

DISCOVER
PATTAYA



Marco's
A TASTE OF QUALITY
RESTAURANT - PIZZERIA



AUTHENTIC PIZZA
PIZZA VERA
BY MARCO'S

Now Also in Bangkok

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



ENJOY MARCO'S PIZZAS IN BANGKOK AND PATTAYA

By Gloria Jones

Marco first came to Thailand in June 2013 and just 4 months later opened his first restaurant here in Pattaya at Jomtien's Rompho market. Three years later in October of 2016 he moved to his current premises on Thappraya road, with just a single unit.

Surviving the pandemic by adding takeaway options, Marco's popularity grew and grew. So much so that by 2023 tired of turning away people who he couldn't fit into his restaurant, he extended the space. With a beautiful layout, stunning art deco style lights and his now signature royal blue colour used throughout. This was completed and ready to open in November.

"Funny" he remarks, "all the important moves for the restaurant have happened towards the end of the year." Also, good timing, as opening just before high season has meant that every change and extension has taken place when business is at its height. The challenge, however, with no soft opening periods is that Marco and his staff have to be prepared to "hit the ground running" which involves good training to ensure that they are.



Some of the team are seen here in front of the wall inspired by one of Marco's favourite paintings. This area has become, as he guessed it would, the party table for large groups who love sitting all together.

The availability of more space in the Pattaya restaurant has also meant more room for an large, open pizza oven, as its always good fun to watch pizzas being made. Also a wine cellar and the impressively large bar, from which there is now a great selection of cocktails to be enjoyed.

So again continuing with high season development, last November, Marco opened his first premises in Bangkok. He had seen the partnership with Grab for takeaway pizzas become extremely popular. The Pattaya Pizzeria receiving their Grab ThumbsUp Award (given to just 40 of their Best Food Delivery Merchants of the Year) Marco proudly told me.

So it made sense that for “Pizza Vera” premises in Bangkok, Grab would play a big part. This has indeed been the case because as well as devotees of Marco’s pizza here in Pattaya he is already gaining regular customers around his Bangkok location who love to order his pizza. Not far from many International Schools teachers, students and school children are loving to order Marcos pizzas. He has even created a smaller (junior pizza) especially for this market.



The pizza of the month, which can be seen on this month’s back cover, is also something Marco continues to do for his loyal customers. Even with 30 varieties to choose from on the regular menu it seems that regular visitors to the restaurant look forward to and ask about the new special of the month. Marco is up for the challenge. Working with his premium suppliers he continues to invent new pizza toppings. What’s next for Marco as he continues to build a more and more successful business? “ I want to refurbish the original Pattaya restaurant” (at the side of the new, larger premises) he tells me, “to make it even more suitable for larger functions and private parties”.



A great idea as it seems that lovers of fine Italian food, along with the restaurant’s tremendous reputation for consistent quality, and excellent customer service will see it as a great place to hold a special evening.

AUTHENTIC PIZZA
PIZZA VERA
 BY MARCO’S

Pizza Vera by Marco’s
 843 Lasalle Road, Bang Na Tai,
 Bang Na, Bangkok, 10260
<https://www.pizza-vera.com/>
 092-530-0506



Marco's
 A TASTE OF QUALITY
 RESTAURANT - PIZZERIA

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This Month in Discover Pattaya

Hi Everyone

Our cover story this month features the tremendous success of Marco who continues to develop his restaurant business. Now extending into Bangkok, we wish him success in all his ventures and love working with him. Also, in the following pages, we report on more excellent eateries for you to discover. Also the amazing Lay Beach Club - what Pattaya Beach Road has really been waiting for!

I also find myself writing to you now, feeling that I am in some bizarre reworking of a Richard Curtis film title, as I've been to "Two Weddings and Three Funerals" and we're only just into 2025. No more of the latter I hope. It's far too sad. Please turn to page 26 to see my personal remembrance of Dr Sunya, a larger than life character and a great friend to Pattaya.

Another great friend to our city is the ball of energy that is Margie of the Hand to Hand Foundation. I have been inspired by her selfless work for the community for some time. So on page 52 I have written what will be the first of a series of articles entitled "Pattaya Patriots". If you want to nominate anyone you feel deserves the title, please write to me at gloria@pattayatrader.com and let me know.

With a few tips on how to survive Songkran, I wish you a very happy April.

Stay well, stay safe and Keep Cool!

Gloria x

gloria@pattayatrader.com

Pattayatrader.com [Pattaya Trader YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)



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"I have been working with Discover Pattaya and Pattaya Trader for more than 6 years the service has been excellent. Gloria always comes up with great advertising ideas and even during the pandemic these have helped my business grow."

Marco



EdenKo

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EdenKo Thailand

HÄFELE

"Our relationship with Discover Pattaya has been an important part of our growth in this area. They are always on hand to update our advertising, feature new products and are generally very helpful with all aspects of our campaign."

exclusive service partners

by ESP STETCO

"We have been working with Discover Pattaya not just to advertise but also to revamp our website. They have shown great personal dedication to understanding our business which has contributed significantly to trust-building and the successful benefit of our venture."

ESP Exclusive Services Partners



Galleria Benetti

3 September at 20:06 · 🌐

"Many thanks to Gloria Jones for visiting us at Galleria Benetti and for the amazing articles in Pattaya Trader magazine."

อยากให้แกลอรี่ของเรา เป็นแหล่งสร้างแรงบันดาลใจ เป็นพลังบวก และสร้างความสุขให้กับทุกท่าน ที่มานะคะ 🥰🙏

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Activities

Games

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Package B

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1-hour playtime

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Egg Decorating



Bunny Fluid Painting



Egg Surprise Dice



Shaking the Eggs

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Bunny Fluid Painting	THB 200	Shaking the Eggs	THB 50



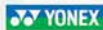
For more information or to book your place, please contact Funtasea - Kids World by emailing: funtasea@royalcliff.com, calling (+66) 38-250421 ext. 2064 or chat with our team at Line ID: @Royalcliff



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Our Top 5 Tips for Songkran Survival

1) PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES

If you must take them out rather than leave them at home you should keep your valuables in a secure waterproof plastic bag. You will find custom-made plastic pouches that can be worn around your neck, expressly for the purpose of carrying your phone from 7/11s and many other stalls and shops around Pattaya.

2) AVOID RIDING YOUR MOTORBIKE

Although a car may get water thrown at it or smeared by powdery hand prints, riding a motorbike at this time of year is infinitely more hazardous. You are still considered a target and as there will be no regard for your safety you will have water thrown at you which could, of course lead to accidents and a spill – in more ways than one!

3) DON'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY AND DON'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER

People are going to throw water and will usually be smiling at you as they do so. You must keep a big, wide smile on your face as well. If you lose your temper and lash out, officials will take a dim view. You are expected to enjoy the locals' celebration of their new year and take Thailand's Songkran festival in the spirit of good fun.

4) PREPARE YOURSELF BEFORE YOU GO OUT

Remember YOU WILL GET WET so wear clothes that are going to be comfortable. Synthetic fibres can repel water better and dry faster than clothing made from cotton and natural fibres which will retain water and stay sodden. You might also consider picking up a cheap disposable raincoat from Family mart etc. and make an effort to not wear your Sunday best! Remember because of the aforementioned chalk and powder being thrown and also the fact that some of the water may not be terribly clean, your clothing could get ruined. So remember our tip no 3) and wear something of little value.

5) GET OUT OF DODGE

You can escape completely either by planning to get out of Thailand altogether or go visit a different part such as Chiang Mai, Samui, Koh Chang etc where the celebrations do not go on for so long. If horror of horrors you have to work or go out for essentials then get up early and try to get as much done in the mornings as possible, when most revellers will still be nursing their hangovers from the night before. Go sit in a cinema, walk around shopping malls or visit some of the international hotels who will celebrate with a more traditional, family-friendly Songkran. Or simply stay at home and get your provisions in. Takeaways such as those from Nick the Pizza on our Dining in Detail page may well be the order of the day. Whatever you choose have a Happy Songkran Sawasdee pi mai!





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CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDAZ PATTAYA JOMTIEN BEACH - ON YET ANOTHER MICHELIN GUIDE MENTION

by Gloria Jones

LA CUCINA is one of the many amazing restaurants to be found at Andaz Pattaya Jomtien Beach. It is actually possible to stay at this beautiful resort and enjoy a wide variety of different food without even leaving the premises. From Fish Club, to the Village Butcher Steakhouse, La Cucina and Wok Wok. Now two of the restaurants here have had a mention in the Michelin guide this year with ChonBuri's inaugural inclusion: Fish club which we covered in our March issue and which you can still read online at pattayatrader.com and La Cucina for delicious homemade pastas and freshly baked pizzas.

When we visited the restaurant it was mid week, about 6:30 pm and the sunset was just settling in. As our time there progressed while we ate, the lights came on outside, effectively used around the trees and hanging above the al fresco dining areas. It all looked really lovely. Whilst inside was comfy and welcoming with an excellent choice of gentle jazz music and what sounded like the delightful songs of Ella Fitzgerald. The lighting in the restaurant is just a little dark for me each table does have spotlighting from above, helping you read the somewhat heavy menus, but its not great for photo taking - which you will really want to do.

If, like me, you have been trying out a no carb diet, consider a visit to La Cucina your cheat night as you certainly won't be able to resist the welcome bread baked on the premises. It is presented with homemade pesto and you can also dip it into some very expensive tasting balsamic and olive oil. To accompany the bread we tried two of the mocktails. Thai Basil Lemonade, a favourite when visiting Andaz. Consisting of sweet thai basil leaves (which we saw being grown outside in a charming herb garden), lemongrass, Orgeat syrup, lime juice and Fever tree ginger ale, it's extremely refreshing. Then we tried Rambutan Tango, a longer and slightly sweeter drink made with rambutans (a fresh peeled one on the top), aloe vera juice lime cordial and a big slice of lemon.





Taste buds truly alive. It was time for starters. I personally was a little disappointed with the cold cut plate. Much of the selection of cheese and charcuterie was smoked (which I'm not a great fan of) and the meat selection mostly on the light pink side. I prefer the darker varieties the coppa and parma ham more. However, the stand out starter of Prosciutto e Fichi more than made up for this. The parma ham was tender and sweet, the stracciatella cheese light and creamy, and the fresh figs from Chiang Mai, so tender they were a delight. I also haven't eaten fresh figs in a while so I really liked the inclusion of this dish on Cucina's menu.

For the entrees we firstly chose the pork cutlet which was accompanied by a delicious red wine sauce and a truly inventive salad which included fennel, tomatoes, slices of orange, and grapes. This was overshadowed somewhat by the pasta dish which was my favourite. Orecchiette pasta (which means little ears in Italian) comes with a divine ragu sauce made from wagyu beef. It was accompanied by its own little pouring jug containing a thick, delicious caciocavallo cheesy sauce which you can add to taste.



As La Cucina prides itself on its freshly baked pizzas which you can watch being prepared at the open oven, we thought we should also order something for this section of the menu. We decided to try a Calzone for a change but I'm afraid after all that pasta, the spirit was willing but the stomach was rather too full! Attentive staff to the rescue who packed it away in an elegant Pizza box for us to enjoy the next day!



Located in: Andaz Pattaya Jomtien Beach, by Hyatt
 Address: 345, Moo 3 Na Jomtien Sub-District, Pattaya City, Sattahip District, Chon Buri 20250
 Phone: 038 221 234

No Kids, Only Cats: Thailand's Quiet Revolution in Modern Family Choices



In the bustling streets of Bangkok and the peaceful beaches of Phuket, a quiet revolution is reshaping what family means in Thailand. As the trend "No Kids, Only Cats" gains traction, more Thai couples are choosing to forego traditional family paths in favor of furry companionship. This shift reflects a broader cultural transformation that emphasizes personal fulfillment and environmental consciousness over societal expectations.

Why Cats Are Winning Hearts Over Kids in Thailand Thailand, known for its cultural richness and deep-rooted family values, is experiencing a shift as young professionals in urban areas like Bangkok opt for a less conventional route. The rising cost of living, coupled with a desire for personal and professional freedom, has made pet ownership an attractive alternative to parenthood. Cats, with their low-maintenance lifestyle and affectionate demeanor, fit perfectly into the busy lives of young Thais who juggle demanding careers and social lives.

The Growing Pet Market The last three years have seen a significant expansion in Thailand's pet market, with the industry's revenue reaching 250 billion baht in 2023. With more individuals opting for pets over children, there has been an increased demand for pet-related products and services. This boom includes everything from gourmet pet food and luxury grooming services to sophisticated pet health care and boarding facilities. The growth highlights the increasing economic impact of pet ownership and underscores a shifting societal trend where pets are considered integral family members.

Pet-Friendly Real Estate and Hospitality This pet ownership trend has also spurred growth in pet-friendly real estate and hospitality sectors. Developers are increasingly incorporating pet-friendly amenities such as dog parks, grooming stations, and even special pet-relaxation areas in residential complexes. Similarly, the hospitality industry is not far behind, with more hotels and resorts offering pet-friendly accommodations and services, ensuring that pets and their owners can enjoy travel together without hassle.

Cultural and Economic Influences This trend isn't just about personal choice—it's also influenced by economic factors. Thailand's economy, with its burgeoning middle class, allows more disposable income for things like pet care services, luxury pet products, and travel with pets. Furthermore, Thailand's real estate market shows an increase in pet-friendly accommodations, reflecting this shift in family dynamics.

Community and Social Media Impact In Thai society, where community and social interactions are vital, social media platforms play a crucial role in shaping perceptions and choices. Instagram and Facebook are awash with vibrant communities of pet lovers who share their daily lives with their cats, offering a glimpse into the joys of pet parenthood. These platforms not only provide a space for sharing but also for support and advice, strengthening the pet-parenting community.

Environmental Considerations Environmental awareness also plays a role in this trend. With global concerns about overpopulation and sustainability, choosing pets over children is seen by some as a more environmentally responsible choice. This sentiment resonates in Thailand, where Buddhism's emphasis on kindness and stewardship of life encourages a harmonious existence with nature.

Looking Ahead As we move further into the 21st century, Thailand's approach to family and lifestyle choices continues to evolve. The "No Kids, Only Cats" trend is more than just a fad; it's a part of a global shift towards smaller, more sustainable living choices that reflect modern priorities and challenges. For many Thais, the joy of raising cats offers a fulfilling alternative to traditional parenthood, one that celebrates freedom, companionship, and a less burdensome approach to family life.

This trend in Thailand underscores a significant cultural shift where personal happiness and societal good are prioritized, illustrating a broader global movement towards redefining the concept of family in modern times.



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SEASALT's Brand New À la carte Buffet

SEASALT is already well known to the guests of Cross Pattaya Pratumnak. From 7 a.m. in the morning, the restaurant provides some excellent options including the very popular "Bubbly Breakfast". However, we were at this magnificent resort with its magnificent sunset sea views, to discover their newest concept at SEASALT, a remarkable À la carte Buffet

Priced at just 888 baht (++) with the inclusion of a sparkling welcome drink - (a bottle for a table of 4) I thought, for the quality and variety of unlimited food that this was rather too reasonable. However, this is how the buffet works - you order all your dishes via the QR code on your table. Then you are given the finishing time for your dining experience. We had a slot from 6:30pm to 8 pm. If you go past your allocated hour and a half, you will be charged 100 baht per person for every 10 minutes thereafter.



So, time to start with some delicate dishes of Sushi, Sashimi, Shrimp Tempura and even Wagyu Beef Sushi. Some of these portions were served as 3 pieces which was a bit tricky as we were sharing between 2. This was in order to try as many different dishes as possible. However, we managed scrupulously fairly to cut the 3rd piece in half each time, and if one of us really loved something then of course it was easy enough just to reorder it with the QR code.

There is also a plentiful salad bar with a varied choice of dressings. My favourite was the Japanese Sesame dressing. We also ordered some Edamame soybeans which were delicious, very well seasoned and easy to munch on whilst waiting for the dishes we had ordered to be brought to the table - yes apart from the salad, water and juice bar you don't have to serve yourself at all. No patiently waiting for your turn at the most popular areas as with other buffets, here because of the QR code ordering everything is brought to your table. Also, we found our used plates instantly cleared by very friendly, helpful, smiling staff.



The menu is divided into different sections and from the Thai menu my favourite was the Khao Soi. Not always easy to find in Pattaya as it is a dish from the Northern region of Thailand, but when I do I usually have it with Chicken but the Beef version here was divine.



From the Western Menu, I would really recommend the Brazilian Beef Skewers. Cut at the table the beef was excellent and while we're on the subject of beef you should also try the succulent Angus beef with truffle sauce. In fact, all the sauces were delicious from the satay to the Thermidor we loved them all



If you can manage it there are also some great desserts to choose from including my colleague's berry panna cotta declared to be "delicious". I was "all in" at the end of the hour and a half and can really say that I found the whole experience great fun and a real treat. With ambient music and restful lighting but not so dark that you can't see to order, SEASALT is a lovely place in which to discover some excellent food.



Danny's Fish and Chips



If there's one traditional British meal other than the eponymous Sunday Roast that has everyone talking, it's Fish and Chips. Take a look at social media any day of the week (not just on Fridays) and you will see plenty of posts about it. Complaints about restaurants who's offerings weren't up to scratch and expats asking for recommendations as to where to go to enjoy quality Fish and Chips. My personal recommendation is for Chef Danny's Fish and Chips at Catch Bar & Restaurant.

Located lakeside at Hookers Fishing resort in Huay Yai, you would expect fish to be a good choice on the menu. After all this stunning, tropical resort is home to the largest freshwater fish on the Eastern Seaboard. You can actually watch excited anglers happily pose with some real monster specimens as you dine either at the sun set terrace or fully air conditioned restaurant inside. But more than the fact they certainly know about fish, it's the fact that Danny Wogan, their international chef knows how to cook them. He and his team take such care, with not just the cooking but also the presentation. Beautifully plated with crispy battered cod placed on top of the mushy peas (not too mushy) and hand cut chips in their own serving basket plus delicious homemade tartar sauce this is certainly a great example of "Fish and Chips". Go try it for yourselves

By Gloria Jones



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menu



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SCAN TO BOOK A TABLE



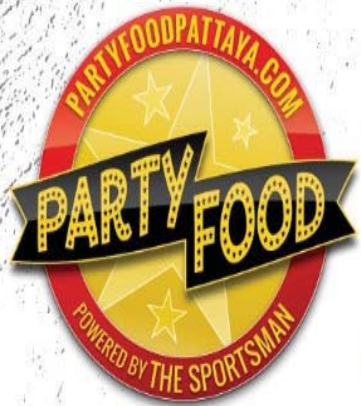
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PUMPKIN USED IN THAI COOKING

Usually pumpkins are associated with Halloween but in Thai cuisine they are used throughout the year being an integral ingredient to both sweet and savory dishes

Celebrated for its versatility and rich flavour the pumpkin is somewhat of a superfood. Packed with fiber, beta-carotene, and vitamin A in Thai cuisine it is often used in salads or stir fried dishes . Also with coconut milk or in custard.

Pumpkin Stir-Fried with Eggs (Fak Thong Pad Khai)



Found in Thai eateries that serve curry rice dishes Pumpkin Stir-Fried with Eggs features tender pumpkin pieces stir-fried with eggs, seasoned with fish sauce, sugar, or other preferred sauces.

Pumpkin Custard (Sung Kha Ya Fak Thong)



This Thai custard dessert combines coconut milk, egg yolk, coconut sugar, and pandan leaves. The unique preparation involves hollowing out a whole pumpkin, filling it with a creamy custard mixture, and steaming it until fully cooked. When served, the pumpkin is cut in half to reveal the vibrant yellow flesh and smooth custard. Pumpkin Custard



Pumpkin in Coconut Milk (Fak Thong Kang Buad)



A quintessential Thai dessert, Pumpkin in Coconut Milk is a treat at both Thai restaurants and dessert shops. This dish combines ripe pumpkin with fresh coconut milk, enhanced by a touch of salt and the aromatic presence of pandan leaves. .

Steamed Pumpkin Dessert (Kha Nom Fak Thong)



In this dessert, steamed pumpkin flesh is mashed and combined with coconut milk, young coconut, coconut sugar, and tapioca flour. The mixture is poured into small molds and steamed until set, delivering a delightful blend of coconut and pumpkin.

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LAY

BEACH CLUB

With lots of lovely beach clubs and restaurants opening all the way from Na Jomtien to Bang Saray, it has seemed that central Pattaya has been flagging somewhat behind.

But no longer! With the arrival of Lay Beach Club there is now a new, amazing beach club right on Pattaya Beach Road Discover Pattaya were delighted to attend its grand opening hosted by Asset World Corp Public Company Limited (AWC), in collaboration with Meliá Hotels International.



Melia Hotels International is a Spanish hotel group headquartered in Palma de Mallorca. It operates over 350 hotels in more than 40 countries.

Melia Pattaya Hotel officially opened in January 2025 and continues to maintain the brand's standard of luxury, sustainability, and innovation. We were able to see this first hand while enjoying a buggy ride from the hotel frontage down to the beach club. Remarking on the beautifully landscaped ground along the way we were told that it has been called "The One Day Park". This is because it was completed in just one day.



Hard to believe when you see the quality of the lawns and greenery used but when Asset World is part of a project, amazing things can happen very quickly. So this lovely space, they hope will be used for the benefit of the general public perhaps exercise, come for early morning Yoga or to bring children.

Once at Lay Beach Club itself we were delighted to see that it really is one of the highlights of Meliá Pattaya Hotel, and a much needed, first class, lifestyle space right in the centre of Pattaya. Even more breathtaking is the terrace upstairs complete with large LED screen which would be just the most perfect space for private parties, functions and events with its direct sea views overlooking Pattaya Beach.

As the sun went down there was delicious Spanish inspired food such as Paella, cold cuts, cocktails and wine to enjoy. Then for a special treat a fire show. A very impressive launch for what will surely become a very impressive landmark on Pattaya Beach Road.



For more details contact 033168555.

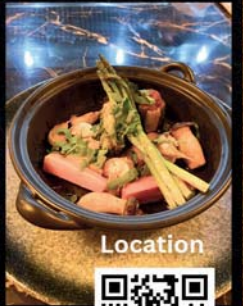
info.pattaya@melia.com

<https://www.melia.com/th/hotels/thailand/pattaya/melia-pattaya>

Or check out The Lay Beach Club Facebook page

Le Paris at Romsai Brasserie

You will find Le Paris on the ground floor of Romsai Brasserie, Beach Road, Pattaya



TEL: 094 612 4265 Open 8am - 2.00am Email: Mricky@hotmail.com

Location



HEMINGWAYS JOMTIEN



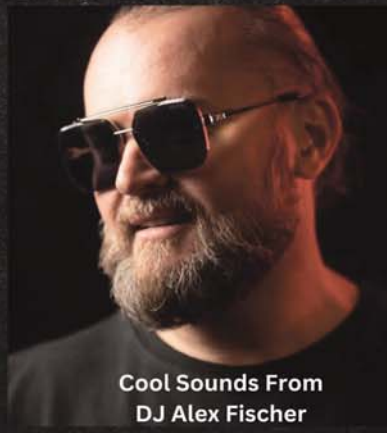
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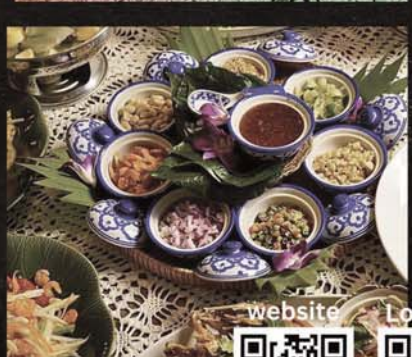
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Location



Able the Disabled Foundation

Able the Disabled Foundation (Riding for the Disabled) is based at Horseshoe Point Pattaya. We rely on volunteers from the Pattaya International Ladies Club and the Rayong Ladies Group. The special needs riders come from the Father Ray Foundation in Pattaya. Each Wednesday morning from 9.30am till 12.00 we work on two groups of children with autism and Downs Syndrome. Each rider has an 8 week rotation programme. Our volunteers stay with the same children over the 8 weeks and each rider has their own lesson plan. We have an Occupational Therapist with us and hope to soon find a physio so we can work with Cerebral Palsy children.

The ponies and horses used must be of a particular nature, very quiet and able to cope with any noises and sudden movements. They are all trained to work with two volunteers and a leader upfront.

The instructor stands in the middle giving instructions and watching each rider. A brief before the class and after must be done to help the volunteers understand what they need to achieve each week.



Horse's have been used in physical therapy for many years. The three dimensional swinging gait of the horse causes the rider's pelvis, trunk, and shoulders to react in ways similar to those produced by the normal human walk. On a horse the rider who can't walk can actually feel what walking is like. The side to side, back and forth plus up and down movements of the horse have the effect of gently shifting the rider off balance to the right, on balance to the center, off balance to the left and back to the center.

The gait of the horse transferred to the rider provides neuromuscular stimulation while increasing cardiovascular output and respiratory excitation. Riding involves all the muscles in the body and, in addition, stimulates all the body systems.

If you would like to know more about the classes that we provide either as a parent or volunteer please call our main office 0839887860 or email on riding@horseshoepoint.com

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Dr Sunya

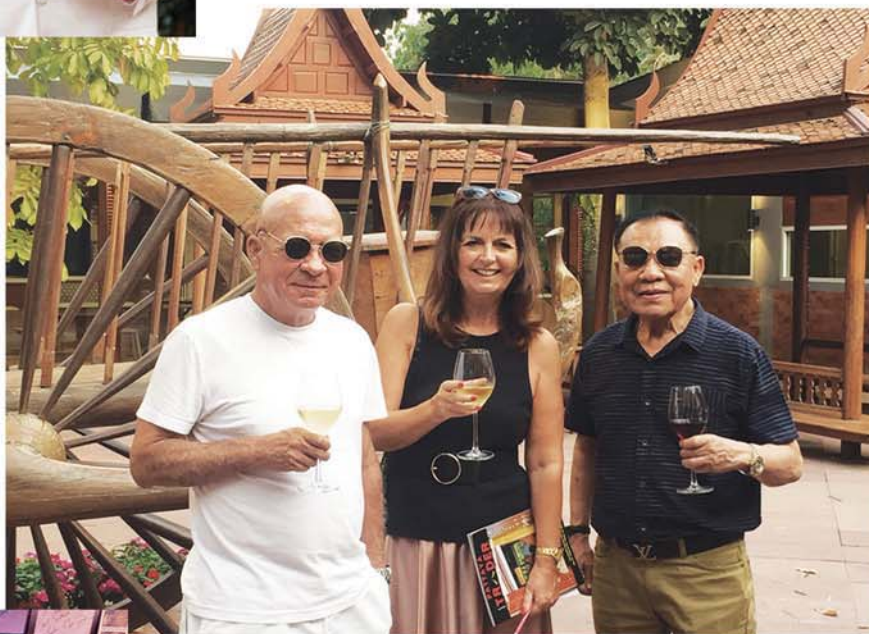
Much has already been said about Dr Sunya Viravaidya's medical proficiency. From his time studying medicine at Melbourne University to the opening of his own clinic here in Pattaya. He went on to become the successful founder of Pattaya International Hospital, on Soi 4 (off Pattaya Beach Road) and also the owner of the beautiful Sugar Hut Resort in Jomtien. However, I would like to write about the man I spent much time talking to, not just because he was a valued customer but because he was just so passionate about discussing ongoing changes in the city of Pattaya.



Opinionated and not shy of saying what he thought, Dr Sunya was able to draw upon a unique blend of Western and Eastern influences. Born of a Scottish mother and Thai father who had both been extremely good doctors, he could see “both sides of the coin” as it were. Often talking about important developments in the worlds of science and medicine he would also add his thoughts on astronomy and the importance of historical Thai culture.



He loved trees, plants and nature in general and was never happier than when he was showing people around the verdant grounds of Sugar Hut which included trees he would proudly say were donated to the resort by Queen Sirikit. Exacting and recalcitrant the Dr could be unforgiving and exacting but for me, his ongoing support for the magazine, which he loved, helped us right through the bleak years of Covid. Along with a number of other staunch supporters we were able to continue printing monthly - despite all the challenges. He would also fish out publications from his many trips abroad to give me suggestions and ideas.



We would brainstorm ideas together, especially for his beloved Jazz Pit where he let the term “It’s not for everyone” be the governing mantra. Likewise, Dr Sunya himself, it would be fair to say, was “not for everyone” as he was never shy of letting his true feelings be known but recently many people have shared stories with me of how he would talk to them (out of hours) about their ailments and his recommendations for what they should do or take to help.

Pattaya will seem just that little less colourful to me now and the Dr, always someone I will remember as a true friend.



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ASIAN OPTICAL

When did you last have your eyes tested?

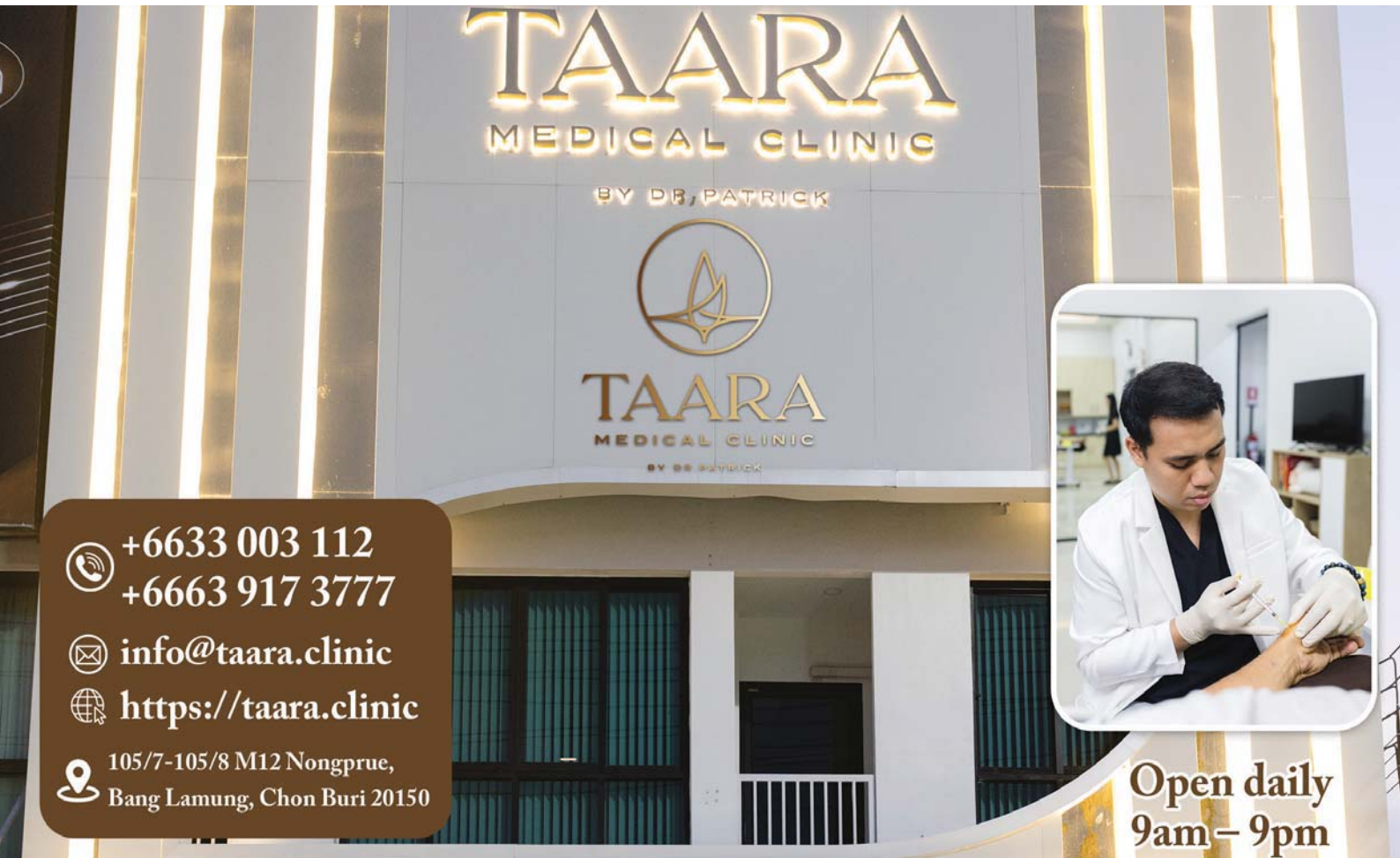


Like regular trips to the dentist having your eye tested is something we often forget to do and yet we should get them checked at least once a year.

There are many opticians in Pattaya and quite often on our Facebook sites Pattaya Trader - Discover Pattaya and Pattaya Trader Expat Ladies Group we are asked to give recommendations. Asian Optical on Pratumnak Soi 4 is the only one we recommend. This is because unlike some other opticians that are little more than shops selling glasses in Pattaya Asian Optical can give you a proper eye test and they also have a fantastic selection of frames, lenses and contact lenses.



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Sports Update

For April by Steve Wade

We have an excellent month of sport coming up in April and the quarter finals of the Champions League are high on the list of events. The first legs of the two-leg ties take place on the 8th and 9th of the month with the deciding matches a week later. Highlights include Arsenal facing Real Madrid and Aston Villa taking on PSG, who now look a serious threat having dispatched Liverpool in the last 16.

The first golfing major of the season, The Masters, gets underway on Thursday the 10th and this great tournament is a must watch for golf fans the world over. World number one Scottie Scheffler has not quite found the form so far this season which made him the best golfer on the planet last year, and by some distance. Rory McIlroy however, has been in sparkling form so far this year with wins at Pebble Beach and the Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass. His game looks in fine shape and hopefully the Masters hoodoo that he has been saddled with over the last few years will be broken. He will certainly be a popular winner amongst golf fans. Ludvig Aberg, Collin Morikawa and Will Zalatoris also have their games in fine shape and look likely to contest for the Green Jacket.

The F1 season is in full swing and there are three races taking place in April. The first heat takes place in Japan on the 6th, that's followed by the Bahrain race on the 13th and finally the whole circus moves to Saudi Arabia on the 20th. Judging by the results of the first two races in Australia and China, the promise of one of the most exciting F1 seasons in years looks like coming to fruition.

The biggest horse race in the British season, the Grand National, is being run at Aintree on Saturday the 5th and millions of people across the country will be having their once-a-year bet or organising sweepstakes in work or at home.

Last but by no means least we have the World Snooker Championship, taking place at its usual venue of the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield from the 19th of the month right through until the 5th of May. Ronnie O'Sullivan, the record equaling 7-time winner, has been behaving strangely recently and has pulled out of most of the season's tournaments so far. Let's hope that he makes an appearance at this years championship because it will be a poorer tournament without him.

That's about it for April. It looks like a great month of sport is in store.



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On the course....

Buddha Mountain is watching you on all holes



Chee Chan Golf Club, located in Na Jomtien outside Pattaya, is highly praised for its beautiful 18-hole Par 72 championship course.

The course, designed in 2019 by David Dale from Golf Plan Dale & Ramsey Golf Course Architects, stretches 7,345 yards from the Championship tees and offers stunning views of Khao Chee Chan, temples, and mountains.

It designed to cater to golfers of all skill levels, featuring sweeping fairways, intricate bunkers, and well-maintained greens. The fairways and tee boxes are planted with Zoysia grass, while the greens are surfaced with Tifeagle Bermuda grass, providing excellent putting conditions.

Many holes feature dramatic elevation changes and stunning views of the surrounding landscape. There are long uphill par-4s and holes with intricate bunker complexes. The signature hole, the par-3 17th, is a memorable experience with its island green and breathtaking backdrop.



The course is also known for its iconic backdrops, including the Buddha Mountain, which adds to the overall experience.

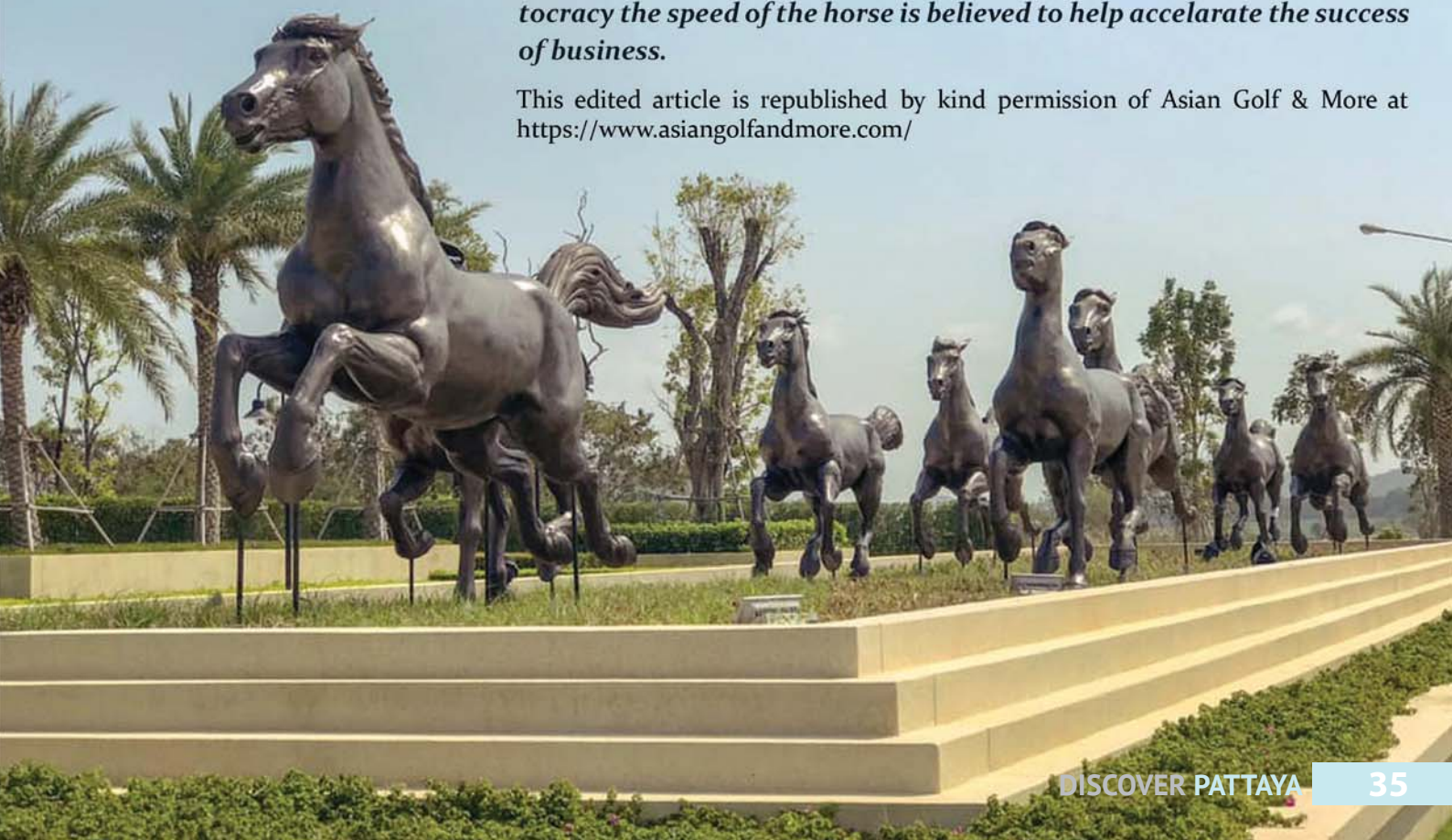
Visitors often highlight the friendly and helpful staff, the well-kept facilities, and the delicious food and drink options available at the club. Check out their pro shop for some great unique polo shirts and accessories.

Chee Chan has an international feel, with 5-star service levels rivaling the best in Asia.



When I visited the Chee Chan Golf Resort I was impressed by the horse sculptures at the entrance to the club house. Interesting to learn that they are based on the feng shui's belief, that horses possess the fire element and are full of power. Also as a symbol of nobility and aristocracy the speed of the horse is believed to help accelerate the success of business.

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A first for Thailand- Ocean Marina Jomtien achieves 5 Gold Anchor Platinum status



**OCEAN
MARINA**
JOMTIEN



Ocean Marina Jomtien has been awarded 5 Gold Anchor Platinum accreditation by the Marina Industries Association (MIA). This Global accreditation is the highest accolade that the industry awards and is reserved for marinas which offer their customers a comprehensive unique marina experience by providing tailored personalised service and an outstanding array of high-quality facilities and amenities.

Established in 1989, Ocean Marina is Thailand's largest marina resort complex. It provides safe anchorage for over 450 boats (berthing up to 70m), hardstand storage, a boatyard serviced by two straddle carriers, fuel services, a 5-star hotel, resort and over 40 boating related businesses to service the needs of its members and the broader boating community in the south-east of Thailand. MIA CEO Suzanne Davies praised the marina, which has also entered the MIA's 2025 Marina of the Year Awards (MOTYA) being held in Sydney in May. "Ocean Marina Jomtien sets the bar for Gold Anchor marina standards, with service and facilities that continue to exceed the expectations of its tenants and guests," Davies said. "And what's so impressive is that Ocean Marina Jomtien, alongside its beautiful resort and facilities, has a large working boatyard providing endless services to the broader recreational boating market in SE Asia. It's just so brilliant to see a boating precinct like Ocean Marina at such a high standard".

The Global Gold Anchor rating system is designed to provide boat owners and marina users with an easy reference system like hotel star ratings. Marinas are independently assessed against over 86 separate criteria which cover management processes, the condition and maintenance of the marina, environmental practices and the ancillary facilities and services. The assessment also involves an anonymous customer survey to further ensure it delivers on its promises. Marina Manager, Scott Finsten CMM said, "I couldn't be prouder of the team for again achieving the 5 Gold Anchor Platinum marina standard. Going into the Gold Anchor scheme and achieving the platinum accreditation is thanks to our dedicated team who are constantly evolving to improve our customer service, marina standards, and environmental initiatives. We look forward to providing our valued guests with a memorable experience in the years to come."



With the growth in popularity of the Asia Pacific region with superyacht owners, the MIA is also pleased to announce that Ocean Marina has become one of the first marinas in Thailand to join the Superyacht Ready accreditation. The Superyacht Ready criteria is based around the suitability of the marina's infrastructure to accommodate superyachts, accessibility for superyachts, security measures and service availability. Davies explains, "Superyacht Ready indicates that the marina is equipped to provide berthing for a superyacht and the Gold Anchor rating will give an insight into the extent of the facilities available at the marina, the service levels and the overall ambiance and opulence that one can expect. As a Superyacht Ready and 5 Gold Anchor Platinum Marina, Ocean Marina Jomtien is certainly going to be high on the list of destination marinas for superyacht captains to consider when they have owners and guests on board." by the Prime Minister of Thailand, Ms. Paetongtarn Shinawatra. Attended by dignitaries and distinguished guests from central and local government, including Mr. Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Sorawong Thienthong, Minister of Tourism and Sports, Ms. Thapanee Kiatphaibool, Governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, and Mr. Sophon Suwannarat, the Governor of Phuket, as well as industry stakeholders, including Mr. Ditapong Thitadilok, Executive Director of Port Macchanu and Mr. Thakoon Boonmak, Executive Vice Director of Port Macchanu, and Thai tourism leaders, the opening ceremony recognised the importance of the show as an economic driver for luxury tourism and a platform to showcase Thailand's soft power while supporting the sustainable growth of Thailand's marine industry.



The show runs from 9 - 12 January, 2025 at Phuket Yacht Haven Marina and organisers expect more than 6,000 visitors from around the world to attend the double-sized show and view the record-breaking line-up of boats and onshore exhibitors this year.



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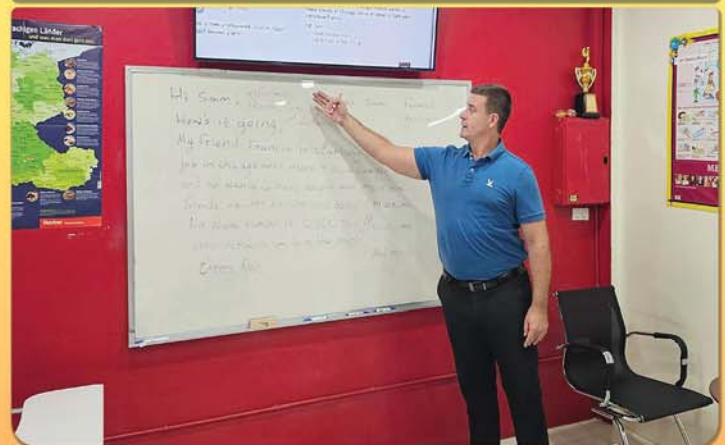


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What's on The Small Screen



Godfather of Harlem Season 4

Forest Whitaker, James Acheson, John Ridley

Bumpy Johnson faces new and treacherous challenges as he navigates the shifting power dynamics of the criminal underworld.



Andor Season 2

Diego Luna, Genevieve O'Reilly, Adria Arjona

Cassian Andor's journey continues from disillusioned thief to committed rebel in the burgeoning Star Wars uprising.



The Eternaut Season 1

Ricardo Darín, Carla Peterson, César Troncoso

A lethal, alien snowfall traps Buenos Aires, unleashing monstrous creatures and plunging the city into a terrifying invasion.



Your Friends and Neighbors Season 1

Jon Hamm, Amanda Peet, Olivia Munn

A charming architect, hides secrets that threaten his marriage to his wife and their social circle.



The Last of Us Season 2

Pedro Pascal, Bella Ramsey, Gabriel Luna

Season 2 picks up five years after the events of the first season, following Ellie and Joel as they navigate a drastically changed world.



The Handmaid's Tale Season 6

Elisabeth Moss, Yvonne Strahovski, Madeline Brewer
Final season of "The Handmaid's Tale," June Osborne continues her fight against Gilead from her refuge in Canada.



What's on The Big Screen



The Amateur

Rami Malek, Rachel Brosnahan, Caitriona Balfe

"The Amateur" centers on CIA cryptographer Charles Heller (Rami Malek), whose world shatters when his wife is killed in a London terrorist attack.



A Minecraft Movie

Jack Black, Jason Momoa · Garrett Garrison

A group of unlikely misfits who are unexpectedly transported through a mysterious portal into the blocky, imaginative world of the Overworld.



The Accountant 2

Ben Affleck, Jon Bernthal, Cynthia Addai-Robinson

Christian Wolff drawn back into action when Treasury Agent Marybeth Medina needs his help to solve the murder of Ray King.



Sinners

Hailee Steinfeld, Michael B. Jordan, Wunmi Mosaku

Supernatural horror film set in the 1930s Jim Crow-era Southern United States. Michael B. Jordan stars in a dual role as twin brothers



Better Man

Robbie Williams, Alison Steadman, Steve Pemberton,

Biographical musical film that tells the story of British pop superstar Robbie Williams, but with a very unique twist.



Queer

Daniel Craig, Drew Starkey, Lesley Manville

William Lee, a detached and drug-addled American expatriate, becomes dangerously obsessed with a handsome, younger drifter named Allerton

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The YubiKey 5 Series is a line of hardware security keys designed to protect your online accounts with strong two-factor authentication (2FA). These small, portable devices plug into your computer's USB port and require a physical touch to authenticate, making them highly resistant to phishing attacks.

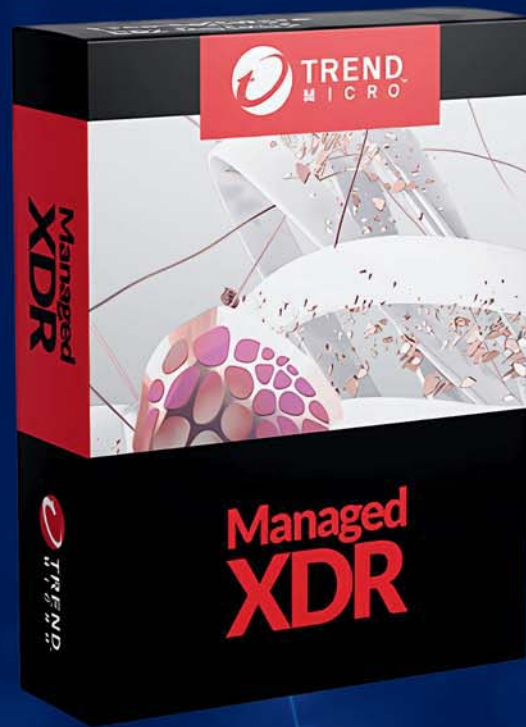
YubiKey 5 Series – by Yubico



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Trend Micro Managed XDR



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The Honor Magic7 Pro incorporates AI-based cybersecurity features to protect users from emerging threats. The device's AI-powered security engine continuously monitors for malicious activity and can detect deepfakes and other forms of AI-generated content. This helps to keep users safe from online scams and other cyber threats.

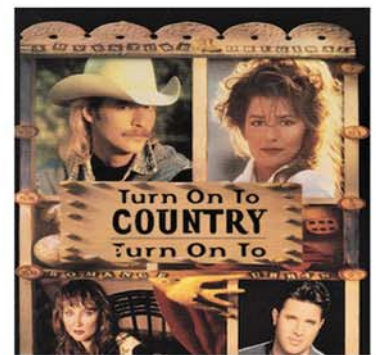
WELCOME TO THE 90's

-BARRY UPTON



Ah, the '90s. A decade where music was a glorious, chaotic buffet of questionable fashion choices and even more questionable lyrical content. The '90s was the period of time in which I personally made a killing in the music scene and had my fair share of success and international hits with pop acts such as SONIA and the million selling band I created, STEPS, for which, 50% of people I meet thank me and the other half, don't.

I turned my back on U.K. dance music that had evolved from listenable House & Techno to tuneless Rave, Drum & Bass, etc.. So, I regularly visited the U.S.A., especially Nashville, where I aligned myself with proper songwriting and New Country music.

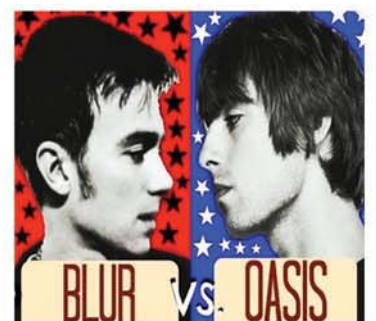


The 1990s marked a pivotal decade in the world of music, showcasing not only the evolution of pop and rock genres but also the emergence of new styles that would shape the future of music. The rise of youth culture, coupled with the impact of the Internet, created a fertile ground for musical experimentation. Music became a powerful means of expression for various demographics, leading to the popularity of diverse genres such as grunge, hip-hop, and pop. Artists like Nirvana and Pearl Jam represented the angst of Generation X, while pop stars like Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys catered to the younger, more commercial market.

Moreover, the decade saw the emergence of female artists who challenged existing norms. Figures like Alanis Morissette and Shania Twain found massive success, pushing themes of empowerment and personal struggle into the limelight.

Technological advancements played a crucial role in reshaping the music industry during the 1990s. Improvements in audio quality revolutionized how music was consumed. The introduction of the Internet, particularly with the emergence of platforms like Napster towards the decade's end, transformed music distribution and consumption patterns. For the first time, audiences were able to access and share music with ease, breaking down traditional barriers between artists and fans.

Brit-pop raised its head with Blur v Oasis sporting snarling vocals. Enter boy bands who had more synchronized moves than a flash mob at a mall. Their hair was always perfect, and their love songs could melt even the coldest hearts. They sang about 'I Want It That Way', yet somehow, nobody wanted to talk about what 'that way' actually was.



'Girl Power' was also in full swing. The Spice Girls, with their platform sneakers and unapologetic attitude, taught us that 'zig-a-zig-ah' was a perfectly acceptable lyrical contribution to society.

The 90s were a beautiful, chaotic, and often hilarious time for music. A time when we embraced the absurd, the heartfelt, and the downright bizarre and while some of those songs might make us cringe today, they're also a reminder of a simpler time, a time when all our problems could be solved with a catchy chorus and a well-placed air guitar solo. So, let's raise a glass to the 90s, the decade that gave us some of the most unforgettable and, let's be honest, utterly ridiculous music ever made.

Witness Barry Upton's 'utterly ridiculous' diverse musical talent as an artist, songwriter and producer on his dedicated YouTube channel – FAB BAZ MUSIC TV.

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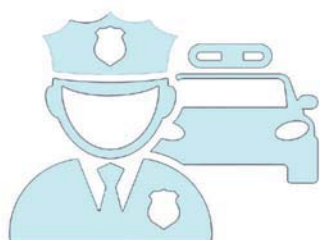
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Phone: 038 221 800, 038 221 331
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Phone 03841 4669, 03842 5937,

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Fire Brigade Pattaya
PhoneTel: 038-425-943,
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Water Works Pattaya
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SUDOKU APRIL 2025

MEDIUM

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SOLUTIONS

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Rotary Club of Pattaya Center International RCPCI

Rotary International is a global humanitarian organization that brings together business and professional leaders to promote peace, fight disease, support education, and improve communities. Founded in 1905 by Paul Harris in Chicago, Rotary has grown into a worldwide network of 1.4 million members in over 46,000 clubs across more than 200 countries.

The club's motto "Service Above Self," reflects the members of Rotary's commitment to engage in projects and fund raising. Both for local needs and larger projects world wide such as clean water access, and working towards the eradication of polio.

The organization operates with strong ethical values, encouraging truth, fairness, goodwill, and beneficial decision-making. By uniting people from diverse backgrounds, Rotary continues to make a lasting difference, transforming communities and inspiring individuals to take action for a better world.



Here in Pattaya, we have many rotary clubs with many sizes of gatherings from lavish Christmas parties and black tie evenings to smaller, more casual events. Discover Pattaya was delighted to attend a meeting at Rotary Club of Pattaya Center International RCPCI which was hosted by Jana Suwannasri, the founder of Rotary Club Pattaya Center International.

In attendance was Mr. Viwat Srisompong, the Governor of the Selective Division, Rotary Region 3340 Year 2568-2569 and Abhyarat Chaisayan, Director of Community Service, Rotary Club of Pattaya Center International. Also many friends and Rotarians, some visiting from other Pattaya clubs.



In addition there was a very informative talk with free samples for the attendees to try at home from Mrs. Viraviral and Mr. Itthipatt Jirasukpraseth. Also a delicious buffet catered by Romsai Brasserie as well as free flow wind and drinks. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a member of this Rotary club committed to working for the benefit of the elderly, needy and underprivileged children in the community phone 065 490 5153 or visit their Facebook page to send a direct message.





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I am using the term Patriot for a series of articles to feature in the magazine. Firstly because I love the alliteration, and secondly because I wanted a word to describe some very special people who live amongst us here in Pattaya. Often given a military connotation the word patriot is actually used for someone who deeply loves, supports and defends their country (or, for the purposes of this article, their city). They often demonstrate loyalty through service, sacrifice, or civic engagement.

True patriotism goes beyond mere pride—it involves striving to make improvements for all, for freedom, and for progress. So to start off this series I think a truly deserving patriot of Pattaya is Margaret Grainger of The Hand to Hand Foundation.

I caught up with Margie just before one of her long haul trips to Australia on the fundraising trail. She is also planning later in the year to go to the USA and Canada. Money raised from these trips will include sponsors footing the bill for her visits as well as money to fund all the improvements and developments needed at Hand to Hand. Then it's back in November to prepare for one of her biggest fund raising events in Pattaya - the annual bike ride. I was curious to find out how the 800km sponsored bike ride started. Margie told me it was because she had wanted to join another cycling group already doing a great job raising money for charity but was turned down. Firstly because she hadn't built herself up to being able to cycle the required amount of 80 kilometres per day, and also because "She is a woman". Anyone who has met the powerhouse that is Margie will understand how this was a red rag to a bull!



Undeafated she started her own bike fundraiser and so it was 3 years ago that the first Hand to Hand Sponsored 800km bike riding event happened. It has gone on to be a great success. In 2024 raising 640,000 baht and in 2023 800,000 baht. The whole event takes place over 16 days from 6 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. when there's a break for some food and rest. Then the riders start up again about 1 hour later to bring the daily total up to 50 kms and achieve the grand total of 800 kms.. Often people express an interest in joining in but don't have a bike, - no problem there are plenty of second hand ones at Hand to Hand. Plus the beauty of driving around Pattaya each day means that there are no travel plans to make or overnight accommodation to be taken care of. Those of us who are less energetic but still want to contribute can sponsor a rider's T-shirt. As seeing the riders decked out in their Hand to Hand T-Shirts is a great way to publicise the foundation and the great work that goes on to provide what is needed.

So what exactly is needed? Well, the preschool (off Theprasit Road, Jomtien) has been the main impetus for all this activity. The roof of the school was in such a state of disrepair that during rain storms water would leak through onto the electric box.

Something had to be done as a matter of urgency and once the roof was off it revealed all manner of problems that needed to be addressed both to the structure of the building and the original materials used in its construction. These were found to be generally unsafe and not going to stand the test of time. Also new laws have to be adhered to, such as doors with glass panels needing to be fitted due to child protection law requirements. Therefore the pre-school new roof project developed into a major refurbishment and improvement project. As I walked through the shell of the school with Margie she outlined where the kitchen will be moved to, and a library set up to house the hundreds of books that have been donated and need to be displayed and stored so that they can be used properly. - It's all quite a job!

In the meantime, everyone including the kids from the pre-school are in the Hand to Hand Housing at Nong Plai. So Margie took me there to have a look around what I found to be a wonderful space. Here they have more available land than on the Theprasit site so they can grow food and plants, have a mushroom hut and keep chickens. Adults with no other means of income are given the tools, plants and equipment they need so that they can come here to grow fruit, vegetables and plants. For young, older children, even people in their 30s-40s Margie has seen that the cultivating, caring for and growing of plants is good for their mental health with the profits from the sales giving them even a few baht in their pockets which helps to engender a sense of purpose and beginnings of some pride.





Offsite, Hand to Hand also does amazing work, with prison visits and by taking food to people in the slum areas of Pattaya. Currently, 250 families are visited per week with food parcels. Rice is bought directly from a local farm, 5 tons per month, which helps not just the people it feeds but also the farmer who enjoys the regular business. Margie's sponsors also help the foundation, for example, the Irish Embassy donated money to help with the growing of plants and vegetables. Also, One World Water donates all the drinking water, plus they have solar panels to give them 60% of their electricity requirements.

Through it all the indefatigable life force that is Margie galvanises her team, joins the children in their daily song, and meets with sponsors to show them what is being done with their money - my visit followed on from a site inspection by Bosch. However, I worry that realistically, as she herself says, she has about 10 years left that she can devote to Hand to Hand. Who will succeed her? After all for Margie, this has been a vocation, she didn't realise some 30 years ago when she first came to Thailand to work as a teacher at International schools that she would sell everything she owned to start what is now an amazing charitable foundation (and has been officially recognised as such since 2010). Where will we find another Margie to take the reins in 2035? Perhaps someone is waiting in the wings?



It's a huge ask to get involved with such worthwhile causes but the children are what keeps Margie going. There are abandoned children who can't fit into the usual Thai orphanage system because they don't have the necessary papers.

"We tend to get involved with cases nobody else wants," Margie tells me. Like the baby they have called "Jomtien" because he was found under the chairs at Jomtien Beach. Hand to Hand will "take in" these cases to help and rehabilitate but also to do extensive searches in order to find family or extended family members and rehouse the children. Also to provide them with paperwork even though this can sometimes take years. It can be extremely rewarding when all the hard work eventually results in the children getting their birth certificates so that they have papers for when they are 18 and can progress into society.

Hand to Hand of course couldn't do what it does without help. Sponsorship, from companies, schools or personal donations are always welcome and essential. So if you visit Nong Plai why not purchase some plants, vegetables, even eggs (they have a thriving chicken community!). Or drop in to see the wonderful happy smiles on the children's faces (you can't fake that). If you're thinking about what to

bring? Toothbrushes and toothpaste are always welcome but generally anything and everything you can donate. If you are moving or relocating, let Hand to Hand know and they will come with a truck and take away any second hand clothing, goods, or furniture. You can be sure that anything you no longer need will be put to good use.



For more information message the FB page or go to the website handtohandpattaya.com or email handtohandpattaya@yahoo.com I already have another 4 really good hearted people in mind for following articles but if you know anyone who you feel is a good candidate to be called a Pattaya Patriot please write to me at gloria@pattayatrader.com and let me know. Thank you

LAMPANG, THE HISTORIC AND TIMELESS CITY

by Songpone Siriwanlert Chapter 4 – Cultural Events

Introduction:

In the previous issue, we presented to you the existing Lampang historic places. In this issue, the following are Lampang's famous cultural events through out the year as well as Buddhist ritual ceremonies.

The Legend of Lampang's Emerald Buddha



Once upon a time there was a lady called Suchada who made watermelon plantation. One day she found the distinguished one that was so hard like a stone. She offered the melon to the monk for making the Buddha image, but it was too hard for him to do it. By that time, an angel disguised as a white-robed ascetic came to him asking for carving tools. When he got the tools and turned back, the angle had disappeared, and the fine emerald Buddha was left instead. Later, someone accused Suchada of having sexual relation with that monk. The governor sentenced her to death without any trial. She prayed to the sacred things if she was innocent, her blood would float on to the sky. Then it was what she prayed. The governor felt guilty and spitted out blood to death. That monk escaped to a faraway village. Nowadays the Watermelon Emerald Buddha is installed in Lampang Luang Temple in a district outside Lampang City.

Giant Bowl and Big Drum Worshipping for Northern New Year (Lampang Songkran Festival)



The first event is gathering holy water from 13 different sources of water in Lampang and pouring into the giant silver bowl then lift it for procession. On new year day, the Emerald Buddha will be installed on a movable throne on the procession from Lampang Luang Temple to the downtown of Lampang and stopover to have roadside people sprinkle holy water to the Emerald Buddha. When the procession reaches Lampang City, the Buddha will be installed at Lampang City Square to have mass of people having bathe the Emerald Buddha with holy water for new year blessing.

Face washing ritual ceremony offering the breathing Buddha



Influenced by Burmese culture, Lampang has over 40 Burmese temples that have a historic valuable both in the architectural arts and their own Buddhist ritual ceremony. There is a famous Buddha image named "Maha Maiya Mune" which the original is in Mandalay City of Myanmar. The second one was brought from Mandalay to Lampang in 1907. Burmese people believe that this Buddha has live and breath. This Buddha image has been installed in Chong Ka (Chai Mongkol) Temple. The ritual process starts early in the morning at 6 am. People prey and offer flower and holy water to wash the Buddha face. The senior monk is the one who sprinkle water for washing and then wipe out by towel. Another monk brushes the Buddha teeth by using a toothbrush tree stick wiping on the Buddha Lip.

Ship Floating Festival (Lampang Loy Krathong)



Ship Floating Festival is a Lampang style of Loy Krathong . There is a floating ship procession both on the street and floating on river as a contest. For individuals, a small size ship with candlelight is for floating in different shapes from lotus.

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บทที่ 4 - งานประเพณีและพิธีกรรมกรรมเอกลักษณ์ทางศาสนา

บทนำ : ในฉบับก่อน ได้เล่าถึง สถานที่สำคัญของลำปางในประวัติศาสตร์ที่ยังคงหลงเหลืออยู่ให้เห็นในปัจจุบัน ฉบับนี้จะเล่าถึงพิธีกรรมทางพุทธศาสนา ที่เป็นเอกลักษณ์ของลำปางตลอดจนงานประเพณีที่จัดกันระหว่างปี

ตำนานพระแก้วดอนเต้า

พระแก้วมรกตของนครลำปาง เรียกกันว่า พระแก้วดอนเต้า สร้างจากหินเนไฟรท์ซึ่งเป็นหยกอ่อนชนิดหนึ่ง มีสีเขียวเข้มที่คล้ายผลแดงโม คำว่าดอนเต้าหมายถึงคอนที่ปลุกแดงโม ภาษาเหนือเรียกแดงโมว่า มะเต้า ตามตำนานของพระแก้วดอนเต้าที่เล่าสืบต่อกันมาจากรุ่นสู่รุ่น มีอยู่ว่า นางสุชาดาเป็นเจ้าของไร่แดงโมที่ดอนเต้า วันหนึ่งนางได้พบผลแดงโมที่มีสีเขียวเข้มผิดปกติและแข็งเหมือนกับหิน จึงนำแดงโมไปถวายพระเถระ เพื่อสร้างเป็นพระพุทธรูป แต่ตัวของแดงโมนั้นแข็งมากไม่สามารถแกะสลักได้ ขณะนั้นพระอินทร์ได้แปลงเป็นชিশะขาว จะมาช่วยแกะสลักองค์พระให้ โดยให้ท่านไปนำเครื่องมือแกะสลักมา เมื่อคล้อยหลังไปนำเครื่องมือกลับมาแล้ว ชিশะขาวก็หายตัวไป แต่มีองค์พระแก้วมรกตสีเขียวเข้มงดงามตั้งอยู่แทนที่ ต่อมา มีคนใส่ร้ายนางสุชาดาว่า เป็นชู้กับพระเถระรูปนั้น เจ้าเมืองเชื่อและสั่งประหารชีวิตนางสุชาดาทันทีโดยไม่ได้สวน นางตั้งจิตอธิษฐานว่าหากตนเองบริสุทธิ์ ขอให้โลหิตพุ่งขึ้นสู่ท้องฟ้าทั้งหมด การณ์ได้เป็นไปตามที่นางสุชาดาตั้งสัตยาธิษฐานไว้ทุกประการ เจ้าเมืองเสียใจหนักถึงขั้นกระอักเลือดตาย ส่วนพระเถระได้หนีจากดอนเต้า อันเป็นวัดพระแก้วดอนเต้าสุชาดารามในปัจจุบัน มุ่งไปสู่อำเภอหางน้ำหลวง ซึ่งอยู่นอกเมืองลำปาง ไปถึงอำเภอเกาะคาในปัจจุบัน และพระแก้วดอนเต้าก็ได้ประดิษฐานอยู่ที่วัดพระธาตุลำปางหลวงจวบจนทุกวันนี้



งานสลุงหลวงกลองใหญ่ปีใหม่เมือง นครลำปาง



ประเพณีหลักของชาวลำปางคือ การแห่สลุงหลวง (หมายถึงขันเงินยักษ์) ที่บรรจุน้ำศักดิ์สิทธิ์จาก 13 อำเภอในจังหวัดลำปาง เพื่อนำไปสรงพระแก้วดอนเต้า โดยมีรถแห่อัญเชิญสลุงหลวงไปยังมณฑลพิธีสรงน้ำพระแก้วดอนเต้า ณ ช่วงหลวงเวียงละกอน วันสงกรานต์มีการอัญเชิญองค์พระแก้วดอนเต้าจากวัดพระธาตุลำปางหลวง อำเภอเกาะคา ด้วยกระบวณแห่มายังตัวเมืองลำปาง โดยแฉะข้างทางให้ประชาชนสรงน้ำเป็นจุดๆ เมื่อถึงช่วงหลวง ก็จะนำขึ้นบุษบกให้ประชาชนสรงน้ำโดยทั่วกัน

พิธีล้างพระพักตร์พระมหายมูณี



ลำปางได้รับอิทธิพลทางวัฒนธรรมจากพม่า โดยจะเห็นว่าในลำปางมีวัดพม่ามากถึงกว่า 40 วัด พระมหายมูณี เป็นพระพุทธรูปสำคัญที่ชาวพม่านับถือและศรัทธาสูงสุด มีองค์จริงอยู่ที่เมืองมันตะเลย์ ประเทศเมียนมาร์ ตามคติความเชื่อของชาวพม่า พระมหายมูณีเป็นพระพุทธรูปที่มีชีวิตและลมหายใจ จึงต้องมีพิธีการที่เสมือนหนึ่งว่า พระท่านจะตื่นนอนเช้าตรู่ แล้วต้องทำพิธีล้างหน้ากันทุกเช้า ในปี พ.ศ.2450 ได้มีการอัญเชิญพระมหายมูณีองค์จำลองจากเมืองมันตะเลย์ มายังเมืองลำปาง โดยประดิษฐานไว้ที่วัดจองคา (วัดไชยมงคล) พิธีล้างพระพักตร์พระมหายมูณีที่มีปีละครั้ง โดยประชาชนจะมาร่วมสวดมนต์ และ ถวายเครื่องสักการะต่อหน้าแท่นบูชา แล้ว พระเถระชั้นผู้ใหญ่ของวัดจะอัญเชิญน้ำสรงพระพักตร์ขึ้นประพรมที่พระพักตร์ของพระมหายมูณี โดยพระเถระรูปอื่น ใช้กิ่งข่อย สีพระทนต์ ที่ริมพระโอษฐ์พอเป็นพิธี อีกรูปหนึ่งใช้พัดใบลานขนาดใหญ่พัดวีไปด้วย จากนั้นหัวหน้าพิธีฝ่ายฆราวาสก็ใช้ผ้าขนหนูเช็ดถูพระพักตร์จนแห้งสะอาด เป็นอันเสร็จพิธี

ประเพณีล่องสะเปาชาวละกอน

ในคืนวันเพ็ญเดือน 12 วันลอยกระทงของไทยทั่วประเทศ ลำปางมีประเพณีล่องสะเปาชาวละกอน แปลว่า ล่องสำเภา ชาวลำปาง (ลำปางมีชื่อเรียกอีกชื่อหนึ่งว่า เวียงละกอน) รูปทรงของกระทงเป็นรูปเรือสำเภาที่มีเสากระโดงตรงกลาง ถ้าเป็นของประชาชนลอยกันเอง รูปเรือก็มีขนาดเล็กพอดีมือ แทนที่จะเป็นทรงดอกบัวเหมือนที่อื่นๆ ส่วนกระทงใหญ่ที่ประกวดประเภทลอยน้ำ ลักษณะของสะเปาหรือกระทงลอย จะคล้ายๆกับการไหลเรือไฟของชาวจังหวัดนครพนม

โดย ทรงพล ศิริวรรณเลิศ

Magical Melaka: Melting of Cultures



By Jason Rupp and Carla Marie Rupp

Melaka is a city in Malaysia full of history which has earned its distinction of being a UNESCO heritage site. We've been here many times over the years and never get tired of it. It's a lovely city of almost endless places to see special museums and delicious food everywhere! So we boarded the Pattaya airport bus to Suvanabhumi to catch a plane to Kuala Lumpur and from KL airport to Melaka, it took just two hours and cost about \$6 USD on a VIP bus with big comfy seats. At about 10 pm, we arrived at a dark bus station in Melaka, where our close friend's son Auston met us and took us to the historic Jonker Street zone, where we stayed with our friends Kim and Kong. We dropped off our suitcases at their house and proceeded to the brightly-lit and famous weekend Jonker Street Walk nearby. Here we walked the night market and ate a lot of the treats offered in each block, at the almost endless stalls.

Malaysia has three main ethnic communities: the Chinese, Indians, and the Malays and almost all of them can communicate in English. Our friends are Chinese Malaysian and took us to a lot of large Chinese food courts where you see a huge variety of ethnic foods. One we liked was Golden Food Circle. Kim and Kong also took us to late-night Chinese restaurants. Melaka offers so much great food. Several nights we even ended up at the popular Mamasita's, located just a few steps off of Jonker Street, for Mexican food and margaritas. Also a Saturday food market near our friends' house was a highlight of our short stay. We can also recommend a friend Pak's restaurant near the river walk called Mumway Kitchen, with very creative, but traditional dishes. Food choices are almost endless in Melaka.



While it's enjoyable to do a lot of walking around Melaka, our friends have a lot of bicycles so each day we cycled on long fun rides, taking a different route each evening. We would consider it one of the best cycling cities around and declared that biking was our preferred mode of transportation there.

Several evenings we parked our bicycles and got outdoor foot and leg massages, in the historic zone near the river, which start at sunset-time. Jason filmed massages here at Quayside Foot Massages for his YouTube channel Jason Rupp - Travel & Pamper. He still talks about these strong massages, and how we should have them everyday. Absolutely recommended. We both had them, and feel better for doing so.

The Malacca River is picturesque and runs through the city, and because it can be hot during the day, it's good to head to the river and "chill" at one of the riverside bars and cafes. The river plays an important role in Melaka's history, used by traders who came from all over the world. We recommend travelers take a river cruise, which is well worth the \$5 USD approximate price. It's lined with little shops, cafes, restaurants, and street musicians and street art murals. This area is also surrounded by colorful "trishaws," (the pretty buggies) with lavish ornaments, decorated kitschy by the drivers, to take tourists for rides. You can request whatever music you like from the driver when you take a ride around Melaka.

We will also never forget doing all night outside karaoke near the historic clock tower in the Dutch museum complex area. There's a man who actually brings all his equipment to the street and has a big following. We each got up and sang songs, three songs cost about \$1. The karaoke in the midst of the old Dutch which dates back to the 1600s. You'll find Stadthuys, known to be the oldest building in Asia, among the collection of Dutch buildings in the square. Christ Church Melaka is here along with the iconic Melaka Clock Tower.



Our friend Kong took us on our bikes to the beautiful Maritime Museum which pays homage to the city's maritime heritage. There are a host of museums in the city. Melaka (sometimes spelled Malacca) is an historic trading port of the Dutch, Chinese, British and Portuguese. The city was occupied by the Portuguese for 130 years (1511-1641); then by the Dutch for 145 years (1641-1786); and by the British for 171 years (1786-1957). The architecture is well-preserved in the downtown area. One cannot tear these historic buildings down, but they can be modernized. This historic center is where we recommend you stay, since Melaka is a very walkable city, with lodging of every kind, and even a beautiful riverwalk promenade.

Melaka offers a vibrant multi-cultural heritage. You can still see historical influences from various cultures, not just the Dutch, British and Portuguese but also from the Chinese with many temples which can also be found in the historic old city zone. Also St. Paul's Church on the hill, where you have to be willing to walk up a lot of stairs. We have so many memories of Melaka, and we hope you like the ones we shared here. We recommend Melaka as a great getaway from Pattaya, especially since it was so easy to get to. We flew from Bangkok on Air Asia, which took about 2hrs and then another 2 hours by bus from the Kuala Lumpur airport.



Jason Rupp and Carla Marie Rupp are freelance travel journalists who enjoy sharing adventures and writing about their trips in Discover Pattaya magazine. Previous articles can still be read on the website pattayatrader.com and they enjoy getting feedback so please write to them at jasonruppy@gmail.com and carlaruppy@gmail.com.





I always enjoy meeting someone who has a genuine passion for what they do. Sebastiaan Hanssens the Managing Director of Deeco Floors is definitely one such person. When telling me about Deeco flooring it was all I could do to keep my pen flying across the paper fast enough to record the detail he proudly relays about his company. He really has a passion for his business and loves to talk about wood. This is not really surprising when you find out that it is in his blood. He was born into a family who have worked in wood construction since 1904. This is when the company A & A Hanssens was founded in Ghent, Belgium. Alphonse Hanssens tragically died when he was just 47 years old but his wife Maria-Emerentia Duyck continued with the timber trade passing it on to her children



Alphonse Hanssens



Maria-Emerentia Duyck

Sebastiaan left Belgium to work in Shanghai for 8 years before moving to Thailand, taking his knowledge and expertise with him. He soon found that the matt finishes more usual in Europe were very popular with a more expensive look than the shinier veneer flooring more commonly used. He also kept all his contacts in Europe, so now when you buy from Sebastiaan and Deeco, you are buying not only their expertise but also dealing with the direct importers as there is no middle man.

When visiting the light and airy premises in Chaiyapruerk 1 Alley, Jomtien you'll find that it is really a one stop shop for all your Full Floor Solutions. Sebastiaan and his team can help with everything and guide you to the most suitable choice for your space and budget. No job is too big or too small. They will advise on flooring for developers or individual customers, giving recommendations for the installation and aftercare. There is plenty to choose from and they are Pattaya's first and only Oak Veneered SPC flooring provider.

DEECO Floors offers 3 types of wooden floors. Their top range is the Ultra Premium (Oak 100% wood), a real parquet floor. This floor has a genuine oak top layer of 3mm, which comes from oak trees that have been growing in the forest for at least 120 years. Each plank is unique, showing the natural grain of the wood, bringing a true natural feel to your home. Because of the thickness of the oak, the floor can be re-sanded and re-coated several times, lasting a life time. The Ultra Premium range is available from stock in 3 European, trendy colors. DEECO Floors is the only shop in Pattaya that sells real wooden floors.



The middle range Premium has a real oak top layer of 1mm, with a Stone Plastic Core and noise reducing back layer. Premium combines the beauty and elegance of oak wood with the practical advantages of a vinyl floor. The SPC core is made of 70% limestone and 30% PVC, which makes it waterproof, anti-termite and fire retarding. The floors are easy and quickly to install because of the 5G click-lock, the latest technology, and don't require glue. After installation, because of the long lengths, this floor looks like a parquet floor, but at a much better price. The Premium collection is available from stock in 3 European, trendy colors. Light tone colors for a modern and comfortable atmosphere, natural wood color adding warmth to any space and dark brown tones create an elegant and classic look. DEECO Floors is the only shop in Thailand that sells this latest technology of floors.

Then DEECO floors also offers the European Affordable Luxury (SPC), the latest generation of traditional laminated floors. This floor is made of high technology wood, that give the floor an authentic wood grain look & feel. The core is made of 70% limestone and 30% PVC, making it waterproof, anti-termite and fire proof, and it has a noise reducing back layer. The coating is applied with 6 layers, making it very scratch resistant, anti-bacterial, slip resistant, UV resistant and pet friendly. As well these floors can be easily cleaned and easily and quickly installed because of the 5G click-lock, which is better than 2G or other click-lock systems, and making the floors more easily installed on sub-floors that are not perfectly even. These SPC floors can even be installed on top of an existing tile floor. This collection is available from stock in 6 trendy oak variations and they come with a 20 year (residential) and 10 year (commercial) warranty.



All DEECO floors are made to European standards, quality and design, and are already best sellers in Europe. Also because of 20 years of experience DEECO Floors has a very strong production base for each type of project. DEECO has stock available in Pattaya, but can also customize production especially for you!

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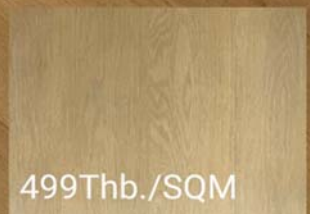
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GUSTAF REAL ESTATE NEWSLETTER

WHAT TO THINK OF WHEN YOU CHOOSE A REAL ESTATE AGENT

- **Experience and Track Record:** Look for an agent with a proven track record of success in the real estate market. Experienced agents are more likely to have the knowledge and skills necessary to handle various situations and challenges that may arise during the buying or selling process.

- **Local Market Knowledge:** An agent who is familiar with the local market will have valuable insights into neighborhood trends, property values, and other factors that can impact your decision. They should be able to provide you with accurate information about the area you're interested in.

- **Communication Skills:** Effective communication is crucial in real estate transactions. Choose an agent who is responsive, attentive, and able to clearly explain complex concepts. They should be able to keep you informed and updated throughout the entire process.

- **Reputation and Reviews:** Research the agent's reputation by reading online reviews and asking for references. A reputable agent should have positive feedback from past clients and a good standing within the community.

- **Professionalism and Ethics:** A trustworthy agent should adhere to a strict code of ethics and professionalism. They should prioritize your interests, provide honest advice, and act with integrity at all times.

- **Negotiation Skills:** Strong negotiation skills are essential for getting the best possible deal. Your agent should be able to advocate on your behalf and effectively negotiate terms to your advantage.



- **Compatibility and Trust:** It's important to feel comfortable and confident with your agent. Choose someone you can trust and with whom you have good rapport. A positive working relationship can make the entire process more enjoyable and less stressful.

- **Availability:** Make sure the agent is available when you need them. An agent who is too busy may not be able to give you the attention and support you require. Find out their availability and how they manage their time and clients.





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