

E&O EDITION

23



E&O EDITION

23

HITTING A NEW HIGH

The Mews rises as KL’s latest twin icons

Chapter One

05

PASSAGES FROM THE PAST

A look at the revival of some of George Town’s most iconic landmarks—the E&O Hotel, The Majestic, and Loke Thye Kee Restaurant

14

THREE WAYS TO GET TO KNOW E&O BETTER

Learn some history at the E&O Gallery, shop for souvenirs at Emporium, and discover distinctive properties at the Sales Gallery

20

HERITAGE INHERITED

Travel and Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Joann Khaw on the changing face of George Town

Chapter Two

26

A FUSION OF TWO CULTURES

Four years after its launch, The Mews Serviced Residence was completed on schedule

28

A NEW STANDARD IN CITY LIVING

The Mews Serviced Residence is the new benchmark for Kuala Lumpur’s residential aspirations

36

YOUR OCEANSIDE HAVEN

You’ll want for nothing when you have a home at 18 East at Andaman

40

SEAFRONT SANCTUARIES

Andorra Skyloft Terraces, Amaris Terraces By-The-Sea®, and Ariza Seafront Terraces are the three gems that make up Seri Tanjung Pinang’s landed development by the sea

44

A HOME, AND A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION HUB

Avira Garden Terraces places you within easy reach of EduCity Iskandar Malaysia and its multitude of learning institutions

49

QUEN OF ORIENTAL FASHION

Monica Ong is continuing her quest to ensure that the qipao is always relevant

52

NYONYA FOOD THAT’S TRUE TO ITS ROOTS

Florist-turned-chef Rosie Yew serves nothing but the most authentic Nyonya food at her Straits Quay restaurant

Chapter Three

55

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Let the E&O Residences be your home away from home

58

THERE’S ALWAYS TIME FOR TEA

Keep up the quintessential English culture of Afternoon Tea at 1885 Restaurant

60

WRAP UP 2017, HELLO 2018!

Sing and dance your way into the tail end of the year before welcoming the next

62

THE NEVERENDING SUMMER

Live like royalty at The Aman at Summer Palace

E&O EDITION

All materials published remain the property of Eastern & Oriental Berhad. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form nor by any means – graphic, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording – without prior written permission of the publisher. Every effort has been made to ensure the credits accurately comply with the information supplied.

Chapter One

PASSAGES FROM THE PAST

Penang’s built heritage may not be completely intact but thanks to careful preservation and reconstruction, these architectural gems are revelling in renewed leases of life.

WHEN THE EASTERN MET THE ORIENTAL

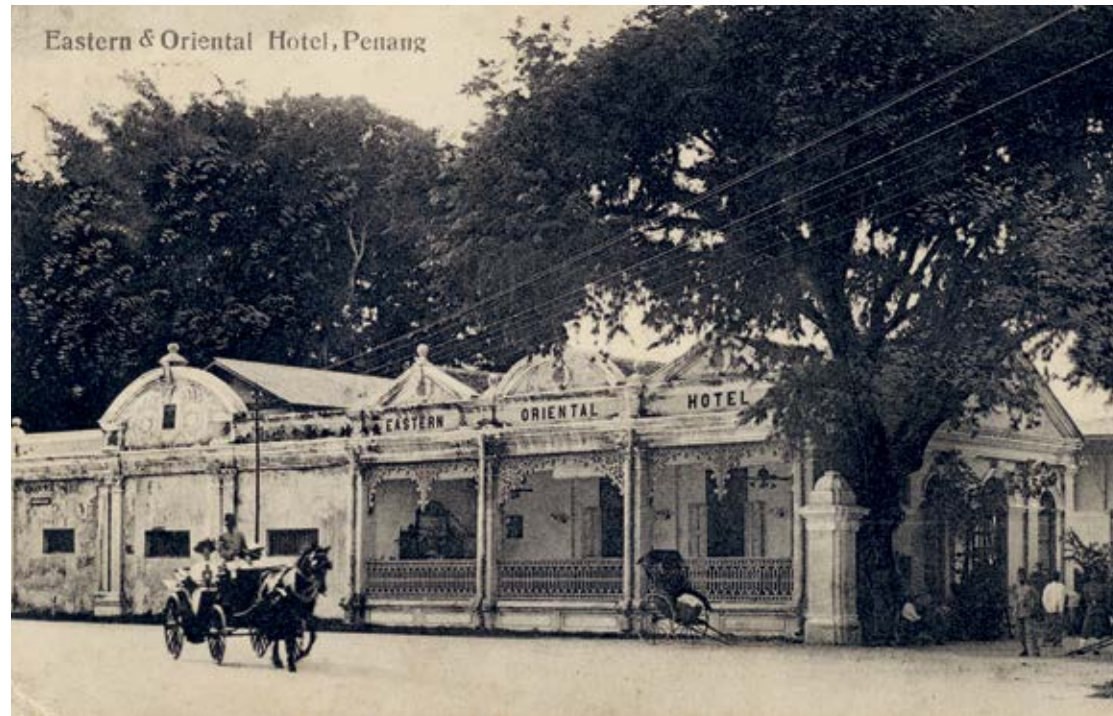
The Eastern & Oriental Hotel’s story is well told. Fondly revered as the Grand Dame of Penang, it was established by the Sarkies brothers of Armenian lineage, who initially built a hotel they named The Eastern, in 1884. It was so well received that one year later, Martin and Tigran built a second hotel, The Oriental. The two were then combined to become the household name that is E&O.

The luxurious property provided numerous talking points: Its Moorish minarets, visually-striking domed lobby, more than 100 rooms, baths with hot and cold running water, individual telephones in the rooms, and the world’s longest hotel seafront that measured 824 feet. The E&O was indeed, impressive on all levels and unsurprisingly, drew the who’s who of its time. Wealthy planters, society elites, and colonial administrators counted among its guests, who rubbed shoulders with celebrated literati the likes of Rudyard Kipling, Somerset Maugham, and Herman Hesse.

It was, as advertised in 1927, the ‘Premier Hotel East of the Suez’ and it lived up to that sobriquet for years. Until World War II struck, that is. Post-war, stiff competition drove the hotel to a gradual decline and the downward spiral continued for decades. In 1996, the E&O was closed for major refurbishment that took five years. The easternmost section, which was added in 1929 as a new wing, was reimagined in the hotel’s older design while the shopping annexe, housed in the building that was originally The Eastern, was repurposed to become the new central wing.

On 3 April 2001, the E&O Hotel opened its doors once again, under the E&O Group who later added a 122-room Victory Annex tower to complement the Heritage Wing. Since then, the E&O Hotel has returned to favour among discerning travellers and diners. There are guests who return year after year, not just to relive the memories of the past but to make new ones, with extended generations in tow. Families recall milestone celebrations that took place in the 400-seat Grand Ballroom, couples relive the romance of their garden weddings by the Andaman Sea while the island’s oldest Java tree stands by as witness.

The E&O is today, as it was during its heyday, evocative of timeless charm and opulence. From expansive suites furnished with the finest to impeccable and personable silver service, the hotel is, as regulars are fond of saying: “A place where there is always enough time for the things that really matter.”



The E&O then and now; after years of decline and a major refurbishment, the Grand Dame of Penang was restored to its original glory



The E&O has always stood as a paean to timeless elegance and opulence



Rooms and suites in the Heritage Wing maintain that old-world charm that first drew discerning travellers to the E&O



In restoring the E&O, great care was taken to preserve its stately features and many intricate details



The Loke Thye Kee building was purpose-built as a restaurant and shaped like a ship, befitting its location by the Prangin Canal

RESETTING THE STAGE FOR THE FUTURE

It was where cabaret doyenne Rose Chan once held audiences spellbound with her risqué acts. Locals later flocked there to experience the first northern Malaysian ‘talkies’, or cinemas that featured sound. Indeed, The Majestic was the heart of Penang’s entertainment and nightlife back in the day.

Founded by local businessman and philanthropist Khoo Sian Ewe, the theatre was built in 1926, and was then a popular hangout for dating couples and families. Hawker stalls flanked the small lanes off the main road, tempting cinema-goers with a variety of hot food. For special occasions, the place to be was Loke Thye Kee Restaurant, a purpose-built Hainanese diner sitting diagonally across The Majestic. Located by the Prangin Canal, boats would conveniently offload fresh produce for the restaurant’s use. Opened in 1919, the building was also built by Khoo Sian Ewe and in the shape of a boat, which later lent to its beloved nickname of Love Boat as it hosted many matchmaking meals.

Iconic as both were, the theatre couldn’t sustain its business past the late 1980s while the restaurant languished until 1996. Both buildings were then left abandoned, until Singapore-based 1919 Global bought them over in 2007. After years of careful refurbishment, the Love Boat building reopened as a casual café on the ground floor while its upper level can be rented for private functions.

The Majestic, meanwhile, wants to reclaim its title as the ‘Grand Old Lady’ of entertainment and events. Restored to its original British colonial design based on photographs dating back to the 1930s, the building is now a multi-purpose space that can host anything from movie screenings to weddings, brand launches and even sports competitions.

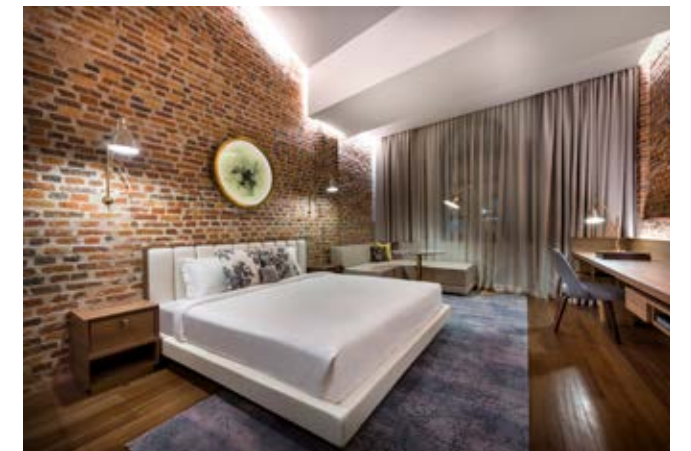
The Main Hall, which can accommodate 800 people or 60 banquet tables, is decked out in striking black and white floor tiles and a large stage modelled after cinema screens. The level above the hall is a balcony area that used to house the cinema’s First Class seats has been adapted into The Circle, ideal for cocktails and small events. The feature wall, adorned with a mural that’s really a collage of classic movie stars’ portraits, makes a great photo backdrop for any occasion while the former projector room is now a private VIP box that includes a holding room.

Not content with bringing these two classic beauties back into the limelight, 1919 Global also bought over five pre-war shophouses adjacent to the restaurant and converted them into the suites-only Loke Thye Kee Residences. Befitting its locale, the design and décor lovingly marries its past with the present, offering modern luxuries with a respect for traditions.

Altogether, the trio—The Majestic, Loke Thye Kee Restaurant building, and Loke Thye Kee Residences—harks back to an old-world romance that far from being outdated, feels fresh and relevant all over again.



Clockwise from top left: The Main Hall; at night, at night, its atmospheric aura is an instant throwback to The Majestic's heydays; this mural pays homage to the big names in the Chinese entertainment industry of yesteryears



Loke Thye Kee Residences converted five shophouses into five luxurious suites that promise an immersive stay steeped in heritage



The E&O Gallery is a well-curated passage through time that details the hotel's past and Penang's history

THREE WAYS TO GET TO KNOW E&O BETTER

Stay with us, dine with us ... want to know even more about the E&O Group? Visit us at these special touchpoints.

Did you know that E&O Hotel's history is closely linked with Penang's growth? Trace the story and you will be rewarded with interesting insights into the state's social and cultural milestones in the last century and a quarter.

Stop by the **E&O Gallery** at the hotel's Victory Annexe, a joint project between the hotel and Think City Sdn Bhd under the George Town Grants Programme. You will be mesmerised by the intimate stories, classic photographs and ephemera, and actual antiques that have been kept carefully. The precious collection was built from loans and contributions by hotel guests, both local and foreign, who added to the wealth of information by sharing personal anecdotes and recollections. The quaint space has been maximised to showcase an experiential narrative that will take you back to the glory days of the Pearl of the Orient and the era of the Sarkies brothes.

After your Gallery visit, step over to the adjacent **Emporium**, the hotel's souvenir outlet that carries an exciting array of gifts and collectibles, including one-of-a-kind products handcrafted by local artisans as well as a small but exquisite range featuring E&O's trademark. Jewellery, bags, apparel, pewterware, shoes, whimsical toys, and Malaysian-themed designs make up the rest of the merchandise that will tempt you into a dose of retail therapy. Book lovers will be pleased with the volumes on offer such as *Ilsa Sharp's The E&O Hotel – Pearl of Penang*, which chronicles and celebrates the hotel's journey from 1885 to date.

The E&O Group's properties extend well beyond the hotel; in Penang, the company's success story includes the Seri Tanjung Pinang masterplanned development, one of the island's most coveted residential addresses. In Kuala Lumpur, existing and upcoming projects are further cementing the Group's presence and esteem as a premier property developer. Looking for your dream home? Visit our **Sales Gallery** at:

SERI TANJUNG PINANG, TANJUNG TOKONG, 10470 PULAU PINANG | T 04 890 9999

WWW.SERITANJUNGPINANG.COM



Antiques and memorabilia at the E&O Gallery were donated by the hotel's guests, past and present



The inviting entrance to E&O Gallery at the hotel's Victory Annexe



Shop for gifts and handmade designs by Penang artisans at Emporium



Joann Khaw has been a tour guide for over 20 years and is also certified as a Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide

HERITAGE INHERITED

Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Joann Khaw on the changing face of George Town and why local needs should always come first.

George Town has come a long way since earning its coveted World Heritage Site listing from UNESCO in 2008, an honour that was bestowed upon the city for its multi-cultural tangible and intangible heritage. Consequently, tourist numbers have multiplied and along with that, the core heritage zone has seen a marked increase of guest houses, dining options, and souvenir stores, effectively altering its townscape.

Rustic pre-war shophouses that once housed generations of a family running their traditional businesses have given way to trend-chasing cafes dressed for Instagram moments. Once bucolic, today's Lebuhr Armenian is an incessant hive of activities on weekends, populated by tourists on rented bicycles or hired trishaws queueing up for their turn to pose with Ernest Zacharevic's iconic Little Children On A Bicycle mural.

The changes are indeed palpable. Just ask Joann Khaw, a Penang native who walks these roads regularly, leading tourists on guided tours as she has for over two decades. The buildings within the vicinity of Khoo Kongsi, she remembers, were all private residences. "The antique stop is still there, and offers bicycles for rent. The rattan-weaving uncle was evicted several times and is currently renting a little space inside a furniture shop. Hopefully, he can continue to service his regular clients from there."

In fact, many of the original occupants of the heritage zone have left the area as premises are sold off or turned into tourist-centric businesses while old trades succumb to rising rentals. The irony, Joann notes, is that the people and their way of life are all part of the intangible heritage that earned the city its UNESCO listing. The residents are of interest to Joann as she is also a Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide, certified in April 2007 after completing a course endorsed by UNESCO, co-signed by the Ministry of Tourism and Penang Heritage Trust.

"I cater to a lot of cultural travellers—these are not the regular sightseeing tourists but those who have an interest in the city's heritage and arts. They tend to stay longer, and many are repeat visitors to Penang," Joann explains. Their tours tend to be customised and groups are kept small so as to provide a more inclusive and immersive experience, with plenty of opportunity to chat, meet the people and very importantly for Joann, to support small businesses and local industries.



Clockwise from top left: The dome at E&O's Heritage Wing lobby gives off an interesting echo effect; The Edison has been refurbished into a luxury hotel; Joann's guests having a go at Chinese fortune sticks; join Joann's guided tours for an in-depth look at George Town's heritage; a joyful encounter at the clan jetties

The people are the heart and pulse of the city; when they leave an area, they take a bit of its soul with them. "Architecture without people is like a person without memories," she muses but make no mistake—Joann is not against buildings being repurposed. Change, after all, is imminent and development often a necessary evil.

Her stand is that George Town needs to prioritise safeguarding its essence over pandering to tourist dollars. That means meeting local needs first. "What's good for locals is always good for tourists, but what's good for tourists may not be so for locals," she explains.

Joann is not alone in her concerns, George Town Heritage Action, a Facebook group she co-founded with Mark Lay in May 2015, has over 11,000 members who actively share information and initiate discussions on relevant issues.

One of the key approaches mooted by the group is the execution of the George Town Special Area Plan, gazetted in 2016, which outlines much-needed strategies and guidance that allow changes to take place within a framework of conservation and protection. It recognises the people and communities that live within the World Heritage Site, enabling them to keep up their cultural and social practices. It also addresses threats and issues that would hamper heritage conservation, and identify emerging risks to facilitate monitoring.

Ultimately, Joann says, it all boils down to proper management and enforcement. Parts of George Town's heritage may have faded beyond restoration, but she believes that it's never too late as the city is dynamic.

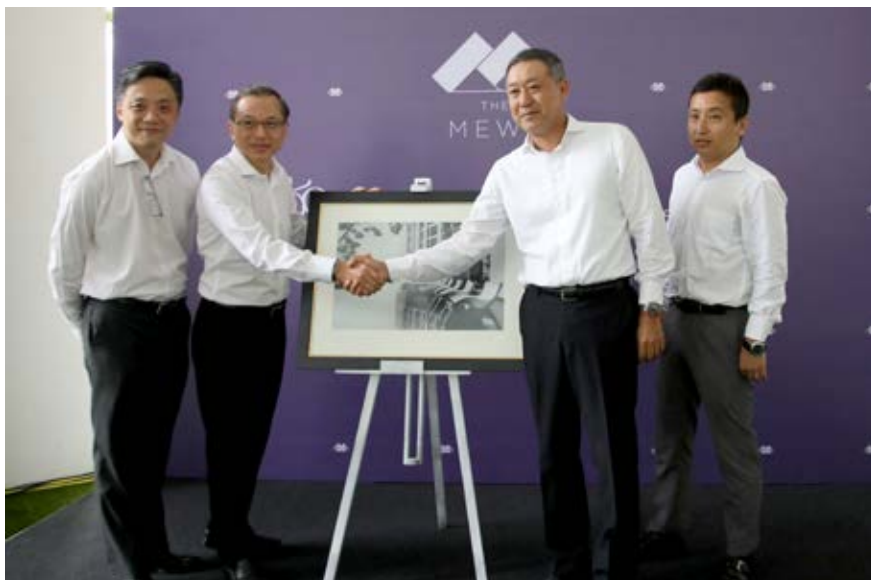
Where built heritage conservation is concerned, her favourites include The Edison, a colonial mansion restored into a luxurious boutique hotel, and E&O Hotel. "Whenever I have guests who are staying at E&O, I would arrange to meet them at the Heritage Wing lobby. I'd ask them to stand under the centre dome while I speak to them from the side of the room. The kids always jump because they can hear me like I'm right next to them!"

If you'd like to sign up for one of Joann's guided tours, email her at joannkhaw@gmail.com or call +6016 440 6823

Chapter Two



The Mews Serviced Residences, completed in October 2017, presents 256 custom-designed units in two 38-storey towers



CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF THE MEWS

LEFT: From left: Wayne Wong, Senior General Manager, Marketing & Sales of E&O; Kok Tuck Cheong, Managing Director, E&O; Takehito Fukui, Managing Director, Mitsui Fudosan (Asia) Malaysia Sdn Bhd; Shigeki Komi, General Manager for Residential Dept, Mitsui Fudosan (Asia) Malaysia Sdn Bhd

RIGHT: Fukui and Kok releasing auspicious koi into a water feature at The Mews as a symbolic representation of bringing new life into the joint-venture development while Wong and Komi look on

A FUSION OF TWO CULTURES

The Mews marks the successful completion of E&O and Mitsui Fudosan's maiden partnership.

In March of 2013, the Eastern & Oriental Berhad (E&O) and Japan's largest developer, Mitsui Fudosan Co. Ltd (Mitsui Fudosan) marked a momentous occasion when the two parties inked a deal to jointly develop a high-end residential project to the tune of RM469 million. This followed a sales and marketing collaboration that was signed in 2011.

Now, four years later, The Mews Serviced Residences comprising 256 custom-designed units in two 38-storey towers, has been completed as scheduled.

E&O managing director, Kok Tuck Cheong, described the partnership as “an honour ... where two different cultures merged with a single aspiration of presenting an exceptional product to our customers.” Takehito Fukui, Managing Director of Mitsui Fudosan (Asia) Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (MFAM), echoed the sentiments. “The Mews sets a new benchmark for high-end residences in the Kuala Lumpur city centre. The completion of The Mews also demonstrates that both E&O and Mitsui Fudosan share the same philosophy of developing high-quality luxury residences.”

The elegant form of The Mews' twin structures stands out amidst Kuala Lumpur's skyline, which Kok attributes to the creative foresight of GDP Architects and Seksan Design, Malaysia's foremost architects and landscape designers, respectively. “Through their work, we have been able to articulate the desired concept of ‘understated stylish simplicity’ that is the essence of The Mews,” he said.

Occupying a prime location within the capital city's central business district yet affording the privacy and exclusivity of a hidden sanctuary, The Mews is making waves. With built-up areas that range from 922 to 2,619 square feet in configurations of 1- and 2-bedroom serviced residences as well as penthouses, the residential units exemplify E&O's brand values, balancing form and functionality with elegance.

That philosophy runs through every feature of The Mews—from the sixth floor area that houses lifestyle facilities and an exclusive water sanctuary to the 37th floor deck that's highlighted by an open lawn and private manicured garden, complete with breathtaking 180-degree city views.



The Mews is uniquely positioned to be in the heart of the city centre yet hidden away from its hustle and bustle

A NEW STANDARD IN CITY LIVING

The Mews Serviced Residences sets the bar high for Kuala Lumpur's residential goals.

To be in the heart of the city and within easy reach of its conveniences, yet so removed in vibe as to be a soothing haven is certainly no mean feat. But it can be done, as The Mews Serviced Residences has shown.

Its excellent position within Kuala Lumpur's prime cosmopolitan area means that the city's hotspots—be it for sightseeing, dining, shopping, or the arts—are short commutes away so residents can fully savour all the conveniences of an urban lifestyle. Yet, once you step within the well-guarded premises of The Mews, the hustle fades away and the bustle slows down considerably.

When you have a home at The Mews, you have a private sanctuary that's conceptualised for refined living among expansive spaces filled with leisure and recreational comforts. Level 6 is set to be residents' favourite, with a Water Sanctuary that's home to several swimming pools and a pond, along with a squash court, gymnasium, children's playground, residents' lounge, a function room and multi-purpose hall. The Rooftop is expected to be equally popular, with a postcard-perfect terrace and landscaped garden sharing the spotlight with an open lawn, private garden, and function space.

Each of the 256 residential units is custom designed for the ultimate in form and function. Generous storage spaces, including walk-in wardrobes and a full height shoe cabinet, fulfil every homeowner's key need, complemented by quality appliances and fittings. WiFi in the common areas ensure that residents can stay connected anywhere within the property while top-notch concierge services and security systems—synonymous with the E&O brand—are in place for utmost peace of mind.

The Mews Serviced Residences is the kind of home you'd want to stay in at all day and immerse in all that it offers, because it feels like there's little else that you need. But if you do want to venture out to the city, just hop aboard the complementary shuttle service to key locations around the Kuala Lumpur city centre.

WWW.THE-MEWS.COM



From lifestyle areas to fitness facilities, every feature of The Mews was designed for the ultimate in urban living



From top: Mod, sleek furniture complement the premium interior fittings; this landscaped pool is one of several on Level 6



Residential units range in size from 922 to 2,619 square feet, providing ample living and leisure space



An understated stylish simplicity lies at the heart of The Mews, the first joint-venture development between E&O and Mitsui Fudosan Co. Ltd



Here's the key
to refinement.

Completed luxury homes
await the discerning few.



T +6017 266 1188
E enquiry@the-mews.com
www.the-mews.com

The Mews, KLCC
19, Jalan Yap Kwan Seng,
50450 Kuala Lumpur.

An international collaboration between



mitsui FUDOSAN RESIDENTIAL

f E&O Living

@eandoliving

The Mews, KLCC

Witness the mastery of craftsmanship in our newly-completed apartments. Be impressed with the refined design and meticulous details that distinguish this new landmark in the city. Venture to the rooftop sky garden or refresh in the infinity pool as the panorama of Kuala Lumpur unfolds before you.

Limited units available.

- Ready for occupancy
- Furnished 1 Bedroom and 3+1 Bedroom units available
- Sizes between 925 sq ft – 2066 sq ft
- Priced from MYR1.65mil onwards

Come, let us connect you to the pulse of the city.



The Mews lives up to E&O's brand values of balancing form and functionality with elegance



The two-level clubhouse is one of a myriad privileges that residents of 18 East at Andaman have access to

YOUR OCEANSIDE HAVEN

18 East at Andaman is everything you covet in a tropical hideaway and dream of for your home.

Imagine being on vacation every day, waking up to restful vibes that put you in a jolly mood right away. You start with a good breakfast and then decide how you’d like to relax for the rest of the day. Take a leisurely dip in the infinity pool? Surrender to a massage?

You can bask in that kind of mode when you call 18 East at Andaman home. The final residential tower in the exclusive Seri Tanjung Pinang development houses 210 suites that range from 877 sq ft one-bedroom units to penthouses that span 4,351 sq ft, all exquisitely appointed to suit finer tastes.

Access to the tower is made easy with a dedicated private entrance lobby, where personalised concierge services are available. Synonymous with E&O’s signature premium hospitality, this convenience is delivered with utmost care and attention. Residents also have the luxury of a private gym, café bar, Wi-Fi, housekeeping, laundry, and even bill payment facilities. On top of that, they hold a premier card that entitles them to special privileges at E&O Hotel and Straits Quay.

Further reflecting E&O’s reputation as a premier lifestyle developer, 18 East at Andaman draws on the brand’s heritage of timeless elegance in its design and decor. Mirroring the hotel’s august aesthetics, the suites are fitted with top-of-the-line furnishings and highlighted by classic details such as claw foot bath tubs and herringbone flooring.

Hotel, home, or heaven on earth? 18 East at Andaman ticks all the boxes.

WWW.QUAYSIDERESORT.COM/18EASTANDAMAN.PHP



Living space at the two bedroom show unit.



Appreciating the enduring values in people's lives inspires us to create places of true worth. 18 East at Andaman is a premium reserve collection of exquisitely-appointed residences with dedicated entrances and personalised privileges. This exclusive seafront condominium is set within a fully-completed 4.5-acre waterpark within Seri Tanjung Pinang, the address of luxury island living and a haven to create memories that last a lifetime.

Those who know, insist on E&O

.....

Call your dedicated 18 East Concierge at the number below or visit our gallery for a taste of life at the pinnacle of the Andaman Sea.

SALES GALLERY & SHOW UNITS OPEN DAILY FROM 10AM - 6PM
 Seri Tanjung Pinang, Tanjung Tokong, 10470 Penang, Malaysia
T +604 890 9999
F +604 899 1122
www.quaysideresort.com
www.seritanjungpinang.com



18
EAST
ANDAMAN



Residents enter through a dedicated private lobby; a claw foot bathtub provides an outlet for relaxation; herringbone flooring adds a touch of timelessness in the kitchen

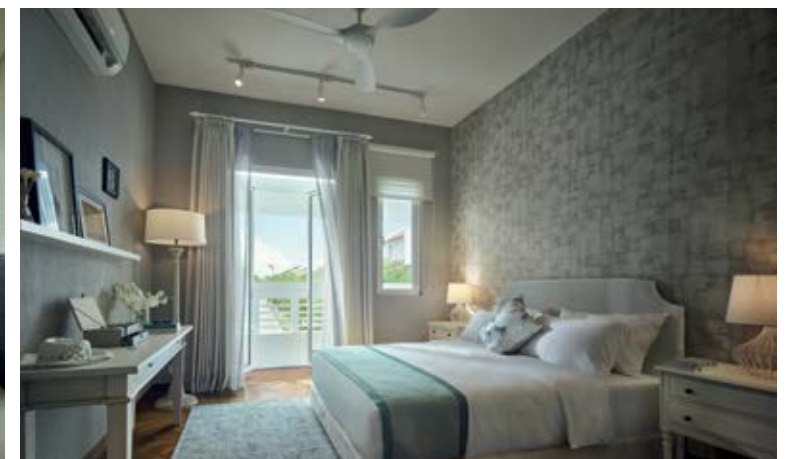
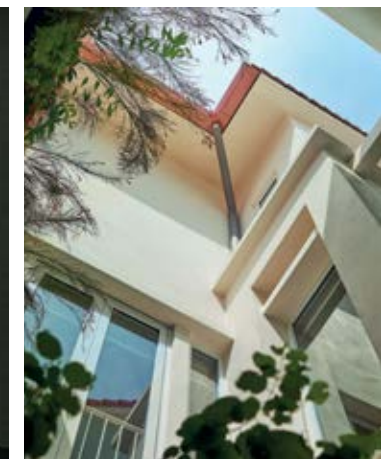
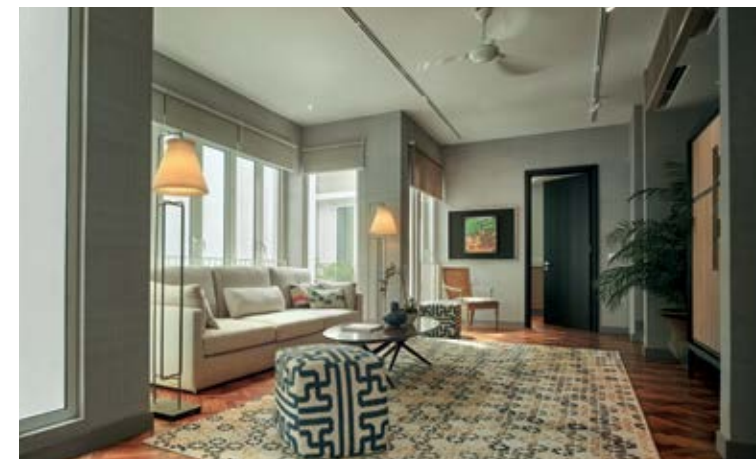
SEAFRONT SANCTUARIES

*E&O Berhad has created an ideal residential hub at
Seri Tanjung Pinang with three latest landed developments by the sea.*





From top: Andorra Skyloft Terraces; Amaris Terraces By-The-Sea®; Ariza Seafront Terraces



From top: Andorra Skyloft Terraces; Amaris Terraces By-The-Sea®; Ariza Seafront Terraces



Avira Garden Terraces, one of just a handful of landed properties at Medini Iskandar Malaysia, delivers a holistic and harmonious lifestyle

A HOME, AND A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION HUB

Avira, part of the Medini Iskandar Malaysia township in Johor, places residents within arm's reach of premier learning facilities.

Work, play, learn, and live—striking a balance among these is a life goal many strive for, but it’s certainly no mean feat, with multiple factors to consider and dynamic variables that can upset the equation in a snap.

Medini Iskandar Malaysia (MIM), an upscale township in Johor’s Iskandar Puteri, is paving the way towards that, with the aim of becoming the ‘Icon of Future City Living’. It wants to provide a harmonious environment that maintains that balance while respecting nature and sustaining the future. A tall order, no doubt, but one that’s fast becoming a reality.

Located within this visionary flagship zone is the 207-acre Avira masterplanned development, a joint venture by Eastern & Oriental Berhad with Khazanah Nasional Berhad and Temasek Holdings Pte Ltd, and one of only a handful of landed properties at Medini.

The luxe, picture-perfect homes are the ideals of tropical living, boasting expansive frontages with uninterrupted spatial flow between the outdoors and indoors. Each unit comes complete with a private courtyard that’s showered in abundant natural light and optimum air circulation, bringing a slice of nature and the outdoors in. A neighbourly spirit is encouraged at the back gardens, which extend into communal green spaces that are designed for sharing and mingling.

Can it get any more idyllic than that? Evidently, yes. Avira is located just minutes from the Puteri Harbour Ferry Terminal and the Second Link into Singapore, affording optimum access and convenience.



*Clockwise from left: This green space at Avira is one of many that invite you to be in harmony with nature;
EduCity Iskandar Malaysia provides a world-class learning environment*

For families with school-going children, it gets even better: Avira shares an address with EduCity Iskandar Malaysia, an education hub that promises world-class educators and facilities amidst a vibrant environment that's conducive to learning. EduCity, just 7km from Avira, is home to no less than three international schools and seven universities from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Parents can choose between Sunway International School, Marlborough College Malaysia, and Raffles American School for their young ones' early to tertiary education. The former sits directly across Avira, while the other two are minutes away by car. Each offers a distinctive syllabus and unique approach to learning, so it's a matter of identifying which best suits your child and encourages their ideal personal development.

College-ready students have no shortage of options either. The University of Nottingham Malaysia, Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia, University of Southampton, University of Reading, Raffles University Iskandar, Multimedia University and Netherlands Maritime Institute of Technology all have their presence here.

All these, nestled across 207 acres that make up Medini Central in Iskandar Puteri, makes Avira Garden Terraces not just a first-rate property but a holistic lifestyle waiting to happen. It's right up there as one of the best investments in the Southern Corridor.

WWW.AVIRA-MEDINI.COM.MY



WELCOME TO WHERE THE OLD WORLD MEETS THE NEW

Times may have changed.
But, at the Eastern & Oriental Hotel, we still hold our traditions dear.
Traditions that are steeped in opulence and hospitality,
charm and generosity.

Stay with us for an experience that stays with you.

10 Lebuhr Farquhar, 10200 Penang, Malaysia
T 604 222 2000 F 604 261 6333 E luxury@eohotels.com
www.eohotels.com

RETAIL

QUEN OF ORIENTAL FASHION

*From sleek qipao to brocade-embellished pieces,
Monica Quen is the name to turn to for chic Oriental fashion.*

The qipao may be traditional wear but it is setting its footprint in contemporary fashion, thanks to updated designs with current appeal. Designer Monica Ong is among those who are instrumental in building up the qipao’s popularity among today’s fashionistas through her eponymous (Quen is her Chinese name) boutiques in Penang—at the E&O Hotel and Straits Quay—and Kuala Lumpur.

The younger generation, she’s observed, are increasingly taking to the qipao and Monica, a graduate of London’s Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, couldn’t be more pleased. “It’s important to keep building on that interest; I continuously strive to come up with younger looks.”

Fabric choice is of utmost important. “It can’t be too stiff or it will look rigid. It mustn’t be too soft either as it needs to hold its shape. Cotton and linen are generally accepted by the young,” Monica explains. Silhouette is another key consideration; where the qipao used to be unforgivingly form-fitting, today’s form is a lot more relaxed and adaptable to all body shapes and sizes.

At Monica’s boutiques, you can browse qipao in a myriad designs, colours, prints, and textiles. Many of her customers favour a material called netting, which is super stretchy for optimum comfort, while the lace printed on cotton has a unique outlook that’s sure to turn heads. There are knee-length dresses for everyday wear and ankle-length pieces for glamorous occasions. You will find cotton qipao with straight-cut shapes bearing geometric motifs rather than the usual flowers. Inspired by Maggie Cheung’s character in *In The Mood For Love*, there’s a certain cinematic elegance to it. Likewise the ‘Soong Mei-Ling’, loose fitting pieces with Chinese knot buttons that were the preferred style during Madame Chiang’s era.

So which of these should you add to your wardrobe? “Anyone can look good in a qipao,” Monica promises with a smile. “It’s just a matter of finding the right cut and fabric that will flatter you.”

If you’re lucky enough to catch Monica herself at the boutique, she will help you narrow down your best options. “I often have fathers bringing their daughters here to shop. The young ladies are hesitant at first but after trying on the pieces I recommend, they change their minds. They wear it to their prom and get a lot of compliments from the boys. Then they return to the store on their own and buy more!”

MONICA QUEN

LOT 3A-G-29, GROUND FLOOR
STRAITS QUAY RETAIL MARINA
JALAN SERI TANJUNG PINANG
TANJUNG TOKONG, 10470 PENANG
T 04 890 8368

GROUND FLOOR, UNIT NO. 5
VICTORY ANNEXE
10 LEBUHR FARQUHAR
10200 PENANG
T 04 261 8368

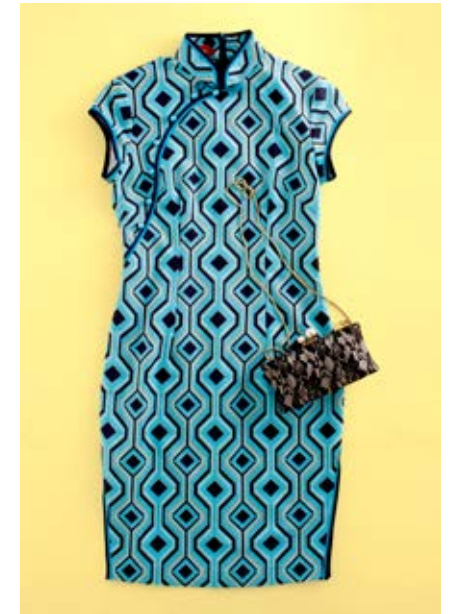
7 JALAN SETIAPUSPA
MEDAN DAMANSARA,
50490 KUALA LUMPUR
T 03 2095 8368

WWW.MONICAQUEN.COM

49



Monica Ong (top left) has been contemporising and popularising the qipao and other Oriental fashion through her eponymous boutiques, which also carry a range of accessories



Monica says that anyone can look good in a qipao—you just need to find the right cut and fabric for your body shape



Authentic and well-developed flavours are the hallmarks of Nyonya Breeze Desire's offerings

NYONYA FOOD THAT'S TRUE TO ITS ROOTS

For authentic Penang Peranakan cuisine, look no further than Nyonya Breeze Desire.

“The most important thing in Nyonya cooking is taste,” says Rosie Yew, chef and owner of Nyonya Breeze Desire at Straits Quay. “If it’s meant to be spicy, you must taste the heat. If it’s a sweet dish, then it should be so.” It may sound like stating the obvious, but how often have you been disappointed by a curry that’s insipid rather than fiery, or let down by mere hints of an ingredient that really should be the star of the dish?

Rosie does not compromise on quality and authenticity, even if it means having to make everything—including the nutmeg syrup for the beloved beverage—from scratch. She learnt most of the recipes from her mother and her *sifu*, the late Dato Lim Vian Yam, a chef and flower art maestro. Rosie herself was a florist before switching to the food and beverage industry at the age of 60.

Her restaurant doesn’t have an extensive menu but there’s everything the Nyonya cuisine lover wants. Kari Kapitan, Jiu Hu Char, Perut Ikan, and Tau Eu Bak are loved by most; Prawn Sambal Goreng is a top seller alongside Huan Chu Heok Masak Lemak (sweet potato leaf curry). There is one dish that practically every table will order—the Egg Belanda, fried egg in a sweet and sour tamarind sauce. Its popularity surprised Rosie, who says it’s an old recipe that only came to mind when she was devising her menu. “My children asked why I never cooked it for them ... I’d forgotten about it!”

While Rosie, who first opened her restaurant in Tanjung Bungah 11 years ago and moved to Straits Quay in 2010, remains faithful to the classics, she has also injected her creativity into dishes that are unique to Nyonya Breeze Desire. The Kerabu Celery & Green Apple is one of the them, a salad that marries the crispness of celery with the tartness of green apples, bathed in a dressing of *sambal belacan*, lime juice, and dried shrimps. It has the essence of a *kerabu*, refreshed with a Western twist.

Another Rosie original is the Pork Rendang, which blends spices with coconut milk and kaffir lime leaves to a satisfyingly savoury finish. The tender pork slices soak up the thick curry well and is just the dish to pair with steamed rice. The complexity and depth of its flavours indicate the amount of work that goes into its preparation, even if the dish itself may appear simple.

Likewise the Acar Hu, fried *siakap* steaks in vinegar and turmeric oil, garnished with ginger and garlic. The key component, Rosie says, is the sauce. The turmeric is fried until the oil turns a bright yellow and then a good amount of vinegar is added. It can be an acquired taste for some but if you are a fan of sour flavours, you will adore Rosie’s version of this Nyonya staple!

NYONYA BREEZE DESIRE
3A-1-7, FIRST FLOOR, STRAITS QUAY RETAIL MARINA,
JALAN SERI TANJUNG PINANG, TANJUNG TOKONG, 10470 PENANG | T 04 899 9058

WWW.STRAITSQUAY.COM

Chapter Three

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

E&O Residences encapsulates the very best of Kuala Lumpur, letting you experience the city as a local resident would.

You land in an unfamiliar destination and check into a hotel. You explore to your heart's content and at the end of each day, come back to a room that, comfortable as it may be, is little more than a transient point to rest the head. Sometimes, that's not enough. You want to go deeper under the skin. You've already seen the city, but what is it like to actually live in it?

At the E&O Residences, located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur's Central Business District (CBD), you don't just get to experience the vibrant capital—you become a part of its pulse and rhythm. Its 200 stylish suites effortlessly marry the warmth and personality of an intimate hotel with the spatial comfort and luxuries of a serviced residence, with unparalleled skyline views to boot.

With its extensive facilities, E&O Residences has every type of traveller covered: A full-fledged business centre with secretarial services; a 1.2-acre landscaped garden courtyard and children's playground; a state-of-the-art Gym & Exercise Room, complete with a Meditation & Yoga Room for mindful 'me' time; an outdoor infinity pool and sunbathing deck that looks out to two of the city's most majestic skyscrapers, the Petronas Twin Towers and Menara Kuala Lumpur.

More amenities await in the suites. Choose between cosy one-bedroom units meant for up to three guests, and two-bedroom apartments that are ideal for groups or small families of up to five persons. All suites are fitted with top-of-the-line home entertainment system, free-standing bath, and a fully-equipped kitchen should you wish to flex your culinary muscles.

Or have your meals provided for—dial the 24-hour reception and the Concierge Service will see to your needs, whether it's a table reservation you require or food delivery. Their assistance extends beyond that; you can have them sort out your limousine transfers, currency exchange, even score you front-row seats to the latest theatre production.

Your dining options also include the two-storey St Mary Place retail annexe downstairs, where on-trend cafes and bistros serve international cuisines while lifestyle outlets such as spas and boutiques round up the offering.

In short, you will want for nothing and really, you should expect nothing less. After all, this acclaimed property that shares the name and pedigree of Penang's legendary Eastern & Oriental Hotel delivers the same impeccable service and hospitality. It's no wonder that travellers picked the E&O Residences to win Hotels.com's Loved By Guests Awards twice in the last two years.

WWW.EORESIDENCES.COM



Get a taste of what it's like to truly live in Kuala Lumpur at the E&O Residences



Spacious living space, soothing landscaping, and all the essential lifestyle amenities every traveller wants



1885 Traditional Afternoon Tea

THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR TEA

The epitome of colonial refinement, 1885 Restaurant invites you to indulge in a spot of English afternoon tea.

The year was 1885. Three Armenian brothers became the toast of Penang when they opened the doors of the Eastern & Oriental Hotel, a luxurious property that boasted running water, individual telephones, and the longest hotel seafront in the world. It was, deservedly, crowned 'The Premier Hotel East of the Suez' and welcomed respected personalities the likes of Douglas Fairbanks, Rudyard Kipling, and Somerset Maugham as its guests.

The E&O, as it became known, symbolised the best of the Victorian era and its indulgences. It was during this period that English afternoon tea, initially meant simply as tummy fillers between lunch and dinner, took on a life of its own and grew into a social event where ladies of leisure would gather to sip fresh brews and nibble on dainty cakes, finger sandwiches and light pastries.

That era may be long gone but the practice remains as popular, not only in England but other parts of the world where the Queen once reigned. At the E&O's 1885 Restaurant, this quintessential English culture lives on in with a sophistication that befits its era. Stately and elegant, the restaurant that's named to commemorate the hotel's founding date serves Traditional English Afternoon Tea daily, from 2pm to 5pm.

Start by selecting your preferred brew. If you like your cuppa strong and spicy, consider Assam Moklabarie or Tarry Lapsang. For a floral bouquet, the Darjeeling Jungpana or Morgentau should satisfy, while Jasmine Gold gives off a delicate freshness. For each tea, the menu indicates the suggested brewing time to ensure you get the best flavours.

As you take your first sip, two-tier silver trays and porcelain plates of finger sandwiches, cakes, tea pastries, and scones will appear at your table. The scones—there are plain and raisin variants—are served as they should be, with homemade strawberry jam and hand-whipped clotted cream.

You're spoiled for choice with seven combinations of finger sandwiches: Egg mayonnaise in mini croissant, mini Vol-au-vent, tuna in wholemeal, smoked beef brisket in village bread, salmon on poppy seed roll, cheese and tomatoes, and the classic cucumber and tomato with cream cheese and sour cream. A colourful platter of cakes and sweet delights—the macarons and mini fruit tarts are the highlights—round up the spread.

Take your time to enjoy your tea and nibbles, and let conversations flow while the attentive waitstaff see to it that your teapot is always full. The ambience at 1885 Restaurant is as conducive for a tête-à-tête as it is for cosy gatherings with family and friends, perfect for reliving the romance and spirit of days gone by.

WWW.EOHOTELS.COM

WRAP UP 2017, HELLO 2018!

Give this year a grand send-off and usher in the next with a smorgasbord of theatrical extravaganza at the Performing Arts Centre of Penang (PenangPAC).

DECEMBER



SILVER SCREEN

18 Dec @ 7.30pm | **stage 2**

Tickets: RM15

Be lulled by the soothing sounds of the harmonica at this concert that brings together young talents from six schools: Penang Chinese Girls' High School, Chung Ling High School, Convent Datuk Keramat High School, Sam Tet High School (Ipoh), Chong Hwa Independent High School (Kuala Lumpur), and Yu Hua High School (Selangor).



THEATRE FOR TEENS

21 – 23 Dec @ 12pm-5.30pm | **studio 2**

Fees: RM550

All the world's a stage and teenagers deserve a good head start, which is what this fun-filled workshop aims to deliver. Guided by Tan Seoh Chen, attendees will be treated to a motivational and humorous educational experience. For more details, contact: Tan +6012-599 8204



FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

22 – 23 Dec @ 8.30pm | **stage 1**

Tickets: RM40/RM30 (concession)

'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la... get right into the spirit of Christmas at this festive concert and sing along to all your favourite carols. We hear that Santa Claus will be making a special appearance too!



4TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY TRE 4 GRAND SHORT FILMS SCREENING

24 Dec @ 8.30pm | **stage 1**

Movie buffs looking to spend Christmas Eve in front of the big screen can catch this presentation of short films by Tamila Rapperz Entertainment in conjunction with their fourth anniversary. For more details and tickets, contact: Agilan +6017 463 4066 or Vannessh +6010 375 6657.

JANUARY



MUSIC BOX

27 Jan @ 7.30pm | **stage 1**

28 Jan @ 3pm | **stage 1**

Tickets: RM300/RM120/RM80/RM50/RM30

A teenager goes through the rites of passage in this gripping tale, inspired by a true story in 18th-century England, that is bound to strike a chord in your heart as you laugh and cry along with the protagonist, played by Jessie Chung. The story also incorporates Jessie's personal tales, recounting her life journey and three relationships.

FEBRUARY



A DATE WITH FARIDAH

4 Feb @ 3pm | **stage 2**

Minimum donation of RM10

Theatre doyenne Dato' Faridah Merican holds court at this matinee showcase, during which a stellar line-up of local artists and performers will be presenting their respective seminal works.



TALES FROM THE BEDROOM

9 Feb @ 8.30pm | **stage 2**

10 Feb @ 3pm & 8.30pm | **stage 2**

11 Feb @ 3pm | **stage 2**

Tickets: RM35/RM30 (concession)

From awkward one-night stands to sneaky quickies and squeamish bedroom conversations, this highly popular production—it enjoyed three sold out runs at the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPA)—is finally making its way to Penang, in time for Valentine's Day. Come with your loved one and LOL your way through!

DAVID LIM'S ART EXHIBITION

19 – 26 Feb @

10am-6.30pm | **gallery 1 & 2**

Catch David Lim's newest masterpieces, which will be showcased across two galleries. Admission is free.

TRAIL TO THE ANCESTRAL HOME – CHINESE CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL VOL. 1

25 Feb @ 2pm | **stage 1**

Tickets: RM55/RM45/RM35

An afternoon of nostalgia and haunting melodies await at this chamber recital by the ProArt Chinese Orchestra Organization.

MARCH

GRACE CHONG'S ART EXHIBITION

19 – 26 Feb @

10am-6.30pm | **gallery 1 & 2**

Delight your senses at this month-long exhibition by Malaysian artist, Grace Choong. Admission is free.

MEN IN HEELS

16 – 17 Mar @ 8.30pm | **stage 1**

The Actors Studio Seni Teater Rakyat and PenangPAC team up to present this drama. Look out for more details soon.

APRIL



Choral Favourites – Old and New

13 – 14 Apr @ 8.30pm | **stage 1**

Tickets: RM40/RM30 (concession)

Classic choral forms meet their contemporary cousins in this concert presented by The Actors Studio Chorus & Orchestra.

MAY

SHAKESPEARE DEMYSTIFIED: ROMEO & JULIET

3 – 5 May @ 8.30pm | **stage 2**

6 May @ 3pm | **stage 2**

Tickets: RM45/RM35 (concession)

Canonical speeches and scenes from *Romeo and Juliet* take centrestage, and each will be presented along with narrations of plots as well as discussions on the themes. Members of the audience will have the opportunity to join in the discourse too, during the Q&A session.

TALES FROM AMMA'S KITCHEN

11 May @ 8.30pm | **stage 2**

12 May @ 3pm & 8.30pm | **stage 2**

13 May @ 3pm | **stage 2**

Tickets: RM35/RM30 (concession)

Relive fond childhood memories in this intimate tale by the same producers as Tales From The Bedroom.

DALAT FINE ARTS FESTIVAL 2018

14 – 18 May @

10am-6.30pm | **gallery 1 & 2**

Catch this five-day celebration of arts by the Dalat International School. Admission is free.

JUNE

HOPE

16 June @ 3pm & 8pm | **stage 1**

Tickets: RM80/RM60/RM40

"Trust the wait. Embrace the uncertainty. Enjoy the beauty of becoming. When nothing is certain, anything is possible"—watch these words come to life in dance form.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

27 – 28 June @ 7.30pm | **stage 1**

Sparks fly between Troy and Gabriella when they meet at a karaoke competition and a relationship blossoms, but is put to the test when they audition for the same school play. Who will get the coveted lead role and can their love survive the competition? Catch this performance by Tenby International School.

NOTE

1. All the above performances are held at PenangPAC.

2. The details above are correct at the time of printing and may be subject to change. For the latest updates, please log on to www.penangpac.org.



*The Summer Palace in Beijing reveals different facets of its splendour in different seasons
but is a worthy destination to visit all year round*

THE NEVERENDING SUMMER

*It is said that you can see all of China at the Summer Palace
in Beijing. Complete the experience with a stay at the adjoining
Aman Summer Palace.*

“See the Summer Palace and you will have seen all that China has to offer in art and architecture.” This famous saying is just one of many, many reasons that draw visitors by the thousands to what is the country’s largest royal park and one of its most revered landmarks.

Although, as its name indicates, it was built as a respite from the scorching heat, it’s popularity today extends all year round. In each season, a different facet of the Palace shows itself. During its namesake season, it’s a vibrant hive of people and activities. In spring, the gardens are awash in the bright palette of fresh flowers. Come autumn, a melancholic aura hangs over its scenic bridges, which are among more than 3,000 manmade structures found on the Palace grounds that represent every known Chinese architectural style.

In the thick of winter, it feels as if everything comes to a standstill. Kunming Lake, the focal point of Summer Palace that covers about three quarters of its total land area, becomes frozen solid. You can walk on it, sled across it, carve a hole and throw a line in, or do like the locals and take a dip in the frigid waters first thing in the morning.

If you’re making your way there from Beijing, you’d have to set aside at least 30 minutes for the 15km journey by car. Or you can make it your home for a night or two with a stay at the adjacent Aman Summer Palace, an exquisite resort that lets you immerse fully in the regal experience.

Architecturally and aesthetically, it’s an extension of the Palace; the resort comprises a series of courtyard-style pavilions that were once royal guest houses that hosted visiting dignitaries and imperial audiences while they waited to meet the Empress. The palatial structures, which have been conserved just as well as the rest of the Palace, are fitted with modern amenities to suit today’s traveller while staying true to their original form. New buildings, designed to complement the original architecture, were added to create a total of 51 rooms and suites dressed in fine chinoiserie to recall the majesty of the Qing dynasty.



Top: An aerial view of Aman at Summer Palace; the resort features former imperial guest houses transformed into guest villas

Equally exquisite are the dining options, with three restaurants that each dishes up a different cuisine. The nine-room Chinese Restaurant serves imperial and Ming dynasty-inspired recipes along with a selection of Cantonese classics. French and Japanese flavours fuse beautifully at the Japanese Restaurant, where you can also savour a multi-course *kaiseki* meal, while the Grill serves up a mean steak and other prime cuts.

In between the main meals, make time to partake in a traditional Chinese tea ritual. A wide variety of teas, including some of China's most prized leaves, are served every afternoon. For your evening aperitif or digestif, The Bar has you covered.

When you're up for exploring the Palace, you can enjoy exclusive access via a special entrance near the East Gate. It's a short walk from the resort, and you will pass through a covered walkway that was inspired by the Long Corridor, the world's lengthiest at 728 metres. Sitting at the northern shore of Kunming Lake, it is bedecked with frescoes depicting famous legends and paintings that reflect both the Ming and Qing dynasties. Locals will tell you that lovers who stroll this walkway together are destined to seal their union in marriage.

That's good motivation to get on your feet—or down on your knees—although it's certainly not the only exercise you can squeeze in at the Aman. The resort's wellness offerings include a stunning Pilates and yoga studio that's crowned by skylights for natural illumination while you relax into the poses. Get your laps done at the 25-metre pool, which is heated in winter, or sweat it out at the gym or squash courts. Sauna, steam rooms, hot Jacuzzi and cold plunge pools await in the changing areas where you can take your time to wind down.

The ultimate bliss is found at their underground spa, covering 5,000sqm of space split into two levels, where nine double rooms await guests. Their therapists are trained in a variety of imperial body treatments that have been trusted for centuries. Ask for their seasonal herbal poultice, created jointly with iconic Chinese dispensary, Tong Ren Tang, whose founder Yue Xianyang was a senior physician at the Qing imperial court. The company was appointed by Emperor Yongzheng to be the sole supplier of herbal medicines to the palace.

Surrender to the healing process and age-old traditions, and let them transport you to the days of imperial grandeur. It's true that all of China shows itself here, and the Aman Summer Palace completes the picture.



Immerse in an imperial experience at the Aman at Summer Palace



Your intimate boudoir in the Courtyard Deluxe Suite Bedroom

PUBLISHED BY
EASTERN & ORIENTAL BERHAD (555-K)
Level 3A (Annexe), Menara Milenium
8 Jalan Damanlela, Damansara Heights
50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
T 603 2095 6868
F 603 2095 0231
E corp.comm@easternandoriental.com

PRINTED BY
CLASSIC OFFSET PRINT SDN BHD (729079-M)
11 Jalan Alfa Impian 2
Taman Perindustrian Alfa Impian
43300 Balakong, Selangor, Malaysia
T 603 8964 5661
F 603 8964 5669

