

Life & TIMES

ISSUE SIX

Insights INTO THE WORLD OF ASIA'S Barefoot Luxury Pioneer

FLOURISH & FLAIR AT akyra BEACH CLUB PHUKET Take a tour of the Andaman's new beach lifestyle destination

• • POSITIONED RIGHT by the irresistible sands of Natai Beach and specially designed to lift the spirit, akyra Beach Club Phuket is AKARYN Hotel Group's exciting new seaside venue with a perfect location on Thailand's sunset coast.

Although conveniently located just 20 minutes north of Phuket International Airport, the contemporary beach club and resort feels worlds away from the hustle and bustle of life and offers 58 stylish rooms, suites and villas complemented by an array of generous in-room comforts and enticing lifestyle attractions, including Club akyra where pool stars and sand bunnies serve a vast selection of tempting libations, enjoyed to a soundtrack of chilled beats. This exclusive escape is full of simple yet luxurious surprises. Once you venture out of your sanctuary, you discover a whole host of beachside attractions that ensure a chilled-out, inspiring experience, including blissful beach massages in a oceanfront cabana.

One of highlights of akyra Beach Club Phuket is its namesake an oceanfront dining and social hub furnished with cushioned cabanas and luxury loungers surrounding an enticing beachfront pool. While the restaurant and bar serve delectable comfort cuisine sourced from the land and sea, the resident DJ, Winawee Daungkaew, better known as DJ Wii brings his unique musical stylings to the beautiful Natai beachfront every weekday from 11:00 to 19:00 with soul tunes setting the mood as the sun sets. Club akyra is the perfect place to pass lingering days by the pool, or to mix with friends old and new in the evenings accompanied by fresh beats and top class drinks. This is one stylish tropical gathering space that's sure to fulfill all your oceanfront lifestyle fantasies.

UPPER DECK RESTAURANT

Soon to open, the Upper Deck Restaurant at akyra Beach Club Phuket will serve up a delightful daily breakfast buffet comprising a rich selection of international favourites. The entire space is also available for exceptional private dining experiences and exclusive events.



LIFT THE SPIRIT AND CALM THE SOUL

OFFSIDE SPORTS BAR You might want to switch off from the news, but you can stay up-to-date with all your favourite international sports at akyra Beach Club Phuket. The Offside Sports Bar shows live sports all day, every day and offers a range of drink promotions to toast the action. There's a Happy Hour from 18:00 to 19:00, or stop by between 21:00 and 23:00 for the popular buy two, get one free draft beer specials. Table football, lawn bowling and other fun games are also available at the Offside Sports Bar. indulgences a little, who would say no * Soon to open

Remember how exciting it was as a kid to hear the first notes of the ice cream truck jingle around the corner? At akyra Beach Club Phuket, the friendly "icestaff" will take you back to the good old days by delivering ice cream on a bicycle every hour from 12:00 to 17:00 They really hit the sweet spot for an hour between 14:00 and 15:00 when the ice cream is on the house.

AYURAH SPA To balance the

akyra ICE-CREAM BOUTIQUE to a massage on the beach? The Ayurah Spa offers a wide selection of indulgent treatments in its tranquil treatment rooms, and tropical beach cabanas are also available if you prefer to massage al fresco with a soothing ocean soundtrack.

> Whether it is a fun-filled beach getaway with friends, or an innovative corporate retreat, akyra Beach Club Phuket ticks all the beachside boxes.

www.theakyra.com/phuket

Party On

SEA & BE SCENE....

akyra Beach Club Phuket hosts cool events at Club akyra, including FUNKY FRIDAYS with a beach BBQ and resident DJ Wii on the decks, SLEEPY SATURDAYS, bringing in guest DJs to help you chill-out in style, and SANDY SUNDAYS, an irresistible brunch spread with eclectic music to match. On March 18th, 2017 akyra Beach Club Phuket held its official Grand Opening Party with a celeb fashion show, live sax music, vocal performances, a spectacular masked fire show and some ultra-hot DJ sets.

LIFE & TIMES

6th Issue

BY AKARYN HOTEL GROUP

www.akaryngroup.com

April 2017

LIVE WELL with Ayurah Spa



• Put your health front & centre with soothing but powerful treatments.

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ITALICS RESTAURANT A Taste for Culinary Adventures



With inventive daily and seasonal specials ITALICS Bangkok and ITALICS Chiang Mai are set for culinary success in 2017.

PURE BLUE FOUNDATION Saving the Planet



• From saving sea turtles to supporting the next generation of school children, Pure Blue Foundation is helping pave the way for a brighter future both above and below the sea.

HEAR & Say

GO TO www.akaryngroup.com for more information

A Few Words From Our Leader

TO OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

Issue 06 April 2017



Anchalika Kijkanakorn

Founder of AKARYN Group Chairman of the Board, Small Luxury Hotels of the World

For any enquiries, please contact: contact@ahmshotels.com

• THE WORLD IS CHANGING. There's no doubt about that. And as it does, we continue to change too. AKARYN Hotel group is growing as a business and with every small step we take we try to ensure that the communities around us come with us on our journey of positive and sustainable change.

We work with local schools on education programmes because we believe access to knowledge is the root of all change, and we drive environmental awareness from community farming in Hua Hin to turtle conservation in Phang Nga. All this is managed under our Pure Blue Foundation.

To give is a deep and intrinsic part of our DNA. It is what we feel and what we believe. As the world spins on its axis, travel is changing too, and we strive to provide feel good factor - nourishment for the soul, excitement for the mind and beauty for your heart. Please join us in any of our Pure Blue activities at any of our boutique resorts or hotels.

I hope you have time to visit our new properties too – detailed in this latest issue of Life & Times - where you can experience the hippest street in Bangkok - Thonglor - courtesy of our new akyra Thonglor Bangkok urban retreat and akyra Beach Club Phuket - where a cool, hip beachfront vibe offers a refreshing attitude to life and lifestyle.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



akyra Beach Club Phuket

MORE VOICES FROM THE AHG TEAM



It's great to have joined such a dynamic team of professionals in such exciting times as we work to continue the growth and success of Akaryn Hotel Group within and beyond Thailand.

PUTRI ISTIARINI Group Director of Sales and Marketing, Akaryn Hotel Group



akyra Thonglor Bangkok has a great location and design. I look forward to elevating our newest urban hotel to be the best in the most happening enclave in Bangkok.

> CHRISTIAN ZUNK General Manager, akyra Thonglor Bangkok



I am thrilled to take the helm at AHG's two fantastic Phuket-Phang Nga properties and we are ready to hit the beach running in 2017.

> DANIEL STEINKE General Manager, Aleenta Phuket Resort & Spa and akyra Beach Club Phuket.

FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE

WHAT'S HOT **Exciting Events**



Join the exciting events around the network of hotels and resorts... WHAT'S ON akyra Beach Festival



Cool new oceanside venue and beach resort...

WHAT'S NEW Be a Hero



Support Pure Blue Foundation directly by attending events...

Please check us out online and follow us!

A LIFE & TIMES

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Special thanks to the AKARYN Hotel Group team and everyone involved behind the scenes of each of our fabulous resorts, who made this newspaper possible.

CONTACT US. FOLLOW US. STAY IN TOUCH.



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Aleenta Phuket - Phang Nga Aleenta Hua Hin - Pranburi akyra Manor Chiang Mai akyra Beach Club Phuket akyra Thonglor Bangkok The President Hotel Vientiane



@akaryn_group

WHAT'S HAPPENING AKARYN?

Be part of our boutique community - join the exciting events around the network of hotels and resorts



"
Follow your passions
at AKARYN Hotels
& Resorts

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- •• akyra BEACH CLUB PHUKET celebrated its Grand Opening in March and the beachside buzz continues with a ultra cool Pool Party featuring guest DJ Nemo Cools from Belgium on Sunday 30th April from 14:00 to 18:00 at Club akyra.
- **akyra** MANOR CHIANG MAI is offering a new one-day Elephant Experience in partnership with Elephant Parade, which includes a visit to the Friends of the Asian Elephant hospital, Northern Thai lunch by the river and visit of Elephant Parade land where you paint your own elephant.
- **akyra THONGLOR BANGKOK** is making the hot season bearable from April onwards with poolside service in the heart of the city. Will it be a signature **akyra** Mojito? Maybe a Vodka Apple? Or perhaps you prefer great coffee with a gourmet snack? The choice is yours.
- •• ALEENTA HUA HIN is taking Gin & Tonic to a whole new level with 8 different premium gins paired with 3 different tonics. Highlights include Ungava Premium Gin with six rare botanicals and Fever-Tree Mediterranean Tonic with a delicate floral taste.
- ALEENTA PHUKET will mark International Turtle Day on Tuesday 23 May by releasing baby turtles from the beach, which hatched at the nearby Pure Blue Foundation turtle sanctuary. Guests are welcome to join the event.

HONOURS & ACCOLADES



•• SEVERAL AKARYN HOTEL GROUP PROPERTIES received awards in 2016, with notable achievements at the Luxury Hotel Awards for Aleenta Phuket Resort & Spa, Aleenta Hua Hin Resort & Spa and akyra Manor Chiang Mai.

Thank you all
for your
continued
support

Northern Thai Culture in COLOUR



akyra Manor Chiang Mai will host a debut watercolour collection by Bangkok born Kritika Buabusya, from April 1st to September 30th, 2017. Trained as a fashion and textiles designer, Kritika spent 10 years as a university lecturer in Thailand and later in New Zealand. She draws on her personal experiences in fashion illustration to transfer an aesthetic of non-verbal communication through the movement, facial expressions and gestures of her subjects. Her art is an enquiry into costumes and settings that moves far beyond the seasonal trends and commercialism so prevalent in the fashion world.

⊘ AYURAH

Live Well with Ayurah Spa

Put your health front & centre with soothing but powerful treatments

IN TODAY'S FAST PACED,

technology-driven world it's easy to forget to slow down and reconnect with your mind, body and soul. Setting aside time for your physical and mental wellbeing and finding peace within is vital to healthy living.

Holidays are meant to be a time of rest and relaxation, but travelling especially long haul - can quickly take a toll on your body and spirit.

Fortunately, an ever increasing range of healing treatments have been specifically designed to balance the mind and rejuvenate the body.

At Ayurah Spa, we have curated a menu of treatments for guests to lift their spirit and revitalise their senses while staying at Aleenta Phuket or akyra Beach Club Phuket. Our philosophy of "Eat Well, Live Well, Be Well, Look Good" informs all the treatments and services offered.

Eat Well, Live Well, Be Well. Look Good





Heal your imbalances with therapeutic treatments

Ayurah Spa Specials

 REDISCOVER YOUR INNER GLOW and recharge your batteries with a series of exclusive treatments at the luxurious Ayurah Spa. The Spa Buffet at akyra Beach Club Phuket allows guests to fully

pamper themselves choosing as many treatments as they can fit into 90 minutes for just THB 1,800++ per person.

Find refuge for all five senses with a Fusion Massage Therapy, which combines aromatherapy oils with Thai massage techniques to release tension. If you desire something truly relaxing, fall into a deeply tranquil state with a Balinese Massage. Therapists employ a unique synergy massage technique that combines smooth palm strokes applied to your body's meridian lines with gentle stretching. You can also focus on healing your body's imbalances with a therapeutic Swedish Massage, which soothes aching muscles and relieves deep-rooted stress.

SIGNATURE TREATMENTS

Sink into soothing satisfaction with an exclusive signature treatment that targets particularly troublesome areas of the body. Just 30 minutes of Chakra Revitalising Massage will clear your mind with its relaxing strokes and thumb pressure applied to various points on your head, neck and shoulders. Alternatively, the Energising Massage relieves the entire body of tension and invokes an invigorating feeling using focused strokes to the back, neck and shoulders.

Lest you forget, your feet are the foundation of your body. The Foot Reflexology massage is therefore designed to improve your overall health and relieve tension by applying pressure to various reflex zones on your soles.

Dive Deeper into Wellness

THE SPA SANCTUARY

at Aleenta Phuket takes a more physiological, results-oriented approach to wellness with its rejuvenating spa treatment rooms, post-treatment relaxation chamber, chromo-therapy room and Vichy shower room. Here you can expect cutting-edge anti-aging spa therapies, age-defying treatments, and advanced techniques including the latest light therapy

technologies and oxygen therapy, which not only relieves jet lag, but also refreshes the entire body.

Not heading to Phuket? You can also enjoy an array of Ayurah Spa offerings at Aleenta Hua Hin Pranburi Resort and Spa near the seaside resort town of Hua Hin in



Cutting-edge, anti-aging and stress-busting

Spiritual Journey to Chiang Mai

Discover Northern Thailand



akyra MANOR CHIANG MAI has teamed up with local partner, Thailand Yoga Holidays, to invite people to discover Northern Thailand through exclusive, yoga-inspired

culturally integrated and accessible to everyone, these private programmes blend just the right doses of yoga, action, relaxation, culture and food, encouraging participants to engage not only

Tell us just what your soul is searching for and we'll create a tailored itinerary combining private yoga instruction from one akyra Manor Chiang Mai. The packages also include visits to delicacies to authentic Italian dishes at ITALICS Restaurant.

A Taste for Culinary Adventures

With inventive daily and seasonal specials ITALICS Bangkok and ITALICS Chiang Mai are set for culinary success in 2017



• FROM STRAW-SMOKED MUSSELS to a classic spaghetti carbonara, from mushroom and truffle risotto to coffee braised short ribs, AKARYN Hotel Group's signature ITALICS Restaurants serve up some of the best Italian cuisine in Thailand.

Just as no two AKARYN properties are exactly alike, so the ITALICS Restaurants in Bangkok and Chiang Mai each have their own sense of style, along with unique culinary specialties and irresistible offers.

The best Italian cuisine in Thailand 3,

Daily **Delights** at **ITALICS** Bangkok

Listed as one of Tatler's Best Restaurants

ITALICS BANGKOK offers a wide selection of Italian and Mediterranean-inspired dishes in a cool, casual yet stylish setting right in the heart of town on Soi Ruamrudee.

Featuring a range of flavourful favourites, the restaurant has become a go-to spot for intimate meals and group gatherings thanks to its inviting ambience, delectable dishes and attractive daily specials.

"We believe every day should be a cause for culinary celebration, which is why we created a range of tempting offers to make life just a little more delicious every day of the week. Sharing a meal at ITALICS Bangkok turns an ordinary evening into a memorable one," says Chef Kip the restaurant's enigmatic Kenyan Executive Chef. ITALICS daily specials are the proof.

Every day should be a cause for culinary celebration,

MONDAY / SMOKE IT

Enjoy a selection of smoked meats and cold cut trays paired with inventive smoked cocktails.

TUESDAY / FERMENTED & CURED Indulge in artisanal wine and picture-worthy

charcuterie platters for an early evening snack.

WEDNESDAY / PIZZA-L-OLO

Pizza is always a crowd pleaser, especially when you can craft your own combinations and sample a selection of southern Italian wine.

THURSDAY / BUBBLES & OYSTERS

Toast to making it to Thursday with fresh Marennes Oleron French oysters paired with delicate prosecco.

FRIDAY/ CUBAN AFFAIR "LA RUMBA"

Sample fine food with a creative Cuban flair served with Sailor Jerry rum cocktails.

SATURDAY / OFF THE PIER

Spend time with the ones you love savouring family-style seafood prepared to your liking while listening to the tunes of a live music duo.

SUNDAY / BULKERS

Prepare yourself for all you-can-eat premium Australian Wagyu served a selection of small plate side dishes.



ITALICS BANGKOK Loyalty Card

Along with the unveiling of its the new weekly culinary programme, ITALICS Bangkok has also introduced a loyalty card to reward lovers of fine food and drink. ITALICS loyalty card members enjoy a free Tiramisu dessert when spending over 1500 THB, as well as 2-for-1 pizzas, free coffee with any dessert, and other special deals throughout the year.



ITALICS RESTAURANT at akyra Manor Chiang Mai transforms simple flavours into next-level Italian cuisine by deconstructing and reimagining classic flavours.

The restaurant promises interactive, innovative Italian dishes that are just as sensational to look at as they are to taste. With a sophisticated ambience, the restaurant has an artisanal air to it that you would expect to find in one of the world's leading cities, yet it also maintains the welcoming vibe Chiang Mai is famous for.

In 2017, ITALICS Chiang Mai will be featuring a range of holiday specials and monthly offerings. Here's a taste of what's on the menu.

Throughout the monthe of March, indulge a delicious menu that starts with pan-seared foie gras followed by a choice of roasted black cod and tiger prawn, or beef tenderloin with gnocchi in a mushroom truffle sauce, then share a decadent chocolate dessert. Specialty cocktails and mocktails add to the taste sensations.

There's more in store throughout the year at the ITALICS Restaurants in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, so keep an eye out for future offers and surprises.

Cooking Creativity at *ITALICS* Chiang Mai

Focus on using locally sourced, high-quality ingredients

During Songkran – Thailand's unique New Year festival held from April 13th to 15th – families can enjoy a special set lunch and time spent together with crowd-pleasing favourites including grilled chicken Caesar salad, seafood linguine, and a Ham Lover Hawaiian pizza.

In May, ITALICS Chiang Mai will launch its highly anticipated Sunday Brunch from 11:00 to 15:00 at just THB 760 per person with drink specials that will make you want to order that second hair of the dog. Then in June an exclusive dinner with a leading guest chef will be revealed.

"We're very fortunate in Chiang Mai to be surrounded by a wealth of local producers, which means we can source flavourful ingredients year round to continually create enticing dishes that fuse Thai produce with upscale Italian cuisine. One taste and you'll know what all the fuss is about," says Phubase Chuprakong, Executive Chef at Italic Restaurant for akyra Manor Chiang Mai.

ITALICS Bangkok

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akyra SUNSET BEACH FESTIVAL

Celebrating Life and Style on The Andaman Shore

ON MARCH 18TH, the stunning sands of Natai Beach played host to the official akyra Beach Club Phuket Grand Opening Party with house DJ Wii spinning a smooth soundtrack of beachside beats, live vocal and saxophone performances, the first Vilebrequin Grand Fashion Show to take place in Thailand, and a spectacular masked fire dance show.

" Cool new oceanside venue and beach resort



The festivities began with a VIP gathering for invited guests as free flow drinks and premium canapés were served, to showcase the high quality and fine flavours at Club akyra - the resort's eponymous oceanfront dining and social hub, furnished with cushioned cabanas and luxury loungers surrounding the enticing beachfront pool.

Bangkok's MC Jenna then kicked off the celebrations by introducing Anchalika Kijkanakorn founder and managing director of AKARYN Hotel Group, and the mind and inspiration behind akyra Beach Club Phuket.

"AKARYN was born on this beach at our flagship property Aleenta Phuket, just a short stroll along the sand. It feels wonderful to be able to add another exciting new concept in such an incredible location," said Anchalika.

"The vision here is less about unabashed hedonism, more about the epicurean lifestyle which features in all our resorts. Good food, good music, good vibes with extraordinary people enjoying the good things in life - and looking fabulous while doing it. That's what we are all about." she added.





As the sun dipped into the cerulean waters of the Andaman Sea, Phuket-based songstress Malika Kazakova gave her first show-stopping vocal performance of the evening, accompanied by DJ Wii on the decks. Then YU Live SAX MAN hit the sand to woo the assembled crowd of fashionable beach setters with a smooth set of cool house tunes to welcome the balmy night.

Next to wow the party throng was Tony D, the percussion pro with all the right rhythms to get the party pumping. His rolls and breaks set the scene for guest DJ Jerome to take to the decks and start spinning his house music magic as guests began to fill the al-fresco





With the party in full swing, the time was ripe for Thailand's first Vilebrequin Grand Fashion Show presenting 10 celebrity models to showcase the global brand's unique take on swimwear, ready-to-wear, and accessories for men and women who appreciated the sun-drenched lifestyle the relaxed charm of Vilebrequin's St-Tropez origins. To fuel the party further, Phuket's legendary masked fire dance artist, Poch Angkorn then lit up the night with his unique brand of blazing performance art.

"It was great to see Club akyra living up to its promise as the place to 'sea and be scene' on the beach," said Daniel Steinke, Cluster General Manager for the group's two beachfront properties in Phuket-Phang Nga - Aleenta Phuket Resort & Spa and akyra Beach Club

"Our fabulous poolsters and beach bunnies did a great job keeping everyone's glasses full and the lively beach festival atmosphere was everything we hoped it would be to set a new lifestyle trend that's sure to continue as we welcome lovers of sophisticated beach life from Phuket, Bangkok and around the world."









More to Enjoy

brings you to akyra Beach Club's lifestyle mix of culinary delights, party

AYURAH GALLERIA



SAVING THE PLANET

How the Pure Blue Foundation is lighting the way for marine conservation and community development.









NO ACT OF KINDNESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IS EVER WASTED. - AESOP

FOUNDED IN 2010 BY AKARYN HOTEL GROUP (AHG),

Pure Blue Foundation promotes the importance of protecting fragile marine eco-systems by raising support and funds for conservation projects ranging from coral reef restoration in Koh Samui, to releasing sea turtles from Thailand's unspoilt beaches in Phang Nga province.

"Our aim has always been to not only create sanctuaries for our guests, but also to preserve and protect the environment as well as the communities in all the locations where we operate," says AHG Founder and Managing Director Anchalika Kijkanakorn. "Through the Pure Blue Foundation and our ongoing activities to raise awareness and funds, we're continually striving to ensure that areas like the fragile marine eco-systems off Phuket are protected. We also set up and support initiatives to help local people in the areas that surround each of our properties."

Since its inception, Pure Blue Foundation has raised and directed much needed funds to aid multi-faceted marine conservation efforts and community action projects around Thailand and Laos. The foundation, in partnership with each AHG resort, also focuses on education, working to raise awareness of the fragility of eco-systems and a reverence for nature in the next generation, by supporting them with knowledge, tools and opportunities



In addition to its conservation work, the foundation has also implemented programmes and fundraisers to support local underprivileged schools in Phuket and Chiang Mai, an intensive hospitality and culinary-based training programs for students in Hua Hin and more.

akyra Manor Chiang Mai is launching a new 'akyra Manor Signature Package', which includes a visit to the Friends of the Asian Elephant Hospital, a Northern Thai lunch by the river and visit of Elephant Parade land where you paint your own elephant statue. Certain profit is donated to elephant welfare and conservation projects.

Beyond the foundation, all AHG resorts are committed to responsible hospitality practices and strictly adhere to environmental policies that ensure they run sustainably and efficiently.

From saving sea turtles to supporting the next generation of school children, Pure Blue Foundation is helping pave the way for a brighter future both above and below

BE A HERO | GET INVOLVED

In addition to choosing AKARYN hotels can also support Pure Blue Foundation for current events and programmes) or

• With a sponsorship the Pure Blue Foundation • For donations of 10,000 - 20,000 THB, along with

your generous donation.



Points & VIEWS

Meanwhile on SOCIAL MEDIA...

BANGKOK Justagram MARVELLOUS

• • AKARYN HOTEL GROUP'S second urban property under the akyra brand launched in December with a full refurbishment programme designed to create a unique new Bleisure address in the heart of urban, edgy, contemporary Bangkok - the sought-after Thonglor neighbourhood. General Manager, Christian Zunk offers his insights on this exceptional new hotel and its equally appealing location.

What makes akyra Thonglor Bangkok unique in terms of the guest

To start with, akyra Thonglor Bangkok offers stylish room design with great views of the Bangkok skyline. akyra Thonglor Bangkok is not only in one of the most desirable parts of the city, it is also directly connected to a luxury shopping mall with dining and wining options, which makes it even more special.

What are the key design influences for the renovation?

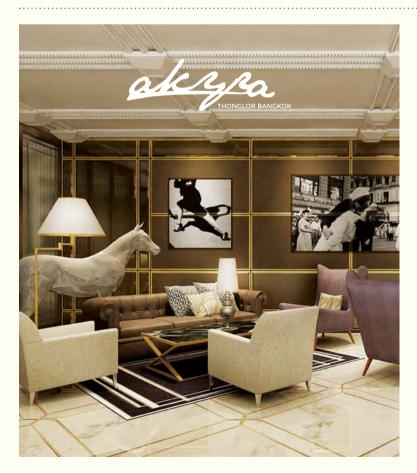
Like the akyra brand, the hotel is bold and contemporary by design with fashionable modern furnishings and an eclectic range of artworks that reflect the dynamic vibrancy of the area.

What are the best reasons to stay?

This is the perfect place for guests looking to experience the new Bangkok. There's a vast choice of sophisticated, stylish, innovative restaurants, bars and shops within walking distance of the hotel and we are also well connected to the rest of the Thai capital with the BTS Skytrain station just 5 minutes away for those that want to explore other places as well.



The perfect place for guests looking to experience the new Bangkok,



What is the hotel's service philosophy?

Our service is based on the fine art of simple luxury. We apply our experience, proven brand philosophy and success to offer the best possible hospitality experience to all our guests.

What three phrases describe Thonglor's atmosphere?

Thonglor is Bangkok's hippest, most happening and eclectic neighbourhood.

What's the best way to get around the area/city

The BTS Skytrain is very convenient for all the main downtown locations and tourist sights ot you can easily iump in a taxi right outside the hotel. Our private limousine service offers the fasted, most confortable way to the airport.

What are the area's must-try cultural highlights?

Thonglor is all about food, drink, shopping and entertainment and you are never short of new places, tastes and concepts to try. The area has its own distinctive local culture, which is often described as International Thai. Many of the local residents are either Thai people that have lived abroad or foreign professionals that work in Thailand. There's an incredible creative buzz to the area.

Where can you try great Thai cuisine?

There are plenty of great Thai food stands around Thonglor. Soul Food Mahanakorn at Thonglor, Sukhumvit Soi 55 and Bo.Lan Restaurant at Soi 24 are two top ones on my list.

Where can you buy special souvenirs to bring back home?

Bangkok's upscale shopping malls, EmQuartier and Emporium are just one sky train station away and Thonglor also hosts regular craft markets and pop-up shops to keep things interesting.

What other things you would recommend your guests to experience while staying in Bangkok?

A trip to Arts and Culture Centre is a must for art lover. The Commons and the 72 Courtyard offers a fascinating glimpse into the chic interior arts that speaks for the future trend. Active guests can book on a bicycle tour, and for a memorable night out you really don't need to leave Thonglor.

Find out more at www.theakyra.com/bangkok

NEW ADDITIONS Coming Soon!