.

PORTFOLIO OF LIFE

104

The world of YTL Hotels.

EVERY LANDSCAPE, TIMELESS

EVERY CULTURE, AUTHENTIC

EVERY EXPERIENCE, UNIQUE



SPA VILLAGE RESORT TEMBOK, BALI
Indonesia



TANJONG JARA RESORT
Malaysia



PANGKOR LAUT RESORT
Malaysia



GAYA ISLAND RESORT
Malaysia

Extraordinary resorts, unique experiences, bespoke services. Each property that bears our signature is infused with the spirit of the land in which it resides, crafting singular experiences for the jaded traveller. For a private consultation, please contact the YTL Hotels Travel Centre at +60 3 2783 1000 or email travelcentre@ytlhotels.com to handcraft your experience.

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.

LUXURY RESORTS BY YTL HOTELS

SMALL
LUXURY
HOTELS
OF THE WORLD

www.ytlhotels.com

YTL HOTELS
Treasured Places, Treasured Moments

CONSULTING MANAGING EDITOR
IZAN YUSUFF WILSON

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KENNETH TAN (*k.tan@imv.com.sg*)

EDITORIAL
Editor TIEN CHEW (*t.chew@imv.com.sg*)
Chief Sub-Editor JACQUELINE DANAM

ART
Junior Art Director PENN EY CHEE
Designer ELLYN YEO

CONTRIBUTORS
ERIC IAN CHAN, JUNE MONG, RENYI LIM, SHALINI YEAP, WEI-YU WANG

PRODUCTION
Production Director ANNA TSIRELNIKOVA
Prepress FAR EAST OFFSET
Printer PERCETAKAN ZANDERS SDN BHD (205766A)
16 Jalan BK 1/11, Bandar Kinrara, 47180 Puchong
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

ADVERTISING SALES
Sales Director VENIS LOO (*v.loo@imv.com.sg*)
Sales Manager XANA LAI (*x.lai@imv.com.sg*)

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS
Finance Manager SOH HUI YING (*h.soh@imv.com.sg*)
Finance Executive NADIA ZUHARI (*n.zuhari@imv.com.sg*)

PRESIDENT
MICHAEL VON SCHLIPPE

PUBLISHED BY
YTL HOTELS & PROPERTIES SDN BHD
8th Floor, Yeoh Tiong Lay Plaza
55 Jalan Bukit Bintang
55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

PRODUCED BY
INDOCHINE MEDIA VENTURES SDN BHD
B-7-13A, Gateway Kiaramas
1 Jalan Desa Kiara
50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A NOTE FROM TAN SRI (DR) FRANCIS YEOH



Our ethos of Treasured Places, Treasured Moments is a poignant reminder of our collected memories. Those familiar with our properties may recall the times when they were taking the waters in Bath, enjoying Hokkaido's delicious seafood at one of our Niseko Village hotels, observing the flight of the hornbills at Pangkor Laut Resort or decompressing under the practised hands of a masseuse at the Spa Village of The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui.

All these and many more experiences are still to be had with new additions to YTL Hotels' properties. In the wintry wonderland of Hokkaido, YTL Hotels is welcoming the first guests to our newly opened Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve – the first in Japan and one of only five Ritz-Carlton Reserves in the world. Its desirability as a Ritz-Carlton Reserve has to do with its ethereal location where the oneness of nature meets with refinement in hospitality. Even better is its year-long availability across all seasons, which promises a new discovery inside and outside the resort on your every return.

A little closer to home, we are proud to have the first trio of AC Hotels in Asia. Boasting Spanish roots and a European soul, AC Hotels celebrates style with a classic, modern touch, ensuring guests enjoy a stay filled with warm service, signature moments and thoughtful, upscale amenities in Kuala Lumpur, Kuantan and Penang.

On our cover this issue is the first stage of the transformation of The Starhill, Malaysia's first luxury shopping centre. The Starhill, Home of the Tastemakers, will offer the best of experiential retail in an intimate boutique environment of elegance and sophistication. Shoppers will enjoy a refined home-like ambience that is infused with warm hospitality and stylish aesthetics.

We are proud to introduce to you The Starhill Dining, a collection of captivating dining and entertainment concepts. These bars and restaurants, which include returning favourites Shook! and Luk Yu Tea House, celebrate culinary sophistication, bringing to diners fresh, seasonal and globally inspired dining experiences with a diverse spread of gastronomic creations served by the Tastemakers, each with a unique food programming.

All these experiences await you in your next exploration with YTL Hotels. We hope that these places and moments become forever treasures and it is this which we hope to deliver to you through your stays with us.



THE PERFECTLY PRECISE HOTEL

AC HOTELS LAUNCHES IN MALAYSIA, PROMISING GUEST-DRIVEN HOSPITALITY AND EUROPEAN-INSPIRED DESIGNS TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF SOPHISTICATED BUSINESS TRAVELLERS.

From left: Peter Gassner (regional vice president of hotel development Asia Pacific, Marriott International), H.E José Miguel Corvinos Lafuente (Spain's ambassador to Malaysia) and Mahmoud Skaf (area general manager of Marriott International and YTL Hotels).

Founded in Spain, AC Hotels has launched in three strategic locations across Malaysia. Nicknamed 'the perfectly precise hotel', AC Hotels is now in Kuala Lumpur Titiwangsa, Penang Bukit Jambul and Kuantan City Centre. The new hotel brand is the result of a partnership between Marriott International and YTL Hotels, with the two companies having ambitious plans to bring an AC Hotel to every state in the years to come.

Spain's ambassador to Malaysia, H.E. José Miguel Corvinos Lafuente, was present at the launch to express his eagerness for guests to experience true Spanish hospitality. As a taste of what's to come, AC Kitchen prepared a smorgasbord of Spanish delicacies, such as paella and empanadas, as well as Roselle – the hotel's signature non-alcoholic beverage made of soda water, roselle, lemon and orange juice.

For more information visit ac-hotels.marriott.com

Photograph by Faylasufiyah.

FIT FOR A PRINCE

ROYALLY APPOINTED PURVEYOR OF WINE AND SPIRITS BERRY BROS & RUDD DEBUTS ITS CLASSIC RANGE OF BLENDED SINGLE MALT WHISKY AT HOTEL STRIPES KUALA LUMPUR.



Berry Bros & Rudd, Britain's oldest wine and spirit merchant, invited local whisky aficionados to fall in love with the brand's classic range of blended single malts at Man Tao Bar, Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur. The purveyor worked with a range of Scottish distilleries to create their interpretation of a classic Speyside, Islay and a sherry cask whisky, with these three bottles forming the core of the line. The Speyside whisky's golden liquid has a bouquet of honeyed fruit, citrus and soft wood and notes of citrus in the mouth. The Islay – representing the region's renowned peaty whiskies – leaves a creamy sweetness and a long lingering smoky finish on the palate. Completing the trio, the sherry cask whisky is a caramel-coloured whisky with a bold sherry prominence on the nose and a long sweet finish.

For more information on Man Tao Bar visit stripeskl.com



Photographs by Fady Younis.



HOME OF THE TASTEMAKERS

THE STARHILL DINING PROMISES A NEW AND ELEVATED
GASTRONOMIC EXPERIENCE THAT WILL FUEL YOUR
IMAGINATION, RIGHT IN THE HEART OF KUALA LUMPUR.

While it has always been a repository of endless lofty epicurean experiences, the new Starhill Dining seeks to take the Kuala Lumpur culinary scene to new heights when it opens this December. Inspired by the energy of the city, as well as global food trends and traditions, each restaurant at The Starhill Dining is defined by its own contemporary design, reimagined cuisine and a commitment to take diners on a multi-sensorial, gastronomic journey like no other. The unique food programming at The Starhill Dining is interpreted by its very own Tastemakers, vivid storytellers who possess a wealth of expertise in their own fields.

Centred in The Starhill - Home of the Tastemakers, The Starhill Dining celebrates culinary sophistication at its most elegant, with a diverse spread of gastronomic creations served by its signature restaurants and bar. The Starhill Dining fuels the imagination through a collection of captivating dining and entertainment concepts. Diners certainly can look forward to rediscovering the city's most riveting dining and entertainment destination hotspot, stylishly reinvented right in the heart of Bukit Bintang.

While regulars can look forward to rediscovering old favourites like Shook! and Luk Yu Tea House, the new additions within the space – namely, Mari*Star, a caviar seafood bar/lounge run by the operators of Marini's on 57, and The Alchemy



Above: Shook! 118 will offer a cornucopia of fresh ingredients cooked a la minute at its various live action stations.

Opening spread: the Infinity Room bridges The Starhill Dining with JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur.

– are set to enhance the overall experience. While the former will open in 2021, The Alchemy will start concocting gin botanicals for every season from December.

The Alchemy serves a taste of Manhattan with the New Yorker Afternoon Tea, offering a Big Apple twist that even traditionalists of this time-honoured British past-time can't resist. This New York-perfected rendition of the three-tiered heritage will offer a scrumptious selection of sandwiches, savouries, scones and desserts.

Even as you venture across the globe through The Alchemy's extensive gin collection from different corners of the world, there's a carefully planned process behind the bar. Its beverage programme reflects passion and dedication to the alchemy of flavourfully inventive and artfully presented drinks. Here, you can taste the seasons with exceptional concoctions, where gin takes centre stage through craft cocktails, from the classic negroni and Juniper Sling, to innovative cocktails inspired by the revolving four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Oenophiles, meanwhile, will rightly wax lyrical at the superlative offerings of The Cellar. A happy triumvirate of a walk-in cellar, an extensive wine list and a dedicated sommelier, The Cellar scores the highest points for its collections. It takes pride in stocking collections of highly sought-after wines, including Napa Valley's undoubted star Opus One, and an exclusive vertical collection of the largest and finest Château Mouton Rothschild of every consecutive vintage from 1945 to 2005.

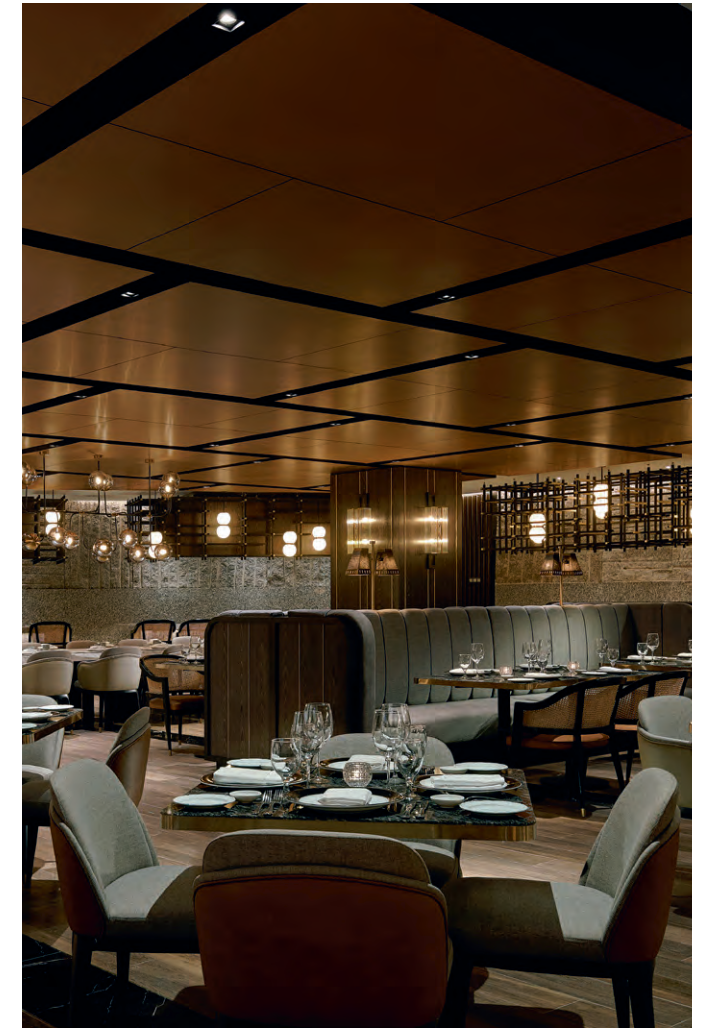
The Starhill Dining will also house the city's most desired private event spaces, with three exceptional venues designed to cater for events of all sizes. Be it an intimate networking session, a social gathering or bespoke celebration, you can easily find a suitable space to connect and entertain in exclusivity here in either The Living Room, Shook! 118 or Club Chinois. And far from the average catering fare, events at The Starhill Dining are made exciting with tailored menus by the dedicated gourmet Tastemakers.

Apart from Shook! and Luk Yu Tea House, the popular Jogoya restaurant and Tarbush Lounge, well-known for its fine Arabic cuisine, are also making a return. Of course, it is more than just a simple matter of resuming business for these returning outlets. Shook!, for instance, has reinvented and transformed itself into the dining and entertainment destination hotspot for Kuala Lumpur's tastemakers, movers and shakers. With a contemporary yet timeless interior that is stylishly inviting, the revamped Shook! is set to burnish its legacy even further. Master chef Mohan Deligganu is confident it will continue to shine, offering guests an immersion into the lifestyles of the Tastemakers and fuelling their imaginations with its diverse spread of gastronomic creations.

"Redefining flavours from around the world, Shook! will bring to you fresh, seasonal and globally inspired gourmet experiences, as well as local delicacies now expertly amplified," he says.

Chef Mohan – a top 12 finalist in Season 11 of *MasterChef UK: The Professionals* – also highlights some signature elements





This and facing pages: diners will discover a new gastronomy theatre and comforting familiarity at the revamped Shook!, which returns with an exciting line-up of tastemakers and a pleasing repertoire of Malay and Western cuisines as well as a grill menu.

Previous spread: Luk Yu Tea House stays true to Chinese heritage with Hong Kong dim sum as well as Cantonese and Chiu Chow specialities amid a chinoiserie-inspired interior.

Following spread: the Living Room is Shook!'s swish space for private dining and curated menu presentations.

that he feels epitomise Shook!'s different aspects, including the harmoniously balanced flavours of Enak's authentic Malay cuisine; as well as the classic surf and turf.

The experience at Shook!, he assures, "will be lively and engaging as diners taste flavours from around the world, from a classic grill reinvented to feature the best meat cuts and the best steaks in town to flavours that are distinctively Malay with a thoughtfully curated menu of age-old recipes that have been passed down through generations".

Looking forward to welcoming regulars back to Shook!, chef Mohan says: "Diners can opt for a theatrical dining experience with our interactive kitchen or luxuriate in our intimate private dining room, and discover distinctive ingredients sourced from purveyors both local and around the world, authentically prepared and immaculately presented."

Luk Yu Tea House, meanwhile, will unveil an exciting transformation that includes a reinvented menu to complement the stylish chinoiserie-inspired interiors, with its commitment to realising a poetic Chinese heritage. According to its Tastemakers, chef Jun and chef Leong, the dining experience will take on a new dimension with a redefined menu of nostalgic and comforting Chinese cuisine that transcends provinces. Look out for yum cha staples in the form of Hong Kong dim

sum, home-style Cantonese specialities oozing with *wok hei*, as well as oodles of noodles. "We are also collaborating with Chiu Chow cuisine master chef, Alex Au of the famous Pak Loh Chiu Chow restaurant, and will feature signature dishes from him, where time-honoured Chiu Chow recipes and cooking techniques are preserved, featuring a selection of signatures that are packed with traditional flavours," says chef Jun.

Having led the team at Luk Yu Tea House for the past six years, chef Jun continues to find great satisfaction at being able to create the much-loved dim sum and Cantonese-style dishes that guests have come to enjoy at this notable stalwart for Chinese cuisine. "I also enjoy the opportunity to give a modern touch to time-honoured recipes at Luk Yu Tea House to keep guests' palates yearning for more. My latest partnership in the kitchen with chef Alex is also an exciting collaboration that will ensure that Chinese cuisine continues to be well preserved, and further elevate us as the choice destination to experience a vibrant chorus of Cantonese and Chiu Chow flavours in the heart of the city."

Explore the gastronomic world of The Starhill Dining on thestarhilldining.com



NEW IN TOWN

AC HOTELS BY MARRIOTT MAKES ITS ASIAN LANDFALL WITH A TRIO OF PROPERTIES, IN KUALA LUMPUR, PENANG AND KUANTAN, ALL OF WHICH EMBODY THE BRAND'S ETHOS OF BEING PERFECTLY PRECISE.

Words by SHALINI YEAP





Following the opening of the first AC Hotels property in Madrid, Spain by Antonio Catalan in 1999, a series of impressive introductions in Europe and North America shone the spotlight on this relative newcomer to the hospitality scene. By 2011, AC Hotels had joined Marriott International with its founder Catalan serving as CEO of AC Hotels by Marriott. Its sensational rise as a hospitality brand has seen AC Hotels birthed in global cities and iconic locations such as Times Square in New York City, Paris, Istanbul, Venice, Mexico City and Cape Town. In its country of origin, a total of 55 properties are flagged as AC Hotels, representing roughly a third of the 159 AC Hotels by Marriott properties worldwide. "Hotels should serve as an escape, an oasis from the mundane," Catalan says of the brand he founded two decades ago.

That founding philosophy is reflected in the AC Hotels' frictionless experience of "providing guests with everything they need and nothing they don't". In the same way that savvy travellers enjoy new-age alternatives such as e-hailing rides and co-working spaces, the objective of AC Hotels is to keep

the experience fresh and modern across the markets where it operates. Balancing details and services in a seamless package, the hotels promise flexible open spaces, intuitive design and a minimalist approach by removing clutter and unwanted extras such as in-room marketing. In that, its embrace of the Perfectly Precise tagline is most apropos, delivering a smart proposition for guests who want to detach themselves from the chaos of travel.

Asia welcomes AC Hotels by Marriott with a triple fanfare in the concurrent opening of three Malaysian properties in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kuantan. With the conversion of existing hospitality properties by YTL Hotels, Malaysia becomes the first Asian destination to offer the AC Hotels experience.

The three properties flagged as AC Hotels are AC Hotel Kuala Lumpur Titiwangsa, AC Hotel Penang Bukit Jambul and AC Hotel Kuantan City Centre which, naturally, also fall under the Marriott Bonvoy loyalty programme for points collection and redemption. The same success cues of AC Hotels are realised in this trio of Malaysian properties with their marked design-led approach and contemporary content – the product of AC Hotels' European soul and Spanish roots.



Above: AC Rooms are designed to give travellers the freedom to use the space as they see fit. Right: the meeting spaces at the three hotels are designed to be inviting and collaborative. Facing page: guests can relax in the welcoming AC Lobby.





CURATED EXPERIENCES

Business travellers will appreciate the AC Lounge, which offers a perfect backdrop for creative meetings, with artful touches providing a contemplative mood as the day segues into relaxed evenings. They can wind down at the daily AC Hour, where the signature Roselle mocktail – a nod to Malaysia’s national flower – is served. In a recall of AC Hotels’ origins, travellers may also kick back with Spanish vintages and a food menu inspired by tapas. An ever-revolving roster of Malaysian-inspired tapas are paired with the burgers, classic fish and chips, and a choice of churros and *crème catalana* as sweet endings. In this harmonious space, the lounge and its accompanying bar become the kinetic centre of the hotel for guests seeking a chic space in which to unwind.

This interplay of thoughtful design carries into the rooms where a fuss-free philosophy emphasises modern, modular appointments for clean lines. Rooms offer an airy ambience, with woody elements that add warmth and intuitive lighting controls to maximise relaxation throughout the day. Each room’s minimalist yet precise fit-out ensures guests have all the essentials.

Mornings are done right at AC Kitchen, which is redolent with the delicious scent of quiche, frittatas and freshly baked croissants. An artisanal approach to its international breakfast spread – which includes the indispensable Malaysian favourite, *nasi lemak* – provides the sense of a family kitchen. Guests are welcome to take control of their mornings, while those in a hurry may avail themselves of the AC Lounge’s 24-hour Grab & Go menu, which runs the gamut of fruit jars, sandwiches, pastas and Valenciana paellas. To work it off, AC Fitness offers a fully equipped gym with free weights, cardio machines and an outdoor pool.

Meanwhile, the function spaces by AC Meetings are a study of how design influences moods and inspiration. A fit-out of purposeful, rhythmic cues provides conducive, collaborative and good-looking spaces with plenty of free surfaces and modern classic seating that invite productivity. Again, minimalist interiors promote harmonious vibes – that sense of calm is a key mood that epitomises AC Hotels – transporting minds on creative tangents.



Above: AC Hotel Kuala Lumpur Titiwangsa’s 400-seat banquet room.
Below: enjoy a lazy afternoon at the hotel’s many cosy nooks, such as its library.
Facing page: the lobby offers a timeless yet modern feel.

AT THE CENTRE OF IT ALL

All three AC Hotels in Malaysia share a great commonality: a strategic location. At AC Hotel Kuala Lumpur Titiwangsa, its proximity to the sprawling Lake Gardens and mass transit points means that work and play are within easy reach, while helping you avoid the city’s traffic snarls. For a bit of retail therapy, the main shopping precinct of Bukit Bintang is only a short hop away. The hotel’s immediate vicinity is also a treasure trove of gastronomic delights, exuding a quaint neighbourhood feeling amid a bustling metropolis.

At AC Hotel Kuantan City Centre, guests can escape the urban jungle and enjoy the laid-back charms of the town, from its local cuisine to the sparkling waters of Teluk Cempedak, a popular beach destination located a mere five kilometres away. Up north, adventures of a culinary nature await guests at AC Hotel Penang Bukit Jambul with a cornucopia of street food that has seen the island earn its global renown among gastronomes. The UNESCO World Heritage-listed city of George Town is steeped in culture and history, providing unique and signature moments in the same vein as that which AC Hotels strives to deliver at every turn of a guest’s stay.



Photographs by Mango Loke.

For more information, visit ac-hotels.com

FANCY A CUPPA?

THE RITZ-CARLTON, KUALA LUMPUR ELEVATES
THE ART OF AFTERNOON TEA WITH ITS VERY OWN
CERTIFIED TEA SOMMELIER.

Words by KENNETH TAN



Be it jasmine, oolong or Earl Grey, the delicious teas served at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur's famous Ritzy Afternoon Tea go beyond the ordinary. Its signature tea is a blend of green oolong with a delicate creamy palate, while a selection of tea's grand classics run the gamut of English Breakfast, Classic Orange Pekoe and Heaven & Earth, with the last of the lot being a tart sencha with the sweetness of strawberries and kiwis.

The hotel's lobby lounge invites one to spend languid afternoons in the comforting ambience of floral decorations, plush sofas and lilting music. And just as you are about to sink into your next reverie, a steaming pot of tea arrives to deliver new sensations.

Enter Sally Cheah, whose two decades at the hotel began with gourmet cakes, desserts and beverages. Her passion in the art of afternoon tea led her to the grand tea houses of Paris, London, Tokyo and Singapore, where she observed the finer points of afternoon tea traditions. This training included a sojourn in Mumbai, where she obtained a TeaMaster Silver certification as a tea sommelier from the owner of Ronnefeldt Teehaus, whose teas are served at the The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur's afternoon teas. As manager of The Lobby Lounge at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur, Cheah is a regular sight for guests who partake of its famed three-tiered assortment of savouries and sweets. Its finger sandwiches are a recall of *The Ritz London Book of Afternoon Tea*, with accompanying pies and quiches. Then there are its scones, baked within an hour of service so as to be served warm and fresh, served with Devon clotted cream.

The tea easily complements the array of handcrafted bites, with aromas released together for a flavourful symphony. From the Earl Grey, one gets a hit of bergamot, while the jasmine tea possesses the perfumed nose of its namesake, conferring a relaxing finish to a lemon éclair or Breton fruit tart. The range of handcrafted desserts from the afternoon tea also includes highlights such as opera cake, strawberry cheesecake, Victoria sandwiches and vanilla millefeuille.



Sally Cheah, TeaMaster at The Lobby Lounge, with a selection of the decadent delicacies and fine teas that is served during the hotel's Ritzy Afternoon Tea.

Meanwhile, more robust flavours of tea such as Sweet Honeybush and other black teas – Spring Darjeeling (harvested in spring from the Himalayas' southern slopes), Imperial puerh (best when infused in boiling water), and spicy Masala Chai – highlight the umami and spice of the savoury teatime components. From the scotch eggs and chicken pie to the egg mayonnaise and smoked salmon sandwiches, the right tea pairing will bind the flavours with a liquid alchemy to create a new journey of gastronomy and tea appreciation. To finish, one could enjoy the fruit-infused teas of soft peach with a nose of bourbon vanilla, or perhaps, a relaxing peppermint or a Fujian white Pai Mu Tan tea – plucked by hand before the leaves open to evoke the freshness of white peonies.

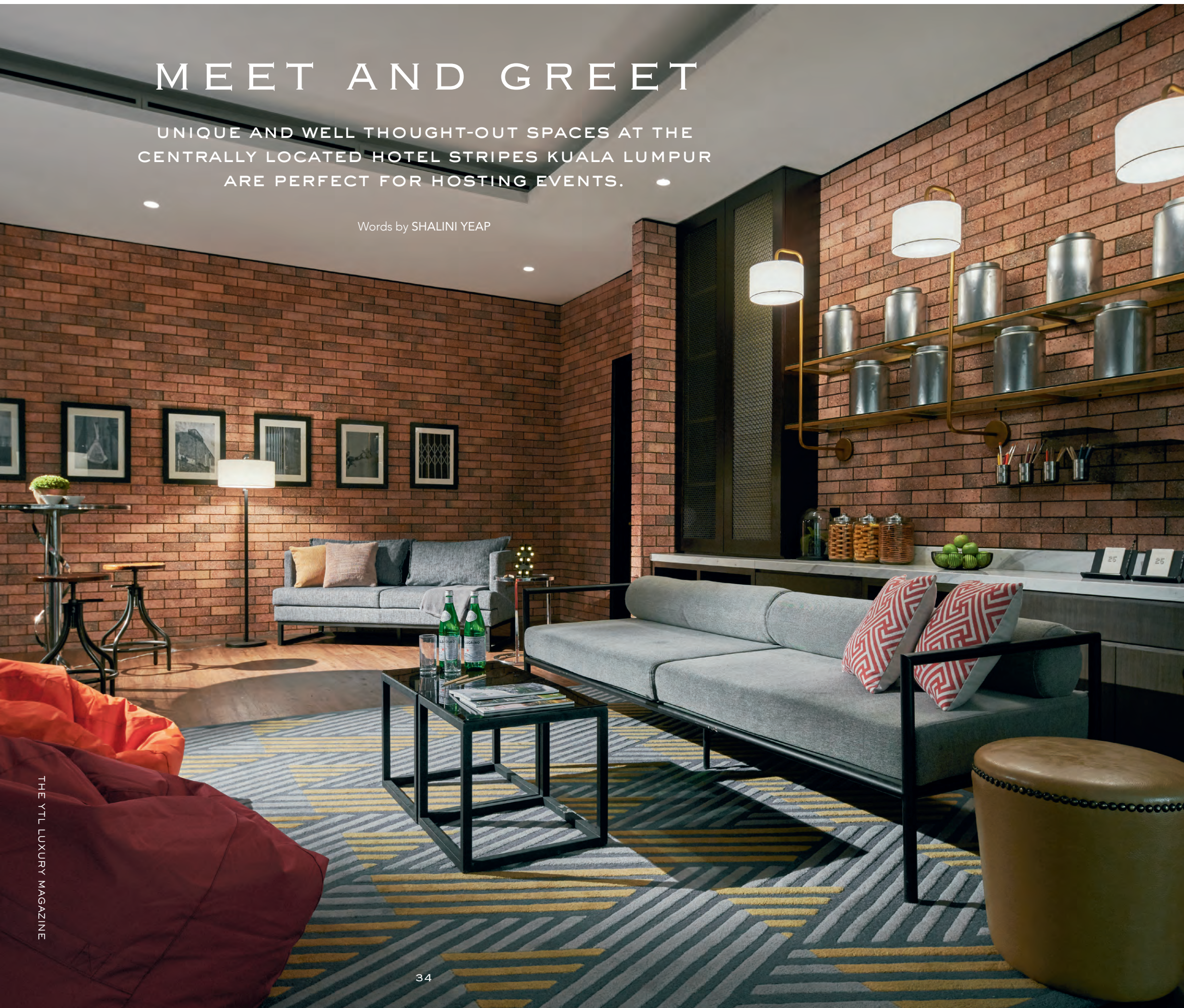
Perhaps there is some wisdom that makes tea the second most widely consumed beverage in the world (after water). "Its inherent benefits and interactive qualities also have a positive effect on people's moods and overall health," muses Cheah, adding: "and that makes it a popular choice in the afternoon, for those who have to eat their dinner sober."

Reserve your afternoon tea experience at
The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur by calling +603 2142 8000.

MEET AND GREET

UNIQUE AND WELL THOUGHT-OUT SPACES AT THE CENTRALLY LOCATED HOTEL STRIPES KUALA LUMPUR ARE PERFECT FOR HOSTING EVENTS.

Words by SHALINI YEAP



The Snug on level 2 is a unique and inspiring multifunctional space for one-of-a-kind events.

Planning and hosting an event can be an arduous task, but with Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur, everything is attended to with precision and to your satisfaction. The hotel is very stylish, with all the given comforts one expects from a member of Marriott's coveted Autograph Collection. However, it is the hotel's approach to event hosting that truly sets it apart.

The Snug, a multifunctional space, is ideal for meetings, product launches, private dining and parties. Its stripped-back walls are customisable and the talk-show style layout and couches lend possibilities to the different types of events that can be hosted here. Its unique Meet & Gym package redefines work meetings with a creative twist. Wellness and relaxation may not typically be associated with work-related meetings, but Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur is pushing the envelope in this regard. The package includes a refreshing glass of Kamunting Fizz at Man Tao Bar, next to the rooftop pool, and gym access to re-energise after a long day of work.

Be it an intimate wedding on the rooftop with unobstructed views of downtown KL or a brainstorming session at Studio S/T/R/I/P/E for that big, new project, the hotel's events team will be happy to assist. That top-notch service, coupled with one-of-a-kind event spaces and hard-to-resist packages, makes Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur a more than compelling choice for any kind of event.

For more information, please visit stripeskl.com

LIVE LIKE A LEGEND

FIND OUT WHY THE LATE
GREAT LUCIANO PAVAROTTI
FELL IN LOVE WITH
PANGKOR LAUT WITH THIS
ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE.

Words by ERIC IAN CHAN

When world-renowned tenor Luciano Pavarotti first set foot on Pangkor Laut, he was almost moved to tears by the beauty of the island. "This is really paradise," said the big man with the bigger voice.

As a United Nations Ambassador for Peace, Pavarotti later returned to Pangkor Laut Resort to perform at the Concert for Peace at the Asian Global Peace Forum held on the island. The legend also officially launched Spa Village Pangkor Laut, calling it a miracle. Just as Pangkor Laut made an impression on Pavarotti, his larger-than-life personality and energy has similarly made an impact on the resort.

To honour this great man who dedicated his life to humanitarian works and promoting peace, Pangkor Laut Resort dedicated its best suite to him. The Pavarotti Suite is as exclusive as it is elegant, set high on a hill in the rainforest. The 242-square-metre space consists of two bedrooms decorated in warm wood tones with plush furnishings. The vast suite features a luxurious lounge area with a spectacular view of the forest and the sea from its balcony. The suite also has a giant open-roofed bathroom, where washing up becomes an experience in itself.

A stay in the Pavarotti Suite is now even more attractive. A new two-night experience by Pangkor Laut Resort will make you feel like a superstar, much like the legend himself.

The Pavarotti Experience includes private helicopter transfers for two from Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport to the resort and back. When you arrive, you are welcomed with a bottle of Italian red wine to put you in the right mood.

Aside from having all your meals exquisitely prepared and served at the resort's restaurants, the experience also gives you a romantic evening of private dining on the sandy beach.

You and your partner will also enjoy a nice long pampering session at the award-winning Spa Village Pangkor Laut, where you will feel your woes ebb and moods improve. You wouldn't be able to remember the last time you felt this relaxed and at peace.

To see the beauty of the island that moved Pavarotti, take a private sunset cruise for two on an oriental junk. And as the sun slowly sinks into the horizon, spare a few seconds to remember the legend who inspired all this. You wouldn't be faulted for wanting to utter the same words Pavarotti said about Pangkor Laut, "This is really paradise".

For more information, please visit pangkorlautresort.com



The stylish two-bedroom Pavarotti Suite is set atop a hill in an ancient rainforest.



SPLENDOURS BY THE MALACCA RIVER

THE MAJESTIC MALACCA LETS YOU IMMERSE
YOURSELF IN THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL
RICHNESS THAT IS UNIQUE TO THE STATE.

Words by SHALINI YEAP



In 2008, the city of Malacca was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, and to commemorate this, has gazetted April 15 as its state holiday. The city's unique architectural and cultural treasures – a nonpareil townscape in this part of Asia – led to the UNESCO heritage committee's decision.

Colonial buildings and centuries-old architecture are common sights in Malacca. State-wide, there is a drive to protect and repurpose these historical structures, and the buildings that are successfully conserved will stand out and be admired for generations. The Majestic Malacca is one such building.

As soon as guests step into the grand, white building that is The Majestic Malacca, they will feel the presence of the city's glorious past throughout the hotel, from the original 1920s porcelain tile floors of the Straits Settlement mansion – a distinctively Peranakan aesthetic – to its helpful kebaya-clad staff.

The friendly staff will gladly show you to the bar that's tucked away at a corner of the lobby. There, ask the bartender for a Tanqueray's Malacca Gin and sit back to marvel at the amazingly well-preserved building, while sampling the exclusive limited-edition tippie. Opposite the bar, stairs lead to The Mansion where authentically and delicately prepared Kristang cuisine is served. These dishes are from the small but tight-knit Portuguese-Eurasian community, descendants of Portuguese settlers in the 16th century for whom Malacca was its prized outpost in the spice trade. Kristang delicacies are not easily found in restaurants, but they are an important nod to the diverse communities that call Malacca home.

Then, retire to the hotel's luxurious guestrooms complete with teak furnishings and rich draperies that hark back to the glory days of the old city.

Sit on the plush silk-upholstered chaise lounge and gaze out at the river, sipping tea and letting your imagination take you to the heydays of the port city teeming with Chinese junks and spice-laden vessels coming ashore from all over the world.

For more information visit majesticmalacca.com



A WANDER THROUGH TIME

THE MAJESTIC HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR'S NEW GUEST
ATTRACTION OFFERS A CITY INSIDER'S – AND HISTORY
BUFF'S – VIEW OF HOW A MUDDY ESTUARY EVOLVED
THROUGH THE DIRECT INFLUENCE OF COLONIAL POWERS
AND A CERTAIN QUEEN VICTORIA.

Words by KENNETH TAN

Much ink has been spilled on Kuala Lumpur's (KL) built heritage, and even more gigabytes on the Internet. The capital's historical details are profusely shared online, like the tiniest pixels of an 8K Ultra HD screen when what you really want to see is the whole picture, for real.

To begin to know KL is to be close to its heart, and the only way in is on foot, preferably with someone who grew up hugging its pavements as a boy, loving the city as it yielded up to him its innermost secrets.

Enter the ebullient Sharezal Abdul Wahid, director of concierge at The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, history buff and sage storyteller on The Majestic Colonial Walk. We'll follow him on this auspicious morning and feel the mighty morphing energy of one of Southeast Asia's most fecund cities, where the past resounds into the present.

Exempli gratia: Sharezal attended Victoria Institution (VI), the secondary school founded in 1893, partly seeded by surplus funds to commemorate the golden jubilee of Britain's Queen Victoria. One of VI's original 12 trustees and founders was Loke Yew, the tin miner and philanthropist. Loke Wan Tho was his youngest son, whose estate built the original Hotel Majestic in 1932, the national heritage building that is now part of The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

We steam into the city and Sharezal tells us we're on KL's historic mile; Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin was once Victory Avenue, named for the Allies' success over the Central Powers in World War One, thousands of kilometres away in the cold, shell-shocked and bloodied European trenches.



And because KL was the exotic equatorial outpost of the Empire's global export operations; the destination invariably became a plum posting for expats, fizzing like colonial primordial soup. A hop, skip and jump away from The Majestic Hotel is Kuala Lumpur Railway Station, which was completed in 1910 to replace Resident Station (so named for its proximity to the residence of the British High Commissioner). Its architect was the prolific Brigadier General Arthur Benison Hubback, who was at the time the British architectural assistant to the director of public works. Hubback deftly proceeded to blend



Photographs by Marcus Wong/MV Perspective.



Clockwise from facing page, top: The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur's director of concierge Sharezal Abdul Wahid introduces guests to the historical wonders of the Malaysian capital via The Majestic Colonial Walk; the walk takes one to the meeting point of the Gombak and Klang rivers, which led to the name Kuala Lumpur (the Malay phrase for 'muddy confluence') and the Hubback-designed Masjid Jamek; Victoria Fountain, meant to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, was belatedly raised in 1904 and is backgrounded by Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, which served as the government offices in its earliest conception.

Previous spread: a bird's-eye view of the rich colonial-era architecture surrounding The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

Neo-Moorish, Mughal, Indo-Saracenic and Neo-Saracenic styles into the catchall Indo-Gothic architecture that was de rigueur across India and crown colonies stretching eastwards. Rail was the 5G broadband network of its era, and this station was its dominant platform, delivering people and commodities to and from Malaya's ports and beyond.

Malaysia's first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman, chose to build Masjid Negara, the National Mosque, opposite the train station, says Sharezal, to shelter weary travellers as they arrived in the new capital city. Masjid Negara's design team comprised Baharuddin Abu Kassim, Hisham al-Bakri and Howard Ashley from the Public Works Department. Its original early-1960s architecture remains fresh even now, a testament to the values of the nascent country and both a progression and counterpoint to the glorious Indo-Gothic works by Hubback.

Which brings us to the muddy confluence of the Klang and Gombak rivers at Masjid Jamek (Jamek Mosque; 1909, Hubback). Sharezal casts his gaze across from Dataran Merdeka: imagine, if you will, how a higgledy-piggledy human conurbation of traders, clansmen, fortune hunters and outliers, would have arisen around the banks of the current River of Life project, clearly visible from the strategic and defensible vantage point of what is now Bukit Aman, where the British had established themselves. They would attempt to bring Western industrial and clock-like order to the freewheeling, flexi-hours

communities below, with institutions such as Government Offices (1897, now Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad), Municipal Office and Town Hall (1904, Panggung Bandaraya), FMSR Central Offices (Muzium Tekstil Negara) and Selangor Club (1910, Royal Selangor Club), which came with the customary British playing field. Remarkably, this is only a partial view of Hubback's many evolving works, as we cross the road to Medan Pasar, into the now achingly hip Jalan Sultan, identified by Kwai Chai Hong (Demon Lane) and former cinema REXKL. But did you know about Madras? And, oh yes, where Ella got hitched?

Before we wend our way back just in time for a Majestic Afternoon Tea, Sharezal has revealed for us immaculate courtyards out of *The Thousand and One Nights* and how the Methodist Girls School inspired him to keep on walking. There isn't space here to give the game away, but he might let on if you ask.

The Majestic Colonial Walk is available to in-residence guests on Saturdays and Sundays, from 10.15am to noon, inclusive of tea. Please book 24 hours in advance.

For more information, please visit majestickl.com

CROWNING GLORY

USING ANCIENT MALAY HEALING TRADITIONS,
SPA VILLAGE TANJONG JARA'S SIGNATURE COUPLES
SPA EXPERIENCE TAKES GUESTS ON A RESTORATIVE
JOURNEY THAT WAS ONCE RESERVED FOR ROYALTY.

Words by RENYI LIM





Spa Village Tanjong Jara's unique restorative Malay treatments have been handed down from generation to generation.

The fusion of cultures woven into the rich tapestry of Malaysia's history can be seen in the country's distinctive architecture, fashion, food, and, as a visit to Spa Village Tanjong Jara will prove, its healing rituals as well. Collected within the intimate complex of structures, gardens and pools that make up the award-winning Spa Village Tanjong Jara are treasured traditional Malay healing methods selected for their authenticity and therapeutic potency.

The half-day Couples Spa Experience provides an illuminating taste of the pre-wedding treatments typically lavished on a Malay bride and bridegroom. The dual series of special body treatments are rooted in ancient Malay customs, reflecting the pomp and pageantry of the traditional wedding ceremony as the couple is transformed into the King and Queen of the day – or Raja Sehari in Malay.

A holistic approach towards the couple's mind, body and spirit runs through the entirety of the experience. Ladies begin the Dandan Puteri Tujuh programme with a detoxifying full-body Urutan Gamelan massage, using oil scented with soothing jasmine and tropical magnolia. A hair cream bath, known as Ikal Mayang, may have its origins from Malay princesses who kept their crowning glories silky and glossy with a concoction of coconut oil, rice paddy stalks and pandanus leaves.

A herbal body scrub of turmeric and galangal is applied to the face and body, gently removing dead surface cells and encouraging the radiance beneath to shine through, after which a fragrant Bersiram milk bath awaits. Exotic flower buds and petals are cast into the pearlescent water as the milk nourishes and smooths the skin, just before the lady is guided into a sauna scented with jasmine and rosewater, emerging later glowing and utterly uplifted from the steam.

Gentlemen embark on their Panji Alam journey with Urutan Panglima – a warrior's massage – which restores their body's structural alignment and flexibility by using deep tissue strokes to manipulate the fascia and increase blood circulation. For hair and body, the Ikal Cuci hair conditioning treatment and the Boros Akar scrub harness the power of Malaysian herbal roots, lending protection to the scalp, enlivening muscles and coaxing skin back to its former firmness with a series of thorough rubbing strokes.

Sinking into a bath infused with kaffir lime and fenugreek, this herbal spice soak strengthens and sculpts the body, preparing it for the herbal oil steam bath – an unbeatable relaxing sauna session made more effective by a penetrating blend of essential oils. As the finale, the couple is served herbal tonic drinks – hers, an anti-ageing recipe of scented roots and flower buds, and his, a root tonic brewed in an earthen pot and sweetened with jungle honey – while they bask in the utter relaxation that comes only from Spa Village Tanjong Jara's royal treatment.

For more information please visit tanjongjararesort.com





Left: black sequin blazer, by Longchamp; white floral print pants, by Alexis at M Pavilion, Pavilion Kuala Lumpur.

Right: gold evening dress with neck tie, by Monique Lhuillier at M Store Pavilion, Pavilion Kuala Lumpur.

TWO TO TANGO

Words by TIEN CHEW
Photography by TOMMI CHU FROM BLINK STUDIO
Styling by SARAH SAW

THE RITZ-CARLTON, KUALA LUMPUR'S ELEGANT DECOR MEETS WITH THE JW MARRIOTT KUALA LUMPUR'S FRESH VIBES IN A STYLISH EXAMINATION OF BOTH HOTELS.



Off-white high neck button blouse, by Zimmermann at Club 21, Pavilion Kuala Lumpur;
dark green high waist pants with leather belt, by Salvatore Ferragamo; Saddle bag, by Dior.



Black blazer, by Bottega Veneta;
Montaigne waist pouch, by Dior.



Left: light pastel blue
lace and chiffon cape
dress, by Self-Portrait at
Club 21,
Pavilion Kuala Lumpur.

Right: black-and-white
striped blazer dress
with belt, by Alexis at M
Pavilion, Pavilion Kuala
Lumpur; Capitana black
leather with diamanté
heels, by Manolo Blahnik.



Blue, teal and fuchsia wrap top
and pants, both by Diane von Furstenberg.

Make-up by Celin Chin. Hair by Mei Choi. Photographer assisted by Mango.

Models: Lili N / Wu Models and Patrycja Kasek / Icon Model Management.



Goddess dress, by Moschino; white floral print blazer, by Alexis at M Pavilion, Pavilion Kuala Lumpur;
Diva Marie Jane Bucket ostrich feather bag, by Christian Louboutin; Gold Merinda Block strap heels, by Stuart Weitzman.

Coral dress, by AQ/AQ
at M Pavilion, Pavilion
Kuala Lumpur.



SALT AND THE SEA

THE SEA SALT SHACK
AT THE RITZ-CARLTON,
KOH SAMUI PRESENTS A
DELICIOUS RANGE OF DINING
OPTIONS FOR THOSE WHO WANT
A BALANCE BETWEEN HEALTHY
CHOICES AND A HEARTY
VACATION INDULGENCE.

Words by RENYI LIM





Savour delicious Thai and international favourites at Sea Salt Shack.

The salty sea air, it is said, does wonders for the appetite. Perhaps that's why guests have been flocking to The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui's Sea Salt Shack – a laid-back beachside eatery that sits on the edge of Southern Thailand's coastline, overlooking the country's only ocean swimming pool. After a morning spent paddling in the beachfront infinity pool or stretched out, cat-like, on a deckchair, hunger pangs naturally follow. Take a walk across the beach to Sea Salt Shack, where you can dine under the shade of a large beach umbrella.

An enticing selection of detoxifying juice blends, smoothies and poké bowls sets Sea Salt Shack as the ideal spot for lunch. Those who like to keep their meals light will get their fill of fresh fruits and vegetables. This nutrition-focused menu of juices and smoothies makes rehydration a pleasure, starting with Cu-Co Loco Crazy Ghost. This cooling mix of coconut water, cucumber, romaine lettuce and spinach comes packed with vitamins, protein and iron, and paves the way to attain that sought-after healthy holiday glow.

Diners can select three types of seasonal fruits or fresh berries to make their own smoothies or opt for the high-fibre, potassium-rich Almond Booster – a blend of almond milk, Thai bananas, peanut butter and cacao nibs. It's a tasty accompaniment to Sea Salt Shack's Dark and Sweet açai bowl – with its dark chocolate chunk inclusions, Greek yoghurt and

toasted almonds – and Chao Lay avocado toast, which arrives topped with lump crab, Peruvian peppers and green mango.

If it's a taste of the sea that you're after, Hawaiian-style poké bowls provide a refreshing combination of raw fish, sushi rice and moreish accompaniments like local mango and edamame. Otherwise, make a beeline for the build-your-own savoury bowl centre, where you can select six ingredients to be tossed together. Grilled grain-fed beef tenderloin, marinated tofu or white tiger prawns go very well, for instance, with fresh corn, candied walnuts, a yuzu-miso dressing, and – best of all – a generous handful of crispy chicken skin.

The fun doesn't stop once the sun goes down on Wednesdays because this is when Sea Salt Shack rolls out the sunset seafood beach barbecue – an altogether more lavish spread. Along with a raw seafood bar, a seared-to-order mini crab cake station, a paella of the week (cooked over an open fire), a raw seafood bar and a sushi and sashimi display, there's a selection of charcuterie, cheese and antipasti to whet guests' appetites. Gourmands will rejoice at the sight and taste of the butcher's block carving station that showcases barbecued chicken and braised short ribs. And with a wood fire grill that sears rock lobster, sea bass and local mussels to perfection, this will certainly be the dinner to beat.

For more information visit ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui





AS THE ROMANS DO

HEAD CHEF STEFANO PINGUE EXPLAINS HOW GARUM, THE WESTIN PERTH'S SIGNATURE RESTAURANT, NOW OFFERS A SCINTILLATING TASTE OF ROME THROUGH FRESH WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PRODUCE.

Words by RENYI LIM



Tucked within the historic Hibernian Hall in Perth City's East End is a little corner of Rome. Garum is a collaboration between Australian chef Guy Grossi (popularly known as Melbourne's Italian emperor) and The Westin Perth. Despite the fact that this osteria is separated from the Italian capital by a distance of over 13,000 kilometres, Garum has done well melding ancient Roman techniques with modern Roman classics since it opened in 2018.

"Indeed, we face a tyranny of distance to Europe, where the variety of raw materials is absolutely unmatched," agrees head chef Stefano Pingue. "However, what we lack in proximity to Rome, we more than make up for in the exquisite fresh produce, meat and seafood available here in Western Australia. We are an Italian restaurant, but the specific characteristics of ancient Roman cuisine are unusual, so it's a process of research and discovery as to how to combine the traditional flavours with the best seasonal produce that Western Australia has to offer.

"Some of my favourites include Fremantle octopus, scallops from Geraldton, duck and quail from Wagin, Angus sirloin steak from the Great Southern region and our signature Arkady lamb – I could go on!" At the time of writing, Pingue has just put the finishing touches on Garum's new à la carte menu and fans of the restaurant are aching to know what has made the cut. "I try to do as much research as possible to remain within the realms of ancient Roman cuisine – Garum's guiding philosophy," he explains.

"Many different nationalities and influences have passed through Italy during ancient times and it is often necessary to dig a little deeper to understand the true roots of the recipes. We'll definitely keep some of our signature dishes, including our ever-popular Arkady lamb, but there will be some movement in the menu that reflects the changing seasons." One thing's for certain, though – the famous breakfast that has guests at The Westin Perth and brunch devotees flocking to Garum will remain a fixture.

This formidable spread brings out the glutton even in those who would normally show restraint. Those who've tasted Garum's breakfast will attest that they've rarely savoured better. As Pingue puts it: "Guy has always been adamant that he does not want to offer the same breakfast as many luxury hotels. Our concept is based on the traditional Italian-style breakfast called *tavola fredda e tavola calda*, which translates to 'the cold table and the hot table'. You have a large selection of hot and cold dishes which are changed seasonally, along with the delicious à la carte breakfast menu.

"We strive to maintain the same high standard every day thanks to our amazing team, who all work together with the same enthusiasm for providing interesting, delicious and unique breakfast offerings that we can be proud of – not only for hotel guests, but for anyone who'd like to experience something a little out of the ordinary."

For more information visit westinperth.com



HOT TO TROT

HERE'S WHY STAYING AT
MELBOURNE MARRIOTT HOTEL,
CENTRAL TO THE AUSTRALIAN
CITY'S MUST-SEE LANDMARKS,
MAKES FOR A FANTASTIC HOLIDAY.

Words by RENYI LIM



There's no chance of missing Melbourne Marriott Hotel – superbly located on the corner where Exhibition and Lonsdale Streets meet, it really is at the centre of everything. The five-star hotel's prime position within Melbourne's CBD, or central business district, means that it's a hop, skip and a jump away from the Victorian capital's most popular history, culture, shopping and nightlife destinations.

If your boots are made for walking and you feel like taking in the sights of the city on foot, here are some interesting places to amble to – and it won't take you more than 20 minutes.

STATE LIBRARY VICTORIA (7 MINUTES AWAY)

First established as the Melbourne Public Library in 1854, this is Australia's oldest public library and one of the first free public libraries in the world. Exhibitions, talks, and guided tours – both paid and free – are frequently scheduled here. While there, take a peek into the magnificent octagonal, six storey-high La Trobe Reading Room.

THE VICTORIAN ARTISTS SOCIETY (9 MINUTES AWAY)

Within this American Romanesque building, erected by architect Richard Speight in 1892, The Victorian Artists Society provides a home to the state's avant-garde artists of the future. Eager art collectors will enjoy dipping into the public gallery, while budding artists can attend an untutored life drawing class.

THE OLD TREASURY BUILDING (10 MINUTES AWAY)

Instantly recognisable as one of Melbourne's finest 19th-century structures, the Old Treasury Building hosts the original vaults

where gold bullion was once stored during the gold rush era. Don't miss its extremely entertaining ongoing exhibition, *Wayward Women?*, about 10 infamous Victorian women who made a name for themselves between 1894 and 1904.

PRESGRAVE PLACE (12 MINUTES AWAY)

If you're not in the mood for rubbing shoulders with tourists but still want a dose of street art, Presgrave Place, close to Melbourne's fashion precinct, is peppered with intriguing three-dimensional works. There are sculptures, dioramas, framed images and even Banksy-inspired rats perched on the bricks to enjoy.

FLINDERS STREET STATION (16 MINUTES AWAY)

Should a native Melburnian instruct you to meet them 'under the clocks', they're referring to the row of 13 clocks above the main entrance of Flinders Street Station. They've been an icon for the city since they were installed in 1909. Today, the station serves as a popular meeting place, even in the age of instant messaging.

COOKS' COTTAGE (17 MINUTES AWAY)

The charming heritage-listed Fitzroy Gardens are worth a walk, but within the garden is a cottage built by the parents of British explorer, Captain James Cook. Originally constructed in Yorkshire, England in 1755, it was transported to Melbourne by Sir Russell Grimwade in 1934 and painstakingly rebuilt brick by brick – a considerable labour of love.

For more information, please visit marriott.com/melmc



Photograph by Harumi Suzuki.

SIMPLY SPECTACULAR

MAKE THE MOST OF QUEENSLAND'S FAMOUS SUNSHINE
AND EXPLORE THE CITY BY WATER AS YOU KAYAK ALONG
THE BRISBANE RIVER.

Words by RENYI LIM



Top: the Brisbane River offers a multitude of outdoor adventures and leisure activities.

Above: a view of Story Bridge from Brisbane Marriott's executive guest rooms, which also includes access to its 26th-storey lounge.

Facing page: experience the thrill of being on the water surrounded by Brisbane's urbane landscape.

It's simple enough to traverse Brisbane by foot, but what about putting your arms to use and getting a markedly different view of the city instead? A mere six minutes away from the centrally located Brisbane Marriott Hotel, you find Riverlife Adventure Centre. From here, you can access the adventures on the Brisbane River – the longest river in south-east Queensland – which runs through the centre of the Australian state's capital city. This serpentine river, which originates some 350km away

at Mount Stanley, wends through the city with curves that are a tonne of fun to navigate and offer a myriad of sights.

In the 19th century, when Brisbane was a penal colony, the natural bend in the river (known by some by its Aboriginal name 'Maiwar') presented an enormous challenge for any would-be escapees. Today, those meanders are part of the Brisbane River's charm as evidenced by the many cruise boats, water bikes, paddleboards and kayaks on the water on any given day.

Riverlife – an Australian company with over 15 years of experience in leading guided adventures in Brisbane – specialises in kayak tours, offering day tours as well as a slightly more sophisticated kayak, wine and grazing experience. Although Riverlife hires kayaks to those who are confident enough to do some solo paddling as well, it's far more memorable to join one of its group tours, which are led by a fully qualified guide.

First-timers needn't be anxious as the guide will take everyone through a safety briefing before dispensing tips and tricks on how to kayak. The tour then proceeds either downstream towards Brisbane's iconic Story Bridge or upstream to the South Bank, depending on the tide times. Before long, you'll be marvelling at sights such as the Queensland Maritime Museum, Kangaroo Point Cliffs and a shipwrecked steamship called Myora, which has been peeping out from the riverbank's mangroves at low tide since it was abandoned there in 1956.

For more information please visit brisbanemarriott.com



CYCLING THE CITY

THE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED SYDNEY HARBOUR MARRIOTT HOTEL MAKES VISITING NEARBY MUST-SEES A BREEZE AND IT'S CARBON-EMISSION-FREE TOO.

Words by SHALINI YEAP

There's something sublime about exploring a place by bicycle. You can pedal through picturesque countrysides, along quaint quiet laneways or down modern busy streets. Cycling is indeed the perfect way to be in the thick of the action and soak in the vibrancy of the surroundings and the energy of the people. Time slows down during these two-wheeler adventures, which makes this form of unhurried sightseeing a true pleasure, particularly when you're staying at the Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel.

VISIT AN ART AND ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARK

A stone's throw away from the hotel is the iconic Opera House. Catch a show or simply marvel at this 20th-century architectural masterpiece by the edge of blue waters.

RIDE ACROSS ICONIC BRIDGES

Could a trip to Sydney possibly be complete sans a visit to the Harbour Bridge? From the cycleway across the Bridge, you can enjoy a leisurely ride via the Kent Cycling Causeway that passes the Pyrmont Bridge all the way to the Anzac Bridge. Here, you can reward yourself with lofty views over Johnstons Bay.

STROLL THROUGH A VICTORIAN ARCADE

With stained glass windows, intricate carvings and stunning domed ceilings, the elaborate Romanesque-style Queen Victoria Building – Australia's largest arcade – is not your ordinary retail space and, indeed, quite the sight to behold.

GET ACQUAINTED WITH HISTORY AND CULTURE

A few minutes by bike will take you to the exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art or to the Museum of Sydney. While there, you will learn more about the city and its occupants.

COSY UP TO NATURE

An oasis in the city, the Royal Botanic Gardens spans 30 hectares and is home to an impressive collection of more than 27,000 plants from around the globe. This is the oldest botanic garden in Australia and also the country's oldest living scientific institution.

For more information please visit sydneyharbourmarriott.com.au



FOR YOUR PLEASURE

ENJOY DUTCH HOSPITALITY AT ITS FINEST AT THE HAGUE MARRIOTT'S GREAT ROOM LOBBY AND BAR.

Words by TIEN CHEW



The Hague, South Holland's capital, is famous for its hospitality, and welcomed 17.4 million tourists last year. Many of these visitors stay at The Hague Marriott Hotel for its proximity to the picturesque 11-kilometre Scheveningen beach and the World Forum convention centre and theatre, not to mention the numerous museums, attractions and royal palaces all within walking or cycling distance.

At the hotel's heart is the Great Room Lobby and Bar, a social and business hub designed to allow guests to integrate dining, entertainment, and informal meetings into one seamless space. Here, purposeful zones with complimentary Wi-Fi satisfy the needs of business travellers and holidaymakers alike. Comfortable seating in a lounge atmosphere encourages guests to relax, read, and enjoy a handcrafted cocktail from the adjacent bar, while the dining area is ideal for savouring selections from the Great Room menu.

When late afternoon sets in and early evening arrives, the Great Room Lobby becomes a bustling haven for those seeking respite and refreshment. Small parties can cosy up with sharing plates, running the gamut from Japanese shrimp tempura and Spanish gambas in garlic oil to French beef stew and Chinese spring rolls. If it's something local you're after, order a Dutch favourite – *bitterballen* – a bite-sized beef and gravy meatball croquette best enjoyed with a cool beer.

These finger foods also go superbly well with the bar's speciality cocktails, such as the refreshing Scheveningen Sunset – a mix of Bacardi rum and Havana three-year-old rum, orange juice nectar and grenadine. Another must-try is the hotel's twist on a classic, The Gallery Mimosa – a sugar crust-rimmed concoction of cava, orange juice and grenadine – which makes an invigorating sundowner. A range of Starbucks coffee is also available to enjoy on the premises or on-the-go.

For a heartier bite, there's the Marriott Burger – a 200-gram flat top beef patty topped with cheddar, bacon, tomato, pickles, lettuce and homemade sauce – or the Marriott Chicken – a Peruvian-style grilled chicken with tomatillo, country bread and a spicy green chilli sauce. The Great Room's mushroom risotto, cooked with seasonal vegetables and nuts, and beet and ricotta salad with orange supremes and a honey rosemary vinaigrette, make for delicious meat-free alternatives.

Satisfy your sweet tooth with a decadent tonka bean crème brûlée topped with chocolate ice cream or the beloved Dutch *citroencake*, a traditional lemon cake served with white chocolate earth and a herbaceous basil ice cream for balance.

For more information, visit thehaguemarriott.com



KACHOU FUUGETSU

JAPAN'S POWDER MECCA OF NISEKO WELCOMES
THE COUNTRY'S FIRST RITZ-CARLTON RESERVE
IN THE FORM OF HIGASHIYAMA NISEKO VILLAGE.

Words by KENNETH TAN





Above: The reception offers a warm welcome for guests.
Below: The 1,162 sq ft Yotei Suite affords a panorama of the wintry outdoors.
Facing page: Yukibana's serene ambience is augmented by the calming soft glow of its expressive light fixtures.

The Japanese phrase Kachou Fuugetsu was coined around the 15th century and directly translates as 'flower, bird, wind, moon'. Its deeper meaning, however, reflects a near universal concept in which you discover yourself through experiences in nature; in the joy and happiness attached to the passing of seasons – from an autumnal breeze to a pale winter moon. More than half a millennia later, this idea of going back to nature to heal and refresh remains as appealing, if not more so, as ever.

Kachou Fuugetsu becomes the keystone at the newly opened Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, the first Ritz-Carlton Reserve in Japan. Located at the base of Mount Niseko Annupuri, which is part of the larger Niseko United ski area, the resort is composed of 50 luxurious rooms and suites, and is set amidst the stunning geography of Hokkaido's western province. Here, the changing of seasons confers a unique quality and colourful kaleidoscope to Higashiyama Niseko Village, which is open throughout the year, with Mount Yotei providing a magnificent background. This ethereal location, and its varied sense of discovery and adventure, is what qualifies the resort as one of only five Ritz-Carlton Reserves in the world, joining the likes of Zadun in Los Cabos, Mexico; Dorado Beach in Dorado, Puerto Rico; Phulay Bay in Krabi, Thailand; and Mandapa in Bali, Indonesia.

At Higashiyama Niseko Village, the sense of oneness with nature is mirrored by the earthy tones of its reception, where black teakwood stack stones and Vic Latte stones combine for a warm welcome. From this point on, your communion with nature is never far away, with the sight of gorgeous snow trails through your room window, to the refreshing taste of the in-residence spring water. This spring water received royal acclaim in 1954 during a visit by the emperor, who hailed the water as 'kanro' or sweet as the dew. Its secret lies in its origins as melted snow, purified across decades through the mineral-rich earth of Mount Yotei. The same pristine spring water is

present today in the resort's beverage portfolio that includes inviting après-ski cocktails served at the resort's Ume Lounge.

With the help of the resort's experts, the fascinating facets of Kachou Fuugetsu are within easy reach. This assortment of masters of their realms includes the Do San and the Higashiyama Reservists. The Do San is a trusted and dedicated service expert who personifies the Reserve service for each guest at Higashiyama Niseko Village. Aptly named in honour of



the locale and its history, Do San means a person of Hokkaido. The Do San add cultural value to the Reserve experience by sharing their love of place and are storytellers who look for organic opportunities to share local knowledge and traditions. The Do San oversee every aspect of your stay through this single touchpoint. Always available but never intrusive, the Do San ensure that your needs are anticipated and met in a way that is seamless and seemingly effortless.

The Higashiyama Reservists are select experts for the mountain orientation programme, curated exclusively for guests of Higashiyama Niseko Village. Higashiyama Reservists have

an intimate knowledge of the local environment and natural wonders that make Niseko such a remarkable destination. These local experts have been skiing and snowboarding these mountains, cycling these roads and running these trails for years; their deep understanding includes relationships with and access to Niseko's surrounding farms and the famed produce that is coveted by Japan's best chefs, as well as the most unique onsen where the volcanic mud provides an elixir for the skin.

For the epicureans, the *itamae* at the cedar counter-topped Sushi Nagi becomes the gateway for you to uncover the bounty of the seasons through its Hokkaido gastronomic odyssey; expect prized hairy crabs in summer, sea urchin in autumn, and year-round Kuroge steaks and prime cuts, derived from the Japanese Black, one of the most prized breeds of local cattle. A particularity in this area is the coveted Yukinoshita (under-the-snow) vegetables, where produce is harvested just after first snowfall, thereby allowing it to reach its optimal level of sweetness.

Of course, the allure of the 2,191 acres of ski terrain is never too far away, or, if you may prefer, skiing, sledding, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. These winter adventures begin with mornings at Yukibana, where handcrafted pastries and creative local and international breakfast offerings set you up for the day. Then you step out into the wonderland of snow, in one of the world's most celebrated powder territories. Here, the confluence of geography, ambient temperatures and elevation has led to the Niseko powder phenomenon – a triumvirate of snow quantity, consistency and quality unlike anywhere else in the world.

The powder hounds at Higashiyama Niseko Village will enjoy their own private locker where warm ambient air circulates to dry ski gear and boots after a day in the snow. A host of guest services provides a hassle-free experience to hitting the slopes, with priority lane access to the main gondolas, equipment waxing and tuning services, experienced physiotherapists on-call for any injuries or massages, as well as ski-in/ski-out access to the slopes connected to the network of chair lifts that transport you right to the peak of Mount Niseko Annupuri. From here, you have all of Niseko's deep powder backcountry ski trails for your choosing.

Back at the resort, a fitness centre equipped with state-of-art cardio and weight training machines helps you get in form. Following all that activity, the spa beckons with its signature shiatsu massages as does its onsen, with therapeutic waters drawn deep from thermal springs and piped in at 42 degrees Celsius. All around, the nature-inflected attractions at Niseko are weaved into the tapestry of your Higashiyama Niseko Village experience, with seasonal Haskap (blue honeysuckle) berries – a fruit traditionally consumed as a health elixir by the indigenous Ainu of Hokkaido – to the use of essential oils at the spa: lavender in summer and mint in winter. And in all this, that sense of Kachou Fuugetsu is synced to your inner being, bringing forth natural revelations in an extraordinary place.

Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve opens for guests in December 2020.

For bookings, visit ritzcarlton.com/higashiyamanisekovillage





IN GOOD SPIRITS

THE GLASSHOUSE ADDS TO ITS COLLECTION WITH A BESPOKE YTL HOTELS LIMITED-EDITION WHISKY.

Words by WEI-YU WANG



The Snug is a favourite among regular guests of The Glasshouse as the place to unwind.

YTL Hotels now has a whisky to call its own, for a little while at least, as it is a limited edition of just 150 bottles. These are of Adelphi Glenborrodale Batch 6, a blended malt from one of Scotland's most acclaimed whisky bottlers and a specialist in matters of rare malts. The full run of Glenborrodale Batch 6 consisted of 1,496 bottles, and the 150 labelled specially for YTL Hotels are the last available. The eight-year-old blended malt, which is a dark gold, is drawn from two sherry butts and delivered at 46 per cent ABV. The tasting notes are evocative of a creamy sweetness that is best described as a summer Scottish breakfast with buttered oatcakes and heather honey. Flavours include dark cherry, white peach and kiwi fruit compote, and hazelnut spread on well-toasted drop scones.

Its winning qualities are its depth in flavours which are finely honed, maintaining a balanced nuance without overpowering the palate. A distinct lack of peat makes it more approachable for novices and connoisseurs, with the absence of smoke making it an easy and enjoyable dram at The Glasshouse Hotel, which is where one finds this rare elixir.

The Glasshouse in Edinburgh is a whisky destination in its own right, known for the whisky-themed naming of its 17 suites. Its bar, The Snug, is home to an impressive collection of over 160 Scotch malts, which one can enjoy by the bar's fireplace. The hotel's association with Adelphi began when The Snug's drink offerings were mapped out. The Snug, which has become the cheerful heart of this hotel with the façade of the 170-year-old Lady Glenorchy church, has benefited from the Scotch whisky passion and tradition of its neighbours, including Antonia and Alex Bruce from Adelphi who enjoy a burnished reputation in the whisky world as experts in the art of bottling Scotch whisky.

As a result, the hotel found its spiritual link to Scotch and the resulting whisky – which bears the YTL Hotels name on its label – shares many values with the hotel group; a family-run business focused on producing a world-class product and lasting memories.

The new YTL Hotels whisky may be found behind the bar at all five of its UK properties, which include The Academy and Threadneedles in London, The Gainsborough Bath Spa, and Monkey Island Estate, Bray. The Glasshouse, however, remains a premier destination to sample this dram with bona fide whisky experts on hand to illuminate and advise. "My preferred way to drink it is with a wee bit of ice, allowing the flavour to develop and change as it melts and the water infuses with the whisky," says hotel general manager Tom Gibson. "Needless to say, my favourite spot is in a warm cosy environment, like The Snug with its welcoming fireplace!"

For more information, visit theglasshousehotel.co.uk

FLORAL FANCY

THE SECRET TO MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE'S CHARM
LIES IN ITS THOUGHTFULLY DESIGNED GARDENS.

Words by TIEN CHEW





When you reach Monkey Island Estate, its soothing atmosphere immediately takes over. This private seven-acre countryside retreat in the village of Bray is just over an hour from London, a distance that is far enough to leave behind the city vibes and welcome life at a more leisurely pace. The property is influenced by nature and wildlife by the River Thames, where walnut, chestnut and lime trees surround the island, lending it some privacy, while thoughtfully placed flowerbeds paint the landscape in an assortment of colours.

The island houses two Grade I-listed buildings, structures of historical importance which are protected. The Pavilion and The Temple were built by the Duke of Marlborough in 1723 as a fishing retreat. These buildings have now been repurposed to house guest rooms and suites, ballroom and event spaces, a bar and a brasserie. The estate's new owners, YTL Hotels, commissioned Dorking-based Adding Value Design to create new gardens that would offer a romantic and sensory experience for guests. The result is a stunning vista of traditional herbs, flowers, trees and perennials, perfectly complementing the historic buildings.

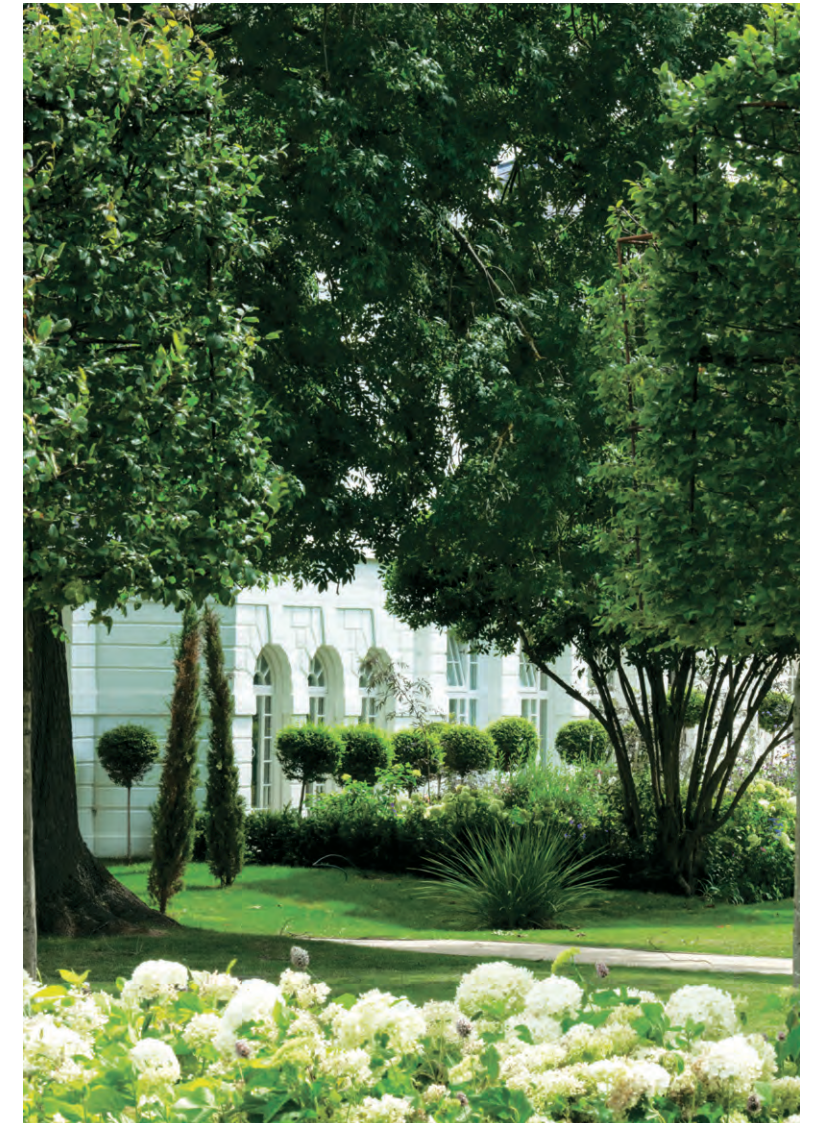
Rectangular yew-hedged beds filled with white and green hydrangeas and blue agapanthus contrasted by pleached hornbeams flank the path leading up to The Pavilion. Throughout the gardens, flower beds add a dramatic flair through the clever use of colour and block planting amidst the sprawling lawns. A prairie-style winding walkway takes guests to The Floating Spa, a bespoke traditional barge that is the setting for the spa



inspired by the healing rituals of the monks who once lived in the area. The calming corridor features a mixture of coneflowers, bonesets, Culver's root, yarrow and golden oats, which come into full effect every summer. These botanical beauties act as visual cues, preluding the spa's array of treatments and therapies that harness the power of ancient remedies, British organic products and the gentle sound of the River Thames.

Surrounding The Temple, where most of the guest rooms are situated, are more hydrangeas, only this time with purple vervains and white phlox plants, while slender Italian cypress trees grow alongside them. Here, the outdoor seating area is the perfect spot for relaxing or even sipping a cup of tea. Sitting here at sunset can be an especially heady experience. With the fading light and the perfume of blooms, you cannot help but be at ease and marvel at the spectacular display of nature's beauty.

For more information please visit monkeyislandestate.co.uk



Clockwise from far left:
The Fishing Temple was commissioned by the 3rd Duke of Marlborough from early 18th-century Palladian architect Robert Morris; Golden Oats – so-called for resembling oats in appearance – frame the walkway to the spa; white hydrangeas and phlox flowers offer a calming view from the guest rooms; all across the island, one discovers nature's floral riches.

Previous spread: the beautifully landscaped gardens of Monkey Island Estate.



PURE RELAXATION

THE TOWNHOUSE AT THE GAINSBOROUGH BATH
SPA OFFERS FOUR FLOORS OF INDULGENCE IN
THE HEART OF BATH.

Words by KENNETH TAN



At the UNESCO World Heritage Site that is the city of Bath, a new addition to its famed The Gainsborough Bath Spa hotel offers guests an opportunity to holiday in style. The Townhouse is an elegant four-storey Georgian property that combines the comfort of a private home with the established world-class service of its adjacent five-star hotel – The Gainsborough Bath Spa.

Just as the ancient Celts found solace in the curative mineral-rich waters of Bath, so too should you, with private access granted to the historic Cross Bath, the sole reserve of guests at The Townhouse. Cross Bath – a designated Grade 1-listed building, draws its waters from limestone aquifers located at a depth of nearly 3,000 metres, where geothermal energy emanating from the Earth heats the water to between 64 and 96 degrees Celsius.

What was then a sacred site for the local goddess Sulis – who was regarded by the Celts as a representation of the thermal springs – was transformed when the Romans arrived circa 43 AD and built proper baths. The Romans duly named this spa town – as it were – Aquae Sulis in her honour. Over time Cross Bath, which was the exact site, has seen various iterations; as the foundation for St John's hospital in 1180 to a bathing pool for royalty and eventually, a historical edifice by Thomas Baldwin, known to the world as the 18th-century architect of the city of Bath.



The four-storey Townhouse is a seamless blend of classic style and contemporary comfort.



Photograph by Ferla Paolo.

In the present day, guests checking into The Townhouse will be welcomed with a complimentary bottle of champagne, fresh flowers and daily turndown service. Three bedrooms furnished with a king, queen and single bed accommodate up to five guests. Inside The Townhouse, guests will discover charming interiors with a treasure trove of authentic Georgian antiques. Among the highlights are its silk linens and curtains found in the master suite, and a copper bathtub.

A fully equipped modern kitchen, six-seat dining area, lounge and outdoor patio cater to your every whim. You may elect to whip up delicious feasts for the family, to dine in residence, replete with gorgeous chinaware. Or perhaps to enjoy drinks with friends in the vibrant drawing room, where a Bang & Olufsen television and accompanying sound system lets you catch the latest movies and sporting events.

Next door, one finds the three AA Rosette-awarded Dan Moon at The Gainsborough Restaurant with the chef's always inventive seasonal menus ranging from savoury cheeses and fresh fruit to an exotic use of Asian flavours: yuzu, sesame and kelp.

With much of Bath within walking distance of The Townhouse, one needn't worry about being bored. A knowledgeable concierge team is on hand to plot your ideal day; be it traipsing through Roman archaeological sites, sampling its cornucopia of gastronomy from Michelin-starred establishments to satisfying street food, or exploring the city's famed countryside by bicycle, boat or in a hot air balloon.

And of course, with all of the hotel facilities available to you, one need only to book an appointment at the Spa Village Bath to enjoy its sensational personalised aromatherapy treatments after a day out, a chance to make the best out of your day and, even perhaps, your year.

To book, contact reservations@ytlhotels.co.uk or visit thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk



A LONDON GETAWAY

A BANK HEIST, OYSTERS & STEAK AND A ROMAN GIRL.
WHO KNEW THAT A LUXURY WEEKEND AT
THREADNEEDLES HOTEL COULD BE SO
DELIGHTFULLY DECADENT AND SCRUMPTIOUS?

Words by JUNE MONG



The Champagne Bar occupies the area of the old building that was once the main banking counter.

Threadneedles Hotel, part of Marriott's Autograph Collection, is a five-star boutique property in London's financial district that was formerly the London City and Midland Bank. Inside, there is a beautiful stained glass dome in the foyer that dates back to 1856, an old-school bar with lots of ambience and a heart-stoppingly grand restaurant with Grecian columns and a menu by Marco Pierre White. I stayed in the Livingstone Suite on the second floor and was delighted to find in the cosy sitting area a chilled bottle of Veuve Clicquot, a bar of handmade chocolate with a 19th-century image of the bank foyer, and a copy of Nicholas Booth's account of the 1873 bank heist, called *The Thieves of Threadneedles*, on the coffee table. But what took the cake was the witty voucher for a complimentary glass of wine at the Champagne Bar in the form of a City Bank credit note!

After changing into something smartly casual, I decided to visit the Bar for a drink before dinner. The impressive wine list and cocktail menu meant that I had a Grey Martini and a Chaplin all before dinner.

I was called to my table when it was ready and the buzz of dinner conversations and the clinking of glasses made me scan the menu with famished eyes. Bad boy chef White had managed to be true to the legacy of Wheeler's Oyster Bar and Seafood restaurant as well as entice a discerning diner with his take on modern British dining (without the hype). I started with half a dozen Colchester oysters with a glass of Gavi,



Occupying an entire floor, the 125sqm Penthouse offers a time-traveller's view of London, from classical Wren churches to 21st-century skyscrapers.

di Gavi, followed by a creamy plump stone bass on a bed of perfectly braised fennel and rich lobster sauce. The Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc went with the stone bass like velvet gloves on a lady's hand. Dessert was rich burnt custard richly spiced with vanilla seeds. After my meal, I drank an espresso martini as a homage to the English crème brûlée.

The next day, a brisk walk around the neighbourhood took me past The Scalpel to Leadenhall Market, where Harry Potter scenes were filmed (I now understood why there was a copy of a Harry Potter novel in my suite) and back again to the Gherkin. I wanted to visit the Tomb of the Unknown Roman Girl who was buried in the fourth century AD where the Gherkin skyscraper now stands. The remains of this 13- to 17-year-old were discovered in 1995 when excavation was being done for the Norman Foster building.

Walking back to Threadneedles Hotel that afternoon, I was peckish from my stroll and looked forward to my afternoon tea beneath that beautiful glass dome. So if you're a little tired of life, a stay here will revive your spirits and reignite your appreciation for the good life.

For more information, please visit hotelthreadneedles.co.uk



AN ACADEMIC LUXURY

LITERARY ACTIVITIES SHINE A LIGHT ON
THE ACADEMY HOTEL'S BLOOMSBURY CONNECTION.

Words by JUNE MONG



The aptly named The Library at The Academy provides the perfect creative space for small meetings and intimate gatherings in the heart of Bloomsbury.

When the hammer and drills fell silent after careful renovations, five Georgian townhouses on Gower Street reopened in 2018 as The Academy Bloomsbury. It was always this Small Luxury Hotel's plan to do justice to its literary heritage. Who knows? A hundred years ago, a former resident could have walked past Virginia Woolf's home on Gordon Square or might even have attended her famous Thursday evening gatherings.

If you are staying in one of the hotel's 12 suites, you'll find a beautifully designed copy of one of Woolf's novels in your room with a personal note from the hotel.

The Academy supports independent booksellers through a partnership with Hive Books by selecting a Book of the Month, which is displayed in the lobby for guests to browse or borrow for the duration of their stay. Hotel guests are also encouraged to follow in the footsteps of The Academy by supporting independent bookshops and purchasing a few books from Hive Books at a generous discount.

Once a month, local book clubs, such as the London chapter of the Girly Book Club, meet at The Academy in the evening to have a book discussion over cocktails. You can find out when such meetings are held by enquiring at Reception.

There is also a carefully curated selection of English-language classics with the theme of travel to be found in The Library next to the lobby. These Penguin clothbound editions include *Wide Sargasso Sea*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Odyssey*, *Gulliver's Travels* and *Villette*. The Academy embraces the love of travel and invites its guests to dip into these well-loved literary masterpieces. The characters – be they Huck Finn sailing up the Mississippi River on his raft, Alice tumbling down the rabbit hole into Wonderland or Lucy Snowe moving to Villette to be an English teacher – are all motivated by their love of adventure.

The Academy also hosts book launches and author readings, and offers a special guided walk through Bloomsbury.

A luxury hotel with literary credentials? It's academic, Watson.

For more information, go to theacademyhotel.co.uk

12 THINGS TO DO IN CAMERON HIGHLANDS

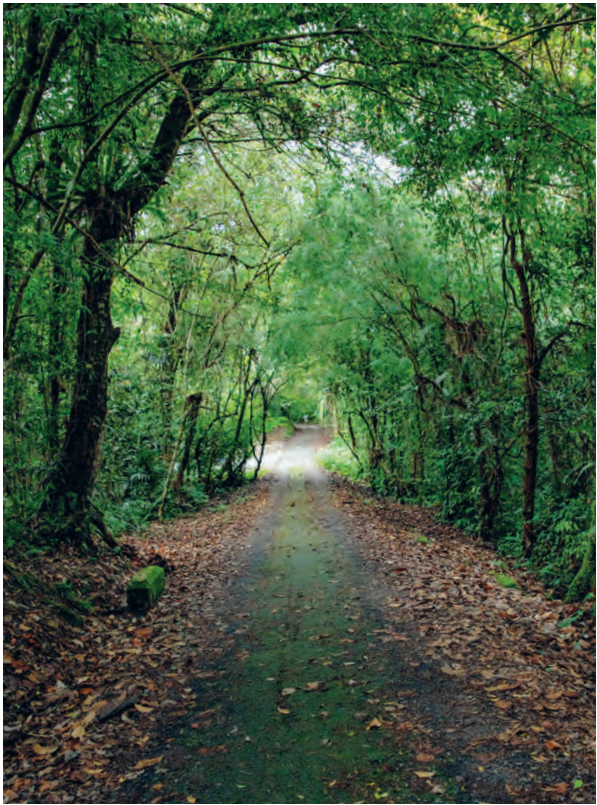
THE APPEAL OF CAMERON HIGHLANDS IS ITS TEMPERATE WEATHER AND ITS SMALL-TOWN CHARM. HERE ARE 12 EXPERIENCES THAT THIS HAMLET ON THE HILLS OFFERS, ALL OF WHICH YOU CAN DO EASILY WHEN YOU BOOK A STAY AT THE CHARMING CAMERON HIGHLANDS RESORT.

Words by ERIC IAN CHAN



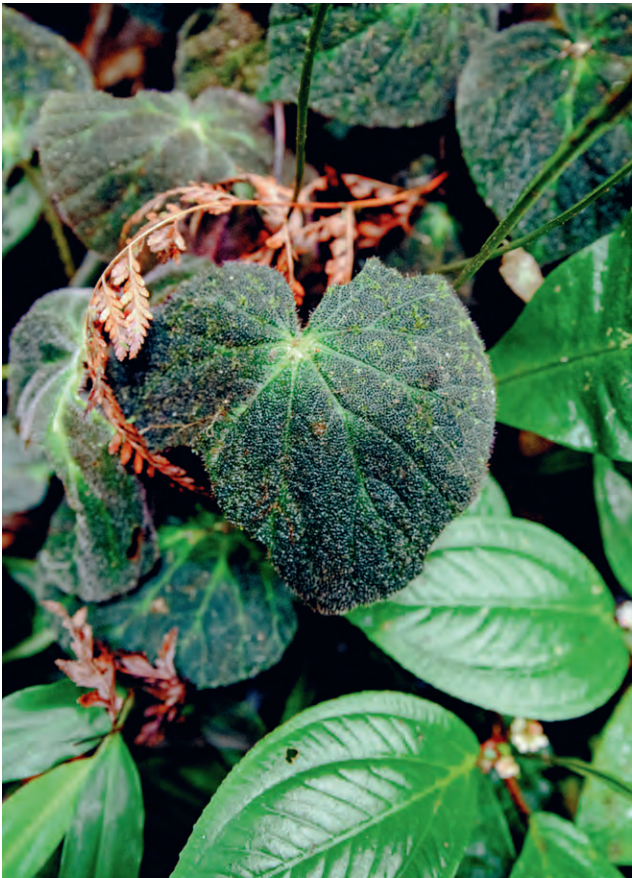
1. MEET THE COLONIAL PAST AT THE JIM THOMPSON TEA ROOM

Fifty-three years later and the disappearance of American businessman Jim Thompson still leaves lingering questions. The one certainty is that Thompson used to have his tea at the colonial mansion – now Cameron Highlands Resort. What better way to spend the day than having good lunch eats or teatime treats with a dose of mystery?



3. ENJOY THE SERENITY OF THE MOSSY FOREST

The Mossy Forest is exactly what the name says. This famous forest walk is ideal for those without a lot of time, stamina or the right pair of shoes. Inside, it is cool and misty, with trees draped in thick moss, heavy with dew. Pay the small fee to admire the ecosystem up close while walking on a deck.



2. TAKE A STROLL ON THE JIM THOMPSON MYSTERY TRAIL

Did Thompson get lost that March afternoon in 1967? Did he fall? Cameron Highlands Resort's resident naturalist Madi will answer your questions while he takes you on a forest walk close to where Thompson was last seen. Madi is not only knowledgeable about the Thompson case, but is also an expert on local flora.

4. APPRECIATE HISTORY THROUGH VINTAGE ARTEFACTS AT TIME TUNNEL MUSEUM

This museum takes visitors from post-war Malaya to the 1980s by showcasing vintage collectibles and artefacts. To allow for a better understanding of life back then, some items are displayed in context. Look out for the old wooden house, sit at the mahjong table and let your imagination do the rest.



5. ADMIRE MASTER CARVINGS AT THE MAH MERI ART GALLERY

This is a unique collection of the Mah Meri, a group of indigenous people who live on Carey Island, which is a 90-minute drive from Kuala Lumpur. The Mah Meri are well-known for their skill in turning abstract folklore into beautiful and tangible wood carvings that are incredibly tactile, as you'll be able to see at this gallery.

6. PICK A PACK OF PRODUCE AT THE FARMS

There is good reason visitors to Cameron Highlands flock to fruit farms; they can be quite fun, even with the crowds. Go to bigger farms so you needn't use your elbow to get to the succulent strawberries. Alternatively, visit lavender farms where you'll get to sample purple ice cream made from the blooms.





7. GO ON SERENE NATURE WALKS

Have the forest to yourself by exploring lesser-known trails. Parit Falls and Sungai Pauh are trails where you would see a wider variety of plant life and, if you are really lucky, spot a small woodland creature. Cameron Highlands Resort can customise an enjoyable walk for you, just ask.

8. HAVE A MEMORABLE PICNIC IN A TEA PLANTATION

Aside from seeing how tea goes from farm to pot, a visit to the BOH Tea Centre also gives you an opportunity to see hills covered by lush tea bushes. As a special treat, guests of Cameron Highlands Resort can arrange for a delightful experience – a picnic in the plantation.



9. EXPERIENCE HOT POT GOODNESS AT GONBEI

The cool weather is a great excuse to indulge in hot pot. Gonbei at Cameron Highlands Resort serves an elevated hot pot, one that comes with choice meats, fresh seafood, just-harvested greens, springy noodles and rich soups. Dinner at this semi-al fresco restaurant will always lead to lively conversations and bouts of laughter.

Photographs by Fady Younis.

LIFE MOMENTS

10. RELAX INTO A DREAM STATE AT THE SPA VILLAGE

Spa Village Cameron Highlands is the sanctuary you're looking for if its relaxation that you want. Using produce from the forest and knowledge from the Orang Asli, treatments here focus on rejuvenating your senses and well-being. Get the signature tea bath to soak your troubles away.



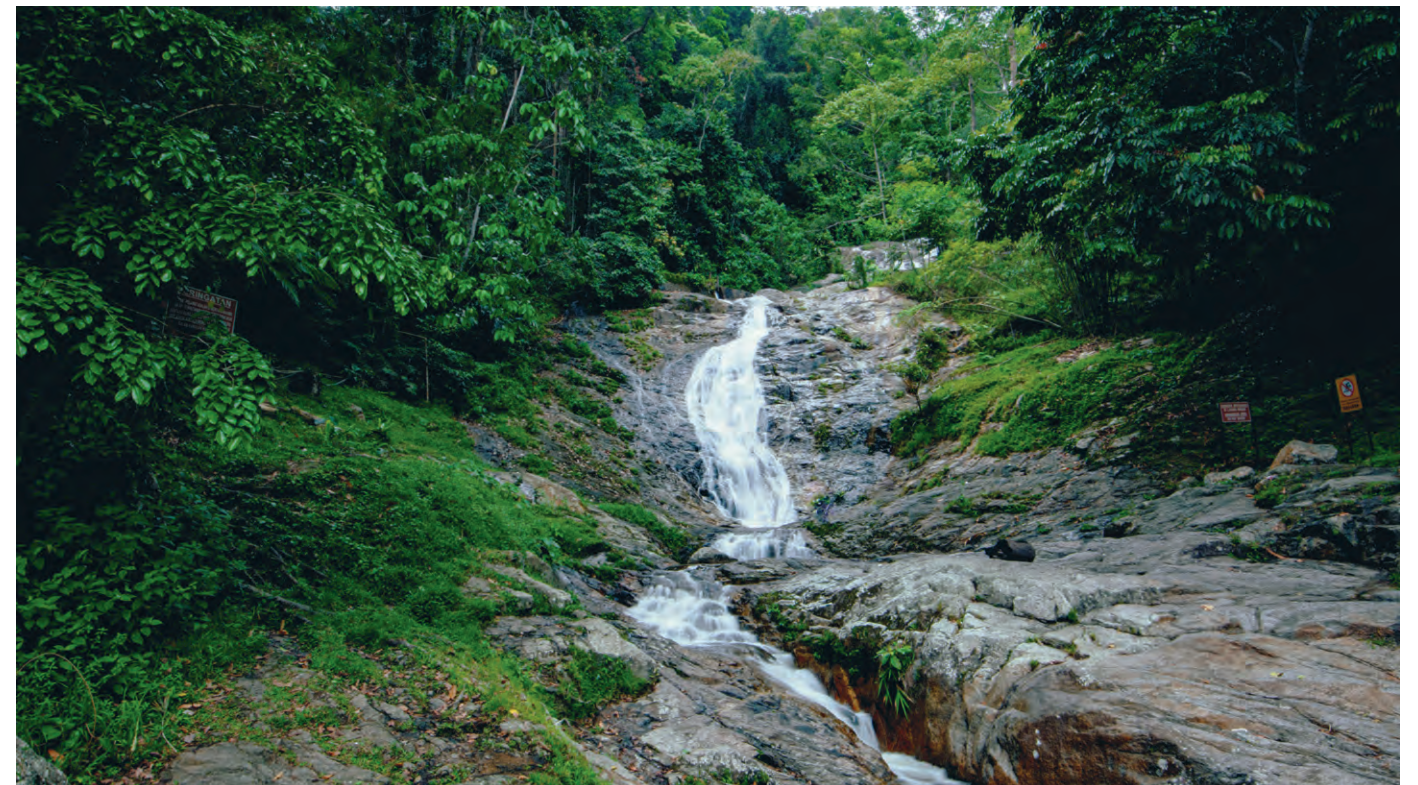
11. STAY IN FOR AN EVENING OF JAZZ

Stephen Ooi, the resident pianist at Cameron Highlands Resort, plays contemporary jazz from memory and toys with the arrangement while he is at it. Performing familiar tunes from greats such as Frank Sinatra and Johnny Mathis, Uncle Stephen brings an air of classic flair that slowly drifts through the lobby.

12. GET THE CHILLS AT LATA ISKANDAR

This waterfall is typically the last stop for visitors as it is closer to the foot of the highlands. Go past the crowds that congregate at the souvenir shops and fruit stalls, and go in for a walk. Wet your toes in the cold mountain water and relish in the tingling that quickly follows.

For more information, please visit cameronhighlandsresort.com





GAYA ISLAND RESORT
DISTINCTIVELY BORNEO



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 THERAPIES.

GAYAISLANDRESORT.COM



PANGKOR LAUT RESORT
ONE ISLAND. ONE RESORT



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

PANGKORLAUTRESORT.COM



TANJONG JARA RESORT
UNMISTAKABLY MALAY



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.

TANJONGJARARESORT.COM



CAMERON HIGHLANDS RESORT
TRAILS, TALES AND TRADITIONS



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.

CAMERONHIGHLANDSRESORT.COM





THE RITZ-CARLTON

KOH SAMUI



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

RITZCARLTON.COM/KOHSAMUI



THE RITZ-CARLTON

KUALA LUMPUR



LOCATED IN KUALA LUMPUR'S GOLDEN TRIANGLE BUSINESS DISTRICT, THIS STYLISH LUXURY HOTEL IS CONVENIENTLY POSITIONED FOR UPSCALE SHOPPING, DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT. IT IS HOME TO AN AWARD-WINNING SPA, AND GOURMANDS WILL BE DELIGHTED BY THE INDULGENT AFTERNOON TEA EXPERIENCE AS WELL AS LI YEN'S STELLAR CHINESE CUISINE.

RITZCARLTON.COM/KUALALUMPUR



JW MARRIOTT

KUALA LUMPUR



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

JWMARRIOTTKUALALUMPUR.COM



HOTEL STRIPES IS MALAYSIA'S SECOND AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION HOTEL. IT COMBINES A MODERN VIBE AND HISTORICAL REFERENCES TO ITS LOCATION IN 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.

STRIPESKL.COM





THE STARHILL DINING CELEBRATES CULINARY SOPHISTICATION, BRINGING TO DINERS FRESH, SEASONAL AND GLOBALLY INSPIRED DINING EXPERIENCES WITH A DIVERSE SPREAD OF GASTRONOMIC CREATIONS SERVED BY THE TASTEMAKERS, EACH WITH A UNIQUE FOOD PROGRAMMING. THE STARHILL DINING'S COLLECTION OF CAPTIVATING DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT CONCEPTS INCLUDES SHOOK!, KL'S CHOICE RESTAURANT THAT CONTINUES TO FUEL THE IMAGINATION; LUK YU TEA HOUSE THAT EMBRACES A POETIC CHINESE HERITAGE; THE ALCHEMY FEATURING GIN BOTANICALS FOR EVERY SEASON; THE POPULAR JOGOYA RESTAURANT; AND FINE ARABIC CUISINE AT TARBUSH LOUNGE.

THESTARHILLDINING.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

SPAVILLAGE.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.

[THESURINPHUKET.COM](http://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.

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

[MAJESTICMALACCA.COM](http://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.

[MAJESTICKL.COM](http://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.

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.

HOTELTHREADNEEDLES.CO.UK



THE ACADEMY

LONDON



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.

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.

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.

THEGAINSBOROUGHBATHTSPA.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'.

MUSE-HOTELS.COM



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.

YTLHOTELS.COM



THE WESTIN
PERTH



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.

WESTINPERTH.COM





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.

[MARRIOTT.COM/AU/MELMC](https://www.marriott.com/au/melmc)



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/SYDMC](https://www.marriott.com/sydmc)



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.

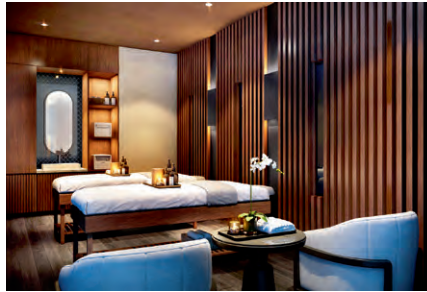
[BRISBANEMARRIOTT.COM](https://www.brisbanemarriott.com)



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.

[THEHAGUEMARRIOTT.COM](https://www.thehagemarriott.com)





HIGASHIYAMA NISEKO VILLAGE, A RITZ-CARLTON RESERVE, SETS A COMMUNION WITH NATURE WITH EVERY ELEMENT OF THE EXPERIENCE. HOKKAIDO'S SEASONS TRANSFORM THE UNIQUE LANDSCAPE, SETTING THE SCENE FOR UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURES INTO THE SOUL OF NISEKO. THE FIRST RITZ-CARLTON RESERVE TO GRACE JAPAN, HIGASHIYAMA NISEKO VILLAGE RESIDES AT THE BASE OF MOUNT NISEKO ANNUPURI, WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS OF MOUNT YOTEI AND THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAIN RANGES. EMBRACE A NEW LEVEL OF BESPOKE LUXURY IN HOKKAIDO WITH THE EXQUISITE REFINEMENT OF A RITZ-CARLTON RESERVE TO RETURN TO EACH DAY.

[RITZCARLTON.COM/HIGASHIYAMANISEKOVILLAGE](https://ritzcarlton.com/higashiyamanisekovillage)



THE MAIN PULSE OF NISEKO VILLAGE LIES AT ITS HEART, 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.

[NISEKO-VILLAGE.COM](https://niseko-village.com)





LOCATED IN KUALA LUMPUR, PENANG AND KUANTAN, MALAYSIA'S AC HOTELS FEATURE A MODERN HARMONIOUS DESIGN WHERE GUESTROOMS AND FLEXIBLE, OPEN SPACES ARE OPTIMISED FOR A COMFORTABLE AND EFFORTLESS STAY. WITH A CONTEMPORARY APPROACH TO BUSINESS AND LEISURE, FACILITIES INCLUDE THE AC LOUNGE, WHICH IS IDEAL FOR CREATIVE MEETINGS, AND WHERE DRINKS AND TAPAS SELECTIONS INSPIRED BY LOCAL FLAVOURS ARE SERVED THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

AC-HOTELS.COM



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



MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE
United Kingdom



THE GAINSBOROUGH BATH SPA
United Kingdom



THREADNEEDLES LONDON
United Kingdom



THE ACADEMY LONDON
United Kingdom

Extraordinary hotels, unique experiences, bespoke services. Each property that bears our signature is infused with the spirit of the land in which it resides, crafting singular experiences for the jaded traveller. For a private consultation, please contact the YTL Hotels Travel Centre at +60 3 2783 1000 or email travelcentre@ytlhotels.com to handcraft your experience.

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.

CLASSIC HOTELS BY YTL HOTELS

www.ytlhotels.com

YTL HOTELS
Treasured Places, Treasured Moments

HOME OF THE TASTEMAKERS

Z A I D A N

MEET THE LEAD DESIGNER OF THE STARHILL.



“I LOVE WORKING
BEHIND THE SCENES
TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL,
FUNCTIONAL SPACES THAT
GIVE LIGHT AND LIFE TO
EVERYDAY EXPERIENCES.”

As the principal of DuoZ, Zaidan has brought the firm to great heights and though it is relatively new, being established for less than 10 years, it has received multiple awards from MIID (Malaysian Institute of Interior Designers) with its winning designs published worldwide.

Zaidan's approach in design begins with identifying the archetypal artistic elements that are innately associated with the site – using the space and the vision of the client as a guide before merging it with his own contemporary, clean approach. His works are often fresh and vibrant, with an ode to the nostalgic.

His vast experience in the design world, from designing hotels locally to those in Thailand and the UK, has inspired his vision for The Starhill Dining, where a complete re-conception of the space sees a modern, contemporary look applied to the establishment. From wall accents to the floor tiles, each element of the various restaurants has been thoughtfully designed to reflect its unique identity.

A graduate from Texas Tech University in Texas, USA, Zaidan Tahir began his foray into the design world as an architect in the States, cutting his teeth at a number of notable firms. In 1995, he decided to return to his homeland of Malaysia and began practising in local outfits. Here, he discovered his insight and talent for interior design, with landmark projects such as The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, The Majestic Malacca and Cameron Highlands Resort.

THE IMPERIAL

CHELSEA

NOW LAUNCHED

A COLLECTION OF APARTMENTS AND DUPLEX PENTHOUSES
BENEFITING FROM LUXURIOUS INTERIOR DESIGN,
24/7 CONCIERGE AND WELLNESS AMENITIES. ENJOY
STUNNING VIEWS OF LONDON AND WALKING DISTANCE
TO THE VIBRANT KING'S ROAD.

PRICES FROM £750,000

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

DOMINIC HEATON-WATSON
REN 12272 +601 043 89 169
DOMINIC.HW@MY.KNIGHTFRANK.COM



**Knight Frank Malaysia Sdn Bhd (Co. No. 585479-A), Suite 10.01, Level 10, Centrepoint South,
Mid Valley City, Lingkaran Syed Putra, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia +603 228 99 688**

Project Approval Number: LPEPH/FE/027/2020 (KL). Price correct at time of going to print. Computer-generated image is indicative only.





SPEEDMASTER MOONWATCH

Originally introduced in 1957 for race-timing, the Speedmaster was first qualified by NASA in 1965 after surviving a series of the most punishing tests. Since that historic moment it has been trusted for the most daring missions beyond Earth, including the first moon landing in 1969 and the rescue of Apollo 13 one year later. Today, the Speedmaster remains essentially unchanged in its design and spirit, and we are looking forward to the next era of space exploration.



Available at:

- Pavilion KL, Tel: +603-2141 7885 • Suria KLCC, Tel: +603-2181 8723 • Gurney Plaza Penang, Tel: +604-227 0088
- SkyAvenue Genting Highlands, Tel: +603-6101 1610 • The Gardens Mall, Tel: +603-2201 2183