

 **INSIGHT GUIDES**

asia's **BEST HOTELS & RESORTS**



 HotelClub.com



bar prices and puzzling over the TV remote control are not unfamiliar diversions. Their 89,000 votes on a dedicated site at HotelClub.com were carefully assessed, and then leavened with a handful of Editors' Picks to reflect the pleasingly solid growth of boutique properties around the region.

For want of a better term, *Asia's Best Hotels & Resorts* is The People's Choice. It includes not simply the sort of properties where you might splurge every so often, but more down-to-earth affairs that you'd pick for a weekend break or a business trip, all of which have been voted in on all-round merit: the juxtaposition of the Peninsula and YMCA in Hong Kong is the classic example. And because hotels are selected for their overall popularity, a four-star could theoretically push out a Four Seasons that occupies a similar locale.

If it doesn't sound too much like

boasting, from time to time hotels contact the editorial team with delicately phrased enquiries as to how to get into this guide. The short answer is that they can't unless folks vote for them. And you can't say fairer than that.

The original idea for this guide sprang (almost) fully-formed from the pulsating brain box of **Jonny "Depp" Stonham**, last spotted counting a mound of pieces of eight while sailing toward the Andaman Islands with his family aboard the good yacht *Tui Tai*.

Pounding both road and keyboards the length and breadth of Asia were the following 25 alphabetically-listed writers: **Noer Agustien, David Bowden, Joan Bulauitan, Juliet Coombe, Bill Cranfield, Andrew Dembina, Jaswinder Kaur Gill, Emilie Goldstein, Rob Goss, Mark Graham,**

Brent Hannon, Gustasp and Jeroo Irani, Annabel Jackson, Andy Johnstone, Rachel Lovelock, Matt Lubin, Robin Lynam, Catharine Nicol, Simon Nowroz, Chris Pritchard, Andrew Salmon, David Stott, Tamara Vantroyen and Charles Young.

Driving the whole thing from Sydney, and generously writing the cheques, were **Chloe Lim, David Wareing and Katharina Woergetter** of HotelClub.

Harry and Mina Llufrío of Gingerbreadman.net designed and laid out the guide from the seclusion of their island lamasery, backed up by Insight's veteran production team in Singapore.

Vivian Wong spiritedly negotiated with hotels and various public bodies (to all of whom many thanks) for facts, figures and photographs. **Mariam Moore** rode to the rescue with proofreading.

Finally: the array of accommodation across Asia has never been greater, likewise the ease of getting about the region. All you need is this guide (which includes a handy HotelClub discount card on its final page) and your passport. What are you waiting for?

Ed Peters
Editor At Large



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www.HotelClub.com/hotels/Conrad_International_Centennial_Hotel_Singapore



Just by exclusive Millenia Walk and across the road from Suntec City glitters the Conrad Singapore.

Décor in its 507 rooms and suites is along clean lines. Spacious carpeted rooms in shades of cream have large bathrooms clad in light emperador marble with wide tubs and separate shower stalls. Floor-

to-ceiling windows look out to either Suntec City or the harbour. The newly refurbished Executive Lounge on the 31st floor is furnished in dark exotic woods, plush seats and comes with panoramic views. Asian art features largely in this contemporary business hotel.

Facilities include a 24-hour fitness club and a rooftop pool. Five restaurants and bars serve up a medley of international, local and Cantonese cuisines.

Whimsical touches include a yellow Conrad rubber ducky in the bath and a Conrad teddy bear on the bed. Sweet dreams.

Rates from: **\$\$\$**

Star rating: ★★★★★

Overall rating:

Ambience: **8.86** Cleanliness: **9.00**

Value: **8.20** Facilities: **7.80**

Staff: **8.81** Restaurants: **8.80**

Location: **8.78** Families: **6.50**

Four Seasons Hotel Singapore

190 Orchard Boulevard, Singapore

T: +65 7634 1110 F: +65 6734 7750

www.HotelClub.com/hotels/Four_Seasons_Hotel_Singapore



Quite apart from anything else, the Four Seasons contains some 1,500 startlingly impressive artworks, including a pair of rare 19th century ceramic lions and a 55-million-year-old palm frond fossil.

However this is primarily a boutique hotel, rather than a museum, and its luxurious interiors - set back from leafy Orchard

Boulevard and next to the Orchard Road shopping belt - are Art Deco inspired with an Asian touch. Picture New York meets Singapore.

The property's 254 spacious guest rooms embrace a classic European décor with floor-to-ceiling windows that frame the city's skyline, and large marble bathrooms whose deep tub and

separate shower invite long drawn-out ablutions.

The Four Seasons' brace of restaurants specialise in International, Singaporean and Cantonese cuisines. Other amenities include a fitness centre, spa, pools and even an air-conditioned tennis court.

Rates from: **\$\$\$\$**

Star rating: ★★★★★

Overall rating:

Ambience: **9.03** Cleanliness: **9.00**

Value: **8.10** Facilities: **8.80**

Staff: **8.74** Restaurants: **8.80**

Location: **8.64** Families: **7.80**

Grand Hyatt Singapore

100 Scotts Road, Singapore 228211

T: +65 6738 1234 F: +65 6732 1696

www.HotelClub.com/hotels/Grand_Hyatt_Singapore

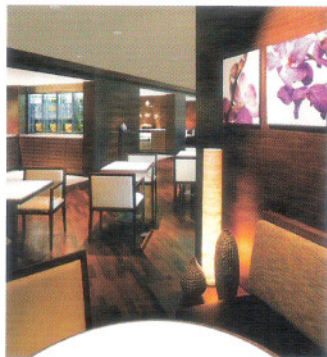


An abode of harmony, blending ancient philosophies and modern facilities, the Grand Hyatt is located along Scotts Road and within Singapore's premier shopping strip.

The hotel's angled glass entrance doors, and the 32-step timber staircase that sweeps up to the mezzanine level, are in keeping with *feng shui* philosophy. Décor is along Zen lines, using granite, wood, marble and water features.

The 663 rooms and suites in the

Grand and Terrace wings employ a cool grey and cream colour scheme with blue accents and lots of birch wood and come with luxurious bathrooms whose star fitting is the Hansgrohe rainshower. Everything from tea and coffee making facilities to laptop-large safes are tucked away neatly and discreetly in drawers. Thoughtful touches include wardrobes that can be accessed from both the room and the bathroom.

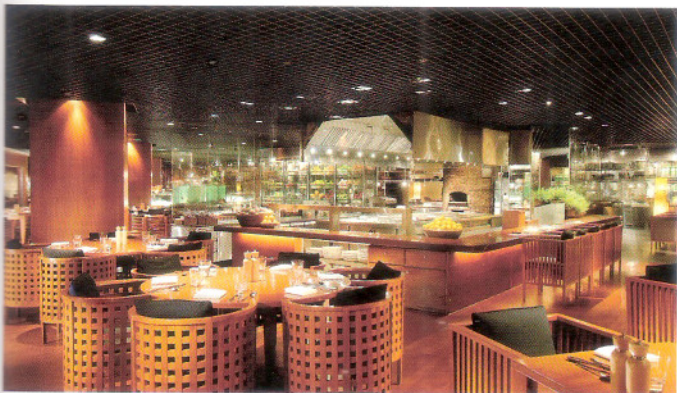


The hotel espouses an eco philosophy and uses energy-saving light bulbs, while recycled wood and granite was incorporated into the décor of the dining areas.

Half a dozen restaurants and bars serve up a range of cuisines from Italian to Japanese, while the hotel's cellar has an impressive collection of 700 different labels.

Facilities include a fitness centre, spa, squash, tennis and badminton courts, free form swimming pool and even an eight-metre golf driving range.

The Hyatt's pièce-de-resistance is a five-storey-high cascading waterfall. Take a stroll through its two gardens, one tropical, with giant banyan trees, koi pond and fruit garden, and the other Balinese, which is designed to bring nature within and to keep harmony and promote prosperity.



Rates from: \$\$\$

Star rating: ★★★★★

Overall rating: 3.3/5

Ambience: 8.68 Cleanliness: 9.12

Value: 7.65 Facilities: 7.84

Staff: 8.40 Restaurants: 8.65

Location: 9.14 Families: 5.40

