

business lure

In a bid to capture the growing business traveller segment in Thailand; Bangkok's **Dusit Thani** hotel has refurbished a part of their property to create both Dusit Club Rooms and Dusit Grand Rooms (pictured top right).

At 64 sq-m's, the Grand rooms are larger than most of their rivals; sleek, yet warm and pleasing to the eye. Most of the rooms face a busy intersection, but beyond the hustle and bustle lies verdant jogging paradise Lumpini Park. However, one does not need to leave the hotel's hallowed, air-conditioned halls to build up a sweat; the Club rooms come with unlimited free use of the well-equipped fitness centre.

Getting down to business, the usual mod gizmos are available in-room; high speed Internet with two easy access points near the desk and bedside, oversized writing table, wall-mounted plasma TV, etc. Guests can also avail of one-hour free use of the Meeting Room at Dusit Club Centre, comprising a lounge and business centre, with complimentary snacks and happy hour beverages. An array of executive rooms have also been launched. - *Gunjan Prasad*

Tel: +66 (0) 2636 3600, booking@dusit.com, www.dusit.com.

boutique-full

The Minden (pictured bottom right) is Kowloon's first boutique hotel. Located in the heart of Minden Avenue, now re-emerging as one of the most attractive spots in the city, for business or leisure, the pad's 64 rooms come in earth tones, with emphasis on functionality. Equipped with free broadband access and the secure VingCard key system, the spacious one-bedroom suites also boast white-marble bathrooms. - *JD*

Tel: +852 2739 7777, info@theminden.com, www.theminden.com.

europe calling

Europe is closer than you think - **JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa's** 'Phuket Euro Win' contest offers the chance to win a dream vacation for two to anywhere in Europe where there is a Marriott-branded hotel (including flights, seven nights stay plus b/fast, and USD 500 in Marriott Bonus Bucks - see www.marriott.com for locations).

For every 10 room nights booked (groups are welcome) which materialise before October 31, 2005, your name will be entered into a draw, and the winner will be picked at random on November 1, 2005. - *PM*

Reservations need to be made directly through the resort's central reservations office, Tel: + 66 2 656 7707, or res.jwthailand@marriotthotels.com.



y jia; why not?

With its cosy contemporary interior, **Y's** is Hong Kong's funkier new Asian Bistro. Located in the heart of Causeway Bay, this hip eatery is set in **JIA** - the Philippe Starck-designed boutique hotel. The restaurant, named after the hotel's owner, Ms Yenn Wong, features Asian and Mediterranean home-style cuisine, conceptualised and developed by Teage Edzard - an award-winning Melbourne-based chef. Apart from the food, Y's also offers a vibrant bar space for pre-dinner drinks or a boozy shindig. Open daily from noon to 11 pm, reservations are not accepted but enquiries are welcome. - *JD*

Tel: +852 3196 9200, ys@jiahongkong.com, www.jiahongkong.com.

arabian anniversary

To celebrate their first anniversary, **Etihad Airways** (pictured top right) have increased flights between Abu Dhabi and Bangkok. The additional flights are set to enhance the economic growth for both the UAE and Thailand. Etihad Airways offers a unique service; the in-flight cuisine developed by a renowned five-star hotel. Added luxury comes from the airline's utilisation of advanced aircrafts, the Airbus A330 and A340 series, which sport the latest cabin amenities. In 2007, the Airbus A380 will come online, with more than 500-seat capacities, designed specifically for long-haul flights. - *JD*

www.etihadairways.com.

librarian girl, you came and you changed my world

The first and the only fine stationers in Thailand, **Libreria Fine Stationer**, offering elegant stationery and correspondence-centric products, recently enjoyed its grand opening. A boon for the local literati, with exclusive reading and writing equipment - and an array of cultivated gifts for a discerning loved one - this is a highly personal space, much like a private library/study. Especially popular here are the custom-order, embossed letterheads/cards etc. and leather journals/accessories, but there are also a selection of exceedingly dashing walking sticks, and even large furniture; bookshelves, leather armchairs and wooden tables are locally made-to-order. - *PM*

131, Sukhumvit 21, Bangkok. Open Tue-Sun, 9 am - 6 pm; Tel: +662 (o) 6616480, libreriahome@msn.com.

spa makeover

The **Spa at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa** - 15 free-standing treatment villas - has opened, designed to resemble a traditional Thai Village, built over an area of 1,500 sq-m. Each villa features dramatic artwork and is fashioned with features ranging from steam rooms to Japanese wooden tubs. The spa will also showcase a large reception area, retail shop, beauty salon and juice bar. The new facility is expected to provide about 18,000 treatments a year. - *JD*

phuketarcadia@hilton.com, www.hilton.com.

thai night, new york morning

Thai Airways' much anticipated non-stop, 16-hour-50-minutes, North Pole-traversing, Bkk-NY route began on May 1, utilising the new Airbus 340-500 aircraft, becoming the fastest flight to NY from SE Asia. Exceedingly customer friendly, the flight leaves Bkk at 00.40 hrs and arrives in NY at 06.35 hrs, same day! The return flight departs NY at midday, arriving in Bkk at 16.10 hrs the following day. Between now and 30 June 05, a special promotion means that one can purchase a return for two for only Baht 31,000 per person on Economy (113 seats), 42,000 on Premium Economy (42 seats), and 88,870 on Royal Silk (60 seats, 170-degree recline, 2-2-2 configuration). - *PM*
www.thaiairways.com.



write royal treatment

American performance poet James Navé and screenwriter Allegra Huston (of the Hollywood Huston clan) will hold a workshop in Thailand in September 2005, offering writers of all levels of skill and success creative exploration to energise and deepen their practice.

The five-day cross-disciplinary writing adventure is inspired by the salons of early 20th century Paris and bohemian America. "The atmosphere is alive with passion, fun, and creative spontaneity," Navé explains. "The salon offers an opportunity to enjoy amazing conversations with other writers, beautiful surroundings, good food, and a creative exploration that will engage participants' writing for months."

The workshop will be held at Aleenta, a boutique hotel surrounded by fields of pineapple and coconut, near the beach resort town of Hua Hin, three hours drive south of Bangkok. It will be the second to be held there this year. The first, in March (pictured above), attracted people of several professions from around the region, including a scientist, a painter, a journalist and an ad executive. Navé has also held similar annual creative sessions in Taos, New Mexico for the past decade. - *DC*

For more information on The Thailand Writing Salon, visit www.thewritingsalon.net or Email info@thewritingsalon.net.