

TRAVEL + LEISURE

SOUTHEAST ASIA

DECEMBER 2012

CELEBRATE
5
YEARS

WITH OUR BIGGEST
ISSUE EVER

**CHINESE
DRAGONS**

Beijing and Shanghai
revel in their rivalry

ARE YOU READY
FOR SPACE TRAVEL?

*The high road
to Bhutan*

TECH TOYS TO HELP YOU TRAVEL

Best of 2012

New hotels, resorts,
shops, restaurants
and more

On the menu in
SAN FRANCISCO

**SAMUI REVEALS
ITS SECRETS**

SINGAPORE S\$7.90 • HONG KONG HK\$43
THAILAND TH฿175 • INDONESIA IDR50,000
MALAYSIA MYR17 • VIETNAM VND85,000
MACAU MOP44 • PHILIPPINES PHP240
BURMA MMK35 • CAMBODIA KHR22,000
BRUNEI BND7.90 • LAOS LAK\$2,000

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TravelandLeisureAsia.com

THE BEST OF 2012

**Overwhelmed by openings?
Here to help is T+L's well-
cullled list of the newest and
hottest restaurants, bars,
hotels, spas, shops and more
across Southeast Asia.**

China

BY LIM SIO HUI

STAY

Blossom Hill Inn Zhouzhuang

Originally three Ming-style courtyard houses, this delicately conserved 20-room hotel brings a stylish new groove to the ancient Chinese water town of Zhouzhuang. Settings like a lush tea room and contemplative reading room add to a mood-infused decorative scheme, inspired by the agricultural seasons from the traditional Chinese calendar. 110 Zhongshi St., Zhouzhuang; 86-512/5722-0008; blossomhillinn.com; doubles from RMB640.

Banyan Tree Shanghai on the Bund

Mere steps away from the Huangpu River, each of its 130 spacious rooms afford river views, and even better: guests get to soak in the panorama in either a dipping pool or oversized round Toto bathtubs. 19 Gong Ping Rd., Shanghai; 86-21/2509-1188; banyantree.com; doubles from RMB3,000.

Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou

Atop one of the world's tallest skyscrapers, the 344-room Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou is flush with wow factor, from the art-filled 30-story atrium to rooms with floor-to-ceiling vistas of the Pearl River Delta. 5 Zhujiang West Rd., Guangzhou; 86-20/8883-3888; fourseasons.com; doubles from RMB2,080.

EAT

Ultraviolet

Shanghai's favorite chef du jour, Paul Pairet, charts new territory for this 10-seat, secret-location restaurant. Meals are choreographed with a set of sounds, visuals, scents and other multisensory effects to enhance the dining experience. Location undisclosed, Shanghai; 86-21/6142-5198; uvbypp.cc; dinner for two RMB4,000, including drink-pairing.

Mercato

This new Bund establishment is Jean-Georges Vongerichten's first foray into Italian cuisine, offering light as air pizzas from their wood-burning oven, house-made pastas like rigatoni and meatballs in a smoked chili-tomato ragu and other dishes that put the delight back into the classics. 6F, 3 Zhongshan Dong Yi Rd., Shanghai; 86-21/6321-9922; threonthebund.com; dinner for two RMB600.

DRINK

Unico

This Argentinian outpost takes things up a notch on the Bund with sophisticated Latin American-influenced tapas and award-winning cocktails like the Cosmopolitan de Malbec, served in an intimate space. 2F, No.3 Zhongshan Dongyi Rd., Shanghai; 86-21/5308-5399; unico.cn.com; drinks for two RMB200.

SHOP

Shang Xia

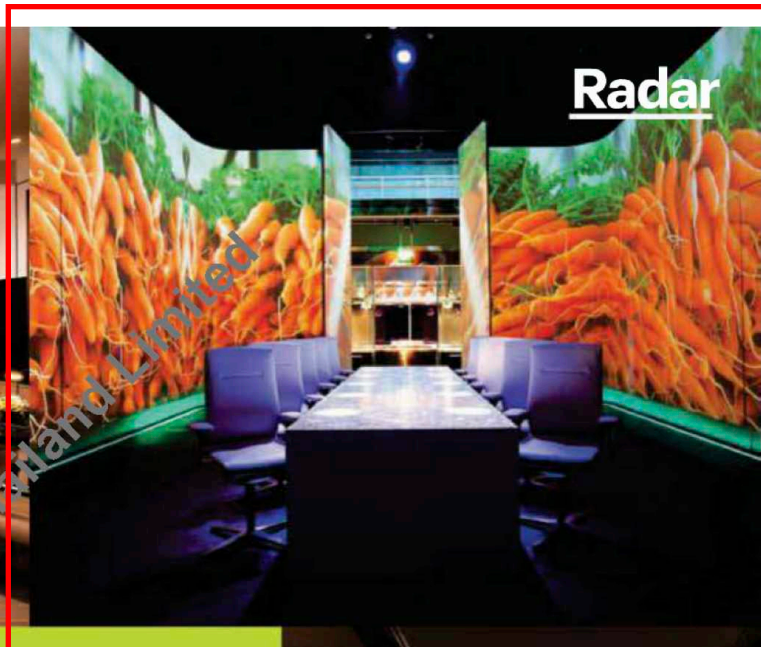
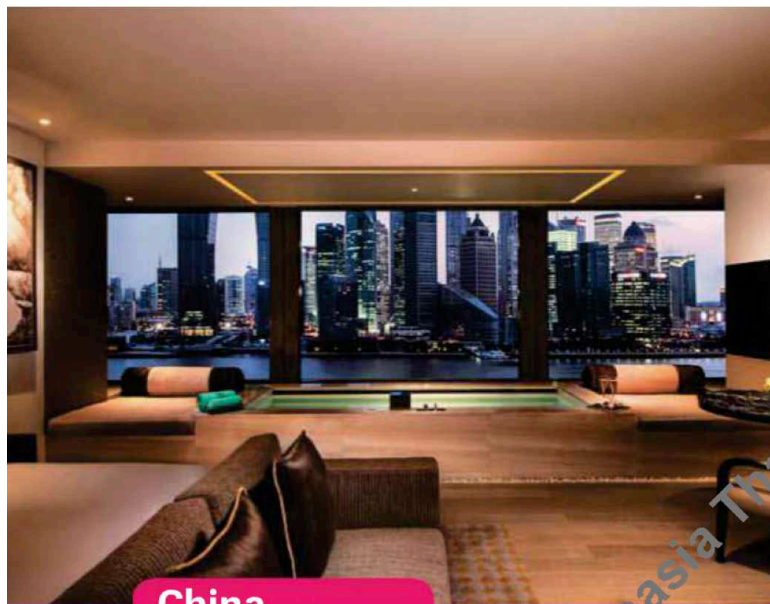
Exquisitely handcrafted designs are not the only reasons to visit this luxury Chinese brand's second store. Designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, its ethereal interiors include walls built from Pu'er tea leaves and stylistic nods to the iconic hutongs synonymous with the city. SB107B China World Mall, 1 Jianguomen Waidajie, Beijing; 86-10/6505-7358; shang-xia.com.

SEE

China Art Palace

Taking up residence in the landmark red building of the China Pavillion from 2010's World Expo, the 64,000-square-meter China Art Palace is Asia's largest art museum. Eye-popping and unmissable. 161 Shangnan Rd., Shanghai; 86-21/6222-8822; artshow.eastday.com; free.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF BANYAN TREE HOTELS AND RESORTS; SCOTT WRIGHT OF LIMELIGHT STUDIO; COURTESY OF UNICO; COURTESY OF FOUR SEASONS HOTEL GUANGZHOU



Clockwise from top left: Panorama Oasis Pool suite at the Banyan Tree Shanghai; Ultraviolet lit up in projections; inside Unico; an earth-toned room at Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou.

