

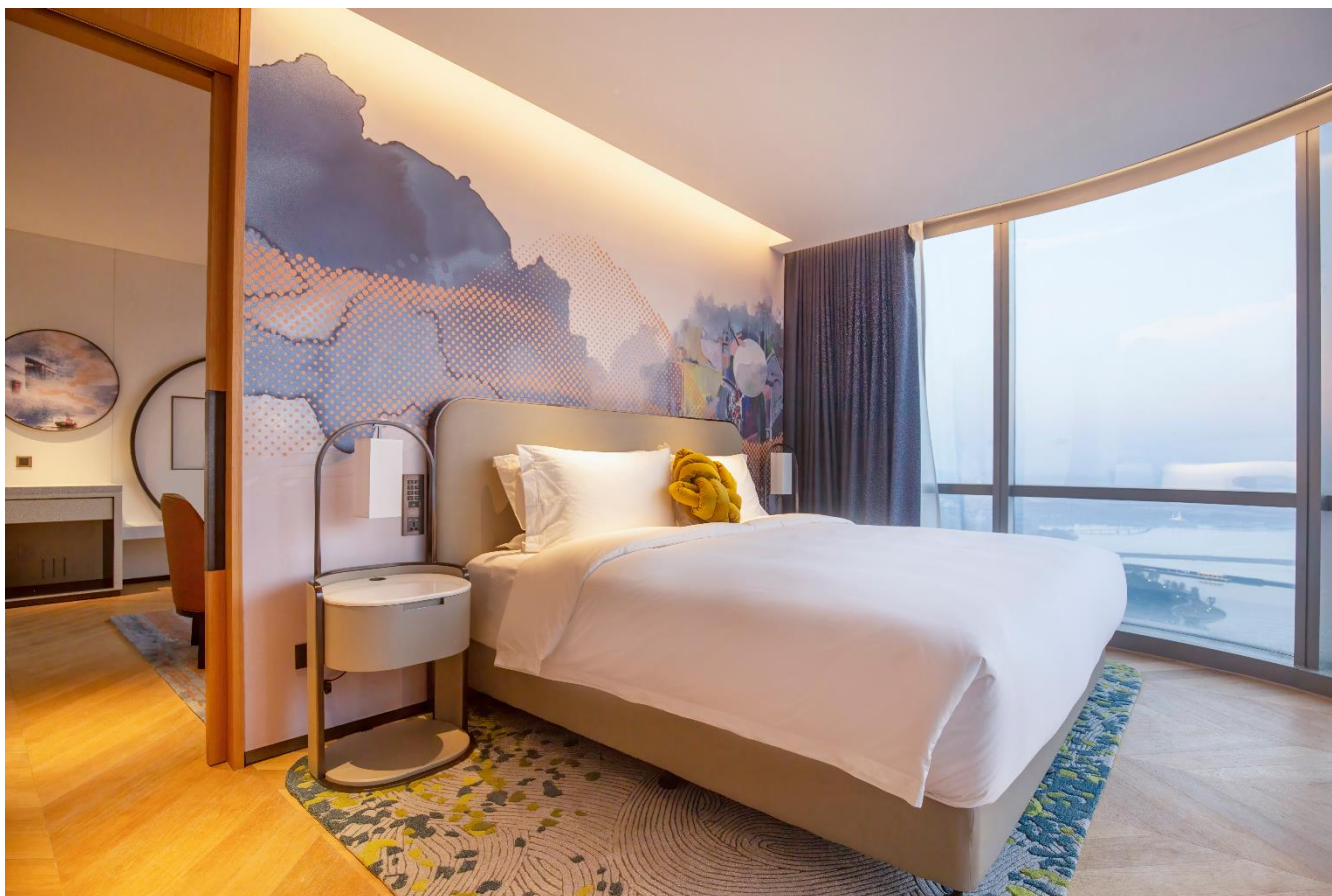


**MAY 2023**  
**ISSUE 74**

A Hong Leong Group  
E-Newsletter

*highlights*

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## **Setting The Scene With M Social Suzhou**

The debut of MHR's lifestyle brand 'M Social' in China.

**Chairman Kwek  
Catches Up With  
Friends And  
Associates In  
Japan And  
Taiwan**

**Over Half Of  
Tembusu Grand  
Units Sold On  
Launch  
Weekend**

**Millennium  
Airport Hotel  
Dubai Organises  
Annual Medical  
Check-Up For  
Employees And  
Celebrates Earth  
Hour**

**Tasek Supports  
Malaysia's Call  
To Shore Up  
Affordable  
Housing**



## Experiencing The Rich And Diverse Flavours Of Morocco Cuisine At Grand Millennium Muscat

*With the combined efforts of the Grand Millennium Muscat team and expert chefs from Morocco invited to showcase their culinary skills, the Moroccan Food Festival was a resounding success.*

Grand Millennium Muscat, Oman, recently hosted the Moroccan Food Festival from 27 February to 18 March, offering diners the unique opportunity to experience the rich and varied flavors of Moroccan cuisine. A team of expert chefs from Morocco, such as Chef Fatiha Ezzouhairi and her team, were specially invited to showcase their skills and expertise in authentic Moroccan dishes.

The festival featured an array of authentic Moroccan dishes, including tagine dejaj, refissa with chicken, lamb couscous, and harira soup, among others. The event was complemented with street food nights, where guests could watch the chefs preparing dishes right in front of them.



*A chef presenting her mouth-watering Moroccan dish.*

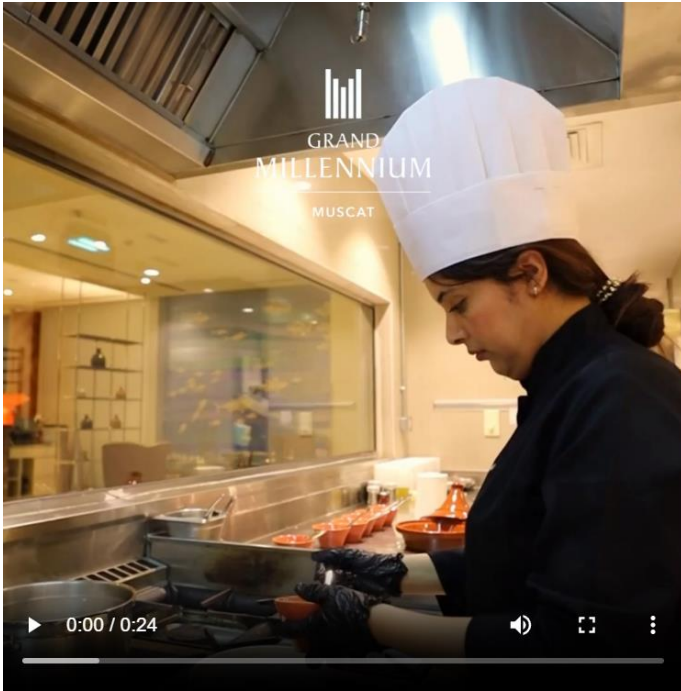
For those interested in learning more about Moroccan cuisine, the hotel also offered traditional Moroccan cooking classes. Participants learnt new techniques and skills so they could create their own signature dishes at home.



*live*

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The Moroccan Food Festival was a resounding success, attracting a diverse audience of food enthusiasts. Grand Millennium Muscat is committed to organising similar events in the future, to provide guests with the opportunity to discover new and exciting cuisines from around the world.



*A behind-the-scenes look at the chefs preparing for the Moroccan Food Festival.*



## Bombay Pavilion At Copthorne Hotel Slough-Windsor Brings Diners On An Authentic Culinary Journey Through India

*Feast on a delicious spread of signature dishes, many inspired by the traditional "Tandoor" clay oven, and enjoy a selection of flatbread and traditional Indian desserts.*

A new Indian restaurant, Bombay Pavilion, opened its doors on 11 April at Copthorne Hotel Slough-Windsor in the United Kingdom.

Bombay Pavilion offers a warm, welcoming and relaxed atmosphere, with the decor conjuring up the magic of India with images of prominent landmarks.



*Bombay Pavilion offers a warm and inviting atmosphere for diners to enjoy a wide variety of Indian dishes prepared by its experienced and skilled chefs.*

Enjoy authentic Indian food from all regions of the Indian subcontinent prepared by highly experienced and skilled chefs - Chef de Cuisine Rakesh and Chef de Partie Abhishek.

Most of the restaurant's dishes are inspired by the traditional clay oven "Tandoor", with a wide selection of signature dishes such as Bombay Pavilion Dal Makhani, overnight simmered black lentils, delicious kidney beans, and curries that stay real to their origins. Diners can also enjoy a delicious selection of flatbread and traditional Indian desserts.

The restaurant opens from 5pm to 10pm, Monday to Saturday. More information on Bombay Pavilion is available [here](#).



## Two MHR Hotels In Singapore Receive Noteworthy Mentions By The American Bazaar

*Night views of the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore (left) and M Hotel Singapore (right).*

Two of our Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) hotels in Singapore were recently profiled in The American Bazaar.

**M Hotel Singapore** was recognised as “nothing short of exemplary”, with its prime position in the Central Business District area, variety of dining options, spacious and well-designed rooms, and abundant pockets of area for lounging.



*A spacious Premier Room (left) for work and play, and the stylist J Bar (right) at M Hotel Singapore where guests can enjoy a drink, some tapas and excellent live music.*

The publication also praised how “luxury meets sustainability” at **Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore** and highlighted its panoramic views, excellent facilities, and wide-ranging cuisine. From elegant rooms to suites with balconies, many of the rooms have been recently renovated and offer skyline or riverside views.

# Hi Life!

live

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*Guests at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore can enjoy a sumptuous international buffet at Food Capital Restaurant (left) and relax in modern and stylish rooms with great views (right).*

Read the reviews on [M Hotel Singapore](#) and [Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore](#) and check out these hotels on your next trip to Singapore or for a local staycation!



## Chairman Kwek Catches Up With Friends And Associates In Japan And Taiwan

*Management and staff employees of Grand Hyatt Taipei were delighted to welcome Hong Leong Group Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng (dressed in light blue blazer) when he visited the hotel last month. Many had few opportunities to meet with him. He is pictured here with General Manager Mr Will Chen (on Mr Kwek's left) and Owner's Representative Mr Kevin Kan (Mr Kwek's right).*

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**Hong Leong Group Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng recently visited Japan and Taiwan to the delight of his old friends and associates who have not seen him in several years. Here are some photos that captured the essence of the warm welcome received and the happy reconnections made during his visits to the countries.**

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### ***Mitsui Fudosan Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan***

Hong Leong Group has had a strong and long-standing partnership with Japan's major real estate developer, Mitsui Fudosan for more than 50 years.

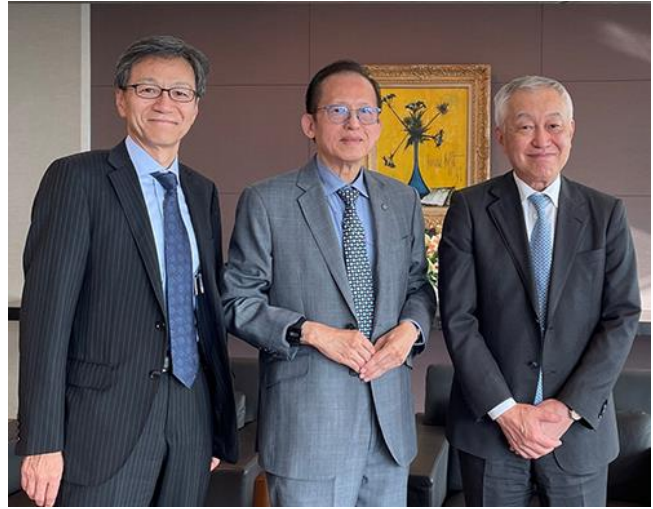
The year 1972 was a significant milestone for the Group when its private property arm, Hong Leong Holdings Limited (HLHL) and Mitsui Fudosan combined strengths and became shareholders of TID Pte. Ltd. (TID) which set new standards in Singapore's property landscape. Among some of TID's latest projects is One-North Eden in the high-tech hub of one-north precinct.

Subsequently, Tripartite Developers was established in 1973 as a joint venture between HLHL and sister developers, City Developments Limited (CDL) and TID. Together, they made a far-sighted investment in the early 1970s to acquire a site measuring over 3 million square feet at Upper Changi Road North area in Singapore. Nine projects including Hedges Park and The Inflora have since been built, with The Jovell being the latest development.

Today, the strong links between Hong Leong Group and Mitsui Fudosan have remained. The two giant conglomerates continue to be astute partners and steadfast friends. Here's to many more fruitful and rewarding years. *Kanpai!*



*An affirmation of friendship: Mr Kwek exchanging gifts with Mr Masanobu Komoda, Chairman of Mitsui Fudosan at the company's headquarters in Tokyo.*



*Joining in the happy reunion is Mr Takashi Yamamoto, Managing Director and Executive Vice President of Mitsui Fudosan (left).*

## **Visit with former Taichung City Mayor Jason Chung**

The year was 1990 when Hong Leong Group made another milestone with a landmark move to enter Taiwan hospitality market with the purchase of Grand Hyatt Taipei Hotel in Taipei. At that time, it was the country's first international hotel brand. At 850 rooms, the hotel remains the largest in the country today.

Over the years, the Group has been committed to the local government and community by investing in staff as well as upgrading and renovation of the property's physical assets. In 2013, the Group further expanded into Taichung via its hospitality arm, Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) with its first MHR-branded property, the 237-room Millennium Hotel Taichung.

Former Taichung City Mayor Mr Jason Hu (2001 to 2014) was among many Taiwanese politicians who witnessed the Group's commitment and watched the hotel grow strength to strength. He remains a firm and close friend to Mr Kwek today.



*Former Taichung City Mayor Mr Jason Hu (centre) invited Mr Kwek for afternoon tea at his home. Owners' representative, Mr Kevin Kan (in pink sweater) was also present with current Deputy Mayor Mr Huang Kuo-Jung (not pictured) who took the photo and captured the essence of the cheerful catch-up between the distinguished gentlemen.*



*The warm camaraderie between both gentleman is once again evidenced in this photo as they take another pose at Mr Hu's home.*



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## CDL First In Southeast Asia To Apply Two-Pillar ESG Disclosure Framework In Its 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainability Report

*Designed with sustainability in mind, Copen Grand is Singapore's First BCA Green Mark Platinum Super Low Energy Executive Condominium.*

CDL is the first company in Southeast Asia to apply the two-pillar Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) disclosure framework in its Integrated Sustainability Report (ISR), its sixteenth sustainability report since 2008. The two-pillar ESG disclosure harmonises nine key ESG reporting standards and 14 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Complementing its pledge towards Operational Net Zero by 2030, CDL achieved a 24% reduction in carbon emissions intensity in the year under review (January to December 2022) from base year 2016.

The Company has met its interim 2022 target and is on track to achieving its Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi)-validated target of a 63% reduction by 2030. As part of its renewed SBTi-validated greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets to align with a 1.5°C warmer scenario made in 2021, CDL stepped up on operationalising and tracking its carbon reduction performance for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

CDL achieved a 10% reduction in total operational carbon emissions across all its business operations in Singapore compared to 2021. CDL also achieved a 22% reduction in embodied carbon emissions compared to the conventional equivalents. From 2012 to 2022, CDL reported energy savings of over S\$38 million from energy-efficient retrofitting and initiatives across all its commercial buildings.

Since CDL secured its first set of SBTi-validated GHG reduction targets in 2018, aligning with a 2°C warmer scenario, managing Scope 3 emissions has increasingly become a priority in its carbon management strategy. In 2021, CDL raised the bar and renewed its SBTi-validated targets aligned with a 1.5°C emissions reduction target of 58.8% under Scope 3 (category 15) and will extend this to all major subsidiaries.<sup>1</sup>

Mr Sherman Kwek, CDL Group Chief Executive Officer, said, "Our latest Integrated Sustainability Report reaffirms our commitment to accelerate collective action in the global race to zero. Having embraced sustainability in our business for nearly three decades, we have remained steadfast in achieving a triple bottom line so as to generate positive environmental and social impact while achieving sustained growth for our investors. We will continue advancing our climate action and green building performance to tackle the climate emergency, turning ambition to action."



CDL's Value Creation Model. Embracing 14 out of 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has sharpened CDL's sustainability strategy and strengthened its triple bottom line, creating long-term value and future-readiness for its operations.

Please refer to the [press release](#) for more information.

<sup>1</sup>Based on publicly disclosed data from 2016 to 2020.



## A New Office And Special Māori Blessing For The MHR New Zealand Corporate Team

**A day of new beginnings:** A memorable day for the MHR New Zealand team as they embark on a new journey at their brand new office at Customs Street East in downtown Auckland. Pictured here (L-R) are Wyllis Maihi and Iciss Talbot of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei; Stuart Harrison, Managing Director; Ken Orr, Vice President of Operations; Lisa Maclean, Director of Human Resources; Clay Hoani Hawke, Iwi Relationships Manager Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei; Nathan Kruger, Director of Information Technology, and Brendan Davies, Director, International and Corporate Sales.

After 30 years in their previous office space, the Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) New Zealand corporate office has moved to Level 7, 23 Customs Street East, Auckland.



A nostalgic moment for the corporate team as they took one last photo and bid goodbye to their old office of 30 years at Queens Street in downtown Auckland.

The offices were officially opened on Monday, 17 April 2023, with a special Māori blessing ceremony held to prepare the new space for the future. During the ceremony, participants reflected on where the company and the individuals have come from and acknowledged the original owners of the land – the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. The site where the new office is located was part of the 3,000 acres of land gifted by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei leader, Te Kawau, to Governor Hobson in 1840, enabling the establishment of the city of Auckland.



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In his address to those at the blessing, Stuart Harrison, Managing Director, had this to say:

“We all stand here today having travelled various paths to make it to this day and this time is an opportunity to reflect on those who have come before us, those who are present here now, and those who will take the baton in the future.

As a company we have had our head office located at 280 Queens St for close to 30 years, so today marks a new beginning on that journey and I hope that we can all embrace the opportunity that this change brings.

Mr Kwek as Chairman of our group recently sent out a memo setting out the phrase Get Things Done and I have to admit that it resonates with me – how do we ‘Get Things Done’.

- **G - Growth:** new offices which can house more people and an announcement that we are purchasing a hotel in Brisbane so we are putting that Growth concept in action;
- **E - Entrepreneurship:** a different layout including a ‘collaboration’ work area to enable for teams to interact with each other, challenge our thinking, look at what we do and how we can work to develop the business further;
- **T - Transformation:** shifting to these offices after 30 years is a new start to do things differently and transform what we do.

So as we go about our day, think about how you as a person, as a team or department, as an office and as a company, can GET THINGS DONE.”



*A look at the modern and bright new office, with well-designed communal areas for engagement and collaboration.*

This week has seen the various team members settling into their new environment and the change has been favourably met by all.



## Tasek Supports Malaysia's Call To Shore Up Affordable Housing

*Under the "Simen Rahmah" initiative, Tasek will supply the government cement at subsidised prices over a four-year period for public housing projects.*

To support the Malaysian Government's efforts to provide affordable housing to the rakyat or citizens, Tasek Corporation Berhad ("Tasek"), the building materials arm of Hong Leong Asia Ltd in Malaysia, recently participated in the "Simen Rahmah" initiative. This is a collaboration between the Ministry of Local Government Development ("KPKT") and the Cement and Concrete Association ("C&CA") to supply one million tonnes of cement at subsidised prices for public housing projects over the next four years.

This initiative is part of Malaysia's plan to address the rising cost of living by offering lower-priced cement to improve housing affordability. Under this initiative, participating members of C&CA, which includes Associated Pan Malaysia Cement Berhad, Cement Industries of Malaysia Berhad, Kedah Cement Sdn Bhd, Hume Cement Industries Berhad, Pahang Cement Sdn Bhd, Perak-Hanjoong Simen Sdn Bhd and Tasek Corporation Berhad, will supply the government one million tonnes of cement at subsidised prices (about 25% lower than current prices) over a four-year period, effective 1 May 2023. The 'Simen Rahmah' programme will be eligible to developers and contractors for the purpose of building public housing, low-cost, and affordable homes as well as community and welfare projects, endorsed and recognised by KPKT.



*Mr Chen Fun Tee, Group Chief Operating Officer of Tasek (far left) thumbs up with representatives from various government agencies and members from the Cement and Concrete Association.*

Tasek's participation in this initiative is in line with Hong Leong Asia's sustainability commitment to drive transformative impact and uplift underserved communities to build a world that is more prosperous and equitable for all.



## Over Half Of Tembusu Grand Units Sold On Launch Weekend

*Located in the charming enclaves of Tanjong Katong and East Coast, the 638-unit Tembusu Grand is the third project in the CDL-MCL Land partnership*

Tembusu Grand, the exciting new launch in Katong by City Developments Limited (CDL) and MCL Land, sold 340 of its 638 units (53% of the project) at an average selling price of S\$2,465 psf during its launch weekend. Sales commenced on 8 April 2023, two weeks after its sales gallery opened for preview on 24 March 2023. Since its launch, the project is now 55% sold.

About 90% of the buyers are Singaporeans, while the remaining 10% comprise Permanent Residents and foreigners from China, Malaysia, USA and others.

All unit types were well-received by homebuyers, with the two-bedroom, two-bedroom plus study and three-bedroom units being the most popular. There was also healthy take-up for the one-bedroom plus study and four-bedroom units.



*As the first new launch in District 15 this year, Tembusu Grand saw strong interest during its 2-week showflat preview.*



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Situated in the charming enclaves of Tanjong Katong and East Coast, Tembusu Grand comprises four elegant towers and its towering architecture features an iconic crown design inspired by the sculptural form and texture of the heritage Tembusu trees. Located just an 8-minute walk to the upcoming Tanjong Katong MRT station on the Thomson-East Coast Line, Tembusu Grand is also well-connected to major expressways, making the Central Business District (CBD), Marina Bay Financial District and Changi Airport a short drive away.

Unit sizes range from 527 square feet (sq ft) for a one-bedroom plus study to 1,711 sq ft for a five-bedroom, including two spacious and exclusive Penthouses at 2,691 sq ft. Apartments are attractively priced from S\$1.248 million for a one-bedroom plus study, S\$1.548 million for a two-bedroom (667 sq ft), S\$2.278 million for a three-bedroom (990 sq ft), S\$3.288 million for a four-bedroom (1,432 sq ft) and S\$4.028 million for a five-bedroom unit (1,711 sq ft).

Mr Sherman Kwek, CDL Group Chief Executive Officer, said, "We are heartened to kickstart our first launch for 2023 on a high note. The robust response for Tembusu Grand reflects a strong demand for well-designed homes in this sought-after locale and vibrant neighbourhood with hip cafes, trendy shops and many dining options and amenities. We are pleased to have partnered with MCL Land to create an enduring icon that complements Katong's rich cultural heritage, with quality and sustainability at the heart of its design."

Tembusu Grand is the third project in the CDL-MCL Land partnership, following its successful launches of Piccadilly Grand in the Farrer Park enclave, which is now 90% sold, and the fully-sold Copen Grand Executive Condominium in the upcoming Tengah Town. CDL is also familiar with District 15, having launched Amber Park in 2019, which is now 99% sold.

The Tembusu Grand Sales Gallery, located along Jalan Gajus, is open daily from 10.00 am to 7.00 pm, by appointment only. Marketing agents are ERA, Huttons, PropNex, OrangeTee & Tie and SRI. For enquiries, please call the sales hotline: +65 8783 1818 or visit [www.tembusugrand.com.sg](http://www.tembusugrand.com.sg).



## Hong Leong Holdings Awarded Lentor Gardens Site With GuocoLand

*The Lentor Gardens site is located within the Lentor Hills estate, a private residential enclave in a neighbourhood surrounded by landed estates and low- to mid-rise condominiums.*

The joint venture (JV) between GuocoLand and Hong Leong Holdings' (HLHL) wholly owned subsidiary, Intrepid Investments, has been awarded the Lentor Gardens land parcel. They were the sole tenderers of the 99-year leasehold site, at a bid price of \$486.8 million.

This is the second site acquisition for HLHL and GuocoLand's third within the Lentor Hills estate, a private residential enclave surrounded by land estates and low- to mid-rise condominiums.

The site, which measures 235,371 sq ft (equivalent to 21,866.7 sq m), will yield a maximum permissible gross floor area of 494,289 sq ft (equivalent to 45,921 sq m).

Mr Cheng Hsing Yao, Chief Executive Officer of GuocoLand Group, said, "We have a strong track record in creating high-end residential projects with innovative concepts. We have also demonstrated our capabilities in transforming and uplifting neighbourhoods through our developments, such as Guoco Tower for Tanjong Pagar and Guoco Midtown for the Beach Road-Bugis area. For the Lentor estate, we and our partners will position this new neighbourhood into a new premium residential estate with our various projects in the area."

"The Lentor estate has tremendous potential. We are pleased to once again partner GuocoLand in developing high quality and distinctive residential homes in this exciting and transformed area, following the development of Lentor Hills Residences which will be launched soon," said Mr Loke Kee Yeu, General Manager (Projects), Hong Leong Holdings Limited.

For the new development at Lentor Gardens, the JV plans to build a high-end residential development with around 530 units based on modern concepts of living amidst nature and greenery. The development will comprise a combination of 8-storey blocks and 16-storey towers with sky terraces. More than 6,000 sq ft of childcare facilities will provide added convenience to families with young children,

The following features of the Lentor Gardens site make it an ideal residential location.

- Residents of the new development will enjoy unblocked views of the vast greenery in the vicinity. Besides being close to several nature reserves and parks, the Lentor Gardens site will have a new Hillock Park next to it and a future Linear Park just a few minutes away. There will also be seamless pedestrian and cycling connectivity as the neighbourhood is developed.



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- The Lentor mass rapid transit (“MRT”) station, part of the Thomson-East Coast Line (“TEL”), is just a short 5-minute walk away via a seamless sheltered walkway. When the TEL is completed around 2025, residents of the new development will have convenient access to many parts of the island and be able to connect to all the major MRT lines.
- Residents of the upcoming development will have convenient access to more than 96,000 sq ft of commercial, F&B and retail spaces, including a supermarket, at Lentor Modern mixed-use development currently being built above Lentor MRT station.
- The Lentor Gardens site is close to several established schools, such as CHIJ St Nicholas Girls’ School, which is about 1km away, Anderson Primary School, Presbyterian High School, Eunoia Junior College, as well as tertiary institutions and international schools, such as Nanyang Polytechnic and the French International School.



## Highlights From Hong Leong Group Of Companies' Annual General Meetings

*Hong Leong Finance's first physical AGM in three years saw a good turnout of interested shareholders.*

Last month (April 2023) saw the Hong Leong Group of Companies complete their Annual General Meetings (AGMs) with Hong Leong Finance (HLF) and Hong Leong Asia (HLA) welcoming shareholders back to fully physical AGMs for the first time in three years. City Developments Limited (CDL) held its AGM in a hybrid format while CDL Hospitality Trusts (CDLHT) held a fully virtual AGM. Here are some key highlights:

### **City Developments Limited (CDL)**

#### **Key Highlights**

##### **Completed Key Divestments in FY 2022**

- South Korea: Sale of Millennium Hilton Seoul and adjoining land site
- Singapore: Collective sales of Tanglin Shopping Centre and Golden Mile Complex

##### **Completed Strategic Acquisitions & Investments in FY 2022**

- Singapore: Replenished land bank with four site acquisitions – Upper Bukit Timah Road, Jalan Tembusu, Central Square and Bukit Batok West Avenue 5
- United Kingdom: Six Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) properties with 2,368 beds in Birmingham, Canterbury, Coventry, Leeds and Southampton
- Japan: Two Private Rented Sector (PRS) projects in Yokohama and one in Osaka
- Australia: Three developments in Brisbane and Melbourne

Read more [here](#). For CDL's 2022 Annual Report, please click [here](#).



The 435-bed Altura in Birmingham is among six high-quality PBSA assets acquired by CDL last year. Conveniently located for students, the Altura is a 15-minute walk to University of Birmingham's South Campus.



Artist's Impression

Formerly Millennium Resort Patong Phuket, the hotel is currently undergoing asset enhancements and will be repositioned as M Social Phuket when it opens towards end of 2023.

## **CDL Hospitality Trusts (CDLHT)**

### **Key Highlights**

#### Acquisition of Hotel Brooklyn

- A 189-key, 4-star upscale lifestyle hotel in Manchester, UK on 22 Feb 2022 for £22.8 million.
- Inflation-adjusted fixed lease provides stable income to increase portfolio resilience and fixed rental base.
- Attractive property yield of 7.4% at entry, which has increased to 7.8% from 7 May 2022 (annual inflation adjustment).

#### Build-to-Rent Project in Manchester, UK (under development)

- As of Apr 2023, construction of the superstructure has been completed to 21 of the 24 levels above ground.
- Estimated practical completion date: By 3Q 2024.

#### Optimising portfolio for the future

- Studio M Hotel – Refurbishment for all 360 rooms fully completed in May 2022
- Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel – Renovation for 549 rooms in phases which is expected to continue through Jun 2023; meeting facilities to undergo extensive rejuvenation from Apr to Jul 2023.

Read more [here](#). For CDLHT's 2022 Annual Report, please click [here](#).



*Hotel Brooklyn is a 4-star upscale lifestyle hotel located at the heart of Manchester city centre offering 189 guest rooms. The hotel appeals to both corporate and leisure guests and is within walking distance to the central business district.*



*Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel is undergoing asset enhancement. The renovation will take place in phases and all rooms will be upgraded with intelligent guest services and room management systems.*

## **Hong Leong Asia (HLA)**

### **Key Highlights**

#### **Powertrain Solutions**

- Ongoing initiatives to develop new energy powertrains such as e-CVT power split hybrid powertrain, integrated electric drive axle powertrain and hydrogen fuel cell systems and hydrogen powered engines.
- Key developments:
  - Joint venture with Beijing Yuchai Xingshunda New Energy Technology Co Ltd to accelerate the development, manufacture and sale of fuel cell powertrain systems as well as core fuel cell power system components for the Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei markets.
  - The upgraded Yuchai S04220-61 series of engines became the first Chinese engines certified by the UN R49.07 Euro VI E stage emission standard.
  - Yuchai's new energy solutions subsidiary, Yuchai Xin Lan New Energy Power Technology Co Ltd developed and integrated a 3.5 tonne electric drive axle into an EV light duty bus from Guangxi Shenlong for the Nanning bus market.

#### **Building Materials**

- Demand for concrete and related products in Singapore rebounded as many construction projects restarted in 2022, while industry conditions remained challenging in Malaysia.
- Key developments:
  - Completion of the Group's Integrated Construction and Prefabrication Hub manufacturing facility in December 2022.
  - The Group's RMC Ecosystem Batching Plant will commence operations at Jurong Port in 2023 which will enable the Ready-Mix Concrete unit to optimise supply chain efficiencies while enabling a greener footprint operationally.

Read more [here](#). For HLA's 2022 Annual Report, please click [here](#).



HLA's Integrated Construction and Prefabrication Hub (ICPH) manufacturing facility features state-of-the-art technology to enable a high degree of automation to help meet the increasing demand for precast solutions.



A Yuchai employee conducting routine checks on the engine component machining line.

## **Hong Leong Finance (HLF)**

### **Key Highlights**

- HLF saw a record net profit of 54.3% increase to S\$130.9 million in FY 2022, on the back of expanded NIM at 1.8% driven by strong loan growth and uplift of loan and asset yields outpacing the higher cost of deposit.
- Balance Sheet remain resilient, supported by strong capital and liquidity buffers; Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR:16.1%) and Minimum Liquid Asset Ratio (MLA:19.5%) are well above regulatory requirements. Net assets value per share at \$4.55 (Dec 2021: \$4.38).
- Total loans rose by 8.9% on broad based business growth and total deposits increased by 11.3% to support net funding and liquidity requirements.

Read more [here](#). For HLF's 2022 Annual Report, please click [here](#).



In 2022, HLF recorded strong loan growth and an uplift in its asset yields, which outpaced a higher cost of deposits amid the ongoing interest rate hikes.



HLF's 28 branches are strategically located in Singapore with 27 of them in residential estates and a branch in the financial district. It also maintains a strong network of 12 SME Centres within its 28-branch network to stay close to the business community.



## CDL Hospitality Trusts Achieves 35.0% Increase In NPI For 1Q 2023

*The Maldives Resorts, including Raffles Maldives Meradhoo (above), is expected to benefit from the return of Chinese tourists.*

CDL Hospitality Trusts (CDLHT) experienced growth in RevPAR across most of its portfolio, driven by increased occupancies and robust rate recovery. Accordingly, the Group's gross revenue and Net Property Income (NPI) in 1Q 2023 increased by 31.5% and 35.0% year-on-year ("yoy") to S\$60.8 million and S\$32.7 million respectively.

This comes on the back of largely higher revenue per available room across most of its properties, except those in New Zealand and Maldives.

CDLHT's NPI from the Singapore portfolio, experienced the biggest increase of 82.5% or an absolute gain of S\$8.8 million to S\$19.6 million in 1Q 2023. For 1Q 2023, RevPAR for the Singapore Hotels increased by 86.1% yoy, attributed to an increase of 13.5 percentage points in occupancy and 49.2% in average rate. This was compared to a low base in 1Q 2022 as border restrictions were only fully lifted from late April 2022. Against 1Q 2019, RevPAR grew by 8.3%, driven by an increase in average rate of 36.9%.

CDLHT's portfolio of hotels has largely recovered from the impact of the pandemic and is expected to continue benefitting from the next phase of the recovery as Chinese tourists return to international travel.

The Managers are confident of the medium to long term prospects of the Singapore market and will continue to assess opportunities to invest through asset enhancements to strengthen the competitiveness of its hotels in CDLHT's core market.

While inflationary cost pressures, higher energy prices and funding costs may affect CDLHT's performance in the near to medium term, the positive trends in the hospitality industry are expected to offset some of these costs, particularly in strong markets or periods of high demand.

Please click [here](#) for full details of CDLHT's 1Q 2023 operational update.

Hi  
Life!

meals & deals



## A Lavish Mother's Day Brunch At The Iconic Biltmore Los Angeles

Indulge Mum with a sumptuous brunch and a glass of champagne at the beautiful Biltmore Los Angeles, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Looking for the best way to celebrate and appreciate the women in your life this Mother's Day? Look no further than the iconic Biltmore in the heart of Los Angeles.

Join us on Sunday, 14 May, for a lavish brunch buffet from 11 AM to 2 PM. Our celebrated chef will be delighting our guests with a luxurious assortment of breakfast specialties, meats, cheeses, seafood, omelet and carving station.

Sip a complimentary glass of champagne and round out your meal with an array of treats from our dessert station while you admire our fresco-adorned walls, hand-painted ceilings, and original crystal chandeliers. While you're here, stroll through the galleria of this historic hotel and join us in celebrating 100 years of grandeur.

Price: \$75.00 per person, \$45 per child, tax and 20% automatic gratuity.

Reservations can be made [here](#).

*\*Information correct at time of print.*



## An Indulgent Mother's Day Celebration At JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong

*Treat Mum like a queen at JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong. Featured here is the Saint-Honoré Fraise Rose Cake to sweeten the special day.*

Express your love and appreciation to the cherished woman of your life this Mother's Day! Spoil her with an epicurean journey and beautiful flower bouquets at JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong. Gastronomic delights include a lavish Brittany Blue Lobster Dinner at Flint, an opulent Cantonese meal at the Michelin-starred Man Ho Chinese Restaurant, as well as scrumptious buffets at JW Café and The Lounge.

### Elegant Mother's Day Bouquet Gift Sets and Special Cake



To create a memorable Mother's Day celebration, the hotel has thoughtfully prepared beautiful bouquets to add on for selected dining offers.

Options include JW Graceful Bouquet (add HK\$888 on top of dining offers) with fresh tulips from the Netherlands, ranunculus, mixed flowers and greenery, and JW Blissful Bouquet (add HK\$1,088 on top of dining offers) with fresh tulips from the Netherlands, hydrangeas, peonies, miniature roses, mixed flowers and greenery.

Sweeten up the celebration with a box of chocolates or a special Saint-Honoré Fraise Rose Cake (whole cake only HK\$468, with bouquet gift set HK\$1,488 up) combining choux, vanilla crèmeux, strawberry rose confit and lemon sponge.



*meals & deals*

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### **A Lavish Brittany Blue Lobster Dinner at Flint**

Pamper your special lady with a sumptuous four-course set dinner at Flint, with the spotlight on the Brittany Blue Lobster. Famed for its succulent and rich flavours and meticulously sourced from France, this distinctive seafood specialty is cooked in different ways with an exceptional level of finesse.

Savour the Blue Lobster Tail Tempura with Mango, Avocado and Chipotle Mayo; the velvety Lobster Bisque with Blue Lobster Meat, Cognac Cream and Truffle Pesto; as well as Blue Lobster Ragout and Caviar with Morel Mushroom, Asparagus and Potato Gnocchi. Complete the dinner with a delightful seasonal dessert.



The 4-course Brittany Blue Lobster Dinner Menu at Flint is priced at HK\$800 per person and available through the month of May.

### **Opulent Michelin-starred Cantonese Fare at Man Ho**



Luxuriate in an unrivalled dining experience with Mum and savour an array of nourishing dishes crafted with decadent ingredients at the Michelin-starred Man Ho Chinese Restaurant. Modelled upon a Chinese garden, the design of the restaurant embodies timeless elegance, perfect for this special occasion.

The dedicated 8-course lunch menu features handcrafted dim sum, Double-boiled Cod Fish Maw Soup with Honey Locust Seed in Coconut; Sautéed Tiger Prawns with Hawthorn Sauce; and Tragacanth Gum with Aloe and Osmanthus in Coconut Milk.

For a celebration at night, be delighted by the 8-course dinner menu featuring Baked Crab Shell Stuffed with Crab and Lobster Meat; Braised Kanto Sea Cucumber with Pork Tendon and Dried Shrimp Roe; Double Boiled Abalone Soup with Honey Locust Seed in Coconut; Chilled Fish Maw Jelly with Black Vinegar, and more.

The Mother's Day 8-course Lunch Menu is priced at HK\$688 per person (minimum 4 persons) and the 8-course Dinner Menu is priced at HK\$1,288 per person (minimum 4 persons). Both menus are available on 14 May 2023 at Man Ho Chinese Restaurant.



*meals & deals*

### **Indulgent Dinner Buffet at JW Café**

The popular dinner buffet at JW Café guarantees to please every palate. Feast on premium seafood and fresh sashimi, along with a myriad of Chinese favourites such as Braised Fish Maw, Abalone and Sea Cucumber; Braised Goose Web with Pomelo Skin; Garlic Steamed Prawn; Typhoon Shelter-style Fried Mud Crab; Wok-fried Scallop and Squid in XO Sauce; as well as the Double-boiled Abalone, Fish Maw and Sea Whelk Soup. Western specialties include Grilled Boston Lobster with Herb Butter; Osso Buco (braised veal shanks); Roasted Wagyu Steak, Roasted US Prime Rib and Herb-crusted Lamb Rack.



The Mother's Day Dinner Buffet is available on 13 and 14 May. The price of the first-round seating (5.45 pm – 8.00 pm) is HK\$858 per adult and HK\$598 per child, while the price for the second-round seating (8.30 pm – 10.30 pm) is HK\$798 per adult and HK\$558 per child.

### **Brunch and Dinner Buffet at The Lounge**



Indulge in a leisurely Sunday with Mum at The Lounge boasting panoramic city views, and revel in a stylish Champagne brunch buffet with delicacies such as Boston lobsters, crab legs and brown crabs, sashimi, premium caviar, pan-fried duck foie gras, Ibérico ham, carved meat, international specialties and enticing desserts. Elevate the enjoyment with free-flow bubbly.

Alternatively, treat Mum to a scrumptious dinner buffet brimming with gourmet delicacies such as Boston lobsters, mud crabs, a sashimi station serving scallop, amaebi, amberjack and hamachi, maki rolls, and hot entrées such as Braised South African Abalone and Fish Maw, Poached Rice in Seafood Broth with Shrimp and Giant Grouper, Roasted Ribeye, Roasted Lamb Rack and Baked Salmon.

An array of indigenous Vietnamese specialties from Traditional Vietnamese Fish Salad, and Crab Meat Rice Paper Rolls, to Wok-fried Clam with Basil and Chilli, and Chicken Noodle Soup are also available. Each guest can also enjoy an exquisite Double-boiled Fish Maw Soup with Coconut, Sea Whelk and Conpoy.

The Mother's Day Brunch Buffet is available on 14 May and priced at HK\$888 per adult and HK\$618 per child. Beverage packages with selected Champagne, sparkling wine and house wines are priced from HK\$298 up per adult. The Mother's Day Dinner Buffet is available on 14 May and priced at HK\$638 per adult and HK\$438 per child.

Check out the above Mother's Day promotions [here](#).

Above prices are subject to a 10% service charge. For enquiries, call +852 2810 8366 or email [jwmarriott.hk@marriott-hotels.com](mailto:jwmarriott.hk@marriott-hotels.com). Promotional offers, menu items and prices are subject to change without prior notice.

*\*Information correct at time of print.*

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## Luxurious Mother's Day Treats At JW Marriott Singapore South Beach

Treat Mum to a mouth-watering seafood buffet at Beach Road Kitchen followed by a pampering 'Nourish The Soul' treatment at Spa by JW.

### Seafood Buffet at Beach Road Kitchen

Treat Mummy dearest to a scrumptious seafood buffet at Beach Road Kitchen at JW Marriott Singapore South Beach. Indulge in fresh Seafood on Ice including an Oyster Bar from the temperature-controlled Cold Seafood Room, flavourful Barbecued Seafood and Meat with smoky aromas from the Charcoal Grilled Station, Pan-seared Foie Gras, and Freshly Baked Pizzas from its iconic Italian Oven Counter.

Mum will also be spoilt for choice with the sweetest treats of handcrafted cakes and desserts. Highlights include the Pistachio Cherry Montebello Cake, Japanese Souffle Cake, Lychee Watermelon Shortcake, Sudachi Meringue Tartlet, and Durian Pandan Cake.

Sunday, 14 May 2023 | 12 pm to 3 pm

\$178++ per person inclusive of free flow champagne, wine, beer

\$118++ per person (food only)

Learn more at <https://www.beachroadkitchen.sg/specials>

### A Luxurious Treat at Spa By JW

Pamper Mum with Spa by JW's new 'Nourish The Soul' treatment, combining traditional Southeast Asian techniques that target areas of tensions with focus on acupressure points and hot stones on the back.

Come in pairs from now till 31 May and enjoy 50% off the 2nd person.

For bookings or enquiry, please email [jw.sinjw.spa@marriott.com](mailto:jw.sinjw.spa@marriott.com) or call 6818 1939



*\*Information correct at time of print.*



*meals & deals*

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## An Exquisite Feast For The Queen Of The Family At The St. Regis Singapore

*Show your appreciation this Mother's Day with a gourmet experience at Yan Ting, The St. Regis Singapore's award-winning Cantonese fine dining restaurant.*

Pamper the matriarch this Mother's Day with a gastronomically seductive gourmet affair at The St. Regis Singapore's award-winning Cantonese Fine Dining restaurant, Yan Ting. The exquisite Mother's Day set menu features Braised Fish Maw Broth with Dried Scallop, Wok-Baked Lobster, Pan-fried Sea Perch Fillet with Braised Japanese Noodle and more.

Available from 13 to 14 May 2023, 6.00 PM to 10.30 PM.

Learn more at <https://www.yantingrestaurant.com/promotions>.

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## Exceptional Macallan Whisky Pairings And Gangnam Grill Buffet At Orchard Hotel Singapore

### The Macallan x Hua Ting Whisky Pairing Set Menu

Embark on a sensory adventure with The Macallan and experience the unparalleled artistry of the exceptional single malt whisky, made from sherry seasoned casks of American and European oak, featuring The Macallan Double Cask 12 Years Old, 15 Years Old, 18 Years Old, and The Macallan Classic Cut.

Further indulge in the finest of whisky pairings with exquisitely crafted dishes by Master Chef Lap Fai from MICHELIN selected Hua Ting Restaurant, offering the ultimate gastronomic pairing.

Find out more [here](#).

For reservations, call +65 6739 6668 or email [intermezzobar.ohs@millenniumhotels.com](mailto:intermezzobar.ohs@millenniumhotels.com).

### Gangnam Grill Buffet at The Orchard Café



Tantalise your taste buds with an extensive spread of Korean delicacies from savoury dishes such as Beef Kalbi, Bulgogi Pork Belly, Korean Fried Chicken, BBQ Chicken Wings (Tongdak), Ginseng Chicken Soup (Samgyetang), Kimchi Fried Rice, Seafood Rice Cake (Tteokbokki), Korean Pancake, Cold Noodle (Naengmyeon), Traditional Gimbap, and more!

Not forgetting our international variety and signature chargrill dishes including Prime Rib Eye, Seafood On Ice, Baked Oysters, Satay, and more!

More details available [here](#). For reservations, call +6739 6565 or email [orchardcafe.ohs@millenniumhotels.com](mailto:orchardcafe.ohs@millenniumhotels.com).

*\*Information correct at time of print.*



## Easter Day Out For Families And A Magical Jazz Night At The Riviera Country Club, Beijing

*Enthusiastic children and parents looking for the hidden eggs at Riviera Country Club's annual Easter egg hunt.*

### Annual Easter Egg Hunt

As per tradition, Riviera Country Club (RCC) in Beijing held its annual Easter egg hunt on 9 April, which was once again a great success. Over 115 children took to our greens to hunt down some 3,000 eggs that the staff had worked tirelessly to hide in surprise places. With the wide variety of gifts from sweets and chocolates to toys and jewellery, the kids were happier than ever this year.

In addition, the Club also teamed up with the Migrant Children Foundation (an organisation dedicated to improving the lives of migrant kids in Beijing) to provide a range of crafts and games to keep the children happily occupied after the egg hunt. In the meantime, parents perused the range of products available at the weekend Easter Market so there was something for everyone!



*With engaging crafts and games for the children and the weekend Easter Market for adults, there was something for everyone on this fun day out.*

## A Magical Jazz Night

RCC held a Jazz Night on 25 March, its first live music event since the beginning of Covid-19. With the lobby filled to full capacity with an enthusiastic audience, the event featured a pianist and singer jazz duet. The combination of live music and free-flow cocktails meant that people had a great time. By the end of the night, the music had everyone out of their seats and dancing. The event was such a success that the Club has since received many requests to make it a regular occurrence, which is something to look forward to in the near future.



*The first live music event at Riviera Country Club since the beginning of Covid-19, the talented pianist and singer jazz duet enthralled the audience with their soulful performance.*



## Here For The Beer! A Delightful Craft Beer Pairing Session With HLGSRC

*Big smiles from the HLGSRC members with the presenter from Archipelago Brewery at the craft beer pairing session.*

The Hong Leong Group Sports & Recreation Club (HLGSRC), in partnership with Tower Club, conducted a craft beer pairing session on 15 April 2023.

The presenter, from Archipelago Brewery, shared some fun facts about beer and beer brewing, and expounded on the taste and flavour of the beers that were on the tasting menu.

Members were treated to five different flavours of beer, paired with delectable tapas:

- Belgian Witbier with Stuffed Baked Oyster with Shrimp, Octopus and Monteux Jack Cheese
- Summer IPA with Grilled Smoked Chorizo with Rye Bread and Pickle Cucumber and Olives
- Bohemian Lager with Szechuan Style Pork Dumpling with Spicy Chilli Oil
- Tropical Pale Ale with Braised Australian Lamb Shank with Curry Pie Tee Cup
- Singapore Blonde Ale with BBQ pull Beef Short Ribs with Cheese Sauce Slider



*Participants enjoyed five different types of beer paired with delicious tapas and great company!*



*play*

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Participants could also choose to purchase a cooler bag with four bottles of mixed Craft Beer (Summer IPA, Bohemian Lager, Tropical Pale Ale and Singapore Blonde Ale) as a keepsake from the event.

Good conversations, tasty food and refreshing beer – altogether a lovely way to spend a Saturday afternoon!



## Biltmore Court & Tower's First Tenant Appreciation Luncheon

*Ms Erin Sanchez (3rd from left), LEED AP BD+C, who won the one-night stay at Biltmore Hotel with (from left) Mr Jimmy Wu, Owner's Representative; Ms Alice Myers, Managing Director of Kennedy Wilson Properties Service; Mr Paul Stonehill, Property Manager; Ms Monique Mouradian, Assistant Property Manager; and Mr Alex Decarvalho, VP Sales and Marketing, Millennium Hotels America.*

Biltmore Court & Tower hosted its first ever tenant appreciation reception on 19 April at its newly renovated management office. Over 80 people attended the event, providing a good opportunity for the tenants, hotel team as well as Kennedy Wilson Management company to interact and network.

The event featured a Raffles Draw, with attractive prizes such as a night's stay at the iconic Biltmore Hotel and afternoon tea for two at Biltmore Hotel.



## Copthorne Hotel Cameron Highlands Raises Funds For The Needy Through Meaningful Festive Initiatives

*Mr Patrick Tee, General Manager of Copthorne Hotel Cameron Highlands, presenting the Christmas cookies to underprivileged children from Persatuan Kebajikan Anak-anak Yatim Kasih Sayang Ipoh, Perak.*

As part of its corporate social responsibility to help the vulnerable and needy in the community, Copthorne Hotel Cameron Highlands organised three initiatives prior to the festive celebrations of Christmas and Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

For Christmas, the hotel collaborated with the Perak Branch of Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) to produce Christmas butter cookies in four adorable characters – Jolly, Holly, Rolly and Polly. Copthorne's popular Chocolate Yule Log Cake and Christmas Pudding were also included in the Christmas fundraising project.



*The Copthorne Hotel Cameron Highlands team and students from TAR UMT working together to produce the Christmas butter cookies.*

RM1 was donated to The National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) for each packet of cookie sold, and RM3 and RM5 respectively for each Christmas Pudding and Yule Log Cake sold. NASOM provides education, help and care for children with autism.

Buyers could also purchase the cookies, Yule Log Cake or Christmas Pudding and pledge them to Ipoh Precious Gift Orphanage Society, Perak; Persatuan Kebajikan Anak-anak Yatim Kasih Sayang Ipoh, Perak; or Teduhan Kelana Perak, a shelter for the homeless.

During the fasting month of Ramadan, a Charity Night was held on 28 March 2023. Children from Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat Daerah Cameron Highlands, the local District Social Welfare Office, enjoyed a sumptuous dinner and received Duit Raya and goodie bags. Mr Shukri Abdul Azizi, Executive Director of Tourism from Cameron Highlands Development Corporation, graced the event.



*Children from Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat Daerah Cameron Highlands enjoying the Charity Night dinner. Earlier in the day, they received Duit Raya (green packets) and goodie bags.*

To celebrate Hari Raya, Copthorne Hotel Cameron Highlands once again collaborated with TAR UMT to produce four different types of cookies under the “COPkies Raya” project. Ideal as Raya gifts, buyers could request to have their names printed on the cookie jar label. For each cookie jar sold, RM2 was donated to NASOM, with an additional charge of RM1 for each personalised cookie jar label.



## Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai Organises Annual Medical Check-Up For Employees And Celebrates Earth Hour

*A happy group of Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai employees who completed their medical check-up. Through this initiative, they were able to monitor their health and take active steps towards a healthier lifestyle.*

Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai recently organised its yearly free medical check-up on 13 March for its employees, led by the hotel's Human Resources team and in collaboration with First Response Healthcare.

Held at the hotel's training room, the medical examination included a check-up for blood pressure, sugar, BMI, optical and dental consultation.



*A hotel employee going through the medical examination, which included checking of blood pressure, sugar, BMI, optical and dental consultation.*

Mr Simon Moore, General Manager of Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai, said, "In order for us to take care of our guests and achieve our goal of providing a healthy working environment, we always put our colleague's health and safety as our priority as they play a significant role in the company's success. We would like them to stay healthy, feel secure and comfortable so they can fulfill their tasks productively."

More than 100 hotel employees went for the medical check-up and received useful advice on how to maintain a happy and healthy lifestyle. Through this exercise, they were reminded of the importance of good health and encouraged to take better care of their health.

The hotel also supported Earth Hour on 25 March by switching off non-essential lights from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM to show its commitment to addressing environmental issues and to raise awareness on the impact of energy conservation.

Several activities were implemented such as turning down the lights in the lobby, restaurants and other public areas and encouraging guests to participate by placing letters in the guest rooms as a reminder to do the same. The Human Resources team also prepared some fun activities and games to reward employees for minimal consumption of water and electricity.



*Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai employees preparing for Earth Hour by lighting up candles in the hotel lobby and other public places.*



Commenting on the initiative, Mr Simon Moore said, "It's an honour for us to support the Earth Hour movement because it echoes our Green key strategy and ambition to be the driving force of a more sustainable hospitality industry. Supporting Earth Hour reflects our goal to practice sustainability and energy conservation every year."



## Taking The Forefront In Hospitality Marketing

In conversation with Ms Amal Oumasse, Regional Director of Marketing & Communications at MHR (MEA)

*Ms Amal Oumasse enjoys riding horses in her free time and has competed in several show jumping competitions.*

### **Q. Please tell us more about yourself and how you joined the MHR family.**

I have been living in Dubai for the past 23 years. As early as 1998, I was director of sales and marketing for Sheraton in Dubai. I then moved to Dubai Holding and after that worked with the government of Abu Dhabi.

I've been with MHR since 2019, supporting the group's ambitions. Over the course of three years, I have successfully elevated the brand image in the region, and in turn drove revenues.

### **Q. As Regional Director of Marketing and Communications of MHR (Middle East and Africa), how do you embrace challenges and opportunities?**

"Love what you do, do what you love" is my career slogan. With that in mind, challenges become an opportunity to learn and improve.

### **Q. Any interesting campaigns that you have done with the Group thus far?**

We have done many, but launching Millennium Place as a brand and bringing it to life was the biggest achievement so far and I pride myself on it.

### **Q. Congrats on being recognised as one of the region's best hospitality marketing leaders in Hotelier Middle East's Marketing Power List 2022. What is the "secret" to your success and what drives you?**

"No one can motivate you, until you motivate yourself" – I am a firm believer in this: I can do it and I will do it.

### **Q. Are there challenges you face as a female lead in MEA?**

Ohh, that's an interesting question. UAE leadership supports women at work, unlike perhaps some other MEA countries. I have managed to leverage the diversity of views and value the difference of both genders.

### **Q. What do you like to do outside of work?**

I'm an active social volunteer with Red Crescent and other organisations. In my free time, I also ride horses and have competed in several show jumping competitions. Kudos to my horse "Dinara" that I have back home and that



*voices*

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I miss a lot. I have also learnt several languages, though I'm not sure how I manage to do the memory switch at times!

**Q. Any encouragement/tips for fellow marketers?**

Good content isn't about good storytelling. It's about telling a true story well. Also, love your job and if you don't, you may want to consider a career change.

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## Setting The Scene With M Social Suzhou

The debut of MHR's lifestyle brand 'M Social' in China.

*M Social Suzhou is designed to reflect the city's unique blend of tradition and modernity and guests can look forward to a luxurious and memorable experience. Featured here is a spacious Social King Room (left) and the striking entrance of M Social Suzhou (right).*

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**Millennium Hotels and Resorts recently launched the stunning M Social Suzhou. The fifth hotel under the iconic M Social brand and the first to debut in China, M Social Suzhou is setting the scene as an innovative luxury lifestyle hotel offering guests an elevated and memorable experience.**

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The bold and stylish brand, M Social is heralding its maiden foray in China with the opening of **M Social Suzhou** on 26 April. The 294-room luxury lifestyle hotel is the first and flagship M Social-branded property in China, signalling a move for future expansion in the Greater China region.

M Social is the lifestyle brand of global hotel group, Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR), and the brainchild of MHR Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng. It was first launched in Singapore in 2016 to cater to the young, 'brave' and social media savvy.

With the opening of M Social Suzhou, the brand now has five physical locations including Singapore, Auckland, New York and Paris. It also has a virtual hotel, M Social Decentraland, marking MHR the world's first hospitality group to enter the metaverse.



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### **Location of M Social Suzhou**



*The 294-room luxury M Social Suzhou is located in Hong Leong City Center, an integrated development within Suzhou Industrial Park.*

M Social Suzhou is located in the heart of Hong Leong City Center (HLCC) in the central part of Suzhou Industrial Park, a China-Singapore cooperative high-tech park to drive innovation with emerging, high-end industries. HLCC is an iconic integrated development by CDL China, a subsidiary of MHR's parent, international property giant City Developments Limited (CDL).

M Social Suzhou occupies a prime location by Jinji Lake, adjacent to Times Square, Jiu Guang Department Store, Eslite Spectrum, Ferris Wheel Park and other shopping and commercial centres. It is also a short walk away from the Suzhou International Expo Center and Suzhou Culture and Arts Centre.

### **An Experience to Remember**

With interiors designed by renowned architect KCA International, M Social Suzhou is designed with the aim for guests to gather and share experiences in an inclusive and relaxed environment.

The custom-made brass floor, inlaid with the pattern of a garden path, guides guests to the elevator halls. Dynamic electronic art screens and changing lighting effects on the digital art ceiling form a rich visual experience and showcase the hotel's vibrant personality. The industrial chic style of the lower-level lobby is carried over to the sky lobby on the 25th floor, with its open layout featuring cloud-pattern panels, a concrete-framed chandelier, and exposed metal grills.

Ranging from 40 to 409 square metres (sqm), all 294 guestrooms and suites are aesthetically designed with picturesque views of Jinji Lake and the Eastern Gate of Suzhou. Guests staying at the hotel's 409 sqm Mega Cool Suite will be awed by its 270-degree breathtaking view of Jinji Lake and luxurious furnishings, a 75-inch ultra-high-definition TV, an impressive open bathroom, as well as a large kitchen and bar.



*All 294 guest rooms and suites at M Social Suzhou are luxuriously designed with panoramic views of Jinji Lake and the Eastern Gate of Suzhou. Pictured here is the Magnificent Suite.*



*getting to know you*

M Social Suzhou also offers 728 sqm of ballroom space which can accommodate social and business events of different sizes, a 1,200 sqm fitness centre, a swimming pool and a spa.



*M Social Suzhou offers 729 sqm ballroom space that can be arranged to accommodate all events of different sizes.*



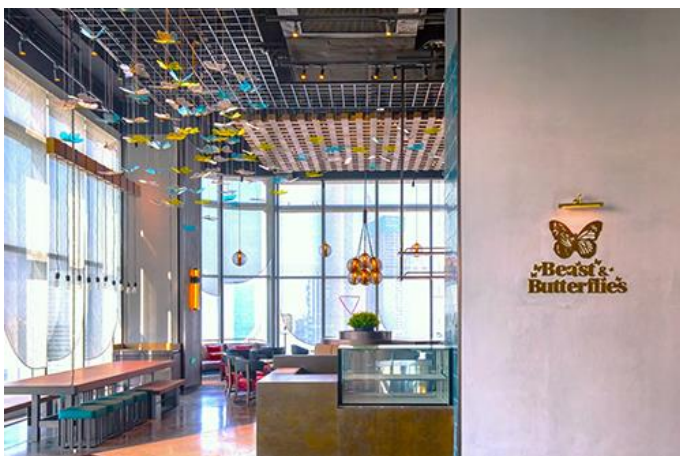
*Guests can enjoy a dip in the stylish indoor swimming pool or use the well-equipped fitness centre and spa.*

### ***Delectable Dining with Views to Match***

The hotel has three restaurants and bars, each with its unique features to offer guests a memorable dining experience.

Located on the 25th floor, the Beast & Butterflies Restaurant presents a panoramic view of Suzhou's bustling cityscape. Guests can interact with the chef in the open kitchen as he whips up recipes from around the world, combining highlights of Chinese and Western cuisine with traditional Suzhou and Southeast Asian flavours.

The Beast & Butterflies Bar, with its open seat plan, offers exquisitely crafted afternoon tea as well as various types of tea and aromatic coffee brewed by the hotel's tea sommelier. In the evening, diners can enjoy DJ and band performances while soaking in the magnificent city landscape.



*Beast & Butterflies Restaurant is a natural lifestyle concept that combines Chinese and Western cuisines with traditional Suzhou and Southeast Asian flavours.*



*The Beast & Butterflies Bar with its open seating plan is a café by day and a lounge with live DJ and band performances at night.*



*getting to know you*

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Guests can also savour Chinese cuisine classics at the Canton 8 Chinese Restaurant, with five floral-themed private rooms for larger groups.



*The Canton 8 Chinese Restaurant inherits the classics of Chinese cuisine. Named after flowers, there are five different Chinese floral-themed private rooms.*

### ***Expanding the M Social Brand***

“The M Social brand is about creativity, connection, and exciting possibilities. Often known as the “Venice of the East” for its quaint water canals and bridges around the city, we selected Suzhou as the launch pad for our first M Social hotel in China due to the city’s unique blend of tradition and modernity. The hotel is designed to reflect this vibrant juxtaposition. It offers guests a fresh and luxurious experience with state-of-the-art technology, and our bespoke M Social service,” said Mr Kwek Leng Beng, Executive Chairman of Millennium & Copthorne Hotels Limited.

MHR plans to grow the brand in more physical locations including London, New York, Sunnyvale, Phuket and key cities in the Middle East.

Visit <https://www.msocial.com/en/suzhou/m-social-suzhou> for details of M Social Suzhou. For the hotel’s opening video, please click [here](#).



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## Expanding The M Social Brand Across The Globe

Mr Othmane Amrani,  
Vice President of Brand  
and Operations, Lifestyle  
Hotels, shares what makes  
M Social unique.

*Mr Othmane Amrani drives the growth and brand awareness of the M Social and Lifestyle properties, working closely with the hotels to elevate the overall brand standard and guest experience journey.*

**Q. Please tell us about yourself and your role as Vice President, Brand and Operations of Lifestyle Hotels, MHR.**

I have over a decade of experience in managerial positions within the hospitality industry and held various positions in Operations, Revenue and Finance in North Africa, Europe and Asia.

After obtaining my bachelor and master's degree in hospitality management at the Institut Vatel in Paris, I joined the industry and specialised in the lifestyle segment. I was previously a part of Louvres Hotels Group in Europe, then joined Gaw Capital Group in Asia, where I was responsible for the development, pre-opening & management of their lifestyle hotels in Beijing, Hong Kong, Yangon & Singapore.

In my current role as Vice President, Brand and Operations, Lifestyle Hotels, I am responsible to lead and drive our M Social and Lifestyle properties. My duties include operations, brand awareness, talent cultivation and business development to further elevate and grow the Group's lifestyle hotels and their reputation by working closely with our corporate leaders and Lifestyle hotels' General Managers to ensure excellence in our overall brand standard, quality, and guest experience journey.

**Q. M Social was first launched in Singapore in 2016. How has the M Social brand evolved since then?**

M Social lifted the curtains on our first property in Singapore in 2016. The brand has since evolved, making its mark in more cities and weaving its footprints in five physical locations, including Suzhou, Auckland, New York, and Paris with more to come. It also has a virtual hotel, M Social Decentraland, the world's first hotel to enter the metaverse world where explorers coexist in physical and virtual lives to discover the virtual reality of Decentraland as we move towards an immersive and interactive future.

**Q. What makes M Social stand out from other hotels? What is special about the brand and its hotels?**

We live in an era defined by our ability to connect, interact and share – ideas, information, inspiration, and ideologies. A time when physical borders are becoming insignificant, and diversity and differences are celebrated.

At M Social, we champion experimentation, innovation and are always looking around us to identify the interesting and exciting. We believe in the power of collaboration as an explosive force for good; one people, one planet. We provide the stage, you come as yourself and make it yours.



*getting to know you*

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The M Social Brand is about gathering independent spirits around creativity, experiences, connections, and exciting possibilities. The Sociability aspect of the brand sits at the heart of everything we do; creativity is our life blood and we are bold, brave, unpredictable, energetic, and joyful. With a passionate can-do attitude, we are unafraid of change and trying new things. We like to do things differently.

We represent today's global community – a vibrant mix of cultures, people, and ideas. We believe in the power of community and shared ideas, and actively aim to bring different people together, for work, rest, and play.

**Q. Each of the M Social hotels has its own unique design and style while staying true to the M Social lifestyle concept. How is each hotel conceptualised and what is consistent throughout the five hotels?**

Each M Social property carries a strong and meaningful cultural influence of the city where they are located. Our guests will enjoy a fresh and authentic experience when they choose M Social.

By blending both contemporary and traditional architecture, the M Social Hotels capture the richness of lifestyles and celebrate diversity. We provide contemporary, informal and inviting spaces for those who live locally, as well as a vibrant social base for travellers.

The consistent aspects across all the M Social hotels are the Brand DNA & Pillars delivered by our team members:

- **Creativity:** Creativity is our life blood. For us, creativity isn't just about art – it's about ideas, business and technology.
- **Sociability:** We believe in the power of community and shared ideas, and actively aim to bring different people together, for work, rest, and play.
- **Experimentation:** We avoid the well-trodden path and instead embrace experimentation.
- **Playful:** We're open-minded, enthusiastic, and imaginative. We want to see what happens when different things come together in exciting new ways.
- **Inclusive:** We want people to feel relaxed and welcomed whenever they are with us – Hospitality at its warmest and most personal. We care about people and the planet. We actively encourage connections, be they virtual or real.
- **Innovative/Avant-Garde:** We don't stand still. We embrace the possibilities that new technologies and ideologies bring.

**Q. What are the future plans for M Social?**

M Social is exploring to set foot in more cities with strong characters and to build up a community that share our diverse stories with authenticity, open minds and giving hearts.



*congratulations / appointments*



## MHR New Zealand Appoints Two New Directors To Further Grow Its Business And Transform Operations

*Ms Lisa Maclean (left) and Mr Nathan Kruger (right) will play crucial roles in transforming MHR New Zealand's operations and improving its HR and IT systems respectively.*

Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) New Zealand is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Lisa Maclean as Director of Human Resources, and Mr Nathan Kruger as Director of Information Technology.

Ms Lisa Maclean brings over 20 years of HR experience, primarily within the wider building and construction industry, with a proven track record in leading people, payroll, health, safety, and well-being functions that support growth and transformation while enabling business profitability and results. Her service-oriented and highly collaborative working style will contribute to growing the business and positioning MHR New Zealand as a great place to work and an employer of choice.

Mr Stuart Harrison, MD of MHR New Zealand, expressed his excitement for Lisa's appointment, stating, "This role is integral to the steps forward that we are looking to take as we work through the re-growth of the business following the various response measures and lockdowns over recent years. I am confident that Lisa's leadership in the HR department will help drive the company towards success and growth in the coming years."

Mr Nathan Kruger joins MHR New Zealand as the new Director of Information Technology, bringing extensive experience in various IT leadership roles, most recently as GM Solution Design Advisory Services at Downers. Nathan's background in engineering, project management, and IT architecture, combined with his commitment to delivering innovative solutions and building a culture of integrity, connectedness, and satisfaction within his team, will drive the long-term strategy and structure of the IT department.

Nathan's primary responsibility as Director of IT will be to develop a 3-year and 5-year strategic plan to transform the way MHR currently operates and improve its IT systems, while aligning and integrating with MHR global systems and engaging with the business on all levels.

"We are delighted this month too, to welcome Nathan Kruger to Millennium Hotels and Resorts New Zealand as our new Director of IT," said Stuart Harrison. "We believe that Nathan's extensive experience in IT leadership will be invaluable in helping us achieve our long-term goals, and we look forward to working with him to further develop our IT capabilities."

"Both Lisa and Nathan will play crucial roles in transforming our operations and improving our HR and IT systems, respectively, as we work towards our long-term goals of growth and innovation. We look forward to the positive changes they will bring to the company."



## Man Ho Chinese Restaurant At JW Marriott Hotel (HK) Receives One MICHELIN Star Rating For Third Year Running

*The team behind Man Ho Chinese Restaurant led by Executive Chef Mr Jayson Tang, pictured here with the hotel management.*

Man Ho Chinese Restaurant at JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong is honoured to receive the one-star rating for the third consecutive year from the highly coveted MICHELIN Guide Hong Kong Macau 2023. The recognition is testament to the unwavering efforts of the culinary team, who showcased incredible resilience during the volatile times, striving to refine classic Cantonese cuisine with an innovative twist.

At the helm of the restaurant is Executive Chinese Chef Mr Jayson Tang, a passionate and ambitious Hong Kong native with 17 years of experience under his belt. Chef Jayson is dedicated to crafting reinvented and modern Cantonese fare yet still paying tribute to the culinary traditions. Often being inspired during his market strolls, he champions local food culture by sourcing high quality local produce and elevating indigenous recipes.

Leading a team of talented chefs together with Chinese Barbecue Head Chef Mr Cheung Wai Hung and Dim Sum Head Chef Mr Leung Wing Pan, Chef Jayson brings his culinary visions to life at Man Ho.

The gastronomic journey is complemented by an elegant dining area modelled on a sophisticated Chinese garden, with an attentive service team led by Restaurant Manager Mr Edwin Hau, and an extensive list of notable wines put together by seasoned sommelier, Mr Kelvin Ziea for connoisseurs to enjoy an impeccable pairing journey. The outstanding teamwork contributes to the renowned Michelin title, reinforcing Man Ho's position as one of the most illustrious Chinese fine dining destinations in town.

"We are proud to retain this recognition for the third year running," says Chef Jayson. "We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to each and every one of our guests for their staunch support and valuable feedback. The remarkable achievement will drive our team to push the boundaries even further, and we'll work hand-in-hand in elevating the restaurant to new heights. Gourmands can look forward to an unparalleled and timeless sensory journey with the finest Cantonese delicacies at Man Ho Chinese Restaurant."