



June 2025
ISSUE 97

A Hong Leong Group
E-Newsletter

highlights



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live



Experience The Timeless Charm Of Thailand's River Of Kings With Millennium Hilton Bangkok

Travel in comfort and style as Millennium Hilton Bangkok's complimentary shuttle boat service carries you between the hotel and Sathorn Pier, connecting you to the city's top attractions.

At Millennium Hilton Bangkok, comfort goes beyond the elegant rooms, panoramic river views, and exceptional dining—it extends to how you experience the city itself. One of the most delightful perks of staying here is the complimentary shuttle boat service, an effortless and scenic journey that adds a touch of charm to your daily travels.

Running every 30 minutes from the hotel's private pier, the shuttle boat glides across the Chao Phraya River to Sathorn Pier, where guests can easily connect to the Saphan Taksin BTS Skytrain Station. In just 10 minutes, you're seamlessly linked to Bangkok's major attractions, shopping districts, and cultural landmarks.

The short journey across the Chao Phraya River provides an opportunity to experience Bangkok from a unique and scenic vantage point. For centuries, the river has been a critical transport route for goods and people and remains so today. Depending on the time of day, the river teems with passenger ferries, cargo barges, longtail boats and party cruises.

Whether you are heading out to explore the city or returning for a moment of relaxation, the charming river shuttle service provides an added layer of ease and enjoyment to your stay. It reflects Millennium Hilton Bangkok's dedication to thoughtful hospitality and delivering memorable experiences to every guest.



Sit back and enjoy the picturesque river views during the 10-minute breezy boat ride as the veteran skipper takes you to and from the hotel with ease and comfort.



I Light Festival Returns With New Light Installations Across Singapore

Festival ends on 21 June 2025

National Development Minister Mr Chee Hong Tat (in purple shirt) and CDL Group General Manager Mr Chia Ngiang Hong (3rd from right) interacting with guests at the launch of I Light Singapore 2025 with an art installation "Bridge of 1,000 Dreams" in the background. (Credit: Azmi Athni/The Straits Times)

I Light Singapore returns this year with a total of 17 new light art installations by 20 artists, including an illuminated flower garden and a larger-than-life piano, and popular festival village, GastroBeats with pet-friendly zones.

From May 29 to Jun 21, 7.30pm to 11pm daily, with extended hours to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, Asia's leading light festival will light up Marina Bay and neighbouring precincts, as well as new sites along the Singapore River and at Raffles Place for the first time.

Organised by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and presented by UOB, the festival, which aims to promote sustainability, is anchored on the theme To Gather and inspired by the colour red – a wavelength on the visible light spectrum and in celebration of SG60, according to a press release by i Light Singapore.



Take a walk through the meadow with me by Megan Tan and Tan Shao Xuan (Singapore) from the University of the Arts, London College of Communication. (Credit: Nashita Farveen/CNA)



Piano Walk by Amigo & Amigo (Australia) at the Marina Bay Sands. (Credit: i Light Singapore)



live



Copthorne Cardiff Reopens With Stylish New Look

Tucked between Cardiff City Centre, the bustling bay, and the scenic coastline, Copthorne Hotel Cardiff has re-opened its doors after a comprehensive renovation to offer a harmonious blend of timeless charm and modern convenience.

Copthorne Hotel Cardiff proudly re-opened its doors on 19 May 2025, following a six-week comprehensive £250,000 refurbishment that has given the property a fresh lease of life.

A total of 64 bedrooms across the 2nd and 4th floors were refreshed with brand new beds, carpets, and freshly painted walls. The hotel's restaurant has also been relaunched as Lakeview Lounge & Bar, complete with new furniture, a refreshed colour scheme, and a fully refurbished breakfast buffet area to elevate the guest dining experience.

The re-opening marks a new chapter for the hotel after operating under exclusive use since February 2021. Initially, the property supported the Home Office by housing Afghan refugees who had assisted the British military, a partnership that lasted until August 2023. Following this, the hotel entered into an agreement with Cardiff County Council to support a homeless family accommodation scheme, in response to a critical shortage of housing in the local market. This initiative continued until 1st April 2025.



With spacious, well-appointed rooms designed with comfort in mind, guests can opt for lakeview rooms or refined suites with contemporary amenities for a restful stay.

General Manager Mr Gareth McDuff said, "All facets of the hotel had to be re-worked behind the scenes – from distribution and marketing to revenue management and online presence – to ensure a successful re-launch. The in-house team played a crucial role in this transformation, getting hands-on with painting, cleaning, moving furniture, and preparing for relaunch. It was a mammoth task, not just to get the rooms back to standard, but to bring the hotel back to market as a refreshed and competitive offering."



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The St. Regis Singapore To Undergo Major Revamp

Refurbishment works scheduled to complete in Q4 2025.

The extensive multi-phased renovation currently taking place at The St. Regis Singapore, is the luxury hotel's first since it official opening in April 2008.

The St Regis Singapore announced it is undergoing a multi-phased refurbishment that is expected to complete in Q4 2025. This is the first extensive renovation for the luxury hotel since its official opening in April 2008.

The new interiors are inspired by the nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Singapore Botanic Gardens, and incorporate botanical motifs, natural textures and muted tones, in line with the hotel's established aesthetic and service standards.



All 299 guestrooms and bathrooms are expected to complete by Q4 2025 with new comforts of luxury residential living. Pictured are artist's impressions of the Penthouse King suite and bathroom.

By Q4 2025, all 299 guestrooms and suites will be updated with design elements inspired by the surrounding landscape. Furnishings will include crystal-cut glass lamps, while environmental features such as motion-activated LED lighting and potable water on tap will be introduced.

Launching in June 2025, the Tea Room will feature interiors in shades of ivory, teal and blush pink. It will serve the new St Regis Afternoon Tea. The adjacent Patisserie will offer salads, sandwiches, and a selection of pastries and desserts.



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The John Jacob Ballroom is also being renovated. Its design references 19th-century European orangeries and includes skylights and mirrored elements intended to shift in effect from day to night. Two LED video walls, advanced lighting, and audio systems will be installed.



The St Regis Singapore's new Tea Room will offer a tranquil setting, with interiors inspired by the beauty of a summer garden.



The Patisserie, adjacent to the Tea Room at the lobby, will offer sandwiches and a selection of pastries and desserts.

Five further meeting rooms on Level 1 are scheduled for refurbishment in 3Q2025. The St Regis Bar Singapore is expected to open in August 2025.

"2025 marks a visionary rearticulation of The St. Regis' spirit of innovation; one that not only honours the legacy of the brand, but one that has evolved along with the needs of our luminaries. With this transformation, we will reaffirm The St. Regis Singapore as the Best Address in the city for exquisite stays, dining experiences and distinctive meetings and events, complemented by timeless St. Regis rituals," said Mr. Allen Howden, General Manager of The St. Regis Singapore.



The Biltmore Los Angeles Kicks Off Asian Heritage Month With California Asian Icons

(From left): Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) Owner's Representative Mr Jimmy Wu, novelist and writer Mr Kevin Kwan of blockbuster film Crazy Rich Asian; and MHR VP Sales & Operations North America Mr Alex Decarvalho.

The Asian Hall of Fame recently held the California Icons ceremony in Los Angeles on 1 May 2025 to kick off Asian Heritage Month in North America. The event saw about 150 guests from California, Washington, Oregon, New York and other cities gather together to celebrate and recognise the outstanding achievements of Asian Americans and Native Americans and promote cross-cultural cooperation.

The guest of honour was none other than Ms Nancy Kwan, a Chinese American Hollywood actress now in her eighties. Mrs. Kwan pioneered Asians in main roles in Hollywood movies in the 1960s and paved the way for many Asian actors in Hollywood movies for years to come. She even starred in a movie with Bruce Lee!

Presenting her award was Singapore-born novelist and writer Mr Kevin Kwan (not related) of the blockbuster movie, Crazy Rich Asians.

The Asian Hall of fame is a leading cultural, educational, and humanitarian charity that transforms public perception of Asian and indigenous legacy. The annual benefit for the women founders fund supports diversity women in Tech, entertainment, and arts.



(From left): Mr Wu; actress and guest of honour Ms Nancy Kwan; General Manager of The Biltmore Los Angeles Mr Mathias Kaiser; and Director of Sales at The Biltmore Los Angeles Ms Carmela Buenrostro.



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Riding On Economic Growth As Island Concrete Celebrates 55 Years

Island Concrete is part of Hong Leong Asia and is among Singapore's most established and trusted ready-mixed concrete provider. It has become a leader in the building sector known for the product quality, timely delivery and the scale to supply even the largest of projects.

Established 55 years ago, Island Concrete (ICPL), a subsidiary of Hong Leong Asia, is one of Singapore's pioneer ready-mixed concrete suppliers. The company has grown along with the nation, playing a vital role in shaping its built landscape. Apart from contributing to iconic landmarks such as Changi Airport Terminal 1 and Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort, ICPL has also helped build the nation's infrastructure and many dream homes for residents.

Era of urban modernisation in modern Singapore

Singapore's independence in 1965 marked a period of new ambition in urban planning, that saw a shift from a rural landscape to the planned city-state it is today. It was during this time that the Singapore Government came up with the 1971 Concept Plan to guide infrastructure development and address housing and social needs.

As a first-mover advantage, Island Concrete Private Limited (ICPL) was established on 7 May 1970 and became one of Singapore's pioneering ready-mix concrete suppliers.

Hong Leong Holdings Limited (HLHL) was among the major shareholders at that time. Among ICPL's first directors was the late founder of Hong Leong Group Kwek Hong Png, and HLHL's Managing Director Mr Quek Leng Chye.



Images of ICPL's regular 5 cubic metre concrete mixer trucks in the 1980s.



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ICPL became a wholly owned subsidiary of Hong Leong Asia (HLA) under its Building Materials Group (BMG) on 28 September 2009.

Some notable projects and iconic landmarks

Island Concrete's (ICPL) first commercial project was Tanglin Shopping Centre which was completed in 1972. Previously owned by City Developments Limited, the building is now sold and undergoing demolition.

Known for its high-quality concrete and reliable supply chain, ICPL is a preferred supplier for large-scale infrastructure projects like Singapore's Mass Rapid Transit System (MRT). ICPL's concrete is used in the construction of MRT stations, tunnels, and other related infrastructure.

More notably, ICPL has been involved in supplying concrete for the Cross Island Line (CRL), which is a high-capacity MRT line currently under development in Singapore, and one of the country's largest MRT projects. Upon completion around 2040s, the 58-kilometre line will be the longest line on the MRT network, serving about 27 stations, according to the Land Transport Authority.

Construction of Tanglin Shopping Centre 1971



Opened in 1972, Tanglin Shopping Centre was one of Orchard Road's earliest retail landmarks. Until its closure and demolition in 2024, it had witnessed the development and progress of Singapore's most famous shopping belt for more than 50 years. (Credit: Remember Singapore)



ICPL helped build Singapore's Changi Airport Terminal 1. Photo circa 1980s. (Credit: National Heritage Board)



ICPL supplied 1.2 million cubic metres of ready mixed concrete for the construction of the iconic Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort. The hotel and casino opened in 2010.

ICPL was also involved in several iconic landmarks such as Terminal 1 at Singapore Changi Airport (opened in 1981), and Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort (MBS) which opened in 2010. About 1.2 million cubic metre of ready-mix concrete was supplied to build MBS.



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Today, the ICPL team continues to manufacture and deliver quality concrete products, supported by a network of 13 fully computerised wet-batching plants and a fleet of over 250 concrete mixer trucks for the built environment locally.

Its portfolio of iconic projects continues to pepper Singapore's skyline, including commercial and residential buildings such as People's Park Complex, CapitaSky (formerly CPF Building), Marina One, One Shenton, and many more.



As part of the 55th anniversary celebrations, the HLA management team visited batching plant locations across Singapore to hand out gift packs to the 550-strong team. Pictured here are some happy workers with (L-R) Chief Executive Officer Mr Stephen Ho, Executive Director Ms Kwek Pei Xuan, and BMG Chief Operating Officer Mr Simon Loh.



Mr Loh is seen here briefing visitors at ICPL's Command Centre in Sungei Kadut.



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Nature Is A Gift To Be Enjoyed, Not Wasted

A case study how CDL
conserves 30 year-old
raintrees at Irwell Hills
Residences

Four majestic Samanea Saman trees over 30 years old, are thriving among the lush greens on the site of CDL's private residential condominium, Irwell Hills Residences.

The site on which the sold-out 540-unit private condominium Irwell Hill Residences is built, features one of Singapore's most iconic tree species – the majestic *Samanea Saman*, commonly known as the raintree.

These natural landmarks, with their distinctive umbrella-shaped canopies, can reach heights of up to 30 metres and provide generous shade – a welcome respite from Singapore's tropical heat. Their branches spread out in every direction, offering birds and squirrels respite from the heat.

When developing the site after a successful bid in 2019, we discovered four 30-year-old raintrees on it. Embracing our ethos of 'Conserving as We Construct', we conserved these heritage raintrees and centred the architectural design around them.

How it was done

When plans were drawn up for Irwell Hill Residences at that time, we had to decide whether to chop these trees down. Most developers would instinctively do away with them, for it is far easier and more cost-effective to start from a clean slate.

But our decision was obvious: conserve. With the help of our architects, we requested a design that seamlessly wraps the project's two towers and its suite of facilities around the raintrees, making them the centrepiece of the residential development. Residents now enjoy the luxury of swimming and relaxing under the shade of these magnificent trees, while their fur-kids get to run free in the cool shade.

This iconic District 9 residence is today a lush haven and tranquil retreat from the bustle of the city. After all, nature is a gift to be enjoyed, not squandered.



Irwell Hills Residences was specifically designed to wrap the project's two towers and facilities around the trees, making them the centrepiece of the development. project.



Marking 60 Years Of Singapore, Dutch Ties With Tourism Partnership

Singapore's Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations Grace Fu (centre) and Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs Dirk Beljaarts (centre, right) attend a showcase event marking the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between both countries. Pictured here among the partners is MHR Vice President for Operations, Southeast Asia, Mr Benedict Ng. (Credit: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Singapore)

Singapore's homegrown hospitality group, Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) has signed an agreement with Dutch company Meetingselect, a global meeting and event venue booking marketplace, to grow tourism and business travel between Singapore and the Netherlands.

Both firms are working on a global venue partnership that will offer Meetingselect's customers to a wide variety of destination experiences and venues via MHR's 145 properties worldwide.

The agreement is part of new Singapore-Dutch business partnerships inked across hospitality, high-tech and semi-conductor sectors, to celebrate and reaffirm 60 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

According to news reports, Singapore's Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations Ms Grace Fu said the country is committed to growing such partnerships by leveraging on both nations' strategic locations, highlighting the deep economic ties between Singapore and the Netherlands that stretch back several decades.

The Netherlands is now Singapore's second largest European Union investor and the second largest investment destination for Singapore within the bloc, she said, adding that both countries are strengthening collaboration in sustainability, digitalisation and innovation.



Mr Ng and Cluster Director APAC from Meetingselect Mr Andrew Tan at their partnership signing, witnessed by Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs Mr Dirk Beljaarts and Ambassador of the Netherlands to Singapore and Brunei, Ms Anneke Adema.



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CDL Secures Planning Approval For £1.1 Billion Mortlake Site In London

An artist's impression of the redeveloped scheme on the Stag Brewery site in Mortlake that will include a school and residential housing (Credit: Reselton Properties Limited/Squire and Partners)

City Developments Limited (CDL) via its wholly owned subsidiary Reselton Properties Limited, has finally obtained approval for a £1.1 billion residential-led mixed-use scheme on the former Stag Brewery site in Mortlake, South West London, in May 2025. This was following a decade-long design and planning application process for the 22-acre freehold site since its acquisition in 2015.

The planned riverside development will comprise 1,068 homes, a 1,200 pupil secondary school academy, retail, offices, hotel, cinema and nine acres of green space.



The former Stag Brewery site in Mortlake seen across the River Thames with the old Budweiser factory (left photo), will be developed into a new riverside neighbourhood with more than 1,000 new homes, a school, and commercial space.

The Stag Brewery is one of London's oldest beer-making sites tracing its roots to the original Mortlake Brewery, attached to a monastery. Brewing activity was first recorded in 1487. The site has been owned by various companies, including AB InBev which produced famous beers such as Budweiser until 2015.

The Group will review its plans for the site now that planning consent has been granted.



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Redefining Global Hospitality At Arabian Travel Market 2025 In Dubai

From Singapore to the world: Millennium Hotels and Resorts makes a stamp at the Arabian Travel Market 2025 in Dubai.

The Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2025 was recently held at the Dubai World Trade Centre (28 April to 1 May) with more than 55,000 attendees from 166 countries, a 16% increase from last year's edition.

The event showcased over 2,800 exhibiting companies, with 19% from the Middle East and 81% from the rest of the world. The hotel sector saw a 12% growth in exhibitors – Middle East up 19%, Asia 20%, Europe 17%, and Africa 21%.

Organised by RX Global, ATM 2025 was based on the theme of "Global Travel: Developing Tomorrow's Tourism Through Enhanced Connectivity," exploring how the future of tourism will be shaped by connectivity across borders, industries and communities.

In addition to its exhibition booth at the ATM Dubai 2025, Interim Chief Operating Officer & Chief Commercial Officer for Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) Mr Saurabh Prakash also discussed how the Singaporean hospitality company has grown into a global hospitality force today, and the need to stay competitive, agile and sustainable in current times.



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Balancing Energy Efficiency With 25°C Indoor Temperature

To accelerate climate action and low-carbon innovation, CDL has adopted 25°C as the standard indoor temperature and installed Hybrid Cooling Fans for all its offices (pictured on the ceiling in its corporate headquarters at Republic Plaza).

CDL has adopted 25°C as the standard for indoor temperature for all its corporate offices, balancing energy efficiency with occupant comfort. This is part of the real estate developer's commitment to climate action and low-carbon innovation.

Over 100 bladeless Hybrid Cooling Fans were also installed and equipped with vortex technology to enhance airflow and ensure thermal comfort, while reducing reliance on energy-intensive air-conditioning. This initiative is projected to reduce cooling load by around 20%, translating to an estimated annual carbon reduction of over 14,000 kgCO₂e.

To complement this and battle Singapore's heat, CDL has also implemented a business casual dress code policy to promote comfort in a higher temperature setting since October 2024.

According to a recent staff survey, the new dress code was well-received with over 85% of respondents showing strong support, affirming the effectiveness of this holistic approach.

These initiatives mark a meaningful step forward in our journey towards net-zero where every small change adds up to a larger climate impact.



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Lentoria Offers 'High Ceiling' Discounts For Premium Units

TID is offering a discount on premium high-ceiling units for a limited-time only, including this four-bedroom plus study with a 5.5m ceiling.

For a limited time, TID, a joint venture developer between Hong Leong Holdings and Mitsui Fudosan, is offering a special discount on some of its premium high-ceiling units at its new residential development, Lentoria. These units have a 5.5m ceiling height and are found primarily on the ground and top floors. Buyers have a range of unit sizes available from one- to four-bedroom unit layouts.

Premium high-ceiling units offer generous space for flexible interior design while remaining budget-friendly.

Located in the emerging Lentor Hills Estate, Lentoria is the only new project in the estate where owners do not pay for the void airspace in high-ceiling units, instead paying solely for the usable floor area.

Launched last year in February 2024, the development comprises two 17-storey residential towers and an eight-storey residential block. With a design and architecture to enhance privacy and spaciousness for each unit, tall trees and foliage provide a natural barrier, while the generous private enclosed spaces form a calming and tranquil living environment.



The full-height windows in the bedrooms and living room offer unparalleled views.



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CDL To Sell Majority Stake In South Beach Development To IOI Properties

An iconic mixed-use development that seamlessly integrates four historical buildings (formerly military buildings and NCO Club of the old Beach Road Camp) with two new 34- and 45-storey towers, South Beach comprises office and retail space, a 634-room hotel and 190 luxury residences. It is strategically located within the Marina Central district in Singapore's downtown core and directly connected to Esplanade MRT station and City Hall MRT Interchange.

CDL and IOI Properties Group Berhad (IOIPG) have announced a landmark deal for the iconic South Beach mixed-use integrated development.

The transaction will be executed via a share sale in the holding company Scottsdale Properties Pte. Ltd.. Based on CDL's proportionate 50.1% share of its consolidated net assets as of 30 April 2025, the estimated sale consideration is S\$834.2 million.

Upon completion of the transaction expected by Q3 2025, IOIPG will gain full ownership of South Beach's commercial components. The strata-titled residential component, South Beach Residences, has been fully sold since September 2021.

CDL and IOIPG have been long-term JV partners in South Beach since 2011, having co-developed the 3.5-hectare site into one of Singapore's most recognisable architectural landmarks. Directly connected to Esplanade MRT station and City Hall MRT Interchange, the development features Grade A office space (South Beach Tower), a 634-room JW Marriott Hotel Singapore South Beach, restaurants and cafes (South Beach Avenue and Quarter, as well as the NCO Club) and South Beach Residences comprising 190 luxury apartments and penthouses.

The entire South Beach development is valued at S\$2.75 billion.

Mr Kwek Leng Beng, CDL's Executive Chairman, said, "South Beach began as a bold vision to enhance Singapore's reputation as a global city, attract international investors and create a new icon that blends modern, sustainable architecture while preserving the site's conserved buildings. I had the privilege of bringing together esteemed partners, including the late Tan Sri Dato' Dr Lee Shin Cheng, IOIPG's late Founder and Executive Chairman, who shared my conviction to make South Beach one of Singapore's most iconic developments. With IOIPG's partnership, we were pioneers in creating this distinctive landmark and introduced the first JW Marriott branded hotel to Singapore. Today, South Beach is a testament to our long-standing collaboration, foresight and



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resilience. As this property reaches maturity, we have fulfilled our promise. This strategic divestment enables CDL to realise exceptional value, while entrusting the ownership to a partner that knows South Beach well, marking a natural evolution in our successful partnership.”

Mr Sherman Kwek, CDL’s Group Chief Executive Officer, added, “The iconic South Beach landmark represents the shared commitment and fruitful partnership we have forged with IOIPG for over a decade. Having fulfilled our vision for South Beach – from securing the land site via a rigorous tender process in 2007, navigating macroeconomic challenges, to transforming it into the high-performing, stabilised asset it is today – it is now time to crystallise its value. This transaction gives a strong boost to CDL’s efforts to accelerate capital recycling so as to reduce gearing and redeploy capital. We will continue to unlock value across our diversified portfolio and pursue future growth opportunities.”

Following the divestment of South Beach, CDL continues to hold a sizeable commercial and retail portfolio in Singapore, totalling around 2.6 million sq ft of existing and pipeline lettable space. It also continues to operate six hotels, totalling 2,608 rooms, under its directly owned hotel operator, Millennium Hotels and Resorts, in addition to owning hotels such as The St. Regis Singapore and The Singapore EDITION.



Designed by world-renowned architectural firm Foster + Partners, South Beach’s most striking feature is its microclimatic wave canopy that covers the open spaces and acts as an environmental filter. South Beach is Green Mark Platinum certified – The highest green building certification awarded by Singapore’s Building Construction Authority (BCA).



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Millennium Hotels And Resorts Hosts UK Edition Of IGNITE! Roadshow

Over 300 clients and partners participate in breakfast networking, insightful lunch sessions, and inspiring evening conversations.

Millennium Hotels and Resorts recently hosted the UK edition of IGNITE! Roadshow at the Millennium Hotel and Conference Centre Gloucester in London. The event saw over 300 key clients and partners participate in breakfast networking, insightful lunch sessions, and inspiring evening conversations.

Representatives from our hotels around the world, including the Middle East, US, Asia, Europe and the UK, came together to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) and build partnerships and opportunities for the future.

The day was filled with vibrant and engaging experiences including exciting prize draws kept the energy high throughout the day. Over £1.1M worth of new enquiries were taken on the day which the sales team are now busily working on closing.



Making a toast (L-R): MHR Interim Chief Operating Officer Mr Saurabh Prakash (centre); VP Operations and Owner's Representative Mr Christophe Ciadella (left); and VP for UK/Europe Sales Mr Richard Adler.



MHR's global teams take a fun pose at the event's Vogue-style photography screen to celebrate the successful conclusion of its IGNITE! Roadshow at Millennium Gloucester Hotel and Conference Centre in London.



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The event was led by MHR's leadership team for UK and Europe, including Interim Chief Operating Officer and Chief Commercial Officer Mr Saurabh Prakash, Vice President Operations and Owner's Representative Mr Christophe Ciadella, Vice President Global and Asia Sales Mr Paul Er, as well as Vice President for UK/Europe Sales Mr Richard Adler.

A Vogue-style photography screen allowed guests to strike a pose and capture the moment in style. Indulgent hand massages and treatments were provided by The Spa at Chelsea Harbour Hotel. A live violinist filled the room with beautiful music, adding a touch of grace and sophistication and to close the event, a spectacular display of digital fireworks lit up the evening, leaving everyone in awe. To mark the momentous occasion, guests raised a toast with our specially crafted anniversary cocktail, the elegant Pearl Elixir, setting the tone for an extraordinary celebration.



It was a productive session all around as MHR sales teams engaged with partners and clients over an active day of networking.



meals & deals



Celebrating Liverpool FC's 20th Premier League Title In Style

A legendary celebration at
Hard Days Night Hotel

Liverpool FC lifted their historic 20th Premier League title—an iconic moment for the city, with Hard Days Night Hotel standing proudly in the heart of Liverpool as a place where fans stay and soak in the spirit of victory.

Liverpool's 20th Premier League title isn't just a milestone—it's a moment to remember. And there's no better place to celebrate than the Hard Days Night Hotel, where music meets football and the heart of Liverpool beats louder than ever.

Tucked away in the city's legendary Cavern Quarter, the Hard Days Night Hotel is the world's only Beatles-themed hotel—an iconic destination where rock 'n' roll nostalgia blends seamlessly with modern luxury. Whether you are dancing in celebration or raising a glass to the Reds' unforgettable season, this is the place to be.

With 110 unique rooms—including the famed Lennon and McCartney suites—you'll be surrounded by original Beatles artwork and touches of the band's legacy throughout. The vibe? Electric. The location? Central. The memories? Unmissable.

A Celebration Worth Singing About

The hotel came alive as the city did, with live musical tributes to the Beatles and Liverpool FC echoing through the lounges. Guests and fans gathered to toast not just the title win, but a season filled with unforgettable moments—from Arne Slot's triumphant debut to Mo Salah's record-breaking brilliance.

The Hard Days Night Hotel became more than just a place to stay—it was the epicentre of celebration, storytelling, and shared joy.



North Sixty4 is where you can indulge in the hotel's famous Afternoon Tea and British finger sandwiches. this is ideal for downtime in between exploring the best of Liverpool or a casual catch-up.



meals & deals



A Taste Of Elegance: Grand Hyatt Taipei's Tea And Dessert Pairing Experience

Elegant and serene, Cha Lounge at Grand Hyatt Taipei offers the perfect setting to savour fine teas and artisanal desserts, where tradition meets modern luxury in every sip and bite.

Indulge in a symphony of flavours where aged Taiwanese teas meet French-inspired desserts.

This season, Grand Hyatt Taipei's Cha Lounge invites you to a unique afternoon tea experience in collaboration with renowned Taiwanese tea purveyor, Pouyuenji. Available through June 30, this limited time offering presents a harmonious pairing of fine teas and exquisite desserts crafted by Executive Pastry Chef Jason Chen.

Served Monday through Thursday from noon to 6 p.m., each pairing is designed to highlight the nuanced flavours of Pouyuenji's aged teas alongside Chef Chen's innovative desserts.



A passionfruit jelly dessert with a gem-like amber hue, paired with Gui Fei Oolong tea, known for its honeyed aroma developed through traditional roasting techniques.



A layered mille-feuille dessert complemented by Shui Xian Rock tea, offering floral and woody notes.



meals & deals



Embrace
The Season
At The
Zen House Of
Millennium Mitsui
Garden Hotel
Tokyo

Zen House's Hydrangea Afternoon Tea pairs delicate seasonal sweets with elegant teas, capturing the beauty and flavour of Japan's beloved ajisai bloom.

Zen House, nestled in the basement of Millennium Mitsui Garden Hotel Tokyo, offers a serene escape from the bustling city above. With its philosophy of "Modern Rural Cooking," the restaurant harmoniously blends traditional Japanese ingredients with contemporary culinary techniques, all presented on natural dishware like wood and stone. This fusion creates a dining experience that is both innovative and rooted in nature.

Hydrangea Afternoon Tea: A Seasonal Delight

From 1 May to 30 June, Zen House invites guests to indulge in a specially curated Hydrangea Afternoon Tea. This limited-time offering celebrates the vibrant hues and delicate flavours of the early summer bloom, hydrangea, known as ajisai in Japanese.

The tea set features a delightful array of sweets and savoury bites, including:

- Cassis-flavoured amber sugar: A sweet treat reminiscent of hydrangea petals.
- Blueberry cheesecake: A creamy dessert capturing the essence of the season.
- Matcha-based confections: Infused with the rich flavours of green tea.
- Inari sushi: Sweet and savoury pockets of rice wrapped in seasoned tofu skin.



Zen House offers a tranquil dining space where modern Japanese design and seasonal cuisine create a refined retreat in the heart of Ginza.

Guests are welcomed with a refreshing hydrangea leaf tea and can enjoy premium teas throughout their visit. The Hydrangea Afternoon Tea is priced at ¥4,000 on weekdays and ¥4,200 on weekends, inclusive of tax and service fees.



meals & deals



Indulge In
French Elegance
At La Table
French Brasserie,
New World
Millennium
Hong Kong Hotel

Chic Parisian flair meets warm hospitality at La Table French Brasserie, New World Millennium Hong Kong Hotel — where every meal celebrates refined French dining.

Celebrate the art of French dining this June and create memorable moments at La Table French Brasserie. In celebration of French “GourMay”, the restaurant presents an exquisite five-course wine-pairing dinner menu, **available till 30 June 2025**.

Embark on a culinary journey through France this season at La Table French Brasserie, nestled within the New World Millennium Hong Kong Hotel.

Set in a freshly refurbished space, La Table French Brasserie offers a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Guests can enjoy their meals in the main dining area or opt for the intimacy of the 10-seat private dining room. The restaurant's design, featuring a full-glass walled show-cooking area and a glass-encased wine cellar, adds to the immersive dining experience.

Highlights include the traditional Bouillabaisse, tender Sous Vide French Beef Tenderloin, and the decadent Chocolate St. Honoré. Each dish is thoughtfully paired with wines that enhance the flavours, offering a harmonious dining experience.



Perfectly sous-vide for melt-in-the-mouth tenderness, the French Beef Tenderloin is the crown jewel of La Table's “GourMay” experience, elegantly plated and rich in flavour.

Available Monday to Saturday (excluding public holidays) at HKD688 per person for the four-course set, and HKD888 per person for the five course dinner. Wine pairing option is additional HKD350 per person.



meals & deals



Celebrate
Father's Day
At Grand Copthorne
Waterfront Hotel
Singapore

Kick back and relax at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel for Father's Day. It's the ideal spot to start a well-deserved getaway for a weekend of comfort, food, and great memories!

Food Capital: Brunch Buffet

This Father's Day, honour the quiet strength and steadfast love of fathers with a sumptuous international brunch buffet at Food Capital, located within Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore.

Feast on a lavish spread of gourmet delights, from a Seafood Island brimming with freshly shucked oysters and snow crab legs, to indulgent highlights like Jospier-grilled Wagyu Beef Ribeye, Grilled Australian Rack of Lamb, fragrant Saffron Risotto, and a comforting Seafood Stew, all prepared à la minute at vibrant live stations.

The Lobby Lounge: Spanish Afternoon Tea

Escape to the sun-kissed coast of Spain without leaving the city. This summer, The Lobby Lounge presents a Spanish Afternoon Tea, a Mediterranean twist on the classic ritual—perfect for romantic afternoons, casual indulgence, or a chic catch-up.

Begin your journey with Chilled Gazpacho, Parma Ham with Cantaloupe, and a light Tomato & Basil Tartlet with Greek Salad. Savour the signature Spanish Seafood Risotto, a flavourful ode to coastal dining.

Sweeten the experience with Churros de Chocolate, Lemonade Macarons, and a Spanish Cheesecake, alongside Caramel Apple Crumble, Strawberry Mousse Tart, and Lemon Candy Scones with clotted cream and jam.



Indulge in a taste of Spain with the Lobby Lounge's Spanish Afternoon Tea with a delightful spread of sweet and savoury bites from Chilled Gazpacho to Spanish Seafood Risotto.



meals & deals



Celebrate
Father's Day
At Orchard Hotel
Singapore:
A Feast They
Will Truly Love

Celebrate in style this Father's Day at Orchard Hotel Singapore, where timeless elegance meets modern comfort right on Orchard Road. Treat the man in the house to a luxurious dining experience from the heart of Singapore's most iconic district.

This Father's Day, skip the usual socks and ties and treat Dads to something unforgettable — a culinary celebration that honours them with flavours as exceptional as he is.

Orchard Hotel Singapore invites you and your family to indulge in exquisite dining experiences across their signature venues, perfect for making lasting memories.

The Orchard Café: A Feast Fit for a King

At The Orchard Café, Father's Day is all about indulgence and togetherness. Delight your taste buds with a specially curated menu featuring standout dishes like Kurobuta Pork Rib Bak Kut Teh, Slow Cooked US Wagyu Beef Cheek, and a decadent Surprise Chocolate Coffee Liqueur dessert.

Available for lunch and dinner on 14 and 15 June 2025, this feast is priced at \$108 per person, with an exclusive SG60 Promotion offering 60% off for the second diner, making it a celebration that's as generous as it is delicious.

Hua Ting: Authentic Cantonese Elegance

For a more refined Father's Day treat, Hua Ting offers an exquisite Cantonese set menu crafted by Masterchef Lap Fai. This menu blends traditional flavours with contemporary flair, designed to impress even the most discerning palates.



At S\$60, you can also get a special Father's Day Whisky Espresso Tiramisu layered with mascarpone cheese, Bailey's Irish Cream, bourbon whisky, and loads of love.



play



“I’ve Got
The Power!”

Highlights From
Hong Leong
Olympics

An ‘axe-cellent’ effort by Hong Leong Group staff in the maiden Axe-Throwing Tournament.

Over the past month, the Hong Leong Olympics saw sparks (and darts) fly in a thrilling lineup of precision games! Participants brought their A-game and steady hands to Axe-Throwing, Table Tennis, Pool, and Darts, turning up the heat with every bullseye, break, and backhand.

Axe-Throwing

A total of 50 participants demonstrated their power and precision at the Axe Throwing Tournament, the 3rd event in our Hong Leong Olympics series. The air was filled with the loud thud of axes hitting (and missing) their marks, mixed with cheers, gasps, and edge-of-your-seat excitement. The competition was fierce, culminating in a thrilling "axe-off" for 2nd place in both the Men's and Women's singles categories.

Table Tennis

The Table Tennis Tournament saw 26 participants serve up fast-paced action and intense rallies. The atmosphere was electric as powerful smashes and pinpoint serves echoed through the venue. In a nail-biting finish, defending champion Paul Lee (Hong Leong Finance Ltd) edged out Muhammad Sani (CBM Pte Ltd) to retain his Men's Singles title - securing another win for HLF and extending their lead in the overall standings.



Just your average day – colleagues smiling brightly while holding deadly weapons.



play

Pool

What started as a casual afternoon showdown quickly turned into an epic battle of cues and cool under pressure. Kicking off at 3:30 PM, 43 players from across the Hong Leong Group brought their best angles and strategies to the table.

What no one expected was a marathon of matches stretching all the way to 12:30 AM – nearly nine hours of non-stop action! Players kept their spirits up with a shared determination to make it to the final frame. Kudos to the ladies' doubles finalists who patiently waited for all the other matches to be completed before playing through their fight for 1st and 2nd!



When five pairs of eyes are more than enough to pile on the pressure!

Darts

Despite having a rocky start, the Darts Tournament competitors embraced the chaos with an admirable dose of patience.

As the game settled into rhythm, so did the competitors – finding their aim, focus and groove. The energy intensified with each well-placed throw, but the spirit of sportsmanship never wavered. Players encouraged each other and celebrated great shots regardless of the team, all having a great time. In the end, the Darts Tournament became a shining example of how a few early stumbles can't stop a great game when everyone's in it for the fun.



The real victory is in the friendships we build along the way.



Miss Universe China 2018 Experiences Orchard Hotel Singapore's Signature Hospitality

Orchard Hotel Singapore, the choice for elegance and comfort in the heart of Orchard Road, welcomed Miss Universe China 2018 Ms Rosie Zhu Xin in April.

Orchard Hotel Singapore recently hosted Miss Universe China 2018, Ms Rosie Zhu Xin, during her recent visit to Singapore for IGNITE! Singapore, held from 2 to 3 April 2025. Rosie's presence brought a touch of elegance and international recognition to the hotel, aligning perfectly with Orchard Hotel's commitment to providing world-class hospitality experiences.

Her stay at the hotel not only marked a memorable moment for the team but also provided a meaningful opportunity to strengthen the hotel's brand positioning in the Chinese market. By hosting a high-profile personality like Rosie, Orchard Hotel Singapore continues to showcase its premium offerings and tailored services to discerning travellers from China and beyond.

During her visit, Ms. Rosie enjoyed the hotel's stylish and comfortable accommodations, exceptional service, and prime location in the heart of Orchard Road — all of which left a positive impression and reinforced Orchard Hotel's reputation as a preferred destination for international guests.



Rosie (centre) being welcomed by General Manager Mr Nelson Camoeira (left) and Director of Marketing Communications Ms Amy Ang (right).



Rosie taking a pose at Hua Ting Restaurant.



play



MHR Celebrates National Bubble Tea Day And 30th Pearl Anniversary With Sweet Treat

MHR employees toast to 30 years of shared achievements with a refreshing bubble tea.

In honour of National Bubble Tea Day and Millennium Hotels and Resorts' (MHR) 30th Pearl Anniversary, the Singapore Corporate Office was filled with joyful moments as employees enjoyed a special bubble tea treat. This sweet gesture served as a symbolic celebration of 30 years of shared success, teamwork, and dedication.

Organised by MHR's Human Resources team, the bubble tea treat brought a refreshing break to the workday, fostering a sense of camaraderie among colleagues. It was a simple yet meaningful way to recognise the collective efforts that have contributed to MHR's growth and enduring presence in the hospitality industry.

As MHR marks this significant milestone, moments like these underscore the strength of its corporate culture and the lasting bonds formed among its employees over three decades.



A sweet treat and sweeter memories with the MHR family!



Ikebana And Tea: The Perfect Balance Of Sensory Harmony

Participants proudly showing off their creations.

Hong Leong Club was proud to present an exquisite event that perfectly blended the artistry of traditional Japanese flower arranging with the timeless charm of high tea. The Ikebana Class with High Tea, held at Tower Club on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, offered participants a unique opportunity to engage both their creativity and their senses in an atmosphere of elegance and calm.

Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging, is far more than simply placing flowers in a vase. Rooted in centuries of tradition, Ikebana emphasises harmony, balance, and the subtle beauty of natural forms, inviting practitioners to create a living sculpture that evokes emotion and mindfulness.

Under the teacher's gentle instruction, participants learnt to trim stems, arrange materials thoughtfully, and appreciate the beauty of empty space – a fundamental concept in Ikebana.

Following the class, participants partook in a refined high tea set served by Tower Club. The calm, meditative nature of Ikebana found a perfect complement in the leisurely ritual of high tea, encouraging guests to savour the moment, reflect on their creations, and engage in lively conversations about art, nature, and culture.



Participants thoughtfully creating their arrangements.



CDL Celebrates Mother's Day With Heartfelt Sharing From Working Mums

Sharing heartfelt reflections from working mothers who show that with the right support, it's possible to thrive both at home and in the workplace.

This Mother's Day, we celebrate the strength, resilience, and dedication of working mothers who play a vital role in nurturing both their families and their professional communities. City Developments Limited (CDL) is proud to share the journeys of Felicia, Jane, and Gina, who reflect on their journeys of balancing professional growth with the responsibilities of motherhood. Their stories reflect how a culture of support, flexibility, and understanding plays a vital role in helping our people thrive across all aspects of life.

Ms Felicia Goh, Manager, Asset Support (System & App Management), Asset Management Division

I met my younger self for coffee. She ordered a cappuccino with a packet of sugar. "Life is already bitter, so why make it worse?" she said. I ordered the same cappuccino, sans the sugar. "Life is bitter with or without it, so why not make it healthier?"

She told me she was trying to juggle two kids and work. I consoled her, saying it would get better once they were older.

She shared excitedly that she'd finally crossed over to the other side, from retail to the real estate industry, to learn new things and see how different this realm of work truly was.

I smiled and said, "You'll meet colleagues who will not only guide you but also support you emotionally, especially during stressful times. That's when you'll realise you're learning more than just the craft."

Before I left, I gave her a tight hug and reassured her that everything was going to be fine. "Just enjoy every moment, and take a deep breath when the road gets tough."



Ms Felicia Goh with her family.



Ms Jane Pang, Manager, Customer Experience, Property Development - Customer Service

A few years ago, I often worried whether I could truly balance work and family. The question lingered, “Am I doing enough at home? At work?” It was especially tough when my kids were younger and needed more attention.

Looking back, those concerns were real, but with time, experience, and the right support, I've learned how to manage that better.

CDL has really played a key role in helping me find that balance. The support from my colleagues and supervisors made a big difference—they never made me feel like I had to choose between being a mum and being a professional.



Ms Jane Pang and her family.

The option of hybrid working gave me the flexibility to be there for my family when it mattered most, while still being productive and present at work. It's not just about policies, it's about the culture of empathy and flexibility, which I'm truly grateful for.

To my younger self — and to new mums — don't be too hard on yourself. “You're doing more than you think, and it's okay to ask for help. Progress matters more than perfection. And don't forget to take care of yourself; you can't pour from an empty cup.”

Ms Gina Ng, Manager, Applications, Information Technology

Balancing work and family commitments was a significant consideration for me when I joined CDL.

The ongoing support and understanding from my bosses and colleagues have made juggling work and motherhood so much easier.

I truly appreciate the supportive culture at CDL. From family event leave and the quarterly Eat with Family Day to team meals and fun outings, it all makes a big difference to my job satisfaction.



Ms Gina Ng with her children.

Looking back, I'd whisper to my younger self, “Dedication is key, but so is downtime. Letting go of the need for universal approval is liberating. And the biggest leaps come from stepping into the unfamiliar.”



Honouring Resilience: Millennium New York Hotels Show Strong Support For 9/11 Memorial & Museum 5K

Team Millennium united in purpose at the 13th Annual 9/11 Memorial & Museum 5K Run/Walk, walking together in remembrance, reflection, and community spirit.

On 27 April, Millennium Downtown New York (soon to be rebranded as M Social Hotel New York Downtown) stood united with the community during the 13th Annual 9/11 Memorial & Museum 5K Run/Walk, an event that continues to resonate deeply with New Yorkers and visitors alike. As a hotel rooted in the heart of Lower Manhattan—just steps from the World Trade Center—Millennium Downtown New York takes great pride in participating in an event that commemorates the lives lost, honours the survivors, and celebrates the enduring spirit of the city.

This year, the hotel raised approximately \$1,500 with nearly 60 enthusiastic participants supporting the cause, including associates, hotel guests, and extended team members from sister properties, Millennium Broadway and M Social Times Square. Together, the hotels walked in remembrance, reflection, and unity, highlighting their continued commitment to supporting local initiatives that uplift and connect the vibrant community.



For the participating Millennium employees, associates and guests, the walk symbolised hope, community, and unwavering support for New York.

Recognising the importance of meaningful engagement, the Millennium Downtown New York team also hosted an outreach tent on the North Oculus Plaza, directly across from the hotel's front steps to welcome participants and attendees. The tent served not only as a space for



care

support and connection but also offered guests the opportunity to become MyMillennium members, unlocking exclusive offers by Millennium Hotels and Resorts.

Being located in such a historically significant and beautifully restored neighbourhood carries a responsibility that Millennium Downtown New York embraces wholeheartedly. Many of its employees have personal ties to the events of 11 September, and their stories underscore the deep sense of purpose they feel each time they participate in this meaningful day.



Beyond the walk, the Millennium Downtown New York team offered support, smiles, and exclusive MyMillennium perks at its outreach tent on the North Oculus Plaza.



The 9/11 Memorial & Museum 5K continues to be more than just a walk—it is a powerful reminder of how far the city has come and how, together, it will continue to rise. Millennium Hotels and Resorts is proud to stand side by side with the community, honouring the past while looking forward to building a stronger, more connected future.



A Tradition Of Giving: The Biltmore Tbilisi Brings Warmth To Catharsis Residents

A day of poetry, music, and kindness—The Biltmore Tbilisi Hotel honours the spirit and resilience of Catharsis residents with heartfelt gifts and shared moments of joy.

As part of the #GiveABook campaign, The Biltmore Tbilisi Hotel proudly continued its tradition of community engagement by visiting the House of Virtues "Catharsis" on 29 April, a place dedicated to providing care and dignity to elderly citizens in need.

The gathering was a touching celebration of emotion, creativity, and human connection. The residents of Catharsis welcomed the Biltmore Tbilisi Hotel team with heartfelt poems and songs, offering a glimpse into their rich inner world and vibrant spirit.

In return for the warm welcome, representatives of The Biltmore Tbilisi Hotel expressed their appreciation by presenting a variety of thoughtful gifts and treating the residents to a warm dinner. More than just a gesture of hospitality, the hotel used the occasion to amplify a vital message: support for Catharsis is not limited to corporate contributions—any individual can visit and sponsor a meal, bringing joy and dignity to those who need it most.

Continuing the partnership with Catharsis is an honour, as the hotel looks forward to further strengthening their bond and deepening their shared commitment to the community.



Green Steps
Forward:
Ghaf Tree
Planting At
Grand Millennium
Al Wahda
Abu Dhabi

General Manager Mr Fadi Ammache (in blue jacket) planting the Ghaf tree at Grand Millennium Al Wahda Abu Dhabi.

As part of its ongoing sustainability initiatives, Grand Millennium Al Wahda Abu Dhabi reaffirmed its commitment to the environment and to a greener, more sustainable future by planting the Ghaf tree—a powerful symbol of resilience, heritage, and environmental stewardship in the UAE.

More than just a native species, the Ghaf tree embodies strength in harsh climates, the ability to thrive with minimal water, and deep cultural roots within Emirati traditions. Recognised as the national tree of the UAE, it serves as a living reminder of the collective responsibility to protect and preserve the natural environment.



Leadership and staff of Grand Millennium Al Wahda Abu Dhabi gather to plant the symbolic Ghaf tree, reinforcing the hotel's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Through the planting of the Ghaf tree, Grand Millennium Al Wahda Abu Dhabi is taking a meaningful step toward reducing its carbon footprint, promoting biodiversity, and inspiring collective action for a greener future. The initiative stands as a testament to the belief that lasting impact begins with small, purposeful actions—one tree at a time



voices



Conversations That Count: Scott Montgomery On Purpose, Passion Projects, And Hospitality With A Heart

Giving back has always been part of Scott's DNA. From grassroots fundraisers to national charity campaigns, he believes in using his personal passions—like running—to create positive change.

With nearly three decades of experience in the hospitality industry, a passion for people, and a strong commitment to giving back, Mr Scott Montgomery brings a unique blend of professionalism, heart, and purpose to everything he does. As Global Key Account Manager (MICE & Business Travel) with the Millennium Hotels & Resorts (MHR) UK Global Sales team, he plays a key role in building strategic partnerships and driving growth across the brand's global portfolio. But Scott's story goes beyond the office—his journey is also defined by marathon achievements, impactful charitable work, and a genuine dedication to making a difference in the community.

Q. Please share with us more about your role at MHR and how you joined the hospitality industry.

I joined MHR in December 2024 as Global Key Account Manager – MICE & Business Travel with the Global Sales Office UK Team, working as part of the UK-based Global Sales team. My role focuses on managing and developing strategic relationships with key clients, driving revenue and market share across our global portfolio.

My journey in the hospitality industry began over 28 years ago, driven by a passion for travel, people, and creating memorable experiences. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to work across various brands within the industry, which has given me a well-rounded understanding of client needs and operational excellence. Joining MHR has been an exciting next step in my career, allowing me to contribute to a dynamic and growing global brand.



voices



Scott with his Global Sales Office UK teammates at work and play!



Q. What do you enjoy most about your work? What are the interesting/challenging aspects of it?

The hospitality industry is incredibly dynamic, and sales professionals face a variety of evolving challenges. One of the biggest is maintaining client loyalty in an increasingly competitive and price-sensitive market. With so many options available, clients often prioritise cost, flexibility, and added value—which means we need to consistently differentiate ourselves, not just through pricing, but through personalised service and tailored solutions.

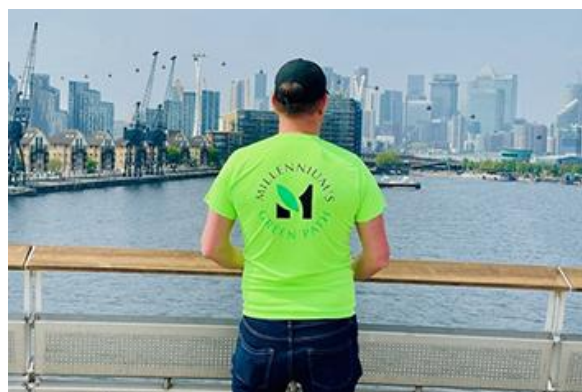
Another major challenge is navigating unpredictable demand patterns, especially post-pandemic, where lead times are shorter and booking behaviours have shifted. This requires agility, proactive communication, and a strong understanding of client needs to anticipate and respond quickly.

Additionally, technology and digital transformation are reshaping how we engage with clients. While this opens up exciting new opportunities, it also means constantly staying updated with tools, platforms, and data-driven strategies to stay ahead of the curve.

However, it all comes down to relationships and how we connect with one another, staying informed on market trends, and working collaboratively with our operations teams to deliver consistently high standards and innovative offerings. Ultimately, it's about being a trusted advisor, not just a service provider.



All for a good cause! A sporting Scott in his Dunkin' Donut costume at his third London Marathon.



Scott inspires to start a Millennium's Green Path Running Club to unite the global running community in taking positive action together.



voices

Q. How did you begin your journey of supporting charitable and meaningful causes?

Giving back and supporting charitable causes has always been a core part of who I am. Over the years, I've raised more than £20,000 for a variety of incredible charities including Teenage Cancer Trust, Children with Cancer UK, Claire House, Macmillan, Steps, Roy Castle Lung Foundation, Prostate Cancer UK, Wigan & Leigh Hospice, Mind, and victims of both the Manchester Arena bombing and the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

In 2017, I took on my most ambitious challenge yet: running 2,017 miles in a single year for Children with Cancer UK. This included 16 marathons, 60 half marathons, and three ultra marathons. That year, I ran the London Marathon for the third time—thanks to sponsorship from Dunkin' Donuts. Yes, I ran it in costume... with a giant donut attached to my head. Chasing that donut for 26.2 miles wasn't easy, but it helped raise over £10,000 for a cause close to my heart.



Since joining MHR, Scott has continued to lead by example in giving back to the community, most recently through his support of Zoe's Place Baby Hospice. After years away from competitive running, he returned to the road in 2024 to complete the Liverpool Half Marathon and London Marathon, raising vital funds for the hospice as part of MHR's Green Path initiative.

Q. How are you and other employees able to support meaningful causes at MHR?

I'm proud to support MHR's Green Path initiative, in particular the partnership between The Hard Day's Night Hotel Liverpool and Zoe's Place Baby Hospice.

At the heart of our Green Path initiative is a deep commitment not only to environmental sustainability but also to community engagement and charitable giving. This is where the partnership between Hard Days Night Liverpool and Zoes Place began, as the hotel's nominated charity for the year.

From a community perspective, we actively support local charities, grassroots organisations, and social causes that align with our values. Across our global portfolio, our hotels engage in initiatives such as food donations, volunteering, educational outreach, and hosting fundraising events. These efforts are not just occasional acts of goodwill—they are part of an ongoing strategy to give back to the communities we serve.



voices

Through *Green Path*, we also encourage our employees to get involved in community projects, promoting a culture of corporate social responsibility. This approach not only strengthens our local relationships but also adds value for our guests and corporate clients, many of whom are equally committed to working with socially responsible partners.

Green Path reflects our belief that hospitality is about more than service—it's about stewardship of the world and people around us.

Q. What are some of the initiatives you have participated in since joining MHR?

After a break from marathons since 2018, I hit the road again in 2024 to support Zoe's Place Baby Hospice. I ran the Liverpool Half Marathon and the London Marathon, raising funds along the way for this incredible cause.

Training began in December, and after years of hanging up my trainers, I had to start from scratch. I trained gradually, building up from short weekday runs to long weekend distances. By race day, I had completed six half marathons and 20-mile training runs. But nothing prepared me for the heatwave on marathon day. Hitting the wall at mile 18, it was the energy of 1.2 million spectators and every donor's support that pushed me to the finish line.

Zoe's Place in Liverpool offers palliative, respite, and end-of-life care for babies and children with life-limiting conditions and complex needs. In late 2024, it faced potential closure. Thanks to a £6 million community-led fundraising effort, its future is now secure with a new facility at Hayman's Green, featuring a hydrotherapy pool, sensory room, and bereavement suite.

Zoe's Place is more than a hospice—it's a lifeline. And with continued support, we can ensure it keeps making a difference for years to come. A big thank you to everyone who helped!

Q. What other meaningful initiatives do you hope to introduce/support in the future?

It would be incredible to launch the Millennium's Green Path Running Club—a global community where our teams across regions can connect, train, and take positive action together. The idea is simple: regardless of distance, speed, or fitness level, it's about making a start, supporting one another, and championing health and well-being.

My goal is to complete every Abbott World Major Marathon and achieve the 6-star finisher medal. With London and Berlin already in the bag, my eyes are set on New York for 2026.



Outside of work, Scott is a passionate photographer who loves capturing the world through his lens. These images, taken during his travels, reflect his creative eye and talent for visual storytelling.



voices

Q. What else do you enjoy outside of work?

Outside of work, I really value spending quality time with my family and with my beloved “human fluff ball” Millie – a Mini Golden Doodle who never says no to a long walk along the beach or through the pine woods! Those moments are a great way to unwind and reconnect with nature.

I’m also a keen photographer, with a particular interest in drone photography and videography. Capturing landscapes from above gives a whole new perspective, and I enjoy exploring creative ways to tell visual stories through my lens. It’s both a hobby and a creative outlet that complements my love for travel and the outdoors.



getting to know you



Digging Into The Past: Millennium Harbourview Xiamen

A testament to Hong Leong Group's early roots in the Mainland.

Hong Leong Group's grand dame in China: Located at the lobby of Millennium Harbourview Xiamen is a stunning themed photo wall and cultural centre dedicated to the hotel's heritage. It showcases Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) strategic presence and transformation across China. The luxury property is located on Zhenhai Road in Siming District, at the heart of Xiamen city's commercial and cultural scene.

As Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) celebrates its 30th anniversary, Hi Life turns its spotlight on a treasured piece of legacy – the pioneering Millennium Harbourview Xiamen. Few may know that the 352-room luxury property (originally built with 367 rooms) stands as a testament to Hong Leong Group's maiden foray into China, and a breakthrough for international hotel brands to enter Xiamen city. From its early origins in 1985 to its rebranding under MHR in 2007, the hotel's journey reflects a unique blend of business foresight, cultural pride, and global ambition.

We present this article with contributions from the hotel's General Manager, Mr Simon Jim and his team.

Early Roots: Forged by Sino-foreign investment and overseas Chinese patriotism

Long before it bore the Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) brand, the hotel was already making history as a pioneering force in Xiamen city's hospitality industry. Its establishment reflects a unique blend of Sino-foreign collaboration, patriotic overseas Chinese investment, and global hospitality leadership.

In the mid-1980s as China opened to the world, bold steps were taken in Xiamen to establish modern hospitality and infrastructure that could serve the city's growing international importance.

Led by the late Hong Leong Group founder Mr Kwek Hong Png, the hotel was borne from a partnership between the former Xiamen Tourism Corporation (now known as Xiamen Tourism Group) and Hong Leong Group in 1985. This model of international partnership was unprecedented in China's hotel sector at that time. The partnership was not only economic, but cultural and strategic, creating one of the first foreign-invested hotel projects in the region.



getting to know you



A patriotic overseas Chinese, the late Hong Leong Group founder Mr Kwek Hong Png's hotel investment was not just driven by business prospects, but by a profound commitment to his ancestral homeland. A native of Tong'an District in Xiamen, he made numerous enduring contributions to his hometown's infrastructure and community developments, including bridges, temples, a community centre, and a primary school (left photo). A commemorative monument to his legacy stands today (right photo).

Shaky Start: Confronting Crisis and Building Resilience

Getting the Xiamen hotel off the ground was no easy task. The deal was struck in 1985 to build the 22 storey, 367-room hotel, and the ground was broken in 1986. But huge technical headaches soon arose, including the removal of a civil defence tunnel beneath the proposed building.



From stumbling blocks to fruition: The early 1990s finally saw the hotel structure take shape, laying the foundation for one of the city's first international hotels.



A game-changer in Xiamen's hospitality industry: The 1992 signing between Hong Leong and IHG with the late CDL Deputy Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Joo (2nd from left) and Hong Leong International (HK) Managing Director Mr Gan Khai Choon (2nd from right).

But the teams persevered. Finally, the hotel officially opened on 5 June 1992 as Holiday Inn Harbourview Hotel Xiamen (later rebranded as Crowne Plaza Harbourview), managed by the InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG).

It became a trailblazer in the local hospitality industry, the first international five-star hotel in Xiamen city, and established itself as the preferred destination for dignitaries, business travellers, and events of distinction.



getting to know you



Opening to great fanfare in 1992: Among the VIPs were the late Mr Kwek (centre) and Mr Gan (2nd from right).



Marking its 10th anniversary in 2002: Mr Gan (far left); next to him is former Hong Leong Holdings (HLH) director and Hong Leong Foundation governor Mr Ong Pang Boon; HLH Assistant Managing Director Mr Kwek Leng Kee and the late Mr Kwek (3rd and 5th from right respectively).

The Turning Point: Embracing a New Era with Millennium Hotels and Resorts in 2007

When the management contract with IHG ended in 2007, the hotel entered a new era and joined the MHR group of hotels helmed by Hong Leong Group Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng. It was rebranded Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen.

This transition was more than a name change. It brought a complete brand refresh, new positioning as a luxury five-star hotel, modernisation of facilities and alignment of service standards with MHR's global portfolio. Under MHR's guidance, the hotel evolved while retaining its loyal guests and expanded its reach to more international visitors.



At the hotel's 20 years in 2012: Mr Gan, Mr Ong, CDL Group Chief Executive Officer Mr Sherman Kwek and guests from Xiamen's distinguished communities.



Today, the hotel has established itself as a benchmark for luxury properties in Xiamen city, distinguished by its refined services and facilities.

Over the decades, Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen has become more than a place to stay. It has established itself as a symbol of the city's transformation and occupies an important position in shaping its local tourism industry.



getting to know you

As one of the first international-standard hotels in the city, it helped shift local tourism from traditional sightseeing to a more sophisticated, experience-based model centred on business travel, leisure, and cultural immersion.



Today in 2025: Millennium Harbourview Xiamen's present management team led by General Manager Mr Simon Jim (centre).



congratulations / appointments



**Celebrating
Excellence:
Millennium Airport
Hotel Dubai
Wins 2025
TripAdvisor
Traveler's
Choice Award**

The 2025 TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Award Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai is a contemporary lifestyle destination for those who desire to be at the centre of Dubai's pulsating business and cultural scene. Besides the TripAdvisor award, the hotel is also recognised as the Middle East's Leading Airport Hotel for the 12th time since 2008.

We are proud to share that Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai has been honoured with the TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Award 2025, placing it among the top 10% of hotels worldwide!

This award is a testament to the team's unwavering dedication to exceptional guest experiences and consistently high service standards. Based entirely on real reviews from global travellers, the recognition speaks volumes about the hotel's strong reputation and world-class hospitality.



Dining outlets at the hotel includes Biggles Pub (left photo), one of the best bars and British pub in Dubai for over 20 years, as well as Fujiya Restaurant (right photo) that offers an authentic Japanese izakaya-style dining experience.

General Manager, Simon Moore, praised the achievement, crediting the team's passion and commitment: "It's an honour to receive this award. This is a reflection of the incredible work our colleagues do every day to make every guest's stay memorable."

Conveniently located near Dubai International Airport, the hotel continues to impress with its spacious accommodations, award-winning dining, and modern leisure offerings — all of which contribute to its continued success on the global stage.



congratulations / appointments



The Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai caters to global business and leisure travellers. The 4-star hotel in Garhoud, near Dubai Airport, features 341 spacious accommodations, including Superior, Deluxe, and Grand Rooms, as well as Executive Deluxe Suites.

Congratulations to the entire team at Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai for this well-deserved recognition!





congratulations / appointments



Copthorne
Merry Hill-Dudley
Honours
Unsung
Community
Heroes

At the 2024 Dudley Civic Awards, Finley Stevens won the YOU West Midlands Youth Award, set up to recognise young people in the borough in honour of Ben Corfield.

Copthorne Hotel Merry Hill-Dudley recently had the honour of hosting the prestigious Dudley Civic Awards 2024, a celebration that shines a spotlight on the borough's unsung community heroes.

Held in the elegant event space, the ceremony welcomed inspirational individuals and groups who make a remarkable difference in the Dudley community, from young achievers and dedicated volunteers to tireless carers and those working to protect the environment. It was a truly moving evening that reflected the spirit of compassion, resilience, and unity.



Councillor Hilary Bills, the Mayor of Dudley, said in her speech: "This was a fantastic evening to celebrate the real unsung heroes of our borough."



Dave Brownhill was the winner of the Frank Foley Award for Community Spirit. He played a leading role behind the scenes in the establishment of both Black Country Radio and the Black Country Festival.

The hotel did a fantastic job delivering warm hospitality and creating a memorable experience for all attendees, including civic leaders and local dignitaries. This opportunity to support our local community and honour these everyday heroes highlights the meaningful role our venues can play beyond accommodation and events.

A big congratulations to the Copthorne Merry Hill team for exemplifying service excellence and for being part of such an inspiring occasion!



congratulations / appointments



The Flower Cottage won the Thomas Attwood Award for Education for its innovative approach to pre-school care, putting on personalised Spanish lessons, visits to care homes and much more.



The Duncan Edwards Award for Sport went to Dudley Council's Bikeability team, which teaches people of all ages across the borough, but particularly children in schools, to learn how to cycle.