

highlights



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Grand Millennium Muscat Celebrates Sri Lankan Culture With Amazing Authentic Food Festival

Grand Millennium Muscat staff together with Sri Lankan Ambassador at the Sri Lankan Food Festival.

Grand Millennium Muscat recently launched the Sri Lankan Food Festival from June 12 to June 30 to offer its guests the opportunity to feast and immerse themselves in a vibrant tapestry of its spices and aromas, showcasing authentic Sri Lankan delicacies, live street food cooking stations, and interactive cooking classes.

The food festival was graced by a distinguished guest of honour, the esteemed Sri Lankan Ambassador. Guests were captivated by an array of authentic dishes prepared by the team of chefs at the hotel.

The Sri Lankan Food Festival was a resounding success drawing a delighted crowd and receiving recognition from the Sri Lankan Ambassador.



A highlight video of the Sri Lankan Food Festival, featuring a live cooking station and staff clad in Sri Lankan traditional costume.



An aerial view of The Biltmore Residences along Sheikh Zayed Road in Dubai, featuring a majestic twin-tower vertical swirl façade (artist's impression).

Millennium Hotels And Resorts MEA Signs Agreement For The Biltmore Residences In Dubai

Millennium Hotels & Resorts, Middle East and Africa (MEA) signed an agreement with UAE-based GJ Real Estate to develop The Biltmore Sufouh Residences in Dubai.

Set to open in 2025, the 44-floor vertical swirl development will have 408 units of one, two, and three bedroom luxurious residences. With a prime location on Sheikh Zayed Road next to the Al Sufouh community, The Biltmore Sufouh Residences has breathtaking views of the Arabian Gulf, Burj Al Arab, and the Palm Jumeirah.



The breathtaking view of Arabian Gulf, Burj Al Arab, and the Palm Jumeirah that residents will exclusively enjoy at the residences (artist's impression).



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Fahad Abdulrahim Kazim, Chief Executive Officer of Millennium Hotels and Resorts MEA, said, “We are thrilled to enter into this agreement with our respected partners GJ Real Estate, especially with such a prestigious project. Our iconic Biltmore brand perfectly complements the vision for this luxury development, and we look forward to bringing the legendary Biltmore experience to life within these residences.”

Kazim continued; “We see great potential in the branded residences segment and Dubai is very much at the forefront of the exciting growth of this sector. This latest agreement continues to be in line with our development strategy to focus on expansion in key locations across the region.”

Ali Jaber, Chief Executive Officer of GJ Real Estate said, “We are very proud to launch our first branded residences project in Dubai and delighted to partner with the iconic Biltmore brand to bring this project to life. We believe this collaboration will add value to owners and provide a luxury lifestyle experience to residents. Our company vision is to deliver residential spaces that meet the highest industry standards to create an exceptional lifestyle. Sales of the residences will be exclusively handled by our real estate partners at AX Capital.”



Residents of The Biltmore Residences Sufouh will soak in the luxurious finishings in the lobby and their homes.

The interiors have been designed by internationally acclaimed Gary Greene Design, who have also incorporated the Atmosphere Collection into the development, which are the exclusive penthouses on the top six floors of the skyscraper.

Residents will have access to an Olympic size pool, kids' pool, health club, gym, paddle tennis courts, and a Zen Garden as part of its wellness offering.



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St. Regis - The 10 Coolest Hotels In Singapore

St. Regis Singapore, situated on the outskirts of Orchard Road, features one of the most luxurious hotels with in-room butler services, tailoring to guests' specific needs from pillow firmness to baby support.

"I'd like to stay in the worst hotel in town please," said no one ever. As much as we are prudent in spending, we still have a taste for the finer things in life. When we are away on holiday, the availability of 24/7 room service, or perhaps even unique beds, can mean so much to us when we book a getaway.

St. Regis Singapore was named in the Top 10 Hotels in Singapore with the *coolest amenities*.

Dads and moms of newborns, fret no more, your freedom is back! Catch a much-needed "couple time" at St. Regis Singapore, the hotel offers nanny and babysitting services for couples to take a break from changing diapers and away from round-the-clock wailing.

You can pre-book babysitting services from \$40/hour – minimum 4 hours, for up to 2 children – and head out to explore shops and bars along Orchard Road during your stay. Additionally, leave your baby supplies at home as necessities like wipes, talcum powder, changing mats, and even potties are available.

Plus, contraptions like milk bottle warmers, bottle sterilisers, baby cribs, highchairs, and strollers are also available upon request under their selection of "family provisions".

Book your stay today at St. Regis Singapore website [here](#).



Immerse yourself in a quintessential luxury at The St. Regis Singapore with panoramic views, a separate commodious living room and a generously proportioned bathroom beautifully accented deep, rich colouring and veining of the French Branche de Benou marble vanity tops with double basins.



Lift Your Spirits At The Orchard Hotel's Macallan Whisky Pairing Event

The Macallan is renowned for its exceptional oak casks, up to 80% of The Macallan's final character and flavour are determined by cask quality, the oak cask is the most prominent factor in ensuring and delivering the quality and style of our single malt.

Your senses are in for a treat at The Macallan Whisky Pairing event, presented by Bar Intermezzo at Orchard Hotel.

Enjoy the unrivalled craftsmanship of the single malt whisky from American and European oak sherry seasoned casks, paired with exquisite canapes specially selected to complement the whisky.

You will get the opportunity to taste The Macallan Double Cask 12 Years Old Whisky paired with Dalandan Cured Hokkaido Scallops with Avruga Caviar. This will be followed by The Macallan Double Cask 15 Years Old Whisky with Black Angus Beef Tartare in Chocolate Shell. Finish off with The Macallan Double Cask 18 Years Old Whisky with Valrhona Bitter Chocolate with Hazelnuts.

You will also learn how the whiskies are processed and produced at The Macallan Distillery.

The menu is priced at (\$78++ per person) and an alternative option of (\$88++ per person) — for a chance to try the exclusive Macallan Harmony Collection Intense Arabica, in place of the Double Cask 15 Years Old — is also available for booking.

For reservations: Tel +65 6739 6668 or email intermezzobar.ohs@millenniumhotels.com



Bar Intermezzo inherits an air of sophistication with new, inviting interiors and contemporary botanical-influenced cocktails that toast to Orchard Road's past.



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Alluring Luxurious Refresh: Grand Copthorne Waterfront Relaunches With Renovations!

Premier Waterfront Room with in-room filtered drinking water dispenser (far right), and floor-to-ceiling windows to capture natural sunlight.

Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, part of Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR), has recently unveiled its S\$30 million renovation that showcases a sophisticated redesign of all 574 guestrooms and suites with eco-friendly features, expanded conference facilities, and upgraded public spaces aimed at providing guests with a memorable experience.

The 5-star hotel underwent a nine-month revamp that commenced in October 2022. With its transformed facilities, it promises to set high standards in sustainable luxury along the iconic Singapore River and support the expanded needs of eco-conscious corporate travellers.

Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel has integrated sustainability as a core value across the entire hotel ecosystem as part of the Singapore Hotel Sustainability Roadmap. Launched in March 2022 by Singapore Hotel Association and the Singapore Tourism Board, the sustainability roadmap initiative aims to drive industry-wide adoption of green practices in hotels and promote Singapore as a sustainable destination.

MHR Executive Director Mr. Kwek Eik Sheng said, "This is a timely refresh for Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, particularly as MICE travel resumes normalcy and in-person events return to the agenda. As more companies prioritise Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals to reduce impact, the demand for greener events has also increased with corporate planners preferring hotels with strong sustainability features and initiatives. We are well positioned to capture this fast-growing MICE market, increase our competitive edge, and reinforce Singapore's status as a leading sustainable MICE destination for a strong business recovery."

MHR Senior Vice President of Global Operations and Partnership, Mr Andy Tan said, "To solidify our dedication to sustainable hospitality and cater to the rising expectations and demands of today's corporate planners and guests, we have incorporated innovative and high-efficiency technology that reduces electricity and water consumption, installed eco-friendly features such as in-room water dispensers, and adopted new wall coverings and carpets from recycled materials as part of the renovation process. We also implemented green practices in various aspects of our business operations including sustainable sourcing, recycling, and food waste management."

Over 6,200 sqm revamped MICE conference spaces across three floors

At the forefront of Grand Copthorne Waterfront's stunning renovations are its 33 versatile function rooms. Spanning over 6,200 square meters (sqm) across three floors, the conference spaces are luxuriously carpeted



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with modern LED lighting, and benefit from an abundance of natural sunlight through large windows. Eco-conscious practices are evident throughout with the use of recyclable and biodegradable stationery, filtered drinking water replacing plastic bottles, and a linen-less table setup.

Each function room is equipped with cutting-edge technology, including wireless video signal transmission, laser projectors, and 2K to 4K high-resolution LED video walls for seamless and successful events. The pillarless 850 sqm Grand Ballroom features two giant LED screens on two walls that can be divided into smaller screens and junior ballrooms for various event sizes.



The hotel boasts one of the largest conference spaces among Singapore hotels at over 6,200 sqm, and a pillar-less 850 sqm Grand Ballroom with double giant LED video walls (right image).

Sustainability features and energy-saving measures

Setting an example for sustainable practices within the hospitality sector, Grand Copthorne has introduced an in-room water filtration system in its guestrooms (an uncommon water-saving feature in today's hotels). This feature guarantees purified drinking water to guests, and reduces single-use plastic waste generated from traditional bottled water consumption by 20%.

The introduction of smart room control thermostats allows guests to effortlessly regulate room temperatures according to their preferences, leading to energy savings of up to 17%. This not only ensures a comfortable stay for guests but also promotes responsible energy consumption.

Each guestroom also offers wireless bedside charging technology, providing guests with a seamless charging experience for their electronic devices without cumbersome cables. High-definition smart TVs allow guests to stream their favourite movies directly from their smartphones, reducing the need for additional devices and contributing to a more sustainable entertainment experience.

Enhanced culinary experiences

In addition to the hotel's redesign, Grand Copthorne Waterfront offers enhanced food and beverage concepts at its three restaurants, as well as customised events catering. Food Capital is a spacious all-day dining buffet restaurant; TEMPO Bar & Grill is a cocktail bar featuring an alfresco dining area with a selection of barbeque and grilled seafood delicacies; and Grand Shanghai serves authentic Shanghaiese fare inspired by the golden age of the 1930s.

Catering to the demands of the function spaces, the hotel operates three individual kitchens including a Halal-certified kitchen to cater to guests' personal dietary requirements.

The Executive Club Lounge, located on Level 29, has undergone a complete transformation, boasting a sleek contemporary living room ambiance that complements breathtaking vistas of Singapore's iconic cityscape. Reserved exclusively for "My Millennium Prestige" members and Club Floor paying guests, the redesigned Club Lounge offers afternoon snacks from live food stations as well as evening cocktails.



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The all-new Executive Club Lounge offering a breathtaking view of the Singapore skyline.



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Double Launch Weekend: Lentor Hills Residences And The Myst Releases 1,006 Units For Sale

Majestic lush greenery views surrounding (Left) Lentor Hills Residences and (Right) The Myst (Artist's impression).

Two highly anticipated residential properties, **Lentor Hills Residences** – a joint venture development by Hong Leong Holdings Limited (HLHL), GuocoLand and TID Pte. Ltd – and **The Myst** by City Developments Limited (CDL) launched a total of 1,006 units for sale over Friday and Saturday, 8 and 9 July 2023.

Let's celebrate the double victory the two properties achieved at the launch weekend!

LENTOR HILLS RESIDENCES

The exciting new residential project in Lentor Hills Estate sold 298 units (50% of the project) at an average selling price of S\$2,080 per square foot (psf) on July 9. Since its launch, the project has sold 345 units (58% of the project) as at August 6.

The units were sold at a price starting from S\$1,834 psf. The buyers are predominantly Singaporeans while the rest are Permanent Residents.

Unit sizes range from 452 square feet (sqft) for a one-bedroom to 1,399 sq ft for a 4-bedroom. Dual key units are available from 1,302 sq ft to 1,399 sq ft. Prices started from S\$945,000 for one-bedder, S\$1.36 million for two-bedder, S\$1.82 million for three-bedder, and S\$2.53 million for four-bedder. Dual key units start at S\$2.64 million.

All apartment types were well-received by homebuyers, with the two-bedroom and the two-bedroom plus study being the most popular. Healthy take-up was also registered for the dual key units.



A total of 298 units at Lentor Hills Residences were sold during its launch weekend.

Lentor Hills Residences comprises five towers ranging from 8 to 23 storeys with 598 premium units and parking lots for all units – a rare feature in many new projects. An extensive range of amenities is available right next door at Lentor Modern.

Located just a 5-minute walk to the new Lentor MRT Station on the Thomson-East Coast Line, and well-connected to major expressways, making the Central Business District (CBD), Marina Bay Financial District, and Changi Airport a short drive away.

Nature lovers will enjoy the greenery at the upcoming Lentor Hillock Park and selections of nearby trails at Lower Peirce Reservoir, Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, Windsor Nature Park, and Thomson Nature Park.

Amenities are conveniently located at the nearby Lentor Modern. Food lovers are spoilt for choice with eateries at Sembawang Hills Food Centre, Casuarina Road, Springleaf, and the Upper Thomson food enclave.

Ms Betsy Chng, Head of Sales and Marketing at Hong Leong Holdings said, “The good response is due to our convenient location. Our buyers enjoy the surrounding nature parks with nearby MRT, yet still stay close to their families who live in neighbouring mature townships like Upper Thomson, Ang Mo Kio, Bishan, and Yishun. They also liked the functional layouts and facilities offered here. I believe our buyers are happy with their new homes. We are very pleased with the response.



The alluring 50-metre swimming pool, Garden Bridge, and club house. (Artist's impression)



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Intently designed with the busy family in mind, amenities onsite Lentor Hills Residences include a childcare centre, a 50-metre swimming pool, sky terraces, work pods, an aqua deck with jacuzzi, and a play zone club house. A key feature is the Sky Garden Bridge that links the sky terraces to form a continuous amenity deck that includes a 400-metre jogging track, almost like an indoor track for the active in the event of rain.

Located along Lentor Hills Road, the Lentor Hills Residences Sales Gallery opens daily from Saturday, 24 June 2023 from 10am to 7pm. For enquiries, please call the sales hotline at (65) 9643 9911 or visit the website [here](#).

THE MYST

The modern luxury residential condominium in Upper Bukit Timah sold 110 units (27% of the project) at an average selling price of S\$2,057 psf during its launch weekend on July 9. Since its launch, the project has sold 132 units (32% of the project) as at August 6.

During the launch, units were attractively priced from S\$998,000 for a one-bedroom plus study at 517 sq ft, S\$1.33 million for a two-bedroom at 678 sq ft, S\$1.708 million for a three-bedroom at 850 sq ft, S\$2.826 million for a four-bedroom at 1,518 sq ft and S\$3.18 million for a five-bedroom at 1,690 sq ft. About one-third of the units were priced at a sweet spot of S\$1.5 million and below.



A total of 110 units at The Myst were sold during its launch weekend.

The Myst comprises two 24-storey residential towers with 408 premium units. Inspired by the misty mornings in the nearby Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, the development is conceived as a secret garden and tranquil retreat that blends the convenience of modern living with the beauty of nature. Cashew MRT station and the Bukit Panjang Integrated Transport Hub are just a 5-minute walk and a 10-minute walk away, respectively.

Mr Sherman Kwek, CDL Group Chief Executive Officer, said, "The encouraging take-up for The Myst by local homebuyers reflects a resilient demand for suburban homes. District 23 is a desirable location for its serene environment and proximity to nature, coupled with good connectivity to amenities and future developments in the area, such as the Jurong Lake District and Tengah Town. We are confident that The Myst, with its attractive pricing, will continue to be an excellent choice for those seeking the best of both worlds – a luxurious resort-style sanctuary with strong locational attributes."



Conceived as a secret garden and tranquil retreat, 75% of the development's footprint is dedicated to landscaping and communal facilities. Pictured here is the Grand Water Courtyard comprising a decked promenade. (Artist's impression)

Nestled in a serene environment, The Myst offers easy access to amenities and nature, which include the Rail Corridor, a 24-km green passage of biodiversity and heritage, as well as other hiking trails and parks such as Chestnut Nature Park and Dairy Farm Nature Park. Retail and food options are aplenty in the vicinity – such as Hillion Mall, HillV2, The Rail Mall, Junction 10, Lot One Mall, and Bukit Panjang Hawker Centre and Market.

The Myst Sales Gallery, located along Elizabeth Drive, is open from 10.00 am to 7.00 pm daily, by appointment only. Marketing agents are ERA, Huttons and PropNex. For enquiries, please call the sales hotline: +65 8783 1818 or visit the website at [here](#).



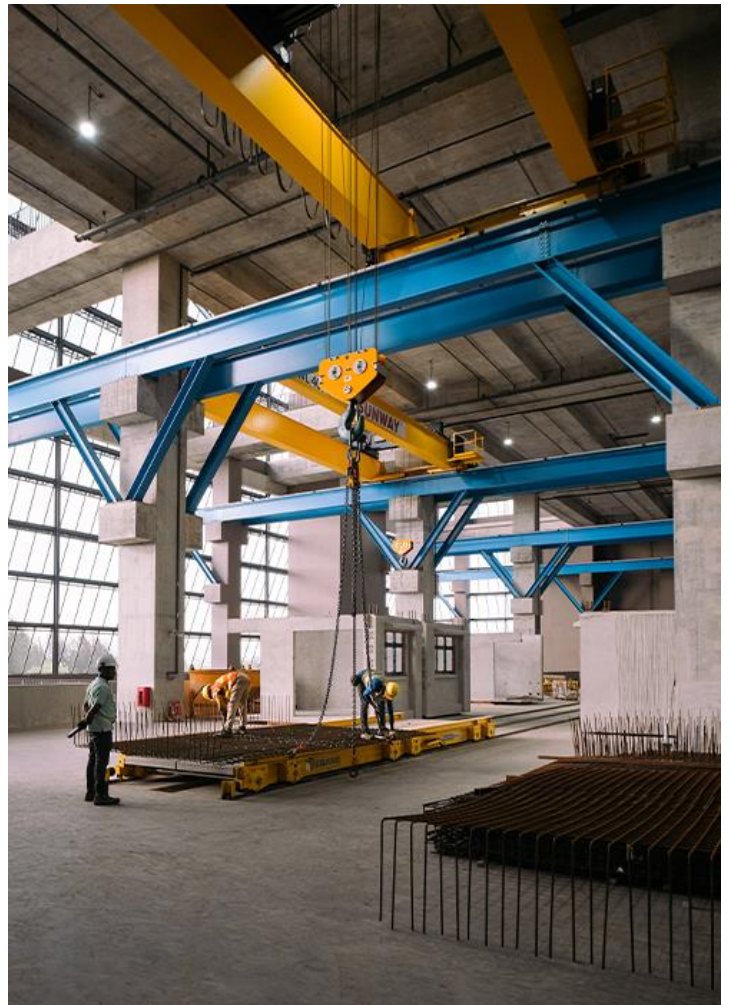
Hong Leong Asia & Sunway Construction Open Integrated Construction & Prefabrication Hub In Singapore

View of the prefabrication bars' retrieval system inside the Integrated Construction & Prefabrication Hub.

Hong Leong Asia Ltd (HLA) and Sunway Construction Group Berhad (SunCon) officially opened HL-Sunway Prefab Hub, the largest integrated construction and prefabrication hub (ICPH) in Singapore.

The HL-Sunway Prefab Hub was launched today by **Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development and Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration**, together with **Mr Kwek Leng Peck, Executive Chairman of HLA**, **President of Sunway Group**, **Mr Stephen Ho Kiam Kong, Chief Executive Officer of HLA**, and **Mr Chung Soo Kiong, Managing Director of International Property Development of Sunway Berhad**.

The ICPH is built on reclaimed land, a 3.8-hectare precast manufacturing facility installed with state-of-the-art technology to produce a wide range of building components including Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction components, Precast Bathroom Units, Precast Household Shelters as well as Large Panel Slabs under one roof.



Showcasing the technologies of loading and unloading of prefabrication and construction elements within the integrated hub.



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Driving Operational Efficiency with Automation

In line with Singapore's built environment to transit to higher construction productivity with a healthier and cleaner work environment, indoor machining such as rebar mesh production machines are installed to increase productivity and safety.

Mr Neo Choon Keong, Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Industry Development at the Building and Construction Authority, said: "ICPHs are in support of industry transformation, in particular the move towards Advanced Manufacturing and Assembly. The ICPHs will help to raise construction productivity through wider adoption of prefabrication and enhance precast supply resilience. To achieve the full benefits, the industry must design and construct with greater standardisation of the precast components, to make construction more manufacturing-like. This will enable the adoption of robotics and automation solutions in both off-site production and on-site installation.

HL-Sunway Prefab Hub is equipped with the largest Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS), overall productivity is expected to improve by up to 80% when operating at capacity. Together with 54 loading bays for easy discharge of goods, HL-Sunway Prefab Hub will be able to supply 100,000m³ of precast elements for 2,500 dwelling units annually.

Tan Sri Chew Chee Kin, President of Sunway Group, said: "Sunway and Hong Leong Asia share a common vision and aspiration in our journey towards innovation, efficiency, and sustainable development for the built environment. This hub represents the seamless integration of cutting-edge technology, intelligent design, and the expertise of our skilled workforce. It signifies a paradigm shift in the built environment sector today by harnessing the use of prefabrication and modular construction methods."



A stunning view of the integrated prefabrication and construction hub's façade against the night skies.

Contributing to Sustainable Construction

In addition to the manpower-efficient automation technologies at HL-Sunway Prefab Hub, the manufacturing facility is a **Green Mark Gold-certified building, awarded by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA)** under the Green Mark for Non-Residential Buildings NRB: 2015 scheme. The green building certification illustrates HL-Sunway Prefab Hub's commitment to invest in innovation and environmental sustainability.

Mr Stephen Ho Kiam Kong, Chief Executive Officer of HLA, said: "HLA is delighted to have had the opportunity to integrate digital and green technologies into our suite of building solutions that not only build resiliency into our supply chain but also drive the transformation of the built environment. HL-Sunway Prefab Hub ushers in a new chapter of the built environment sector's green journey and we are pleased and honoured to be a key player for sustainable, advanced manufacturing in Singapore."

Please click [here](#) for full press release.



China Yuchai International Launches New Mixer Truck Hybrid Powertrain System With Higher Fuel Savings

Putting the Hybrid-engine mixer truck to the test in the toughest terrain to manoeuvre.

China Yuchai International Limited, a leading manufacturer and distributor of engines for on- and off-road applications through its main operating subsidiary, Guangxi Yuchai Machinery Company, launches the Yuchai Xinlan S06-100kW P1 parallel hybrid powertrain system for SANY Group's (a large global engineering machinery manufacturer) 12-cubic-meter mixer trucks.

The S06-100kW P1 hybrid powertrain features Yuchai Xin-Lan's proprietary control software that intelligently coordinates and controls the engine, electric motor, and automated mechanical transmission (AMT) gearbox.

The hybrid powertrain is designed to shift automatically for different working environments and to optimize engine performance, reducing fuel consumption from sudden acceleration and deceleration of the vehicle and excessive idling of the engine.

Mr. Weng Ming Hoh, president of China Yuchai, commented, "SANY is a large construction equipment producer and we are pleased that SANY has chosen our new system. In a recent test of over 20,000 kilometres across 4 provinces, this new SANY hybrid mixer truck outperformed its traditional diesel mixer truck with significant fuel savings. The S06-100kW P1 system can also be applied to several other commercial vehicles."

One key feature of this hybrid powertrain is the significant fuel savings achieved from automatic engine shutdown and restarts in congested traffic by automatically recognizing the changing road conditions and seamlessly switching between economy, standard, and mountainous modes, providing the best fuel economy and power combinations.

Please click [here](#) for the full press release.



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Hong Leong Finance Celebrates 62nd Anniversary With Fixed Deposit Promotion!

Short-term savings with high returns at 2.80% p.a. for 12 months!*

Hong Leong Finance (HLF) is proud to celebrate 62 years of providing financial stability and growth to their valued customers. To commemorate this milestone, HLF is excited to offer an exclusive fixed deposit promotion that promises to boost savings with attractive interest rates!

For a limited time, HLF is offering up to S\$62,000 in fixed deposit amounts with interest rates up to 2.80% p.a. that beat the current market average. With a minimum deposit of S\$20,000, employees can enjoy higher returns on their savings for a fixed term of twelve months.

Interest Rates (% per annum)

Deposit Amount	12-Month
S\$20,000 to < S\$35,000	2.70%
S\$35,000 to < S\$50,000	2.75%
S\$50,000 to S\$62,000	2.80%

Start as low as S\$20,000 to enjoy high interest rates!

If you're looking to save for a short-term goal or want to diversify your investment portfolio, this promotion is a great way to get started.

This promotion is only available for a limited time. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to grow your savings with HLF and start earning interest right away. Contact us today to learn more about our 62nd founding anniversary promotion and start investing in your financial future.

There is no better time than now to deposit funds with HLF!



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How To Apply

- For new customers, please visit our branches.
- Bring along your NRIC if you are Singaporean and Singapore PRs; Passport with Work Permit/Employment Pass/Student Pass if you are foreigners.
- Placement can be by cash, cheque, or PayNow.
- For existing customers, you may apply online via Online Instruction Form and PayNow



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Hong Leong Companies Report 1H '23 Performance

Speaking at CDL's 1H 2023 Results Briefing were: Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng (centre), Group Chief Executive Officer Mr Sherman Kwek (second from left), Group Chief Operating Officer Mr Kwek Eik Sheng (second from right), Group General Manager Mr Chia Ngiang Hong (far right) and Group Chief Financial Officer Ms Yiong Yim Ming (far left).

City Developments Limited (CDL)

For the half-year ended 30 June 2023 (1H 2023), CDL achieved strong revenue growth of 83.6% to S\$2.7 billion (1H 2022: S\$1.5 billion), primarily driven by the property development segment.

Despite the higher revenue, the Group achieved lower net profit after tax and non-controlling interest (PATMI) of S\$66.5 million (restated 1H 2022: S\$1.1 billion*), largely due to the absence of substantial divestment gains recorded in 1H 2022. These included the gains from the record sale of Millennium Hilton Seoul and its adjoining land site and the gain on the deconsolidation of CDL Hospitality Trusts (CDLHT) from the Group following the distribution in specie of CDLHT units in 1H 2022. Furthermore, the higher financing costs and the impairment losses for its UK investment properties further impacted 1H 2023 PATMI.

The property development segment continued to be the biggest contributor as its revenue jumped 183.2%. The significant increase was underpinned by the contribution from its fully sold Piermont Grand Executive Condominium (EC) which obtained its Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) in 1H 2023, enabling its revenue and profit to be recognised in entirety upon completion under prevailing accounting policies for ECs.

The hotel operations segment also saw a 12.4% increase in revenue for 1H 2023 with revenue per available room (RevPAR) growth across all regions, supported by the continued strong momentum in international travel. Singapore reported a RevPAR growth of 51% and correspondingly, the Asia region contributed the most with an 88.3% increase in RevPAR. Notably, the performance of Asia, Europe and US regions had exceeded the RevPAR of pre-COVID 2019 levels.

Mr Kwek Leng Beng, Executive Chairman of CDL, said, "Despite the persistent macroeconomic headwinds and inherent market unpredictability, the Group will stay agile, resilient and adaptable in navigating these headwinds. Building on the continued recovery of the hospitality sector, our recent acquisitions of the Sofitel Central Brisbane and Nine Tree Premier Hotel Myeongdong II in Seoul at attractive valuations strengthen the Group's presence in key gateway cities. Over the past six decades, the Group has demonstrated adeptness in capitalising on growth opportunities. During times of uncertainty, strategic acquisitive opportunities often emerge and we must be nimble to secure opportunities to solidify our market position, augment and diversify our portfolio and leverage our core expertise for sustainable long-term growth."



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Mr Sherman Kwek, Group Chief Executive Officer of CDL, said, “The Group is focused on capital recycling and asset portfolio optimisation as we pursue our Growth, Enhancement and Transformation (GET) strategy. The record profit performance last year, driven by significant divestments, provided us with the significant cash to make strategic acquisitions that would add value to our portfolio. Since the start of the year, we have acquired iconic trophy assets such as St Katharine Docks in Central London, two strong-performing hotel assets in Brisbane and Seoul as well as expanded our PRS portfolio with two assets in Osaka. These acquisitions are aligned with the Group’s goals to advance our global presence in tandem with our land replenishment strategy in Singapore. In addition, we remain focused on extracting value from our current assets while pursuing our fund management ambitions.”

For CDL full 1H financial report, please visit [here](#).

*Restated as the proposed REIT listing of the two UK commercial properties did not materialise, in accordance with SFRS(I) 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*, the Group has reclassified the assets held for sale and the liabilities directly associated with the assets, back to the Group’s respective assets and liabilities. Accordingly, the comparative figures for 1H 2022 were restated to account for retrospective effect on the related depreciation arising from the above reclassification following the Group’s decision not to proceed with the planned IPO in 2H 2022.

CDL Hospitality Trusts (CDLHT)



The extensive rejuvenation of meeting facilities at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel was completed in July 2023. Pictured above is the Galleria Junior Ballroom.

For 1H 2023, NPI increased by 23.3% (or S\$11.9 million) year-on-year (“yoy”) to S\$62.9 million in tandem with the 20.9% yoy increase in gross revenue to S\$119.2 million. The improved performance reflects the continued strong momentum in international travel, with RevPAR growth achieved across most of the Group’s portfolio markets.

The increase in NPI for 1H 2023 was mainly attributed to the Group’s Singapore, Japan, Australia, Europe and UK markets, which increased by S\$17.2 million yoy. This includes higher NPI from Claymore Connect and a full six months NPI recognition from Hotel Brooklyn (acquired on 22 February 2022), which increased by 94.4% and 35.5% yoy to S\$2.8 million and S\$2.0 million in 1H 2023 respectively. The increases were partially offset by lower NPI from the New Zealand and Maldives markets, which declined by S\$5.3 million yoy.

CDLHT’s Singapore Hotels have experienced a strong recovery in 1H 2023, with a 45.8% yoy increase in RevPAR, attributed to higher occupancy and average daily rates. Against pre-pandemic 1H 2019, the Singapore Hotels achieved a 12.6% growth in RevPAR, primarily driven by a significant increase of 36.9% in average daily rate.



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The overall performance would have been much stronger if not for the closure of the entire conference facilities at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel for renovation from April to July 2023 and progressive removal of close to 34,000 room nights from inventory for ongoing bedroom refurbishment works in 1H 2023. In addition, the last government contracted hotel in CDLHT's portfolio which exited the program in early January 2023 was still experiencing a gestation period during 1H 2023 as it was rebuilding its leisure, corporate and conference businesses. Notwithstanding the sub-optimal performance of these two hotels, the Singapore Hotels posted a respectable 39.8% or S\$10.2 million yoy growth in NPI during 1H 2023.

Total distribution to Stapled Securityholders (after retention for working capital) for 1H v2023 was S\$31.2 million and DPS was 2.51 cents, an increase of 23.8% and 23.0% yoy respectively.

Mr Vincent Yeo, Chief Executive Officer of CDLHT's managers, said, "Our portfolio hotels continue to achieve a solid performance in 1H 2023 on the back of a robust recovery in global tourism. Strong leisure travel and the resumption of events have been key growth drivers across most geographical markets. Notably, 12 of our portfolio hotels have seen RevPAR in 1H 2023 exceeding 1H 2019 pre-pandemic levels, even though Chinese tourists have yet to return in full. In our core market, Singapore, we look forward to an exciting events calendar with the upcoming F1 Singapore Grand Prix in September 2023, followed by major concerts in early-2024."

For CDLHT's full 1H financial report, please visit [here](#).

Hong Leong Finance (HLF)



HLF net profit rose 3.2% to S\$46.6 million for the period 1H 2023.

HLF reported a net attributable profit of S\$46.6 million for first half-year ended 30 June 2023, up 3.2% from the same period last year, mainly driven by higher net interest income and write-back of expected credit loss allowances.

Net interest income rose 5.2% to S\$101.5 million on the back of improved interest yields. Net interest margin was moderated by four basis points at 1.48% as the rise in funding cost outpaced the uplift in asset yields year-on-year, amid the elevated interest rate environment.

Net allowances for loans and other financial assets for first half-year 2023 was a net reversal of S\$2.7 million as compared to a net allowance of S\$1.8 million in the corresponding period. Asset quality remained resilient as the Group continued to exercise prudence in its credit risk management and underwriting parameters with adequate loss allowances to cover the loan portfolio.



work

Net loan assets totalling S\$11,665 million as at 30 June 2023, up by 0.1% or S\$14 million over the previous year's base of S\$11,651 million as at 31 December 2022 and 1.8% or S\$210 million over corresponding period as at 30 June 2022. The loan portfolio remained well-secured.

Deposits and balances of customers increased to S\$12,164 million as at 30 June 2023, representing an increase of 1.1% or S\$134 million over the previous year's base of S\$12,030 million as at 31 December 2022 and 3.5% or S\$416 million over corresponding period as at 30 June 2022. The Group maintained liquidity buffer above regulatory Minimum Liquid Asset ("MLA") and stayed well-positioned to withstand the market uncertainties.

Group shareholders' funds as at 30 June 2023 totalled S\$2,029 million (31 December 2022: S\$2,041 million) with net asset value at S\$4.52 per share (31 December 2022: S\$4.55 per share). The Group's Capital Adequacy Ratio stood at 16.6% as at 30 June 2023, well above regulatory requirement and remained strong to support lending activities.

According to HLF statement, the finance company will "stay focused in driving operational resilience and business sustainability through the on-going upgrade of our technology infrastructure, expansion of our digital services and capabilities, and integration of omnichannel customer experience. The transformation roadmap aims to boost business agility, deepens customer engagement, and drives sustainable growth. As a responsible financier, we remain committed to adopt sustainable practices, foster innovation, and prioritise customer needs."

For HLF's full 1H financial report, please visit [here](#).

Hong Leong Asia (HLA)



A close-up view of the automated concrete spreader at the HL-Sunway Prefab Hub, a new integrated construction and prefabrication hub by Hong Leong Asia and Sunway Construction.

HLA Group reported revenue declined 1.0% YoY to S\$2.1 billion in 1H 2023. The decline in Group revenue was mainly due to translation effects of a weaker RMB against SGD but partially mitigated by revenue growth from the building materials unit ("BMU") in Malaysia ("Tasek").

Attributable net profit to shareholders declined 27.7% YoY to S\$30.8 million for 1H 2023, impacted by the absence of one-off gain from disposal of assets held-for-sale. The powertrain solutions unit ("Yuchai") in China has recorded an improved 1H results as market recovers gradually from the pandemic restrictions. Order books at BMU's Precast and Ready-Mix Concrete segments in Singapore and Malaysia remain strong.



work

The Group's profitability was impacted by weaker FX translation as well as higher finance costs. Adjusting for the S\$10.6 million one-off gain on disposal of assets held-for-sale in 1H 2022, 1H 2023's attributable net profit to shareholders would have declined 3.7% YoY. Revenue of Yuchai declined by 2.4% YoY to S\$1.8 billion, with reportable segment profit after tax of S\$48.1 million, representing growth of 60.5% YoY. While total number of engines sold in 1H 2023 declined by 8.4% YoY to 165,793 units, higher operating margins on better sales mix towards bus, agricultural and industrial markets plus better performance from associates and joint ventures boosted net profit.

BMU revenue in 1H 2023 grew 8.6% to S\$306.3 million, with reportable segment profit after tax of S\$31.0 million, representing a growth of 8.3% YoY. While demand for building materials remained strong in Singapore, the built industry is tackling challenges in health and safety issues, shortage of dormitories and higher costs in labour and energy. At Tasek, with improved economic activities, it continues to recover with better volumes and pricing, but we remain watchful of tight credit conditions in the industry.

Overall, the Group is focused on strengthening its capabilities to execute new growth strategies, improving supply chain resilience and strengthening market position. It is also working closely with partners to develop solutions and increase innovation efforts with customers to address climate change issues. The Group is cautiously optimistic that its businesses will perform satisfactorily for the rest of 2023.

For HLA's full 1H financial report, please visit [here](#).



meals & deals

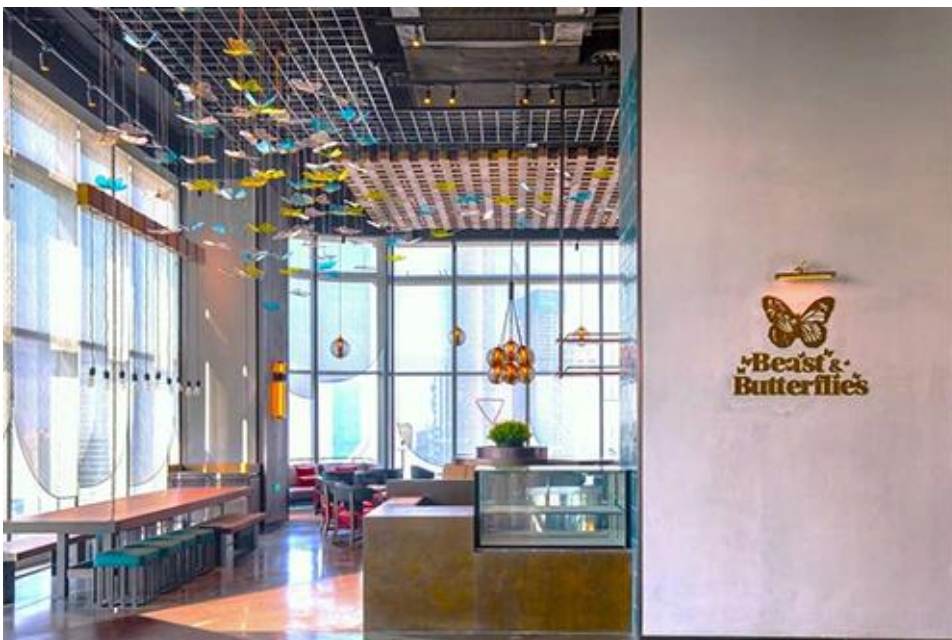


A Citrus “Summer Special” Afternoon Tea At M Social Hotel Suzhou

Citrus-your-eyes with M Social Suzhou’s summer theme Afternoon Tea.

M Social Hotel Suzhou brings you a warm and personalized vacation experience, promising you and your family an experience of the splendid culture of trendy Suzhou.

From July 1 to September 30, 2023, M Social Hotel Suzhou, launches the “Summer Special” Afternoon Tea. The specially curated menu celebrates ingenuity, exquisite workmanship, and rich creativity, paying tribute to the brand’s unique modern design style.



Ladies and men’s other halves will love the OOTD-ness of the restaurant. Just remember to snap OOTD photos before the meal!

Accompanying the “Summer Special” Afternoon Tea, stay packages “So Cial We Offer” and “Travel Further Offer” provide room stays, in-room dining credits, late check-outs, and more!



meals & deals

So Cial We Offer

Price: The Flexible Rate + RMB 50

Package includes:

- 1 night at Social Room with buffet breakfasts for two people
- 1 FENDI CASA afternoon tea (not including the FENDI candle)
- Late Check out until 2PM (subject to availability)
- Complimentary use of Fitness Center and Swimming Pool
- Free Parking & WIFI

Travel Further Offer

Price: The Flexible Rate + RMB 400

Package includes:

- 1 night at Social Room/Social Lake Room/Signature Lake Room/Stylish Suite with buffet breakfasts for two people
- 1 FENDI CASA afternoon tea (not including the FENDI candle)
- Set dinners for 2 adults at Beast & Butterflies restaurant
- Late Check out until 2PM (subject to availability)
- Complimnetary use of Fitness Center and Swimming Pool
- Free Parking & WIFI

** Information correct at time of print.*



Elevate 2023's Mid-Autumn Festival With JW Marriott HK's Mooncakes & Poon Choi

JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong's mooncake boxes come dressed in white with floral filigree, which represents hope and success, bringing cheer to any Mid-Autumn celebration.

Embrace the tradition of the Mid-Autumn Festival this year with JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong's Man Ho Chinese Restaurant, with flavours from classic to new options for gourmands to choose from.

Executive Chinese Chef Jayson Tang and the culinary team of Man Ho Chinese Restaurant handpick premium ingredients to ensure connoisseurs of traditional mooncake flavours will be pampered with top-quality taste.

White Lotus Seed Paste Mooncakes with Ginger and Double Egg Yolks

Priced at HK\$498 for 4 pieces per box, the fragrant ginger juice blends into the velvety lotus seed paste, pairing well with the indulgent egg yolks.

For family sharing, **the 8" Royal Supreme Mooncake with White Lotus Seed Paste, Ginger and 8 Egg Yolks** (HK\$888 per piece) is a decadent treat for 6 to 10 people to share.



Traditional moon cake with a hint of ginger, elevating the taste and senses for tea-pairing.



Take a one-hand bit-size if you are feeling contemporary, moving away from the traditional lotus paste to egg custard filling.

Mini Egg Custard Mooncakes

The sought-after Mini Egg Custard Mooncakes (HK\$488 for 6 pieces per box) with a luscious filling of sweet and rich egg custard, are baked to perfection using an authentic recipe.

Mini Mooncakes with Red Dates and Rose

Back by popular demand, the natural sweetness of the red dates complements the floral scent of the rose. Priced at HK\$488 for 6 pieces per box.

Mini Mooncakes with Dried Tangerine Peel and Red Bean

Newly launched this year, the flavours will delight with enticing aromas and lingering flavours from the perfect match between the smooth red bean paste and zesty aged tangerine peel. Priced at HK\$488 for 6 pieces per box.

The mooncakes are available for pick-up at Man Ho Chinese Restaurant from 11 to 28 September 2023 (both dates inclusive). Place your order at [JW eShop](#) to enjoy early bird offers:

- Now – 31 July 2023 | 30% discount
- 1 – 31 August 2023 | 20% discount
- 1 – 28 September 2023 | 10% discount

The mooncakes are individually packed and elegantly presented in a champagne gold and silver gift box, making them the ideal gift to express your gratitude to family, friends, and business partners.



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Drive a gear up for this year's Mid-Autumn Festival with Man Ho Poon Choi, your family and friends will thank you for this!

Sumptuous Takeaway Poon Choi

Go beyond just moon cakes for your family this year, savour a decadent Mid-Autumn family meal at home with a scrumptious takeaway Poon Choi meticulously curated by the culinary team of Man Ho Chinese Restaurant.

The Poon Choi is layered with a total of 18 lavish ingredients, including Australian sea cucumber, 33-head South African dried abalone, tea-smoked local Ping Yuen chicken, roasted goose, tiger prawns with shrimp roe, rich and umami homemade braised abalone sauce, and more.

The takeaway Poon Choi is available for order at [JW eShop](#) and is available for delivery from 4 to 28 September 2023. It serves six to eight persons and is priced at HK\$988 per person (six persons up) with complimentary delivery to one single address*. Each subsequent portion from the 7th person onward is priced at HK\$888 per person.

*Delivery charges may apply to remote areas. Please call or email the restaurant to check. For enquiries, please call +852 2810 8366 or email jwmarriott.hk@marriotthotels.com.

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Glam Up With W Hotel Singapore's Mooncakes Lunar Couture: The Ultimate Fashionistas' Package

Stand out from the crowd with a "handbag" mooncake box and carry it in style!

Introducing Mooncakes Lunar Couture: The Perfect Blend of Tradition and Trend. Fashionistas and foodies unite as one, W Hotel Singapore unveils the most stylish mooncakes to grace the culinary scene – Mooncakes Lunar Couture!

Prepare to embark on a delectable journey where traditional Chinese delicacy meets contemporary fashion design.



W Hotel Singapore's Lunar Couture package bag comes in green and red, elevating the traditional mooncake boxes to a fashionable one.

Drawing inspiration from the latest runway trends, W Hotel Singapore Mooncakes Lunar Couture is a mesmerising fusion of vibrant colours and captivating patterns that are guaranteed to leave a lasting impression.



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Taking packaging aesthetics to new heights, Mooncakes Lunar Couture pays homage to the kaleidoscope of unique and majestic ecosystems found on Sentosa Island. The result is a collection of exquisite mooncakes packaged in stunning boxes, creating a tropical yet practical look that is as visually appealing as it is convenient.

Beauty is not just skin deep – the allure of Mooncakes Lunar Couture extends to their delectable flavours. Crafted with the utmost care, these lunar treasures are made using only the finest ingredients, ensuring an unparalleled taste experience. Indulge in classic lotus seed paste, savour the fragrance of delicate lychee white lotus paste, or surrender to the velvety smoothness of Royal Osmanthus White Lotus Paste – the choice is yours.



Create your own “afternoon-mooncake-tea” session with your family and friends with the Mooncakes Lunar Couture Hamper Set.

Taking on a twist on the traditional mooncake-tea pairing, the Mooncakes Lunar Couture Hamper Set invites guests to savour two mooncakes with a bottle of Moët & Chandon (20cl).

The hamper includes:

- 1 W Singapore – Sentosa Cove Sun Visor and one Esinti Peshtemal Beach Towel, for fashionistas’ ultimate glamorous beach accessories.

Whether you are hosting a mooncake party and aiming to dazzle your guests or simply seeking to treat yourself to something extraordinary, Mooncakes Lunar Couture is the epitome of elegance and taste. Trust us, your taste buds will be left in awe, and your Instagram feed will thank you for the eye-catching aesthetics that are destined to garner countless likes.

Don’t miss your chance to embrace this delectable marriage of tradition and trend. Mooncakes Lunar Couture is available for a limited time only, don’t miss the opportunity to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival most fashionably and deliciously imaginable.

For more information and to purchase, please visit [here](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*



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A Symphony Of Flavours: The Millennium Mid-Autumn Mooncakes Bliss By Hua Ting Restaurant

Feast your family and friends with an exquisite pastel themed designed mooncake gift set.

Be enchanted by the symphony of flavours capsuled within a timeless delicacy that embodies the spirit of tradition and celebration.

Exquisitely crafted by award-winning Hua Ting Restaurant, only the finest ingredients were selected to ensure an indulgent experience with every bite. Each piece is a testament to the restaurant's commitment to preserving tradition while embracing innovation, bringing a harmonious blend of authentic flavours and modern flair.



(From left to right) New flavours for 2023 includes Mao Shan Wang, Kumquat & Yuzu, and Pineapple & Taro mooncakes.

New flavours for 2023: Mao Shan Wang, Kumquat & Yuzu, Pineapple & Taro, Chendol Lotus with Melon Seed

Promotion: 25% off for HLGSRM Members, available till 29 Sep 2023

Prices and brochure can be found in this [link](#). To order, WhatsApp +65 91868031 or email mooncake.ohs@millenniumhotels.com.

** Information correct at time of print.*

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Studio M Hotel Singapore: Glam Up Goodness With Voost X Herbal Essences

Take a self-love or grab a friend for a #berryhotgirlssummer staycation at Studio M Hotel Singapore!

Get ready to experience the sweetest staycation this #berryhotgirlssummer with Studio M Hotel Singapore's First Ever Berry-Themed Loft Rooms!

Escape into a berry-filled paradise as you step into a cosy ambience that sets the stage for a rejuvenating retreat. Take a dip in Studio M Hotel's pool while basking under the warm sun on the sundeck and indulge in culinary delights that will make your taste buds dance with newly crafted dishes from MEMO Café.



Pump up your vitamins with a specially curated Voost Mocktail at the #berryhotgirlssummer staycation.



meals & deals

The berry-themed room comes with a complimentary Voost Mocktail welcome drink to quench your thirst and boost your glam. Experience the rejuvenating benefits of Herbal Essences shampoo and conditioner as well as the great-tasting flavours of Voost tablets with the complimentary in-room amenities.

Unlock beauty savings with a complimentary Watsons Voucher bring home a set of Herbal Essences White Strawberry and Mint shampoo and conditioner (400ml bottles).



Give your hair a spa treat with a complimentary set of Herbal Essences White Strawberry & Mint shampoo and conditioner.

Chill with your family or friends over a hearty lunch or brunch moment with a complimentary MEMO Café \$20 Dining credits.

Stay Period: 1 July - 14 September 2023

Book Period: 24 June -14 September 2023

Book your #berryhotgirlssummer staycation at this [link](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*



Celebrating The Nation's 58th Birthday @ Tower Club

HLGSRC members decked in red and white in celebration of the Nation's birthday

Tower Club once again opened its doors to HLGSRC members for its annual Pre-National Day Dinner, undoubtedly one of the Club's most over-subscribed events for the past 2 years.

Members had the opportunity to enjoy a sumptuous 4-course western dinner with friends and family, while also experiencing the festivities of the National Day Preview.



A crowd favourite, the National Flag fly-past, right next to Republic Plaza.

With the parade held at the Padang this year, members and their guests were treated to an amazing close-up view of the fly-past at the start of the dinner, and the dazzling fireworks display at the end.



play



Fuelling Team Spirit & Camaraderie At The Hong Leong Olympics 2023

Table Tennis paddlers posing for the group shot!

Fuelling Team Spirit & Camaraderie at the Hong Leong Olympics 2023

The Hong Leong Olympics 2023 continues with the Table Tennis and Bowling Tournaments held in July.

Table Tennis

Paddlers showcased their skills at the tables and spectators were treated to displays of agility, precision, and quick reflexes.



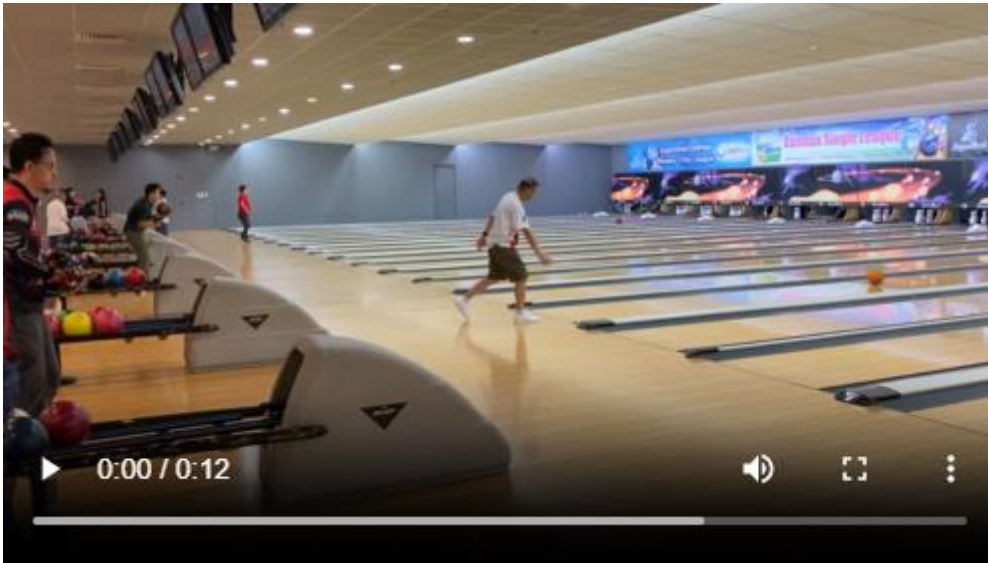
Paddlers from Hong Leong Finance Ltd and City Developments Ltd sharing a laugh over a rogue shot.



Lim Chun Seng (Hong Leong Finance Ltd) raises his hands in frustration as the ball goes into the net.

Bowling

One of the highly anticipated events of the Hong Leong Olympics, the Bowling Tournament saw regulars and new faces alike, engaged in friendly competition on the lanes.



Muhammad Fadzly Bin Azman (Island Concrete (Pte) Ltd) executing a perfect one-pin spare.



The ladies from Hong Leong Finance Ltd and City Developments Ltd celebrating with Koh Lay See (Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel) on her strike.

Congratulations to all our winners! Check out the Hong Leong Olympics 2023 Scoreboard [here!](#) The current tally stands at:

Hong Leong Finance – 41 points
 CDL and Companies – 31 points
 Hong Leong Group & Hotels – 27 points
 CBM and Companies – 9 points



play



Shining The Spotlight On Journalism And PR Excellence At The Singapore Press Club Awards 2023

Sponsors of the Singapore Press Club Awards 2023 posing with the seven winners, including Mr Andy Tan, SVP of Global Operations & Partnership, Millennium Hotels and Resorts (first from left), and Ms Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer at City Developments Limited (fifth from right).

The Singapore Press Club announced its 2023 journalism and PR award winners at the Club's 51st Anniversary Press Ball held on 15 July 2023 at Orchard Hotel Singapore. Guest of Honour Dr. Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information, presented the awards and certificates to the seven winners.

The awards, launched last year in conjunction with the Club's 50th anniversary, aim to recognise journalists and other media-related professionals who have excelled in their craft and whose work made an impact.

With the support of returning sponsors - presenting sponsor Citibank Singapore, and Sustainability Journalism Award title sponsor City Developments Limited (CDL) - the awards aim to shine a spotlight on deserving media professionals by recognising their contributions across three categories - Rising Stars, Sustainability Journalism, and Hall of Fame.

New to this year's Rising Stars awards is the Young PR Professional Awards, supported by title sponsor Telum Media.

Each winner received an award and a 2-night stay inclusive of breakfast for two worth \$1,000 at their choice of hotel, sponsored by Millennium Hotels and Resorts.

The Singapore Press Club also inducted 15 more media veterans into its Singapore Media Industry Hall of Fame that recognises the outstanding and lasting contributions of media professionals in Singapore. The Hall of Fame was launched last year with 50 inductees in the Club's 50th year.

Find out more about the event and the winners [here](#).



We Are On Hollywood: Oppenheimer At Biltmore Hotel Los Angeles

Gen. Leslie Groves, played by Matt Damon, at the iconic Millennium Biltmore Hotel Los Angeles' elevator lobby.

It is not hyperbole to say that no other Los Angeles property has appeared on screen more often and in more iconic productions than the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. The historic Beaux Arts-style structure, which was designed by architects Leonard Schultze and S. Fullerton Weaver, opened its doors to the public on 2 October 1923.

Over the years, the hotel has played host to media business royalties such as Walt Disney, Mary Pickford, Ginger Rogers, Cecil B. DeMille, and Clark Gable. Not only have eight Academy Awards ceremonies been held on the premises, but legend has it that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences itself was first established during an event held at the Biltmore in 1927.



*The elevator lobby at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel Los Angeles that appeared in Oppenheimer's scene.
(Credit www.movie-locators.com)*



play

With arguably the most anticipated cinematic event of the year, Christopher Nolan fans are preparing themselves for this latest epic blockbuster: *Oppenheimer*. Set in 1939, it portrays the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the renowned inventor of the atomic bomb. The movie draws inspiration from Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin's book, "*American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*."

Universal Pictures writes: "*Oppenheimer* is an IMAX-shot epic thriller that thrusts audiences into the pulse-pounding paradox of the enigmatic man who must risk destroying the world in order to save it."

Cillian Murphy takes on the role of J. Robert Oppenheimer, while Emily Blunt plays Katherine "Kitty" Oppenheimer. The star-studded cast also includes Matt Damon as Leslie Groves, Robert Downey Jr. as Lewis Strauss, and Florence Pugh as Jean Tatlock. Other notable actors featured are Benny Safdie, Josh Hartnett, Matthew Modine, Dylan Arnold, Michael Angarano, Danny Deferrari, Emma Dumont, Josh Peck, Alden Ehrenreich, Gustaf Skarsgård, and Devon Bostick.

With the film's settings being a major part of history, there are scenes filmed at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, adding depth to the film's portrayal of historical events and bringing an immersive cinematic experience for audiences.



(Left) Matt Damon and Cillian Murphy (Right) outside the Millennium Biltmore Hotel Los Angeles lobby.
(Credit: TheImageDirect.com)



Kiwi's Hospitality On The World Stage: Hosting The FIFA World Cup Women's Team

New Zealand celebrating after scoring a goal against Norway in the FIFA Women World Cup's opening match.

The Jointly-Hosted Australia and New Zealand FIFA Women's World Cup Excitement Takes Over New Zealand Hotels - A Look at the Unforgettable Experiences at Our Host Hotels with the Teams

The FIFA Women's World Cup has brought immense excitement to New Zealand, and our hotels have played a significant role in making this event truly memorable. From embracing the spirit of the competing teams to providing unparalleled hospitality, Grand Millennium Auckland, M Social Auckland, and Copthorne Hotel Palmerston North have showcased the warmth and welcoming nature of Millennium Hotels and Resorts and New Zealand.

Hotels in the host cities bustling with excitement and energy. Supporters from around the globe have flocked to the country, and our hotels have been at the forefront of this thrilling spectacle. Among them, three hotels stand out for their exceptional involvement with FIFA, as they played host to some of the competing teams.



Grand Millennium Auckland staff showing Team Italy their fullest support by donning their jersey.

Grand Millennium Auckland: Welcoming Italy with Open Arms

At Grand Millennium Auckland, it was all about embracing the Italian spirit as they welcomed the Italy Women's Team. Front-desk staff donned Italy's Women's Team Away Jersey, creating a visually striking show of support



play

for the arriving team. The hotel's Atrium was adorned with a massive Italian flag on the 10th floor, ensuring the players felt at home as they moved about the hotel.



Grand Millennium Auckland's chef table with the edible football pitch specially made for Team Italy.

The culinary team got creative, crafting an edible football pitch filled with Italian flag biscuits, a delightful treat for players and guests alike. Throughout their stay, the team enjoyed special touches and entertainment arranged by the hotel, including table tennis and other activities in their dedicated function spaces.

The atmosphere at Grand Millennium Auckland has been described by the team as "homely," as the team appreciated the warm welcome and hospitality. With dedicated meeting rooms, media spaces, and hangout areas, the hotel became a home away from home for the Italy Women's Team.



M Social Auckland staff with Norwegian banners and jerseys to create a welcoming atmosphere for Team Norwegian.

M Social Auckland: Immersed in Norwegian Spirit

M Social Auckland embraced the spirit of Norway as they hosted the Norwegian Women's Team. The team was welcomed by M Social Auckland's enthusiastic staff sporting Norway's football uniforms. The hotel was filled with an electrifying atmosphere as staff waved flags and cheered the players on.

The Norwegian team has brought along their own chefs to work alongside the hotel's kitchen team, resulting in delightful culinary experiences for the players. They even had exclusive access to the gym during certain hours, ensuring they were well-prepared physically and mentally for their matches.

On game days, staff don Norway's football uniforms, coming together to wish the team luck as they set out to compete.

Copthorne Hotel Palmerston North: A Home Away from Home for Spain

The Spanish Women's Team experienced true hospitality at Copthorne Hotel Palmerston North, which dedicated the entire hotel to their exclusive use. From the moment of arrival, the team felt welcomed, as the hotel's exterior proudly displayed their signage, making it clear that this was their exclusive base and all facilities were at their disposal.

To make their stay even more special, the hotel organised a recreation room in the conference centre, complete with table tennis, pool, foosball, and hockey tables, as well as jigsaw puzzles, ensuring the players had a space for leisure and relaxation.



The team was greeted with a personalised welcome in the form of a kiwi soft toy in each room, symbolising the warm embrace of New Zealand. The team expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the hospitality they received, describing the Copthorne Hotel as a true home away from home.

The farewell was emotional as both the team and hotel staff bid their goodbyes, leaving lasting memories of a heartfelt connection between Spain and New Zealand, with team members assuring staff that they always had a friend in Spain.

A World Cup to Remember

As the tournament comes to an end, the camaraderie between the teams and our hotels will be remembered for years to come. This experience has not only elevated the reputation of our hotels but also the spirit of our entire company, proving that sports can truly bring the world together.

The cute little Kiwi soft toy that Team Spain received from Copthorne Hotel Palmerston North.



South Beach X International Plastic Free Day: S.P.A Marketplace By CitySprouts At South Beach

A paw-parents with their dark brown Poodle showcasing their art pieces after their art-jamming session.

South Beach recently organised the S.P.A Marketplace by CitySprouts from June 30 to July 2, 2023, focusing on the themes of Sustainability, Pets, and Arts, which align perfectly with South Beach's advocacy for a greener and more artistic community. The event was organised in conjunction with International Plastic Free Day on July 3, to promote sustainable practices that benefit both pet owners and the public.

It is known that art has a therapeutic effect on the soul, but have you wondered if it could have the same impact on our beloved pets?

The S.P.A Marketplace brought together the worlds of Art and Pets, offering workshops where dogs and their paw-parents could join in and let their fur kids get creative, unleashing their inner Picasso by painting their very own masterpieces. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to participate in upcycling workshops, transforming textile waste into beautiful upcycled jewellery such as bracelets and earrings.

Moreover, a curated selection of preloved fashion was available in an open wardrobe, providing sustainable fashion choices for the fashion-forward attendees.

South Beach is proud to announce that the S.P.A Marketplace attracted an incredible turnout, with over 1,700 people visiting South Beach during that weekend. It is indeed heart-warming to witness the genuine enjoyment experienced by everyone who attended.

Through this event, South Beach firmly believes that by bringing together like-minded individuals who are passionate about sustainability, pets, and the arts, we can make a significant difference in our community.

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When humans and animals come together to make the world a better place, our fur friends busk in joy!



Empowering Youths For A Cleaner & Sustainable Space: CDL's Youth4Cimate Festival At South Beach

CDL's Youth4Climate together with Minister Grace Fu (second from right), South Beach Consortium General Manager, Samantha Tan (third from right) and Chief Sustainability Officer, Esther An (at centre stage).

The CDL's Youth4Climate Festival 2023 was held at South Beach on 8 – 9 July to inspire and empower youth to drive positive change for a sustainable future. The festival featured vibrant activities at South Beach Fountain Plaza, including an Eco Marketplace showcasing over 40 eco-entrepreneurs and their innovative products.



(Left) The Eco Marketplace was filled with enthusiastic eco-entrepreneurs showcasing their eco-products. (Right) Youths sharing ideas and perspectives at the Youth Forum on how to empower more individuals to keep spaces clean and sustainable.

The Youth4Climate Concert stole the show with astonishing performances by young talents in dance, singing, and storytelling of sustainability, accompanied by impressive musical skills. It served as a compelling testament to the youth's unwavering commitment to shaping a sustainable future and taking urgent action against climate change. **Minister Grace Fu's** address resonated with this sentiment, acknowledging the exceptional efforts of these young stars as well.

South Beach Tower also hosted an engaging Youth Forum by EB Impact, Seastainable, and LepakinSG, enabling participants to explore different perspectives on climate action. Additionally, the Urban Clean Up by Stridy allowed attendees, young and old, to actively contribute to the community and raise awareness about keeping urban spaces clean and sustainable.



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CDL's Youth4Climate Festival 2023 successfully ignited the passion of youth and encouraged them to become change agents for a better future. Stay tuned for more as South Beach continues to support sustainability and empower the youth to create a brighter tomorrow.





Empowering Women With Skincare & Self-Confidence Techniques At Heritage Hotel Manila

A representative from Mary Kay, an international makeup and skincare brand, sharing skincare and personal confidence tips to staff at Heritage Hotel Manila.

A 2-day 'Skincare and Makeup' seminar was recently conducted by Mary Kay, an international makeup and skincare brand at the Heritage Hotel Manila to empower women with knowledge on self-confidence in the world of business.

At the seminar, a skincare lecture was conducted on the importance of sunscreen that directly impacts healthy-looking skin, as well as techniques for applying makeup.

Personal confidence techniques on posture, hygiene, body gestures, and manners were broadly shared which are intrinsic to providing excellent service to our guests.



A Rockstar Gardener: Darrell Hawkins Head Gardener At Copthorne Hotel London Gatwick & Effingham Park

Mohawk-ed, tattoo-ed, the untypical gardener. Mr Darrell Hawkin loves his garden and puts his heart and soul into making it the pride of Copthorne Hotel London and Gatwick & Effingham Park!

In this issue of Voices, we meet Mr Darrell Hawkins, a beloved member of Copthorne Hotel London and Gatwick & Effingham Park for the past 30 years. Through his passion for gardening, Darrell once won a gardening competition from the Mayor!

Q. How did you start your career at Copthorne Hotel Gatwick?

Many years ago, Brian, then the Maintenance Manager at Copthorne Hotel, advertised a job for a gardener position. I was introduced to Brian during my tenure at a nearby garden where I was working for 6 years. The rest is history.

I was 26 years old at that time and now I am 56 years. It's a long time, isn't it?

Q. Tell us what you have been hired to do at the hotel. Is this what you are still doing?

I was hired as a Gardening Assistant for property maintenance under the Head Gardener. He taught me everything I need to know about the role, the hotel, and everything else that is necessary for my role.

My responsibility is to look after the gardens at the property, I love to ensure that it looks the best every single day.

When my manager left, I took over the role of a Head Gardener and has remained in my role since.

Q. What keeps you going at your job?

I love my workplace. I know the grounds well, and I love my colleagues and enjoy working with them here. I have a brother who has been working with me for many years too!

I have good supporting management and colleagues who help me at work, there is no barrier between the various hierarchies, it is a family here!



Left to Right Torsten Puck (Hotel Manager) and Raj Singh (Cluster General Manager), presenting the 30 Years Certificate of Appreciation to Darrell Hawkins.

Q. Looking back, what has most changed over the years since you joined? (Machines and tools, techniques, use of chemicals?)

Well, many things have changed as technology advances, most things were done by hand when I first started. For example, we did not have blowers, we used rakes back in the old days. But now, we have nice machines which are quite handy!

I am a firm believer in organic gardening. I am not fond of using chemicals and I don't use any chemicals in my gardening, so I have nothing to comment on that!

Q. What do you like the most about your job?

The gardens, wildlife, the seasons, not one is ever the same. It varies from year, month, and day. It is an art to understand them, every plant requires different nutrients, and their growth varies from plant to plant.

In my job, it is something different to do every day. I am passionate about my job, and I love what I do!

Q. What is the most memorable experience from your time with Copthorne Hotel Gatwick?

Back in 2000, I represented Copthorne Hotel Gatwick in the Crawley in Bloom Competition. There, I won 1st place and was awarded the **best** by the Mayor himself!

Ten judges were there to judge my work and I was happy that the fruits of my labour were well received, and most importantly, the award brought glory to the hotel I am representing!



Mr Darrell Hawkins was featured in the local newspaper with the Mayor after winning the Crawley in Bloom Competition.



getting to know you



Committed To Climate Change & Net Zero By 2050: “The Melting Ice, Sinking Cities” Exhibition At The Refreshed CDL Green Gallery

The exhibition launch was graced by Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister in Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development (third from right), who was joined by Dr Sylvia Earle (centre). From left to right: Mr Chia Ngiang Hong, CDL Group General Manager; Ms Hwang Yu-Ning, NParks CEO; Mr Michael Aw, Ocean Geographic Society Founder; Mr Kwek Eik Sheng, CDL Group Chief Operating Officer; and Ms Esther An, CDL Chief Sustainability Officer.

City Developments Limited (CDL), the National Parks Board (NParks), and Ocean Geographic (OG) launched the third edition of the Climate Action Exhibition series, themed “Melting Ice, Sinking Cities: An Urgency to Change the Present and Save Humanity”.

Held at the refreshed CDL Green Gallery, Singapore's first net-zero gallery located at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, the exhibition will run from 23 June 2023 till March 2024, in support of global and national climate action.

The exhibition features five zones:

- 1. A Global Climate Emergency: Spotlighting the Antarctic** – The perspectives and aspirations that 120 ACE 2023 members are committed to raising awareness for and rallying transformative actions for ocean-focused climate solutions
- 2. An Urgent Call for Collective Action: A Blue and Green Planet** – Key learning highlights from ACE 2023 to illustrate the interconnectedness between the blue and the green economies
- 3. Local Action: Marine Conservation in Singapore** – Exemplifies what each state actor, the public and private player can do, including NParks' commitment to marine conservation and efforts to enhance coastal resilience.
- 4. CDL's Climate Action: Advancing A Low-Carbon and Resilient Built Environment** – CDL's pioneering sustainability efforts and track record in the race towards Net Zero Carbon
- 5. The Remains of the Antarctic 2023: Splendour and Hope** – Showcases breathtaking photos and videos from ACE 2023 members, OG and partners, underscoring the threats to the ocean and marine life from the ACE expedition (please refer to Annex A for visuals and details)

Mr Kwek Eik Sheng, Group Chief Operating Officer of CDL, said, “As a developer, CDL has helped shape our nation's cityscape with sustainable developments, in line with our ethos of ‘Conserving as We Construct’. For nearly 30 years, we have been creating innovative green spaces, including this CDL Green Gallery – Singapore's first net-zero public gallery, promoting climate action through education. As we celebrate CDL's 60th Anniversary this year, we remain dedicated to supporting Singapore's vision to be a City in Nature by engaging our stakeholders



getting to know you

and the community. Through our participation in the recent ACE 2023, we witnessed first-hand the acute impact of climate change and the urgent need for businesses and the community to take collective action to protect our planet.”



From now till March 2024, visitors will be brought on a 'journey' to the Antarctic, where climate change, rising temperatures and melting glaciers threaten the well-being of life across the globe. Comprising five zones, the exhibition showcases the interconnectedness of climate change and the health of our ocean, people, and the planet.

The exhibition was officially launched by **Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister in Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development**. She was joined by world-renowned marine biologist and oceanographer Dr Sylvia Earle, who led the Antarctic Climate Expedition (ACE) 2023, which involved thought leaders in the fields of science, art, education and economics alongside teenagers and corporate executives, to develop creative strategies to protect our environment and oceans.

During the event, CDL and NParks representatives prepared two letters each on their wishes for the planet and future generations and placed them in a time capsule alongside letters written by 120 ACE 2023 members. The letters will be opened in the years 2050 and 2099 respectively, as a progress marker for achieving collective net zero goals by 2050 and a glimpse into the hope for a better planet for future generations by the end of the century.



Mr Chia Ngiang Hong and Mr Kwek Eik Sheng holding the CDL time capsules containing the letters on wishes for the planet and future generations, which will be opened in the years 2050 and 2099 respectively.

Professor Leo Tan, Chairman of the Garden City Fund, NParks' registered charity and IPC, said, "CDL's support and friendship over the last decade have provided us with an environmentally-friendly space, as well as



getting to know you

exhibitions like 'Melting Ice, Sinking Cities' that create greater awareness of the need for greater coastal resilience; and how we can all be part of the solution by making small lifestyle changes. Over the last decade, the CDL Green Gallery has become a well-used educational facility that has attracted over 350,000 visitors. As we commemorate 60 years of greening Singapore this year, we are happy to continue our partnership with CDL and thank them for contributing S\$1.5 million (in cash and in-kind) towards refreshing this Gallery for visitors and enabling quality exhibitions and programmes to be held here."

Held in conjunction with CDL's 60th anniversary celebration and in commemoration of 60 years of greening Singapore, this exhibition signifies a strengthening of NParks and CDL's decade-long partnership for the CDL Green Gallery, which will remain as a platform, free for all visitors to learn about global climate and nature-related issues.

CDL has committed to extend the partnership with the Garden City Fund for another 10 years, with a S\$1.5 million donation for the refurbishment of the gallery, and to enable more exhibitions and related engagement programmes for the Singapore Botanic Gardens visitors.

By showcasing the interconnectedness of climate change and the health of our ocean, people, and the planet, CDL, NParks and OG aim to raise awareness and inspire action for positive change. To extend its outreach, a virtual exhibition is also available on the CDL Sustainability website (www.cdlsustainability.com) for overseas visitors.

Read more about the exhibition [here](#).



congratulations / appointments



Chef Mohamad Chabchoul From Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai Receives Prestigious 'Executive Chef Of The Year' Award

(L-R) Mr Simon Moore, General Manager of Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai with Executive Chef Mohamad Chabchoul, Ms Sheryl Aquiatan, Senior Marketing & Communications Manager, and Mr Digvijay Rathore, EAM Food & Beverage, at the Hospitality 6th Middle East Chef Excellence Awards 2023.

Executive Chef Mohamad Chabchoul from Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai, an esteemed culinary professional with over 18 years of experience, was honoured with the prestigious 'Executive Chef of the Year by Judges Choice Award' at the Hozpitality 6th Middle East Chef Excellence Awards 2023. The event, organised by Hozpitality Group, took place on 20 June 2023 at one of Dubai's renowned hotels.

The awards recognised culinary excellence and talent within the hospitality industry across various categories, including Young Chef of the Year, Executive Sous Chef of the Year, Pastry Chef of the Year, Chef De Partie of the Year, and more. The winners were determined through a combination of online popular choice voting and evaluation by a panel of esteemed judges.

Chef Mohamad Chabchoul's outstanding achievements and contributions to the culinary field were celebrated during the event. Mr Simon Moore, General Manager of Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai, extended his congratulations and expressed the hotel's pride in Chef Chabchoul's recognition. He described Chef Chabchoul as a talented and experienced professional who has played a pivotal role in developing the hotel's culinary strategy, ensuring an exceptional dining experience for guests.



congratulations / appointments



Chef Mohamad Chabchoul with his well-deserved award. With his impressive experience and exceptional culinary prowess, Chef Chabchoul has played a pivotal role in elevating the dining experience for guests at Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai.

With an impressive career spanning prominent hotel chains such as IHG, Ritz Carlton, Four Seasons, Fairmont, and Fauchon Paris, Chef Chabchoul has garnered extensive local and international experience in the food and beverage industry.

He holds a degree in Hotel Management from Damascus University and has acquired numerous culinary certifications and awards, including the Chef Excellence Awards, Pro Chef Awards, Gulfood International Culinary League Award, Salon Culinary, and recognition as one of the Top 50 Influential Chefs in the Region's hotels for 2022.

Furthermore, Chef Chabchoul is an esteemed member of prestigious culinary associations such as the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, Emirates Culinary Guild Association, and Dubai Chef Collective Committee.

The recognition of Chef Mohamad Chabchoul as the 'Executive Chef of the Year' at the Hozpitality 6th Middle East Chef Excellence Awards 2023 is a testament to his culinary prowess and dedication to delivering exceptional dining experiences. His expertise and passion continue to elevate the culinary landscape within the hospitality industry.



congratulations / appointments



Copthorne Hotel
Wellington
Oriental Bay's
One80 Restaurant
Top 250 In
Cuisine Good
Food
Guide 2023/2024

Fine dining at One80 Restaurant with a glorious view of the city lights.

One80 restaurant at Copthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay was named in Cuisine Good Food Guide 2023/2024, presented by American Express, where more than 250 restaurants were listed in the guide.

The restaurants in the guide were carefully assessed by the 40-strong Cuisine Good Food Guide judging panel – comprising food writers, critics, chefs, and hospitality-industry professionals, led by food writer and industry expert Kerry Tyack.



Eye-catching and divinely crafted food at One80 restaurant.



congratulations / appointments



Ms Carolyn Wishnowski Appointed As Director, Global Loyalty And Branding Of MHR

In her new role as Director, Global Loyalty and Branding, Ms Carolyn Wishnowski will manage the Loyalty and Branding departments of Millennium Hotels and Resorts.

Congratulations to Carolyn Wishnowski who was appointed Director, Global Loyalty and Branding in Millennium Hotels and Resorts' (MHR) Global Commercial team on Monday, 3 July 2023.

Carolyn brings with her over two decades of experience in Branding, Loyalty, Sales, Marketing, Public relations, Media Partnerships and Communications and has worked for organisations such as IHG, Starwood, and Valiram group (Kate Spade, Michael Kors). Carolyn is also currently pursuing a Master of Science in Marketing from the University of Dublin.

In her new role, Carolyn will drive Loyalty and Branding efforts to uplift the MHR brand image, generate positive awareness, and drive Loyalty program acquisition and revenues.

With this appointment, MHR will now combine the Loyalty and Branding departments and apply synergies for smoother coordination and positive outcomes.

Let's extend a warm welcome to Carolyn and wish her every success in her exciting new role.