

ASCOTT

LIVING

JANUARY - MARCH 2015

A CATALAN AFFAIR

WHY WE FALL IN LOVE WITH BARCELONA

THE ESSENTIAL DELIGHTS OF A GREAT PIZZA

contents

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COVER PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES
PHOTOS: AEROFOTOSTOCK (TRAVEL); LARS PANEK (BIG BITE); CORBIS (CULTURE)



Ferran Montanyà

Ferran Montanyà was born and raised in Badalona in Barcelona. He's an information specialist, yoga practitioner and runner when in the mood. A lover of the Spanish language, he's recently started with biographies, his first a Cuban writer with an interesting life which he says is quite fascinating. A self-educated Batik painter, when he can find the moment he takes us on a whistle-stop tour of Spain's hottest city (page 16). When it comes to travel, Africa, South America and Polynesia are still on his checklist. He's already made his dream trip come true — a month in Australia. He says it was too short, but is sure there will be a part two.



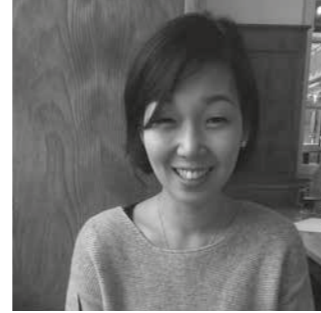
Rebecca Boon

Rebecca Boon develops and implements programmes for the Singapore International Foundation that enable Singaporeans to contribute to understanding and development overseas. This issue she offers her tips for volunteering (page 10), believing in fostering ties and trust between Singaporeans and world communities, to enrich lives and effect positive change. Rebecca has been in development work for 14 years and says that the role of volunteers cannot be underestimated, believing that learning and self-discovery takes place when you immerse yourself in a new environment and work with others to make a difference.



Gavin Goo

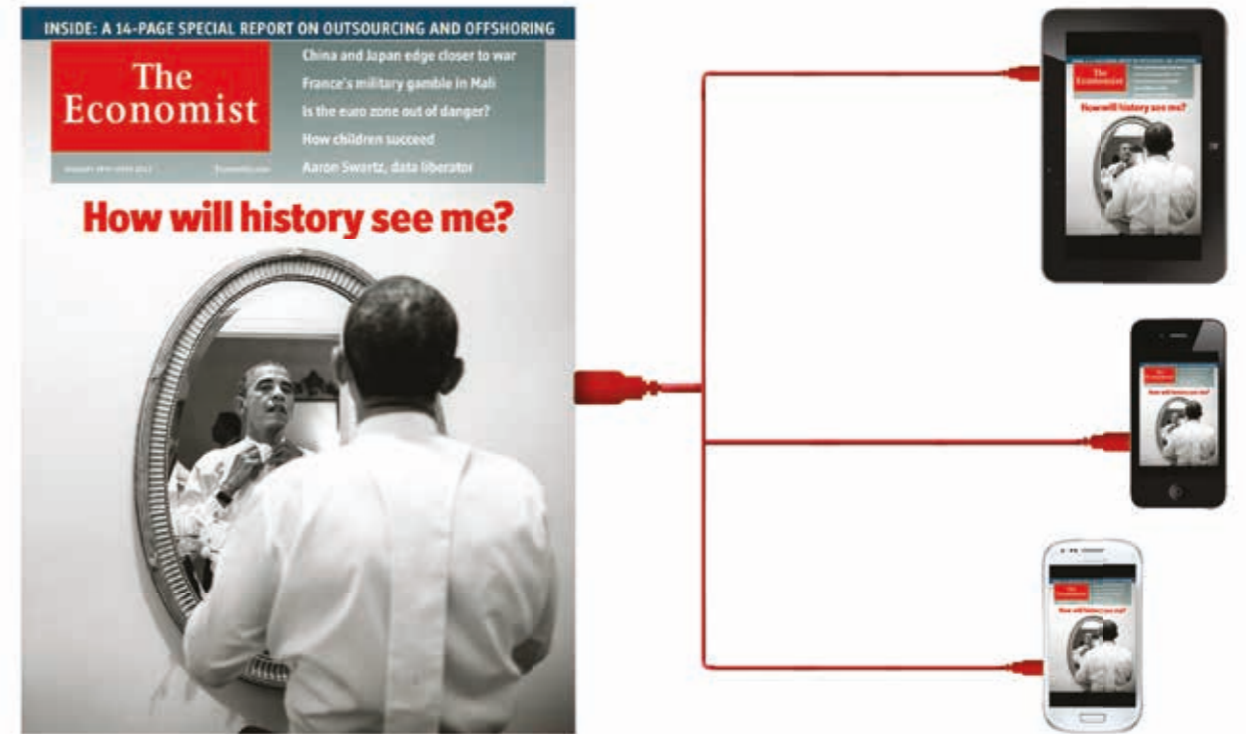
Gavin Goo is a freelance art director and illustrator who is based in Singapore. He brings his artistic talents to the digital feature in this issue (page 6). He recently illustrated a picture book based on a fairy tale with a local twist, entitled *Goh Bee Lock and the Three Boars*. In 2012, to commemorate the Titanic's 100th Anniversary, Gavin was commissioned to illustrate a picture book about the ship entitled *Ahoy! Titanic* which is now travelling around the world with an exhibition of Titanic artifacts. In his free time, he likes to take the opportunity to visit the library and borrow lots of picture books, more for himself than for his kids!



Bessy Kim

Born in South Korea and raised in New Zealand, art director Bessy Kim explored working in different industries including education and marketing before returning to Massey University to major in visual communication design. Bessy has worked on award winning titles such as *Discovery Channel Magazine* and exhibition books for the ArtScience Museum. Having been raised in an environment with multi-cultural influences, Bessy believes that travelling and exposure to different cultures is important to help further your creative eye. Her travel tip is not to forget to explore the city after dark and find out what the night dwellers do.

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WORLD AT A GLANCE

This issue, we present five culture-rich cities across seven categories of experiences. Let this section be your mini-guide during your next big escapade

BRUSSELS BELGIUM



For a true taste of Belgium head to **Friture René**, a neighbourhood restaurant with cold Belgian beer and bottomless Belgian frites. Notable is the 340 gramme horse steak. *Place de la Résistance 14, 1070 Anderlecht*

HONG KONG CHINA



Guests at The Mercer Hong Kong need not venture out for top cuisine. **Sushi Shikon** boasts no less than three Michelin stars, with fresh ingredients flown in daily from Tokyo's famous Tsukiji market. *sushi-shikon.com*

SHANGHAI CHINA



Enjoy a multi-sensory experience at **Ultraviolet**, ranked the eighth best restaurant in the whole of Asia. Chef Paul Pairet's imaginative creations will have you coming back for more. *uvbypp.cc*

STRASBOURG FRANCE



Enjoy the Michelin starred talents of chef Philippe Bohrer at **Au Crocodile**. Named after a stuffed crocodile, the talking points today are the mignardises which end the meal. *www.au-crocodile.com*

SURABAYA INDONESIA



The Chinese cuisine of **Sarkies** has retained its fans over decades. Dine in art deco splendour surrounded by décor that is a nod back to Dutch colonialism. The crispy cereal prawns are especially notable. *(62-31) 545 4331*



INDULGE



ON STAGE

At **L'Os A Moelle** you decide what you'd like to see performed on the stage – so the performance is unique every night. In this evening of improvisation, the audience becomes the director and the actors have to do your bidding. *www.osamoelle.be*

A look at the art, life and kung fu of Bruce Lee is too good an opportunity to miss. An exhibition staged at the **Hong Kong Heritage Museum** celebrates his life through 600 items of fascinating memorabilia. Closed on Tuesdays. *(85-2) 2180 8188*

This year Shanghai has been selected to play host to the **Laureus World Sports Awards**. This prestigious worldwide event has given recognition to the top sports people from across the globe for the last 15 years. *china.laureus.com*

Visitors to Strasbourg should not miss a chance to see **The Ballet of the Opéra national du Rhin**. Founded in 1972, the company has a far-reaching repertoire from baroque to classical. *www.operationaldurhin.eu*

If you're visiting in September, visit the **Layang Layang Festival**: Surabaya's annual kite event that has been running since 2010 and attracts hundreds of participants from across the globe. *Edu Park, Pakuwon City*



COCKTAILS

If you've had your fill of beer, head for a refreshing drink of another kind at **Archiduc** where entrance is gained through a swing door after pressing a discreet bell located in the street. Jazz legend Miles Davis is reputed to have jammed here. *www.archiduc.net*

The award-winning bartenders at **Wyndham the 4th** mix a memorable drink. The door policy is managed to avoid overcrowding. Phone ahead to make a reservation so you're not disappointed. *48 Wyndham Street*

One of Shanghai's coolest night spots, here you can bask in the ambient glow of modernity. Along with memorable cocktails, **People 7** has quirky bathrooms that are notable too. *805 Julu Lu, near Fumin Lu*

Be engulfed in the darkness that is **L'Alchimiste's** lair. One of Strasbourg's favourite bars, it offers a wide range of cocktails in varying strengths of potency. Once visited never forgotten. *3 Rue des Soeurs*

If you've never tried a cotton candy martini, then **Domicile Kitchen & Lounge** is the place. A good range of martinis make this one of the newest places to be seen in Surabaya. *Sumatera 35, Surabaya 60281*



CAFFEINE

Askum's coffee is organically grown in Ethiopia before being freshly roasted in the Belgian capital. Whether you're a deep espresso drinker or like the milky tones of a café latte, this is the place for you. *www.aksumcoffeehouse.com*

Hong Kong's first coffee shop to offer compostable take away cups, **Zai Fe** means strong black coffee in Cantonese and is in an environment that is beloved by locals and visitors alike. *zai-fe.com*

With the best coffee beans scouted from Yunnan province, **Sumerian** has the blend just right. Sometimes coffee classes are on offer for caffeine connoisseurs. *sumeriancoffee.com*

There are so many cafés to choose from in medieval **Petit France**, a UNESCO heritage site. Enjoy a stroll around the area and marvel at the vast selection on offer. You won't be disappointed. *67000 Strasbourg*

Join fellow coffee aficionados for a cup of the finest at **306**. Here careful brewing of only the beans in season will make your morning pick me up an experience to be savoured. *www.threesixcoffee.com*



SCOOP

In February, museums all over the city take part in **Museum Night Fever**. Enjoy this contemporary twist on the arts, all backed by a modern soundtrack. *www.museumnightfever.be*

From pop up speakeasies to secret cinemas, **Hushup** have them all. Themed film evenings across the city are a journey for all the senses; just make sure you book early. *hushup.hk*

Tucked away in a beautiful landscaped garden, is the 960 year old **Gu Yuan Antique Tea House**. Delicious teas can be enjoyed here, accompanied by traditional Shaanxi snacks. *1315 Fuxing Zhong Lu, by Fenyang Lu*

Beneath the **Hôpital Civil de Strasbourg** lies an enormous wine cellar, with vintages from as long ago as 1295. Book a tour of discovery – they run from Monday to Saturday. *www.vins-des-hospices-de-strasbourg.fr*

The **House of Sampoerna Museum** is built on the production of tobacco and cloves. Visitors can still see the production of *dji sam soe*, Indonesia's prestigious hand rolled kretek cigarette. *houseofsampoerna.museum*



KIDS

There is one thing kids like more than eating chocolate – making it. At **Zaabar** they can indulge their sweet tooth – and take home their creations at the end of the day. *www.zaabar.com*

Hop on a junk or the local ferry (from Aberdeen or Stanley) to **Po Toi Island** for fascinating rock formations like the renowned Turtle Rock and Buddha's Palm. *www.td.gov.hk*

Children will love watching the age old Chinese tradition of **kite flying**, marvelling at the intricate and colourful designs. Most central is People's Park. *75 Nanjing Xi Lu, near Huangpi Bei Lu.*

Take to the water with a **boat tour** of the charming canals of the city. Some 700,000 visitors catch a boat each year to enjoy Strasbourg's attractions from the water. *www.batorama.fr*

One of the oldest cafés in Surabaya: **Zangrandi** is the place for ice cream and a variety of toppings. Buy some steamed peanuts from the stall outside while you wait. *Jl. Yos Sudarso No. 15*



STAY

With its indoor garden and restful fountain, **Citadines Sainte-Catherine Brussels** is situated on a quiet street just a stone's throw from the capital's historic Grand Place. *www.citadines.com*

Newly opened, the 55 apartment **The Mercer Hong Kong** offers contemporary living in the heart of the city. As well as a Michelin restaurant there's a fully equipped gym. *www.citadines.com*

The modern exterior of **Ascott Huai Hai Road Shanghai** is a local landmark. Its elegant apartments are just a stone's throw from the entertainment and shopping centre of Xintiandi. *www.the-ascott.com*

Guests at **Citadines Kléber Strasbourg** will relish this historic city. The 107 fully-equipped apartments located on a quiet street, are an ideal location from which to explore. *www.citadines.com*

Directly opposite the supermall Pakuwon Indah, most of the luxurious apartments at **Ascott Waterplace Surabaya** have their own private lift as well as home entertainment and wi-fi. *www.the-ascott.com*

Enjoy sweeter deals and benefits when you become an Ascott online member. Register today at www.the-ascott.com/member and start enjoying the privileges!



SELF PRESERVATION SOCIETY

From the cost of building to how long they take to maintain, *Ascott Living* looks at the fascinating facts and figures surrounding the world's most famous landmarks

Illustrations by Gavin Goo

50kg of gold foil

tops Indonesia's national monument in Jakarta



Buckingham Palace has **760 windows** – which are cleaned every two weeks

Some **79,989 cubic metres of water**

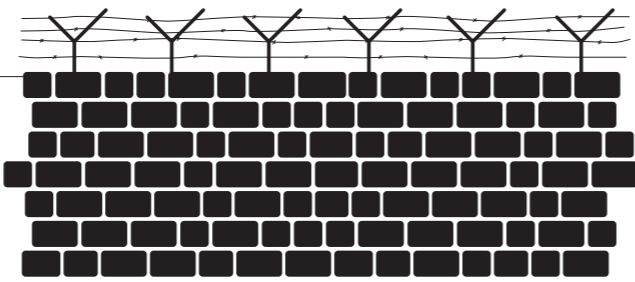
are pumped out of Rome's Trevi Fountain every single day



80 kilometre per hour winds can cause New York's Statue of Liberty to sway up to **7 centimetres**, and the torch by **15 centimetres**



On average the Eiffel Tower is painted once every seven years – requiring **60 tonnes of paint each time**



The Berlin Wall costs an average of **US\$114 per 30 centimetres** to build

Singapore's Merlion tower at Sentosa stands 37 metres tall and is lit by

16,000 lights



The Great Wall of China stretches for **49,889 kilometres**



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* Terms and conditions This promotion rate is valid from 1 Jan 2015 to 31 March 2015. Prior reservations are required and subject to availability. Other terms and conditions apply.



HOT BOTS

The future is here – robots are moving out of the manufacturing world and into your home. They're here to help you wake up, drink up or simply boogie down

MONSIEUR
Meet the robot bartender who, once stocked with various tipples, can pour you a double before you've arrived home, determine if you have a date and offer them a cocktail, and have a drink ready when your team wins the big game



VOICE ACTIVATED R2-D2
He obeys 40 voice commands, and can even dance while playing *Star Wars* music, replay dialogue and follow you around



CLOCKY
For the lazybones in your family: Clocky rolls away while it trills an alarm, forcing you to get out of bed to reinstate the silence



SOMETIMES WE CAN WATCH A SCI-FI MOVIE, LIKE THE recent *Interstellar*, and feel a bit short changed. Where are the flying cars promised to us decades ago? Or the meals in pill form? But at least robot companions are closer than you think. In many ways, they are here already, transforming the way we learn, work and play. You only have to look at the figures to back that up, and it's a sign of the times to see how our expectations have evolved. In 1928, US presidential candidate Herbert Hoover won his election campaign

thanks largely to his memorable promise to deliver to every home "a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage." Now, the expectation may well be for a robot to beep its way into every home. The exciting thing is that you can already decide how you want to use your new mechanised friend. Simply looking for a fun toy? Pick up Bender the tin robot. Looking for an easy companion that can transform the life of a lonely grandfather? Gift him Paro to discover the joy of friendship all over again.



ROBOT SCOOPA 450
Specially designed to clean hard floors, it will make your marble gleam. Just press the button and it soaks, scrubs and mops your floors – annihilating 99.3 per cent of bacteria

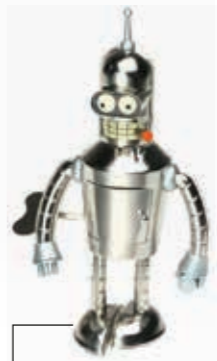
ZOOMER INTERACTIVE ROBOT DOG
A great way to test if your young ones can look after a real pet – and pick up a new language (Zoomer understands English, Spanish and French commands)



PARO
A moving, feeling, 'healing pet'. Perfect as a companion for the disabled or elderly, Paro can sense the time of day, recognise its name and change facial expressions



FUTURAMA BRIGHT N' SHINY BENDER WIND-UP TIN ROBOT
Arguably the coolest character from the animated series *Futurama*, Bender the robot brightens up your desk, and acts as a handy candy stash – his chest compartment even opens up



Much like a pet, first-time robot owners are surprised at how much their purchase transforms their social lives. Proudly display R2-D2 on your work desk and you'll find yourself chatting to colleagues you never knew you had, as they pop by to get the bot to boogie down. And even a relatively simple cleaner bot like the Scooba 450 will make visitors to your house think they've entered a universe far, far away. Big or small, robots are the perfect gift for the person who has everything – they're a slice of the future, right now. **TI**

SOUTH KOREA, ROBOT CAPITAL

If all these techno-goodies still don't satiate your love for robotics, just wait until next year. In 2016, South Korea will finally open its long-awaited theme park Robot Land. No prizes for guessing what the theme is. Located in Incheon, just two hours drive away from Seoul, it will incorporate edutainment, research and good old fashioned fun. Spanning over 380,000 square metres at a cost of roughly US\$625 million, it's clear the developers aim to make this a top-tier Asian destination. One pavilion, for example, peeks at the future, envisaging how robots will have whirred their way into our lives by 2030. Robot City includes a completely robotic fish aquarium, replicating everything from jellyfish to lobsters in mechanical form. Meanwhile Kidbot Village boasts a robo-rollercoaster, and a Ferris wheel to drink in the sight of the whole theme park.



If that doesn't tickle your fancy as a day-trip the next time you hit Seoul, pop on a train down south to Daejeon. Like their neighbours the Japanese, South Koreans are passionate about baseball – but even Japanese baseball stadiums don't boast robotic fans. Local team the Hanwha Eagles recently introduced seated bots who cheer from the seats, controlled by humanoid fans who can't make it to the match. They can remotely control their proxies, allowing them to cheer, chant, and do the wave. You can even upload your face onto the robot's screen.

Helping Hands

Often when you travel you don't get the chance to give back to the country you are visiting. International volunteerism manager **Rebecca Boon** looks at the ways you can help, as a volunteer tourist

THE START OF A NEW YEAR IS ALWAYS A TIME TO LOOK AT SELF improvement, whether it's getting fitter, learning a new skill or taking the time out of a busy schedule to give back. Across the globe there are individuals, villages and organisations that need help and support – places where you can make a real difference.

Volunteering doesn't necessarily mean you have to build a village single handed, you could work as part of a team to encourage reading, help out at an orphanage or even teach schoolchildren valuable handwashing skills.

At the Singapore International Foundation we see our role as making friends for a better world. We build enduring relationships between Singaporeans, people who live and work in Singapore and world communities. We use these friendships to enrich lives and ultimately to effect positive change.

Our programmes bring people together to share ideas, skills and experiences in areas such as healthcare, education, and

environment, arts and culture. We do this because we believe we all can, and should, do our part to build a better world

Since 2002, we have sent volunteers from Singapore on projects across Asia to uplift and enrich lives. The projects we run make a real difference to the people living in these areas.

Water for Life is a signature project of ours which aims to enhance the quality of life in rural villages by improving access to clean drinking water. Having access to something that many of us take for granted also helps to reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases, improve hygiene and sanitation and enhance livelihood opportunities.

Words on Wheels is another signature project which aims to provide school children and their communities with access to learning and IT resources, fostering a culture of lifelong learning.

Volunteering can be rewarding and even life changing as long as you manage personal expectations – and be clear about what you want to get out of the trip.

Wherever the programme be prepared to be flexible and adaptable – you'll need to adapt to local food, behaviour, culture and living conditions that are very different from those you enjoy at home.

It's also important to be culturally sensitive – know the history of the country you are visiting and be aware of sensitivities e.g. Cambodians and their reactions to the civil war. It's always a good idea to read up about the country you are visiting, the organisation you are volunteering with and the implementing partner for the project in that country and if you're volunteering for something you're unfamiliar with it's a good idea to find out a bit about that too e.g. installing bio-sand filters to enable villages to have a clean water supply.

Whatever you decide to get involved in, volunteering is worthwhile and rewarding, and the sense of satisfaction people enjoy means that many of our volunteers come back time after time. **ii**



CHECK IT OUT

There are a number of companies that offer individuals and organisations the opportunity to volunteer across the globe.

Some charge large sums of money for the privilege. To make sure your tourism dollars are being wisely spent, hook up with an organisation that has a proven track record. Decide if you want to help as a one-off volunteer holiday or are looking at helping out as a long term CSR project.



FOLLOW YOUR PASSION

We can't all be medics or builders, but everyone has a skill that they can put to good use. If you enjoy reading consider sharing your passion. International organisations like Room to Read develop literacy skills across the globe. If you love working with children, even helping with programmes that teach them to wash their hands correctly can be rewarding – as well as significantly reducing disease.



TAKE CARE, BE AWARE

Be mindful of cultural differences. In most countries you will be helping people many of whom will not even have the basic necessities. Sticking to the organisation's guidelines about procedures and how you should help is important. Programmes are set up for a reason and even if you may think that the pace is slow it may be for necessity. Change is sometimes hard but you should ensure that you always encourage and not enforce.



A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Volunteering gives you the chance to connect and interact with local communities, says Boon. "Be open in your interactions with them and be open to learning, giving and receiving." Many people who volunteer say that the sense of achievement they receive far outweighs the amount of time/effort that they give. It also offers the chance to work with other volunteers –who may even become lifelong friends.

VOLUNTEERING ETIQUETTE TOP TIPS FOR GIVING BACK

MAKE FRIENDS

Learn some basic words of the country you are going to. Download the language apps onto your phone for ease of use. Pack things in your suitcase that will be icebreakers with children when you arrive. Footballs are always great to have - as are bubbles which are viewed as wide eyed magic by those who have never seen them before.

MANNERS MATTER

Most people you encounter will have very little, but that doesn't mean that they are not willing to share what they have. Also remember that though their living quarters may be sparse you should still be respectful of their home.

DRESS TO IMPRESS

Be mindful of where you are. It may be hot and the work may be physical but however helpful you are being, you are likely to offend if you are scantily clad in a very conservative country. Go prepared. If you're building water filters for instance, you will need some heavy duty boots and gloves you can work in. Be aware of your surroundings, don't wear flashy jewellery, and be careful of pickpockets in crowded places.

PHOTO FINISH

Ask permission before taking photos, especially of children. Let them see the images you take and respect their dignity.



PHOTOS: CORBIS (ILLUSTRATION); WATER FOR LIFE (TAKE CARE, BE AWARE)

A Clear Winner

The consumption of gin has grown dramatically in the last couple of years. No longer the sundowner of the silver haired, this fragrant spirit is enjoying a whole new life of aroma

THE QUOTE BY SOME THAT THEY ENJOY drinking gin for “medicinal purposes” may have some truth as it was originally sold in 17th century Holland to combat stomach complaints. To make it more palatable it was flavoured with juniper – which is the berry that gives many gins their distinctive taste. The term gin is believed to come from the Dutch word jenever – which means juniper.

Gin is made from any neutral spirit, it's how it is flavoured that provides the unique characteristic. Distilled gin is made by re-distilling the spirit with botanicals, whereas the steeping of botanicals in the spirit makes a compound gin. Many tippers will be familiar with London dry gin. This is a style

of gin, not necessarily a product of the city of the same name, and EU directives now state that any spirit calling itself London gin must have a prominent juniper flavour and be clear – unlike other gins that are allowed to be coloured.

Gin is having something of a renaissance thanks to the craft movement across the globe. Small distillers are producing spirits that have a real sense of their geographical roots. The Australian-made gin Four Pillars, launched in 2013 through crowd funding, contains no less than 10 botanicals (commercial brands usually feature only four or five) including angelica and lavender, and uniquely whole oranges.

With more than 400 brands of gin worldwide, it's clear that gin is a spirit that's on the rise. **IT**



1 SIPSMITH LONDON DRY
This artisanal dry gin has a floral nose and a zesty marmalade taste. Its spicy finish is helped along by Bulgarian coriander and Spanish liquorice root making it smooth enough for a classic martini but a rich enough companion to a thirst-quenching tonic.

2 CITADELLE RESERVE 2008
Distilled in copper pot stills, this spirit is only made when juniper berries are in season. Created in France, it owes its colour and some of its more unusual notes of wood and vanilla to being barrel aged in seasoned French oak barrels.

3 OLD RAJ DRY GIN
This Scottish gin is flavoured with saffron, the world's most expensive spice, which gives it a subtly spicy flavour and slightly yellow hue. A bold super strength spirit, this adds an unusually interesting dimension to the smooth classic martini.

4 MONKEY 47
Even those professing not to like gin will enjoy Monkey 47. This German newcomer is named after its 47 botanicals. Launched in 2008, its limey zest and pronounced berry taste are enhanced by subtle juniper notes and the freshness of wild herbs.

5 GIN MARE
Alongside the usual juniper, this Spanish gin has a real taste of the Mediterranean, being flavoured with notes of basil, thyme, rosemary and olive, with a citrus kick of grapefruit. Forget lemon in your G&T and garnish with rosemary instead.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHING. GIN COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY, SINGAPORE

A LONG DRINK

AN 18TH CENTURY PUB IN THE UK HOLDS THE GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR ITS GIN SELECTION. THE OLD BELL INN IN DELPH, SADDLEWORTH COUNTS OVER 404 TYPES OF THIS COMPLEX SPIRIT IN ITS GIN EMPORIUM.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS



HEY PESTO

NICHOLAS QUATROVILLE'S AROMATIC MIX OF BASIL GIN, AND PINE NUT ORGEAT, APRICOT BRANDY AND SODA. COMBINE IN A SAVOURY YET REFRESHING COCKTAIL. THAT'S A GREAT START TO THE WEEKEND. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GET TO THE LIBRARY IN SINGAPORE'S KEONG SAIK STREET FIRST.

A PLACE I KNOW

Portobello Star, LONDON
171 Portobello Road



Standing on a site that has been serving alcoholic beverages since 1740, the Portobello Star has its very own gin: Portobello Road No 171. Gin enthusiasts will enjoy a day at the on-site Ginstitute where a history of the drink and the science behind it can be enjoyed. Graduation from the Ginstitute is marked by a full bottle of your own personal gin, the recipe to which will be held on record so you can re-order for ever more.

171 Portobello Road, Notting Hill, London, W11 2DY
Tel: (44) 020 3540 7781

City of Life

It has everything that any eager walker in a new city could want, from art enclaves and tiny bars, to curious flea markets and an architectural tour de force. Leave the winter coat behind, put your sunglasses on, and join local resident Ferran Montanyà to explore Spain's hottest city

A myriad of colours play across an early evening sky just before sunset, bathing the city skyline in a soft glow. This unusual shot of the Barcelona cityscape is captured from Montjuic hill, high above the urban sprawl

PHOTO: CORBIS

BARCELONA, SPAIN



POPULATION
1.6 million

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
Catalan

CURRENCY
Euro

PEAK SEASON
May to July

CLIMATE
Mild winters and hot humid summers

MUST TRY
Don't miss the chance to enjoy a fresh seafood lunch while gazing over Barceloneta beach

A SUNNY WINTER MORNING IN BARCELONA IS AN ATTRACTION IN itself. You feel the rush of anticipation just venturing outdoors and exploring. But turn your Google Maps off, and follow the locals instead. This city has everything, ranging from noisy thoroughfares to wide, tree-lined boulevards and narrow village-like streets; and from luxury international brands to local-made ateliers.

Our route will start at the seaside then in to the mountains, as the city climbs slowly but steadily from the Mediterranean coast, to the Collserola range crowned by the Collserola tower, with its 360-degree viewing deck at an altitude of 560 metres. You'll see the Temple Expiatori del Sagrat Cor, by the quiet vintage amusement park, Tibidabo. Both buildings are easily spotted from all across the city, so feel free to use them as your local north star as you walk.

A CULTURAL TAPAS

Let's start in the historical old town. Each area in the city, and in the old town itself, has its own magnetism and resident urban tribe. El Raval, to the left of La Rambla as you look at the city map, may not have as many medieval buildings as the Gothic quarter, yet it's much more of an experience. There's a tremendous cultural blend here, among narrow streets including university students, distracted tourists, busy bars and restaurants, museums, quaint markets alongside both old and new buildings — literally, there's a little bit of everything.

Starting from the sea, you'll come to Les Drassanes Reials, the biggest remaining medieval shipyard in the world. Started in the 13th Century, it now hosts the Museu Marítim (*Av. de les Drassanes*). Moving up the street, you'll find the unobtrusive La Concha Bar (*Carrer Guardia, 14*) where you can enjoy an Arabian shisha while sipping a Cuban mojito. It's a peculiar low-lit bar you might miss from the outside, but with its wall to ceiling pictures of the Spanish golden-age actress Sara Montiel, it's a great introduction to the local vibe.

Also worth a visit is Bar Pastis (*Carrer Santa Monica, 4*) a space much loved by the Francophones. Tiny and cosy, it's a place to chat, rather than get too loud. Moving onwards, now hydrated, La Rambla del Raval opens up before you as the only palm-tree lined boulevard

AS YOU STAND IN THE CENTRE OF RAMBLA, YOU'LL SPOT PEOPLE STANDING CHATTING, AND CATCH AROMATIC WAFTS OF COOKED MEAT AS NEIGHBOURS HANG THEIR CLOTHES FROM ABOVE

in the neighborhood. See if you can spot the Argentinian parrots flying overhead, always a startling sight for tourists.

As you stand in the centre of the Rambla, you'll spot people standing chatting, and catch aromatic wafts of cooked meat, as neighbours hang their clothes from above. Now, let's walk for some 10 minutes to the blinding-white MACBA museum, the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (*Plaça dels Àngels, 1*). Locally, it's also known as the 'skaters paradise'. The skateboarders have set up permanent camp in the

front square, and you'll find them training day and night. If you're into contemporary art, it's definitely your place too, as is the CCCB, or Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (*Carrer Montalegre, 5*), which hosts some great temporary exhibitions.

After a good dose of art, walk five minutes westwards to hit Plaça Universitat, or University Square. Leaving behind the winding narrow streets, you've now reached the limit between the old town, and the city's expansion from the late 19th century, l'Eixample. A masterplan designed by Ildefons Cerdà, this vast expanse of wide, tree-lined streets was once home to the industrial bourgeois, and people fleeing a then-unbearable life behind the city walls. Take a look inside the University building (*Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585*) across the square and the Gran Via. It dates back to the last quarter of the 19th century, and for both students and passers-by, its cloisters and back garden provide a lovely oasis from the day's hustle and bustle.

Speaking of which, it's a good time to have a rest — how about some sweet stuff? La Orxateria Valenciana (*Carrer d'Aribau, 16*) offers a 100 per cent local temptation in the form of a glass of cold orxata (a typical cold drink from Valencia made from tiger nuts, the edible tubers which come from a sedge like plant) with fartons, a type of long brioche you dip into the drink. Alternatively, dip into the ice-creams, almond pastries and sandwiches instead.

Out again with a rush of sugar-fuelled energy, you can either take the tourist-trail, to the Rambla de Catalunya and Passeig de Gràcia. Instead, we'll digress and follow the Gran Via to the north, to find the Passeig de Gràcia, a former muddy way. It used to link the walled city with Gràcia Village, but it has now been transformed into an elegant boulevard.



PHOTOS: CORBIER (PLAZA REAL, LA PINEDA), AGEFOTOSTOCK (CAIXA FORUM); 4CORNIERS IMAGES (QUIMET & QUIMET)

Above left: The restaurants in the Plaza Real provide welcome respite from fatigue
 Above right: Tantalising morsels of an early evening tapas at the historic Quimet & Quimet
 Bottom: Pop in for a quick glass of wine at the historic La Pineda, and you may stay all day. If there's one place for an authentic Catalan food experience, it's here

A popular destination at any time of the year, Barcelona offers even the most seasoned traveller a new insight or a colourful experience for every day of the week

WED MORNING Art and Culture

There's always an interesting exhibition or installation on display at the Caixa Forum. And you'll usually find more than one going on at any time, so you can really hang out all day. Pause at the Forum's restaurant where you can enjoy a long set lunch, or go for a simpler and speedier self service option. Or if film is more your thing, some cinemas offer discounts on Wednesdays. But true fans of the silver screen will head to Filmoteca de Catalunya for a real insight into Catalan movie history. In the summer, Barcelona's balmy climate makes this an ideal location for movies under the stars. There are lots of outdoor options at Sala Montjuïc, including Nau Ivanow, Ateneu Barcelonès, Centre Cívic Cotxeres de Sants and L'Illa Diagonal. Entry is always under 10 euros, and some are even free. You might even find George Clooney talking in Spanish.





THU EVENING
Time for Paella
 It's the same every week in Barcelona, whereby Thursday is widely known as paella or fideuà (using noodles instead of rice) day. Most daily and non-daily menus in the city will offer at least one paella on a Thursday. Although it's not officially documented as fact, this is thought that it might have originated as a Thursday tradition because it was once the servants' day off. They would in turn leave the sauce prepared so that their employees only had to add the rice to it. What is fact though, is that you shouldn't miss it. There's no need to search for a certain restaurant — check out whichever eatery you like the look of, and they're sure to have it on the menu.



SAT MORNING
Shopping Frenzy
 From the pedestrian centric streets with floods of people to modern and original shopping malls, the retail experience is all here. Start at Diagonal Mar at the end of Diagonal Avenue, Les Arenas (a former bull ring) then try Plaça d'Espanya, La Maquinista, in the Sant Andreu district, an open-air shopping mall. And if you have the time, you might even want to try the delights of La Roca Village, an outlet shopping mall just outside the city. It's a car drive away — but there's also a bus service that will take you to the shopping mall right from the city centre.

ADDRESS: Avinguda Diagonal, 3, Barcelona



FRI AFTERNOON
A Market Walk
 There's nothing like hitting a market to give you a real insight into the ways of the locals. In Barcelona there are plenty to choose from. Select a market (Boqueria, Sant Antoni, Santa Caterina or one of many that are a bit further from the centre) and discover the unique spirit of the suburb you're in. Then in the evening, on Fridays and Saturdays (winter season) from 7pm to 9pm, you can gaze at the Magic Fountain Show at Montjuïc. The spectacular fountains recycle 2,600 litres of water. The show is free, and it remains an unusual attraction which frequently delights even locals who have seen it many times before.

ADDRESS: Plaça Espanya metro station



SUN MORNING
Local Colour
 Whatever month of the year that you're visiting Barcelona, it is well worth taking the time to go and have a look at the Mercat de Sant Antoni (Sant Antoni metro station). Aside from being a travel hub for the city, this is also where people gather to exchange old books, complete their beloved trading card collections, or to sell their old junk and buy other's knick-knacks. Then after engaging in that much frenetic buying, a midday rest in the Parc de la Ciutadella is a must. Here you will find yoga practitioners, drummers, birthday parties, families and friends eating on the grass, all in one idyllic spot.

ADDRESS: Carrer Comte d'Urgell, Ibis, 08011



PHOTOS: LATITUDE STOCK (MAIN)

Above: El Raval is one of the most interesting parts of Barcelona. Here you can get a real insight into the Catalan people and immerse yourself in the melting pot of cultures in this fascinating city. Home to contemporary art, cool bars and some of the best restaurants Barcelona have to offer, it's an area that demands to be explored

Your first glance will be of the impressive modernist buildings of this classy area. In the early 20th century, factory-owners and the new rich fought each other to have the most spectacular buildings and most original facades. Now, the luxury brands fight one another too, to get the best premises.

Heading up towards Gràcia, you'll finally spot one of Gaudi's masterpieces, La Casa Batlló (*Passeig de Gràcia, 43*).

You will know you're there by the herds of people looking up. Join them to admire its windows, bone-like columns, mask-like balconies, round walls and vivid colours. Then look left, to see La Casa Amatller (*Passeig de Gràcia, 41*), which, although less famous than its neighbour, is still a magnificent building.

Next, ensure your camera has space on the card, as you'll soon bump into another Gaudi masterpiece, La Casa Milà.

Popularly known as La Pedrera, or the Stone Quarry (*Carrer de Provença 261-265*), it's a chamfered building — and as you will see, there's not a single straight line in its facade, all are either round or curved. Arguably though, its roof and chimneys are even more impressive: so the tour on offer around its stately floor, penthouse and the roof, is well worthwhile.

YOUNG AT HEART
 Back on foot, we finally reach Gràcia, the formerly independent village, and one among several that were swallowed up by the land-eager city of Barcelona. You'll soon notice the atmosphere here is quite different to where you've come from, with narrow streets and sidewalks again, plus more bikes. But the true Gracia is found

IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, FACTORY-OWNERS AND THE NEW RICH FOUGHT EACH OTHER TO HAVE THE MOST SPECTACULAR FACADE

in the numerous ateliers spread here and there — artists, craftsmen, small shops, traditional sellers, and above all, people. This is a younger district, where families gather in squares, and children can play more freely without fearing the city traffic. You can feel the younger personality of the place in its dress code, restaurants, and the films you'll find at Cine Verdi (*Carrer Verdi, 32*). The best time to be here is in August, for its colourful Festa Major de Gràcia, when many streets and squares are beautifully decorated for the much anticipated annual competition.

Whatever the time of day, Gràcia is the ideal place for a great meal, and its specialties include Spanish, Lebanese, Syrian, Japanese, Ethiopian, Italian or



KEY SURVIVAL TIPS

GOING UNDERGROUND
 The underground is well sign posted, and reaches nearly all sites and places. Plus it's quite clean. However, watch out for your belongings here — especially when it's busy. It is a safe place now, but there were, and still are, some robbers doing their business in there. Their strategy revolved around going unnoticed. They never use violence, but you might find yourself in a restaurant about to pay with your wallet gone.

DAY TRIPPER
 The best card in the underground system, the T-10 card, allows 10 trips. It's an "integrated card" meaning that, within an hour and 15 minutes after stamping it, you can use different means of transport without further stampings: underground, bus, tram or train. Beware: if you stamp it in the underground, get out and then repeat the journey, it will count as another trip.

SHOP SMART
 Shops will usually open from 10am to 2pm, then close for "midday" break (midday goes from 12pm to 2pm approximately), and then on from 5pm to 8.30pm (or 10pm in department stores or malls). Supermarkets and big stores won't close at midday, and bakeries may be open from 7am. Sunday is the rest day, so don't expect much shopping then.

DRINK WITH THE LOCALS
 The less attractive the bar, the more likely you'll find the locals discussing news, the retirees playing dominoes and friends having beer. Join the masses when Barcelona Football Club plays. Go to a bar that shows the match (well away from the centre). You might have to book a regular bar table, and wait for the show. If it's El Clásico (Barça vs Madrid) and Barça wins, you'll hear firecrackers — though it'll probably be the same if Madrid wins too.

A FRIENDLY WELCOME
 Two kisses (one per cheek) is the accepted form of greeting if introduced to a local. It is usual, between men and women, and among women, but not usually among men. For the latter, a handshake is the norm. Hugs are reserved for close friends and family, tipsy moments — or Barça FC wins El Clásico.

vegetarian, with the range of restaurants and styles overwhelming. But it's always good to try something Spanish. A great option is Can Xurrades (*Carrer Gran de Gràcia, 57*), with its authentic local dishes of grilled meat and torrades (toasted bread with vegetables or cold meats). Or sample something more exotic, such as cargols (snails) or escalivada (a traditional smoky Catalan dish of oven-cooked green and red peppers, aubergine and onions).

THE NEW ENCANTS

Now well fed and off again, it is a good time to leave the walking aside for a while and take the underground system, as you digest all that delicious food.

From Gràcia, we're heading across to the new building, which houses the old



market of Els Encants Vells. Metro Line Number 5 (blue line) will take you from Diagonal Station to Sagrada Família, where you change to Line Number 2 (purple line) up to Glories Station. This flea market used to occupy several streets around Plaça de les Glòries, but it now has its own place. An all-mirror vaulted ceiling welcomes you. Here, all the lights on the ground reflect upon the maze of mirrors above: try to spot yourself in the reflection — it's more challenging than you might think.

The ground floor, below the street level, is where the 'old junk' is on sale. Here you'll find ancient dusty comics, a myriad of faded coloured bottles and glasses, eaten-away chairs, 1980s cassettes, anonymous portraits and even

Above left: Gaudi's celebrated Parc Güell has an almost fairy-tale feel
Right: Barcelona's gothic quarter provides an ideal medieval cycle route from which to explore the city
Left: Fresh anchovies with herbs on lightly toasted bread are a delicious Catalan favourite. Enjoy this true taste of Barcelona at any of the restaurants at Mercat de Sant de la Boqueria

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES (PARC GÜELL); AGEFSTOCK (GOTHIC QUARTER); CORBIS (TAPAS)

paintings of questionable taste. The stuff that nobody wants gets a second or even third chance at Els Encants, and seasoned treasure seekers can still find something wonderful to take home. First though, you must bargain passionately with the Moroccan sellers.

Upstairs, popular stalls are settled at either side of a ramp. Here you can find cheap clothes, electronics, leatherware, textiles, furniture and shoes, or just enjoy the sheer spectacle of the place. At the end of the ramp, a small food court offers fantastic views over the Torre Agbar, enticing you to sit down and gaze for a while. With a little luck, you'll catch a live band here, too. As your bed calls you from a distance, this moment is the icing on the cake of your day's exploration. **IT**

An Island of Silence and Spirits

Bali is more than just beaches, it's a utopia whose real attractions are its people, their beliefs, and the monuments built to celebrate them. Daniel Seifert explores one of Asia's richest cultures

STEP ON TO BALI ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 21, AND YOU MIGHT BE surprised at what you hear. Or rather, what you don't hear. For this is Nyepi, the Balinese Day of Silence, which marks the start of the Balinese new year.

Nyepi sees the normal pace of life drop to a standstill, with many people staying at home. This is a time to ponder the future, and cement the sense of kindness and patience that will last you through the year ahead. Lights are dimmed, or turned off completely. *Pecalangs*, local security men, stand imperiously on street corners, not so much as a security precaution, but to ensure that traffic and noisy activities are kept to a minimum. In many cases, hotel guests are encouraged to stay inside.

This is just an example of the many ways that Bali, known as Island of the Gods, is a true cultural wonder. Where others may ring in their new year with a burst of noise, Bali welcomes it with a whisper. Though of course, if you're there in the days before or after Nyepi, it will be a different story. The silence of new year is sandwiched between light, mayhem and hullabaloo. Neighbourhood boys construct *ogoh-ogohs*, three-metre-tall effigies representing evil spirits that are cheerfully set alight. Pots and pans are banged, and home-made bamboo cannons belch explosively, to frighten away dark forces. Teenagers meanwhile ring in the new year with *Omed-Omedan*, the kissing festival, where they publically lip-lock to ward off bad luck, under the watchful eye of referees who ensure things are kept at a safe level of romance.

Baby Steps

It is crystal clear that, culturally speaking, Bali is truly unique. The island is a fine example of Indonesia's motto, "*Bhinneka tunggal ika*", or unity in diversity. Indonesia is home to some 18,000 islands, 300 ethnic groups and over 700 languages. While roughly 88 per cent of its population is Muslim, Bali has a unique leaning towards animistic Hinduism.

A group marches along Seseh Beach with sacred objects for purification before the Melasti ritual. This annual event is held a few days before Nyepi. **Opposite:** Those of a nervous disposition may shy away from the *ogoh-ogoh* statues built for the Ngrupuk parade

PHOTOS: CORBIS



In a place where the distance between the spirit and real world is razor-thin, superstition pervades daily life. It's an atmosphere that breeds an open, gentle attitude to events (as certain Hollywood A-listers have found out, though more on that later). Watch a family pass a new baby from arm to protective arm for example, and you may wonder, why don't they let the baby just crawl?

As the authors of *They Do What? A Cultural Encyclopedia of Extraordinary and Exotic Customs* explain, at the beginning of their lives, babies here are considered to be mini-gods. And for the first three months, their feet are not supposed to touch the ground. "The rationale is that, in Balinese culture, the ground is considered to be dirty and impure, and it would taint the



purity of the baby's soul." After 105 days, a village priest will perform a cleansing ceremony, bless the child, and allow its teeny toes to hit the ground for the first time — to much fanfare and photo-taking from the assembled clan.

Of course, there is more visible evidence of Balinese belief on display. In fact, it's pretty much wherever you look, as Chris Norfolk, a travel photographer, recalls on his blog: "As I sit here writing this article, there are offerings to the gods on the two temples in the garden of our rented house. There are offerings to the spirits on the gas cylinder, drainpipes, electricity meter, two outside the door leading to the



property (one each from my partner and I), ensuring that any bad spirit that has followed us home will be distracted at the doorway by the sweets left for them.” And there are many more, making for 32 offerings in all just for that one space. Multiply that for each and every living space, temple, shop and taxi, Norfolk marvels, and the result means “millions of offerings have been made just today, and most of them will be re-made tomorrow.”

The outcome of all this ritual is an all-pervading mysticism. “The island’s spirit percolates through you,” he writes. Not for nothing is Bali commonly called the island of a thousand temples — although most locals would tell you they conservatively guess that in reality, it is actually home to as many ten thousand.

Monkeying Around

You should definitely visit a few temples for yourself. Though each has its own special charm or jaw-dropping vista, Tirta Empul is one that’s a definite must-see. It is built around Tampak Siring, a sacred spring that’s seen locals bathing here for a thousand years — not surprising, considering the waters are thought to bring good fortune. Does it work? Bring your bathing suit and find out for yourself.

For the more energetic spiritual seeker, there’s always Puru Lempuyang. Be prepared though, you’ll have to work for your view. You need to walk up 1,700 twisting footsteps through the forest slopes of Mount Lempuyang to reach the site. It takes one to two hours to reach the top, depending on your speed, and

how energetically you get hassled by the local macaque monkeys, who like to steal snacks and shiny objects. But at the top, you’re rewarded with a breathtaking view, including the volcanic Mount Agung.

Towering at 3,000 metres high, Agung is another example of the spiritualism of Bali. It’s not just temples that are sacred here, but nature as a whole, including

SUCH IS THE IMPORTANCE OF AGUNG THAT MANY DIRECTIONS ARE GIVEN WITH REFERENCE TO THE PEAK. YOU MAY BE TOLD A DESTINATION IS KAJA, TOWARDS THE MOUNTAIN, OR KELOD, AWAY FROM THE MOUNTAIN

awe-inspiring peaks such as this. It’s said a true Balinese can point in the direction of Agung even when blindfolded, and that many locals sleep with their heads pointing towards the peak. Not surprising considering it is viewed as the spiritual centre of the Balinese universe, supposedly created by the god Pasupati. Such is its importance that many directions are given with reference to the peak. You may be told a destination is *kaja*, towards the mountain, or *kelod*, away from the mountain.

If sunset views are your game, it would be a crime to miss the Uluwatu Temple. The thousand-year-old water temple is one of Bali’s finest. Perched on the southernmost tip of the island to guard against water spirits, many visitors say it’s the one reason they have lugged heavy DSLR cameras onto their budget flights. And given the perfect violet tinge of the horizon that stretches until Australia, you can’t blame them. It’s a view that will stay with you long after you head back home to

the office — particularly since you’ll be one of many who will nostalgically make it your computer’s desktop photo.

Golden Morning

When planning these mystical journeys, ensure you visit at the best time of day. In the 1930’s, writer and musicologist Colin McPhee noted how Bali’s atmosphere changed depending on the hour. The morning allowed him to bask in “a golden freshness”, as he witnessed how the island “dripped and shone with moisture like a garden in a florist’s window.”

He had less love for the island mid-day, it seems, as by then, Bali “had become hard and matter-of-fact.” But just hours later, by late afternoon and early evening, he was entranced again. The air “grew unreal, lavish and theatrical like old-fashioned opera scenery.” Like many travellers before him, McPhee had become seduced by the spirit of the place.



Left: The kecak is a dramatic combination of dance and drama, performed just before sunset **Above:** Men perform a religious ceremony while collecting holy water from the springs of Tirta Empul, Tampaksiring **Below:** An early morning mist rises over the beautiful paddy fields of Bali



PHOTOS: CORBIS, GETTY IMAGES (TIRTA EMPUL)

Bali’s mysticism is enhanced by the *Balians*, local spiritual healers who come in all shapes and sizes, and will weigh you up accordingly. Some will prod your toes with a stick. Others will offer an intense form of massage that rids you of ills, methods that many visitors may scoff at, until they experience it themselves. There are almost as many *Balians* as temples, some 8,000, four times the number of doctors.

Whether you believe is beside the point: this is a way of life that seeps into your skin. In the early 1900’s, a German traveller named Gregor Krause fell in love with the place and the people. “The breath of the Gods is invisible but perceptible to all Balinese,” he’s reported to have sighed. “They love the day... they are sunny and friendly and always kind; they reward and help those who, in innocence and with their permission wish to rejoice with them in the wealth and beauty of their island.”

Ghostbuster Spirit

Proof of Krause’s statement comes in the form of an unlikely witness: the actor Bill Murray. As Harold Ramis, who directed Murray in *Ghostbusters*, recalls, the comedian once got lost as he rode a motorcycle into the forest. The notoriously eccentric star didn’t panic — far from it, recalled the director in an interview.

“He goes into a village store, where they are very surprised to see an American tourist, and starts talking to them in English, going ‘Wow! Nice hat! Hey, gimme that hat!’ And he took the guy’s hat and started imitating people, entertaining. Word gets around this hamlet that there’s some crazy guy at the grocery, and he ended up doing a dumb show, with the whole village sitting around laughing.” The story cements the reputation of Bali’s true attraction: its people. This is indeed a place that rewards those who “rejoice in the beauty of their island.” **T**



Pepperoni is the most popular pizza topping in the world. Here its spicy richness is matched by robust golden grilled cheese and lightened with shards of aromatic rosemary
Opposite: Kneading pizza dough is a satisfying start to its creation; a simple tomato sauce is the base on which a delicious pizza is built



Slice of Heaven

A freshly made flatbread with various toppings, the humble pizza is one of the world's best loved dishes. With origins rooted in Italy, today you're as likely to find it topped with soft cheese and oregano, or crispy duck and hoisin sauce. Alison Marshall bakes a plate of goodness

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARS RANEK

WHICHEVER COUNTRY YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF IN, THERE'S ALWAYS a pizza to hit the right spot. Whether as a filling lunch, a snack before a night out or as a casual family dinner, this simple flatbread piled high with a variety of goodies, has an almost ambrosial quality. Across the globe, pizza has a fervent following. From Australia to Qatar you'll find versions of this delicious dish served hot from the kitchen to hungry diners.

While Italians may blanch at the idea of topping their famous dough base with anything other than locally sourced ingredients, today's pizza comes in a number of guises. Hawaiian pizza with extra pineapple, anyone?

Below left: The aniseed freshness of basil pairs perfectly with the creamy lightness of courgette in this delicious slice
Right: The pizza base is an almost magical creation of flour and water with a touch of yeast and sugar. Lovingly ladled with a homemade tomato sauce, it's the ultimate supper



PIZZA LUXURY

The most expensive pizza of the day is at Steveston Pizza in British Columbia where a base topped with lobster thermidor, black Alaskan cod, smoked salmon, tiger prawns and Osiestra caviar means a US\$450 "pie" as they call them in the United States. It trumps Gordon Ramsay's Guinness World Record holding pizza - a US\$178 creation capped with white truffle.

So what is so special about this goodie laden dough base that has made it a staple across the world, spawned international chains and made it the food most often shared – the ultimate weekend takeaway treat with family and friends?

Its comforting sustenance is key. A truly authentic pizza is one with a thin crust. Those that feature a doughy deep-pan base or a cheese stuffed crust are much later inventions. The thin-crust pizza in its modern day form is said to have been an Italian staple since the first century. The name pizza is believed to derive from the Italian word *pizzicare*, which means “to pinch or pluck” and relates to the way that the dough for the base is made.

Even before the pizza was formed in its familiar guise, this humble dish has been at the very centre of history. The foot soldiers of Darius the Great in 6BC are documented to have eaten a pizza type repast on the move, a flatbread topped with cheese and olives. The remains of a type of flatbread akin to the modern pizza were also found in the ashes that engulfed Pompeii in 79AD. Not only were the pizza-like remnants found, so too were the tools used in what today would be termed a pizzeria. This ancient flat flour cake is believed to have been eaten both in Pompeii and also in nearby Neapolis, a Greek colony that went on to become Naples, home of the classic Margherita and marinara pizzas.

The pizza really came into its own in the 16th century when tomatoes arrived in Europe from Peru. Originally thought to be poisonous, as the leaves are toxic and the plant is part of the nightshade family. tomatoes were later added to the dough.

Poorer Neapolitans are reported to have only been able to afford the ingredients for a simple herb and tomato pizza, with scant addition of cheese, which still remain the classic ingredients today. Then in 2009, the European Union decided that as the

Neapolitan pizza is part of the world's food heritage it should be protected.

Anyone selling a Neapolitan pizza is now required to make it using only San Marzano plum tomatoes and fresh buffalo mozzarella. Not only that, but there's a special commission that will check that the pizzas are up to standard. The news came as a relief to Italian farmers, whose association said at the time that half of the country's 25,000 pizzerias were not using the right ingredients.

Like many of life's most delicious indulgences, simplicity is key. But don't expect to cobble together an award winning pizza with inferior ingredients. Apart from the topping of sweet San Marzano plum tomatoes grown at the base of Mount Vesuvius and the freshest

“THE FOOT SOLDIERS OF DARIUS THE GREAT IN 6BC ARE DOCUMENTED TO HAVE EATEN A PIZZA TYPE REPAST ON THE MOVE”

mozzarella, made from the milk of the Italian water buffalo, the ultimate base is founded on 00 fine flour, ideally that made by Caputo from Naples, which makes for the perfect pizza. Whether you're cooking at home, or have a wood fired pizza oven ready made for the purpose, this traditionally milled flour is the key to a much admired thinly crusted base.

Forget modern additions such as pineapple or pepperoni. Neapolitan classics are the Margherita and the marinara, and there are some restaurants in Naples that sell these alone. The first has a simple tomato, mozzarella and basil topping – thought to emulate the colours of the Italian flag. It is said to have been invented especially for Queen Margherita in 1889, hence the name.

ASCOTT PULSE



Above: A colourful combination of ingredients including courgettes, tomatoes and ricotta cheese make this a vibrant meal. Next to it, a slightly unusual pizza, lies steaming, where thinly sliced potatoes are paired with rosemary


The latter means “in sailor style”, and does not contain fish as the name suggests. It was the pizza regularly cooked by the fishermen’s wives or *marinaras* for supper and has a topping of tomato and oregano.

As many Italians migrated to the US to look for work in the late 19th century, they took their traditional cuisine with them. The pizza acquired a whole new life stateside, and in New York in particular, as traditional thin crusts were introduced to receptive American diners.

Pizza increased in popularity as many Italians began to move across the country, particularly after the Second World War when regional variations started to appear.

These modern incarnations soon took on an American influence, often topped with unusual ingredients such as barbecued chicken and smoked salmon.

Today the pizza is a doughy base for whichever international ingredients are in vogue at the time. Current favourites include crispy duck with hoi sin sauce, and spring onions or a mild goat’s cheese with rocket. Each country has its own regional take — such as hard-boiled eggs, the topping of choice in Brazil.

Whatever your preference, this companionable slice of Italian culture is best served piping hot — a purpose built finger food, custom made for sharing. 

PICK OF THE PIZZERIAS



JAKARTA Tredici

Newly opened Tredici is making its mark on the Indonesian capital’s dining scene. The pizza oven is doing a roaring trade and diners can enjoy the feeling of the *al fresco* ambience of an Italian piazza, with the added bonus of air conditioning. *Jalan Suryo No. 42, tel 6221 720 4567*

KUALA LUMPUR La Risata

Cooking up wood fired pizzas since 1996, La Risata, meaning The Laughter, has been serving Italian cuisine to diners from their two restaurants in Ampang and Medan Damansara to high acclaim for nearly two decades. *la-risata.com*

LONDON Santa Maria

If you order a salad here, it’s reputed you’ll be turned away by the Neapolitan owners Angelo and Pasquale, who take their pizzas seriously. All the ingredients are flown in from Italy for a truly authentic taste. *santamariapizzeria.com*

MELBOURNE 400 Gradi Restaurant

Chef Johnny Di Francesco is the current titleholder of the Pizza World Championship for his take on the classic Margherita, beating more than 600 chefs to the title. Hailing from Naples, visitors to Melbourne can enjoy his classic pizza in one of the greatest foodie cities in the world. *www.400gradi.com.au*

NAPLES L’Antica Pizzeria da Michele

Since 1870, five generations of the Condurro family have been renowned for the Neapolitan classics of marinara and Margherita, the only pizzas on the menu. *www.damichele.net*



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

AROUND OUR RESIDENCES

Xiengkuane Buddha Park, Vientiane, Laos

A calm respite just outside the Laotian capital’s urban sprawl, Xiengkuane Buddha Park is home to over 200 statues of Buddha, a stone built spectacle that has been attracting visitors since it was built in 1958 by a holy man: Luang Pou Bounleua Soullilat, to spread his ideas about life and the universe.

MORE TIPS: apps.facebook.com/aroundourresidences

Around Ascott

A snapshot of what's happening in Ascott around the world — our properties and our staff

ASCOTT SEALS AN EXCITING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN AUSTRALIA WITH QUEST



IN A NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AUSTRALIA, ASCOTT ENTERED INTO a strategic partnership with Quest Serviced Apartments (Quest), the largest serviced apartment provider, with 112 properties located in Australia.

Ascott will invest up to AUD500 million (around US\$436 million) to acquire the new properties that Quest will secure for its franchise in Australia over the next five years. Ascott will have the right of first refusal to acquire the properties sourced by Quest. Quest will then provide a lease for the properties, which will be operated under franchises using the Quest brand.

Capitalising on this momentum, Ascott has signed an agreement to acquire a 20 per cent stake in Quest for AUD28.8 million (US\$25 million). As part of the agreement, Ascott has the option to increase its stake in Quest to 30 per cent.

In a separate agreement with Quest, Ascott's real estate investment trust, Ascott Residence Trust (Ascott Reit), will acquire three operating serviced

residences in Sydney from Quest: Quest Sydney Olympic Park, Quest Campbelltown and Quest Mascot, which will continue to be operated under franchises using the Quest brand.

Lee Chee Koon, Ascott's Chief Executive Officer, said: "Ascott has an established presence in Australia where our serviced residences enjoy a strong demand from travellers to the country, and we see vast opportunities for serviced residences.

"Serviced apartments represent over 25 per cent share of the accommodation market in Australia where Quest is a leading player. Ascott has many global customer accounts and strong global systems to manage its properties."

Working with Quest, he added, would allow Ascott to make use of new contacts, thus expanding Down Under, a market hungry for quality serviced apartments.

Paul Constantinou, Chairman of Quest Serviced Apartments, said: "Quest is the fastest growing and largest network of serviced apartments in Australia. As one of the global leaders in franchising within the accommodation sector, we have opened an average of eight new properties each year."

Enthusiastically elaborating on possible future prospects, he mentioned that there was an opportunity to secure 250 properties across Australia and New Zealand before 2020.

He added that both parties will in turn bring their unique expertise to the partnership: Quest's savvy franchising experience, and Ascott's global reach, from Munich to Muscat.

The partnership, he explained, would allow these successful brands to continue

their expansion. Importantly, this would lead to better serving customers, ensuring they always have a place to go.

"More than 80 per cent of our customers are corporate travellers from some of Australia's biggest companies and our properties are located in underserved regions with high demand for quality accommodation. We are stringent in selecting our franchisees and are actively involved in the operations and growth of every property. Having a global brand like Ascott partner with us is further affirmation of the strong reputation Quest has built over the last 25 years."

In Australia, Ascott currently operates five serviced residences with more than 670 apartment units. Quest has around 150 properties with over 8,000 existing units in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, and a further 1,500 units under construction. **IT**

HANGZHOU, HAMBURG AND JAKARTA: NOW HOME TO THREE NEW SERVICED RESIDENCES

ASCOTT HAS OPENED ITS FIRST SERVICED RESIDENCES IN HANGZHOU, China and Hamburg in Germany.

In addition, the company has opened its second premier Ascott-branded serviced residence in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta and secured a management contract for a second Ascott residence in Dubai which is due to open in 2017.

The Citadines Intime City Hangzhou is Ascott's 35th property to operate in China

while the Ascott Kuningan Jakarta is the company's eighth property to open in Indonesia. This reinforces Ascott's position as the largest international serviced residence owner-operator in China and Indonesia respectively.

Citadines Michel Hamburg will be Ascott's fourth serviced residence in Germany, adding to current properties in Berlin, Munich and Frankfurt. The addition of Ascott Culture Village Dubai will bolster Ascott's portfolio in the Gulf Cooperation Council to 12 properties. Lee Chee Koon, Ascott's Chief Executive Officer, said: "There are significant growth opportunities for serviced residences globally. We have opened two new properties in China and Germany which are key growth markets for Ascott. Indonesia and GCC also offer immense potential for serviced residences."

Nestled in between three buzzing business districts, Citadines Intime City Hangzhou is just 30 minutes from major railway stations, allowing residents easy access to other major Chinese cities.

Citadines Michel Hamburg also boasts a 30-minute commute from the airport, as well as a stunning design that mirrors Hamburg's maritime history.

Meanwhile, Ascott Kuningan Jakarta is home to stunning expressionist-styled art pieces by the famed local artist, Hendra Gunawan. **IT**



HITTING THE 12,000 MARK IN CHINA



ASCOTT IS CELEBRATING ACHIEVING 12,000 UNITS IN CHINA BY SECURING contracts to manage another five properties in Yinchuan, Changsha, Shenyang and Xi'an.

The Citadines Xingqing Yinchuan, Somerset Xingqing Yinchuan and Somerset Riverside Changsha mark Ascott's arrival into the high-growth Chinese cities of Yinchuan and Changsha. Excitingly, Ascott is the first international serviced residence owner-operator in these cities. All three properties are planned to open in 2018. What's more, Ascott plans to open its second property in Shenyang later on this year, and the fifth property in Xi'an, Somerset Xindicheng Xi'an in 2016.

Lee Chee Koon, Ascott's Chief Executive Officer, said: "China is Ascott's fastest growing market. As the world's second largest economy, it continues to present tremendous opportunities." Since opening in China in 1998, he added, Ascott is now China's largest international serviced residence owner-operator, boasting 69 properties across 23 cities.

The year 2014 was an exciting year, with Ascott adding some 2,600 apartment units in China. Having achieved the target of 12,000 apartment units ahead of 2015, the aim is to have 20,000 units here by

2020 in line with a global target of 80,000 apartment units by 2020.

Striving to bring the best of comfort to its guests, each of the five new properties offers sumptuous features. These include swimming pools, saunas, and for younger members of the family, an entertaining children's playground. **IT**

FIRST CITADINES APART'HOTEL LAUNCHES IN SOUTH KOREA

BUSAN IN SOUTH KOREA IS TO BE HOME TO ASCOTT'S FIRST apart'hotel in the country.

Opening this year, the 468 unit Citadines Haeundae Busan will be Ascott's first serviced residence in Busan and its largest property globally.

Since Ascott fully acquired the Citadines chain of apart'hôtels in Europe in 2004 and brought it to Asia in 2006, it has been expanding the brand aggressively to key cities. With the addition of Citadines Haeundae Busan, Ascott has grown its Citadines network to 79 properties across 49 cities worldwide.

Citadines Haeundae Busan is situated in the prime Haeundae area, close to BEXCO exhibition and convention centre. The property is near Shinsegae Centum City department store, and tourist attractions such as Haeundae Beach and Busan Aquarium. A transportation hub consisting of a metro station, railway station and bus terminal is located next to the serviced residence, offering guests convenient access to the rest of the city. For travel outside of the city, the KTX train station and Busan Gimhae International Airport are within a 20-minute and 40-minute drive respectively. **IT**

Home from Home

When Mohanad Alwadiya was looking for a serviced apartment while remodelling work took place on his new home, Ascott Park Place Dubai was the obvious choice

BUYING A NEW HOUSE CAN BE AN EXCITING BUSINESS, BUT WHEN you've found your dream home and it needs fitting out, you really don't want to have to move far – or stay somewhere that's a compromise to your domestic dreams.

As managing director of Harbor Real Estate, Alwadiya knows a thing or two about property, being involved in the whole aspect of the business from marketing developments to inspecting properties.

While work goes on at his seven-bedroomed villa nearby, Ascott Park Place Dubai is the ideal home from home. "I couldn't find a better or more

THE FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS IN EACH APARTMENT AFFORD BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF THE CITY OR THE ARABIAN GULF

exciting place to stay than Ascott while I finish the work on my new home in the making," he told *Ascott Living*.

He decided to stay at the luxury residence, housed in the 56-storey Park Place tower mainly because of "the excellent customer service, convenience of locale and the overall positive look and feel." The worst part of any move is

the day itself when belongings have to be safely transported from one place to another. But even that was taken care of by Ascott promptly and efficiently – making it an enjoyable experience.

"During my move in stage, I had a few comments that I shared with the move in team, and I was positively surprised when they were all addressed in a prompt manner which gave me the assurance that my long term stay would be a positive one," he added.

In a glittering oasis like Dubai the options are endless, but what made Ascott Park Place Dubai Alwadiya's home of choice was "the good old-fashioned hospitality that never goes out of date.

"All the Ascott staff are focused on delivering a positive customer service experience which is very hard to find anywhere else." Sales executive Rishi Mohan was singled out for particularly notable customer service. "He has an extremely positive can-do attitude, and a very candid customer service approach," adds Alwadiya.

Although he's never stayed at an Ascott before, his positive experience and Ascott's value for money makes the brand one he wouldn't hesitate to recommend to friends and colleagues.

As for the location, it is in close proximity to his company's head office.



The tower is located at the heart of Sheikh Zayed Road, the city's most popular business address, and offers convenience for business and leisure travellers alike.

Ascott Park Place Dubai is somewhere that inspires a long-term stay. The floor-to-ceiling windows in each apartment afford breathtaking views of the city of the Arabian Gulf. The apartments are all soundproofed to ensure tranquility, and the temperature controlled 40-metre swimming pool provides the perfect end to the day. **▶**

Opposite: The spacious living room in a two bedroom executive apartment at Ascott Park Place Dubai is the ideal place to relax (top), all bedrooms at the residence offer stunning views (bottom)



Food for Thought

Julie Cayrel, assistant residence manager for Citadines Suites Arc de Triomphe in Paris talks about her love of French food

I HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR ASCOTT FOR TWO YEARS NOW. I STARTED work on the opening of Citadines Suites Louvre in October 2012. It opened in March, and I stayed there until June. It was a really exciting project. Now I'm working on the opening of Citadines Suites Arc de Triomphe. It will be a five star residence with a fitness suite, and rooms with view of the Eiffel tower. A real jewel!

I was born in Paris but my family is from Normandy, and I lived most of the time in Brittany. My heart belongs there! During my studies, I lived in Finland for a year. It was so interesting to discover the culture there, the beautiful landscapes and the Finnish traditions. I also worked in a hotel in London, which was a good opportunity to speak English and get some experience.

When I am away from France, I would die for a croissant and a baguette with salted butter — simple but so delicious. If I crave salted things, I have to find entrecote with béarnaise sauce and French fries.

In Paris, you can eat all types of cuisine. Parisian chefs try to modernise old recipes, which are usually heavy, and it is really enjoyable to rediscover the dishes that our grandmothers used to make. In Paris, I love Les Petits Mitrons (26 Rue Lepic) located nearby Citadines Montmartre. They specialise in the classical pastries of my childhood. Visitors will love the sweet tarts with pears, raspberries or rhubarb, as well as the savoury creations with spinach, leeks, Cantal cheese or smoked salmon.

I also love Restaurant Jamin (32 Rue de Longchamp) near to Citadines Suites Arc de Triomphe, and I will definitely recommend it to my guests.

But it's not just Paris that has fabulous food. Each region of France has its culture, its products and its way of cooking. We have so many recipes. Our chefs respect our products; they don't try to change them, they exalt them! The meal is part of the identity of French people, and it exists in many other countries. And we have a certain harmony between wine and food, the succession of dishes, a way of setting the table, the way we talk about food. Those things are so typically French.

I know that I am totally subjective, but if you're going to venture outside Paris I would definitely recommend Brittany

“OUR CHEFS RESPECT OUR PRODUCTS; THEY DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THEM, THEY EXALT THEM! THE MEAL IS PART OF THE IDENTITY OF FRENCH PEOPLE”

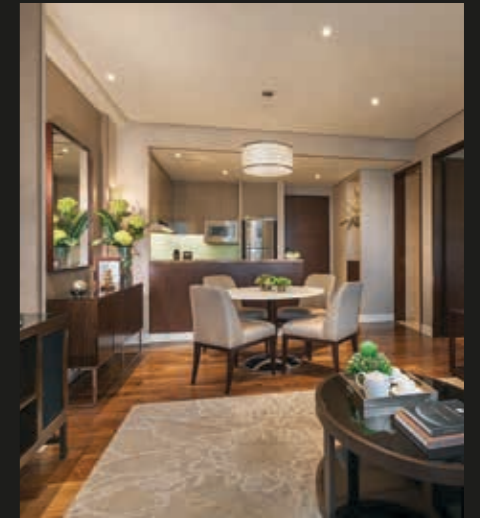
and Normandy. Brittany for its crepes and seafood; Normandy for its dishes laced with indulgent crème fraîche, such as a poule au pot (boiled chicken).

If I think about food, it immediately takes me back to my summer holidays with my grandmother who lived by the sea in Normandy. I remember how she chose the menu for our Sunday lunch with the family: local oysters, lobster, and meadow lamb. I remember spending whole afternoons making cakes with her. Her specialty was choux buns — my signature dish is the chocolate fondant. But I honestly think I am much better at eating and reviewing food than making it. **ii**



Milestones

From a single luxury property to the world's largest serviced residence company today, Ascott has come a long way



THE ASCOTT LIMITED IS A SINGAPORE COMPANY THAT HAS grown to be the world's largest international serviced residence owner-operator. It has more than 25,000 operating serviced residence units in key cities of Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Gulf region – as well as over 12,000 units currently under development.

Our portfolio adds up to more than 38,000 units spanning over 80 cities across more than 20 countries. Ascott pioneered Asia-Pacific's first international-class serviced residence with the opening of The Ascott Singapore in 1984.

With a work ethic that emphasises customer service excellence, Ascott has been winning guests over with our

signature hospitality. We deliver service from the heart, and go the extra mile to delight our residents.

We are very glad that many guests have chosen us as their preferred “home away from home” over the years. Today Ascott boasts a 31-year industry track record and award-winning serviced residence brands that enjoy recognition worldwide. **ii**

Above, from left: Delight in the relaxed ambience of Citadines South Chengdu; the welcoming living room of a one-bedroom apartment at Ascott Bonifacio Global City Manila

Significant moments in our history

1984
Ascott opened Asia-Pacific's first serviced residence in Singapore, a new concept in the region. Citadines started in Europe with its first apart'hotel in Paris, France.

2004
Ascott completed acquisition of Citadines. The company now owns three brands: Ascott, Citadines and Somerset.

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

2014
Ascott celebrates its 30th anniversary with special promotions and community initiatives worldwide.

Our achievements have earned global recognition, and with it, numerous prestigious awards. Among the accolades are:

2008–2014
DestinAsian Readers' Choice Awards
“Best Serviced Residence/Residence Operator”

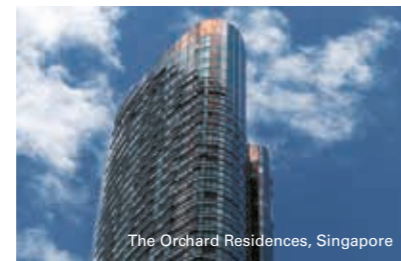
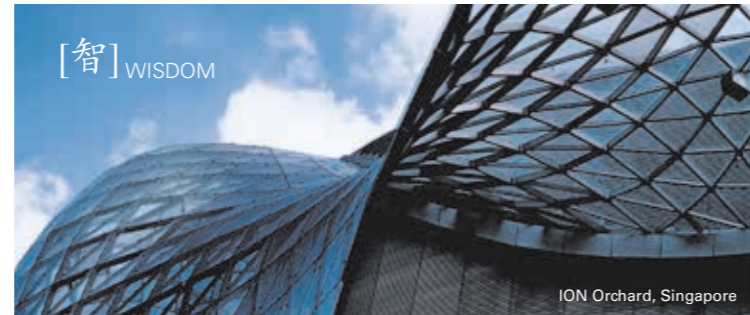
2004–2014
Business Traveller Asia-Pacific
“Best Serviced Residence Brand”

2005–2012
TTG Travel Awards
“Best Serviced Residence Operator”

2005–2014
Business Traveller China
“Best Serviced Residence Brand in China”

2007–2014
Business Traveller UK
“Best Serviced Apartment Company”

2013
World Travel Awards
“World's Leading Serviced Apartment Brand”



ASCOTT AROUND THE WORLD

The Ascott Limited is a member of CapitaLand, one of Asia's largest real estate companies. The Ascott Limited is the largest international serviced residence owner-operator with more than 200 properties in over 80 cities across more than 20 countries in Asia Pacific, Europe and the Gulf region. It operates three award-winning brands Ascott, Citadines and Somerset.

For worldwide reservations: (65) 6272 7272 GDS chain code: AZ
Website: www.the-ascott.com, www.citadines.com and www.somerset.com E-mail: enquiry@the-ascott.com

SOUTHEAST ASIA

INDONESIA

Reservations: 00180 365 7878
(Local Toll Free)

Bali

Citadines Kuta Beach
Jalan Pantai Kuta, Badung,
Bali 80361
(62-361) 849 6500

Jakarta

Ascott Jakarta
Jalan Kebon Kacang Raya No 2,
Jakarta 10230, Indonesia
(62-21) 391 6868

Ascott Kuningan

Ciputra World 1,
Jalan HR Rasuna Kav.3-5,
Jakarta 12940, Indonesia
(62-21) 3006 0288

Citadines Rasuna

The H-Tower,
Jalan HR Rasuna Said Kav.20, Kuningan
Jakarta 12940, Indonesia
(62-21) 2953 3123

Somerset Berlian

Jalan Permata Berlian V,
Permata Hijau,
Jakarta 12210, Indonesia
(62-21) 5366 8888

Somerset Grand Citra

Jalan Prof Dr Satrio Kav 1,
Jakarta 12940, Indonesia
(62-21) 2995 6888

Surabaya

Ascott Waterplace
(Opening in 2015)

Somerset Surabaya Hotel & Serviced Residence

Jalan Raya Kupang Indah,
Surabaya 60189, Indonesia
(62-31) 732 8738

LAOS

Reservations: (856-21) 250 888

Vientiane

Somerset Vientiane
Souphanouvong Avenue, Sikhhotabong
district, P.O.Box: 4793 Vientiane Lao PDR
(856-21) 250 888

MALAYSIA

Reservations: 1800 806 306
(Local Toll Free)

Cyberjaya

Citadines DPulze
Lingkar Cyber Point Timur,
Cyber 12 63000 Cyberjaya, Malaysia
(60-3) 2718 6813

Kuala Lumpur

Ascott Kuala Lumpur
9 Jalan Pinang,
50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
(60-3) 2718 6868

Ascott Sentral

211, Jalan Tun Sambanthan, KL Sentral,
50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
(60-3) 2727 9999

Somerset Ampang

187 Jalan Ampang,
50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
(60-3) 2723 8888

Kuching

Citadines Uplands
55, Jalan Simpang Tiga,
93350 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
(60-82) 281 888

Nusajaya

Somerset Medini
(Opening in 2015)

Somerset Puteri Harbour

Persiaran Puteri Selatan, Puteri Harbour
79000 Nusajaya, Johor
Darul Ta'zim, Malaysia
(607) 287 1088

PHILIPPINES

Reservations: (63-2) 550 3200

Manila

Ascott Bonifacio Global City
28th Street corner 5th Avenue,
Bonifacio Global City,
Taguig City 1634 Philippines
(63-2) 860-9888

Ascott Makati

Glorietta 4, Ayala Center,
Makati City 1224, Philippines
(63-2) 729 8888

Citadines Millennium Ortigas
(Opening in 2015)

Citadines Salcedo Makati

148 Valero Street, Salcedo Village,
Makati City 1227, Philippines
(63-2) 863 9888

Somerset Millennium Makati

104 Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village,
Makati City 1229, Philippines
(63-2) 750 7888

Somerset Olympia Makati

7912 Makati Avenue,
Makati City 1200, Philippines
(63-2) 812 1010

SINGAPORE

Reservations: 1800 272 7272
(Local Toll Free)

Ascott Raffles Place

2 Finlayson Green, Singapore 049247
(65) 6577 1688

Citadines Mount Sophia

8 Wilkie Road, #01-26 Wilkie Edge,
Singapore 228095
(65) 6593 8188

Somerset Bencoolen

51 Bencoolen Street,
Singapore 189630
(65) 6849 4688

Somerset Liang Court

177B River Valley Road,
Singapore 179032
(65) 6337 0111

Somerset Orchard

160 Orchard Road,
#06-01 OG Orchard Point,
Singapore 238842
(65) 6735 0500

Riverdale Residence

(Corporate Leasing)
346 River Valley Road,
Singapore 238373
(65) 6235 4130

The Heritage Singapore

(Corporate Leasing)
Mount Pleasant Road,
Singapore
(65) 6235 4130

THAILAND

Reservations: 1800 888 272
(Local Toll Free)

Bangkok

Ascott Sathorn
7 South Sathorn Road, Yannawa,
Sathorn, Bangkok 10120, Thailand
(66-2) 676 6868

Citadines Sukhumvit 8

77/7 Sukhumvit 8, Sukhumvit Road,
Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110, Thailand
(66-2) 257 2277

Citadines Sukhumvit 11

22/22 Sukhumvit 11, Sukhumvit Road,
Klongtoey-nue, Wattana,
Bangkok 10110, Thailand
(66-2) 264 6777

Citadines Sukhumvit 16

38 Sukhumvit 16, Sukhumvit Road,
Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110, Thailand
(66-2) 663 8777

Citadines Sukhumvit 23

37/7 Sukhumvit 23, Sukhumvit Road,
Klongtoey-nua, Wattana,
Bangkok 10110, Thailand
(66-2) 204 4777

Somerset Lake Point

41 Sukhumvit Soi 16, Sukhumvit Road,
Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110, Thailand
(66-2) 663 1234

Somerset Park Suanplu

39 Soi Suanplu, South Sathorn Road,
Thungmahamek, Sathorn,
Bangkok 10120, Thailand
(66-2) 679 4444

Somerset Sukhumvit Thonglor

No 115 Sukhumvit 55 (Thonglor),
Sukhumvit Road, Klongton Nua,
Wattana, Bangkok 10110, Thailand
(66-2) 365 7999

Vic3

89 Phatou Yothin Soi 3,
Phaya Thai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
(66-2) 618 9888

Sri Racha

Citadines Grand Central
Between Thetsaban 3 and Thetsaban 1
Roads (next to the Government Savings
Bank), Sri Racha, Chonburi, Thailand
(66-2) 344 2500

VIETNAM

Reservations:
(84-4) 3825 2283 (Hanoi)
(84-31) 381 0000 (Hai Phong City)
(84-8) 3822 8899 (Ho Chi Minh City)

Danang

Somerset Danang Bay
(Opening in 2015)

WHEN WE BUILD BUILDINGS WE BUILD PEOPLE TOO

Isn't a good building like a good person?

With strength of character,
it could weather hardships.

When sensible to what's around,
it's in harmony with its environment.

And like a good building,
a good person is sturdy. Dependable.

Someone who looks outside himself,
to share your joys and hopes.

At CapitaLand, we see the two as one.
Because you can't build one without the other.



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CapitaLand ringtones

Hai Phong City
Somerset Central TD
 Tower A, TD Plaza, Lot 20A, Lê Hông Phong Street, Dong Khe Ward, Ngo Quyen District, Hai Phong City, Vietnam (84-31) 3670 888

Hanoi
Somerset Grand Hanoi
 49 Hai Ba Trung Street, Hanoi, Vietnam (84-4) 3934 2342

Somerset Hoa Binh
 106 Hoang Quoc Viet Street, Hanoi, Vietnam (84-4) 3755 5888

Somerset West Lake
 254D Thuy Khue Road, Hanoi, Vietnam (84-4) 3843 0030

Ho Chi Minh City
Somerset Chancellor Court
 21-23 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (84-8) 3822 9197

Somerset Ho Chi Minh City
 8A Nguyen Binh Khiem Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (84-8) 3822 8899

Somerset Vista
 No 628C Hanoi Highway, An Phu Ward District 2, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (84-8) 6255 9900

Diamond Island Luxury Residences
(Corporate Leasing)
 No. 01 - Street No. 104 - BTT, Quarter 3 Binh Trung Tay Ward, District 2 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (84-8) 3742 5678

Vista Residences
 (Corporate Leasing)
 No 628c Hanoi Highway, An Phu Ward District 2, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (84-8) 6255 9900

NORTH ASIA

CHINA
Reservations: 400 820 1028 (Local Toll Free)

Beijing
Ascott Raffles City
 1-2 Dongzhimen South Street, Dongcheng District Beijing 100007, China (86-10) 8405 3888

Somerset ZhongGuanCun
 15 Haidian Zhong Street, Haidian District, Beijing 100080, China (86-10) 5873 0088

Raffles City Residence
 (Corporate Leasing)
 1-3 Dongzhimen South Street, Dongcheng District Beijing 100007, China (86-10) 8405 3888

Chengdu
Ascott Raffles City
 3 Section 4, Renmin South Road, Wuhou District, Chengdu 610041, China (86-28) 6268 2888

Citadines South Chengdu
 88 Tianfu 3rd Street, ICON Genesis Plaza Tower 5, Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone, Chengdu, China (86-28) 8521 6666

Somerset Riverview
 1 Section 3, Renmin South Road, Wuhou District, Chengdu 610041, China (86-28) 6181 6888

Chongqing
Ascott Nanbin
(Opening in 2015)

Somerset JieFangBei
 Block B Hejing Building, 108 Minzu Road, Yuzhong District, Chongqing 400010, China (86-23) 8677 6888

Dalian
Somerset Grand Central Dalian
 128-2 Jinma Road, Dalian Development Area, Dalian 116600, China (86-411) 8801 3888

Somerset Harbour Court
 55 Renmin Road, Zhongshan District, Dalian 116001, China (86-411) 3991 1888

Guangzhou
Ascott Guangzhou
 73, Tianhedong Road, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 510630, China (86-20) 8513 0388

Ascott IFC
 5 Zhujiang Xi Road, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 510623, China (86-20) 3838 9888

Citadines LiZhiWan
 145-4, Longjin Xi Road, Liwan District, Guangzhou 510150, China (86-20) 2835 1999

Somerset Riviera
 770 Binjiang Zhong Road, Haizhu District, Guangzhou 510220, China (86-20) 8956 6688

Springdale Serviced Residence
 Tower B1, No 105 Tiyuxi Road, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 510620, China (86-20) 8396 6088

Hangzhou
Citadines Intime City
 Block 4, Intime City, 380 Fengtan Road, Gongshu District, Hangzhou 310011, China (86-571) 8667 9888)

Hong Kong
Citadines Ashley
 18 Ashley Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong (852) 2262 3062

Somerset Victoria Park
 118 Electric Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong (852) 3653 8088

The Mercer
 29 Jervois Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong (852) 2922 9988

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Ascott Macau
 Dynasty District, Macau (86-21) 3313 9800

Nanjing
Citadines Baijia Lake
 146 Tianyuan Road, Economic and Technological Development Area, Jiangning District, Nanjing 210000, China (86-25) 6892 6666

Shanghai
Ascott Huai Hai Road
 282 Huai Hai Road Central, Huangpu District, Shanghai 200021, China (86-21) 2329 8888

Ascott Heng Shan
 No 99 Hengshan Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai 200000,China (86-21) 3313 9800

Citadines Biyun
 Lane 450, Hongfeng Road, Jinqiao Export Processing Zone, Pudong, Shanghai 201206, China (86-21) 3860 2288

Somerset Xu Hui
 888 Shaanxi Nan Road, Xu Hui District, Shanghai 200031, China (86-21) 6466 0888

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Somerset Heping
 No. 80 Taiyuan North Street, Heping District, Shenyang 110000, China (86-24) 2397 5555

Shenzhen
Ascott Mailen
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Somerset Grandview
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Ascott Midtown
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Somerset Emerald City
 436 Changjiang Road, Suzhou New District, Suzhou 215011, China (86-512) 6818 6611

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Somerset International Building
 No 75 Nanjing Road, Heping District, Tianjin 300050, China (86-22) 2330 6666

Somerset Olympic Tower
 126 Chengdu Dao, Heping District, Tianjin 300051, China (86-22) 2335 5888

Somerset Youyi
 35 Youyi Road, Hexi District, Tianjin 300201, China (86-22) 2810 7888

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Citadines Zhuankou
 159 Dongfeng Avenue, Wuhan Economic & Technological Development Zone 430056, China (86-27) 8421 8000

Somerset Wusheng
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 (Opening in 2015)

Somerset Wuxi
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Citadines Central
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Citadines Gaoxin
 13 Gaoxin Si Road, Hi-Tech Zone, Xi'an 710075, China (86-29) 8843 7888

Citadines Xingqing Palace
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Gravis Court Kakomachi
 (Corporate Leasing)
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Gravis Court Kokutaiji
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 (Corporate Leasing)
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Citadines Karasuma-Gojo
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Grand E'terna Chioninmae
 (Corporate Leasing)
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Tokyo 176-0011, Japan
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(81-3) 5575 5512

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Hobart TAS 7000, Australia
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Citadines on Bourke
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250 Elizabeth Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia
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WA 6000, Australia
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(33) 1 40 04 43 50

Citadines Bastille Marais
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75011 Paris, France
(33) 1 53 36 90 00

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94 Rue Didot,
75014 Paris, France
(33) 1 53 90 38 00

Citadines La Défense
La Defense, Les Saisons 8
oulevard de Neuilly 92400,
Courbevoie Paris, France
(33) 1 58 13 57 57

Citadines Les Halles
4 Rue des Innocents, 75001 Paris, France
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67 Avenue du Maine, 75014 Paris, France
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16 Avenue Rachel, 75001 Paris, France
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(33) 1 40 15 14 00

Citadines Place d'Italie
18 Place d'Italie, 75013 Paris, France
(33) 1 43 13 85 00

Citadines République
75 Bis, Avenue Parmentier,
75011 Paris, France
(33) 1 55 28 08 20

Citadines Saint-Germain-des-Prés
53 Ter, quai des Grands-Augustins,
75006 Paris, France
(33) 1 44 07 70 00

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83 Avenue Kléber
75116 Paris, France
(33) 1 44 05 75 75

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(33) 1 55 35 28 00

Citadines Tour Eiffel
132 Boulevard de Grenelle,
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Citadines Trocadéro
29 Bis, Rue Saint-Didier,
75116 Paris, France
(33) 1 56 90 70 00

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Ferney Voltaire
Citadines Genève
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Ferney Voltaire, France
(33) 4 50 42 68 00

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Citadines City Centre
9-11 Rue de Strasbourg,
38000 Grenoble, France
(33) 4 76 15 02 00

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59777 Lille, France
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Citadines Part-Dieu
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(33) 4 78 14 90 00

Citadines Presqu'île
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9-11 Boulevard de Louvain,
13008 Marseille, France
(33) 4 96 20 65 00

Montpellier
Citadines Antigone
588 Boulevard d'Antigone,
34000 Montpellier, France
(33) 4 99 52 37 50

Nice
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3-5 Boulevard François Grosso,
06000 Nice, France
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Strasbourg
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Citadines Freedom Square
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Olivaer Platz 1, 10707 Berlin-
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Frankfurt
Citadines City Centre
Europa-Allee 23
60327 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
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Hamburg
Citadines Michel
Ludwig-Erhard-Straße 7
20459 Hamburg, Germany
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Munich
Citadines Arnulfpark
Arnulfstrasse 51, 80636
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Citadines Holborn-Covent Garden
94-99 High Holborn,
London WC1V 6LF, UK
(44) 207 395 8800

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Doha
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Quest Albury on Townsend

450 Townsend Street, Albury NSW 2640
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questalburyontownsend.com.au

Quest Bondi Junction

28 Spring St, Bondi Junction NSW 2022
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Quest Campbelltown

1 Rennie Road, Campbelltown NSW 2560
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questnewcastle.com.au

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questsingleton.com.au

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questworldsquare.com.au

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questpalmerston.com.au

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questparap.com.au

Queensland

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15 Amy Street, Albion QLD 4010
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questbreakfastcreek.com.au

Quest Chermside

9 Thomas Street, Chermside QLD 4032
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questchermside.com.au

Quest Chermside on Playfield

38-40 Playfield Street, Chermside QLD 4032
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questapartments.com.au

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39-43 Bramston Street, Gladstone QLD 4680
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questgladstone.com.au

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27 Gordon Street, Mackay QLD 4740
(61-7) 4842 1800
questmackayongordon.com.au

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questriverparkcentral.com.au

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(61-7) 4920 5300
questrockhampton.com.au

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(61-7) 4789 7400
questtownsvilleoneyre.com.au

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questapartments.com.au

Quest Woolloongabba

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(61-7) 3873 3000
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questfranklin.com.au

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questonkingwilliam.com.au

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379 King William Street, Adelaide SA 5000
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questkingwilliamsouth.com.au

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33-37 Main Street, Mawson Lakes SA 5095
(61-8) 7071 0100
questmawsonlakes.com.au

Quest Whyalla

4 Moran Street, Whyalla SA 5608
(61-8) 8644 7600
questwhyalla.com.au

Quest Whyalla Playford

9-11 Darling Terrace, Whyalla SA 5600
(61-8) 8644 1188
questwhyallaplayford.com.au

Tasmania

Quest Launceston

16 Paterson Street, Launceston TAS 7250
(61-3) 6333 3555
questlaunceston.com.au

Quest Savoy

38 Elizabeth Street, Hobart TAS 7000
(61-3) 6220 2300
questsavoy.com.au

Quest Trinity House

Cnr Brooker Ave & Davenport Street, Hobart TAS 7000
(61-3) 6236 9656
questtrinityhouse.com.au

Quest Waterfront

3 Brooke Street, Hobart TAS 7000
(61-3) 6224 8630
questwaterfront.com.au

Victoria

Quest Abbotsford

611 Victoria Street, Abbotsford VIC 3067
(61-3) 9426 1800
questabbotsford.com.au

Quest Ballarat

7-11 Dawson Street North, Ballarat VIC 3350
(61-3) 5309 1200
questballarat.com.au

Quest Ballarat Mews

603-605 Main Road, Ballarat VIC 3350
(61-3) 5333 7781
questballaratmews.com.au

Quest Bendigo

489 High Street, Bendigo VIC 3550
(61-3) 5447 0822
questbendigo.com.au

Quest Bendigo Central

228 McCrae Street, Bendigo VIC 3550
(61-3) 5410 1300
questbendigocentral.com.au

Quest Brighton

Cnr South & Cummins Roads, Brighton East VIC 3187
(61-3) 9591 5000
questbrighton.com.au

Quest Brighton on the Bay

250 Esplanade, Brighton VIC 3186
(61-3) 9591 5000
questbrightononthebay.com.au

Quest on Bourke

155 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
(61-3) 9631 0400
questonbourke.com.au

Quest Bundoora

40 Janefield Drive, Bundoora VIC 3083
(61-3) 8306 0600
questbundoora.com.au

Quest Carlton on Finlay

2-9 Finlay Place, Carlton VIC 3053
(61-3) 8341 4777
questcarltononfinlay.com.au

Quest Caroline Springs

234 Caroline Springs Boulevard, Caroline Springs VIC 3023
(61-3) 8361 3888
questcarolinesprings.com.au

Quest on Chapel

651 Chapel Street, South Yarra VIC 3141
(61-3) 9828 2444
questonchapel.com.au

Quest Cheltenham

37-39 Station Road, Cheltenham VIC 3192
(61-3) 8523 5800
questcheltenham.com.au

Quest Clocktower Lygon

255 Drummond Street, Carlton VIC 3053
(61-) 9349 9700
questclocktower.com.au

Quest Dandenong

Cnr Princes Hwy & James Street, Dandenong VIC 3175
(61-3) 9797 2200
questdandenong.com.au

Quest Docklands

750 Bourke Street, Docklands VIC 3008
(61-3) 9630 1000
questdocklands.com.au

Quest Doncaster

855 Doncaster Road, Doncaster VIC 3108
(61-3) 8848 1600
questondoncaster.com.au

Quest on Dorcas

8 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne VIC 3205
(61-3) 9698 1500
questondorcas.com.au

Quest Jolimont

153-155 Wellington Parade South, East Melbourne VIC 3002
(61-3) 9668 1200
questjolimont.com.au

Quest Kew

19-21 Walpole Street, Kew VIC 3101
(61-3) 9854 7201
questkew.com.au

Quest Knox

137 Mountain Highway, Wantirna VIC 3152
(61-3) 9801 6044
questknox.com.au

Quest on Lonsdale

43 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
(61-3) 9663 3317
questonlonsdale.com.au

Quest Maribyrnong

Edgewater Boulevard, Maribyrnong VIC 3032
(1800) 334 033
questapartments.com.au

Quest Melbourne Airport

Cnr South Centre Rd & Annandale Rd, Melbourne Airport VIC 3045
(61-3) 8340 8400
questmelbournearport.com.au

Quest Mildura

115-119 Madden Avenue, Mildura VIC 3500
(61-3) 5002 0900
questmildura.com.au

Quest Mont Albert

741-745 Whitehorse Road, Mont Albert VIC 3127
(61-3) 8843 1500
questmontalbert.com.au

Quest Moonee Valley

Cnr McPherson & Coats Streets, Moonee Ponds VIC 3039
(61-3) 8325 9500
questmooneevalley.com.au

Quest Moorabbin

3 Kingston Road, Heatherton VIC 3202
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Quest Narre Warren

Cnr Princes Highway & Verdun Drive, Narre Warren VIC 3805
(61-3) 9796 6944
questnarrewarren.com.au

Quest Portland

66 Julia Street, Portland VIC 3305
(61-3) 5500 9222
questportland.com.au

Quest East Melbourne

48 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002
(61-3) 9413 0000
questeastmelbourne.com.au

Quest Echuca
25-29 Heygarth Street,
Echuca VIC 3564
(61-3) 5481 3900
questechuca.com.au

Quest Flemington
600 Epsom Road,
Flemington VIC 3031
(61-3) 9371 2200
questflemington.com.au

Quest Frankston
377 Nepean Highway,
Frankston VIC 3199
(61-3) 8796 1000
questfrankston.com.au

Quest Frankston on the Bay
435 Nepean Highway,
Frankston VIC 3199
(61-3) 8765 2500
questfrankstononthebay.com.au

Quest Geelong
16-18 The Esplanade South,
Geelong VIC 3220
(61-3) 5228 2000
questgeelong.com.au

Quest Glen Waverley
353-361 Springvale Road
Glen Waverley VIC 3150
(61-3) 9239 2900
questglenwaverley.com.au

Quest Gordon Place
24 Little Bourke Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000
(61-3) 9663 2888
questgordonplace.com.au

Quest Hawthorn
616 Glenferrie Road,
Hawthorn VIC 3122
(61-3) 8803 7700
questhawthorn.com.au

Quest Hero
140 Little Collins Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000
(61-3) 8664 8500
questhero.com.au

Quest Ivanhoe
72-84 Upper Heidelberg Road,
Ivanhoe VIC 3079
(61-3) 9490 2100
questivanhoe.com.au

Quest Prahran
9 Balmoral Street,
South Yarra VIC 3141
(61-3) 9823 8888
questprahran.com.au

Quest Royal Gardens
8 Royal Lane,
Fitzroy VIC 3065
(61-3) 9419 9888
questroyalgardens.com.au

Quest Sale
180-184 York Street,
Sale VIC 3850
(61-3) 5142 0900
questsale.com.au

Quest Sanctuary Lakes
9 Greg Norman Drive,
Sanctuary Lakes Resort,
Point Cook VIC 3030
(61-3) 9394 2100
questsanctuarylakes.com.au

Quest Shepparton
177-183 Welsford Street,
Shepparton VIC 3630
(61-3) 5814 4800
questshepparton.com.au

Quest Southbank
12-16 Kavanagh Street,
Southbank VIC 3006
(61-3) 9694 5600
questsouthbank.com.au

Quest South Melbourne
21 Park Street,
South Melbourne VIC 3205
(61-3) 9698 1500
questsouthmelbourne.com.au

Quest St Kilda Bayside
1 Eildon Road,
St Kilda VIC 3182
(61-3) 9593 9500
queststkildabayside.com.au

Quest on St Kilda Road
1A St Kilda Road,
St Kilda VIC 3182
(61-3) 9536 3300
questonstkildaroad.com.au

Quest Warrnambool
15-19 Liebig Street,
Warrnambool VIC 3280
(61-3) 5564 1200
questwarrnambool.com.au

Quest Werribee
69 Synnot Street,
Werribee VIC 3030
(61-3) 8744 6000
questwerribee.com.au

Quest on William
172 William Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000
(61-3) 9605 2222
questonwilliam.com.au

Quest Williamstown
1 Syme Street,
Williamstown VIC 3016
(61-3) 9393 5300
questwillamstown.com.au

Quest Williamstown North
115-119 Kororoit Creek Road,
Williamstown VIC 3016
(61-3) 9393 9700
questwn.com.au

Quest Windsor
111 Punt Road,
Prahran VIC 3181
(61-3) 9520 3333
questwindsor.com.au

Quest Wodonga
46 Reid Street,
Wodonga VIC 3690
(61-2) 6043 8300
questwodonga.com.au

Western Australia
Quest Bunbury
14 Lyons Cove,
Bunbury WA 6230
(61-8) 9722 0777
questbunbury.com.au

Quest Harbour Village
Mews Rd, Challenger Harbour,
Fremantle WA 6160
(61-8) 9430 3888
questharbourvillage.com.au

Quest on James
228 James Street,
Northbridge WA 6003
(61-8) 9227 2888
questonjames.com.au

Quest Mandurah
20 Apollo Place,
Mandurah WA 6210
(61-8) 9535 9599
questmandurah.com.au

Quest Mounts Bay Road
130 Mounts Bay Road,
Perth WA 6000
(1800) 334 033
questapartments.com.au

Quest on Rheola
18 Rheola Street,
West Perth WA 6005
(61-8) 9365 8999
questonrheola.com.au

Quest Rockingham
15 Flinders Lane,
Rockingham WA 6168
(1800) 334 033
questapartments.com.au

Quest Scarborough
4 Brighton Road,
Scarborough WA 6019
(61-8) 6140 3500
questscarborough.com.au

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281 Cnr Mill Point Rd & Arlington Ave,
South Perth WA 6151
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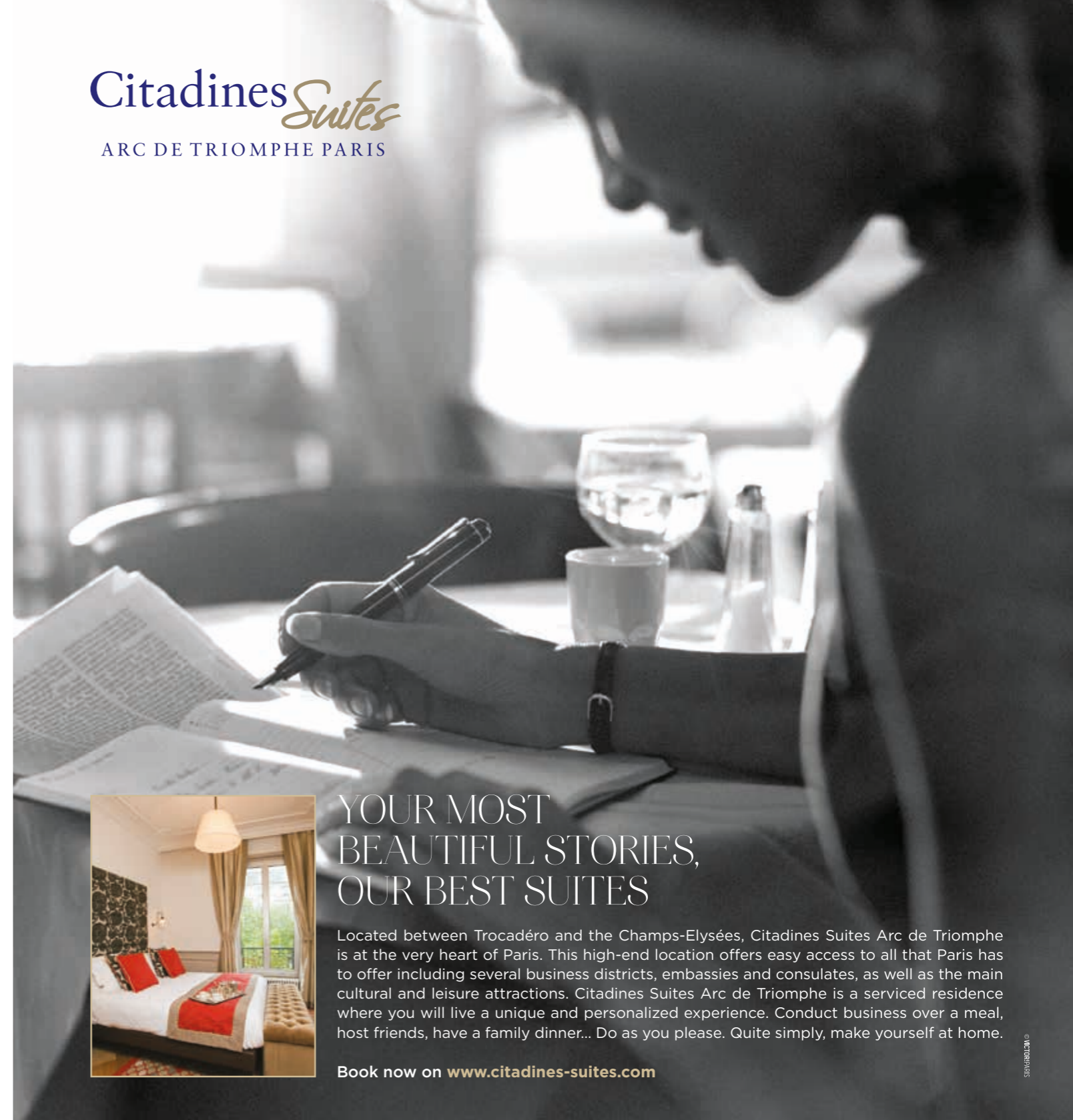
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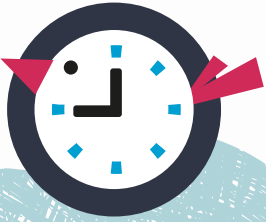
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