

# 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*

## *Best of 2012*

New hotels, resorts,  
shops, restaurants  
and more

On the menu in  
**SAN FRANCISCO**

**SAMUI REVEALS  
ITS SECRETS**

**TECH TOYS TO HELP YOU TRAVEL**

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 LAK52,000

ISSN 1906-0823  
61  
9 771906 082313  
TravelandLeisureAsia.com

DEBUT

# Meet Macalister

Colonial heritage meets contemporary design at the new Macalister Mansion (228 Macalister Rd.; 60-4/228-3888; [macalistermansion.com](http://macalistermansion.com); doubles from RM968), a century-old mansion turned boutique hotel opening this month after an 18-month renovation. Named after the island's first British governor—who is also hat tipped with a giant bust at the top of the property's landscaped drive and commissioned art works gracing each of its eight suites—Macalister Mansion sets a fresh standard for sophisticated luxe on an island that has recently seen a rash of boutique hotel openings.

The spare, high-ceilinged rooms sprawl across two wings. Meters of blond wood, soft furnishings in shades of fawn and taupe, and plexi chandeliers lend a Scandinavian feel. The expansive baths, featuring separate showers and tubs, are wrapped in silver-and-white mosaic tiles. Each suite is one-of-a-kind in layout and architectural pedigree: No. 3 features a balcony jutting over the mansion's façade and an extra-tall pitched ceiling supported by naked timber beams, while a cast-iron circular staircase in the corner of No. 4 climbs to a three-story turret original to the structure.

The sense of tranquillity in Macalister Mansion's suites contrasts with a sceney vibe downstairs, where many public areas are named with a nod to the estate's past life as a home. After a meal in the ice-blue Dining Room, where animal statues cavort beside a wall of framed maps of old Penang, guests can retire to The Den, a suave black-and-red lounge offering a range of cigars and single-malt whiskies. After late nights spent hoisting cocktails at L-shaped bar Bagan, chase away hangovers with a lap in the pool or a bowl of hot-and-spicy *asam laksa* at the café. —ROBYN ECKHARDT

The sprawling lawn and outdoor pool at the palatial Macalister Mansion.



COURTESY OF MACALISTER MANSION

## AN EXQUISITE RETREAT OFF THE BEATEN PATH

As an oasis within the hustle and bustle of the city, WANGZ Hotel offers you exquisite accommodations amidst the cultural heritage of Singapore's Tiong Bahru enclave.

Luxuriously spacious, our 41 rooms are elegantly designed to provide the ultimate in relaxation and comfort. With gourmet meals at our all-day dining restaurant, Nectar, and a mesmerising view to accompany your cocktails at our hip rooftop lounge. Halo, your senses are sure to be tantalised.

WANGZ HOTEL.  
REDEFINING THE BOUTIQUE  
HOTEL EXPERIENCE.

For reservations, please call (65) 6595 1388 or email [reservations@wangzhotel.com](mailto:reservations@wangzhotel.com).



[www.wangzhotel.com](http://www.wangzhotel.com)