

FOR THAILAND'S INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Available on the
App Store

ANDROID APP ON
Google play

THE BigChilli



ENTERTAINMENT + DINING UPDATE

St. Patrick's Day



www.thebigchilli.com

ISSN 1685716X



9 771685 716005

120 BAHT

INSIDE: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR



SPARKLING DIAMOND PACKAGE

BY CHANDON

To start the New Year with a younger looking skin and a beautiful glow!
For a limited time only, Spa Cenvaree is the first SPA in Bangkok offering this luxuries treatment with real Diamond dust and Chandon Sparkling mist!

- Skin Brightening • Deep hydration • Reduce dullness • Restore collagen • Reduce fine line



Limited time only : 15th January – 30th April 2019

Package price : THB 4,500 net.

PACKAGE INCLUDE :

- 15 minutes Chandon Body Mist
- 45 minutes Sparkling Fine Diamond Body Scrub
- 80 minutes Diamond Dust Oil Body Massage
- 10 minutes Glistering Moisturizer Body Lotion

CENTARA
GRAND

AT CENTRAL PLAZA
LADPRAO BANGKOK

TERMS & CONDITION :

- Price is net. (Included 7% Government Tax and 10% service charge.)
- This package is not valid with other promotions, discounts, discount cards or coupons
- Please make your reservation in advance at our Spa Cenvaree Tel : 02 541 1234 Ext. 4292
- Spa Cenvaree at Lower Lobby floor | Opening hours : 9.00 - 00.00 hrs.

SKY
on
20

Experience the skyline above Sukhumvit 20



Happy Hour
5pm - 7pm

#Skyon20bangkok #Sukhumvitrooftopbar #Bangkokrooftopbar

Find out more promotions on   skyon20bangkok



Sky on 20 (26th floor)
Open Daily 5pm - 1am

NOVOTEL BANGKOK SUKHUMVIT 20

19/9 Soi Sukhumvit 20 · Sukhumvit Road · Klongtoey · Bangkok 10110 · Thailand

E. h9343-fb1@accor.com • T. +66 (0) 2 009 4999



March 2019 Contents



**8 NEWS BRITISH
AMBASSADOR TALKS
ABOUT LIFE IN THE
NEW EMBASSY**

**16 INSIGHT BANGKOK
ARCHITECT DESIGNS
EUROPE'S BIGGEST
OBSERVATION IN
NEWCASTLE**

**20 PROFILE
RAINE GRADY**

**56 FEATURE -
ULTIMATE GUIDE
TO THAILAND'S
NATIONAL PARKS**

66 DIPLOMAT

WRITE

The BigChilli Co., Ltd.
8/2 FMA Group Building,
5 Floor, Room 501,
Convent Road, Silom,
Bangrak, Bangkok, 10500.

FACEBOOK

thebigchillimagazine

EMAIL

thebigchillimagazine@
gmail.com

TWEET

@TheBigChilliMag

**THE
BIGCHILLI**

PUBLISHER

Colin Hastings
editorbigchilli@gmail.com

EDITOR

Nina Hastings
ninabigchilli@gmail.com

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

Rojjana Rungrattwatchai
sendtorose@gmail.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Thana Pongsaskulchoti
thanabigchilli@gmail.com

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Janjira Silapapairson
janbigchilli@gmail.com

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Wijittra Yanghong
ballbigchilli@gmail.com

ART & PRODUCTION

Arthawit Pundrikapa,
Jaran Lakkanawat

PHOTOGRAPHY

JL & AP

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Drew McCreadie,
Maxmilian Wechsler
Zoe Evans, Jessica Weber
Ruth Gerson



TheBigChilliMag



thebigchillimagazine

No part of this magazine may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without prior written permission from The BigChilli Co., Ltd. The opinions and views of the writers are not necessarily the views of the publishers. All details are deemed correct at the time of print, the publisher, the editor, employees and contributors can not be held responsible for any errors, inaccuracies or omissions that may occur. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or amend any submitted artwork, photographs, illustrations and manuscripts.

The BigChilli welcomes unsolicited contributions but assumes no responsibility for the safe-keeping or return of such materials damaged or lost in transit.

The BigChilli Co., Ltd. 8/2 FMA Group Building,
5th Floor, Room 501, Convent Road, Silom,
Bangrak, Bangkok 10500.

☎ 02-635-5085, ☎ 081-358-1814

Fax: 02-635-5086

✉ thebigchillimagazine@gmail.com

🌐 thebigchilli.com



FOOD
EXCHANGE

THAI & INTERNATIONAL LUNCH BUFFET

THB 699 NET

Children from 6-12 years, THB 350 net
Children under 6 years free of charge

MONDAY – FRIDAY
12.00 – 15.00 hrs.

NOVOTEL BANGKOK SUKHUMVIT 4
27 Soi Sukhumvit 4, Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110
Phone +66 (0) 2667 5808
novotelbangkoksukhumvit4.com

  [NovotelBangkokSukhumvit4](https://www.facebook.com/NovotelBangkokSukhumvit4)

NOVOTEL
HOTELS & RESORTS

BANGKOK
SUKHUMVIT 4

Bye Bye Dusit Thani, thanks for the memories and sorry about the ad

By Colin Hastings

■ For more than four decades, the Dusit Thani Hotel was a personal beacon for me, literally and figuratively. This was particularly true in my earliest years here when Bangkok was an astonishingly flat city, its horizon not yet disfigured by the high-rises that dominate the place today.

That's something newcomers to Bangkok may find hard to accept, but it is a fact that as recently as 1974 the city had only two buildings that could be described as skyscrapers. One was the Dusit, the other a mysterious building on Sukhumvit rumoured to be run by the CIA.

There was nothing mysterious about the Dusit. Thanks to its unusual conical shape it stood out on that flat horizon like a great big friendly Christmas tree.

So if you were lost, you simply looked up and out, and the hotel's glistening spire would help to point you in the right direction.

Of course, the Dusit was much more than just a helpful landmark. It also performed all kinds of mini roles in many people's lives, mine included, which probably explains why I feel a personal but possibly irrational sense of loss with its demise.

When it opened in 1969, the Dusit Thani vied straightaway with the Oriental Hotel as the country's finest purveyor of class and style; both were actually equal to any of Asia's grand hotels. But whereas the Oriental was an international property, the Dusit played a different tune that

highlighted the kingdom's glorious culture and bringing it to the attention of a global audience. So much of it resonated with the unique Thai brand - the interior design and décor, the staff's silk uniforms, the gentle tinkling of the khim.



When the highly influential Pacific Asia Travel Association came to town in 1983, accompanied by its hundreds of mostly American travel agents eager to find a new destination for their clients, the Dusit Thani was chosen as a one of the conference's main hotels. Covering the event as a journalist, I recall the excitement of witnessing Thailand's 'discovery' by the outside world. This nation was suddenly on the travel planners' maps and from that year onwards, and the number of tourists to this country skyrocketed. There's no question about it, the Dusit, with its incomparable Thainess and the charm of its staff, played a key part in this country's hugely successful tourist industry.



During the years since, I've enjoyed numerous encounters with the Dusit. In my capacity as a writer and publisher, I have been extremely lucky to receive regular invitations from the hotel to try out new menus, interview VIPs and witness the launch of a new restaurant. In return, of course, I've written scores of stories about my Bangkok landmark.

For a while, I was also engaged as PR consultant and copywriter for the Dusit, producing supposedly enticing words to promote its various outlets. Many of those early advertisements were for the Tiara Supper Club, a top floor cabaret venue featuring acts by mostly overseas performers. One of those visiting acts was Gerry and the Pacemakers from the UK, a group that had peaked some years earlier but whose lead singer wasn't enjoying the best of health at that time.

To announce the show, the hotel installed a bill board in the lobby. Luckily, I wasn't the one responsible for

what was written on the board – Playing Tonight in the Tiara Supper Club - Gerry and His Pacemaker. Woops.

I also wrote ads for Bubbles, the pick of Bangkok's discos in the 1980s. But like so many entertainment venues, Bubbles fell out of favor with the city's party people and closed after a couple of years. It enjoyed a brief revival in 2018 with some of the former regulars returning to relive the past.

For the launch of Hamilton's, the Dusit's famous steakhouse, the hotel engaged an American chef who had apparently worked at the White House in Washington. To spice up the ad for the restaurant opening, I bent the truth a tad by writing that he was previously the US President's personal chef. He never objected and

of 14 years.

Once I was invited to the hotel's 'back of house', probably by Tony Tuor. It was an area rarely seen by outsiders. This is where the food is stored, prepared and cooked. Like all hotels, it was hidden in the bowels of the main building, a warren of neon-lit passages and small window-less offices. It buzzed with action, but totally lacked the grace and charm of the public areas. All hotels have their secrets. Frankly, I'd rather not to have known this one.

Another secret for many years was the floor space directly above the Tiara Club Supper Club. Set at the very peak of the main tower, it offered spectacular views across the city. For years, though, it was

business was good.

Numerous people held the position of general manager of the Dusit Thani over the past 50 years. One, whose total lack of protocol when greeting a VVIP, resulted in his instant dismissal, I seem to recall.

Two others, however, really stand out as great hoteliers and very decent people. A Swiss national by the name of Tony Tuor held the position many times on short contracts. Between stints, he became a lone sailor, seeking out distant lands. On one such trip he ended up in Tahiti where he quickly secured a job in a hotel for a few months before sailing back to Thailand and the GM job at the Dusit. He was clearly an exceptional operator for the hotel to happily agree have him in charge so many times.

Then there's my old buddy Danny McCafferty, a wonderfully amiable Irishman of great wit who still lives in Bangkok. He helmed the Dusit brilliantly on two occasions for a total

unoccupied. Eventually the hotel found a tenant for this facility when the Foreign Correspondent Club of Thailand (FCCT) moved in and began holding events there.

One of the club's most memorable speakers was former Bangkok Post entertainment writer Bernard Trink, who shocked female members of the audience with his uninhibited opinions and experiences of the city's raunchy nightlife. Many walked out in protest.

Not long after the FCCT also left, not because of Trink but to move into roomier and more appropriate premises in nearby Maneeya Centre. Some believed the move was also prompted by the lack of emergency exits atop the Dusit. They were probably right, given its single narrow staircase.

I have many more memories of the Dusit, but as wise folks say, it's time to move on. In a few years a new Dusit will open and hopefully I'll be among the first to enjoy it.



No loss of prestige because of embassy sale, says British Ambassador



“Judge us instead on what we’re doing in Thailand”

Demise of century-old building and compound still angers British community as embassy staff prepare to relocate to an office building on Sathorn Road

By Colin Hastings

■ With the clock winding down on the closure of the much-admired British embassy and its resplendent compound in the heart of Bangkok, Ambassador Brian Davidson is not only maintaining a diplomatic stiff upper lip on its imminent demise after almost 100 years, but is also managing to put a positive spin on the situation, insisting that it marks the beginning of a new and more meaningful relationship with Thailand.

“The sale of the embassy is done

and we have to look forward. I see this as an opportunity, to create a new embassy that has to be all about modern Thailand. And it’s my job to make the move as efficient as possible,” says the ambassador.

“From now on it’s all about how we work and develop as an embassy. This is a year of transition – getting the deal right, and getting it done.

“Of course I feel sad about the embassy’s closure, and I will miss this place – it would strange not to

feel a sense of history,” concedes Mr Davidson, now into his third year as Britain’s top envoy in the kingdom.

The ambassador rejects claims that the loss of the embassy will affect the UK’s prestige and standing in Thailand.

“Prestige is nebulous and we should be judged instead on what we’re doing here. Our relationship with Thailand is getting deeper – and that’s not just a perception. We’re as committed as ever.”

That commitment includes a number of semi-secret joint Thai-British initiatives covering trafficking of wildlife, missing persons and sex offenders. A Border Force comprised of a team of 12 local and UK-based staff is currently working with Thai customs officers on training, equipping and mentoring to help out on key issues. A similar-sized team from the UK's National Crime Agency is also based at the embassy. "We carry out these activities quietly because of the nature of the work," explains the ambassador.

Also planned at the embassy is the second edition of an in-house forum the ambassador calls 'Speakers Corner' which aims to open up a



"soap box debate" amongst specially invited young Thais on a range of issues. "The focus is on free and fair discussion on different challenges and rights to support healthy democratic development. We want to demonstrate how we function in the UK on a number of topics."

This initiative is part of a call from Britain's Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt for greater media freedom and the development of democracy in response to last year's murder of Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi, according to the ambassador.

Scheduled to open at the end of this year, the replacement British embassy will be housed on three floors in the AIA complex, a dull non-descript office building on Sathorn Road, some three kilometers and a somewhat greater distance emotionally from the



The focus is on free and fair discussion on different challenges and rights to support healthy democratic development. We want to demonstrate how we function in the UK on a number of topics.

green and pleasant gardens, mature trees and lakes of its current site on Wireless Road.

Rallying to the cause, Mr Davidson says the new embassy will incorporate a number of key improvements over its hugely popular predecessor, which is used regularly as a venue for official and private functions, including most notably – as far as expats are concerned – the annual Ploenchit Fair.

"It's a better, more practical space," he says of the Sathorn Road embassy. "We have a large office so we can accommodate up to 150 people for business meetings and social events. For anything larger, we can try out other venues. It's a work in progress."

Sitting on a wickerwork sofa in the elegant all-white meeting room in what remains for a few months longer his official residence, the ambassador surveys the scene around him and comments: "This place has many challenges, things like poor wifi, air-conditioning and acoustics. Then there's the cost of constant repairs and upkeep of the buildings and gardens."

The sale of the embassy continues to grate with the local British community and local conservationists, who fought hard to convince the British government to change its mind. During a visit to Thailand last year, the then Foreign Minister Boris Johnson expressed his regrets when speaking to a group of British residents. He was not alone. Many others see it as yet further proof of Britain's once mighty presence overseas on the slide.

Questions about which British politician was responsible for the decision to offload this magnificent asset are frequently asked by disgruntled Brits in Thailand. Usually the finger of blame is pointed at George Osborne or Philip Hammond, Britain's past and current Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr Davidson declines to name either politician, but does offer a diplomatic justification for the sale, saying that it's been on the cards for many years. "Estate matters such as British embassies across the world





China Expert

Brian Davidson has been British Ambassador to Thailand since June 2016. He has extensive experience in Asia, having started his career in Beijing (1988-1992) and most recently served as Consul General in Guangzhou and then Shanghai between 2006-2015. Other overseas posts have included Lithuania and Australia. While in the UK Brian has worked for the Cabinet Office as an analyst on international terrorism and on secondment to International Financial Services London as Deputy Chief Executive.

Brian holds a Bachelor's degree in Law from Cambridge University. He speaks Mandarin Chinese, French and rusty Lithuanian and is currently studying Thai. Brian married his husband, Scott, in 2014. They have two children, and a third expected in March 2019.

British Ambassador to Thailand

The Ambassador represents Her Majesty The Queen and the UK government in the country to which they are appointed. They are responsible for the direction and work of the Embassy and its Consulates, including political work, trade and investment, press and cultural relations, and visa and consular services.

come up periodically for discussion by the Foreign Office and there's no doubt this embassy was often mentioned. It is ten times more valuable than the FO's next asset, so it's impossible not to argue about the space. What I can say is that the final decision was made during my first two years here."

The ambassador is also cool on the notion that prime property is a good long-term investment, noting that cash is needed to fund ongoing FO projects.

In a concession to the historical importance of the British embassy, its new owners, the Central Group, have agreed to build an exact replica of the ambassador's historical residence, complete with original features, as part of their plans for the Wireless Road site. A place will also be kept for the embassy's iconic statue of

Britain's Queen Victoria, while the war memorial will be relocated to the British Club of Bangkok.

The ambassador will get a new home on the upper floors of the Four Seasons Private Residence, one of Bangkok's most luxurious freehold condominiums. He and his family will be sharing the views over the Chao Phraya River with some of the city's most serious A-listers as neighbors. The move will take place in August this year.

The embassy's shift to Sathorn Road will probably result in additional staff, says the ambassador. The Trade Section, for example, is expected to increase from nine to 15 staff, partly in response to changes expected from Brexit.

"Post-Brexit will bring new opportunities, so we have to be ready. At the same time, we want to make it clear to Thailand and the rest of ASEAN that Britain is not withdrawing from the world – we want to let them know what the UK is doing," says Mr Davidson, who has extended his stay by an extra year to oversee the embassy relocation. On other matters...

CORONATION: The embassy is currently in discussion with the UK on which members of Britain's royal family will represent the country at the Coronation of King Vajiralongkorn on May 4-6, 2019.

EMBASSY COMPLAINTS: The embassy takes any complaints about its work in Thailand very seriously and works hard to fix them, says Mr Davison. "There are still lots of misunderstanding about what we can do. Some people have unrealistic expectations. We can't get someone out of jail, for example, but we can help with lawyers.

"People don't like being told that there's nothing the government can do. We're honest, there's no point in pretending to be otherwise. We can't make a problem go away.

"With a million tourists here every year, our consular section is very busy. In fact, it's second only to Spain.

"I thoroughly reject any accusation that we lack empathy. Our consular teams have most unpleasant tasks – rape and sexual assault, child care, and gruesome road accidents that make up a third of our consular cases.

It's the daily fare for them. And they do it with care and passion. Yes, I do get defensive on this issue because they're an extraordinary group."

FAMILY MAN: Mr Davidson married his husband, Scott, in 2014 in one of the first same-sex marriages performed at the British Embassy Beijing. They have two children – Eliot (2), Esme (1) and another baby expected on March 8, 2019. All the children have a surrogate mother based in California and were conceived using three different egg donors of Chinese ethnicity. The ambassador will take three months' parental leave on the birth of his third child but will remain in Thailand.



We're not clear of the project's mechanics and our job is to get some clarity from all the rhetoric. The EEC is an ambitious undertaking and it will make a big difference to Thailand.

CHINA: The world's most populous nation will become its biggest economy and the UK needs to work out how it can take advantage of the opportunities, says Mr Davidson, who served a total of 13 years on two separate diplomatic assignments in China. "We have to demonstrate the quality of what we have and not to be afraid of the competition."

Thailand has a very balanced view of China, and its One Belt One Road strategy does not pose a threat to this country, says the ambassador.

EASTERN ECONOMIC

CORRIDOR: The British embassy is trying to unravel the complexities of Thailand's massive EEC plan, which to date has seen considerable Chinese and Japanese involvement but fewer opportunities for British companies.

"We're not clear of the project's

mechanics and our job is to get some clarity from all the rhetoric. The EEC is an ambitious undertaking and it will make a big difference to Thailand.

"We're currently lobbying the government, which will be boosted by the visit soon of Mark Field, Minister of State at the Foreign Office."

The ambassador rejects rumours that some countries are receiving preferential treatment on the project.

IMPROVED RELATIONS:

Relations with Thailand's military government, frozen after the coup in 2014, were normalized a year ago, with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha receiving the red carpet treatment on a visit to London. "We need to be in a position to talk to the government on a day to day basis," says the ambassador. On the whereabouts of wanted fugitives Red Bull heir Vorayuth Yoovidhya and former deposed Thai prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra, both of whom are rumoured to have spent time in the UK, Mr Davidson says he has no idea.

DEATH OF KING POWER

OWNER: the embassy has yet to receive updates on the helicopter crash in the UK last October that killed Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, founder of King Power Duty Free and Leicester City Football Club. "We haven't seen anything so far, and wouldn't necessarily get and reports. Investigations like this take a long time."

PUPILS CAMBRIDGE

BOUND: Describing the news that six pupils from Shrewsbury International School Bangkok have received offers from Cambridge University as "fantastic," the ambassador added with obvious pride: "British education is not just about the quality of teaching, but also about life skills and preparing the students for today's world. This is what distinguishes British education."

UK PENSIONS: Bad news for British pensioners living in Thailand. There's no movement on unfreezing their pension payments while a reciprocal social security agreement with Thailand remains in place. "But we will mention this issue to the next senior government visitor," promised the ambassador.

Premier League Fixtures this month



Kick-offs are 3pm for Saturdays and Bank Holidays and 7.45pm for evening matches unless stated otherwise.

Thursday, 1 March 2018
19:45 Arsenal v Manchester City (Sky Sports)

Saturday, 3 March 2018
12:30 Burnley v Everton
Leicester City v AFC Bournemouth
Southampton v Stoke City
Swansea City v West Ham United
Tottenham Hotspur v Huddersfield Town

Watford v West Bromwich Albion
17:30 Liverpool v Newcastle United

Sunday, 4 March, 2018
13:30 Brighton & Hove Albion v Arsenal
16:00 Manchester City v Chelsea

Monday, 5 March, 2018
20:00 Crystal Palace v Manchester United

Saturday, 10 March, 2018
12:30 Manchester United v Liverpool
Everton v Brighton

Huddersfield Town v Swansea City
Newcastle United v Southampton
West Bromwich Albion v Leicester City
West Ham United v Burnley
17:30 Chelsea v Crystal Palace

Sunday, 11 March, 2018
13:30 Arsenal v Watford
16:00 AFC Bournemouth v Tottenham Hotspur

Monday, 12 March, 2018
20:00 Stoke City v Manchester City

Friday, 16 March, 2018
20:00 Tottenham Hotspur v Newcastle United (Postponed)

Saturday, 17 March, 2018
AFC Bournemouth v West Bromwich Albion
Huddersfield Town v Crystal Palace
Stoke City v Everton
17:30 Liverpool v Watford

Saturday, 31 March, 2018
12:30 Crystal Palace v Liverpool
Brighton v Leicester City
Manchester United v Swansea City

Newcastle United v Huddersfield Town
Southampton v West Ham United
Watford v AFC Bournemouth
West Bromwich Albion v Burnley
17:30 Everton v Manchester City

Sunday, 1 April, 2018
13:30 Arsenal v Stoke City
16:00 Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur

Upcoming concerts

Maroon 5,
Impact Challenger, Impact Arena, Muang Thong Thani. March 9. Thaiticketmajor.

Rita Ora,
Crystal Arena, Crystal Design Center, March 11. passionhead.co

John Mayer,
Impact Arena, April 3, Thaiticketmajor.

Pet Shop Boys,
Impact Exhibition Hall 5, April 4. Thaiticketmajor.

KING'S CUP ELEPHANT BOAT RACE & RIVER FESTIVAL
29-31 MARCH 2019

LOCATED NEXT TO ANANTARA RIVERSIDE BANGKOK RESORT 12 NOON UNTIL LATE

TICKETS: THB 200 / PERSON / DAY • VIP TICKETS: THB 3,000 / PERSON / DAY
FREE ACCESS FOR KIDS UNDER 12

TICKET SALE PROCEEDS GO TO THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE ASIAN ELEPHANT FOUNDATION

21ST MARCH 2019
THANA CITY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
12:30PM SHOTGUN
BEST TWO STABLEFORD SCORES PER HOLE

FORMAT:
Best 2 Stableford scores per hole

SCHEDULE
10:30AM REGISTRATION OPENS
12:15PM GROUP PHOTO
12:30PM SHOTGUN START
18:00PM DINNER RECEPTION AND PRIZE GIVING AND CHARITY AUCTION

INCLUSIONS:
• GREEN FEE AND CADDY
• ONCOURSE REFRESHMENTS
• PREMIUM BUFFET DINNER
• OUTSTANDING PRIZES

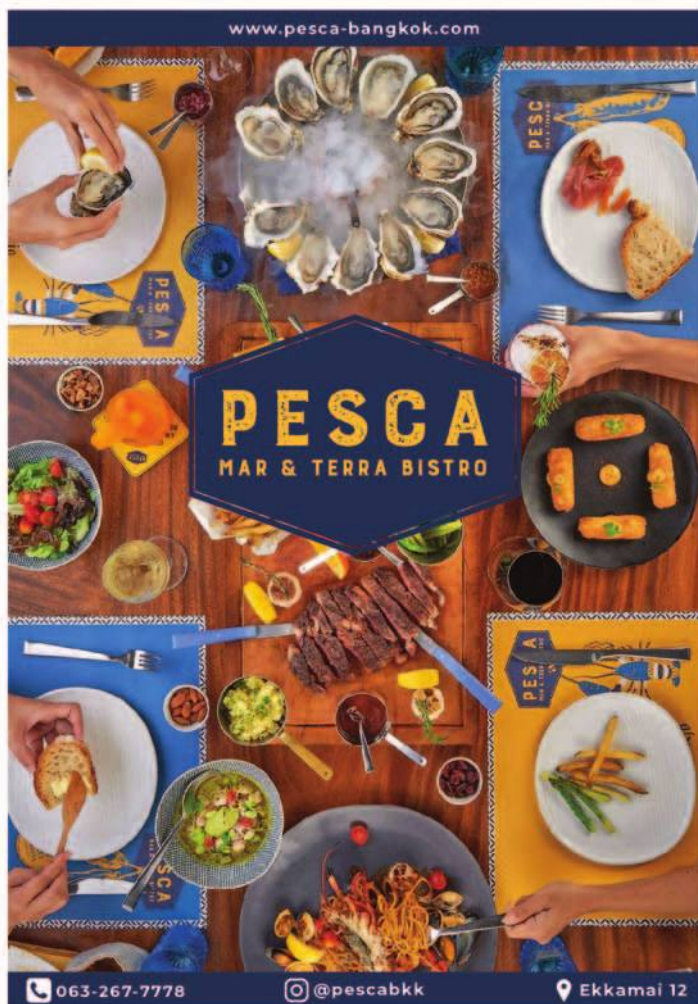
PRICE: 26,000 THB
(Cost per team of 4 players)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
METAWE.E.P@THEBEAUMONTPARTNERSHIP.COM & EVENTS@FOREMANAGEMENT.COM
02 631 1860 & 02 631 1975

WWW.TSP-FOUNDATION.COM

Calling football teams

Local football teams are invited to join a friendly tournament known as 'Diplomatic Cup' for charity, organised by the Embassy of Panama together with WynCoast Industrial Park and Thai Youth Sports. This event will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at Soccer Pro Bang Na from 09:00 hrs – 15:00 hrs. Contact Embajada@panathai.com for details.



SHOW THIS AD AT ANY OF OUR RESTAURANTS
AND GET 10% OFF YOUR BILL





This month at the Comedy Club Bangkok

FRIDAY March 1st 8.30pm

The Revenge of TINDER HELL! Improv Comedy

About: TINDER HELL is back with a revenge March 1st at The Comedy Club Bangkok! New games, new scenes, with your horror stories, online dating catastrophes, horrible hook ups, and true love coming together for a night of pure comedy. With improv comedy made famous by 'Whose Line Is It Anyway?'

Tickets:- B400 in advance, B600 on the door. THREESOME DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE!

FRIDAY March 8th 8.30pm

Stand-Up Comedy Open Mic with International Special Guests!

About: The stand-up comedy open mic we have Californian based comic CHRIS FLAIL headlining the show! Alongside Bangkok's ever more seasoned veteran comics, international guests and newcomers!

Tickets:- B250 in advance, B400 on the door.

FRIDAY March 15th 8.30pm

Stand-Up Comedy - DARREN MATTHEWS! St Patrick's Day Comedy!

"DARREN MATTHEWS IS ONE OF IRELAND'S BEST COMEDIANS " BELFAST COMEDY FESTIVAL

About: To celebrate St Patrick's Day we have Irish comic Darren Matthews headlining the show. Alongside special guests!

Tickets:- B600 in advance, B800 on the door.

FRIDAY March 22nd 7.45pm

JIM GAFFIGAN - 'The Quality Time Tour', Live in Bangkok!

"The King of clean comedy" Wall Street Journal

About: The Comedy Club Bangkok and Live Nation BEC-TERO present JIM GAFFIGAN - 'The Quality Time Tour', Live in Bangkok! Come see one of world's highest grossing (and funniest) comedians of all time with his family friendly show March 22nd at the Scala Theatre, Siam Square.

Tickets:- From B1800

FRIDAY March 29th 8.30pm

'WHOSE LINE?' Improv Comedy

About: From the team that brought TINDER HELL!, imagine a show with no script, no set, and YOUR suggestions driving us to make comedy gold, as that's exactly what you will discover on one of our hilarious Improv Comedy nights! With improv comedy as made famous by 'WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?', 'THEATRESPOITS', and 'THE SECOND CITY'.

Led by a multi award-winning improviser and featuring the best of Bangkok's improv comedy community, treat yourself to funny, you won't regret it!

Tickets:- B400 in advance, B500 on the door.

Where: The Comedy Club Bangkok, Sukhumvit 33/1 above The Royal Oak pub. BTS Phrom Phong

Top funny man Jimmy Carr back in Bangkok

■ Jimmy Carr, the British comedian, presenter, writer and actor best known for his dark humour, outrageous laugh, and machinegun one-liner delivery, returns to Bangkok for a second time in April this year.

It's been several years since The Comedy Club Bangkok presented Carr in Bangkok, and a lot has changed since his last appearance. And according to Creative Director Chris Wegoda, Carr is part of the reason the comedy scene in Bangkok is so vibrant at the moment.

"The comedy scene in Bangkok has really blossomed since the first time we brought in Jimmy Carr," explains Chris Wegoda, the Creative Director of Stand-up Comedy at The Comedy Club Bangkok. "I think that Jimmy Carr is part of the reason why Bangkok's comedy scene has grown.

"Carr is one of the biggest names we have produced, and one of the biggest comedians to have ever perform in Bangkok. Audiences here were excited to see a big name comedian, and agents and international promoters were encouraged to see Bangkok as a potential market.

"Since Jimmy Carr, we have gone on to produce or co-produce other great comedians, including big names like Jim Jefferies and

Jim Gaffigan. And that all started, for us at least, with Jimmy Carr."

The Comedy Club Bangkok, which seats 120 maximum in its venue above The Royal Oak Pub on Sukhumvit Soi 33/1, simply isn't large enough for a comedian as popular as Carr. The Westin Grande Hotel's Grand Ballroom, which can seat over 600 was selected as venue for Carr's last visit to Bangkok and will serve as the location for the April 6 show as well.

"Tickets sell really quickly for Jimmy Carr," explains Wegoda. "Last time we presented him, we sold out the first show in less than 48 hours. We went on to add a second and third show."

The success of the Jimmy Carr shows served as proof that Bangkok was a viable venue for English language comedy on a larger scale. While The Comedy Club Bangkok was the first dedicated English language comedy venue in Bangkok and has continued to grow to the point of producing major names in the industry, other pubs have begun to host amateur comedy nights as well, and the local stand-up scene is continuing to grow.

Jimmy Carr's The Best of Ultimate Gold show is April 6, at 8pm. For tickets and more information go to www.ComedyClubBangkok.com



Tickets available from ComedyClubBangkok.com and The Royal Oak Pub (for club shows). facebook.com/ComedyClubBangkok/



PIRIPIRI

FLAMING Grill

**NOW
OPEN !**
AT TRENDY BUILDING
SOI 13

"CHECK OUT OUR NEW DISHES"
"FAMOUS, NOT ONLY FOR OUR CHICKEN"

www.piripiriasia.com

Newcastle united with Bangkok architect to build Europe's tallest observation wheel

Concept i design team behind 'Giants on the Quayside' development in famous British city - including a wheel called 'Whey Aye' that tops the London Eye

By Colin Hastings

■ In an amazing example of globalization, a Thai interior design and architecture studio based in Bangkok and managed by a Canadian expat is playing a key role in a massive retail and leisure development called Giants on the Quayside, now taking shape in Newcastle upon Tyne in northeast England.

Concept i - an international design studio specializing in high profile retail/commercial, leisure and entertainment projects - won the contract to master plan and design the development last year. The site will include Europe's tallest observation wheel dubbed 'Whey Aye', a phonetic rendition of the phrase 'why aye' in the local Geordie dialect meaning 'yes, of course'.

Principal and MD of Concept i is Geoff Morrison, originally from Canada, who founded the company in 1996. With offices in Bangkok and

Shanghai, Concept i has worked on over 150 projects in 19 countries. Geoff is clearly extremely pleased by his company's latest success. "We are very proud to play such an important role in this huge development in Newcastle," he said from his busy offices in Convent Road.

"It's a wonderful project that will inspire people, create local jobs and boost the regional economy. The project touches a personal nerve - having studied and worked in the UK for almost 10 years, I was proud to take a lead role in such an innovative development from so far away. It's a





real testament to our Bangkok team that we win and take a lead position on this international design stage. It doesn't get better than that."

Located on the banks of the River Tyne and standing 16ft higher than the London Eye, the Whey Aye wheel is the anchor component of

the ambitious, 50,000 sq m, UKP 100 million development, which will also feature a 39ft statue named The Geordie Giant, and riverside food and drinks promenade called The Giant's Quay.

Other facilities include The Giant Sport Warehouse, comprising the

newest active play, climbing and trampoline facilities, e-sports complex and a Quayside Golf Club, where golfers can compete internationally in virtual cyber space, at over 300 famous courses worldwide. The roof terrace is dedicated to competition football, tennis and basketball courts.



Concept i founder Geoff Morrison and the project's senior architect Francesc Domingo in the company's Bangkok office



The Wheel 'Terminus', a five-story high entrance complex, immerses visitors in stories of Newcastle's past, present and future as they move up to the Wheel launch deck. Following the Wheel sky voyage, visitors return to earth via a 20 m speed slide tower, or gently float down a suspended, gravity 'roll glider' track!

The company's senior architect for the Giants on the Quayside is Francesc Domingo, a Spanish national and long-term resident of Bangkok. "All the buildings have been designed so visitors can 'Feel the Wheel' from wherever they happen to be," explained Francesc.

"The architectural style is a kind of modern industrial chic, celebrating the spirit of Newcastle's heritage and the iconic Spillers Flour Mill previously occupying the site. We want to sculpt every moment of the visitor experience, and ensure the architecture, interiors, branding, lighting sound and media melt seamlessly together! When you enter the Terminus, look up and see the gigantic 140 m high wheel spinning above you, it will be like a lunar magnet!"

The project is the brain child of the developer World Wheel Company, who have appointed Concept i as lead designer, supported by a consortium of locally based consultants to execute the project.



The wheel's Terminus showing the slide tower

Geoff's background is truly international with professional design qualifications from Canada and the UK. His work experience spans over 20 countries and 30 years of experience spread throughout the UK, Europe, Middle East and the Asia Pacific region. The softly spoken Canadian first came here in 1993 to work on the design of Seacon Square, back then the largest project of its kind in Thailand. Not long after, he met and married his wife Patchara, a member of Chulalongkorn University's first graduating class in landscape architecture, and also a director in the firm. Today, they are proud parents of two grown-up daughters who attended the New International School of Thailand, and are now studying and working overseas.

In addition to the Newcastle project, Concept i maintains an active portfolio of global retail, entertainment, and commercial projects. "Our projects receive top industry awards and recognition from our peer institutes such as ICSC, IAAPA and International Property Awards" says Geoff. "Our design for Capitol Mall, Istanbul won the 2018 International Council for Shopping Center (ICSC) top award for mall renovation in Europe.

"We are designing indoor entertainment parks in Kuwait,



Visitors can 'feel the wheel' from every angle

Bahrain and Vietnam, a 180,000 sq m mall redevelopment in Cairo, Egypt, a new retail center in Jeddah, KSA. and several exciting Bangkok developments".

But it is China, where more than 1,700 new shopping malls are planned in the next decade that is keeping the company's office in Shanghai fully occupied. "We are ramped up on some incredible, world class retail developments in Kunming, Ningbo and Shenzhen," says Geoff. "Concept i is about ideas - we are passionate about creating innovative ideas, crossing cultural and geographic boundaries, injecting the newest trends and technologies to improve the way people live and enjoy their lives.

"Our ethos is to communicate and manage our creative process with utmost attention to clients and

consumers. Concept i's core team is 80 strong and multi-disciplinary including interior designers, architects, theme designers, lighting, graphics and branding designers.

We are supported by a network of specialist sub consultants, carefully selected for each project. We thrive on collaboration and work with some of the top developers, designers and suppliers in the industry".

Once operational, the observation wheel in Newcastle will offer 30-minute 'flights' and is expected to bring in 800,000 visitors in the first year. At its base will be a 11,000 sq m LED digital screen used for displaying information about local culture and events. The project is located at the east end of the Quayside, on the site of the former Spillers' Flour Mill and Quay.



With three companies in Thailand, including a video content creator, this mother-of-two from Australia, couldn't be busier. Nonetheless she finding time to get married, launching yet another life adventure

Profile

Raine Grady

Name: Raine Grady.

Nickname: Fon (from my Thai friends).

Age: Don't deny it, defy it! 50-ish is my new 30.

Born: Heidelberg, Germany. I was a US army brat.

Education: Bachelor of Business – Communications (Journalism)

Family background: Mum is an Aussie – a 'gypsy' who loved to travel and met my father in Germany. We lived in the USA when I was young and then moved to Australia where she married my step-father, a real country gentleman. He passed away 20 years ago and now she is married again to a sailor and spends her weekends yachting with an Aperol Spritz in hand.

I have two brothers – both married to Asian wives, a sister and a family tree with branches around the world. Let's just say there's never a dull moment in our household.

Family today: Two sons, Dylan and Tyler, who were born in Thailand and now call Brisbane, Australia, home. Both attend my old university QUT, studying music and film. Not surprising considering their Dad, Les, was a rock star and cameraman while their Mum was writing stories for as long as they knew.

Your profession: Initially it was journalism. After graduation I started work in country TV doing crop reports. That was a laugh but I learned a lot about being versatile both behind and in front of the camera. I then made a move to Channel 9 as a reporter and a news anchor in Brisbane.

In 1993 I came the move to Thailand where my partner and I started our own TV shows and media business with CNBC, True and Star World. Journalism morphed into lifestyle TV (a much happier pursuit) and now into video content creation for all sorts of platforms. Today I would say I am an entrepreneur and a passionate story-teller.

What do your companies offer? Capital TV is our production house and focuses on documentaries, lifestyle programming and corporate video.

Crave Asia is my digital media company and focuses on video for social media marketing, along with marketing representation for travel and lifestyle businesses.

Crave Beverage is our alcohol imports and events businesses.

Each company supports the other with ideas or media & event solutions.





The best project ever undertaken? Being sent around the world to film beautiful resorts and destinations. Most people say that's not a job it's a privilege and they'd be mostly right. It actually is hard work (I imagine eyes rolling now) but very rewarding. I feel privileged to have had a front seat view of the world when it comes to travel.

And the worst project? Mmm, there are always challenges in any project. The tough assignments on the travel side have been varied – like filming in Pakistan during an unexpected nuclear test, arriving to film in New Zealand in mid-winter only to discover our woolen clothes and all the equipment had been mistakenly sent to Rome or our crew being chased by gun boats in Myanmar.

Those were all nightmares at the time but had their amusing side.

News coverage is the toughest. There is always something going on in Thailand but covering the Asian Tsunami for Australian news was by far the most emotional and traumatic experience.

Do you travel a lot? I don't travel as much as I used to. It used to be two weeks of every month for many years for over 3,000 TV show episodes. Once the boys came along that was a bit too much and to be honest I wanted to be home with them as much as I could. Now I pick and choose the travel assignments and I much prefer getting on a plane or checking into a resort these days for a real holiday or to visit family back in Oz.

How long in Thailand? I came to Thailand for a year to try it out. I am still here after 25 years. How did that happen?

Where do you live? I live in the heart of Bangkok, on Sukhumvit Road.

Your current state of health / state of mind: Hahaha. I sometimes wonder... I believe the two are connected. I am very happy and that makes me feel great. I have a lot of energy so it's important to maintain that by staying healthy.

Is it easier for an expat male to live in Thailand than a female expat? An interesting question. People ask me this a lot. It really comes down to two things: What you do with



“

I have been really lucky in my work in Thailand and the region to have met media, fashion, political, business and industry movers and shakers.

your time and how you embrace where you are. Many of the women I know here are working or running their own businesses and they are committed, involved, active in the community and have a good network of friends.

If you are alone, stuck at home or looking for love then Thailand has its challenges for an expat woman – but so do many places in the world. I have expat girlfriends living

in tougher places like Bangladesh or Nigeria and they would cut off their leg to live here, but some women do find Thailand harder than their husbands or male friends. It's important to stay positive and make a connection with other supportive women.

In my case, I fell in love with Thailand the moment I arrived and that hasn't changed.

Best friend here? Oh dear, I will be in trouble if I name names! But a handful of special people (Both Thai and expat) I would do anything for and

likewise would do the same for me.

Favorite hang-out places? Escape Bar, Rooftop Marriott Surawongse and Smalls.

Favorite restaurants? Di Vino's Italian Thonglor, Mozza, Mrs Balbir's Indian, El Gaucho, The Dock, numerous Japanese haunts and a hole in the wall Thai place near me that has the best local food.



What do you do for exercise / relax? Paddle-boarding (when I can escape), swimming, reading books, massage (of course), small intimate dinner parties with good conversation and making my own silly video stories.

Best destinations in Thailand to get away from it all? Sailing around Phang Nga or hiding on a small island. Hanging out at Royal Varuna Yacht Club Pattaya. Exploring Chiang Mai.

Has your view of Thailand changed over the years?

I have a love hate relationship with the system – even after 25 years it's still challenging with some facets of business – so maybe nothing much has changed there. But there is a lot more choice here now and a lot of very clever people who have invested their energy into improving people's lives.

Thailand is a very resilient place and while there are ups and downs I think it's become a more comfortable, interesting and rewarding place to live. It's also a lot more competitive.



Most interesting person / people you've met while working?

That's a hard one to answer. Almost too many to count. I have interviewed people like the late Kofi Anan, Olivia Newton John, The Scorpions, Buzz Aldrin, Peter Jackson, Orlando Bloom, Thaksin Shinawatra, Anand Panyarachun and the late Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha to name a few.

I have been really lucky in my work in Thailand and the region to have met media, fashion, political, business and industry movers and shakers. And I have been privileged to meet some of the most amazing everyday people who work on projects, charities and artistic endeavors whose names many will never know but you see the results of their efforts and the people they have enriched all around us.



What's the most overrated things about this country?

The weather. The cost of living. Bangkok especially is no longer a cheap place to live.

What does Thailand need to do to sustain its popularity as a tourist destination? Less plastic, more sustainable tourism, more environmental initiatives, more emphasis on learning English.

Do you keep anywhere secret to stop it from being overrun by tourists? Yes, but that's a secret.

What's your best talent? Communicating with people. What would change about your career or yourself if you could turn back the clock? If I could turn back time it would simply be for the reason to have more time to do all the things I still want to do. But even despite the tough times I wouldn't change anything.

Has anyone told you that you look like someone famous? Elizabeth Taylor. I am often told I look like her – the younger version hopefully!

What's next for you? Love. Who would have thought?

I am soon to be married so another grand adventure is about to begin. Probably the best journey of all. Gianni is from an old noble family in Modena, Italy, and I am discovering a great passion for all things Italian.

Any final thoughts? My advice to myself has always been to work smarter not harder, make time for loved ones and don't worry what people say about you. Most importantly, be curious, be generous and be the best possible version of yourself.

Yào Restaurant and Rooftop Bar Bangkok's finest slice of Shanghai

Offering authentic Shanghainese and Cantonese flavors in a sophisticated Chinese ambience, Yào Restaurant and Rooftop Bar is Bangkok's first Chinese inspired multi-level hot spot.



PERCHED elegantly on the 32nd floor of Bangkok Marriott Hotel The Surawongse, the restaurant boasts stunning views of Bangkok and Chao Praya River via a large floor-to-ceiling window. The décor combines vintage Chinese style with metropolitan sophistication.

Yào Restaurant impresses with the tantalizing flavors of its outstanding food and beverage. Its diverse menus feature authentic Shanghainese and Cantonese cuisines plus newly created contemporary dishes, delivered to the table by food carts adding to the meal's special touch, whether it be lunch, dinner or supper.

In designing the menu, the Chinese head chef Bruce Hui has taken his inspiration from indigenous Shanghai food culture that evokes his childhood memories of homemade dishes back in China. He's adapted these classic recipes in simple yet sophisticated presentation.

Watch out for 9 Elements of Shanghai Platter featuring nine of Shanghai's best loved flavors, served as hors d'oeuvre. Follow up with Flower Shaped Bean



Curd with Morel Mushroom Soup to ready your appetite for the main course.

Recommendations include Fried Foie Gras with Japanese Scallop in Hoisin Sauce, Plum Blossom Tofu Salad with Morels, Lychee Wood Roasted Beijing Duck, Fried A5 Wagyu with Morels, Porcini Mushrooms and XO Sauce and Crispy Pork served with Wasabi Hoisin sauce.

There's also classic original-recipe dishes like Peking duck, delicious

dim sums and rare traditional Shanghai delicacies.

Don't miss the hand-pulled noodles freshly made by master chef Wang Wen Bin with minced pork and spicy sauce.

The tea ritual is an essential in Chinese culture, so choose your tea of the day from the "Des-Tea-Ny". To complete a fantastic dining experience, head to Bangkok's first Chinese inspired rooftop bar where you can enjoy oriental-influenced refreshments and midnight dim sum while that breathtaking city view at night.



BANGKOK MARRIOTT HOTEL THE SURAWONGSE
262 Surawongse Road, Si Phraya, Bangkok,
Bangkok 10500 Thailand. Tel: 02 088 5666
Facebook: YAOBANGKOK, IG: YAOBANGKOK

THE BEST OF **BRUNCH**

Make the weekend even more special
with a rewarding Sunday Brunch buffet at Atelier restaurant



Book online at www.atelierbangkok.com
or 0 2204 4071



PULLMAN BANGKOK GRANDE SUKHUMVIT

30 SUKHUMVIT 21 (ASOKE) ROAD - BANGKOK 10110 - THAILAND - T. +66 (0) 2 204 4000
INFO@PULLMANBANGKOKGRANDESUKHUMVIT.COM - PULLMANBANGKOKGRANDESUKHUMVIT.COM - ACCORHOTELS.COM

An **ACCORHOTELS** brand



PULLMANHOTELS.COM



The Driving Force: Avani Atrium's New General Manager Has The Hotel Set On A Course For Greatness

Get to know Jon Warmington, the F&B specialist who's formidable and comprehensive skills promise a bright future for Petchburi Road's favourite hotel.

Born and raised in the UK, Jon Warmington's trajectory was clear early. With his diploma in hospitality from University of Brighton, he launched into a career in the food and beverage industry, managing the restaurant and functions for London's world-famous Oxo Tower. But he would not be confined to that sector, nor his homeland, for too long.

Three and a half years as Food and Beverage Manager at Crowne Plaza London Heathrow required Jon's growing skill set, not only to ensure the smooth running of the hotel's six food departments, but to streamline the operations and increase efficiency. In any absence of the General Manager, Jon was deputised to take the wheel and it was a perhaps this experience and the lessons he learned that guided Jon to new paths.

Within the first year of moving to Hilton for another Food and Beverage Management role, he was seconded to act as GM in a neighbouring city. After a year, he was looking after the F&B operations for 72 hotels across UK and Ireland and in 2008, he took the Director of Operations role in Abuja, Nigeria. It was during these years that Jon developed a passion for training.

In establishing and maintaining operating procedures that would comply with and exceed Hilton's global standards, it was key for Jon to ensure the teams were on board, and his certifications as a RevMax Food & Beverage trainer and in Pro Active Leadership were put to good and effective use. While the budgets were maintained and profits grew, so too did the skills and opportunities of his staff.

He also built a strong loyalty for Hilton, with whom he would remain for a total of 13 and a half years, and for world travel.

Though he is now based in Bangkok, this is not his first foray into Southeast Asia, having already spent more than six years in Malaysia. His first role, in Sarawak, required every bit of his – by then – broad and considerable experience. As Cluster General Manager and Food & Beverage Coordinator, he was accountable for the smooth running and financial performance of two very different hotels: the five-star Hilton Kuching, located on the riverfront, and Batang Ai Longhouse Resort, located 275 km away at Lubok Antu. Despite the demands of the job, he managed to find time to continue to share his knowledge, facilitating the RevMax Food & Beverage training programme in Southeast Asia, growing the talent in the region from one facilitator to four, from three trainers to 34, and from 72 trained agents to more than 700. He also launched the programme in two additional regions: Greater China and Mongolia, and Japan, Korea and Micronesia, which now boast more than 45 trainers and 650 trained agents combined.

Following two years as General Manager in Kota Kinabalu, during which he guided the 305-room, five-star property through its pre-opening and opening phases, he now sits as General Manager of Avani Atrium Bangkok Hotel. With 586 rooms, it's the largest of Minor International's properties and



with a wealth of event facilities as well as diverse food and beverage concepts, including world-famous the Japanese steakhouse, Benihana, the hotel seems the perfect fit for Jon's spectacular success rate. Watch this space for the fireworks to come.

Avani Atrium Bangkok Hotel. 1880 New Petchburi Road, Bangkok 10310.
Tel: 02 718 2000. www.minorhotels.com/en/avani/atrium-bangkok



US PRIME STEAK AT BENIHANA

Indulge in USDA Organic certified, tender, juicy beef, sizzled to perfection on the teppanyaki grill by your private chef and served with all the trimmings.

**Get your steak fix at Benihana for just
THB 2,500++ per set.**

Price is subject to 10% service charge and applicable government tax.

For more information and reservations,
please contact Benihana The Japanese Steakhouse at 02-718-2000

Open daily for dinner from 5:00 pm – 10:30 pm

Weekend Brunch every Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm

Dish *of the* Month

Crab cake with mango salsa

Crab cake

Mixture of crabmeat, bread crumbs, and salt and pepper until combined. And fired in a hot pan until golden brown andl crispy

Mango Salsa

Diced mango toss with lime juice and garnished with cilantro

Mixed Salad

Mixed green salad, sliced carrots and red cabbage into olive oil and lemon juice

Kien Wagner in focus



Kien Wagner, executive chef at Avani+ Samui with his goal of creating a true island experience, from breakfast to dinner, and every time in between. Known for his dedication to local communities, from sourcing ingredients to promoting sustainable living, Chef Kien brings the myriad skills and flavours he has developed over his culinary journey to Samui. At Avani+ Samui, Chef Kien channels his love for locally sourced produce and seafood into signature dishes like seared king oyster mushrooms with baked pumpkin and caramelised shallots that features a dressing made showcasing fresh Thai herbs from local ingredients. In Chef Kien's own words: "The product is the star of the kitchen. Without excellent products, there is no excellent cuisine."

Open daily from 6.30am till late, Essence will lull you with its excellent location then wow you with the sublime tastes of its food. www.avanihotel.com/samui

SEAFOOD BUFFET AT SKYLINE

Fresh seafood on ice. Tiger prawns to
Blue crab and Normandy Oysters.
Delight in the treasures of the ocean
cooked to your liking.

Skyline restaurant, 11th floor.

Every Friday and Saturday
From 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
THB 1,350++ per person

Price is subject to 10% service charge and 7% government tax

Avani+ Riverside Bangkok Hotel
257 Charoennakorn Road, Thonburi
Bangkok 10600 Thailand

T: +66 (0) 2431 9100
E: avaniplus.bangkok@avanihotels.com

AVANIHOTELS.COM



Recipe



MEE KROB DOK ANCHAN GOONG

Crispy vermicelli, bean curd, shrimps, somsa butterfly pea and aromatic thai herb

Ingredients

- 180 g Noodle Mee Wai Wai
- 10 g orange "Somsa"
- 20 g Bean salt white
- 10 g Vinegar white
- 10 g White Sugar
- 10 g Sugar plum
- 20 g Small shallot
- 30 g Bean curd
- 1 g Egg chicken
- 20 g Chili red big
- 20 g Coriander fresh

- 20 g Garlic pickle
- 40 g Chinese flat onion
- 120 g Prawn tiger 21-25 Pcs kg
- 10 g Bean sprout

Method

1. Heat oil in a deep wok over medium heat. When oil is hot, very quickly fry the noodles until crisp and golden, remove with mesh skimmer and drain.
2. Deep-fry tofu and prawn until crispy and set aside.
3. Remove most of the oil in the wok, retaining approximately 1/4 cup. Heat

and stir-fry the garlic and shallot until fragrant, then add the tofu and shrimp, seasoning with fermented soybeans, vinegar, palm sugar and tamarind

4. Stirring to combine. When it thick taste it become balance of sweet, sour, and salty flavors.
5. Reduce the heat, add the noodles and continue turning in the sauce until they stick together
6. Top noodles with the pickled garlic, fresh chili and thinly sliced kaffir lime
7. Garnish with bean sprouts, Chinese chives and coriander leaves.



Chef Rossarin Sriprathum

Chef in focus

Chef Rossarin Sriprathum / Thai Chef at Celadon Restaurant / The Sukhothai Bangkok

Born and raised in Thailand, Chef Rin was inspired to cook by her grandmothers who are also Thai Chef and Thai Pâtissier. She observed how they prepared and cooked the food with homey recipes combining with some secret techniques.

Chef Rin began her career when she was only 20 years old. With more than 10 years at The Regent Bangkok (currently The Four Seasons Bangkok), Chef Rin had an exclusive experience in presenting traditional Thai cuisine for many Thai food promotions in various countries including Australia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Japan. Then, she moved to England to be Assistant Head Chef at the renowned Siam House Restaurant and Millennium Hilton Bangkok before joining The Sukhothai Bangkok.

With more than 20 years' experience, Chef Rin focuses on traditional recipes and their original taste, which is the unique character of Celadon.

The Sukhothai Bangkok 13/3 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120, Thailand. Tel: 02 344 8888



Brewski, Bangkok's unique Split Level Rooftop Craft Beer Bar

Enjoy craft beers and ciders at Radisson Blu Plaza Bangkok

IF you're into craft beers and ciders sourced from some of the world's best brewers, then Brewski at Radisson Blue Plaza is your heaven on earth.

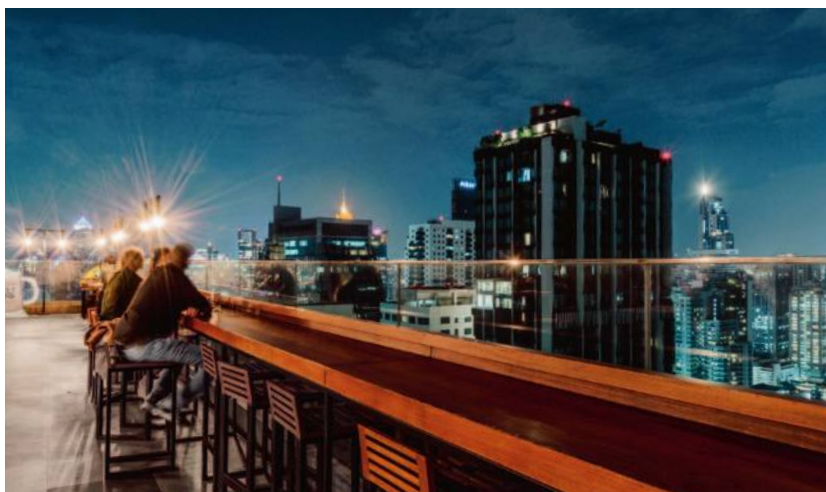
With around 100 different varieties in stock, Brewski is a popular haunt for expats, locals and tourists who really appreciate the unique tastes of these special brews on tap.

Located on the hotel's 29th and 30th floors, Brewski is also the highest duplex rooftop craft beer bar in Thailand, offering spectacular views of the city from the top floor open terrace or the enclosed lower floor.

An original menu of Thai and international bar snacks to complement the beers has been specially created by Executive Chef Nicolas Van Riemsdijk. These include the 'Brewski Burger', made from a wagyu beef and served most appropriately with beer battered fries, and another Signature Dish - Brewski Double Dog.

Also definitely worth trying are the Thai beer snacks featuring local sausages and minced pork.

Enjoy full coverage of international sports events on multi screens on both levels.



There is comfortable seating that can accommodate up to 150 guests and the state-of-the-art cooling system makes Brewski the perfect spot for large groups, hanging out with colleagues and friends, or private hire for trendy functions and parties.

Brewski Rooftop Craft Beer Bar on the 30th & 29th level, open daily from 17:00 – 01.00 hrs (last orders 00.30).

For more information, email brewski.bangkok@radisson.com or call: 02 302 3333.

Radisson **BLU**
PLAZA BANGKOK

Why cooking as a career?

I love working in the industry. I have always been amazed how flavors come out when butting them together. Add herbs and spices to a pot of boiling water and you have an amazing soup.

Two biggest influences on your career?

One would be my Mom, having seen her in our home kitchen when I grew up. Also my very good friend Carsten Kyster whom I still think is one of the most creative chefs I have worked with, his food is incredible.

Best early kitchen experience?

Coming straight out of cooking school and working in a small kitchen in Copenhagen, didn't see the light of the day but I loved it.

Worst kitchen experience?

I'm very emotional when I cook, so when someone doesn't like what we are doing it gets to me.

Best meal you've ever had?

I probably have had better meals but I would say Christmas dinner at home, my Mom would do roasted turkey with gravy, sugar glazed potatoes and pickles. Rice pudding and cherry sauce for dessert.

What's your cooking philosophy?

Quality ingredients, fun in the kitchen. Work with your team and they will go the extra mile with you.

What's your signature dish?

On our menu we have a dry aged beef tartare, 45-60 days aged beef with cured egg yolk on toast. It has great flavors of the dry aging.

Favorite cookbook?

Lots of favorite but I think David Thompsons Thai food is outstanding

Meet the Chef

Morten Bojstrup Nielsen

Executive Chef



Who would you like to cook for?

Anyone who comes in to our restaurants, be thankful that someone wants to come and spend their hard earned money in your restaurant.

Utensils you can't do without?

My small tweezers always come in handy,

Most influential chef?

I think Anthony Bourdain has influenced many of us with his approach. Also Rene Redzepi is one of few.

Music you listen to while cooking?

While working in London we were listening to all sorts of music, I think music and good colleagues are the perfect combination.

Best advice you've ever received?

Would you serve this to your Mom.

What is your favorite dish to cook for yourself?

I like when tasting new meats coming in or tasting the aging process we do here at the restaurant, a piece of meat straight off the grill with a bit of sea salt and fresh ground pepper.

Favorite dish cooked by someone else?

The noodle soup from the shop just around the corner of the hotel or the chicken and rice next door. Simple and tasty.

What is next for you?

It's 5.18pm so dinner service would be next for me, hahahahaha. We just opened Hotel Indigo Phuket Patong so right now I'm focusing on what we are doing here, and what's next.

Most difficult ingredient to cook with?

Not sure, I think cooking with an ingredient I don't like but sometimes have to is difficult.

How do you keep in touch with latest food trends?

Social media, cook books, eating out when I have time.

Greatest achievement to date?

Where I am now, it has taken years and hard work.

Famous people you've cooked for.

Rene Redzepi, Rasmus Koefoed, Crown Prince of Denmark, Janet Jackson +++

Chef in focus

■ **Chef Morten Bojstrup Nielsen:** Executive chef with over 18 years of cooking experience from all over the world.

Butcher's Garden, Hotel Indigo Phuket Patong. Tel: 076 609 900

Hotel Indigo Phuket Patong Instagram page

Facebook: @HotelIndigoPhuketPatong OR Twitter@HotelIndigo

<http://phuketpatong.hotelindigo.com>, email address: hotelindigopatong.reservations@ihg.com

GOOD FOOD FOR
GOOD HEALTH

FOODLAND
Supermarket
OPEN 24 HOURS

**Freshest
Produce
Everyday**

Foodland stands for the
highest level of customer
satisfaction and commitment
to provide the best service.

THINK OF FOOD THINK OF **FOODLAND**

www.foodland.co.th
www.facebook.com/foodland24hours
www.instagram.com/foodland24hours
www.tiktok.com/@foodland24hours

SHOP
AROUND
THE
CLOCK

Award Winning
Bourbon St. Restaurant & Oyster Bar Boutique Hotel

Est. 1986
Cajun Creole Cuisine
from New Orleans
Serving 07:00 am - 01:00 am
Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner

- Fresh Oyster • Boiled Shrimp
- Smoked BBQ Ribs • Steaks
- Pizzas • Tacos

info@bourbonstbkk.com bourbonstbkk

9/93-40 Sukhumvit 63 (Ekamai) Klongtan-Nua,
Wattana Bangkok 10110, Thailand tel : 0 2381 6801-3

Bourbon St.

Map: The map shows the location of Bourbon St. at the intersection of Sukhumvit Road and Ekamai Road. It is near the BTS station and the Honda building. The map also shows the location of the restaurant and the hotel, and the surrounding area including the Ekamai BTS station and the Honda building.



Get away from the hustle and bustle of the city and head to Tenderloins @ Bistro 33, Sukhumvit's most popular neighborhood restaurant and sports bar.

We're renowned for our quality Steaks, home-made Burgers, fantastic oven-baked Pizzas, plus a la carte Thai and international specialties. All reasonably priced and complemented by a great wine list.

We're open all-day, so come for breakfast, lunch and daily brunch, after-work drinks or dinner. And don't miss our fantastic Sunday Brunch, stacked with all kinds of temptations.

For birthday parties, meetings, social occasions and friendly get-togethers, Tenderloins @ Bistro 33 is the ideal venue. We have spacious air-conditioned rooms and conservatory or outdoor gardens. Plus full catering service. Unpretentious, fun, friendly, Tenderloins @ Bistro 33 is Bangkok's hang-out venue of choice.



Tenderloins @ Bistro 33

- Serving all-day brasserie classics
- Authentic Thai dishes
- Tranquil al fresco patio and pond
- Lunch Buffet Mon-Fri 199 ฿
- Family Sunday Brunch
- Live sports coverage
- Perfect party and meeting venue
- Consistent quality and exceptional value
- Catering for outside events
- Ample parking

TENDERLOINS @ BISTRO33

22 Soi Sukhumvit 33 (Daeng Udom) Klongton Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110
Tel: 02-260-3033 Fax: 02-260-3034, Mobile: +66(0) 991944251
www.thebistro33.com

CATERING & EVENTS



SUNDAY BRUNCH “ALL YOU CAN EAT & DRINK”

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ADULTS 1,500 ฿ w/ ALCOHOL

600 ฿ w/ JUICE & SOFT DRINKS

TEENS 300 ฿ w/ JUICE & SOFT DRINKS

12 UNDER 150 ฿ w/ JUICE & SOFT DRINKS

TEL : 02-260-3033 FOR FULL DETAILS



PROMOTION OF THE MONTH

**Steak Dinner with
Starter & Dessert
includes two (150ML)
glasses of wine
1099 ฿**

- Thai French Tenderloin
- Australian Black Angus
- Argentina Striploin



**All Prices are subject
to government tax 7%**

Food & Drink

Bangkok's hottest dining deals and news



Live Crab Delights

Indulge yourself in a memorable experience with live crab at Man Ho Chinese restaurant at JW Marriott Hotel Bangkok. Available until March 31, the live crab menu includes stir-fried live crab with yellow curry sauce or wok-fried with Singaporean sauce, and for a special sensation the stir-fried live crab or steamed live crab will create great dining memories.

📍 02 656 7700 ext. 4413. mhrs.bkkdt.manho.restaurant@marriotthotels.com



Homemade Artisan Pizzas

If you've been waiting to explore fusion pizza, then Bangkok Pizza is just what you need with more than 12 styles of unique pizza including 3 for a taste of Siam, 3 for a taste of Japan, 4 signature flavours and more! Try Larb Moo Pizza, Okonomiyaki Pizza, Cajun Seafood Pizza and other authentic combinations from 329++ baht delivered fresh and hot every day from 11am to midnight.

📍 <https://www.foodpanda.co.th/restaurant/u8sy/bangkok-pizza>



Iberian Peninsula Highlights

Often rated as the ideal region for raising livestock roaming free and feeding on natural products, the Iberian Peninsula produces exceptional quality meats with marvellous tenderness and unforgettable flavours

including pork tenderloin with chorizo, mild lamb saddle fillet, rib-eye beef, and cold cuts. The District Grill Room & Bar at Marriott 57 presents Chef Caluwaert's premium menu until March 31 for dinner daily from 6pm to 11pm and Sunday Brunch 11.30am to 3pm.

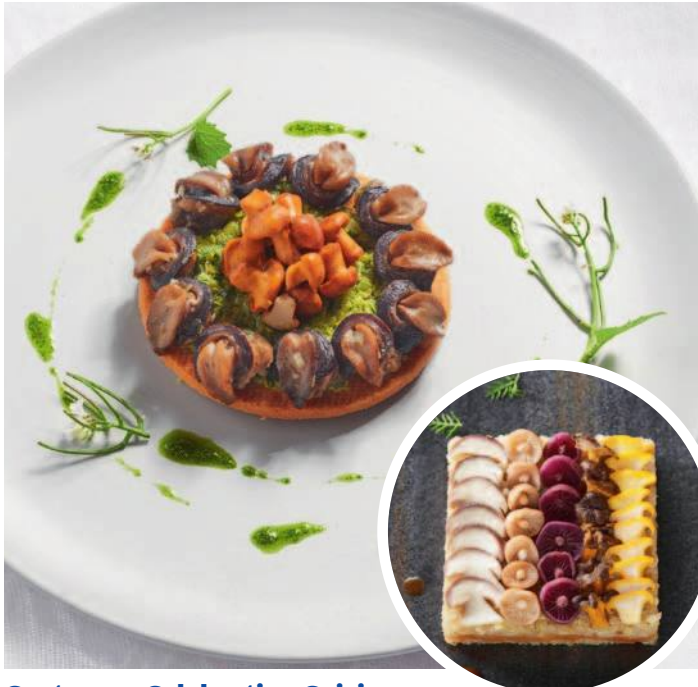
📍 02-797-0000. diningbangkok@marriott.com



Hit the Roast Buffet

Every Thursday at Hilton Sukhumvit, Dee Lite's 'Hit the Roast' buffet dinner includes roasted pork ribs, Virginia honey glazed ham, and flame-grilled Hamburg steak. Plus Samurai Town corner, Salmon station and Seafood Corner with freshly-shucked oysters, a free-flow beer/wine/spirits package and complimentary frozen cocktails for ladies from 8-9pm. Dine from 1,250 baht net with live entertainment.

📍 02 649 6666. bkk-su.fb@hilton.com



Centenary Celebration Cuisine

For three days from February 28, Prime Restaurant at Millennium Hilton Bangkok brings globally renowned Master Chef Jacques Marcon's Michelin-starred expertise to create seven-course set dinners and five-course set lunches with the opportunity to relish selected wine pairings at each event. Featuring extraordinary ingredients, notably fresh mushrooms, these outstanding dining experiences are each limited to 50 guests, with prices starting at 5,500 baht net.

📍 02 442 2000. bangkok.hilton.com



Unlock Hidden Treasures

Join the culinary hunt with special food and beverage promotions at Scarlett Wine Bar & Restaurant with outstanding offers from Scarlett's Hidden Treasure, subject to terms and conditions. Mondays see selected sparkling wines, Tuesdays bring juicy Fine de Claire oysters, Wednesdays offer imported prime ribs, and Weekends have bangkok's stunning golden hour at sunset. Open from 6pm (5pm at weekends).

📍 02 352 4000. www.facebook.com/Scarlettwinebarbangkok



Chilling outdoors at Red Sky

During this cool season, enjoy the rooftop bar and incredible 55th floor views from Red Sky's outside terrace, open from 11:30am until the end of March for the critically-acclaimed international fine-dining menu. Throughout the day the à la carte popular favourites can also be enjoyed from the venue's indoor dining room, so your satisfaction is there waiting for any weather.

📍 02 100 6255. www.centarahotelsresorts.com/redsky



Sumptuous Dim Sum Brunch

Diners can enjoy all-you-can-eat dim sum brunch with unlimited signature BBQ dishes at Shangri-La Hotel Bangkok's Shang Palace every Saturday from 23 February between 11:30am and 2:30pm, including Steamed Shrimp Dumpling, Steamed Siew Mai with Crab, Crispy Pork Belly, Honey Glazed Pork Char Siew, Peking Duck, Suckling Pig and abundant traditional Cantonese desserts. This exquisite brunch is priced at 1,488 baht net.

📍 02 236 7777. www.shangri-la.com/bangkok/shangrila/dining/restaurants/shang-palace/book-a-table/



Time for Tea

Relish your afternoon with the Afternoon Tea Set at Lobby Bar, 8th Floor Mercure Bangkok Makkasan, and enjoy savoury scones, finger sandwiches, a variety of pastries, desserts and fruits, all served on an exquisite 3-tier tray. Available daily throughout the month from 2pm to 5pm priced at 399++ baht for two people.

📍 02 115 3333 ext. 5304. www.mercure.com/8422



Kurobuta Pork - Japan to Bangkok

Tuck into a pork-lover's feast as Benihana at Avani Atrium Bangkok brings you deliciously rich and beautifully soft Kurobuta pork, seared and sizzled to perfection on the Teppanyaki grill. This indulgent set, complete with appetisers, veggies and rice is generously priced 1,699++ baht per set.

📍 02 718 2000. sutti_ma@avanihotels.com



Summer Delicacy : Kaow Chae

Delve into a delicious set of Kaow Chae at Spice Market, Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel from March 4 – April 19, 2019. This traditional Thai cuisine of steamed rice soaked in cool jasmine-scented water is served with six tasty typical Thai side dishes including Kapi Song Krueng, Pla Yie Son and Prik Yuak Sod Sai. Available daily except Sunday between 11:30am and 2:30pm at 720++ baht per set.

📍 02 126 8866 ext. 1232. www.siam-bangkok.anantara.com



Traditional Phuket Food

Discover the flavours of traditional Phuket food from March 1 - 17 at Erawan Tea Room, Grand Hyatt Erawan including stir-fried melinjo leaves with egg, deep-fried mullet with fresh turmeric, braised pork belly with Thai herbs, or Southern spicy sour soup with giant catfish egg, plus many more. Prices start from 280++ baht. Thai afternoon tea is also available from 2:30pm to 6pm daily at 650++ baht per person.

📍 02 254 6250. restaurants.bangkok@hyatt.com



ESTD 2018

THE STEAKHOUSE CO.

PUB - BAR & GRILL

HAPPY HOURS! 

12 Noon - 8pm
Every Day

LIVE SPORTS · STEAKS · RIBS · BURGERS

OPEN 11.30AM TILL 2AM · 7 DAYS A WEEK · LOCATED IN THE HEART OF SILOM

Sunday Carvery/Bufferet 12 Noon till 6pm B.495

WWW.THESTEAKHOUSECO.COM

RESERVATIONS: 06 - 109 Steak (78325) Email: office@thesteakhouseco.com

9/8 Thanon Phat Pong 2, Bangrak, Bangkok Thailand 10500

Free parking / BTS Sala Daeng/ MRT Silom



[Thesteakhouseco.bangkok](https://www.facebook.com/thesteakhouseco.bangkok)



[tripadvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com)



wongnai

Find us on TripAdvisor and Wongnai



Line ID

All prices include VAT and service charge. Prices subject to change without notice



Indulgent Afternoon Tea

Bangkok Marriott Hotel The Surawongse invites you to experience the Thai Afternoon Tea Set for Two at the Lobby Lounge, featuring a selection of delectable Thai classic desserts and savouries such as mini curry puffs, pandan chicken, egg custard with sticky rice and seasonal fruit scones complemented by Ronnefeldt tea or Paksong coffee. Served between 12 noon and 6pm at 598++ baht per set for 2 persons.

📍 02 088 5666.

www.bangkokmarriottsurawongse.com



Irresistible U.S. Beef Steaks

The true melt-in-the-mouth delight of exquisite premium U.S. beef steaks grilled and cooked to perfection is available from Riverside Grill at Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel and Towers until April 30 including 250g striploin skewers and 320g rib-eyes with choice vegetables and sauces. The Riverside experience its easily accessible with complimentary shuttle boat service every half hour from Saphan Taksin BTS and ICONSIAM, with prices starting from 790++ baht.

📍 02 266 0123. www.facebook.com/royalorchidsheratonhotel



Catch of the Day Seafood Buffet

Get the freshest seafood at The Square Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square, including king crab, prawns, rock lobster, salmon, oysters, scallops, cuttlefish, and more. Our chefs will prepare your choice in many styles, with other highlights like DIY tuna tartare, Cioppino (Italian fish stew), a cheese fondue fountain, and a pizza/pasta station. Available 6pm to 10:30pm at 1,620++ baht, with up to 60% off when booked online.

📍 02 209 8888.

www.novotelbkk.com/offers/catch-of-the-day/

River Prawns and Lamb Chops

The Square restaurant at Novotel Bangkok Impact presents the Ayutthaya River Prawns and Lamb Chops Buffet, the best buffet in Muang Thong! Pick your favourite seafood and meat, send it for grilling and then enjoy with a delicious cheese fondue. At 1,499 baht net per person excluding drinks, this outstanding buffet can be yours at 50% discount of booked in advance online. Available until April 7, weekends only, 12 noon to 3pm and 6pm to 10pm.

📍 02 833 4888.





Amazing Wang Hinghoi - the Palace of Firefly

Restaurant goes to the heart of nature with its 'Water' themed menus highlighting the element of life and living.



WANG Hinghoi, which translated also means 'Palace of Firefly', is a Thai-inspired restaurant offering guests a fine dining experience among hundreds of fireflies in a beautiful venue, where themes representing the elemental forces of the Earth-Water-Wind-Fire are magically created to excite the palette and senses.

The restaurant's latest theme 'Water' presents a new style Thai cuisine together with Dhata-wari, an Aqua Elemental Exhibition.

Suprerck Rojwongsuriya, Vice President, explains that Wang Hinghoi revitalizes forgotten urban experiences by combining nature with a metropolitan lifestyle.

Wang Hinghoi is the owners' first restaurant project, and features an easily accessible area of 1,000 sq m. The project will be eventually expanded to include a sport complex and community mall.

"Our restaurant is designed as a home of fireflies, which are the symbol of fertility, using the theme concept and narrative about ecology and naturalness, consisting of the four elements - Earth-Water-Wind-Fire," said Khun Suprerck.

"Together, they match perfectly our restaurant atmosphere.

"It is our intention to support the coexistence between nature and the city to express our themes. This has inspired our menu which uses organic ingredients specially sourced and selected from local nature in Thailand. We also have the Glow Museum art exhibition area, which will give customers a new dining experience known as "An Enchanted Dining Experience".

The themes Earth-Water-Wind-Fire will last for four months, with the last two months featuring a summary of all the stories that will communicate the balance of nature between the chaos of the city and nature. "We

have created new ideas using carefully chosen main ingredients and Thai cooking methods. The result is special menu presented in form of Thai-inspired cuisine by Wang Hinghoi.

The 'Water' theme offers a set menu of Thai dishes, inspired by a new interpretation of traditional Thai food featuring creativity in every aspect of the actual cooking and service process.

"Our 'Water' theme gets its inspiration from the fact that water accounts for three quarters of the elements on Earth, flowing through and sustaining life.

Chef Nick-Nutthapol Pavapaiboon, Chef Off-Natawoot Thammaphan and Chef Aon-Suwijuk Kaewsirimongkol have selected organic ingredients from local sources and presented the cuisine to look like western food to raise the level of internationalization. The menu for the Water theme is called 'Blue Planet Set'.

The 'Aqua Elemental Exhibition' in the Glow Museum has never been seen anywhere before. It includes a special Bio Art of Soil and Water, representing the Moon and the occurrence of water.

The restaurant will open for 18 months only, coinciding with the life cycle of the Firefly, which will also end in 18 months.

Enjoy a remarkable experience with Wang Hinghoi at RCA Golf Course on Kamphaeng Phet 7 Road or take MRT to Phetchaburi Station followed by local transportation. Open daily at 18.30-00.00 hrs.

For more information, Tel: 091 979 6226
www.wanghinghoi.com/Facebook: WangHingHoi

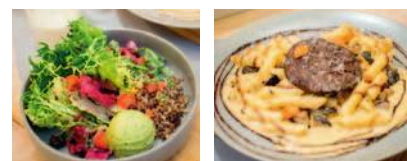


Cozy Coffee Corner

Founded by coffee addict Mr Sakda Boonkittiporn, this specialty coffee shop in Yenakart offers its own blends (Sunny and Cloudy) to suit your mood with accompanying breakfast or irresistible homemade pastries in a classic Victorian architectural surroundings which will lift your spirits and zap your tastebuds. Open daily from 7am to 7pm at 30 Yenakart Rd, Sathorn with parking available.

New on the scene

Hot new restaurants, bars & cafés in Bangkok



Healthy and French style café

Global fashion magazine Elle presents a modern urban lifestyle for the health conscious at Elle Café on 4th Floor of Siam Takashimaya at ICONSIAM with quality ingredients, food styling, innovative fresh preparations and portion control. The café's unique blend of Thai and European cultures delivers femininity and delicacy in a lively and bright environment, creating interaction between people and the creative ideas at the monthly activities.



Made-To-Order Mexican

The globally known chain of Mexican-inspired quick service restaurants, Taco Bell, serves made-to-order and customisable tacos and burritos with the boldest and freshest flavours, offering an innovative menu to fit your lifestyle, be it high protein, low calorie or low fat, indulgent, or one of the ultimate classics. Taco Bell's iconic design includes an open kitchen concept on 1st Floor Mercury Ville in Chidlom, open every day from 10am to 10pm.





Guest review by

Bangkok
Beefsteak &
Burgundy

First visit to Galleria Milano is a great success

THIS was our first visit to Galleria Milano, tucked away in the Mille Malle at the far end of Sukhumvit 20, where Michelin-starred Chef Roland Schuller and his team of attentive lasses were at hand to welcome us. They did a great job.

Our Apéritif, Domaine François Pinon Vouvray Brut NV (Loire valley), found favour with most of the 21 diners. This traditional method sparkling wine is made from 100% Chenin Blanc from

Quail Périgord Truffle, which featured generous shavings of the prized fungus along with delicious portions of quail that was cooked to perfection. This was paired with Cederberg Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 (Western Cape, SA), which proved to another good match for the food, though it is perhaps still a bit young.

Venison with Rustic Polenta and Chestnut Honey, Chestnut Purée and Blueberry Juice was

Cream and Cherries, which was both delicious and surprisingly light and not overly sweet. The pairing with Cantina Bartolo Mascarello Langhe Nebbiolo 2013 (Barolo, Piedmont) did



not receive too many compliments, but the group still managed to see off all of the bottles provided.

The finale was a Cheese Platter featuring Parmigiano Reggiano Stravecchio, Reblochon, Comté, and Truffled Brie. This was served with the remaining Nebbiolo and Dow's 10 Year Tawny Port provided by birthday boys Mark Guthrie and David Dean;

old vines and spent over 18 months on lees in the bottle lending complexity and depth to the style.

Knowing in advance that our starter was to be Cantabria Anchovies and Tuna Tartare with Caviar and Tofu-Yuzu Emulsion, some of us deliberated on a suitable matching wine. Thomas Boedinger's final choice of Domaine Frédéric Lornet Arbois Nature 2015 (Jura) was confirmed by wine spokesman Tom Whitcraft, to be an excellent one.

Made from the indigenous Savagnin grape variety, it was not too dry and even had some hints of apple. Food spokesman John MacTaggart singled out the tuna which was especially nice and the dish colourful.

The next course was Fettucine with

our main dish. Chef Roland did an excellent job of cooking the venison just short of medium rare; overall this was a really excellent presentation.

To accompany it, Thomas had selected Hacienda Monasterio Crianza 2014 (Ribera del Duero, Spain), for which Robert Parker had awarded 94 points. "The secret was an early harvest to keep the acidity and freshness in the wine and keep the alcoholic degree under control. It's mostly Tempranillo, with 10% each Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, fermented with indigenous yeasts and with long and soft macerations. It matured for some 18 months in French oak barrels". A big and lovely wine said Tom.

For dessert, we enjoyed a Sfogliatelle da Napoli with Milk Ice



both the port and cheese received universal praise.

It took a considerable time for the crowd to disperse, but not before Mark and David had taken the opportunity to thank the Galleria Milano team for their hard work and skill.

@ Mille Malle, 107 Sukhumvit Rd
Soi 20, Khlong Tan Nuea, Watthana,
Bangkok 10110. Tel: 02 663 4988



O'Malley's upgraded menu is just what the customers want

Popular Irish pub on Silom Road offers great value food and drinks

An entirely new and improved menu awaits customers at O'Malley's Irish Pub & Restaurant on Silom Road. Launched after listening carefully to its customers' comments since opening three months ago, the result is confirmation that O'Malley's is not only the friendliest pub in central Bangkok but also the best value.

Head Chef Authaiwan Kaibootr, known by everyone as Bee, has used her cookery school training to create a wide choice of delicious dishes to suit O'Malley's clientele, including all-time Irish favorites, international classics and a tempting array of Thai food. Genuine Irish ingredients and top quality local artisan products feature extensively in many of the dishes.

Appetizers just don't better than O'Malley's Irish Oak Smoked Salmon, and don't miss great mains like the Irish Beer Burger made with Guinness, Homemade Irish stew or traditional favorites like Bangers and Mash, and

Fish and Chips. For a real man size dish, try the Full Irish breakfast.

O'Malley's also serves pasta and pizzas, plus a great selection of Thai specialties.

Meanwhile, the upgraded three-course Sunday Roast is still a bargain at 399 baht for beef and lamb, and 350 baht for chicken, all accompanied by a soup and dessert.

The Early Bird Breakfast includes two sausages, egg, baked beans, hash brown, tomatoes and rashers of bacon for only 199 baht.

There is also a choice of six Set Lunches, including Fish & Chips, Grilled Beef, Chicken Wrap & Chips or Soup & Sandwich for just 199 baht.

Bee has also upgraded the pub's drinks list, so that it now includes some really exotic cocktails, together with all kinds of local and imported beers and wines.

Happy hours run from 4-8pm Monday to Friday, and 12-8pm on Saturday and Sunday, with prices



starting at only 100 baht for a pint of Tiger and a shade more for other popular brands. Premium beers like Guinness, Kilkenny and imported ciders cost just 199 baht. Bottled beers are priced from 105 baht and house wine at 135 baht a glass.

A bottle of O'Malley's 'Wine of the Month' is 995 baht.

If you're a regular, don't miss out on O'Malley's Loyalty Card. There's a 10% discount on every item (except 'pub 'specials') for frequent visitors

www.omalleys.com



O'Malley's

Irish Pub & Restaurant



Cold Beers 🍀 Great Food 🍀 TV Sports 🍀 Live Music
Sunday Roast (12 noon to 11.30pm) 🍀 Early Bird Breakfast 199 baht
🍀 Special Lunch deals

Best venue on Silom Road to relax, meet friends
and enjoy great food and drinks.

Easy walking distance from the Sala Daeng BTS
Skytrain station and MRT station.

O'Malley's Irish Pub Bangkok
B/F, United Center Building, 323 Silom Road, Bangkok 10500
www.omalleysbkk.com

The IT expert from Kazakhstan

Irina Afonina's business booms in Cambodia while she lives in Bangkok

By Ruth Gerson

■ In the male-dominated world of information technology, a young woman from Kazakhstan, a state in the former Soviet Union, has made her mark. Irina Afonina owns and runs Cresittel, headquartered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which she visits on a regular basis while she and her family reside in Bangkok.

Irina's company provides software development for mobile applications as well as human resource systems – one of the largest Cambodia.

Irina's story begins in Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, where she studied IT at a technical university. Despite her high marks, IT was not her first career choice. She wanted to study psychological therapy and help people with deep rooted problems.

This was influenced by personal experiences as a number of friends had come to her for help with their emotional difficulties, some quite serious. Her mother, however, a strong and practical woman, steered Irina in a different direction – towards IT which was just taking off in Kazakhstan. "She is such a strong and stubborn woman that it was just easier to listen to her," Irina says.

Her mother was acting from knowledge, having been employed by the German embassy in Almaty, with exposure beyond the borders of Kazakhstan. She noticed through her work that Germany in the late 1990s was outsourcing much of its electronic work to India, and that gave her ideas for her daughter's future.



Irina did not waste any time, enrolling in IT courses and working for one of the first internet providers in the country while studying. When that company failed, she began working nights at a call center that served Kazakhstan only, where she experienced and learned mobile technology from the ground up that was to serve her well in her future endeavors.

Her employers recognized Irina's natural intelligence and found more challenging positions for her within their business concern, and so began a rotation of work roles, most of them lasting a few months.

The real breakthrough came when the business purchased a billing solution from Israel. It was Irina's first taste of what lay outside in the wide world, and at the age of 22 she wanted

to be part of it. When Amdocs, the Israeli company, offered her a working position in Bangladesh she jumped at the opportunity.

Working in Bangladesh was difficult, and so Irina was moved once again, this time to Azerbaijan, then to Indonesia, and Vietnam and back to Dhaka in Bangladesh, and Cambodia, working on projects in these countries. When asked where she actually lived, she answered: "My base was the airplane."

Did she like this country hopping? Being young and adventurous she enjoyed the luxury of five-star hotels and all the amenities that her job provided. The cycle was finally broken when Amdocs offered to relocate her from Cambodia to Africa, and she refused to move there.

Irina however stood on firm ground, as she was the one to introduce Amdocs into Cambodia through her contacts in Kazakhstan. In late 2007 she decided to stay there and found a position with Visor Group Shareholders, which was one of the four mobile phone companies in Cambodia.

After two years, in 2009, Irina opened her own business. Although at this point there were nine mobile operators in Cambodia, all were using imported software solutions. There was nothing that was produced locally. "So I decided to close the gap and provide the services with my own business solutions." And that is what she did.



“

I knew that I could develop software technology better than anyone in Cambodia, and teach the many bright Cambodian minds that did not have any opportunities.

"I knew that I could develop software technology better than anyone in Cambodia, and teach the many bright Cambodian minds that did not have any opportunities." In order to expose them to life outside Cambodia she took the people who worked for her to Israel, Cyprus, Azerbaijan, Moscow and Bangkok, small and different groups each time.

Cresittel opened its doors with five employees, all Cambodian, but it was already a known enterprise in Cambodia's IT world. The day before the official inauguration, Irina was approached by a customer with urgent needs and took the job right there and then. And when asked what the name of her company was - she did not have any name yet - Irina created the name on the spot, one that she thought suitable using parts of creative solutions IT telecom and the name stuck.

Today, after nine years of managing her business, Irina employs 29 people both Cambodian and foreign nationals. She has relocated to Thailand, at first commuting between Bangkok and Phnom Penh, but has now made Bangkok her base where she lives with her husband and baby son. Irina travels to Cambodia once or twice a month as needed, staying one working week at a time. No matter where she is, she continues to work long hours, "I even worked in the hospital the first day after my son was born", she confided. And what are her plans for the future? "To continue growing the business!"

Contact: irina.afonina@cresittel.com



■ It started as a six-page story. A young girl, Snow Flake, transfers to a new school and wants to fit in. The story paralleled the young author's situation. Natchariya "Mai" was transferring from Thai school to an international school in Bangkok. Her dominant language at the time was Thai and her father thought she might have trouble adjusting.

Instead of making language the challenge in the story, Snow Flake has large and unusual feet. She attempts to hide them, but sits next to the class bully, Cannon Ball. Thus, begins the conflict.



Only ten years old, Mai co-authors her first book

A father and daughter write an oddball story addressing issues of identity and bullying in this humorous, heartfelt journey.



Mai and dad Greg at the book launch





Mai and her father, Greg Beatty, developed the story over two years. Mai helped with plot twists and forbid her father to write a Hollywood ending. The 112-page story unfolds with dramatic and hilarious consequences, but Mai insisted, “I didn’t want Snow Flake and Cannon Ball to get together at the end.”

Snow Flake’s journey is a hero’s journey. On her quest, she learns that her unique physical appearance is nothing to be ashamed of, and in fact, it becomes an attribute when she needs to perform a heroic deed. Mai says, “Kids will relate to Snow Flake’s goal because everyone wants to be accepted by their peers. And all kids face challenges.”

The authors believe that Snow Flake is a good learning partner because the protagonist must think creatively to overcome challenges. As the story moves along, she builds confidence. Mai explains, “One of the themes is the importance of trying. You don’t always have to win. Snow Flake trains hard for the Big Race, even though she knows she can’t win. Instead, she tries to beat Cannon Ball.”

Cannon Ball, the villain, is not your everyday bad boy. He has a talent for hip-hop. Mai and her father enjoy Shel Silverstein poems, so the story is interspersed with several poems in the hip-hop voice of Cannon Ball.

“The most surprising thing I learned in co-writing this book was that it takes a long time to develop a story,” says Mai. They revised it nearly fifty times throughout the two

years of writing. As Mai’s English language improved, they had to periodically change the level of vocabulary.

Mai adds, “The most fun was coming up with kooky names for the characters. Joe King tells a lot of jokes. Tish Hughes cries a lot. Anna Conda likes to give smothering hugs, and so on.” Snow Flake has seventeen classmates and they all have names attributable to their personality. The teachers are not spared. The pugnacious math teach is fortuitously named, Calculus Clay.

The authors hope that readers will see how Snow Flake’s uniqueness is not a barrier to being accepted by her peers and how her unique quality brings rewards to others.

Snow Flake and The Big Race is targeted for 8-12-year-olds. The book is superbly illustrated by Thailand resident, Colin Cotterill, also an accomplished author. Mai contributed with some sketches too.

The authors are writing their next book. It’s a kid’s cookbook. The story will continue with Snow Flake and Cannon Ball competing in a baking contest. The story will be supplemented with more than 100 recipes designed by Mai and her aunt, a prominent chef in London. Mai loves to cook when she’s not doing her homework and playing sports after school.

The *Snow Flake* book is available at all leading bookstores in Thailand and on Amazon. An audible version will be released soon, read by Dan Russell, the narrator of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series.



Cricket excitement at the Chiang Mai Sixes

Coming later this month, the week-long Chiang Mai International Cricket Sixes, one of the largest and long-lasting amateur cricket tournaments in the world, having been played every year since 1988.

The 31st tournament brings hundreds of people to visit the historic city of Chiang Mai each year for seven days of partying and cricket.

The 2019 Sixes will run from Sunday, March 31 to Saturday, April 6 at the Chiang Mai Gymkhana Club, where 30 men's teams will be competing for five trophies. The ladies competition involves six teams.

The 2018 champions, NCL Dynamites, will be returning from Bangladesh to defend their title, while local favourites Lanna CC are tipped to win the Bowl again.

New entrants, the RUC Rascals, a gold mining team from Indonesia captained by Colin Harlow, are also expected to field a strong unit, while old favourites including Blythswood CC of the UK, the Tokyo Dingbats, Ios Malakas and the Beijing Ducks all return for another year.

The tournament is a long term supporter of junior cricket in Chiang Mai. Funding provided each year for the maintenance of sports facilities and support of junior cricket coaching is essential to ensure the continuation of cricket in Thailand.

Last year was full of junior cricket events and none more memorably than the Sixes Sawasdee Cup, held at Prem International School in February.

For many years local school the junior cricketers played their matches at Gymkhana Club alongside the main Sixes tournament but in recent years the children from schools across the provinces of Chiang Mai and Lamphun have been brought to the wonderful ground at

Prem International School to play on four pitches cut on the splendid outfield.

Martin and Puy Papworth of the Chiang Mai Schools Cricket Alliance put in weeks of planning to ensure the day was a great success with the 12 teams being divided into three groups so that children of all abilities could play matches of an even standard.

The schools providing teams were longstanding CMSCA members Sahakorn Song and Huai Keaw, the International Schools at Prem and Varee, two combined Lamphun Schools teams, as well as two teams involving children from the CricKids program that has been run on Saturday mornings at Gymkhana.

Huai Keaw A just edged out Lamphun A to win Group A as both teams finished with two wins out of three, Lamphun A surprisingly being beaten by the CricKids teams in their last match. The calculators were out and Huai Keaw were declared the winners as they had scored more runs in their three matches than Lamphun managed. Sahakorn Song A and CricKids A both won one match out of three.

Groups B and C were dominated by teams from Prem International School as both Prem B and Prem C remained unbeaten with three wins out of three. In Group B, Huai Keaw B came second, Sahakorn Song B third, Lamphun Schools fourth, while in Group C, Huai Keaw C came second, CricKids C third and Varee C fourth.

It was a wonderful day's cricket at the David Buck Oval, with all three winning teams received trophies and medals for their players and tribute should also be paid to the older children from Chiang Mai Schools Cricket Association who acted as coaches.

• Heineken 0.0 • Flight of the Gibbon • Tourism Authority of Thailand



Apply now for **KIS** full **IB Diploma** scholarships

As a full IB World School, KIS has a history of excellent results on the IB Diploma. Our graduates are accepted by top ranked universities around the world, often with a university scholarship.

KIS is offering one full IB Diploma scholarship, and partial scholarships for the IB Middle Years Programme and the IB Diploma to inspire individuals to be successful in life.

Apply now if you would like to be considered for an academic scholarship at KIS for 2019 - 2020 and onwards.

For more information or to apply go to www.kis.ac.th or email admissions@kis.ac.th.

Students who win KIS scholarships achieve great IB Diploma results and go to excellent universities.

inspiring individuals

kis

International School
Knowledge Inspiration Spirit

1998-2018





Photography by Tadamasa Nagayama

Johnny Oduya gets first taste of SHL action

Two-time Stanley Cup winner Johnny Oduya played four games in the Sport Corner Siam Hockey League (SHL) in early February, winning three of them.

Oduya played two games on both February 7th and 10th showing little signs of rust although he has not played competitively in six months. Last season in the National Hockey League he teamed up with superstar defenseman Erik Karlsson on the Ottawa Senators blue line to form an elite defending duo.

In Oduya's first SHL game he helped the Novotel Spitfires beat AWARE 4-2, a team that the Spitfires have not beaten all year. In his second match, Oduya joined TRUE and helped that team to a 7-3 win over Hertz.

The drama came in his third appearance, the first game on February 10, when he played for TRUE again, this time against the Novotel Spitfires. The teams were tied at three after regulation time, and then after a 3-on-3 four-minute overtime session they were still tied, so they went to a shoot-out.

Both teams first two shootout attempts failed and Novotel's Michael White failed to win the game on Novotel's third attempt. This sent Oduya in alone on Spitfire keeper Yves Gaboriault and he blasted it by Yves to give TRUE the dramatic victory. Gaboriault had made two spectacular shootout saves prior to Oduya's game-winning goal.

In Oduya's last game, he suited up for Hertz and even though he did score Hertz's lone goal AWARE ran away with this 6-1, scoring three goals in the final four minutes of play.

As we head to the close of the 2018-2019 season, AWARE and Novotel have first and second place locked up respectively, but only one point separates third-place Hertz and last-place TRUE and no team wants to play AWARE in the opening round of the best-of-three semi-final playoffs starting Sunday March 3.

Novotel's Corry Day is still leading the SHL scoring race with 28 points (16G, 12A), while AWARE's Harrison Oztemel sits a point back in second spot with a league-leading twenty-one goals and six assists for 27 points. AWARE's Juhani Ijas is third spot with 13 goals and 12 assists for 24 points. TRUE's Jordan Ashton (13G, 9A) and Novotel's Michael White (9G, 13A) are tied for fourth place with 22 points each.

SHL action take place at the Rink, 7th floor, Central Grand Rama IX, and admission is free; check out the schedule at www.siamhockeyleague.com.

The SHL thanks the BigChilli for sponsoring the SHL News podcast with Dom Dumais. For a typical SHL podcast go to, <https://siamhockeyleague.com/week-16-news/>.

DBS Summer School

A GLOBAL ADVENTURE



DBS SUMMER SCHOOL

A GLOBAL ADVENTURE

- Pre-EY1 to Year 8
- A fully immersive English programme
- Follows British Curriculum (Maths, English, Science)
- Academic and ECA Activities

Name of passenger

Date

Destination

Seat

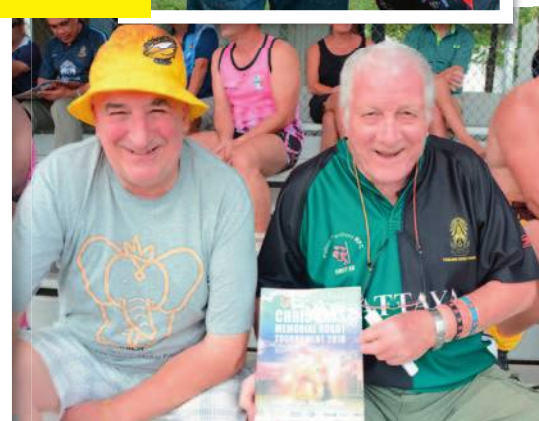


APPLY NOW! CALL 02-666-1933

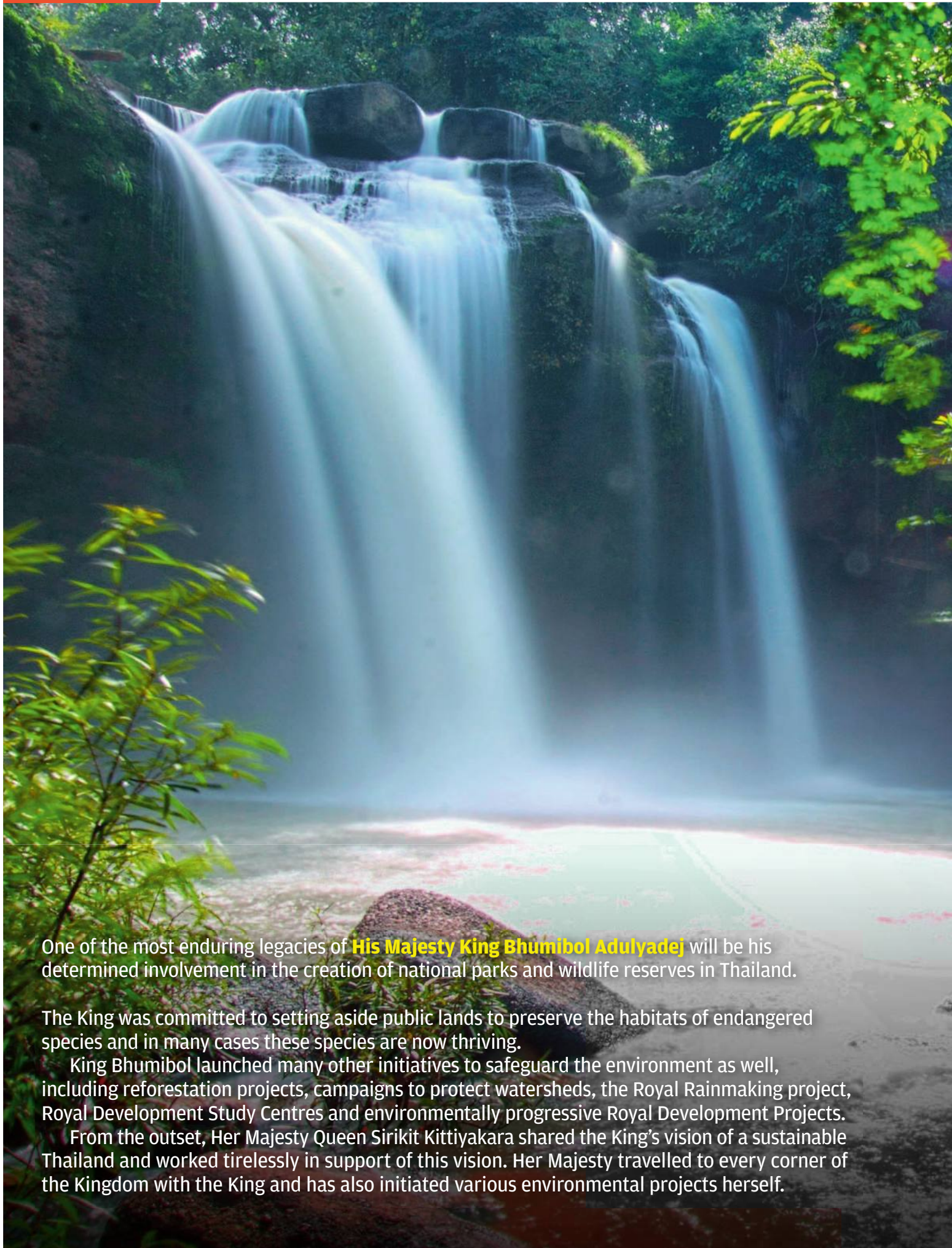


Bangkok Tens a winner again

On and off the pitch, the 10th Bangkok International Rugby Tens once again proved a hugely popular festival of sport for players and spectators in this annual three-day event, held at the Bangkok Pattana School field. As usual, proceeds went to Nak Suu Rugby Academy, a charity to inspire underprivileged youth in Thailand.







One of the most enduring legacies of **His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej** will be his determined involvement in the creation of national parks and wildlife reserves in Thailand.

The King was committed to setting aside public lands to preserve the habitats of endangered species and in many cases these species are now thriving.

King Bhumibol launched many other initiatives to safeguard the environment as well, including reforestation projects, campaigns to protect watersheds, the Royal Rainmaking project, Royal Development Study Centres and environmentally progressive Royal Development Projects.

From the outset, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit Kittiyakara shared the King's vision of a sustainable Thailand and worked tirelessly in support of this vision. Her Majesty travelled to every corner of the Kingdom with the King and has also initiated various environmental projects herself.

THE KINGDOM OF NATURAL TREASURES

With more land and sea set aside for national parks than most countries, Thailand is truly Wonderland

By Maxmilian Wechsler



WHILE Bangkok is at times obscured in a haze generated by over-development, visitors to Thailand are often impressed at the abundance of well-maintained national parks and other public spaces that are off-limits to developers.

Thailand ranks well globally in terms of land set aside as protected areas in proportion of national territory – around 20%. That's 513,120 square kilometers (510,890 km² of terrestrial parks and 2,230 km² of marine parks), and in the coming years this figure is projected to rise to 25%. Which means practically every part of the country is within a short drive of a national park, forest park or nature reserve, and every weekend thousands of Thais, expats and tourists take advantage of this fortunate circumstance.



Khao Yai National Park

An informal survey of Bangkok expats and diplomats found that those who had visited the country's national parks and other protected areas were without exception impressed with their natural beauty and their management.

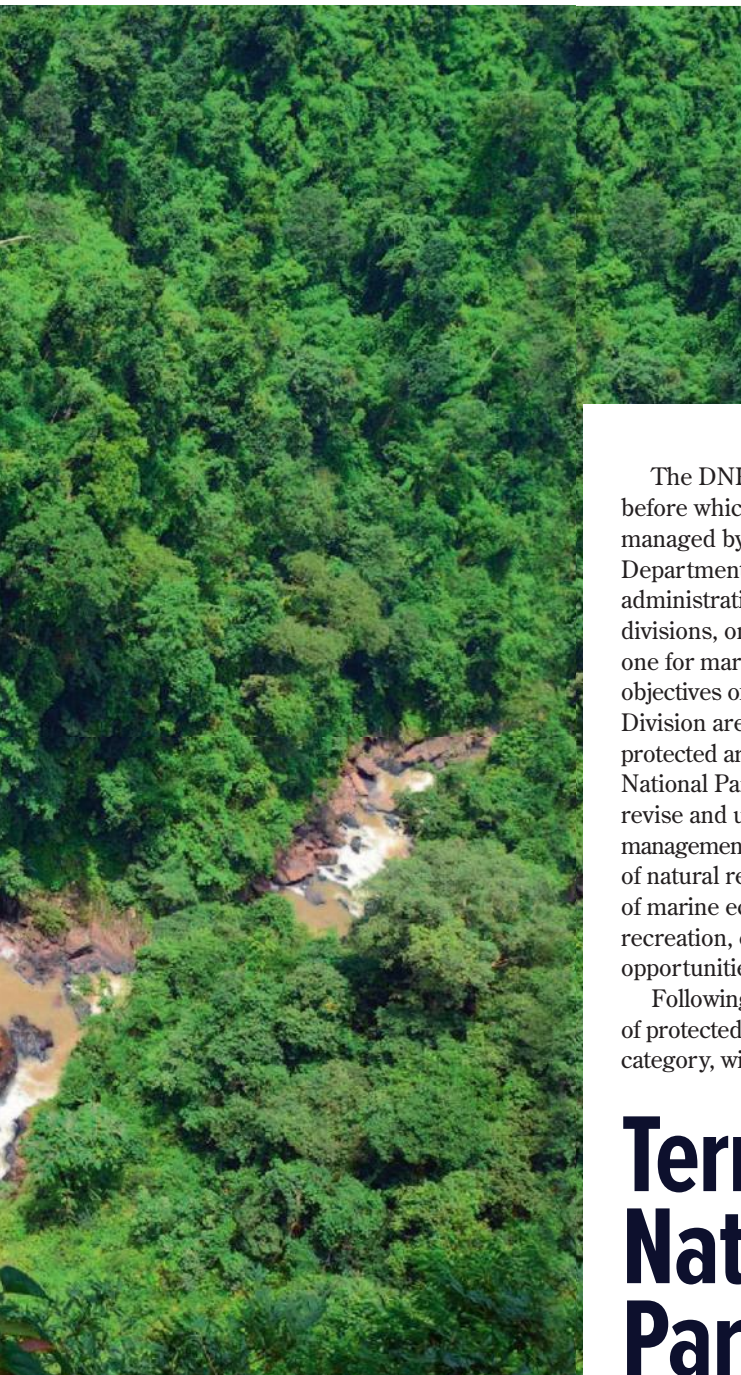
Several had high praise for national park rangers and other staff they'd come across. None were distressed with the two-tiered pricing system that sees foreigners charged more for park entrance than Thais,

and there was general agreement that the experience is worth the money.

According to the Thai language website of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department (DNP), the Kingdom's protected areas include 132 terrestrial national parks, 24 marine national parks, 94 forest parks, 60 wildlife sanctuaries and 56 non-hunting areas. Another 23 land national parks, two marine parks and seven non-hunting areas are in the establishment phase.

All of Thailand's protected areas are monitored by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and each type has a specific designation under the IUCN system. For example, national parks, both terrestrial and marine, fall under category II.

Conservation in Thailand really got off the ground with the passage of the National Park Act B.E. 2504 (1961), which also triggered the establishment of other types of protected areas.



The DNP was established in 2002, before which park administration managed by the Royal Forest Department. In 1993 national parks administration was split between two divisions, one for terrestrial parks and one for marine parks. The stated objectives of the Marine National Park Division are to manage marine protected areas in accordance with the National Park Act; to continuously revise and update marine park management strategies for conservation of natural resources and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems; and to provide recreation, education and research opportunities within the parks.

Following is a broad overview of protected lands in Thailand by category, with some specific examples:

Terrestrial National Parks

One of the most amazing things about Thailand is its diverse and extensive national park system, and terrestrial parks are by far the biggest part of the system. The parks provide safe habitats for endangered plant and animal species and preserve the natural landscape from destruction. They also provide a peaceful refuge for harried city dwellers. Tigers and elephants roam free in some parks, but unfortunately poaching and illegal logging still pose a threat despite the park rangers' best efforts.

Khao Yai National Park

This first national park in Thailand, Khao Yai National Park, created in 1961, covers an area of 2,168 km² in Nakhon Nayok, Nakhon Ratchasima, Prachin Buri and Saraburi provinces. Altitudes range from 400 m to over 1,000 m above sea level. The highest point is Khao Rom at 1,351 meters, followed by Khao Lam at 1,326 m, Khao Keaw at 1,292 m and Khao Sam Yod at 1,142 m. The park encompasses the sources of five major rivers: Prachin Buri, Nakhon Nayok, Lam Ta Kong, Praplerng and Muag Lek Stream.

Khao Yai National Park was designated an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Heritage Park in 1984. Together with other protected areas in the same range and in the Dong Phrayayen Mountains further north, in July 2005 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The vast forest complex comprises one of the largest remaining intact monsoon forests in mainland Asia.

Khao Yai is the most popular national park in Thailand, especially with Bangkok residents as it's only a two and a half hour drive. In 2017 more than one million people visited the park. Despite its size, it is one of the easiest national parks in Thailand for independent travellers to get around. The rich diversity of plants astounds first time visitors. The approximately 2,000 plant species can be grouped into five main vegetation types: dry evergreen forest, dry

National parks are officially proclaimed by a royal decree which comes into effect after publication in the Royal Thai Government Gazette. Khao Yai National Park became the country's first national park when the Gazette published its official announcement on September 18, 1962.

The national park system is administered by the DNP, a division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, from its headquarters in Bangkok's Chatuchak district.

deciduous forest, hill evergreen forest and grassland. The park's forests are teeming with wildlife. The approximately 70 mammal species include deer, elephants, gaurs, gibbons, wild pigs, macaques, tigers, civets, squirrels and porcupines. There are at least 74 species of reptiles and thousands of different types of invertebrates, which are often hard to see. Khao Yai National Park is also home to about 320 species of birds.

Nearly one million insect-eating bats live in a cave located about three kilometers north of the Park Chong entrance gate. You can reach the cave by taking a small dirt road that veers off the main road to the left just past a temple. After a few hundred meters take right turn and follow the track to the end. From there you can climb the hill to the cave.

Kaeng Krachan National Park
Kaeng Krachan National Park was declared a reserve in 1964 and designated as a national park on June 12, 1981. It is the largest national park in the country, covering 2,915 km² of forest land. The park includes portions of Nong Ya Plong, and Kaeng Krachan districts in Phetchaburi province and a part of Hua Hin district in Prachuap Khiri Khan province. Kaeng Krachan consists mainly of rain forest on the eastern slope of the Tenasserim Mountain Range. The highest elevation in the park is a 1,513 m peak on the Thai-Myanmar border. The second highest mountain is Kao Panern Toong, with an elevation of 1,207 m. Two main rivers originate within the park, the Pranburi and the Phetchaburi rivers. The latter is impounded by the Kaeng Krachan Dam at the eastern border of the park, creating a lake with an area of 46.5 km².

His Majesty King Bhumipol Adulyadej visited Kaeng Krachan National Park many times, both before and after the construction of the dam. He was always very concerned about the conservation of this important watershed area, as indicated in this speech on October 29, 1979, when he said: "In Phetchaburi watershed forest, the officers must guard against deforestation, illegal logging or

cultivation, because these cause drought."

Kaeng Krachan is a rugged place. Most of the park consists of steep slopes covered in deep forest. Over three-quarters of the area is made up of slopes of more than 30%. About 85% of the vegetation is evergreen rainforest and another 10% is mixed deciduous forest. The park encompasses a very rich and complex ecosystem, with hanging lianas, ferns and orchids, and an abundance of fruiting trees and vines. The forest of Kaeng Krachan is unusually diverse because of its location at the juncture of continental Asia and the Malaysian Peninsula. Continental species such as oaks, chestnuts, and maples are found here, as are peninsular palms and fruiting trees. There are many commercially valuable trees including makhamong, takhian, yang, chanthana, taback, pradu and kritsana, so rangers must be constantly on the lookout for illegal logging.

As in the plant community, the animals in the park represent both Asiatic and Malaysian species. Over 400 species of birds are known to occur within the park's boundaries, as well as 57 mammals. Larger mammals include elephants, gaur, sambar deer, banteng, serow, bears, Indo-Chinese tigers, leopards, both common and Fea's muntjac, Malayan tapirs,

white-handed gibbons, dusky and banded langurs, Asian wild dogs, otters, and wild boars. Among the birds in the park are six species of hornbills, red junglefowls, both Kalij pheasants and grey peacock-pheasants, woolly-necked storks, black eagles, and many species of songbirds, woodpeckers and other forest birds.

Marine National Parks

Thailand has 24 marine national parks with two awaiting official approval. These are the 229 km² Mu Ko Ra-Ko Phra Thong site in Phang Nga province and Ao Manao-Khao Tanyong in Narathiwat province, with an area of 58.08 km².

Khao Sam Roi Yot

The first coastal marine national park in Thailand was created on June 28, 1966, along the Gulf of Thailand in the Sam Roi Yot (mountain with 300 peaks) sub-district of Prachuap



Kuhakaruhat Mansion Phraya Nakhon Cave, Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park



Khao Sam Roi Yot Marine National Park

Reserved species of Thailand

Thailand has 15 designated reserved wild animal species, which are defined by the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act of B.E. 2535 (1992). The Act prohibits hunting, breeding, possessing, or trading any of such species, except when done for scientific research with permission from the Permanent Secretary of the DNP, or breeding and possession by authorized public zoos.

The 15 reserved species are Chinese goral, dugong, Eld's deer, Fea's muntjac, Gurney's pitta, Javan rhinoceros, kouprey, mainland serow, Malayan tapir, marbled cat, sarus crane, Schomburgk's deer, Sumatran rhinoceros, white-eyed river martin and wild Asian water buffalo.

Of these fifteen species, the Schomburgk's deer is already extinct, and Javan and Sumatran rhinoceros are locally extinct in Thailand. In June 2016, the cabinet approved a preliminary proposal to add four marine species to the reserved animals list: the whale shark, Bryde's whale, Omura's whale and leatherback turtle.

Khiri Khan province. Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park covers 98.8 km², of which 20.88 km² are marine. The majestic topography of the park is the result of a series of jagged grey limestone formations that rise from the Gulf of Thailand and adjacent coastal marsh to a maximum height of 605 m.

Khao Sam Roi Yot is known far and wide for the incredible diversity of its wildlife, particularly bird species. The park's borders encompass open seawater, beaches, mangrove forests, freshwater streams, marshlands and limestone peaks. This rich mix of natural geography creates a variety of ecosystems, with ten distinct habitat zones in all. The higher elevations are sparsely covered by dwarf evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs that grow in the thin soil to rise above barren rock.

Thung Sam Roi Yot is the largest freshwater marsh in Thailand and provides an invaluable environment for a large number of birds, amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals.

The IUCN has recognized these fragile wetlands as a site of global importance. Other areas of habitat include scrub, salt pan, mudflats, brackish waters, mangroves, sandy beaches, offshore islets and open sea.

Due to the steep and relatively

inaccessible mountainous interior, the park still supports a population of serow, a blackish goat-antelope now rare in Thailand. The park is also home to populations of three species of primate: the spectacled langur, long-tailed macaque, and slow lorris. Other mammals found here are the barking deer, Malayan pangolins, fishing cats, common palm civets, Malayan porcupines, Javan mongoose, Siamese hares and grey-bellied squirrels. Dolphins can occasionally be observed in the coastal waters. This astounding variety of wildlife makes Khao Sam Roi Yot one of the most interesting national parks in Thailand.

Khao Sam Roi Yot has become a popular spot with bird watchers due to the approximately 300 recorded species found here, as well as the park's accessibility. The freshwater marsh near the village of Rong Jay is a great place to view large water birds, songbirds and raptors.

There are also opportunities for a tremendous variety of recreational activities presented by the park's fine sandy beaches, spectacular caves, mountain vistas, offshore islands, forest trails, open seas, estuarine wetlands and mangrove forests, all within a relatively small area.

Thailand's natural jewels: Ten of the most amazing national parks in Thailand



1 Erawan National Park is located in Kanchanaburi province and measure 550 km². The park was created in 1975.

2 Khao Yai National Park measuring 2,168 km² spans four province of Nakhon Nayok, Nakhon Ratchasima, Prachin Buri and Saraburi. The park was created in 1961.

3 Kaeng Krachan National Park in Prachuap Khiri Khan province measuring 2,915 km² was created in 1981.

4 Khao Sam Roi Yot Marine National Park is located in Prachup Khiri Khan province and measure 988 km². The park was created in 1966.

5 Kui Buri National Park, 964 km² in size in Prachuap Khiri Khan province was created in 1999.

6 Mu Ko Ang Thong Marine National Park is an archipelago of 42 islands covering 102 km² at the shore of the Surat Thai province in the Gulf of Thailand. The park was created in 1980.

7 Mu Ko Surin Marine National Park covers 135 km² in Phang Nga province. The park was created in 1981.

8 Khao Sok National Park, measuring 739 km² is located in Surat Thani province. The park was created in 1980.

9 Mu Ko Similian Marine National Park covers a group of islands in the Andaman Sea and of the coast of, and part of Phang Nga province. The park measuring 140 km² was created in 1982.

10 Ao Phang Nga Marine National Park covers 400 km² in Phang Nga province. The park was created in 1981.



Phae Mueang Phi



Erawan National Park



Ao Phang Nga Marine National Park



Kaeng Krachan National Park



Khao Sok National Park



Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary



Mu Ko Ang Thong Marine National Park

Forest Parks

Currently there are 94 forest parks in Thailand. Basically, these are areas deemed worthy of protection from development that are too small to be declared national parks. For example, Phae Mueang Phi Forest Park in Prachin province, created in March 1981, is just 0.27 km²; Tham Pha Tup Forest Park in Nan province, created in October 1978, is 0.84 km²; and Kosamphi Forest Park in Sarakham province, established in October 1966, is only 0.20 km². As for larger forest parks, Than Ngam Forest

Park etiquette

The DNP announced on June 8, 2018 on its Facebook page that the use of plastic and foam in all national parks is now banned. The ban includes marine and forest parks throughout Thailand. The decision followed the worldwide attention Thailand received following the death of a whale in southern Thailand that was found to have more than 80 plastic bags in its stomach. The Facebook page explained that it takes 450 years for a plastic bottle to decompose, 20 years for a plastic bag, and over 1,000 years for a Styrofoam container. "Don't let this problem be your grandchildren's burden," the DNP warned.

What not to do when visiting national parks and other protected areas:

- Don't sound the horn or turn on headlights when you encounter wild elephant on the road. They may become frightened and attack. Park your car and keep about 15 m distance from the animal. Don't leave the car and wait until the elephant go back to forest.
- Don't feed animals in the parks. Among other negative results, some foods could cause problems in the animal's digestion system.
- Don't bring your pets and don't release them into the wild. They can't compete with wild species for food or territory and will probably not survive.
- Put your rubbish in the bins provided or, better yet, take your rubbish with you when you leave the national park.
- Avoid any activities that may disturb or pose danger to the animals and plants in the forest.



Mu Ko Surin Marine National Park

Park in Udon Thani province, created in December 1984, has an area of 125 km²; Khao Luang Forest Park in Nakhon Sawan, established in February 1996, is 95 km²; and Phu Phra Forest Park in Kalasin province, created in October 1973, is 103.84 km².

Forest parks are governed by provincial administrations and fall under IUCN Category V, (protected landscape/seascape). Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Song, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Petchaburi, Kalasin Loei,

Internationally protected sites

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated five World Heritage Sites in Thailand:

- Ban Chiang Archaeological Site cultural site in Udon Thani province, declared in 1992.
- Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex natural site in Saraburi, Nakhon Nayok, Prachinburi Sa Kaeo and Buriram province, declared in 2005.
- Historic City of Ayutthaya – cultural site in Ayutthaya province, declared in 1991.
- Historic Town of Sukhothai and Associated Historic Towns cultural site in Sukhothai and Kamphaeng provinces, declared in 1991.
- Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries natural site in Kanchanaburi, Tak and Uthai Thani provinces, declared in 1991.

ASEAN Heritage Parks

Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Heritage Parks came about through a shared recognition of the vital need to conserve areas of particular biodiversity or exceptional uniqueness throughout the ASEAN member states. All ASEAN Ministers of Environment collectively signed the ASEAN Declaration on Heritage Parks in December 2003.

Designated ASEAN Heritage Parks in Thailand:

- Ao Phan Nga Marine National Park.
- Ko Surin Marine National Park.
- Mu Ko Similian Marine National Park.
- Kaeng Krachan National Park.
- Khao Yai National Park.
- Taruato Marine National Park.

The IUCN

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership union composed of both government and civil society organizations. The IUCN's mission is to provide public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together. Created in 1948, it has become the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. Thailand's relationship with IUCN began in 1948 when it was one of the first Asian signatories to the IUCN Charter. IUCN located a regional office in Bangkok in the 1990s, and in 2001 the Thailand program office was established.

The seven IUCN categories are:

- Category Ia: Strict Nature Reserve.
- Category Ib: Wilderness Area.
- Category II: National Park.
- Category III: Natural Monument or Feature.
- Category IV: Habitat/Species Management Area.
- Category V: Protected Landscape/Seascape.
- Category VI: Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources.



Kui Buri National Park

Udon Thani and Kalasin are provinces with a large number of forest parks.

Wildlife Sanctuaries

Thailand currently has 60 wildlife sanctuaries, which play a different role than national parks. Their primary purpose is to provide a safe haven for wildlife and as such access is more restricted, although some sanctuaries do offer limited access to visitors.

In 1991 Huai Kha Khaeng wildlife sanctuary and the adjoining Thungyai Naresuan wildlife sanctuary were designated a UNESCO World



Thungyai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary

Heritage Site. Huai Kha Khaeng sanctuary, situated in parts of Uthai Thani and Tak provinces, was established in 1972. Thungyai Naresuan in parts of Kanchanaburi and Tak provinces was established in 1974. Huai Kha Khaeng is classified as IUCN category IV (habitat/species management area) and Thungyai Naresuan is IUCN category Ia (strict nature reserve).

With an area of 6,222 km², Thungyai Naresuan-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries provide a home for a very diverse array of animals, including 77% of the large mammals (especially elephants and tigers), 50% of the large birds and 33% of the land vertebrates to be found in this region.

Non-hunting areas

These are somewhat different from wildlife sanctuaries and as the name makes clear hunting is strictly forbidden. Currently there are 56 such places in Thailand with seven pending approval. Non-hunting areas are classified as managed resource sites under IUCN category VI (protected areas).



DIPLOMATS

▣ Meet the people uniting nations



Her Excellency Mary Jo A. Bernardo-Aragon

Bangkok posting another milestone in Philippines Ambassador's long and lustrous career

Bangkok posting another milestone in Philippines Ambassador's long and lustrous career

Words **MAXMILIAN WECHSLER**

The Philippines Ambassador to Thailand, Her Excellency Mary Jo A. Bernardo-Aragon, began her assignment in Bangkok in July 2015. She has since established a well-deserved reputation in the local diplomatic corps as a highly experienced career diplomat who is also open, sincere and down-to-earth. During our conversation at the Philippine embassy on Sukhumvit Road she revealed a passion for work in the foreign service that began well before she joined the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs in June 1979. She also revealed that her assignment in Bangkok is the final chapter of a distinguished career. “This is my first and also my last ambassadorial appointment,” said the ambassador. “I am already 64 years old and our mandatory retirement age is 65.”

Background

I was born and raised in Manila and went to a Catholic school run by nuns – Saint Rita College for elementary and part of high school. My father, who worked for the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission, was seconded by the Philippine government in 1969 to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, where I finished high school at the American International School. My parents, older sister and I were all in Vienna. I am the youngest in the family. My elder brother was at that time studying in the United Kingdom. After high school I continued my studies in Germany and the UK. Having lived in Austria and Germany, I had the opportunity to learn the German language. Regrettably, I have not spoken the language for so long, but I hope to pick it up again,” said the ambassador.

“In those years abroad I was exposed to many new things. While studying at the international school I became interested in meeting people from different backgrounds and in international organizations. At the university, I took courses in international relations to prepare myself for a career where I could be of service to my country and our people, and at the same time have the opportunity to meet people from different countries.”

After passing the Foreign Service Officers' Examinations, Ms Bernardo-Aragon joined the Department of Foreign

Affairs in Manila in 1979, where over the years she held a number of important positions. As she had hoped, her profession has also allowed her to spend a lot of time abroad. She represented her country for a number of years in Brussels and also saw extensive duty on the other side of the Atlantic, first in New York City with the Philippine Mission to the United Nations and then in Los Angeles with the Philippine General Consulate there.

“My very first posting abroad was as Third Secretary and Vice-Consul at the Philippine Embassy in Brussels in 1982, dealing with our bilateral relations with Belgium and Luxembourg. In 1985, the Philippine embassy and Philippine Mission to the Commission of the European Community were merged. At that time, our overseas postings were for eight years, which were reduced to six years by the Philippine Foreign Service Act in 1991. Then we return to Manila to serve in the Home Office for two or three years before we become eligible for another posting abroad,” said the ambassador. Her last position before coming to Thailand was in Manila for three years as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Internal Audit Services.

“I am not an accountant, nor a lawyer, so I had to have some training for that job. Establishing offices of internal audit in different government agencies, including the Department of Foreign Affairs, was a part of the government's anti-corruption measures. My office reported directly to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.”

When she became eligible for a new overseas posting in 2015 and expressed interest in the Bangkok post, she was greatly honored when the President of the Philippines appointed her to her current position. "All ambassadorial appointments need to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, which is made up of members from both houses of Congress, 12 from the Senate and 12 from the House of Representatives. The Commission is chaired by the President of the Senate. There are hearings and then they vote on confirmation. This is a part of the constitution that was put in place in 1987 when we returned to democracy."

While Ms Bernardo-Aragon was elated with her eventual confirmation, she had to deal with a great personal loss at that time. "I had planned to bring my mother with me here. But unfortunately, before I could do so, she passed away in September 2015. My father passed away in 2003."

No stranger to Thailand

"I came to Thailand for the first time in July 1971. My father was then on leave from his UN job in Vienna, and he took the family to Bangkok for three days while enroute to Manila. I cannot recall the hotel where we stayed, but I do remember that Bangkok looked very different then than it is today. The international airport at that time was Don Muang. We went to the floating market, the Grand Palace and visited temples. We also had some clothes made here."

"I visited Thailand for a second time in 1981. As a junior officer, I was one of three officials from Manila who were sent to attend a seminar for young ASEAN diplomats. It was held at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency. The third time I visited Thailand was in April 2014, when I attended a meeting of the High-Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs as the Philippine Representative."

A working embassy

Upon entering the main embassy building, it is hard to miss the framed photos on the wall of all past Philippine envoys to Thailand. "Out of the past 14 Philippine Ambassadors to Thailand, four were women career diplomats. Upon completion of my tour of duty here, it will be my distinct honor to be included in the gallery of ambassadors as the 5th woman career diplomat."

"We established formal diplomatic relations on 14 June 1949 with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship in Washington D.C. by His Royal Highness Prince Wan Waithayakon and Mr Joaquin Elizalde, Philippine Ambassador to the United States of America. This year will be a milestone year for us as we are commemorating the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries," said the ambassador.

"Moreover, we expect the embassy to be kept busy this year in assisting our delegations to the numerous ASEAN meetings and events that will be held in Thailand during its chairmanship of ASEAN. We support Thailand's theme of Advancing Partnership for Sustainability, anchored on the notion that our ASEAN Community should be people-centered and leave no one behind on the path to

sustainable development and prosperity. This is consistent with the advocacy on the part of the Philippines within ASEAN to promote the benefits of community-building to all citizens of ASEAN, especially the marginalized, even prior to the adoption of ASEAN Charter which established the three community pillars.

"We have always said in the Philippines that our people are our greatest resource, and we wanted that to be true for the larger ASEAN Community as well. That is why we pushed for the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion on the Rights of Migrant Workers in 2007, during the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu. We followed this through in 2017 during our ASEAN chairmanship when we led efforts towards the adoption of the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion on the Rights of Migrant Workers.

"On a more mundane level," the ambassador continued, "we are always mindful of translating our international and regional advocacies to better serve overseas Filipinos. Hence, a big part of our mandate here is to provide consular services and assistance to Filipino nationals. Most of our nationals come to the embassy for passport renewal. In 2017, the validity of Philippine passports was extended from a period of five years to ten years. Others come for consular documentation for various matters, including a certificate of legal capacity to marry which need verification from concerned Philippine authorities in Manila. Officiating marriages between Filipino nationals abroad is part of the regular function of the consul-general. Filipino parents are also required to file a report of birth of their children so that they can be recognized as Philippine citizens."

"In spite of a lean staff complement at the embassy, we also conduct consular outreach missions in various parts of Thailand throughout the year as well as provide assistance to our nationals on weekends and holidays. Most of the Filipinos working in Thailand are teachers, while some work in hotels in Pattaya, Phuket and other tourist places. There are also a number of Filipino students in the Kingdom."

Building networks and travelling in the Kingdom

As ambassador tasked to represent her country and promote good relations with the host country and others, this means attending many functions such as national day celebrations, meetings with government officials, business leaders, NGOs and so forth, as well as planning and staging various events. The ambassador is quite impressed by the trips for diplomats organized by various Royal Thai Government ministries to other parts of the country such as Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Udon Thani, and Isan, among others. These trips provide an excellent opportunity to meet with the governors and other important provincial officials and people from the private sector, as well as those involved in the Royal Projects.

"I particularly like Chiang Rai, where we visited the Doi Tung Development Project and had a dialogue with the local community. In addition to trips organized by the Royal Thai Government, I also like to visit other places outside of Bangkok as an ordinary tourist, especially when family members are visiting here."



Trade

“While trade between our two countries has been increasing, the trade balance has been in favor of Thailand for several years now,” said the ambassador. According to statistics from the Thai Ministry of Commerce, total trade between the two countries was US\$10.18 billion in 2017, with a surplus of US\$3.68 billion on the Thai side. In 2017 the Philippines was Thailand’s 10th most important export destination, and 18th in terms of supplying imports to Thailand.

Some products imported by Thailand from the Philippines are computer parts and accessories, electrical machinery and parts, electronic integrated circuits, plastic products, and parts and accessories for vehicles. Some products exported by Thailand are automobiles and accessories, electronic integrated circuits, polymers of ethylene, chemical and plastic products, automatic data processing machines and parts, and rice.



Palawan

Philippines on an upward trajectory

“The Philippines’ economic growth rate has been quite good for a while, and the government’s massive infrastructure program is setting the stage for even higher growth rates in the next decade. In 2000-2009 the average GDP growth rate was 4.5%; in 2010-2017 it was 6.4% and in 2017 the growth rate was 6.7%. From 2010 to 2016, government spending on infrastructure as a percentage of GDP averaged 2.9%. We expect to see this rise to 7.0% in 2022 as the government completes the US\$180 billion infrastructure program started in 2017.

“The Philippines has recently opened three new airport terminals in quick succession. These are the main gateway to Palawan Island, in May 2017; the Central Philippines hub of Cebu, in June 2018; and the new international terminal for the resort destination of Bohol, in November 2018. A new terminal at Clark International is now under construction.”

Philippine tourism is also on an upward trajectory. Last year, the Philippines welcomed 7.1 million tourists, an increase of 8% from 2017. “I would therefore like to invite our friends here in Thailand to come and visit my country. The Philippines has 7,107 islands. While not all of the islands are inhabited, one can find a variety of attractions to be seen and experienced in many of a large number of islands.

“There are many beautiful natural land formations in the Philippines, such as the Mayon Volcano in the Bicol Region, which has a perfect cone shape. There are more



Davao



Albay province



than a thousand Chocolate Hills in Bohol, which turn brown during the dry season. There are many mountains and volcanoes, which are suitable for hiking.

“Mount Apo, with the highest peak in the Philippines, is located between North Cotabato and Davao. Other famous peaks and trails include Pico de Loro in Batangas, Mount Pulag in Luzon and Mount Kanlaon in Negros province.

“The Philippines also has many famous beaches and diving spots. One of the most popular would be Boracay in Western Visayas. Coron and El Nido, both in Palawan, are also very popular. Visitors who like undersea creatures can watch or swim with whale sharks in Oslob, Cebu. Siargao in Surigao del Norte is famous for its waves, and attracts surfing enthusiasts.”

Personal observations

The ambassador said that having lived in several places in Europe for a decade before joining the foreign service has helped her adapt to life in different postings. “I adjusted easily to life in Bangkok because of the warmth and friendliness of the Thai people – something we have in common. Considering that Thailand is in mainland Southeast Asia while the Philippines is in archipelagic Southeast Asia, our similarities as a people are rather remarkable. It has been a joy to discover convergences even in our respective cuisines, and our shared belief that eating is a way of life rather than just a mere necessity.

“Filipinos and Thais both love pork, for instance, whether in the form of jerky (*moo dad daew* in Thai and *tocino* in Filipino) or grilled in sticks (*moo ping* in Thai and *pork barbecue* in Filipino). Then there is the ubiquitous fish sauce (*nam pla*



Banaue



Manila



Boracay

in Thai and *patis* in Filipino), that adds an *umami* zest to our meals. Even the world famous Thai mango with sticky rice has a Filipino equivalent *manga, suman at latik* – which transports an older generation of Filipinos to idyllic childhood memories of family breakfasts and afternoon *meriendas*.

“I enjoy the abundance of fruits and vegetables here as well as many different international cuisines that are readily available. Bangkok is a very interesting and cosmopolitan capital city. One can find almost everything here, and there are so many events taking place all the time. The embassy has been participating in the YWCA and the Red Cross bazaars as well as in the annual Thai Silk Celebration, where Oliver Tolentino, a Filipino fashion designer based in Los Angeles, showcased his collections in December 2018. I was fortunate to have known Oliver when I was posted in LA as Consul General. He also has an office in Metro Manila.

“I hardly travel back to the Philippines for a vacation in view of my work schedule. However, the government occasionally requires me to travel to Manila for official matters such as during the Philippine Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017.

“To relax, I just like to have some time off to be by myself, either to make a stroll in one of the malls or just do some walking somewhere interesting. I must confess that there are still many places in Bangkok I have never been to, maybe because I am unable to speak the language, which is quite a challenge for me to learn even after three years. But I do find the people here friendly, and they are always willing to help, like when I go on the BTS Skytrain and ask for directions.”

At that point the buzzing of a mobile phone seemed to suggest the time allotted for the interview in another busy day was about up. The ambassador added a final thought: “When I joined the foreign service, there were no mobile phones and no internet, only telex machines and ‘normal’ telephones. Now we can be reached anytime and anywhere.”



Rizal Monument, Manila

CV of H.E. Mary Jo A. Bernardo-Aragon

Education:

- **1959-1966:** Elementary - Saint Rita College, Manila.
- **1966-1969:** High School - Saint Rita College, Manila.
- **1969-1971:** American International School, Vienna, Austria.
- **1971-1975:** Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science Schiller College, Bonningheim, Germany & London, UK.
- **1975-1977:** Diploma in International Affairs, University of London.

Positions at the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila:

- **1979-1980:** Principal Assistant, Office of Policy Planning.
- **1980-1982:** Acting Chief, Research Division, Office of Policy Planning, 1982: Acting Executive Director, Office of Policy Planning.
- **1990-1991:** Director, Division 1, Office of European Affairs.
- **1991-1992:** Executive Director, Office of Policy Planning & Coordination.
- **1992-1994:** Special Assistant, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration.
- **2001-2005:** Special Assistant, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration.
- **2005-2006:** Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary.
- **2012-2015:** Assistant Secretary, Office of Internal Audit Service.

Positions at the Philippine Foreign Service:

- **1982-1984:** Third Secretary & Vice-Consul, Philippine Embassy, Brussels, Belgium.
- **1984-1986:** Second Secretary & Consul, Philippine Embassy, Brussels.
- **1986-1989:** First Secretary & Consul, Philippine Embassy & Philippine Mission to the Commission of the European Community, Brussels.
- **1989-1990:** First Secretary & Consul General, Philippine Embassy & Philippine Mission to the Commission of the European Community, Brussels.
- **1994-1999:** Minister Counsellor, Philippine Mission to the United Nations, New York, U.S.A.
- **1999-2000:** Minister, Philippine Mission to the UN, New York.
- **2000-2001:** Deputy Permanent Representative, Philippine Mission to the UN, New York.
- **2006-2007:** Deputy Consul General & Acting Head of Post, Philippine Consulate General, Los Angeles, USA.
- **2007-2012:** Consul General, Philippine Consulate General, Los Angeles.

BUY OR SELL A BUSINESS



With nearly 15 years experience in Thailand, we TSBA and our dedicated Business Transfer Specialists provide a professional and personalized service that puts buyers and sellers together. Our centralized database allows us to manage our listings efficiently and accurately. In conjunction with our legal associates we will guide you through every step of the way, from sourcing to completion.

Hostel & Café in central Sukhumvit

Within walking distance to Skytrain and Underground systems. 18 dorms and 5 private rooms which can accommodate total of 78 guests. Café restaurant on ground floor with 50 seats. Rooftop area with 40 seats. Rent for this 4FL triple-shophouse is only 270,000 Baht per month and new lease is available.

Price Reduced: 8,000,000 Baht.

Location: Bangkok, Thailand



Bar & 6-Room Hostel

Popular single shophouse bar and 6-room hostel available in a busy location off Sukhumvit Road. Close to the BTS Skytrain and many popular hotels and restaurants. The rent is only 80,000 Baht per month. Annual profits are approx. 1 Million Baht. The owner is selling due to retirement.

Sale Price: 2,500,000 Baht.

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Popular Hostel & Café Silom

This 14-room hostel/guesthouse & café is conveniently located in the Silom area, near the famous Jewelry Trade Center & Fashion Factory Outlet. It has great online reviews and a large number of repeat guests. The rent is low at only 110,000 Baht per month and a long lease is available.

Asking Price: 8,900,000 Baht.

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

English Style Pub & Guesthouse

Three shop-house units converted to a pub and restaurant with full kitchen and a 6 room guesthouse upstairs. The business was established 8 years ago and has a regular client base. The restaurant can seat around 80 guests and the rent for this property is only 71,000 Baht per month.

Sale Price: 2,900,000 Baht.

Location: Pattaya, Thailand

35-Room Guesthouse Sukhumvit

Recently built by the landlord, this property is now available for takeover. Conveniently located near the BTS Skytrain on Sukhumvit Road and close to shopping and dining areas. There is also space on the ground floor for a small coffee shop. The rent for this 5 storey property (with elevator) is 450,000 bt/mth. 6 months deposit & lease of 3+3+3 years. All terms can be negotiated directly with the landlord.

Asking Price: 17,500,000 Baht.

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Jomtien Condominium Block

The Condominium Block consists of a mix of top quality apartments, studios, 1-bedroom & 2-bedroom units. This freehold property is located near the Jomtien beach, shops, supermarkets, restaurants and other entertainment venues. It has a total of 19 rooms. Parking and access to communal swimming pool is also available.

Sale Price: 55,000,000 Baht.

Location: Pattaya, Thailand

Biz Contacts & Lead Generation

This business has been formed to assist SMEs, startups and international companies in making needed contact. Whether it's service companies, government agencies, or staff needed, they have a database to find what is needed and a country manager in each country will do the work. The founders wish to sell 70% of the shares and keep 30%.

Sale Price: 2,500,000 Baht.

Location: Pattaya, Thailand

Pub & Restaurant in Ekkamai

This restaurant serves a variety of craft beers and a wide array of American comfort food and BBQ. A great place to spend an evening with friends and family. 45 seats and only 60,000 Baht per month rent. There are 2+3 years left on the lease but this can be discussed with the landlord.

Price Reduced: 850,000 Baht.

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Food Manufacturing/Distribution

This food manufacturing business supplies frozen ready-made meals to supermarkets throughout Thailand and Laos. The business can be operated and run from anywhere within Thailand. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking for a turnkey business.

Sale Price: 1,800,000 Baht.

Location: Chiang Mai, Thailand

Furniture Retail Business

This large showroom & warehouse is situated in an attractive location. The property has a private villa behind the showroom which is included in the low rental fee of only 35,000 Baht per month. A long lease is available. The seller is relocating and is open to negotiations. Viewing is highly recommended.

Sale Price: 9,800,000 Baht.

(inventory will be calculated at cost price)

Location: Hua Hin, Thailand



Technology Company

This successful tech products company supplies certain applications for use on mobile phones and other devices to various communication services such as the popular Line Application. The company has a successful track record from its start-up in 2007. The owners can give interested buyers a full presentation on products and a clear accounting of profits which are steadily rising every month.

Sale Price: 80,000,000 Baht.

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Large Pub & Bar on Beach Road

Large international pub in prominent location on Beach Road Pattaya, near Walking Street. Successfully and profitably operated by the same owner for 19 Years with a very large established customer base. A rarely available Business & Investment Opportunity with an attractive ROI of approx. 30% per annum. 300 m2 over 2 Fl. = 50,000 Baht per month.

Sale Price: 3,800,000 Baht.

Location: Pattaya, Thailand

Live Escape Game

This business is a Live Escape Room Game located close to Ekkamai BTS Skytrain Station. This flagship store is ready for a franchise model for joint venture partners or by owner. Friendly staff, successful social media marketing strategy and all permits and licenses under Amity Treaty is ready to go.

Sale Price: 6,500,000 Baht.

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Luxury Wedding Dress Business

Wedding dress shop and e-commerce store stocking 8 imported brands from around the world, plus 5 imported lingerie brands and 1 imported swimwear brand. Two rooms above the boutique shop are rented out which offsets the rent for the shop to zero baht per month. Viewing is highly recommended.

Sale Price: 14,900,000 Baht.

Location: Phuket, Thailand

Magazine Publication

This well established business caters to many high-end clients and produces various types of magazine publications in accordance with the requirements of the clients. The business has good revenues and profits but also has huge potential to expand.

Sale Price: 41,000,000 Baht.

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Organic Jewellery Wholesaler

Popular business that has been established for more than a decade. Located on the world famous Khaosarn Road. 120 SqM over 2 floors with a monthly rent of 80,000 baht. 60,000 baht payroll for 4 staff.

Large inventory included in the sale price. Security deposit of 500,000 baht also incl. Owner has other business interests.

Sale Price: 4,000,000 Baht.

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Sports Diner and Live Entertainment Venue

This business has gained a reputation for serving some of the best Gourmet Burgers in Chiang Mai if not the whole of Thailand. Well thought out décor and numerous TV's streaming sports.

Sale Price: 2,900,000 Baht.

Location: Chiang Mai, Thailand

www.ThaiBusinessAdvisors.com

087 034 0568 / 080 016 4116

info@thaibusinessadvisors.com

Thai Sunshine Business Advisors Co., Ltd. , Zuelling House Level 8 & 9 , 1 Silom Road, Bangrak Bangkok 10500, Thailand

Social

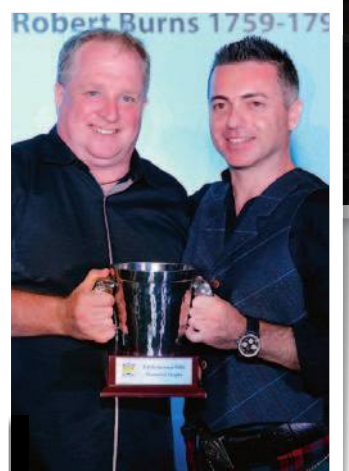
▣ Last month's best events in pictures

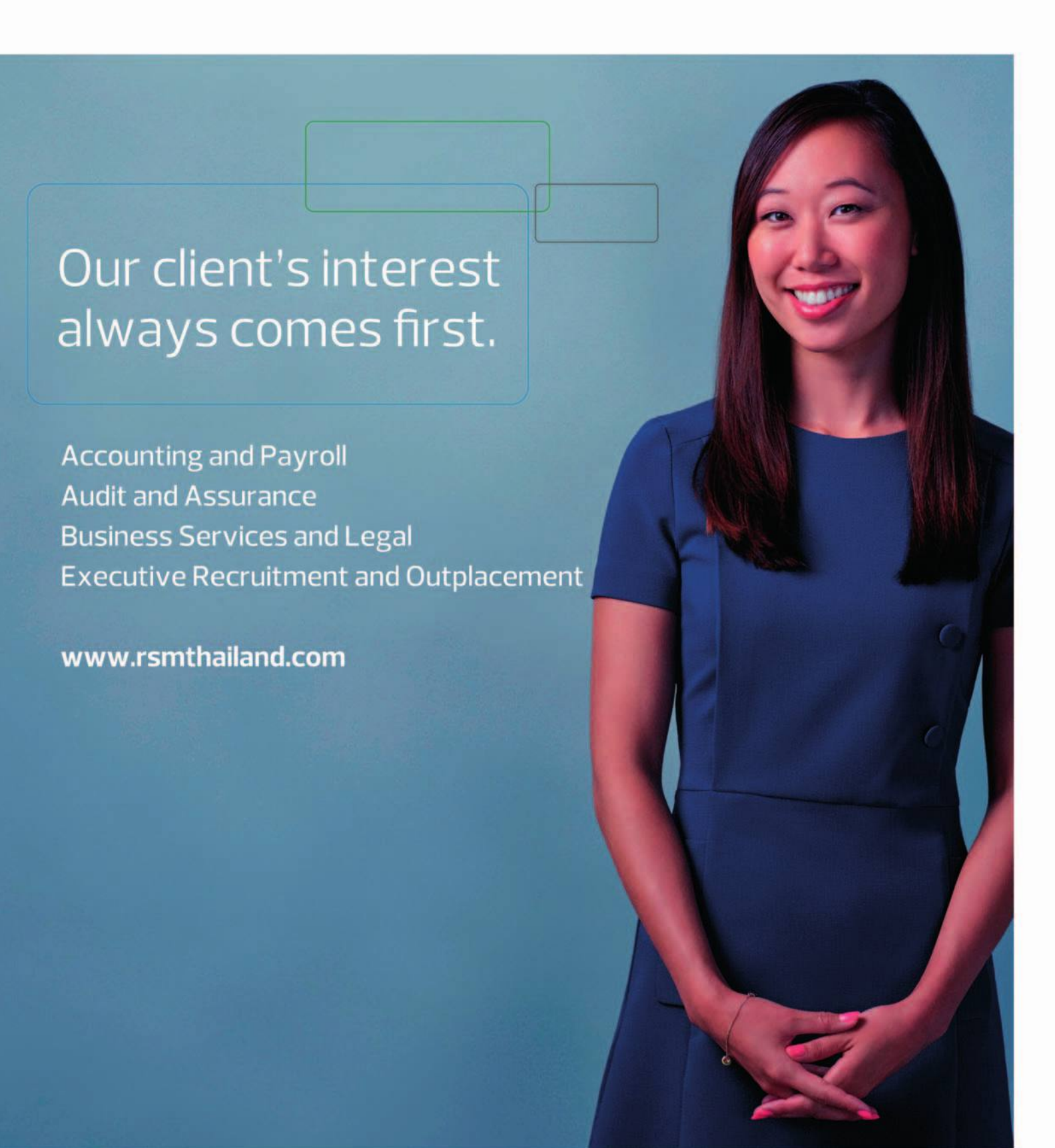




Burns Supper at British Embassy

Members and friends of the St Andrews Society came together to enjoy a Burns Supper at the British Embassy Bangkok. The event featured Pipe bands, Burns speeches and verses and Scots songs by the Grand Opera Thailand.





Our client's interest
always comes first.

Accounting and Payroll
Audit and Assurance
Business Services and Legal
Executive Recruitment and Outplacement

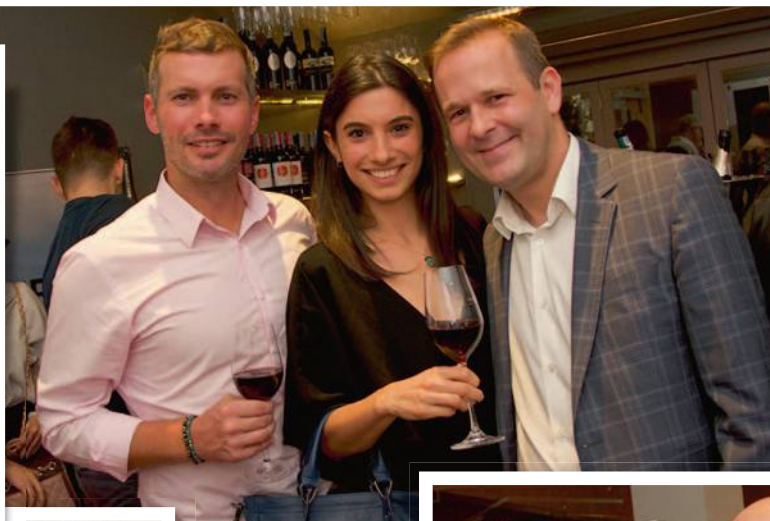
www.rsmthailand.com

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING



RSM Thailand

26th Floor Sathorn City Tower, 175 South Sathorn Road, Thungmahamek Sathorn Bangkok 10120
T +66 (0) 2670 9002-6 F +66 (0) 2670 9027-8 E AskUs@rsmthailand.com W www.rsmthailand.com



Opus marks its 10th anniversary

Alex Morabito, Managing Director, and Davide Calo, Executive Chef of Opus, hosted a party for some 200 regular customers and friends of this popular Italian restaurant and wine bar to celebrate its 10th anniversary.





Cuban reception

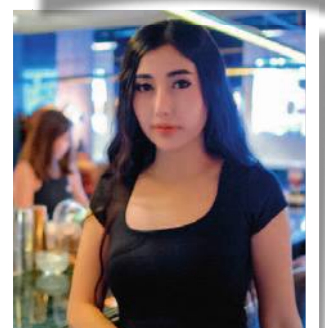
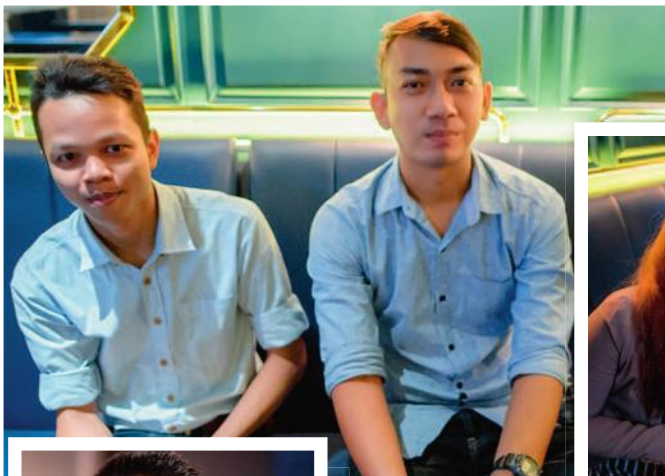
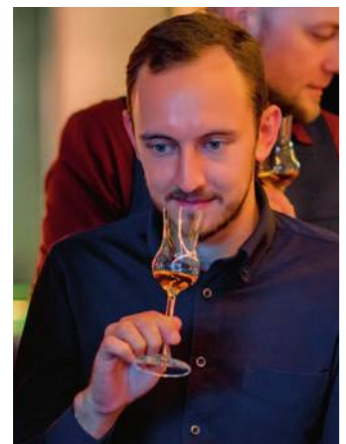
Mr Héctor Conde Almeida, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba, and Mrs Thelma Alina Picans Esnard hosted a reception on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. The reception was attended by hundreds of distinguished Thai and foreign guests in the ballroom of the Arnoma Grand Hotel in Bangkok.





Classy Cordon Rouge

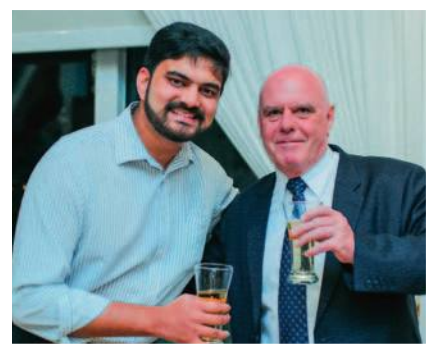
The Campari Group hosted the Grand Marnier Training Class for bartenders at Vesper. The class was led by Regional Brand Ambassador SE Asia Symphony Woo and Brand Ambassador Thailand Khun Wanviwat Sunthornnon. The world famous French liqueur Grand Marnier Cordon Rouge is an exquisite blend of cognac and distilled bitter orange.





Comcon celebrates its 21st year in Thailand

Comcon Group celebrated its 21st anniversary in Thailand with a cocktail reception at the Landmark Hotel. During the evening, Managing Director Joe Grunwell told the 100 guests about the rebranding of the company. He also introduced the new management team and announced the opening of the new Comcon office in the Maldives.





Chefs' charity dinner at Mandarin Oriental

Twenty-two top chefs from five-star hotels in Thailand and Thai Airways International joined together to present their culinary talents in a multi-course dinner at the 2019 Bangkok Chefs Charity Fundraising Gala Dinner at Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok, presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Organized annually by Gourmet One Food Services (Thailand), the country's leading importer of premium food products, the charity event raised more than 40 million baht funds for underprivileged children in remote areas of Thailand, thanks to the generosity of guests in attendance.





Glamorous Pink Polo

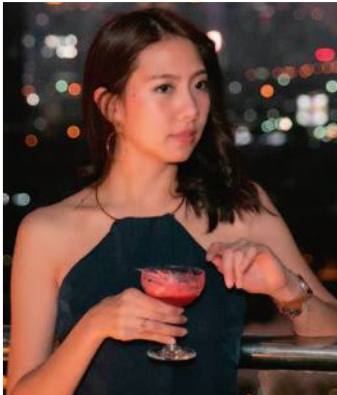
A glamorous crowd turned up in force for the Queen's Cup Pink Polo 2019, organized by Mr Harold Link, and held in the beautiful grounds of the Thai Polo & Equestrian Club, Pattaya. Proceeds from this dazzling annual event go to the Queen Sirikit Centre for Breast Cancer.





Creative Mixology Top Spot

1826 Mixology & Rooftop Bar has opened on the 26th floor of Rembrandt Hotel and Suites Bangkok in Sukhumvit Soi 18, boasting spectacular views from an outdoor rooftop with a stylish indoor lounge. Fresh ingredients are used for themed and seasonal cocktails with must-try fusion bites inspired by international cuisine, against a background of jazzy vibes and a resident DJ every Friday.





Super Strong'n'Spicy!

Special guests were entertained in Mexican style today at the grand launch and opening party of Hong Kong based Cali-Mex and Mexican speakeasy Los Atico, at their new flagship location on Sukhumvit Soi 11, with a fresher wider menu choice in Cali-Mex and a dazzling original selection at Los Atico. Bangkok's vibrant nightlife hot-spot just got hotter!





Diamond Sparkles with Gems Pavilion

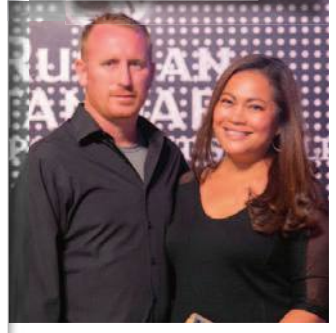
Piya Ahchariyasripong, the Chairman of Executive Committee of Gems Pavilion Group launched 'The Icon Boutique' at ICONSIAM by the Chao Phraya River, the first exhibition displaying how to make fine jewellery. Many celebrities participated to enjoy the special collection highlighted by gorgeous mini fashion shows.





Russian Standard Arrives!

Russian Standard, the number one premium vodka from Russia, held their grand launch to kick off a series of showcase events in eight cities spanning five Southeast Asian countries. The Southeast Asia tour is organised by Brand Connect, Asia's fastest-growing beverage distribution & brand building agency at House on Sathorn.





52nd Diplomatic Red Cross Bazaar

The general public is invited to the charity event of the year with products from 57 countries at the 52nd Diplomatic Red Cross Bazaar on March 2nd/3rd from 10am–10pm on 5th floor Siam Paragon. H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Executive Vice President of the Thai Red Cross Society, will graciously preside over the opening ceremony. Admission 50 baht per person.





Inspiring Creative Space of a New Generation

Sangravee Kositpaisal, Senior Vice President of Magnolia Quality Development Corporation hosted the grand opening of "Inspire Me MQDC" VIP Open House Party at ICONSIAM to unveil the exciting new space created for people driven to spark new ideas and see different perspectives at the Life Café.





German food and music

A large gathering enjoyed typical German food and live music by Big Boy Band at a German Party held at Marriott Marquis Hotel.



Beautiful piano recital

The French pianist M. Philippe Guilhon-Herbert entertained guests at Alliance Francaise with a recital that included pieces by Chopin, Schubert and Franz Liszt. It was a wonderfully romantic evening hosted by Mme. Pascale Fabre.



Ladies mark Chinese New Year

Members of the Cosmopolitan Ladies Bangkok got together to celebrate Chinese New Year with a dinner at Ah Yat Abalone Restaurant, Arnoma Hotel.



Beach party at Anantara

A slice of tropical is back in Bangkok thanks to the return of the famous beach party at Trader Vic's restaurant in the Anantara Riverside Hotel. Set amongst lush palms overlooking the Chao Phraya River, this popular event is bigger and better than ever.



Sweetness before Valentine

Whispering Angel Rosé Tasting was held at Pathumwan Princess Hotel's Studio Bar, a very convivial evening with two sparkling Angel Rosé cocktails after which guests enjoyed canapés, smoked salmon risotto and desserts with live music and an amusing talk about wine.





Auspicious aerial performances

The Emporium, The EmQuartier, SCB M VISA and T.A.T. celebrated Chinese New Year with Emporium EmQuartier Chinese New Year 2019, with spectacular aerial shows featuring Nadech Kugimiya and Diana Flipo with the emperor dragon floating above Quartier Avenue.

The show included echoes of drums, four gods performing their miracles, the celestial swan portrayed by Ploychompoo Payonrat which flew around balancing a dragon marble for yin-yang symbolism, and ended with angels dancing delicately in heaven.



Madden's Mini Fashion Show

Deepak Tomar, Country General Manager of Map Active Group, the sole importer and distributor of STEVE MADDEN in Thailand, hosted Steve Madden's Mini-Fashion Show to celebrate the return of the Brand to Thailand. The show at Siam Paragon was entitled STEVE MADDEN: REFLECT, LOVE, GIVE and welcomed members of Map Active Group and other celebrities from the fashion industry.



Cancer Screening Tests



Sanomics Limited became the first Hong Kong biotechnology start-up to launch in Thailand. The opening ceremony was led by Sanomics Chairman, Professor Dr. Tony Mok with colleagues and other Hong Kong and Thailand renowned leaders in cancer research. Sanomics Limited specialises in liquid biopsy and tissue-based genomic diagnostics for cancer patients, with "Patient First" as their principle, helping patients avoid wasting time and money.



First Bangkok RAY-BAN Store

Ray-Ban's legendary products have arrived in their first Bangkok store at Siam Center, boasting over 500 pairs of eyewear with an assortment of Asian design and Ray-Ban truly authentic prescription lenses to translate the core principles of the Ray-Ban spirit into a physical space which will reinforce brand connection and awareness with a full product assortment and service.



Weekend Buffet Dinner Themes

Savour a myriad of cuisines ranging from authentic Thai to global flavours at The Market Restaurant Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa with Monthly Barefoot BBQ Night every first Saturday of the month, Authentically Thai every Saturday, and Friday Favourites every Friday. Starting at 1000 baht net per person, children aged six to 11 years old receive a 50% discount and Citibank Thailand card members enjoy Pay 2, Dine 3. Terms and conditions apply.

+66 32 538 999 fb.huahin@hilton.com

Head-to-toe Relaxation

Enjoy a sensory experience at Hilton Pattaya between February and April 2019 with 'Timeless Indulgence', a head-to-toe spa package to relax your body and mind at eforea spa. Or choose 'Relax & Relief Massage', a combination of traditional Thai massage and aromatherapy massage. Prices start at 3,500 baht net per person for 90 minutes.

+66(0)38-253-000 pattaya.eforeaspa@hilton.com



Hot Pan Heaven

Baan Dum Oceanfront Seafood Restaurant at Mövenpick Asara Resort & Spa Hua Hin presents "Seafood Hot Pan", an authentic dish cooked just the right way, stir-fried and mixed with freshly ground hand-picked spices and served in generous portions on a hot pan. Available daily from 12 noon until 10pm from only 260 baht means your mouth will be watering before it's served!

+ 66 (32) 520 777 ext. 302
resort.huahin@movenpick.com



Royal Cliff offers the ultimate escape from urban life

Luxurious vacations in a huge parkland overlooking the ocean



FOR more than four decades, the Royal Cliff Hotels Group has been a hospitality landmark in Pattaya, welcoming guests from home and abroad with its unique array of special attractions and facilities while continually raising its standards to maintain its position as a world class resort.

Indeed, think of Pattaya – and only one hotel instantly comes to mind. It's been that way since the early 70s when the Royal Cliff opened and did more than any other institution to promote Thailand's most famous beach destination.

As its name indicates, the Royal Cliff enjoys a superb elevated location overlooking the beautiful Gulf of Thailand. What's more, its four award-winning hotels are set within a magnificent 64-acre private parkland estate, with access to the beach below.



The resort's vast green spaces and overall tranquility offer the ultimate escape from today's increasingly crowded urban life – ideal for families and those who enjoy nature and the fresh, clean air of beach life. And with new expressways linking Bangkok to Pattaya, it's only a two-hour drive away.



Its recent makeover has been truly comprehensive, including a brilliant new design masterminded by Mr. Duangrit Bunnag, the world-renowned Thai architect who once again oversaw the construction. All kinds of exciting modern facilities have been installed to enhance the resort's famous reputation for impressive service and authentic Thai experience.

The Royal Cliff Hotels Group operates a choice of award-winning hotels providing guests with the ultimate vacation experience.





Royal Cliff Beach Hotel: Located in the heart of Royal Cliff Hotels Group, this hotel is known as ‘Casual Luxury’ offers exceptional value for money, and all the facilities of a luxurious five star resort.

A newly remodeled entrance and driveway welcomes guests with a beautiful circular water feature that creates a circular curtain of water, setting the tone for a magical stay. The lobby has been upgraded too, with eye-catching curving wave patterns that extend more than 50m towards the ceiling, highlighted by five gorgeous chandeliers. The statue of PraApai, a charming prince with a magical flute that is the Royal Cliff’s

coast with its casual feel, cool and breezy colours, along with a private balcony offering incredible views of spectacular sunsets and the sea.

Royal Cliff Grand Hotel: A modern architectural wonder, the Royal Cliff Grand Hotel features sea-facing balconies, landscaped pool with two jacuzzis and sun deck, luxurious spa, Thai cooking school, 12 meeting rooms and high-speed Internet access in all rooms. The property offers the most stunning 180° seaview.

Royal Wing Suites and Spa: Boasting one of the most spectacular ocean-front locations in Pattaya and



symbol of passion, love, strength and charisma takes its place here as well. Another notable addition is the new Bar and Bakery overlooking the lovely pool area.

The new free-form swimming pool at Fitz Club offers fun slides that are perfect for kids and families, is just one of seven pools available at the hotel. It’s also a great venue for weddings, receptions and other events.

The renovated Mini Suites Plus rooms now feature brand new furniture, lighter colour scheme, plus new marble tiles and new bathroom fixtures. The recently introduced Ocean Deluxe is the Royal Cliff’s brand new room featuring a modern design that captures the spirit of the

beyond, this luxurious property has its own private beach, spectacular swimming pool, and an unprecedented level of service. Every suite exudes the perfect combination of exceptional luxury and the finest in personalized service.

In addition to the exquisite new rooms, guests can dine at the newly refurbished Panorama Pool View and Sea View, with its sleek minimalist interior, higher ceiling and brighter décor. The innovative design blurs the lines between the inside and outside spaces, enabling guests to feel close to the sea or a relaxing tropical garden while dining.

“Book direct with the hotel to receive an extra discount and more benefits.”

Royal Cliff Hotels Group 353 Phra Tamnuk Road, Pattaya, Chonburi 20150

Tel: (+66) 3825 0421 Ext. 2878, Email: creative@royalcliff.com, Line: @Royalcliff, Website: www.royalcliff.com

MÖVENPICK

ASARA RESORT & SPA
HUA HIN



relax

STARTING
FROM
THB 6,917

Escape to luxury

Streamline your downtime with “Escape to Luxury” package and get access to our amazing benefits. Book now to enjoy complimentary breakfast and a 20% discount on spa treatments. Book directly through the website to get \$20 resort credit for selected outlets.

Book now at movenpick.com/hua-hin

For reservations or enquiries, call (o) 32 520 777 or email resort.huahin.reservation@movenpick.com

movenpick.com



Ultimate Club Luxury

Up to 20% discount with exclusive access and benefits at Club Lounge is available at Royal Orchid Sheraton when you book club rooms and suites for at least two nights before 31 October, with private check-in/out, complimentary daily breakfast, hors d'oeuvres, evening cocktails, refreshment throughout the day, 15% off for any spa treatments at the Spa, and more!

+662 266 0123 quote "A1475"
www.royalorchidsheraton.com



Relax, Reboot and Refresh

The Re-energizine Escape package at Mövenpick Asara Resort & Spa Hua Hin includes a wide spread breakfast buffet, a complimentary 60 minutes tailor-made treatment of your choice at Asara Spa, a hand-crafted mocktail, and special 15% discount food & beverage any time or 15% discount on another holistic spa experience. It's a great way to reboot your moment!

+ 66 (32) 520 777 quote "PPKG02"
www.movenpick.com/hua-hin

MATES' RATES

Need a quick
 cheap getaway?
 Check out these
 great offers

Prosper Together Package

Hilton hotels throughout Thailand launch the new 'Prosper Together' package in line with Hilton's 'Meet with Purpose' Programme. Booked by 31 March and held by 31 October, the focus is on Mindful Meeting, Mindful Eating and Mindful Being and bonus benefits including: Complimentary room & upgrade, Complimentary cocktail reception, 10% off master bill, Triple Hilton Honors points. Terms and conditions apply.

BKKHI_TSO_MICE@hilton.com



Escape with Dusit

Enjoy this family offer to pamper yourself at Dusit Thani Hua Hin with daily breakfast and one-time dinner for two adults plus up to two children and during March/April over 4 hours of complimentary children's activities daily, such as Thai boxing, Yoga Fitball, Tennis, Swimming/Aquarobics and more. From 4,700++ baht per room/night, terms and conditions apply.

+66 (0) 3252 0009 dthhrsvn@dusit.com



ROYAL VARUNA YACHT CLUB

THAILAND'S PREMIER SAILING COMMUNITY



Beam Reach

'Loosen everything up a little ... PLEASE!'

'Beam Reach', a term meaning sailing with the wind at right angles to the boat, but, we see it as more than this. Nothing is more satisfying than to see children filled with happiness. A spectacular hide-away, stunning clubhouse, accommodation facilities, excellent restaurant, bar and seafront pool. Royal Varuna Yacht Club membership offers international level sailing training and a wide variety of boats for hire, giving members and their children a chance to discover happiness in a natural and safe environment.

Rediscover your inner child and reach for that beaming smile with family and friends. Where else?

Royal Varuna Yacht Club
Thailand's premier sailing community

12°55.065'N 100°51.430'E

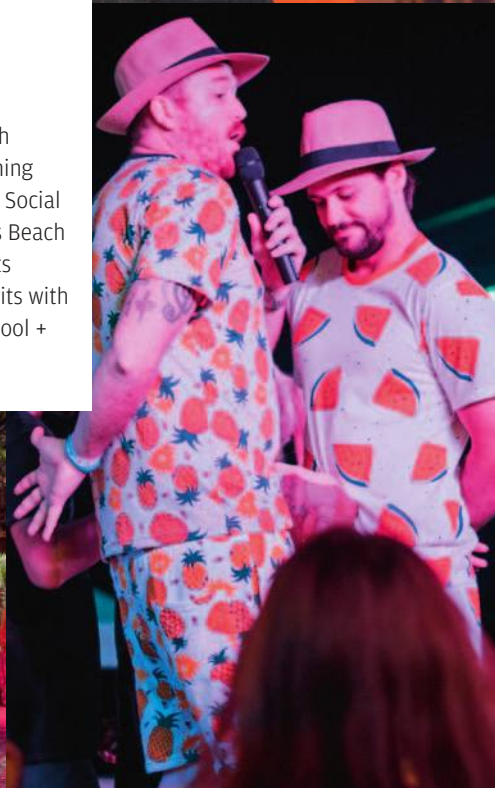
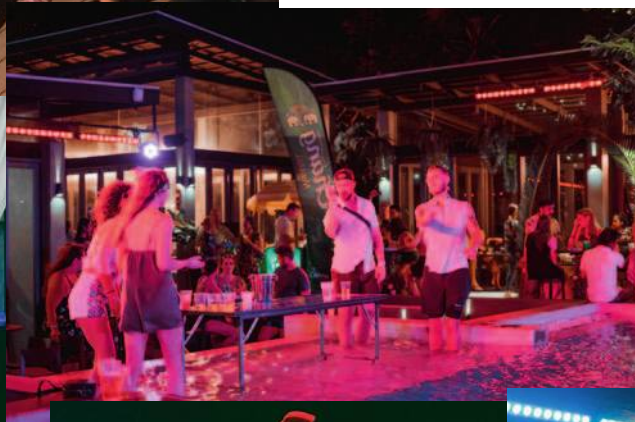
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL +66 038 250 116
WWW.VARUNA.ORG
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ROYALVARUNAYACHTCLUB





Samui's First Social Hotel

Lub d Koh Samui on Chaweng Beach recently held its official Grand Opening Party to celebrate opening the first Social Hotel in Samui as well as its Tropics Beach Club. Management team and guests enjoyed the true fun and social spirits with live band, DJs, games, prizes, and pool + beach parties!

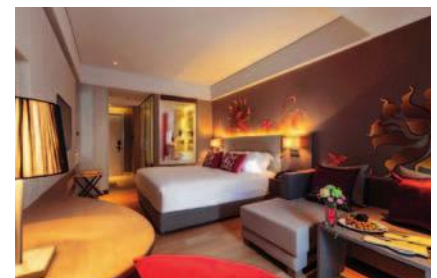
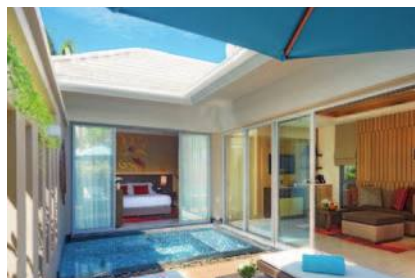




Just steps away from Patong's night life, Grand Mercure Phuket Patong Resort & Villas is a serene hideaway tucked behind Phuket's Andaman seafront. The stories told within these walls engage the mind, captivate the senses and enhance each guest's experience.

Grand Mercure Phuket Patong Resort & Villas features 314 rooms including 252 Superior Rooms, 38 Deluxe Pool Access Rooms, 8 Superior Suites, 2 Deluxe Suites, 10 One Bedroom Pool Villas and 4 Two Bedroom Pool Villas.

Enjoy appetising and cosmopolitan cuisine all around the resort. Treat



yourself to a delicate French pastry at Chou Chou Deli Shop, or delve into the heart of Phuket's culinary heritage with our signature Mee Hoon Gaeng Poo, an iconic yellow curry with crab at Bubbles Restaurant.

In between, relax in a deck chair with a tropical cocktail at Bounce Pool Bar, or watch your favourite team play at Craft Beer Lounge.

The resort's recreational activities featuring the award winning Ryn Spa

(Luxury Emerging Spa in Asia 2016, Luxury Countryside Spa Continent Winner in Asia 2017 and Haute Grandeur Global Spa Awards 2017 Winner), Kids Corner, Fitness Centre, Thai Cooking Class, Thai Boxing and etc. are available to fulfill your extraordinary experience.

Grand Mercure Phuket Patong Resort & Villas
1 Soi Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi 2, Patong, Kathu, Phuket,
Thailand 83150. T +66 76 231 999 E h8109@accor.com
GrandMercurePhuketPatong.com
@GrandMercurePKT
grandmercurephuketpatong
grandmercurephuketpatong



SPECTRUM

LOUNGE & BAR



BANGKOK'S MOST ENERGIZING
ROOFTOP BAR AND EVENT LOUNGE.

Opening 15 March 2019

Hyatt Regency Bangkok Sukhumvit Level 29&30 BTS Nana

☎ 02 098 1234 📘 Spectrum Lounge & Bar

hyattregencybangkoksukhumvit.com