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**ASCOTT**  
INTERNATIONAL

# DEFINING GLOBAL LIVING



**ASCOTT**  
THE RESIDENCE



**SOMERSET**  
SERVICED RESIDENCE

**Citadines**  
APART' HOTEL

From the spacious exclusivity and refinement of Ascott to the pampering touches for the family at Somerset, or the vibrancy of independent city-living at Citadines, there is an Ascott International serviced residence designed to make you feel at home.  
**Because life is about living.**

**For further information call our global reservations at (65) 6272 7272 or visit [www.the-ascott.com](http://www.the-ascott.com)**

Ascott International is a subsidiary of The Ascott Group, a member of CapitaLand. It is the largest global serviced residence operator with more than 120 properties in Asia Pacific, Europe and the Gulf region. It manages the *Ascott*, *Somerset* and *Citadines* brands in over 40 cities across 18 countries.

# ASCOTT

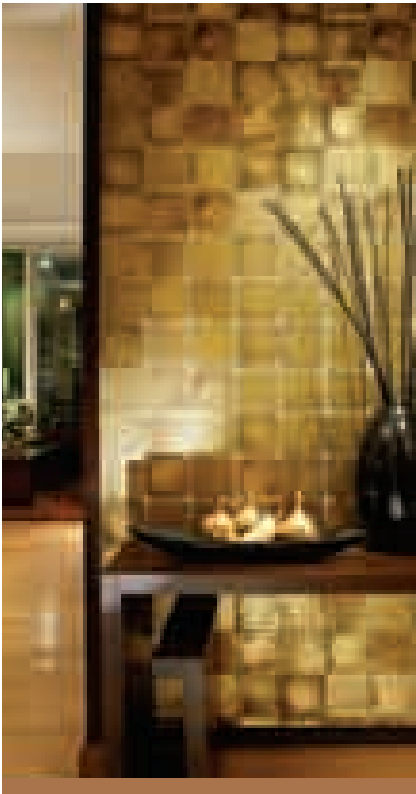
# *Living*

... because life is about living

OCT - DEC 2006

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a light-colored blazer and dark pants, is sitting on a curved, white window ledge. She is looking towards the camera. The room has a large, arched window with a grid pattern. To her right, there is a modern, wire-mesh chair and a wooden table. The floor is made of light-colored wood. The overall atmosphere is bright and modern.

the  
sweet  
life



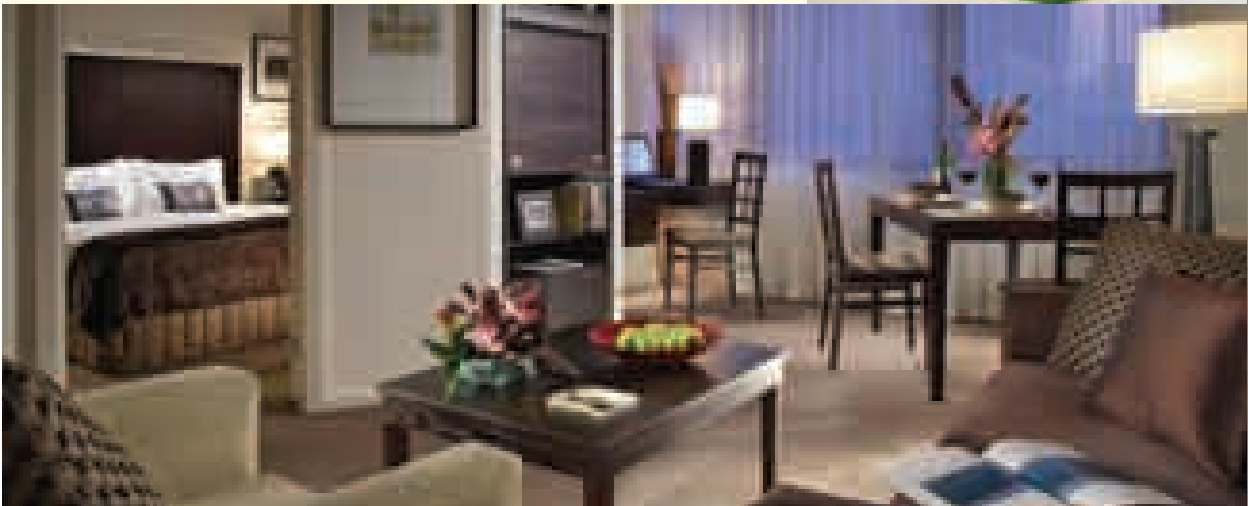
## DEFINING EXCLUSIVE LIVING

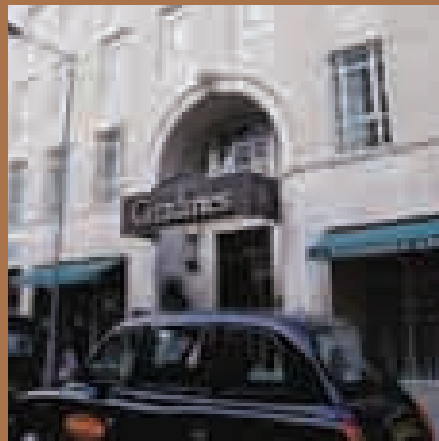
Prestigious and pampering, Ascott The Residence lavishes business travellers with discreet service in plush refinement. Located in the prime business districts in key cities across Asia Pacific and Europe, we keep your business engagements in sight while indulging you in elegant living and unmatched personal service. At Ascott The Residence, you can mix business with pleasure.



## DEFINING BALANCED LIVING

Somerset Serviced Residence welcomes you with homely warmth and enriches your elegant lifestyle with local experiences. Feel the pulse of major cities, the communal chic in elite estates, or get away from it all in private tranquillity. Here, modern amenities, stylish spaces and attentive services come together in a perfect blend of comfort, convenience and cultural charms.





  
Citadines  
APART'HOTEL

## DEFINING VIBRANT LIVING

When it comes to personalised conveniences for savvy and vibrant individuals on the go, nothing comes close to Citadines Apart'hotel. An oasis of calm in key bustling cities, you get to decide on a range of services and amenities that best complements your lifestyle. Modern comforts, business connectivity and customised services – there is such a thing as a perfect match.



oct-dec2006

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The stunning cool sophistication of the cover image for this revamped, brand new look of ASCOTT *Living* epitomises Ascott International's branding, "... because life is about living". Ascott truly understands **LIFE's** values. We believe in giving our residents personalised service with a unique **Local** touch and flavour. We also respect **Individuality**; as such, our services offer residents **Freedom** of choice and are designed to be flexible to cater to different personal needs. More importantly, we believe in going the extra mile for our residents, delivering hospitality and service that **Exceed** expectations.

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I come to Melbourne about twice yearly and have stayed at most of the hotels in the cities. I must say though, that Somerset Gordon Place is amongst the best. Our four one-bedroom apartments were perfect – homely, relaxing, comfortable, and roomy. Front desk service staff was fantastic. We wanted a relaxing two days of partying – and we sure got it.

– Lynette Blaby (Australia), stayed at Somerset Gordon Place, Melbourne from 21 - 23 Apr 2006



It was like staying in a cosy, modern, chic little London apartment with your own kitchen and living room. It exuded classiness, and the service and staff were first class, so too the excellent location. It didn't feel like a hotel at all, and this is a bonus to weary business travellers. Definitely recommended.

– Katherine Mark (USA), stayed at Somerset Bayswater, London from 26 - 29 May 2006

Frankly, I chose The Ascott Metropolis to throw a 'hen' party for my sister – and it was a huge hit! The staff was accommodating and the suite was superb with a breathtaking view to match. All the details like luggage were taken care of promptly by the concierge in charge. As a business travel manager in the UK, I will certainly be recommending your property to my clients.

– Katrina Smith (UK), stayed at The Ascott Metropolis, Auckland from 1- 3 Apr 2006

To better serve our valued guests, we encourage our residents to share their experiences living in an Ascott residence. Here, a sampling of notes.



I'm a member of the United States Air Force and have been living at Somerset Park Suanplu, Bangkok since May 2004. I would especially like to commend Mr Valter Narminio, the general manager. He and all staff regularly keep residents in the loop about everything related to their stay. Bottomline: the service is exemplary, and because of that my wife and I will continue to stay here until I rotate to a new assignment.

– Lt Col James Jernigan's (USA) stay at Somerset Park Suanplu, Bangkok commenced on 28 May 2004 and will end on 28 May 2008

I can vouch for Ascott International's excellent level of service, having resided at some of your properties in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Seoul. Unsurprisingly, Somerset Palace, Seoul exceeded my expectations. I am truly impressed. Staff who displayed exceptional standards of service included Luke, Se Jin, Soo Bin, Iris John and Laurie.

– Lih Ren (Malaysia), stayed at Somerset Palace, Seoul from 27 Feb – 8 Apr 2006



Have you enjoyed your stay with us? Why not share your thoughts and write in with your contact details and photo to [feedback@spafax.sg](mailto:feedback@spafax.sg) – you may just win a mystery prize. Feedback may be edited for print purposes.

# YOUR STAY WITH US BRINGS YOU TRIPLE REWARDS



You have experienced the advantages of staying at our Ascott International serviced residences. From now, not only will you enjoy our award-winning blend of business conveniences, well-equipped amenities and unparalleled services in our expanding international network of serviced residences from all corners of the globe, you may also experience more privileges for every night's stay.

## Be rewarded with attractive gifts

When you stay with us as a KrisFlyer member, you are invited to participate in our Sharing Reward program. Simply introduce your friends to stay with us for 3 nights or more, make reservations under our KrisFlyer program at our participating Ascott and Somerset properties, and you will enjoy these fabulous rewards.

Remember to ask our friendly staff at the serviced residences for your enrolment form when you check in with us.

## More rewards every night

Besides these rewards, you and your friends also enjoy bonus miles reward with our promotions. Earns you 150 KrisFlyer miles reward for every night's stay with us. This will bring you closer to the flight rewards you deserve. To find out more privileges awaiting you, call (65) 6272 7272 to make reservation.

Refer your friends to earn rewards.



For more details, visit  
[www.the-ascott.com/triplerewards](http://www.the-ascott.com/triplerewards).



**ASCOTT**  
INTERNATIONAL

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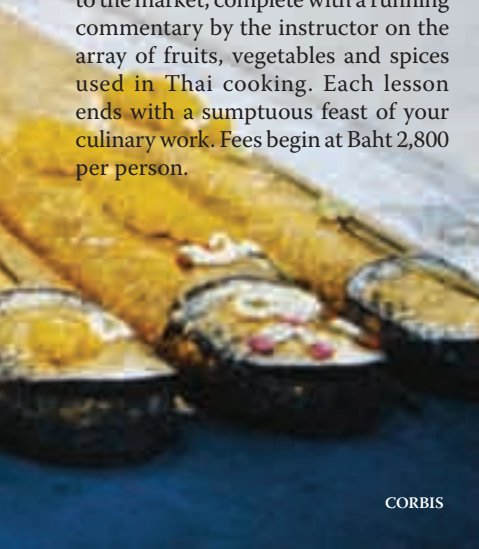
# land of surprises

Mention Bangkok, and you might think “been there, done that”. But the Land of Smiles is a land of surprises too. We bring you some fresh new ideas on what to do the next time you’re in the Thai capital. By **Sharon Lim**



### MOVEABLE FEAST

You've slurped and supped many a delicious Thai meal. Why not impress your guests back home by learning how to prepare a few Thai dishes yourself? The Blue Elephant Cooking School (*Blue Elephant Building, 233 South Sathorn Road, Tel: 66 2 673 9353; E-mail: [cooking.school@blueelephant.com](mailto:cooking.school@blueelephant.com)*), conveniently located at the heart of Bangkok, is one place where you can roll up your sleeves, discover the secrets of Thai cuisine, and in just half a day, learn to whip up a four-course meal. The morning class includes a trip to the market, complete with a running commentary by the instructor on the array of fruits, vegetables and spices used in Thai cooking. Each lesson ends with a sumptuous feast of your culinary work. Fees begin at Baht 2,800 per person.



CORBIS

### BOAT TEMPLE

Just a 30-minute drive from the city centre, in a village called Bang Kruay, in northern Nonthaburi Province across the Chao Phraya River, sits Wat Chalaw. It's one of Thailand's most outstanding architectural projects. The story goes that King Boromakot travelled to Bang Kruay by canal in 1578 and found no temple there. He decided to build one, despite the misgivings of villagers who believed the recent capsizing of a Chinese junk was an ill omen. Subsequently, the temple was destroyed by lightning, and the king had the temple rebuilt in the shape of a Chinese junk to placate the spirits. Whether it's this character-filled crumbling old temple or the vividly colourful new one that took some 20 years to construct, each reflects a naval theme. In fact, the newer temple is twice the size of the King of Thailand's royal river vessel, *Subannahongsa*, which it resembles. The easiest way to get here is by taxi, but ensure you have Bang Kruay written in Thai so your driver knows where to head.

### KNEAD IT

More than just a rubdown, Thai massage is an ancient medical science and an integral part of Thai life. The best place to learn it is at Wat Phra Chetuphon Thai Traditional Medical Science School (Wat Pho), (*2 Sanamchai Rd, Tel. 66 2 221 2974; E-mail: [WatpoTMM@netscape.net](mailto:WatpoTMM@netscape.net)*), located within the compounds of the beautifully restored royal monastery. The course is taught by English-speaking instructors and based on texts collected and inscribed by King Rama III (1824-1851). Start with the general Thai massage course. Once proficient, you can move on to the therapeutic and healing massage course. Both courses require 30 hours and cost Baht 7,000 each.



Bed Supperclub



Hu'u

**A WALK INTO THE PAST**

The perfect city escape would be a day trip to Ayutthaya, the former capital of Thailand from 1350 to 1767. Located some 72km north of the city, it was described as one of the most beautiful cities on earth with its clutch of glittering temples, palaces and Buddhist images back in its heyday. Sadly, the Burmese destroyed it in 1767. Nevertheless, all is not lost. Today, you can still see many ancient ruins and art works, and in fact, the Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Historical Park in the heart of the ancient city is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A good way to get the most of your visit is to hire a tuk-tuk with an English-speaking guide to show you around. Check out [www.thailand.sawadee.com/ayutthaya/](http://www.thailand.sawadee.com/ayutthaya/) for more information.

**BLISS OUT**

Thailand offers more than just relaxing beaches for the stressed-out soul. In Bangkok, you can learn how to meditate. Being a Buddhist country, meditation taught in Thailand stems from the Buddhist tradition. And what better place to learn than at one of the highest seats of Buddhist learning in the country – Mahachulalongkorn Buddhist University. Its International Buddhist Meditation Centre (IBMC), (*Dhamma Vicaya Hall, Wat Mahadhatu, Tha Prachan, Tel: 66 2 623 6326, 623 6328; www.sawadee.com/thailand/meditation*) offers mindfulness meditation classes in English daily from 1-6 pm, except on Buddhist holidays and Sundays. Classes are free of charge, though donations are welcome.

**CRUSHING BLOWS**

Those looking for a more vigorous activity can learn the traditional Thai martial art, Muay Thai. For centuries, Thais have used this close, hand-to-hand combat to defend themselves and their land from aggressors. Today, it is an international sport loved by both locals and foreigners alike. Even if you don't fancy being in the ring, you can still be part of the exhilarating action at the nightly matches over at the Lumpini or Ratchadamnoen Stadiums – the biggest and most famous stadiums in the country.

A great place to learn Muay Thai is the Muay Thai Institute itself (336/932, Prachathipat, Thanyaburi, Tel: 992 0096 9; [www.muaythai-institute.net/](http://www.muaythai-institute.net/)). Classes are taught by English-speaking, ex Muay Thai champion instructors, who each hold a bachelor's degree in physical education. Graduates from the institute will receive a certificate recognised by the Thai Ministry of Education and the World Muay Thai Council. Classes begin from US\$160 per course.



## TOAST OF THE TOWN

If you want to see and be seen with the beautiful people in Bangkok, there are some chic places to look cool in when the sun sets and the party lights come on. Sukhumvit Road is a good place to start, filled to the brim with hotels, shops, restaurants and clubs of varying levels of luxury. The lower-numbered sois (roads) are packed with shopping centres and hotels. The upper sois are generally posh residential areas for expats living in the city. A good place to head for some trendy vibes is the minimalist bar/club/restaurant, Bed Supperclub (26 Soi 11 Sukhumvit, Tel: 66 2 2651 3537; [www.bedsupperclub.com](http://www.bedsupperclub.com)) As the name implies, this is one club you can dine in bed amid a futuristic, all-white surrounds. The Bed Bar is where top international DJs spin anything from funky house to Bhangra and hip hop. Reservations are essential, especially on weekends when a four-course surprise dinner (Baht 1,000) is served only at 9pm.

The latest to create a buzz in the city's already bustling nightlife is Sirocco (*The Dome at State Tower, 1055 Silom Road, Tel: 66 2 624 9555, [www.thedomebkk.com/web/corp\\_home05.html](http://www.thedomebkk.com/web/corp_home05.html)*) Located on the 63rd floor of Bangkok's second tallest building, the State Tower, this bar and restaurant gives the term "under the stars" a whole new meaning. For those who dare to look at what lies beneath, the glittering city comes alive, twinkling at your feet. Given the view, the Mediterranean cuisine and the live jazz performance, it's no wonder Sirocco is the latest see-and-be-seen hangout for the who's who.

Another happening place is the bar and fine dining restaurant, Hu'u (1 and 2 floor, *The Ascott Sathorn, 187 South Sathorn Road, Tel: 66 2 676 6677, [www.huuinasia.com](http://www.huuinasia.com)*). Voted Best New Nightspot by *BK Magazine's* Readers Choice Awards 2005, this is where the fashionable crowd

chills out. Amid the über décor of dark colours, dim lights, high ceiling and the hard-to-miss wall refrigerator of fine wines, relax and sip a Long Island Ice Tea – some say it's the strongest in town – in the lounge. Upstairs, the 70-seat restaurant wows with its cosmopolitan menu. With a sophisticated atmosphere oozing from every corner, from the cool acid jazz and down-tempo music to the beautiful people all around, you can't go wrong at Hu'u.

## NOCTURNAL RETAIL THERAPY

Suan Lum Night Bazaar is probably the most famous night bazaar in Bangkok, located at the south-eastern corner of Lumpini Park. For shopaholics, it is a haven with 3,000 stalls – trendier and cleaner than those found in other night markets. Open seven days a week from 3 p.m to midnight, some even till 2 a.m, you'll find local craft, antiques, clothes and even local munchies like dried durian and jackfruit. It's a little more expensive than the other famous Chatuchak weekend market, so be prepared to bargain hard. After all that shopping, rest your feet and have your fill at the huge covered food court with numerous stalls dishing up Thai to German to Chinese food. There are also a few al fresco dining cafes, restaurants and bars. Though not as cramped as Chatuchak, with wider corridors between stalls and well-organised sections, this night market still gets pretty stuffy, so wear something light and comfortable for some serious shopping. ■

*To get to Suan Lum Night Bazaar, take the Skytrain to S2 Sala Daeng Station (Silom Line). Walk about 100m to the Si Lom MRT station. Take the train to Lumpini and you will see Suan Lum Night Bazaar. It's only a 15-minute walk from Sala Daeng to Suan Lum Night Bazaar. It's easy to grab a metered-taxi or tuk-tuk on your way back.*

## CITADINES HITS BANGKOK

Business travellers who cite Citadines as one of their most preferred homes away from home, will be delighted to know this renowned European brand of serviced residences will soon be available in Thailand.

Citadines is the newest addition to Ascott International's expanding global portfolio that includes luxury and exclusive serviced residences spanning major cities around the world.

Residents staying at Citadines' properties can expect fully-furnished, prime grade units complemented with the same outstanding quality service Ascott International is renowned for. On top of that is the bonus of service flexibility, which allows residents to customise the exact services they require to accommodate their lifestyles.

Bangkok is the destination of choice for Citadines' entry into Thailand; more specifically, the Sukhumvit district, which is the city's main entertainment and commercial hotspot. By 2008, there will be four Citadines properties in Bangkok to choose from. Citadines Bangkok Sukhumvit 16 will be the first to open in Bangkok and is located just a stone's throw from bustling retail malls, night bazaars, eateries and watering holes.

*Call 1800 888 272 (toll free) for reservations in Thailand*



Citadines Bangkok Sukhumvit 16 (opening soon)  
No. 38 Sukhumvit 16,  
Sukhumvit Road  
Klongtoey, Bangkok  
Thailand  
Tel: 66 2 663 87777

An intoxicating blend of old and new, South Korea's capital city is making its mark on the destination map.  
By **Lalitha Naidu**

# seoul chic

When vacationing in Asia the first cities to come to mind are likely to be Hong Kong, Bangkok, Shanghai and Tokyo. But another Asian city has slowly and almost unobtrusively climbed the top holiday destination ranks – Seoul.

The heart of South Korea, Seoul is fast earning a reputation as one of the trendiest and most exciting cities in the region. So much so that *The New York Times* tagged it “the new Tokyo” and *Wallpaper* the “modern city of the future”. But Seoul is not all about towering skyscrapers of steel and glass and urban sprawl. Peel its layers and you’ll find a wealth of culture, tradition and a genuine charm. Discover some of the city’s multifaceted attractions.

## NAMSAN

Just about everyone from tourists to old folks and iPod toting joggers navigate the 1,000-odd concrete steps meandering up the 243 metre high Namsan or South Mountain every day for a stunning bird’s eye view of the city. If that’s daunting, go for the less demanding scenic cable car ride up the lush wooded mountain instead. Also, atop Namsan is the 237 metre N Seoul Tower, which can be seen from anywhere in the city. Use it to get your bearings and enjoy even more stunning panoramic views – on a clear day, you can see as far as Incheon in the West Coast.

## INSADONG

Even Queen Elizabeth made a beeline for this charming neighbourhood on her visit to Seoul in 1999 for a taste of old Korea. Recognised as a historic district in 1994, Insadong retains a rustic old world charm. In its glory days, it was a lively haven for artists, writers and other creative souls— a characteristic that is still apparent today. Stroll down the narrow labyrinth-like streets for quaint art galleries, gorgeous antique, ceramic and calligraphy stores and bustling back alley teahouses. On Sundays keep an eye out for a myriad of traditional fairs and cultural performances that never fails to lend the neighbourhood a carnival-like atmosphere.

## GYEONGBOKGUNG PALACE

Seoul is not short on majestic palaces. There are five to choose from and Gyeongbokgung is often the one everyone wants to see – with good reason too. With its breathtaking architecture and pavilions surrounded by lotus and gliding swans, ‘The Palace Of Shining Happiness’ is a sight to behold. Much of the Palace was destroyed during the Japanese colonial days and it wasn’t until 1990 that the Korean government began restoring it to its former glory. Despite being a work in progress, you’ll still be able to envision Korea’s imperial history from what’s at hand. The National Folk Museum of Korea on the Palace grounds, a treasure trove of cultural relics and ancient artefacts, is also not to be missed.

## LOCAL BREW

Do as the locals do and take a shot or two of *soju*, Korea’s national drink. Distilled from sweet potatoes, the potent concoction tastes rather like vodka and is served straight at most street stalls. Try it with barbecued pork or Korean sausage. Cocktails like lemon, cherry, peach and mango *soju* are a good way to get acquainted with the drink.

## KOREA HOUSE

Step in for a quick yet surprisingly eye-opening insight into Korean tradition and culture. The Korea House, a well preserved relic of the traditional Joseon Dynasty architecture, combines traditional setting, sumptuous classic court cuisine reputed to be the best in all of Seoul, and folk dance and music performances to great effect. What’s more, much care is taken to make the experience as authentic as possible.





### LOTTE WORLD

A sprawling mall, entertainment hub, amusement park and sports centre all rolled into one – that’s Lotte World. In short, it’s a mega entertainment zone under one roof. Besides countless retail options, including a duty free floor, where you can shop to your heart’s content, the hulking building houses an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a large indoor ice-skating rink and exhilarating rollercoaster rides.

### CHEONGGYEcheon

Millions turned up to witness the historic restoration of Cheonggyecheon last year. The stream flowing through the city centre has played a huge role in Seoul’s history, but for over 40 years it was paved over and covered by an expressway as the city pushed on with modernisation. Seoul’s recent efforts to go green is best symbolised by the stream’s new lease of life. Cheonggyecheon is now a lively waterfront area and many locals gather here to take a breather from the hustle and bustle of the city. Follow the stream as it cascades over waterfalls, squeezes through stepping stone crossings and runs beneath 22 different bridges. ■

### KOREAN HOSPITALITY

Languish in luxury at the Somerset Palace, Seoul. Whether you are on business or leisure, take your pick from a selection of accommodation options ranging from studio to one or two bedroom units and relax in the tranquil environment of beautiful garden views and great cityscapes.

Be further pampered by the comprehensive array of services and facilities such as the rooftop jaccuzis and soak in the magnificent view of the Gyeongbokgung Palace.

You can’t beat the address as well. Strategically located in buzzing downtown Seoul, it’s a stroll away from major attractions like Insadong, Sejong Cultural Center and of course, the Gyeongbokgung Palace.

Somerset Palace, Seoul  
No 85 , Susong-Dong, Jongno-Gu  
Seoul, South Korea  
Tel: 82 2 6730 8888



FEEL THE MAGIC OF

# CHRISTMAS IN THE TROPICS

11 Nov 2006 - 2 Jan 2007



## My Christmas List:

- See the Christmas Light-Up aboard the open-top HIPPO Bus
- Late night shopping on Orchard Road and Marina Bay!
- Watch a Christmas concert
- Feast on festive goodies
- See the magical Christmas tree
- Buy fantastic Christmas presents for myself !!



Hop into the open-top HIPPO bus for a ride down Orchard Road or Marina Bay. It's the best seat in town to enjoy the enchanting Christmas Light-Up and soak up the yuletide sights and sounds. A magical Christmas experience not to be missed! Hurry, collect your complimentary tickets at selected Singapore Visitors Centres. Call our 24-hour Touristline at 1800-736 2000 (toll-free in Singapore) or log on to [visitsingapore.com/cit06](http://visitsingapore.com/cit06) for details.

  
UNIQUELY  
Singapore  
Christmas in the tropics

### EXTREME SURFING

The famous monster waves of Shipstern Bluff surge off the coast of Port Arthur, where fearless surfers are towed out to ride the gigantic storm-swollen five-metre swells. Beginners should head to the 42 South Surf School in Scamander, which has soft board and wetsuit hire as well as a mobile surf school with various locations. For details, visit [www.surfingaustralia.com](http://www.surfingaustralia.com)

### ABSEILING

The world's highest commercial abseil, 140 metres in one continuous drop down the Gordon Dam wall, is run by Aardvark Adventures. If you're not quite up for the big one you can also try the optional 30 or 70 metre abseils. It's a full-day tour departing from Hobart. For details, visit [www.aardvarkadventures.com.au](http://www.aardvarkadventures.com.au)

### MOUNTAIN BIKING

Mount Wellington is the undisputed king of mountain biking in Hobart, with the Mount Wellington descent a thrilling 21km downhill ride. Bike riding is also permitted on formed roads and fire trails, and certain nominated walking tracks on the mountain. Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park was designed by world-renowned course designer Glen Jacobs and caters for all levels and types of mountain bike riding. For details, visit [www.tasbikepark.com](http://www.tasbikepark.com)

### DIVING

Both the Tasman and Freycinet peninsulas boast some of the best temperate water diving in the world. The Eaglehawk Dive Centre runs boat dives to Cathedral Cave, a maze of caverns, passageways and narrow swimthroughs, through the giant kelp forests of Fortescue Bay, the wreck of the SS Nord (one of Australia's best wreck dives) and other locations, including seal dives to Hippolyte Rock and Cape Pillar. The water surrounding Hippolyte Rock drops down to 90 metres and offers spectacular wall diving for the experienced diver. For details, visit [www.eaglehawkdive.com.au](http://www.eaglehawkdive.com.au)

### CABLE HANG GLIDING

Experience all the thrills of hang gliding without any of the spills over at Trevallyn Dam near Launceston. A support frame on the glider is attached to a main cable to ensure you remain safe during your flight. Soar over an 18-metre cliff landing 200 metres from your take-off point – it's a short flight that gives you the experience of normal hang gliding under controlled conditions. This is a ride that thrill-seekers of almost any age can enjoy. For details, visit [www.cablehanggliding.com.au](http://www.cablehanggliding.com.au)

### WILDERNESS WALKING

Tasmania's wild and rugged wilderness transforms bushwalking into an extreme sport. Two of the country's most challenging wilderness walks are the 70km Port Davey Track and the 85km South Coast Track in the remote South-West. About 200 people walk the Port Davey track each year, taking four to five days and around 1,000 people tackle the six to eight day South Coast Track. Still challenging but not as remote, the six-day, 65km Overland Track between Cradle Mountain and Lake St Clair includes a side trip to climb Tasmania's tallest mountain, Mt Ossa. Bookings are required for each walking season (1 November to 30 April). For details, visit [www.overlandtrack.com.au](http://www.overlandtrack.com.au).



thrill

## JET BOATING

Take an exhilarating 50-minute jet boat ride through the rain-forested gorges of the King River. From Strahan the jet boat travels across five kilometres of Macquarie Harbour to the entrance of King River, where the legacy of 100 years of unchecked mining waste is a vast 400-hectare delta; the river banks are devastated to the high water mark but the scenery is nonetheless bizarre and haunting. Along the way you'll be treated to a number of adrenalin-pumping high-speed spins. Jet boats leave daily from Strahan Wharf. For details, visit [www.wildriversjet.com.au](http://www.wildriversjet.com.au)

## SEA KAYAKING

Paddle through some of the most remote areas of wilderness on earth. Roaring 40s Ocean Kayaking runs three and seven-day sea kayaking trips to Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour. Both expeditions begin with a spectacular light aircraft flight, the only access to the area other than by way of a five-day hike, and use a combination of double and single 'Feathercraft' collapsable kayaks. Some previous kayaking experience is recommended. For details, visit [www.roaring40skayaking.com.au](http://www.roaring40skayaking.com.au)

## ROCK CLIMBING

The coastal cliffs that rise dramatically from the sea on the Freycinet Peninsula are one of the best known climbing areas in Tasmania, with climbs varying from the less accessible routes on the Hazards (an impressive 300m high, pink granite dome) to the more popular, shorter but steeper climbs found closer to Coles Bay. The spectacular dolerite columns and cliffs along the coastline of the Tasman National Park are also popular areas for climbing and abseiling. Several companies offer full-day climbing and abseiling courses. For details, visit [www.aardvarkadventures.com.au](http://www.aardvarkadventures.com.au) or [www.freycinetadventures.com.au](http://www.freycinetadventures.com.au)

## WHITE WATER RAFTING

The Franklin River, one of the world's last major wild rivers, is Australia's best white water rafting destination. Rafting this river is challenging with rapidly fluctuating water levels, unpredictable weather and demanding portages, but it is a magnificent adventure through deep gorges, superb rapids and awesome scenery. Most trips take between five and 10 days. For details, visit [www.raftingtasmmania.com](http://www.raftingtasmmania.com) and [www.tas-ex.com](http://www.tas-ex.com). ■

# seeker

Pump up the adrenalin on your next Tasmanian holiday with these 10 extreme sports. By **Lee Atkinson**

## COMFORT ZONE

After all the action and adventure, it's a relief to just unwind and relax in the security of a private serviced residence. In the Tasmanian capital Hobart, Ascott International offers two serviced residences that are refreshing alternatives to a bustling hotel. The first is the award-winning Somerset on the Pier on Elizabeth Street. Overlooking Hobart's picturesque waterfront and the historic Sullivan Cove, Somerset on the Pier offers 56 spacious and comfortable units complete with business facilities. For three years running, Somerset on the Pier bagged the Tasmanian Tourism Awards for Deluxe Accommodation.

Just minutes away is Somerset On Salamanca, located within walking distance from the city of Hobart and its many unique attractions including the famous Salamanca Market and St. David's Park. The residence offers 18 spacious units, each with a private balcony or courtyard and fully-equipped kitchen.



*Somerset on the Pier  
on Elizabeth Street*

Somerset on the Pier  
Elizabeth Street Pier  
Hobart, Tasmania  
Tel: 61 3 6220 6600

Somerset On Salamanca  
No. 8 Salamanca Place  
Hobart, Tasmania  
Tel: 61 3 6220 6600

# chic essentials

When it comes to fashion and grooming, you can't go wrong with these picks that are high on style.

By **Michelle Bong**

An original design dedicated to the famous British car model, the Breitling for **Bentley timepiece** is a luxurious blend of two works of art into one. The bold design plays on the angles and curves of the world-famous car and features the legendary "Flying B" insignia. For the discerning, it represents the height of discreet luxury.



Because looking good is every woman's right, she deserves all the TLC she can get. For this, the spanking new **DRx Clinic** is the place to be. In fact, it is one of two clinics in the world (and the first in Asia) to offer the Autologous Hemato-Cellular (AHC) Rejuvenation treatment, the only known treatment said to reverse the skin's ageing process. They are also the first in the world to offer UltraShape, a clinically-proven surgical-free method of eliminating fat cells through ultrasound technology. For more details, visit [www.drxcclinic.com](http://www.drxcclinic.com)

In an age of high-tech digital cameras with more and more convoluted bits and bobs, the new **LEICA C-LUX 1** is a breath of fresh air. Its design is retro classical, exuding a back-to-basics feel that characterises this high-performance camera known for some of the best spherical lenses in the world. The six-megapixel C-LUX 1 also boasts a wide-angle feature, unusual for compact cameras. At all authorised dealers.



A Centennial limited edition masterpiece, the **Mont Blanc Meisterstück Solitaire 1906** pays tribute to the brand's illustrious history. The edition, comprising a fountain pen, ballpoint and roller ball, is a stunning creation of authentic anthracite-coloured granite from Mont Blanc and sterling silver, capped with a single star-cut Top Wesselton diamond with 43 facets. Only 1,906 pieces are available worldwide at Mont Blanc boutiques.



A happy marriage of quality performance and modern design is evident in Nakamichi's **LUMOS** portable DVD player. Beneath that jet-black jewel-polished body lies a powerful piece of equipment that gives you theatre-quality screenings of brilliant high-resolution displays and excellent audio. You can even use it to showcase your personal photos. The LUMOS comes with a tailored leather bag and rechargeable battery for stylish entertainment on-the-go.

Sometimes all you need is one stunning piece of accessory to go from "blah" to absolutely fabulous. And American label **Erickson Beamon** understands the oomph factor. Handcrafted using the tiniest crystals and semi-precious stones, the distinctive collection of chandelier earrings, bracelets and brooches is intricate and elegant. The collection sizzles in the trendiest stores, from Colette in Paris to Corso Como in Milan.



Impeccably well-cut and impossibly stylish, **Moschino jeans** look best worn with killer heels or chic ballet pumps. Pick designs dusted with gold glitter spray for subtle bling.

To celebrate 10 years of helping women step out in style, heel guru **Jimmy Choo** presents 10 of his most famous creations in the Jimmy Choo Vintage Collection. Each limited edition pair features a gold star motif on the inside sole. Styles which made the Top 10 cut include the daytime classic Tosca Flat and the iconic feather-trimmed, lilac suede heels Carrie Bradshaw wore in *Sex and the City*.



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# party hearty

Nothing beats a cocktail party  
for some glamorous yet casual fun.  
And it's a cinch to put together.  
Text and styling by **Chongwan Tay**

Coloured crystal wine glasses from Christofle; leather tray from The John Erdos Gallery; Catering chiller bowl and all wines and champagne courtesy of Hock Tong Bee Pte Ltd.



These days, cocktail parties seem to be enjoying a renaissance of sorts. While sit-down dinners are elaborate, enjoyable affairs, they can be formal and ritualistic. Cocktail parties, on the other hand, can be just as dramatic occasions, but with half the hassle of a dinner party and double the fun as it's all about free and easy entertaining. The ingredients to a fabulous cocktail party: great music, ambience, and a good selection of drinks and finger foods.

Whether ensconced in a city loft or tucked away in a colonial style bungalow, you can throw a chic cocktail party with ease. The trick is to remember that effortless is chic. We like to think of it as giving the old dinner party a fun twist, much like the way Nigella Lawson or Jamie Oliver have lent cooking a throwaway charm. Here are sure-win rules for a memorable cocktail soiree.

## IN THE MOOD

### Amp up the party quotient – it's all in the little details

- **Dress your house up.** With a party theme, décor can go the distance. But even without it, a simple way to create a party setting is to line tables with tea lights and small bowls filled with fresh picked flowers for a sophisticated modern look. Crystal vases also add stunning lighting effect to the table.
- **Play it again.** Music is the heart and soul of any party. Fancy a jazz night or some Caribbean vibes? Plan the rest of your elements accordingly. For those who prefer not to commit to a theme, safe bets would be the *Hotel Costes*, *Buddha Bar* series – these offer cool, chill-out, ambient music to keep the pulse going.
- **Light up.** Everyone and everything looks better under the right light. In the case of a party, you can't go wrong with votives and tea lights scattered all around the house,

on tables and even on the stairs. If you have a chandelier, dim it down. The idea is to have it just bright enough so you can tell what you're eating.

- **Mix and match.** Invite a diverse range of guests. From your CEO neighbours to your hippie yoga instructor, the fun is all in the mix. Conversations won't be confined to one topic (another hedge funds party, anyone?) and the vibe is guaranteed to be unpredictably interesting.

## DRINK AND BE MERRY

**The star of the show: Your bar. Get it right here and you've won half the battle.**

**Serve a house cocktail upon guests' arrivals.** Be it your best exotic martini, a sexy peach bellini or a splashy kir royale. Start with a bang and you'll get the crowd going.

**The DIY bar.** If it's a wine-only party, your worries stop here. But with a party of more than 10 and one you plan to extend well past the witching hour, we suggest more ammunition. Lay your Belvederes and Absolut's beside juices like pomegranate and cranberry, and let everyone mix their own cocktails. Other wonderful liqueurs to stock: Limoncello drop, grappa, sambucca. And there can never be too much ice, sparkling water and soda.

*Crystal wine goblet with red ruby from Baccarat; Silk striped table cloth from EM Gallery. Red linen napkins, beaded napkin rings, white shell tray all from The John Erdos Gallery.*



## POSH NOSH

Food at such soirees should be fun, not fussy. Think tapas style, served with lots of flair.

- Hors d'oeuvres presented in spoons are easy to circulate. An example: A delicious gazpacho poured into shot glasses and garnished with basil leaves.
- For nibbles, dress organic roasted nuts with fresh rosemary and sea salt.
- Build a salad using endive leaves as scoops, with goat cheese, walnuts and sun-dried tomatoes lightly drizzled with olive oil and balsamic vinegar.
- For high drama, do a flambé. All you need on stand-by is pre-made crepe batter and Grand Marnier. Live performances like this usually get everyone in the mood.
- The ultimate flourish is a dessert buffet. Think petit fours, purchased cupcakes, brownies and the like.
- Have an excellent cheeseboard for your wines. Serve an assortment of soft, semi-hard and hard cheeses. In general, you can't go wrong with a good Gouda, Camembert, Comte or Reblochon. And if you're going Spanish, some fantastic manchego with membrillo (quince paste) make a delicious combination. Don't forget to trim your board with salami, grapes, fig or anything you fancy.
- Ham it up or keep it raw. Jamon Serrano and prosciutto go well with asparagus, rolled over a grilled peach or a simple breadstick.
- For an Asian twist, tuna tartare on sesame chips are easy on the palate, or roll salmon sashimi with a shiso leaf (a Japanese herb often used as a garnish) into a bud, dab on some ponzu, wasabi and skewer through with a bamboo stick.

Even the best laid plans may not all come together. Be prepared for the unexpected. Our final party rule: a true domestic goddess is never one to shun help. Cater some of the food, if not all. Hire waiters and help in the kitchen. Nobody has to know you didn't make those scrumptious Vietnamese rolls from scratch. ■

## FUN GATHERINGS

What makes an excellent host? Someone who is savvy about setting the right mood for a party and entertaining a variety of guests. But being a good host takes practice. At Ascott International, residents get to pick up new skills – some relevant to home entertaining – enjoy a fresh perspective on life, and explore their new hometown through a variety of specially designed programmes. This unique concept is also an excellent way to form new social circles. Residents can sign up for cooking, painting, flower arrangement and salsa dancing workshops – all the better to entertain and impress new and old friends. For the more active, there is swimming, bowling or yoga, which are great opportunities for informal get-togethers while keeping trim and fit. Residents who prefer to get out and about can opt for a range of excursions, from art galleries to historic city attractions. And for a touch of heart, they also get to nurture their philanthropic side through orphanage visits.

Another popular spin-off is the range of 'ladies only' activities, available exclusively to female residents such as grooming and social etiquette classes, and skincare workshops. For more information on Ascott International's residents' programmes, enquire at the respective property's reception for details.

# Body Works

You can't go wrong with the OTO CYBER-Relax CR-2000, which combines luxury and the therapeutic benefits of a full body massage – all in the comfort of your home. As far as massage chairs go, there are few as advanced and intuitive as the CR-2000.

The chair comes with 3D massage actions simulating hand movements and a curved rolling track to conform to the natural shape of your body for a precise massage. It even has a revolutionary arm massage option for tired forearms and a knee-stretch function that is ideal for putting the spring back into stiff joints and improving blood circulation.

Quick soothing relief or a thorough massage therapy? Take your pick from some 509 combinations and a variety of massage strokes such as Shiatsu, kneading, rolling and stretching and tapping to massage the kinks out of your entire body. All you need to do is sit back and enjoy.

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# french finesse



Divine desserts. Sumptuous gourmet fare. Hearty provincial flavours. When it comes to food, the French can turn anything into a delectable indulgence. While Paris teems with great eateries, some of the best kept gems are found in two Parisian quarters – Saint-Germain-des-Prés and Opéra. By **Jason Hahn**

One of the great things about Paris is its multi-faceted, jeweled personality. Like a chanteuse, its charms morph with every season and every mood – beautiful museums stuffed with priceless treasures, *fin de siècle* arcades lined with atmospheric boutiques and cafés, antiquarian bookshops and bijoux perfumeries from which you can almost imagine Madame Bovary emerging.

For the tireless gourmand, Paris is ground zero for every imaginable repast, from earthy country classics served up in bistros that haven't changed much in centuries, ripe rounds of cheese served in high ceilinged, Art Deco dining rooms, to summery ice-cream parlours by the Seine and sweet, delightful desserts in scores of pâtisseries.

The way to get a taste of Paris is to haunt the bistros and cafés. Here, the vibe is dark paneled timber, brisk service and plenty of superb provincial food – onion soup, *coq au vin* and *pot au feu* being the least of them. Some of Paris' best can be found around Saint-Germain-des-Prés and Opéra. Here, a sampling of delicious finds within these quarters. Enjoy!

## SAINT GERMAIN-DES-PRÉS

For generations now, the Left Bank's cafés and bistros have lured intellectuals and gourmands alike. There's really no better way to while away an entire afternoon, safely ensconced at a little round table on the pavement and watch the world go by, as you sip delicious hot chocolate and savour a big bowl of steaming hot, garlicky moules.

Lovers of macarons – those quintessentially Parisian airy puffs sandwiching molten ganache – are in luck with two of the city's best pastry chefs competing fiercely a few blocks from one another. At the venerable **Ladurée's** tea salon (16 Rue Royale, T: 01 42 602179), the macarons date back nearly 150 years and boast over 50 flavours. Meanwhile, the queues at **Pierre Hermé** (72 Rue Bonaparte, T: 01 43 544777) speak volumes, especially at the presentation of each new season's flavours; think white truffles, Japanese green tea and the now legendary salted caramel.

Every self-respecting establishment will have its own version of hot chocolate, but **Aux Deux Magots'** – a hint of vanilla and a lighter pour than most – is one of Paris' best (170 Boulevard Saint-Germain, T: 01 45 485525). Together with Brasserie Lipp across the boulevard and Cafe de Flore next door, Magots was once the epicentre of Paris' intellectual hub, with a clientele that included de Beauvoir, Sartre, Oscar Wilde and Rimbaud.

For a taste of old Paris, make your way to **Le Procope** (13 rue de l'ancienne-Comédie, T: 01 40 467900), the city's oldest restaurant and its first café. Since 1686, the institution has wined and dined everyone from Jean-Paul

Marat and Georges Jacques Danton to Voltaire. Today, the red and gold Art Deco interiors are still lined with gilt mirrors and boast a menu that includes duck *foie gras* with melon chutney, eggplant caviar and shellfish platters.

For something a little more contemporary, try **Ze Kitchen Galerie** (4 rue des Grands Augustins) which mixes a modern setting with a painting gallery and open kitchen.



## OPÉRA

The Opéra quarter is Paris' entertainment and business epicentre. A must-visit is the Opéra de Paris Garnier itself, an opulent classical and Baroque building that was the inspiration for the Phantom of the Opera. Nineteenth century splendour is reflected in the beautifully scaled buildings that line les Grands Boulevards, gorgeous little shopping arcades, ritzy shopping districts (Place Vendôme is around the corner), gourmet shops (say bonjour, Hediard and Fauchon!) and, of course, terrific restaurants and cafés.

A true Parisian institution, the **Café de la Paix** (12 Boulevard des Capucines, T: 01 42 681213) – just across the road from the Opéra – still lures a chic

crowd of stockbrokers, bankers and stylish Parisians for coffee and perhaps a flute of celebratory champagne. The steak tartare and sole menunière are signature dishes while the Second Empire interiors with their gilded mouldings are just the spot from which to people-watch.

Elsewhere, **Le Grand Café Capucines** (4 Boulevard des Capucines, T: 01 43 121900) is one of the few places in Paris that stays open 24 hours. The outlandish Belle Epoque interiors belie the fact that this is a great place for a quick, cheerful meal, just before the curtain rises, perhaps, at the opera. Here, fresh oysters, raspberry soufflé and grilled meats are the order of the day.

The boulevards also hide a few spots that serve up regional specialties. The menu at **La Taverne** (24 Boulevard des Italiens, T: 55 331000), for instance, boasts classics from Alsace such as quiche Lorraine, haddock with sauerkraut, and puddings made from red plums. Wine lovers should check out the large selection of Bordeaux at the gregarious **L'Ecluse Madeleine** (15, place de la Madeleine, T: 01 42 653469), one of the most popular wine-bars in Paris. Pick a grand cru to go with the house terrines, big plates of *charcuterie*, and their famed chocolate cake. Bon Appetit! ■

**EUROPEAN CHARM**

Nothing beats the convenience of residing within walking distance of Paris' epicurean pulse. Exploring the culinary map of Saint-Germain-des-Prés and Opéra is a cinch when accommodation is a nearby Citadines Apart'Hotel.

Operated by Ascott International, Citadines offers value and flexibility through an a la carte menu of services. Citadines Paris Saint-Germain-des-Prés is located on the banks of the Seine opposite the Pont-Neuf and a short stroll from Boulevard St-Michel.

Over at Opéra, there are two Citadines residences to choose from. Right next to place de l'Opéra, a thriving business area with numerous tourist offices, banks and shops is Citadines Paris Opéra Vendôme Prestige. Opened in 1999, it is one of the most distinguished in the Citadines chain.

Another option is Citadines Paris Opéra Grands Boulevards, situated in a lively neighbourhood, less than five minutes walk from the Drouot auction room and 10 minutes from the Bourse.



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53 Ter, quai des Grands-Augustins, Paris  
Tel: 331 44 077000

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The chair is often taken for granted in our everyday lives; yet, it is so closely related to us. Its very structure epitomises the human form: its legs, arms, back and head matches our own silhouettes. Witnessing the evolution of the human being, the chair has changed along with our needs and lifestyle, while representing the aesthetic trends of an era.

From a humble stool to a seat with flexible backrest, armrests and adjustable headrest, the chair has come a long way in its 5,000-year history.

The trail of this ubiquitous piece of furniture begins in ancient Egypt (circa 3100-475 B.C.), where to sit upon a support was the reserve of royalty and society's upper classes. Then came the industrial revolution of the 18th Century, which democratised the use of the chair and put it within reach of the masses.

Fast forward to the 20th Century: technical developments and the introduction of new materials gave rise to new, previously unimaginable forms that brought together ergonomics, aesthetics and economy. The chair evolved into an item of, and for creative expression.

Design pioneers such as Michael Thonet, Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Frank Lloyd Wright brought a whole new meaning to aesthetics and marked

# in the hot seat



a change in the history of chair design. The early 1900s saw the emergence of designs inspired by nature: designs that mimicked plants and animal forms. Classified as organic, Frank Lloyd Wright's style was founded on the harmonious relationship between form and function. He transformed the saying "form follows function", to "form and function are one".

Whimsical designs came into play in the mid 1900s, when pop aesthetics reigned. Technology allowed new materials, especially plastics and polypropylene to give form to almost any idea. Postmodernism in the late 1990s unleashed radical expression. Hailed as the age of "everything goes", creators like Philippe Starck experimented with shapes, textures and colours that challenged convention.

Today, the minimalism concept is popular. The idea is to transmit a lot with very little. Piero Lissoni's works for example, are simple, pure and honest. His chairs have chromed tubular steel structures, with the seats and backrests in either wickerwork or leather. While less is more appears to be the trend, Donna Tang, local designer and owner of Pastperfecthome.com, which specialises in reconstructed vintage homeware available at Pluck, reckons that with influences from the fashion world, trends in chair designs look all set to move towards complexity and uniqueness.

More than just an object of rest or support, the chair is a symbol of the times.  
By **Valerie Chew**

*Darwin by Arflex*

**POPULAR CHOICE**

The 2006 furniture and furnishing trends presented at the Salone del Mobile di Milano (International Furniture Fair, Milan) focused on these themes: fluid modularity, nature & primitive, cool & glamour, nouveau baroque, and total wellness.

The new models launched at the Milan fair included Cocca, Darwin, Cousy, Glitter and Shape by Arflex, a company on the cutting-edge of furniture design. One of its latest, Cocca, is an armchair that synthesises the elements of hard and soft: it is framed in strong plastic, accompanied by soft cushion made with polyurethane and

**PERSONAL TOUCH**

As evident from the Milan event, the global trend is varied and multi-directional. Regionally, places like Malaysia and Thailand have always had elaborate details as design hallmarks. Locally however, consumers have initially been resistant to this new trend of complexity or “Maximalism”, but according to Donna, “we are definitely catching on.” Baroque designs with its extravagant ornateness, one of the central themes in this year’s fair, are especially popular here. Increasingly, bold colours, prints and other decorative designs are showing up on more chairs.



*Mints by Arflex*

*Tongue by Seven*

feather. Similar to Cocca, Mints plays on uniqueness, its seat and backrest is in soft integral polyurethane while its structure is chrome-plated metal.

Seven, another distinguished furniture-making company, also had new product launches at the Milan fair: Cocoon, Solid Up and Tongue. “Seven stands out for its clear direction to create models that are able to cater to different taste and needs,” says Jestine Chin, general manager of MOD.LIVING. Tongue is a provocative creation resembling the mouth; its sensuousness lies in its soft interior encapsulated in an anatomical plastic body.

The future in chair design does seem infinite. For one, discerning consumers are gradually starting to personalise their chairs. Nathan Yong, creative director of Air Division Pte Ltd, a furniture design company, confirms that “there is a tendency of furniture design to lean towards individualism.” According to Edmund Teo, senior sales manager of U-Plan Office Furniture (S) Pte Ltd, a leading manufacturer and supplier of furniture, differentiation is a buzzword in today’s marketing vocabulary. Little wonder. Afterall, a chair is so much more than just a seat. It reflects the personality, style, even the social status of its owner. ■



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A day in the life of a diplomat never quite ends at sundown. “There are lots of receptions and cocktail parties after office hours that are all part of my diplomatic duty,” says Francisco Rabena, the Spanish ambassador to Singapore. “People see the glamour but don’t realise that could be hard work.” It makes sense then that the ambassador’s sanctuary is all about warmth and relaxation. Casa Rabena, the ambassador’s home and retreat on Mount Pleasant, is a classically furnished black-and-white colonial that’s stately and elegant yet friendly and welcoming. Three years ago Rabena and his wife, Blanca, looked at over 50 properties before they fell in love with this house.

“There’s a lot of trend-conscious architecture here so we were very taken with this bungalow with history and generous space. The interior is built with a Western sensibility, with lots of entertaining space, which suits us well,” he explains. Indeed the house stands on prime land, lush with greenery complete with a long winding driveway

that leads up to the 11,000 sq ft house. A designated heritage monument operated by Ascott International, the house’s original features have been painstakingly preserved despite renovations.

The sweeping corridors, stairways and verandahs hark back to the romance of the early 20th Century colonial times. Spaces are wide open and rooms are well connected to one another, lending a sense of informality. Rabena and the children’s favourite room in the house happens to be the most informal one: Rabena’s study. It’s a well-stocked library, TV room, music room all rolled into one. For the moment, the radio in the study is playing *Shakira*, beautiful light is streaming through the huge windows and the striking Philip II tapestry looks as cosy as it is stately.

Rabena is beaming at his three children, obviously relishing their company. The four huddle around for a photo with lots of playful teasing. “Somehow, this house feels really good,” says Rabena. “Yes! Good vibes,” chips in Javier, his 12 year-old son. Rabena’s four children currently

Spanish ambassador to Singapore,  
Francisco Rabena opens the doors to his vibrant Spanish retreat.  
By **Sabrina Quah**

casa



rabena



attend school in Madrid after having lived in Singapore for the last few years. “At some point in a diplomat’s life, you’ll be away from your family,” explains Rabena, who clearly treasures this summer holiday period spent with his kids. “So you need to have a very close-knit family.”

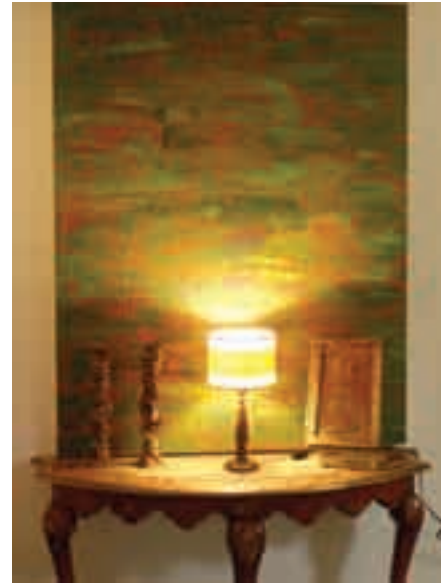
The births of their children chart the course of Rabena’s diplomatic life around the world. Eldest son Ignacio was born in Kuwait; 19-year-old daughter, Blanca in Madrid; Javier was born in Brussels and youngest daughter, Paloma, 9, was born in New York. But out of all the countries they have lived in, Rabena finds Singapore the easiest to adapt to. The children nod eagerly in agreement. “We like this city a lot because it is cosmopolitan with enough nature and greenery,” Rabena smiles.

What they miss most about Spain is the food. But Rabena’s wife, Blanca has taught their domestic help well. “You get the best Spanish food in town here,” he jokes, “but it’s almost impossible to get a reservation!” Casual dinners are enjoyed in the kitchen or out on the patio. Formal sit-down dinners are not

uncommon and often hosted in the classically decorated 20-seat dining room where a late 17th Century tapestry takes centre stage.

The fluid transition of space in the house makes for great entertaining. Interior designer Rosa Bernal created the place filled with light and classic colour tones. The acclaimed designer also decorated the Spanish embassies in China and Germany. Pieces and materials were sourced by Bernal largely from Spain. The soothing palette is highlighted by standout pieces like a Biedermeier table and a huge single-piece sisal carpet cut to fit the contours on the floor. Rabena's pride and joy, however, are his wife's paintings. Her abstract, boldly-coloured pieces dot the walls of the house. When one enters the foyer from the portico, two of her paintings hung above the black-and-white tiled floors greet you.

A tour around the Rabena household shows each family member's distinct



personality. Daughter Blanca's room is that of an aspiring fashion designer, complete with a tailor's dummy. Javier has posters of bullfighters up his walls. Mum, meanwhile, has her own art studio in one of the outhouses. House guests have the luxury of privacy in their separate rooms and entrances.

Weekends are strictly family time. The family likes to chill by the pool and enjoy scrumptious Sunday *paella*. In the evenings, when friends and family are around, it's gin-and-tonic on the verandah and cigars on the porch. The relaxed lifestyle here is not unlike the time they spend in their 18,000 sq ft stone house in Mallorca. The Spanish like a good party and Rabena believes that good music and having the right mix of people are crucial. A tip from the ambassador: Make everyone feel like the star of the party.

At any gathering, the family likes to dance. As they ham it up with the family beagle, Raffles, Rabena says that their lifestyle here is "to project the best of Spanish culture in Singapore". And like the home they've created here, it's elegance without pretension, with lots of zest thrown in. ■



When fate deals  
a cruel blow, it's often  
the ultimate test  
of the human spirit.

# going

Flashback to June this year. Along the road leading to Bantul, 15km from Yogyakarta, children lined the dusty roads, their eyes beseeching, arms outstretched with boxes, collecting anything people in their cars could offer. In another village, a man was caring for his toddler son. Trapped under rubble, he was found holding the hand of his dead baby daughter while his wife laid in hospital with broken limbs.

All around Yogyakarta, Indonesia, heartbreaking scenes like these played out like a tragic montage in the aftermath of a catastrophic earthquake that killed 7,000 people. One of the worst hit areas was Bantul, where all but a fraction of the village was reduced to rubble. As people struggled to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives, many shunned living in their homes for fear of another earthquake, preferring instead to sleep in tents erected outside.

For many, these traumatic scenarios were an eerie echo of an earlier disaster just months before. In February, heavy rains eroded a mountainside in Southern Leyte in eastern Philippines, triggering a major landslide that buried countless homes, including an elementary school with some 200 students and teachers. The post avalanche search operation uncovered sobering figures : 139 dead, 400 survivors, 973 people missing.

Double tragedy in two Asian cities, but the plight of the people remained one and the same: they were homeless, bereft, despairing and in need of basic provisions and care.



# the distance

Aid and assistance came pouring in from around the world. For the victims in Yogyakarta, employees of Ascott International, driven by its Heartware philosophy of delivering service from the heart and going the extra mile, roped in residents to help. In *Gotong-Royong* style (Indonesian for 'hand in hand'), they came together with the Singapore Association in Indonesia to raise funds to help earthquake survivors get back on their feet. Ascott International also despatched a local team to Yogyakarta to aid in rebuilding public facilities.

Over in the Philippines, moved by the landslide tragedy, staff and residents of Ascott International's properties in Makati rallied to help in any way. Initiating the three-week Leyte Landslide Donation Drive, the team effort saw tremendous donations. Cash contributions, truckloads of canned goods, blankets, clothing and toiletries were gathered and delivered to the landslide survivors, many of whom expressed gratitude for the generous gesture.

To ease the strain of day to day living, other amenities such as electricity generators, cooking equipment, tents, and torches were supplied, as well as more food such as whole chicken and rice. In Yogyakarta, simple snacks such as red apples had the people smiling as they munched away, delighted by the unexpected treat.

Even as the twin disasters brought destruction and sadness, it brought something greater – hope. In the form of the benevolent human spirit. ■



# making its mark

From a lone luxury establishment in 1984 to an international company with close to 17,000 serviced residence units worldwide today, The Ascott Group has come a long way.

In just 22 years, The Ascott Group (Ascott) has worked tirelessly to establish a strong global presence and reputation. Success has been no mean feat, given the number of international competitors. A trailblazer in its own right, the Singapore-based company was responsible for pioneering Asia Pacific's first branded luxury serviced residence, The Ascott Singapore, back in 1984.

Today, Ascott is the largest international serviced residence owner-operator outside the United States. Its management arm, Ascott International, manages about 17,000 serviced residence units in key cities of Asia Pacific, Europe and the Gulf region. The company plans to expand its global portfolio to 25,000 units by 2010.

The serviced residence arm of CapitaLand Limited, one of Asia's largest listed real estate companies, The Ascott Group has been serving the needs of top business leaders, management executives and their families, as well as young, independent travellers with its three brands – Ascott, Somerset and Citadines. Its award-winning properties are found in more than 40 cities across 18 countries. These include London, Paris, Brussels, Berlin and Barcelona in Europe; Singapore, Bangkok, Chennai, Hanoi, Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo, Seoul, Shanghai, Beijing, Xi'an and Hong Kong in Asia; Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland in Australia/New Zealand, as well as Dubai in the U.A.E.

As Ascott gained steam in its expansion plans, its reputation grew with accolades pouring in from both the business and travel communities. *Forbes*, for one, hailed the Group for epitomising "the global home away from home" and highlighted its "edge" in delivering uncompromising service standards in the industry.



*Citadines – a pan-European serviced residence chain acquired by Ascott in 2002.*

*Somerset serviced residences offer executives and their families a warm and stylish home with recreational facilities and business support.*



Ascott's achievements have been recognised globally, having garnered numerous prestigious awards. Among the recent accolades are:

- World Travel Awards – New Zealand's Leading Hotel
- World Travel Awards – Australasia's Leading Hotel
- Best Serviced Residence Operator – TTG Asia Media
- Best Serviced Residence Brand – Business Traveller Asia Pacific
- Best Serviced Residence – Business Traveller Asia Pacific
- No. 1 spot in China's 'Top 100 Serviced Apartments' Awards
- Best Brand Award – Korea Herald
- The Very Best Hotels Award – The Korea Times
- Best Service in Serviced Apartments – Vietnam Economic Times' Guide Awards
- Tasmanian Tourism Award – 'Highly Commended' Deluxe Accommodation



*The Ascott Singapore – Asia Pacific's first branded luxury serviced residence, opened in 1984.*

The Ascott Group may have enjoyed phenomenal growth, but the company is certainly not letting success distract it from its core focus. It stays true to its core values of being customer-oriented and practises a work ethic that places emphasis on service excellence. This approach is embodied in its Heartware initiative. The cornerstone of The Ascott Group's service excellence, Heartware encourages every employee to go the extra mile for its residents and deliver service from the heart. ■

# Milestones

The past two decades have seen merger and acquisition activities involving property players in Singapore like Scotts Holdings, Pidemco Land, Somerset International, Liang Court, Stamford Group and DBS Land. These developments eventually led to the establishment of The Ascott Group, the largest serviced residence owner-operator outside the United States, with a global presence spanning over 40 cities across 18 countries. As a measure of its success, the Group established the world's first pan-Asian serviced residence real estate investment trust (REIT), the Ascott Residence Trust which listed in March this year. Looking forward to the future with confidence, the Group plans to increase its portfolio to 25,000 units by 2010.

**1984**

Scotts Holdings, a well-known Singapore corporation with business interests in serviced apartments, shopping centres and property investments, opens Asia Pacific's first branded serviced residence – The Ascott Singapore.

**1991**

Listing of Scotts Holdings in Singapore.

**1998**

Pidemco Land\* sets up Somerset International, its new serviced residence arm.

**1999**

**MAY**

Somerset International acquires Liang Court Holdings, one of Asia's largest serviced residence operators, to form Somerset Holdings. Together, these two companies have a combined portfolio of 3,200 serviced residence units in 15 cities.

**JULY**

Scotts Holdings merges with Stamford Group, the serviced residence arm of DBS Land\* to form The Ascott Limited, creating a joint portfolio of more than 1,700 units in eight cities.

**2000**

Somerset Holdings merges with The Ascott Limited to form The Ascott Group Limited, swelling its total portfolio to over 6,000 serviced residence units in 16 cities across 10 countries.

**2002**

Ascott acquires a 50 per cent stake in Citadines, a pan-European serviced residence chain with over 5,000 units in 18 cities across France, the UK, Belgium, Spain and Germany. This increases Ascott's portfolio to over 13,800 units in 39 cities across 16 countries, making it the largest international serviced residence operator outside the US.

**2004**

Ascott completes acquisition of the remaining 50 per cent interest in Citadines. This substantially increased Ascott's earnings base and its diversification in developed countries for greater income stability. The Ascott Group now owns the three brands: Ascott, Somerset and Citadines.

**2005**

**OCTOBER**

Ascott's global footprint expands to 17 countries with the opening of Somerset Palace, Seoul, South Korea's largest serviced residence.

**NOVEMBER**

Ascott signs MOU with Bahrain-based Addax Investment Bank to launch at least 15 properties across the Middle East and North Africa by 2010.

**2006**

**MARCH**

The world's first pan-Asian serviced residence REIT, the Ascott Residence Trust (ART), is established and listed on 31 March 2006 in Singapore.

**APRIL**

Expands aggressively in China by securing four new contracts and adding two new cities – Xi'an and Hong Kong – to its footprint in China. This boosts Ascott's global footprint to a total of 43 cities.

**JULY**

Ascott's global presence expands further with the opening of Somerset Jadaf, Dubai, its first serviced residence in the Gulf region.

**AUGUST**

Ascott adds India to its global portfolio – bringing its presence to 44 cities across 18 countries.

**SEPTEMBER**

Ascott strengthens Singapore's presence with two Citadines and a luxurious 'all-suites' Ascott. The two Citadines residences are the first properties in Singapore under the Group's European brand.

\* DBS Land and Pidemco Land merged in 2000 to form CapitaLand Limited. The Ascott Group is a member of CapitaLand Limited.

# Ascott Round The World

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

TEL:

### Singapore

**Reservations:** 1800-272 7272 (Local Toll Free)

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Ascott Singapore</b> 6 Scotts Road, Singapore 228209   | (65) 6735 6868 |
| <b>Ascott Singapore Raffles Place</b> (Opening 2008)  |                |
| <b>Somerset Bencoolen, Singapore</b> 51 Bencoolen Street, Singapore 189630                              | (65) 6849 4688 |
| <b>Somerset Compass, Singapore</b> 2 Mount Elizabeth Link, Singapore 227973                             | (65) 6732 7737 |
| <b>Somerset Grand Cairnhill, Singapore</b> 15 Cairnhill Road, Singapore 229650                          | (65) 6835 2900 |
| <b>Somerset Liang Court, Singapore</b> 177B River Valley Road, Singapore 179032                         | (65) 6337 0111 |
| <b>Somerset Orchard, Singapore</b> 160 Orchard Road, #06-01 Orchard Point, Singapore 238842             | (65) 6735 0500 |
| <b>Citadines Singapore Mount Sophia</b> (Opening 2008)  |                |
| <b>Citadines Singapore Scotts</b> (Opening 2007. Currently Hotel Asia) 37 Scotts Road, Singapore 228229 | (65) 6737 8388 |
| <b>Char Yong Gardens</b> (Corporate Leasing) 1/3 Hullet Road, Singapore 229157                          | (65) 6272 7272 |
| <b>Portofino</b> (Corporate Leasing) No.6 Sarkies Road, Singapore 2581256                               | (65) 6272 7272 |
| <b>Riverdale Residence</b> (Corporate Leasing) 346 River Valley Road, Singapore 238873                  | (65) 6272 7272 |
| <b>The Heritage Singapore</b> (Corporate Leasing) Mount Pleasant Road, Singapore                        | (65) 6272 7272 |

### Indonesia

**Reservations:** 00180 365 7878 (Local Toll Free)

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Ascott Jakarta</b> 2 Jalan Kebon Kacang Raya, The Golden Triangle, Jakarta 10230, Indonesia                      | (62-21) 391 6868  |
| <b>Somerset Berlian</b> Jalan Permata Berlian V Permata Hijan, Jakarta 12210  | (62-21) 5366 8888 |
| <b>Somerset Grand Citra</b> Jalan Prof Dr Satrio Kav 1, Kuningan, Jakarta 12940, Indonesia                          | (62-21) 522 5225  |
| <b>Country Woods</b> (Corporate Leasing) Jalan WR Supratman, Pondok Ranji, Rengas, Ciputat 15412, Banten, Indonesia | (62-21) 740 1245  |
| <b>Somerset Surabaya Hotel &amp; Serviced Residence</b> Jalan Raya Kupang Indah, Surabaya 60189, Indonesia          | (62-31) 732 8738  |
| <b>Puri Darmo Serviced Residence</b> 17A Jalan Raya Kupang Baru, Surabaya 60189, Indonesia                          | (62-31) 732 6066  |

### Malaysia

**Reservations:** 1800 806 306 (Local Toll Free)

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Ascott Kuala Lumpur</b> 9 Jalan Pinang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia                                      | (60-3) 2142 6868 |
| <b>Somerset Seri Bukit Ceylon</b> Lot 1253, Section 57, Lorong Ceylon, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia                | (60-3) 2140 2220 |
| <b>Suasana Sentral Residences</b> (Corporate Leasing) 2 Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | (60-3) 2730 2110 |
| <b>Somerset Gateway, Kuching</b> 9 Jalan Bukit Mata, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia                        | (60-82) 250 958  |

### Philippines

**Reservations:** (63-2) 888 0531

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Somerset Millennium, Makati</b> 104 Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229, Philippines                   | (63-2) 888 0505 |
| <b>Somerset Olympia, Makati</b> 7912 Makati Avenue, Makati City 1200, Philippines                                       | (63-2) 812 1010 |
| <b>Somerset Salcedo, Makati</b> HV Dela Costa Corner, LP Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227, Philippines | (63-2) 888 6668 |

### Thailand

**Reservations:** 1800 888 272 (Local Toll Free)

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Ascott Bangkok Sathorn</b> 187 South Sathorn Road, Yanawa, Sathorn, Bangkok 10120, Thailand                       | (66-2) 676 6868  |
| <b>Somerset Grand Sukhumvit</b> (Opening 2008)   |                  |
| <b>Somerset Lake Point</b> 41 Sukhumvit Soi 16, Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110, Thailand                                   | (66-2) 663 1234  |
| <b>Somerset Park Suanplu</b> 39 Soi Suanplu, South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120, Thailand                             | (66-2) 679 4444  |
| <b>Somerset Suwan Park View</b> 9 Soi Tonson, Ploenchit Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand            | (66-2) 658 7979  |
| <b>Citadines Bangkok Sukhumvit 8</b> (Opening 2008)  |                  |
| <b>Citadines Bangkok Sukhumvit 11</b> (Opening 2007)   |                  |
| <b>Citadines Bangkok Sukhumvit 16</b> No 38 Sukhumvit 16, Sukhumvit Road Klongtoey, Bangkok, Thailand (Opening 2006) | (66-2) 663 87777 |
| <b>Citadines Bangkok Sukhumvit 23</b> (Opening 2007)   |                  |
| <b>Omni Tower</b> 69 Sukhumvit Soi 4, Klongtoey Bangkok 10110, Thailand  | (66-2) 656 8300  |
| <b>Somerset Nusasiri, Pattaya</b> (Opening 2007/2008)  |                  |

### Vietnam

**Reservations:** (84-4) 934 2342 (Hanoi)/(84-8) 822 8899 (Ho Chi Minh City)

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Somerset Grand Hanoi</b> 49 Hai Ba Trung Street, Hanoi, Vietnam  | (84-4) 934 2342 |
| <b>Somerset West Lake</b> 254D Thuy Khue Street, Hanoi, Vietnam   | (84-4) 843 0030 |
| <b>Somerset Chancellor Court</b> 21-23 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam | (84-8) 822 9197 |
| <b>Somerset Ho Chi Minh City</b> 8A Nguyen Binh Khiem Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam       | (84-8) 822 8899 |

## NORTH ASIA

TEL:

### China

**Reservations:** 800 820 1028 (Local Toll Free)

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Ascott Beijing</b> 108B Jian Guo Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100022, China                           | (86-10) 6567 8100  |
| <b>Somerset Grand Fortune Garden</b> 46 Liang Ma Qiao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100016, China         | (86-10) 8451 8888  |
| <b>Somerset ZhongGuanCun, Beijing</b> (Opening 2007)   |                    |
| <b>Luxury Serviced Residence</b> 17 Jian Hua Nan Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100022, China              | (86-10) 6566 2200  |
| <b>Somerset Harbour Court</b> 55 Renmin Road, Zhongshan District, Dalian 116001, China                       | (86-411) 8899 1888 |
| <b>Ascott Guangzhou</b> (Opening 2007)   |                    |
| <b>Springdale Serviced Residence</b> Tower B1, No. 105 Tiyuxi Road, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 510620, China | (86-20) 8396 6088  |
| <b>Ascott Shanghai Pudong</b> 3 Pudong Avenue, Shanghai 200120, China  | (86-21) 6886 0088  |
| <b>Somerset Grand Shanghai</b> 8 Jinan Road, Luwan District, Shanghai 200021, China                          | (86-21) 6385 6888  |
| <b>Somerset Xu Hui</b> 888 Shanxinan Road, Xu Hui District, Shanghai 200031, China                           | (86-21) 6466 0888  |
| <b>Citadines Shanghai Jinqiao</b> 49 West Beijing Road, Huangpu District, Shanghai 200003                    | (86-21) 2308 6666  |
| <b>Citadines Suzhou Emerald City</b> (Opening 2008)  |                    |
| <b>Citadines Suzhou Lejia</b> (Opening 2008)   |                    |
| <b>Citadines Suzhou Xinghai</b> (Formerly known as Citadines Chongrui) (Opening 2006)                        |                    |
| <b>Somerset Olympic Tower</b> 126 Chengdu Dao, Heping District, Tianjin 300051, China                        | (86-22) 2335 5888  |
| <b>Somerset Youyi, Tianjin</b> (Opening 2008)  |                    |
| <b>Citadines Xi'an Central</b> (Opening 2006)  |                    |
| <b>Citadines Hongkong Ashley</b> (Opening 2006)  |                    |

### Japan

**Reservations:** 0120 069 500 (Local Toll Free)

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Somerset Azabu East</b> 1-9-11 Higashi-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0044, Japan                   | (81-3) 5114 2800 |
| <b>Somerset Roppongi</b> 3-4-31 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032, Japan                          | (81-3) 3568 3939 |
| <b>Green Park Akasaka</b> (Corporate Leasing) 5-2-10 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-6101, Japan      | (81-3) 5573 8800 |
| <b>Nakameguro Residence</b> (Corporate Leasing) 4-13-41 Nakameguro, Meguro-ku Tokyo 153-0061, Japan | (81-3) 3714 1131 |
| <b>Nibancho Park Forest</b> (Corporate Leasing) 7-8 Nibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0084, Japan     | (81-3) 3511 6828 |
| <b>Shochiku Square Residence</b> (Corporate Leasing) 1-13-5 Tsukiji, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0045, Japan | (81-3) 6226 5923 |

### Korea

**Reservations:** (82-2) 6730 8000

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Somerset Palace, Seoul</b> 85 Susong-Dong, Jongno-Gu, Seoul, South Korea 110885 | (82-2) 6730 8888 |
|--|------------------|

For worldwide reservations: (65) 6272 7272  
 Website: [www.the-ascott.com](http://www.the-ascott.com) and [www.citadines.com](http://www.citadines.com)  
 E-mail: [enquiry@the-ascott.com](mailto:enquiry@the-ascott.com)

## SOUTH ASIA

TEL:

India  
Chennai

Somerset Greenways, Chennai (Opening 2008)

## AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

TEL:

Australia  
Hobart

Reservations: 1800 766 377 (Local Toll Free)

Somerset on the Pier Elizabeth Street Pier, Hobart, TAS 7000, Australia

(61-3) 6220 6600

Melbourne

Somerset on Salamanca 8 Salamanca Place, Hobart, TAS 7000, Australia

(61-3) 6220 6600

Somerset Gordon Place 24 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

(61-3) 9663 2888

Somerset on Elizabeth 250 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

(61-3) 8665 8888

Oakford Gordon Towers 43 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

Oakford on Collins 182 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

Oakford on Lygon 2-9 Finlay Place, Carlton, VIC 3053, Australia

Oakford The Mews 9 Balmoral Street, South Yarra, VIC 3141, Australia

Sydney

Somerset Darling Harbour 252 Sussex Street, Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia 2000

(61-2) 8280 5000

Oakford City West 23-33 Missenden Road, Camperdown, NSW 2050, Australia

New Zealand  
Auckland

Reservations: 0800 272 688 (Local Toll Free)

Ascott Auckland Metropolis 1 Courthouse Lane, Auckland, New Zealand

(64-9) 300 8800

## EUROPE

TEL:

United Kingdom  
London

Citadines Central Reservations (Europe): (33) 1 41 05 79 05

Reservations: 0800 376 38 98 (UK Toll Free) / (44-20) 7269 1680

Ascott London Mayfair 49 Hill Street, Mayfair, London W1J 5NB, UK

Somerset Bayswater 42 Prince's Square, Bayswater, London W2 4AD, UK

Citadines London Barbican 7-21 Goswell Road, London EC1M 7AH, UK

Citadines London Holborn-Covent Garden 94-99 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LF, UK

Citadines London South Kensington 35A Gloucester Road, London SW7 4PL, UK

Citadines London Trafalgar Square 18-21 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5EA, UK

St Marks (Corporate Leasing) 300 City Road, London EC1V 2PW, UK

Queen's Gate Gardens Serviced Residences 39B, Queen's Gate Gardens, South Kensington, London, SW7 5RR, UK

France  
Paris

Reservations: 0 825 333 332 (Within France)

Citadines Paris Austerlitz 27 Rue Esquirol, 75013 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Bastille Marais 37 Boulevard Richard Lenoir, 75011 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Bastille Nation 14-18 Rue de Chaligny, 75012 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Didot Alésia 94 Rue Didot, 75014 Paris, France

Citadines Paris La Défense 1-8 Boulevard de Neuilly, 92400 Courbevoie, Paris, France

Citadines Paris Les Halles 4 Rue des Innocents, 75001 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Louvre 8 Rue Richelieu, 75001 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Maine-Montparnasse 67 Avenue du Maine, 75014 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Montmartre 16 Avenue Rachel, 75018 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Opéra-Grands Boulevards 18 Rue Favart, 75002 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Opéra Vendôme Prestige 2 Rue Edouard VII, 75009 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Place d'Italie 18 Place d'Italie, 75013 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Saint-Germain-des-Prés 53 Ter, quai des Grands-Augustins, 75006 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Tour Eiffel 132 Boulevard de Grenelle, 75015 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Trocadéro 29 Bis, Rue Saint-Didier, 75116 Paris, France

Citadines Paris Voltaire République 75 Bis, Avenue Parmentier, 75011 Paris, France

Outside Paris

Aix en Provence

Citadines Aix Jas De Bouffan 4 Avenue Achille-Empéreur, 13090 Aix-en-Provence, France

Bordeaux

Citadines Bordeaux Mériadeck 25 Rue Jean Fleuret, 33000 Bordeaux, France

Cannes

Citadines Cannes Carnot 1 Rue le Poussin, 06400 Cannes, France

Ferney Voltaire

Citadines Genève Ferney Voltaire 34 Rue de Genève, 01210 Genève Ferney Voltaire, France

Grenoble

Citadines Grenoble 9-11 Rue de Strasbourg, 38000 Grenoble, France

Lille

Citadines Lille Centre Avenue Willy Brandt-Euralille, 59777 Lille, France

Lyon

Citadines Lyon Part-Dieu 91-95 Rue Moncey, 69003 Lyon, France

Citadines Lyon Presqu'île 2 Rue Thomassin, 69002 Lyon, France

Marseille

Citadines Marseille Castellane 60 Rue du Rouet, 13006 Marseille, France

Citadines Marseille Centre 4 Place Pierre Bertas (11 Rue Sainte Barbe) 13001 Marseille, France

Citadines Marseille Prado Chanot 9-11 Boulevard de Louvain, 13008 Marseille, France

Montpellier

Citadines Montpellier Antigone 588 Boulevard d'Antigone, 34000 Montpellier, France

Citadines Montpellier Sainte-Odile 195 Rue du Pré aux Clercs, 34090 Montpellier, France

Citadines Nice Buffa 21 Rue Meyerbeer, 06000 Nice, France

Nice

Citadines Nice Promenade 3-5 Boulevard François Grosso, 06000 Nice, France

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Reservations: (33) 825 333 332 (Within Belgium)

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## GULF REGION

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