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editorial

mark bibby jackson



As the recent elections in Myanmar and subsequent release of Aung San Suu Kyi have shown, the subject of human rights is still a thorny one in Asia. Students of the subject will know the dichotomy between western and Asian views. The former stresses the importance of social, cultural and political rights whereas the East believes in the primacy of economic ones. Is there an inherent conflict between the two views? Does economic development preclude the protection of social and political rights? Why, in order to provide someone with work, do you have to prohibit his or her freedom of expression?

Before I came to Cambodia I lectured at a university in Hanoi. One of my lectures was on human rights. In it we discussed freedom of expression. My students kindly informed me that I had it wrong. Freedom of Expression was the right of the majority to be protected from any insult caused by a vociferous minority. Why should the few have the right to hurt the many? That, they said, was the way it was in Vietnam, admittedly in a country where the media is much more censored than in Cambodia.

So, with the universal rights of man and the specific rights of one woman very firmly in the spotlight, we have decided to walk into the dragon's den and see the ways that young Khmers are finding to express

themselves. From contemporary visual art to the internet to filmmaking to tattooing, Khmers are expressing themselves in ways that were either prohibited or not available to the previous generations. Where their journey takes them is as uncertain as the road to democracy (whatever this means) that Myanmar is currently embarking upon. However, the journey is sure to be an intriguing one.

This issue marks an end of an era for AsiaLIFE. Right from the outset there has been one ever-present member of the team (excluding myself). Keith Kelly was AsiaLIFE's art director from Issue 1. In the early shoestring days Keith, sometimes with my assistance but more often than not without, would put the magazine to bed in his front room, while his wife Nathalie slept in the neighbouring bedroom.

Keith's devotion and loyalty to the magazine is testament to the man's character. However, now as Keith is shortly to become a father, he has decided to head off for pastures new. I wish him and Nathalie all the best for the future. I owe an enormous personal debt of gratitude to the absurdly tall New Orleans Saint's fan without whom there would be no AsiaLIFE.

If you have any comments on the magazine, please email me at: mark@asialifeguide.com. ✉

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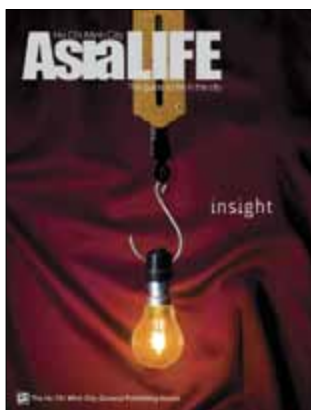
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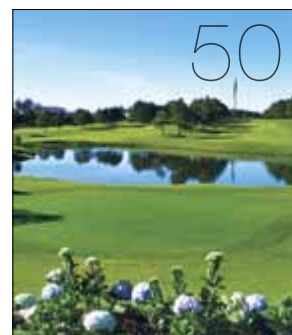
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news & events

Sofitel Checks in to Phnom Penh

The Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra opens its doors on Dec. 18. The latest address from French luxury hotel brand Sofitel, which has locations across 40 countries, is the first five-star hotel to launch in the Cambodian capital for the past ten years.

With 201 rooms laid out over four hectares, the Phokeethra is well positioned to meet the city's increasing wave of tourists. Set along the banks of the Mekong River, the 12-storey building features views of the rapidly developing cityscape. Eight restaurants and bars, five meeting rooms, and an executive lounge, Club Millésime, count among the Phokeethra's highlights.

The hotel also boasts extensive fitness facilities, including an outdoor swimming pool, tennis and squash courts, and fully equipped gym.

For guests and locals alike, the Phokeethra is a significant addition to Phnom Penh's range of upscale locations.

Indochina Starfish Scoops Grant

The Australian Sports Outreach Programme (ASOP) presented Cambodian NGO Indochina Starfish Foundation with a grant of Aus\$15,000 for 2010-11. Funded by AusAID and managed by the Australian Sports Commission,

ASOP supports sport programmes in the Pacific and Caribbean, India, and southern Africa.

Indochina Starfish Foundation was among 23 projects awarded with new sports development grants out of 130 applicants. The NGO has announced plans to develop its football training programme for children from orphanages and street organisations in Battambang, Kandal, Prey Veng, and Phnom Penh, in partnership with the Football Federation of Cambodia and the Sports and Leadership Training Academy. Indochina Starfish Foundation anticipates the grant will benefit over 2,500 children, by allowing for wider participation in the programme.

Bring on the Fun

Local NGO Mith Samlanh will host a FunFair on Dec. 11. The event will take place from 1pm to 5pm at the Mith Samlanh Center, next to Friends Restaurant. Kids of all ages can delight in games, stalls, and an exciting programme of events at this family-oriented event.

In the games room, Cell-card sponsored activities will include Go Fish and Ring Toss. A beauty salon, massage booth, and face painting by Mith Samlanh Beauty students are further highlights. The Talent Fest will present Mith Samlanh singers and dancers along with

A 240 Christmas



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas—or, at least it will during Street 240's Christmas fair on Dec. 9 to 11. Entitled Luxury 240, the event serves to showcase the high-quality, unique products for which the street is known.

Organised by the women behind Subtyl Boutique, Couleurs d'Asie, Chilli Kids, and Water Lily, the festivities are set to include 30 participating shops and restaurants. "Usually it doesn't feel like Christmas here, so this is something for expats who really miss the parties and the lights," says Sandrine Bury, owner of Subtyl. "For Christmas, usually there's something happening in your town. And we thought, why don't we do something?"

Street 240 will be festooned with lights and holi-

day décor for the occasion, with seasonal music being played outside to get everyone in the mood. Shops will remain open until 10pm, with activities, such as manicures, wine tasting and face painting, taking place outside beginning at 5pm. Each participating business will have lucky draws with a variety of prizes on offer for fortunate shoppers. Even Santa Claus has promised to fly in from Lapland.

The event may also mark a movement towards a more unified Street 240, with aims to create a street association and arrange future happenings. "This is the first step," explains Christine Gauthier of Water Lily. "We would like to organise different events together throughout the year."

Challenge On Two Wheels



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE DUCROT

The Kirirom Mountain Bike Challenge returns for the sixth time with the 2010 edition, set for Dec. 12. Bikers from all around the world will descend upon the Kirirom National Park in Kampong Speu Province, located 120km west of Phnom Penh.

Organised by engineering company Comin Khmere, the event promotes sport in Cambodia and helps

support local NGO Pour un Sourire d'Enfant. Participants have the chance to win cash and prizes valued at US\$3,000.

Those interested in taking on the challenge can register at Flying Bike Shop (8 Street 144) and Smey's Shop (18 Street 360). Entry fees are US\$5 for Khmers and US\$20 for foreigners.

Contact 012 269 879 for more information.

acts by local performers. James Sutherland from Radio City is scheduled to appear, as well as a visit from Santa Claus himself.

Dance, Dance, Dance

Amrita Performing Arts' latest project, due to have its world premiere at the Singapore Arts Festival in May, is currently in production. The piece will be created during a December workshop with eight of Cambodia's most talented performers, overseen by renowned German choreographer Arco Renz. Exploring the emergence of a new generation of Cambodians, the workshop will touch upon questions of identity, hopes, social challenges, and integration with the world. Renz strives to translate the principles of Cambodian classical dance and music into an original physical language.

A free public showing is anticipated for Dec. 11 at the Chlenla Theatre. For more information, call 023 220 424.

A Festival of Feats

Cambodian NGO Phare Ponleu Selpak will stage its 7th edition of the International Circus Festival Tini Tinou in Phnom Penh

and Battambang during the first two weeks in December. Around 140 artists from ten countries will join the series of workshops, parades, and performances of daring feats, including tightrope walking, didgeridoo playing, fire twirling, and mime.

On Dec. 4, the opening parade will take place in Phnom Penh, followed by two evenings of shows at the Chaktomuk Conference Hall and French Cultural Centre. The festival will then recommence in Battambang from Dec. 9-12. For more information, visit: www.phareps.org.

Saddling Up

A team of Cambodian horseback riders will take part in a competition in Thailand on Dec. 11 and 12, competing internationally for the first time.

Two of the children in the team are supported by Cheval Avenir, a charity that promotes horseback riding among underprivileged children in Cambodia. Cheval Avenir partners with the Maddox Foundation, a local NGO addressing the needs of children affected by HIV/AIDS. The programme aims to help



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Hungry Plant Discovered



PHOTO BY JEREMY HOLDEN

A carnivorous plant, long the nemesis of insects in Cambodia's Cardamom Mountains, now has a name—*Nepenthes holdenii*. Discovered by and named after British photographer Jeremy Holden, the carnivorous pitcher plant is the latest species to be identified in Cambodia by Fauna & Flora International (FFI). Reaching up to 30cm long, its large

red and green leaves capture and digest bugs. In response to the forest fires common during dry season, *Nepenthes holdenii* can produce an underground tuber that creates a new pitcher-bearing vine once the blazes have ceased. A true testament to the wonder of nature, the pitcher plant illustrates the richness of vegetation in Cambodia.

children learn to care for their horses and to engage in positive, confidence-building activities.

CIMB Banking on Success

CIMB Bank PLC launches in Cambodia, inaugurating its Norodom North branch on Dec. 19. His Excellency Chea Chanto, governor of the National Bank of Cambodia, officiated the launch with the presentation of a licence.

Dato' Sri Nazir Razak, group chief executive of CIMB Group

oversaw the occasion that included a blessing dance and cultural performance show of traditional Chinese dragon dancing accompanied by drums and cymbals. Attendees had the opportunity to walk through the state-of-the-art branch, equipped with counters, ATMs and ample meeting space.

Having a Ball

Dance the night away on Dec. 18 at the inaugural Phnom Penh Christmas Ball. In recognition of

the International Year of Youth, proceeds from ticket sales will support grassroots NGOs working with the youth of Cambodia, including Epic Arts, Tiny Toones, and Rose Charities.

The black tie event will be held at Raffles Hotel Le Royal. Tickets (US\$80) include a three-course meal and drinks throughout the evening, live jazz band and lucky door prizes. To reserve tickets, call 077 998 439 or email ppchris-masball@gmail.com.

Fractured Fairy Tale

The Phnom Penh Players premier this year's Christmas pantomime, "Robin in Da Hood" on Dec. 10. Don't expect the standard version of Robin Hood, as in classic pantomime tradition the group will be throwing in a few twists.

A Motown influence, surprise characters, and slapstick humour are sure to provide an evening of pure entertainment. Staged at the Russian Cultural Centre, subsequent performances will follow on Dec. 11 at 1.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets (US\$10) can be purchased from Java Café sales, and proceeds will benefit Epic Arts, a charity providing arts programmes to people of all abilities and disabilities.

Keep the Flu at Bay

As flu season approaches, Royal Rattanak Hospital in Phnom Penh's Toul Kork and Royal Angkor International Hospital in Siem Reap have launched its flu campaign.

Valid until the end of July 2011, one dose of flu vaccine (including hospital fees and charges) costs US\$20 and two doses US\$37. The vaccine targets seasonal flu B, H3N2, and H1N1. Further promotions on examinations and additional vaccines are also currently available for Cam-

bodian residents and expats. For more information, call 023 991 000 for Phnom Penh and 063 761 888 for Siem Reap.

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Blue Pumpkin in the Penh

At last, a Blue Pumpkin craving can now be gratified in Phnom Penh. In December, the long-running, popular Siem Reap café opens two locations in the capital. Expect the same winning formula. Baked goods will be in full force, as well as Blue Pumpkin's famous ice cream with 40 flavours to choose from. Both new outlets are comfortable, modern-style spaces with wireless internet and air-conditioning. The riverside branch, on the corner of Street 144, features two floors and an exquisite view of the Tonle Sap. The second location will be set on the mezzanine level of Monument Books.

In the Game

Football fans will notice a fresh face on the sidelines as Phnom Penh Crown FC welcomes its new head coach

Bojan Hodak. The Croatian-born Hodak made his public debut during a friendly game at the National Olympic Stadium on Nov. 13, alongside the assistant and goalkeeping coaches. Hodak had a notable career as a player in Croatia, Singapore, and Hong Kong, before earning his UEFA professional coaching licence. The team has also signed up five up-and-coming players—three Cambodians and two Nigerian-born players from the Singapore League. Hodak wants the Crown to play open attractive football and retain the Cambodian League Championship as well as impress in regional competitions.

English Teachers Unite

Registrations are currently being accepted for the 7th annual CamTESOL Conference on English Language Teaching for Feb. 26 to 27, 2011. The programme will include over 300 presentations by professionals in the field from over 30 countries. Optional activities include educational site visits, a regional ELT leadership forum, and conference dinner.

Until Jan. 31, early registration rates for the full conference are US\$50 for Cambodian, Vietnamese and Laotian participants and US\$100 for others, with option to sign up for one day. Fees are raised after that date. Participants can also sponsor rural Cambodian provincial teachers to attend the conference. To register, see www.camtesol.org.

Exceptional Women of Cambodia

Know a Cambodian woman who deserves recognition? Launched by the Women's International Group of Cambodia, the Indradevi Hope Awards are the first independent awards for female community development leaders in Cambodia. Named after an altruistic Angkorean queen, the awards aim to recognise Cambodian women in the categories of dedication, leadership and young achiever. The award ceremony and gala dinner will take place on Mar. 12 at the InterContinental Phnom Penh Hotel. Winners will be given a plaque, commissioned by Artisans d'Angkor, a certificate,

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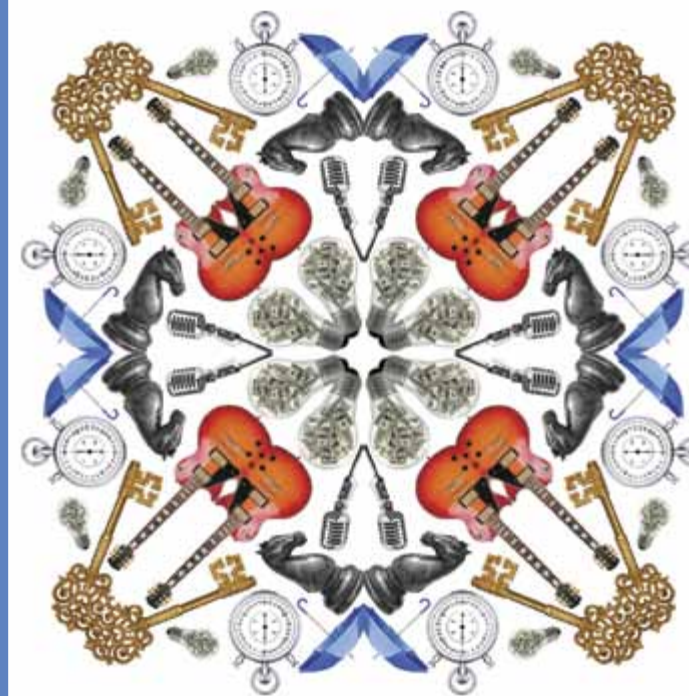
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and US\$1,500 to support their projects. Nominations should be made by midnight on Dec. 31. For more information, see www.wigcambodia.com or email indradevihopearward@wigcambodia.com.

Kratie Eye Candy

The Dolphin Men of Kratie 2011 calendar is now on sale at Monument Books, Bohr's Books, and Blue Chilli Bar. Featuring pinup photography of men working in dolphin conservation in Kampi, just outside of Kratie, the calendar raises awareness about the endangerment of rare Irawaddy freshwater dolphins. Inspired by Cambodia Pride 2009, American restaurateur 'Chicago Joe' designed the calendar to showcase the men of Kratie accompanied by educational tidbits about dolphins. This year's edition includes three of last year's most popular models and introduces nine new men. Calendars are priced around

US\$5, including US\$1 contribution towards dolphin conservation with each sale.

Celebrate with Raffles

For special ways to celebrate the holidays, why not indulge in one of the city's most sophisticated atmospheres? Raffles Hotel Le Royal provides festive elegance over the course of the holidays. On Christmas Eve, dinners will be served in Café Monivong as well as in the Restaurant Le Royal. On Christmas Day, the options are plenty—brunch at Café Monivong, high tea at the Conservatory, and Christmas Day dinner at Café Monivong and Restaurant Le Royal. Ring in the New Year with dinner served in both restaurants and alongside the pool on Dec. 31, followed by the Champagne party and disco in the historic Elephant Bar. Reservations and more information can be sought via 023 981 888 or email: reservation.leroyal@raffles.com.

Photo Phnom Penh

From Nov. 28 to Dec. 4, the Photo Phnom Penh Festival will take place across the city. Organised by the Centre Culturel Français, this year's festival emphasises discovery and exchange—exposure for a new generation of Cambodian photographers, dialogue between Asia and Europe, and interaction with the greater public.

Photographers, both foreign and local, will exhibit in diverse spaces throughout Phnom Penh, beginning the end of November until Dec. 12. The festival also includes a number of events in early December, a remarkable opportunity to explore and engage with contemporary photography.

Ongoing

The Image Boats along Sisowath Quay, 6.30pm. From Nov. 27 to Dec. 4, floating screened images will navigate the river each night for the duration of the festival.

Wednesday 1

Schools of Art and Photography, a world tour, at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, 6.30pm. Photo-concert, musical creation from Louis Sclavis, Dominique Pifarely,

and the musicians of Phare Ponleu Selpak.

Thursday 2

News From the World: Latin America at the Royal University of Fine Arts, 6.30pm. Broad overview of what's happening in contemporary photography.

Friday 3

The Night of Europe-Asia at the Royal University of Fine Arts, 6.30pm. Photographs taken by 12 photographers from Europe and Asia during a week in the framework of the Intersection Project will be presented during this evening of images and music.

Saturday 4

The Night of the Year along Sisowath Quay, 6.30pm. With the support and partnership of 'Les Rencontres d'Arles,' ten large screens will present a vast panorama of photography from the press worldwide. All media produced in Cambodia will be on display at this final event of the festival.

For more information on events and the list of exhibitions, see www.ccf-cambodge.org or contact Magali Poivert at 012 905 128.

HCMC Events In December

Christmas Family Day at the Saigon Zoo

Following the success of last year's Christmas Family Day, street children charity Poussieres de Vie (Dust of Life) will host the event again at the Saigon Zoo from 10am on Dec. 12. There will be a climbing wall, live entertainment from Vietnamese rock band 6789, a sideshow by the Ho Chi Minh circus and French food booths plus an impressive capoeira demo and fire dance. All proceeds will go towards Poussieres de Vie. For details email: aleksandra.nicot@poussieresdevie.org.

Photographic Exhibit at Au Parc

Photographer Melissa Merriweather's exhibition 'Display' opens at Au Parc on Dec. 9 and runs through to Jan. 5. The exhibition celebrates the curious juxtaposition of visually overloaded Saigon and the collision between contrived and accidental found in the display of objects and artefacts. The exhibition is arranged in two parts—one that documents the temples in District 5 and the other on the streets of the Chinese Quarter and the area around Ben Thanh Market.

LoretoFest 2010

LoretoFest 2010 will take place on Saturday Dec. 11 from 2.30 pm till midnight. RMIT will host the fourth annual open-air fundraising concert, with proceeds going towards the Loreto-Viet-

nam Australia Programme. Vietnam's top singer Pham Anh Khoa will perform, as will Melbourne-based outfit Wagons and British band Goober Gun. Children are catered for until 6.30pm with mini-golf, face painting, X-Rock climbing, circus performances, supervised football and netball tournaments, plus horse riding. Visit: www.loretofest.com for ticketing information and prices.

Yoga Teacher Training

Internationally recognised as a teacher of yoga teachers, Hart Lazer leads workshops and teacher training courses throughout Canada, the US, Mexico, Costa Rica, and India. After 25 years devoted to the practice and teaching of Iyengar Yoga under the tutelage of Ramanand Patel, he is coming to HCM City to share his craft. Classes will be offered on Friday Dec. 10 from 6am to 9.30pm and from 8am to 5.30pm on Saturday and Sunday. Pay before Dec. 3 to claim the US\$320 Early Bird rate. After that date, tickets will be US\$370. Visit: www.hartlazer.com or www.saigonyoga.com for details or email Suzanne Vian on: suzannevian@gmail.com.

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IOC Cafe
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Living Room Cafe
Naga World Hotel-Italian Restaurant
Scoop Bistro & Bar
The Place
Time Cafe
The Corner
Van's Restaurant

Delano Building, St: 169
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Intercontinental Hotel
IOC Building, Monivong Blvd
No. 56, Sihanouk Blvd.
No. 17, St. 288
No. 09, St. 306
Naga World Hotel
Mao Tse Toung Blvd.
Preah Sihanouk Blvd.
No. 422, St. 310
No. 12, St. 57
No. 05, St. 102

Siem Reap

The Central Cafe
Hotel De La Paix
King Cafe
Royal Angkor-Sofitel Resort

Corner of Old Market
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Sihanoukville

Cinderellas Cafe

Ochheuteal Beach

Koh Kong

Aqua Sunset

Koh Kong

openings

Cantonese on the Riverside

Perched along the bank of the Tonle Sap River, just north of Chaktomuk Theatre, the Ministry of Tourism info centre now features Yi Sang Restaurant. An ideal spot for tourists and locals alike, the rooftop gazebo and spacious deck area look over the river. Operated by the Almond Hotel, the Cambodian and Cantonese cuisine is the creation of renowned Cambodian chef Luu Meng. Dim sum and Cantonese noodle soup are served for breakfast, with à la carte options for lunch and dinner. The flavours are everything we would expect from chef Meng, with standouts that include an Oriental duck sandwich (US\$3.80), 'Fish See The Prawn Do' salad (US\$5.80), and a braised lamb shank (US\$12.80).

Yi Sang Chinese Restaurant, 128F Sothea's Boulevard, Tel: 012 814 488, Open daily from 6.30am to 11pm.



More Great Grapes on 240

Raise a glass to the recently opened Warehouse on Street 240. Broadening the selection of wine available in Phnom Penh, the company which has three outlets in Vietnam has branched out into Cambodia. Designed with an urban aesthetic, the shop presents shelves of wine alongside unique lighting structures and exposed brickwork. Warehouse features 400 different wines from around the world, all imported exclusively and guaranteed as completely genuine. Prices vary from US\$5 to US\$2,000, depending on the vintage. Bottles can be purchased individually or in bulk. Looking to pick up wine to serve with dinner? State of the art refrigeration ensures that there's always a chilled bottle ready to be uncorked.

Warehouse, 32 Street 240, Tel: 023 986 641, Open Mondays through Saturdays from 9am to 9pm and Sundays from 11am to 7pm.



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Konichiwa, Happa



Craving Okonomiyaki? Happa Restaurant, an offshoot of the popular Sihanoukville eatery, is now serving Japanese specialties in Phnom Penh. Run by a Japanese woman and her German husband, the restaurant focuses on Teppanyaki cooking, using a sizzling hot griddle and blending in tasty sauces. The menu pairs traditional Japanese fare with unique creations including a selection of Cambodian cuisine. Okonomiyaki, a favourite among Japanese patrons, is a concoction of cabbage and varied toppings, such as

cheese and bacon (US\$3.25). Beef in apple-onion sauce (US\$2) is another recommended dish, as well as Yakisoba (US\$3.25). Seafood is fresh, driven over from Sihanoukville every morning. The décor will be familiar to those who have dined at the original seaside eatery, with white lanterns strung from the ceiling, potted palms and wooden tables creating a smart yet relaxed atmosphere.

Happa Restaurant, 17 Street 278, Tel: 077 749 266, Open daily from 11.30am to 2.30pm and from 5pm to 10pm.

Style with Savings



The fourth branch of WExport opened on Sihanouk Boulevard in early November. Having already established outlets near the Russian and Central Markets, the four-storey building represents WExport's biggest range of selection yet, although only the first two floors have products at the moment. Savings average up to fifty percent on most items. In the women's section, H&M sweaters sell for under US\$20 and pinstripe denim skirts by Levi's for

US\$24.95. When it comes to wardrobe standards, tank tops in bold hues from Aéropostale are US\$3.95. For men, a section of Ralph Lauren button-down shirts present a rainbow of colours for around US\$25 and beige gap corduroy trousers run for US\$19.95. Coming soon, a floor of children's apparel will make it easy one-stop shopping for the whole family.

WExport, 87 Sihanouk Blvd, Tel: 023 997 650, Open daily from 8am to 10pm.

Fine Shopping

Facing the Russian Market, Esquisse may create a calmer shopping experience than the hectic environment within—but the prices aren't far off. The charming boutique, decorated in black and white, is a welcome addition to the neighbourhood's shopping options. Though the clothing is sourced from Vietnam and Thailand, the Khmer-French owner selects pieces according to her Parisian sense of aesthetic. The array of prêt-à-porter features a penchant for soft fabrics, neutral shades, and careful detailing. A black baby-doll dress with crochet trimming is US\$7.90, whereas a nautical striped t-shirt costs US\$5.50. Shoes are also on offer, including navy-coloured flats with feminine cut-out detailing at US\$8.90, as well as a number of accessories. Reasonably priced French-inspired chic? Merci!

Esquisse, 146 Street 155, Tel: 011 506 210, Open daily from 8am to 6pm.

Beans and More

When it comes to coffee shops, it seems that Phnom Penh just can't get enough of them these days. Right from its opening day, Brown Coffee and Bakery has seen no shortage of customers. Its popularity among expats and Cambodians comes as no surprise. Air-con, WiFi and a wide range of drinks and nibbles more than fulfil the essential requirements of a desirable coffee shop. The décor scheme of muted colours, exposed brick, and diverse furniture creates a pleasant environment to while away the hours. There's plenty of room for all, with tables for the laptop-using freelancer and cosy nooks ideal for meetings between friends or colleagues. Beyond basic coffee, there's ice chai tea latte (US\$2.35) or mocha frappe (US\$2.50). A glass case reveals plump almond croissants and other baked goods made daily, and for more substantial eats there are salads and sandwiches priced around US\$3.

Brown Coffee and Bakery, 142 Street 51, Tel: 012 606 089, Open daily from 6.30am to 9pm.



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calendar phnom penh

Wednesday 1

Film: The Conscience of Nhem Em and Terror's Advocate at Meta House, 7pm. Two award-winning documentaries, the first focused on Toul Sleng prison photographer Nhem Em and the second on the defence lawyer for Khieu Samphan at the ongoing Khmer Rouge Trials.

Thursday 2

Exhibition Opening: Li Wei photo exhibition at Chinese House, 8.30pm. Part of the Photo Phnom Penh Festival, ends Dec. 12.

Film: Cambodia: The Virginity Trade and The Girls of Phnom Penh at Meta House, 7pm. Two new films by UK filmmaker Matthew Watson documenting the lives of girls and women affected by the virginity trade in Cambodia.

Friday 3

Exhibition Opening: Asia Motion Second Anniversary photo exhibition at the FCC, 8.30pm. Projection on the opening night. Exhibition ends Jan. 3.

Live Music: BluesBerry Jam at Meta House, 6pm. Modern day travelling medicine show, with folk, blues, and jazz songs. In the Art Café, a collection of laminated vintage posters will be displayed.

Live Music: Luke Chow at Chow, 8pm. Solo guitarist on tour across Asia.

Live Music: The Lazy Jazz Drunks at Equinox, 8.30pm. Rock 'n' Roll/Blues.

Sale: Jasmine Boutique Christmas sale at Gasolina, 5pm.

Three-day event features holiday discounts and complementary hors d'oeuvres.

Saturday 4

Live Music/Film: Mozart and When You Are Strange at Meta House, 7pm and 8pm. Performance by Uy Thach, El Leang, and Anton Issehardt of Vienna Serenade in the gallery, US\$5 admission includes drink. Documentary on Jim Morrison and The Doors screening.

Live Music: Luke Chow at the FCC, 8.30pm. Solo guitarist plays roof terrace.

Party: Fat Black Pussycat at Riverhouse Lounge, 10pm. Vibe Events brings Miami Beach's legendary party with MC Hydro Phonics and DJ Tech12. Non-stop urban dance beats, hip-hop treats & chainsaw rhymes.

Sale: Jasmine Boutique Christmas sale at Gasolina, 5pm. Three-day event features holiday discounts and complementary hors d'oeuvres.

Sunday 5

Exhibition Opening/Film: Global Art Children Exhibition and German Christmas Opera at Meta House, 5pm and 7pm. Phnom Penh school Global Art shows students' artwork, followed by screening of Hansel and Gretel: A Fairy Tale Opera.

Sale: Jasmine Boutique Christmas sale at Gasolina, 5pm. Three-day event features holiday discounts and complementary hors d'oeuvres.

Tuesday 7

Film: The Art of Conducting at Meta House, 7pm. Documentary

collaboration between director Henri-Georges Clouzot and renowned conductor Herbert von Karajan of 1965 final rehearsal of Schumann's Symphony No. 4.

Wednesday 8

Film: Death and Rebirth and The Pepperfields at Meta House, 7pm. Double bill of first documentary film shot after the Khmer Rouge, followed by documentary on former low-ranking KR cadres in Kampot Province.

Thursday 9

Auction: Phare Ponleu Selpak Art Auction at Java Café & Gallery, 6pm. Supported in part by JavaArts. Preview and silent auction begins Dec. 2, with live auction, lottery, and conclusion of silent auction on Dec. 9. Contact Isabelle Drouillard at 077 959 110.

Festival: Tini Tinou Circus Festival Opening Parade in Phnom Penh. Hosted by Cambodian NGO Phare Ponleu Selpak. See News for more information.

Film: War Don Don at Meta House, 7pm. Rebecca Richman Cohen's documentary follows the international court trial of a rebel group leader in post-war Sierra Leone, raising questions of justice. See article in Storyboard.

Live Music: Electro Music Night, 9pm. German DJ Doshy visits Phnom Penh on Asian tour, presenting an evening of dubstep, hip hop, and other music styles, opened by Phnom Penh based Dandan

Beck. Entrance fee US\$2. Venue to be confirmed, call 012 702 372.

Friday 10

Film: A State of Mind and Crossing the Line at Meta House, 7pm. Jaw dropping documentaries on North Korea by Director Daniel Gordon and producer Nicholas Bonner.

Party: 10th Anniversary at Java Café & Gallery, 7pm. Java celebrates ten years of existence with a special edition of open mic night, emceed by Berkavitch and featuring music by DJs Nam and Radioactive Anne. Food & Drinks.

Play: Robin in Da Hood Christmas Pantomime at Russian Cultural Centre, 7.30 pm. Performed by the Phnom Penh Players. See News for more information.

Saturday 11

Dance: Free public showing of dance project at Chenla Theater. Amrita Performing Arts production choreographed by Arco Renz. See News for more information.

Event: FunFair at Mith Samlanh Center, 1pm. Games, stalls, and entertainment. See News for more information.

Film: Short Student Films on Biodiversity and Climate Change at Meta House, 7pm. Screening of submissions from the Royal University of Phnom Penh to the Southeast Asian Student Documentary Award, created by UNESCO, Goethe Institute, and GTZ.

Live Music: DWC End of Year Concert at Gasolina, 5.30pm.

Live Music: Los Poporks at Equinox, 8.30pm. Funk hip hop.

Live Music/Dance: Salsa Explosion at the FCC, 8pm. Featuring DJ Jimmy, free salsa lesson until 9pm on the roof terrace.

Play: Robin in Da Hood Christmas Pantomime at Russian Cultural Centre, 1.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Performed by the Phnom Penh Players. See News for more information.

Sale: The Last Christmas Sale in Phnom Penh at Gasolina, 9.30am. Special products.

Sunday 12

Event: Kirirom Mountain Bike Challenge at Kirirom National Park in Kampong Speu province. See News for more information.

Film: Fixer: The Taking of Ajmal Naqshbandi at Meta House, 7pm. Ian Olds' documentary follows the kidnapping of an Afghan interpreter and the American journalist Christian Parenti.

Live Music: Paul Janovskis at the FCC, 12pm. Solo guitarist from Australia plays brunch in the main bar until 2pm.

Tuesday 14

Exhibition Opening: Attasit at Chinese House, 7pm. Thai artist presents new exhibition, ends Jan. 7.

Exhibition Opening:

Joachim Froese photography at Meta House, 6pm. German-born, Australian-based photographer confronts the fundamental aspects of human existence, such as balance, loss and memory.

Quiz: Quiz Night at Gasolina, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 15

Film: 180 Degrees South at Meta House, 7pm. Addressing wilderness ethics, director Chris Malloy follows the sailing/climbing expedition of surfer/rock climber/photographer Jeff Johnson in Chilean Patagonia.

Thursday 16

Film: Documentary shorts from Indonesian and Cambodian filmmakers at Meta House, 7pm. Pork or Chicken, Rhythm of a Day, Wanderers, Friday Lunch and Bot...Parabot tell the stories of illegal city dwellers in Jakarta, followed by Four Shorts from the Factories, focusing on garment factory workers in Phnom Penh.

Friday 17

Live Music/Film: Khmer Pop Concert and Same Same But Different

at Meta House, 7pm and 8pm. Christmas concert by Chameleon Music production company singers Yani, Boy, and Enna and dance performance by Da Fly Group, followed by German feature film.

Live Music: Cambo Jam at the FCC, 8.30pm.

Live Music: Rencontres Musicales at French Cultural Centre Cinema, 7pm. Performance presents the results of a meeting between Lao and Cambodian musicians.

Live Music/Party: 15th Year Anniversary at Sharky's Bar, 7pm. Featuring Curtis King Band.

Party: 7 Eleven at Chow, 7pm. The official 'before party' in Phnom Penh, until 11pm.

Saturday 18

Event: Phnom Penh Christmas Ball at Raffles Hotel Le Royal. Proceeds benefit Cambodian-youth oriented NGOs. See News for more information.

Live Music/Film: TRIOthlon and Future Shorts One Film Fest at Meta House, 7pm and 8pm. International ensemble performs Joseph Haydn's Piano Trios, US\$5 including entry and drink. December programme from monthly global film festival, including music videos from Michel Gondry, DJ, US\$5 for entry and drink.

Live Music: Cambo Jam at the FCC, 8.30pm.

Live Music: Lost Highway at Equinox, 8.30pm. Blues rock. Live Music: Paul Janovskis at Riverside Bistro, 8.30pm. Indochine Blues Tour 2010, also featuring Matt Dwyer. Blues for your soul.

Live Music: Rencontres Musicales at French Cultural Centre Cinema, 7pm. Second night in the series, performance presents the results of a meeting between Lao and Cambodian musicians.

Sunday 19

Film: Desert Flower at Meta House, 7pm. From the desert to the catwalk, a documentary on former supermodel and female activist Waris Dirie from Somalia.

Film/Live Music: Outdoor Ciné Concert at Street 108, 7pm. Organised by the at French Cultural Centre, the event features a live concert during a screening of classic silent films, including those by Buster Keaton and Georges Méliès.

Live Music: Paul Janovskis at Riverside Bistro, 8.30pm. Indochine Blues Tour 2010, also

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1st floor FCC / Collective photo exhibition on the theme e motion / from the 3rd of December 2010 until the 3rd of January 2011.

8 photographers / Nicolas Axelrod, Srikanth Kolari, Simon Toffanello, Georges Jefferies, Anthony Asael, Julien Poulson, Ryan Plummer, Isabelle Lesser

2nd floor FCC / collective video projection / 6 video artists / Nicolas Axelrod, Julien Poulson, Carlos Franklin, George Jefferies, Victor Corolleur, Dave Boyle, Stephane Janin.

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Tuesday 21

Film: Where Have All the Fish Gone and Floating Village at Meta House, 7pm. Tom Fawthrop's film investigates the consequences of hydro-electric dams on the Mekong river, followed by Cambodian director Koam Chanrasmey's look at fisherman in Siem Reap. Q&A with filmmakers.

Wednesday 22

Film: Carlos at Meta House, 7pm. Director Olivier Assaya's monumental film about Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the notorious Venezuelan bomber.

Thursday 23

Film: Tokyo Godfathers at Meta House, 7pm. Anime direc-

tor Satoshi Kon's third feature centres on the adventures of three homeless characters on Christmas Eve.

Saturday 24

Food/Drink: Christmas Set Menu at the FCC and Chow.

Food/Drink: Christmas Lunch and Dinner at Riverside Bistro. Fresh turkey imported from the US with all the trimmings.

Live Music: Paul Janovskis at Equinox, 8.30pm. Blues.

Party: Hip Hop Santa at Riverhouse Lounge, 10pm. With DJ's Illest and Cool Sam.

Sunday 25

Food/Drink: Christmas Set Menu at the FCC and Chow.

Food/Drink: Christmas Lunch and Dinner at Riverside Bistro. Fresh turkey imported from the US with all the trimmings.

Live Music: Cambodian Space Project at Equinox, 8.30pm. Khmer Rock n' Roll.

Wednesday 29

Live Music: Warapo at the FCC, 8.30pm. Cuban band plays FCC roof terrace.

Friday 31

Live Music: New Year's Eve at Sharky's Bar, 7pm. Featuring Plan B from Australia.

Party: New Year's Eve at the FCC, 9.30pm. Featuring DJ Illest.

Party: New Year's Eve at Riverside Bistro. The final countdown, with

Chinese firecrackers, party poppers, Big Ben chimes and good times.

Party: New Year's Eve at The Riverhouse Lounge, 10pm. Cheers to the first decade of the millennium during the biggest party of the year at the Lounge. Gifts and countdown surprises.

Every Day

Food/Drink: Everyday Brunch at Chow, 10am-2pm

Food/Drink: Chow 8 Lunch Special at Chow, 12pm

Food/Drink: High Tea at the Conservatory, Raffles Hotel Le Royal, 3pm-5.30pm

Food/Drink: US\$1 Tapas Time at Studio 182, 6pm-10pm (not Sundays)



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Live Music: Jazz at Studio 182, 7pm. Phil and Ritchy and guest singer perform jazz standards, every night except Sundays with Emanuelle Rey.

Every Monday

DJ/Party: HIP HOP sessions at the Riverhouse Lounge, 10pm till late. DJ Gang & DJ Star.

Every Tuesday

DJ/Party: Hip Hop sessions at the Riverhouse Lounge, 10pm till late. DJ Cool Sam & DJ Star.

DJ/Party: Afro-Latino Tuesday at Elements Club. Two for one carafes of cocktails.

Food/Drink: Prime Tuesday at Café Monivong, Raffles, 6-10pm. Black Angus prime beef rib or leg of lamb "à la Provençal.

Food/Drink: Burgers at Steve's Steakhouse, 6.30pm
All you can eat burgers US\$7.50

Food/Drink: Big Boy BBQ at Riverside Bistro, 6pm. Lamb chops, sirloin steaks, honey grilled spare ribs with baked potato and choice of sauce.

Quiz: Pub Quiz at Gym Bar, 9pm. Cash prizes in the quickest pub quiz in town.

Every Wednesday

DJ/Party: Slammin Hip Hop at the Riverhouse Lounge, 10pm till late DJ Cool Sam & DJ Blue.

DJ/Party: KH Karaoke Girls Party at Elements Club

Dance: Salsa at Equinox, 9pm.

Live Music: Phnom Penh Acoustic Sessions at Setsara, 8pm. Open Mic Night hosted by Julien Poulson, founder and guitarist of the Cambodian Space Project.

Quiz: Pub Quiz at Paddy Rice, 8pm. General knowledge quiz with drinking skills essential. BBQ starts from 6pm, with plates from US\$4.50.

Party: Bedlam at Harem Sisha Lounge, 9pm. The newest gay night in Phnom Penh with live Arabian transvestite shows.

Every Thursday

Dance: Swing Dance at Equinox, 9pm

DJ/Party: Ladies Night at Elements Club, 9pm. Free welcoming cocktail for women.

DJ/Party: Ladies Night at the Riverhouse Lounge
DJ'S Gang & Blue with drink specials for women.

DJ/Party: Ladies Night at Do It All Bar, 10pm. Free first drink for all women.

Food/Drink: Chicken at Steve's Steakhouse, 6.30pm. All you can eat US chicken US\$7.50.

Food/Drink: Big Boy BBQ at Riverside Bistro, 6pm
Lamb chops, sirloin steaks, honey grilled spare ribs with baked potato, potato salad and choice of sauce.

Live Music: Electric limelight duke-box jam at Paddy Rice

Dance/Live Music: Swing Night at Equinox, 9pm. Phnom Penh Pswings hosts an evening of dance, featuring live music by Balgass.

Dance: The Children of Bassac at the National Museum, 7pm. Weekly performances by youth dance company, led by leng Sithul.

Live Music: Eclectic Electric Limelight Jukebox Jam Open Mic at Paddy Rice, 8pm. Hosted by Melanie Brew.

Party: Ladies Night at The Riverhouse Asian Bistro, 7pm. Free glass of sangria and a rose to every woman. Followed by the unveiling of Velvet Nights, live sexy soulful Velvet House music from 11pm to late.

Every Friday

DJ/Party: African Dance Party at Do It All Bar, 10pm. Playing traditional African hits 'til 6am.

DJ/Party: Hip Hop Non Stop at The Riverhouse Lounge, 10pm DJ Bobby, DJ Cool Sam & DJ Illest.

DJ/Party: Johnnie Walker Friday Sessions at Elements Club JW Gold & Black Drink Specials.

Food/Drink: Seafood Buffet at Café Monivong, Raffles, 6pm
Large selection of fresh seafood prepared in front of your eyes.

Live Music: Velkommen Inn, 8pm

Food/Drink: Buffet Lunch at Lotus Blanc (Stung Meanchey), 11am to 2pm. US\$8.

Food/Drink: Poet's Day at Fish. Long lunches and boozy afternoons. Business lunch set menu for US\$15.

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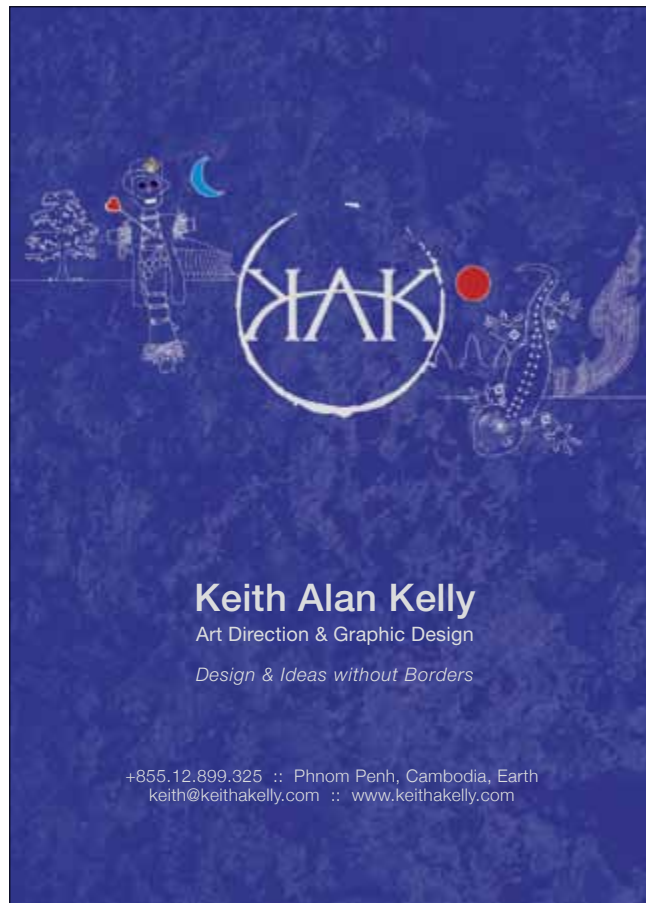
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Food/Drink: Keelhaunched on Cocktails at Fish, 8pm to 9pm. Ladies Night with two for one cocktails.

Live Music: Weekly live music gigs at Paddy Rice, 9pm.

Every Saturday
DJ/Party: Hip Hop Night at Do It All Club, 10pm. With DJ Ratana / DJ Rock till 6am.

DJ/Party: Hennessy Full Locale Party at Elements Club, 9pm. Drink specials and lucky draw.

DJ/Party: Hip Hop Mash-up at The Riverhouse Lounge, 10pm Hip Hop with DJ's Cool Sam & DJ Bobby.

Food/Drink: Italian Buffet at Café Monivong, Raffles, 6pm

Food/Drink: Big Boy BBQ at Riverside Bistro, 6pm.

Food/Drink: Buffet Lunch at Lotus Blanc (BKK location), 11am to 2pm. US\$10.

Every Sunday
DJ/Party: Sunday Night Jammin at Elements Club, 10.30pm

DJ/Party: Dance remix at the Riverhouse Lounge, 10pm DJ Star & DJ Phannara.

Food/Drink: Paella Sunday's at Pacharan, 11am – 5pm Free flow of sangria and all you can eat paella for US\$13+.

Food/Drink: Sunday Brunch at Café Monivong, Raffles, 11.30am. Free flow of Singapore Slings.

Food/Drink: Prosecco Brunch, Bistro Romano NagaWorld, 11am. Oysters, a la carte main, fresh pasta station and free-flowing prosecco for US\$25 (US\$20 if group of 6 or more).

Food/Drink: Big Boy BBQ at Riverside Bistro, 6pm Lamb chops, sirloin steaks, honey grilled spare ribs with baked potato, potato salad and choice of sauce.

Food/Drink: Steak Night (US\$7.50) at Steve's Steakhouse, 6.30pm.

Food/Drink: Big Boy BBQ at Riverside Bistro, 6pm.

Food/Drink: Five Loaves and Two Fish Sunday Brunch at Fish, 11pm to 2pm.

Food/Drink: Three Hail Mary's and A Bottle-o-Rum at Fish. Three Bloody Marys for the price of two. 🍷

calendar siem reap

Thursday 2
Film: American Beauty, 6.30pm at Siem Reap Film Society.

Friday 3
DJ/Party: DJ D'TONN playing his "Power Mix" at The Station, from 9pm till late.

Quiz: Charity Pub Quiz at Rosy's Guest House, 8pm.

Shopping: Thank Buddha it's First Friday! Street Festival, sales and treats on Alley West, all day.

Sport: Angkor Wat Bike Race. The 80km bike race starts at 5.45am with the fun ride at 6.30am.

Sunday 5
Film: Monsters vs. Aliens at Siem Reap Film Society, 3pm.

Film: Rain Man at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Sport: Angkor Wat Half Marathon, the kingdom's biggest sporting event sets off around the temples of Angkor at 6.20am.

Tuesday 7
Film: Closer at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Thursday 9
Film: Leon, The Professional at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Friday 10
Food/Drink: Ladies night at Chilli Si Dang with special treats, all night long.

Sunday 12
Film: Wall-E at Siem Reap Film Society, 3pm.

Film: Scent of a Woman at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Tuesday 14
Film: A la Folie at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Thursday 16
Film: King Kong at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Friday 17
Auction: Special charity auction from the members of SKAL, at Le Meridien Hotel.

DJ/Party: DJ D'TONN playing his "Power Mix" at The Station, from 9pm till late.

Quiz: Charity Pub Quiz supporting two local organisations at Chilli Si Dang, 8pm.

Saturday 18
DJ/Party: Grab your legwarmers for DJ D'TONN and an 80s Night at The Tropical Garden, from 9pm till late.

Sunday 19
Film: Ratatouille at Siem Reap Film Society, 3pm.

Film: Top Gun at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Tuesday 21
DJ/Party: Full Moon Party at Paradise Eco Resort, from 11pm until sunrise.

Film: The Boat That Rocked at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Thursday 23
Film: Love Actually at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Friday 24
DJ/Party: Angkor What? Xmas Eve Mega Fest. Special guest DJs, free giveaways.

Food/Drink: Meric's Special Christmas Eve Menu at the Hotel de la Paix.

Sunday 26
Film: Polar Express at Siem Reap Film Society, 3pm.

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Film: It's a Wonderful Life at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Tuesday 28

Film: Fifth Element at Siem Reap Film Society, 6.30pm.

Friday 31

DJ/Party: The biggest party in town, the Awesome Pub Street New Years Eve Party, all night long.

Food/Drink: Meric's Special New Years Eve Menu at the Hotel de la Paix.

Every Day

Classes: Vegetarian cooking classes at the Peace Café, from 11am to 1pm.

Exhibition: Buddha Exhibition by Angkor Heritage at Raffles Grand Hotel.

Exhibition: 'Elegy: Reflections of Angkor', by John McDermott. Ongoing at the McDermott Gallery, FCC Complex and The Passage.

Food/Drink: High Tea at Raffles Grand Hotel, from 2.30pm to 5.30pm.

Food/Drink: Happy Hour at the Elephant Bar, Raffles Grand Hotel, from 4 to 8pm.

Food/Drink: Happy Hour at The Siem Reap Hostel. Jugs of Anchor US\$3, and jugs of cocktails only US\$4, from 6pm to 9pm.

Food/Drink: A contemporary afternoon tea served at the Arts Lounge in the Hotel de la Paix, from 3pm to 5pm.

Leisure: Tai Chi Chuan, Yang style at the Peace Café, 10am to 12pm.

Leisure: Free Guided Yoga Practice at The Siem Reap Hostel, 10am.

Sport: For details of the next Hash House Run, check out www.hannostamm.com, where you can ask to be put on the mailing list.

Every Monday

Film/TV: Movie Night at the Soria Moria Hotel rooftop bar, free popcorn, 8pm.

Food/Drink: Early Bird specials at Molly Malone's restaurant and steakhouse. Special offers from 5pm to 6.30pm.

Leisure: Board Games Marathon at The Siem Reap Hostel.

Join a table and choose from one of 25 games to play. From 6pm to 9pm.

Leisure: Hatha Yoga at the Peace Café, 6.30pm to 8pm.

Every Tuesday

Classes: Khmer Lesson (Free) at the Peace Café, 5pm to 6pm.

Film/TV: Indulge your inner kid: Cartoonathon at the Siem Reap Hostel. American Dad, South Park, The Simpsons and Family Guy on the big screen, from 6pm to 9pm.

Food/Drink: Early Bird specials at Molly Malone's restaurant and steakhouse. Special offers from 5pm to 6.30pm.

Food/Drink: All you can eat Australian-style barbeque at The Villa, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm.

Food/Drink: Women enjoy a complimentary glass of Champagne, free treats and other specials at Soria Moria's Ladies Night, 7pm to 10pm.

Every Wednesday

Classes: Khmer Lesson (Free) at the Peace Café, 5pm to 6pm.

Club: Singing Club at the Peace Café, 7.30pm to 9pm.

Film/TV: Comedy Central at the Siem Reap Hostel. Classic episodes of The Mighty Boosh, The Office, 30 Rock, IT Crowd and Dimitri Martin, from 6pm to 9pm.

Food/Drink: Early Bird specials at Molly Malone's restaurant and steakhouse. Special offers from 5pm to 6.30pm.

Food/Drink: Enjoy a wide selection of tasty treats and tapas with \$1 night at the Soria Moria Hotel – all drinks and food US\$1, 7pm to 11pm.

Leisure: Hatha Yoga at the Peace Café, 8.30am to 10am.

Talk: Join in the monk chat, with an introduction to Buddhism with Venerable Sokhun and Friends, at the Peace Café, 5pm to 6pm.

Every Thursday

Classes: Khmer Lesson (Free) at the Peace Café, 5pm to 6pm.

Food/Drink: Oh My Buddha! Happy Hour at the Soria Moria Hotel from 10am to 10pm, buy

one get one free drinks, 50 percent off all food.

Food/Drink: Early Bird specials at Molly Malone's restaurant and steakhouse. Special offers from 5pm to 6.30pm.

Leisure: Hatha Yoga at the Peace Café, 8.30am to 10am.

Leisure: Wii Bowling Championships at the Siem Reap Hostel: turn up and join in or enter a regular team. Kick off at 6pm, until 9pm.

Live Music: Live traditional Chapei Music at the Peace Café, 6pm to 9pm.

Quiz: Test your knowledge at the long-standing Charity Pub Quiz at the Funky Monkey, 9pm until late.

Every Friday

Classes: Khmer Lesson (Free) at the Peace Café, 5pm to 6pm.

DJ/Party: Indie Music Night at the Siem Reap Hostel. DJs playing the latest Indie, Garage, Electro, Brit-Pop, New Wave, Goth and Chill Wave by the poolside.

Film/TV: Tomb Raider on the big screen at The Siem Reap Hostel, free popcorn and free entry, at 3pm.

Food/Drink: Happy Hour at the Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa, from 3pm to 6pm.

Food/Drink: Early Bird specials at Molly Malone's restaurant and steakhouse. Special offers from 5pm to 6.30pm.

Food/Drink: Happy Hour Cocktails Night at Chilli Si Dang.

Food/Drink: All you can eat Australian-style barbeque at The Villa, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm.

Food/Drink: Ladies get your gladrags on and enjoy the free selected drink for Ladies Night at the FCC, 7pm to 9pm.

Leisure: Hatha Yoga at the Peace Café, 6.30pm to 8pm.

Live Music: Get your country and blues fix at the Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa, with live mu-

sic from KillKelly at l'Explorateur Bar, from 4pm to 7pm.

Live Music: Join local legends Cambojam outside the Banana Leaf, 8.30pm to 12pm.

Every Saturday

Classes: English Lesson (Free) at the Peace Café, 3pm to 4.30pm.

Film/TV: Documentary Hour at The Siem Reap Hostel, focusing on Angkor, from 3pm to 4pm.

Food/Drink: Super Saturday at the Soria Moria Hotel—all day happy hour, buy one get one free drink, and 50 percent off all food, 12pm to 8pm

Food/Drink: Tasty, Fresh, Riverside barbeque at Chilli Si Dang, from 3pm.

Food/Drink: The infamous Siem Reap Hostel Race Around Town Pub Crawl, starts at 10pm.
Leisure: Hatha Yoga at the Peace Café, 8.30am to 10am.

Leisure: The Siem Reap Hostel Games, with Killer Pool and Beer Pong, kick off at 6pm.

Talk: Join in the monk chat, with an introduction to Buddhism with Venerable Sokhun and Friends, at the Peace Café, 5pm to 6pm.

Every Sunday


Classes: English Lesson (Free) at the Peace Café, 3pm to 4.30pm.

Film/TV: Sunday night at the movies at The Siem Reap Hostel. Double bill of cult classics, poolside big screen, at 3pm and 7pm.

Food/Drink: Splash out for the Sunday BBQ and Pool Party at the Siem Reap Hostel. Tickets are US\$4.50, including a beer, from 4pm until 8pm.

Food/Drink: Every Sunday Traditional English Roast at The Warehouse. English Chef, bookings only. Enquire at the bar for this week's special.

Food/Drink: Special offers for wine lovers at the Soria Moria Wine Night, 6pm to 9pm.

Live Music: Acoustic Sessions at Miss Wong with club musician and vocalist Frédéric Johansen, from 8.30pm. 

dispatches

Travel news from around the region and beyond



Clapton Sound Checks Asia

Rock legend Eric Clapton will perform concerts in Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong as part of his 2011 world tour. The musician ranked fourth by Rolling Stone magazine in the 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time, will perform at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on Feb. 14, Bangkok's Impact Arena on Feb. 16 and the Asia-World Expo in Hong Kong on Feb. 18, in his first tour of Asia since 2007. Tickets cost from S\$99 (US\$76) to S\$399 (US\$308) for the Singapore concert, HK\$488 (US\$63) to HK\$1488 (US\$192) in Hong Kong, and from 1,000 (US\$33) to 6,500 baht (US\$217) in Bangkok. For more information, visit: www.ericclaptonmusicnews.com



What Ho Sailor!

One of the region's major yachting festivals, the Royal Langkawi International Regatta 2011 will sail around the Malaysian island from Jan. 11 to 15. Organised by the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club, the regatta involves four days of racing that marks the start of the Asian regatta calendar with crews heading off for the Singapore Straits Regatta later in the month. Entry fee is RM550 for a yacht and skipper. For more information, visit: www.langkawiregatta.com.




Last-minute Christmas Shopping

Head to Kuala Lumpur for some festive season gift inspiration. The Malaysian capital is holding its traditional Year End Sale through December with huge discounts, bargains and promotions. One highlight is A Journey Through Time, Asia's largest luxury watch and jewellery showcase, which runs from Dec. 2 to Dec. 12. Coinciding with the shopping galas, the city's annual Street Food Festival (until Dec. 24) has tasters of the country's best local food. For more information, visit: www.tourism.gov.my. 



Do the Timewarp Again!

Brush up on those pelvic thrusts, squeeze into that corset and slip back into those killer stilettos, because the world's favourite rock musical is coming to Singapore. The city state's Esplanade Theatre will host Richard O'Brien's outrageous transsexual musical from Jan. 5 to 16. Tickets cost between S\$88 (US\$68) to S\$138 (US\$107). For more information, visit: www.sistic.com.sg. 



Didier Lamoot

This month Accor's Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra will become the first five-star hotel to open in the Cambodian capital for a decade. **Mark Bibby Jackson** talks with the man tasked with making it a success. Photo by **James Grant**.

Can you explain why Accor has chosen this moment to open a 5-star hotel in Phnom Penh?

The region is booming and yet Phnom Penh, until now, hasn't really been able to capitalise on the wider world's interest. Sofitel has been repositioned since 2007. Today worldwide we are recognised as a true luxury brand, and the new Sofitel in Phnom Penh will maximise all the advantages of the group's brand position to make a difference.

I believe there are 11 food and beverage outlets at the hotel, is there a market for these in Phnom Penh?

There is a market for quality, service and consistency. Now, you can discover more and more trendy places in Phnom Penh and they are all very successful. The market understands very well what is luxury and all generations are eager and proud to experience it in Phnom Penh. This is Cambodia today and it marks an end to its sad past history. In addition, the middle class is growing fast and there is a consistent increase in the number of visitors coming to the country. The market is ready.

Can you also explain what is special about Accor's room concept?

The concept of Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra is a colonial style hotel, but with a very high tech interior. The rooms are all fully equipped with internet connectivity so you get your emails or favourite tunes from your ipod onto the flat screen in the suites. The bathroom is designed to fit with all actual needs in term of space, light, mirror and equipment, and the amenities are really high quality, L'occitane, Hermes, etc. We also provide the Club Millésime Sofitel concept for all guests staying at our executive floors, with a butler service, private concierge and reception, free WiFi and internet and many other features including access to our club millésime located on the rooftop.

Do you have any special plans for expats living in Phnom Penh?

We will provide a unique club — the Phokeethra Sports Club — with tennis, squash, fitness centre, kids' club, a private pool, bar, and a full team of professional staff to

provide personal training on an exclusive basis. It's also easy to access our park with large trees and extensive private parking. This will be a select place to enjoy quality time, to pamper yourselves and to relax in a unique environment.

The Asean Tourism Forum (ATF) is coming to Phnom Penh in January, are you going to be ready in time?

We already have our first function confirmed for Dec. 3 and the ATF will be in January. There is no doubt about us being ready for this great event in Phnom Penh.

You come across as someone who is extremely confident about the future of tourism in Cambodia generally and Phnom Penh specifically, why is this?

The Kingdom of Cambodia has experienced real and long political stability, the increase in the number of visitors never dropped even during the last financial crisis, business is growing fast, there are more and more planes coming and the borders with our neighbours are more open. Visa fees are waived for some countries in Asean so we are moving

to a sort of "Asean Schengen space". Economic growth is still around 5 percent for 2010, and will increase in the years to come. The Minister of Tourism Dr. Thong Khon is working hard with all his team on marketing and raising the quality of the infrastructure and service everywhere. He has great plans to develop the coast to have our bays classified among the most beautiful bays in the world and to make Cambodia a destination in its own right rather than an extension to neighbouring countries.

Accor plans to open a resort in Ream in the next few years, what intentions does the group have for Cambodia generally?

Accor and Sofitel are convinced about the future of the country so we are developing all our brands from Siem Reap to Ream. We are confident of having the right brands for different merging markets.

What do you believe is needed to make tourism in the country really take-off?

A full open sky and better visibility of what Cambodia is today in all main markets. 



The Personal is Political: Khmer Female Artists Make Themselves Heard

The year 2010 has been good for female contemporary visual artists in Cambodia. Supported by some key actors in the arts scene, young Khmer women artists are staking their claims and demanding to be heard, bringing with them a sense of empowerment and courage, but they still face an uphill battle. Words by Nora Lindstrom.

A Khmer proverb states: "Women can never be apart from the kitchen." Out of sight, out of mind, women cook and clean. Not so Tith Kanitha. As part of the female artists' exhibition Hey Sister, Where are you Going? at Sovanna Mall in November, she presented an installation featuring four simple clay stoves. Three were whole, representing the confinement that many women sense in the private sphere. One, representing herself, was broken.

"Women can never be apart from the kitchen"

"A woman working at the mall saw me smash one of the stoves at the opening of the exhibition," the 23-year-old artist relates of what was possibly the first piece of performance art by a Khmer woman. "She later came up to me to talk about it. That was a success for me."

Kanitha is one of the most exciting up-and-coming young Khmer artists. With her wild, unruly hair and quirky way of dressing, she certainly fits the part. Since participating in the Selapak Neari women's art project in 2007, she has climbed the ladder of Cambodia's art scene, exhibiting at Java Café & Gallery, Meta House, the CCF and Bophana Audiovisual Resource Centre. A graduate in design, she hopes to get people thinking through the installations she makes. "You can't change people, but people can understand your idea, and change a little," she says.

This year has proved a watershed for contemporary female visual artists in Cambodia. Hey Sister was the second art event in less than six months to celebrate women artists, while at least five women have had solo exhibitions in the capital over the year. Compared to three years ago when Khmer-Canadian artist Linda Saphan started the Selapak Neari project, this represents significant progress.

"I did Selapak Neari because there was no support for contemporary art forms for women to turn to," says Saphan.

The project brought together seven local and international artists to share and exchange ideas and visions through workshops. It culminated in the first ever all-female contemporary art exhibition at the Plastic Art Department of the Ministry of Culture.

Dana Langlois of JavaArts agrees that women artists in Cambodia have had a slow start. "But that's not unusual," she says. "Like in any culture, women have not been pushed into art. Educating a daughter in the arts is a privilege."

Langlois believes that the concept of being an artist in Cambodia can sometimes be confused with the idea of being an entertainer—a word that often has negative connotations here. "It has not been considered good for women to be artists," she says.

In a country where the contemporary visual arts scene as a whole is still in its infancy, being a female artist can be doubly difficult.

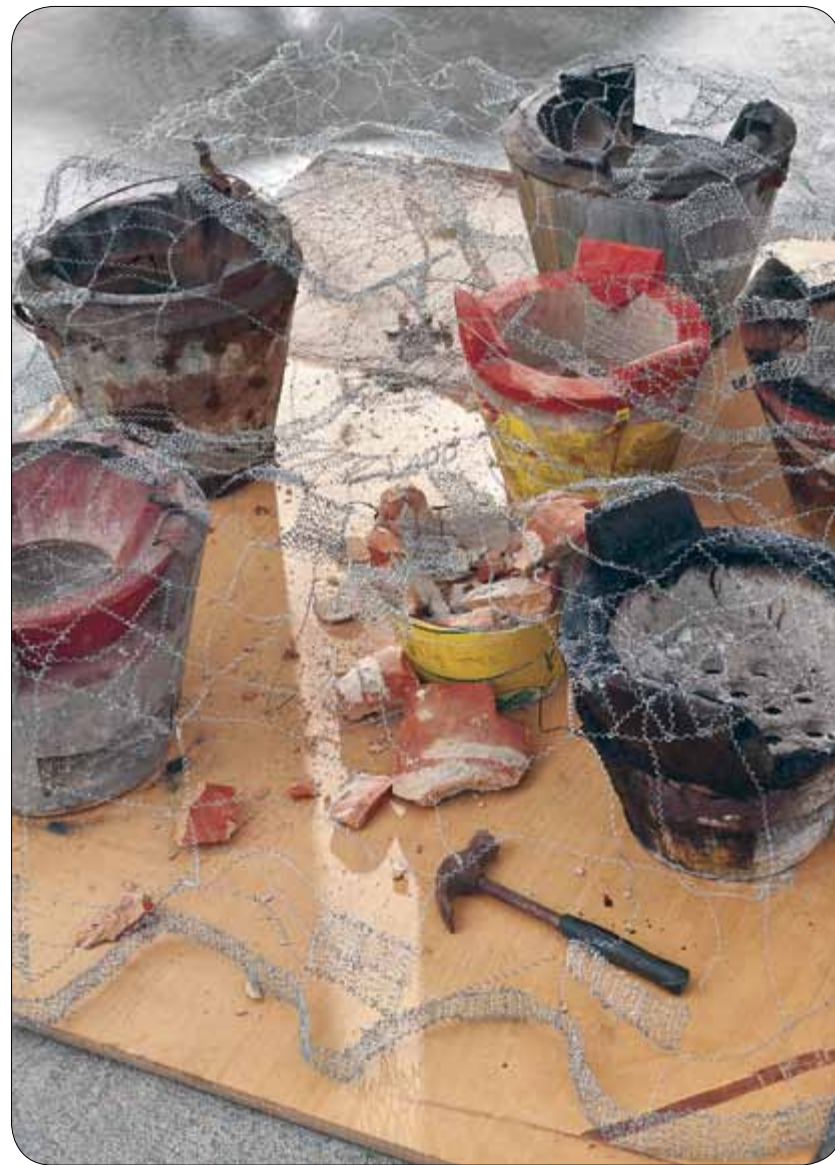


PHOTO BY ANDERS JIRÅS

Tith Kanitha



Oeur Sokuntevy

"You can't change people, but people can understand your idea, and change a little"

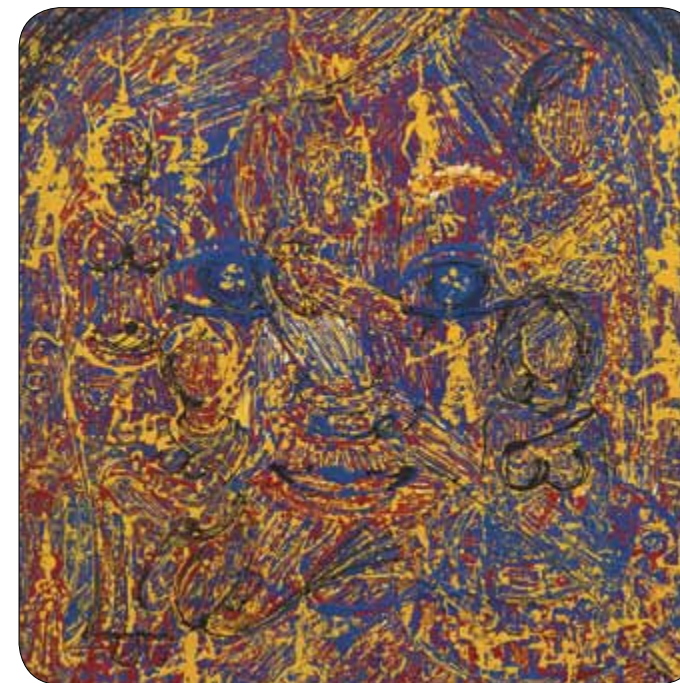


PHOTO BY ANDERS JIRÅS

Buth Chan Anothea

"The society in Cambodia is very male dominated, so until recently there was not much space for female artists, not only from an external perspective, but also an internal one in terms of how women define themselves," says Meta House's Lydia Parusol, who curated Hey Sister.

Overall money is scarce, and there's even less for women who are hardly recognised as contemporary visual artists.

"Most Cambodian families do not have an issue with a girl studying traditional art forms, as that brings in money from tourism," says Saphan. "It's in the contemporary scene that it's harder for young women to make a living."

But it's not just about money. Langlois notes how more developed arts scenes still struggle with placing female artists, while family demands such as starting a family lead many Cambodian women to postpone their careers.

This is certainly true in Cambodia. Parusol relates the story of how a female artist from a family of artisans was discouraged from pursuing her contemporary art. "I asked her to take part in a project, and she told me she would love to but that her family was very traditional and did not want their daughter to do something that was not in line with the family history."

Raising Women

To lift the profile of existing female artists, as well as to encourage future ones, Langlois together with Parusol organised the You Khin Memorial Prize competition earlier this year. Supported by the US Embassy, the competition finale took place in June, with Duong Saree, 53, one of a handful of older female artists, winning the first prize for her traditional painting *Woman Picking Water Lilies*.

Photographer Try Sophal, 20, clinched the student award, while another ten artists, most of them in their twenties, were given honourable mentions. In total, 45 works of art were submitted by women from all over the country.

"The You Khin Prize brought female artists out of the shadows," says Langlois. "They are now doing a bit of catching up."

Chhan Dina was one of the ten artists who received an honourable mention in the competition. A painter and sculptor for more than a decade, Dina says one of the challenges she has faced as an artist is the lack of exhibition space to share her art with others. The You Khin competition and the Hey Sister exhibition have changed that.

"We now have opportunities to share, as well as a lot of encouragement," she says.

Entitled *Voyage of Realization*, her own

piece in the recent exhibition features four clay sculptures mounted on illuminated bamboo boxes. With a face and hands emerging out of the bamboo, the sculptures depict different stages of self-realisation, from striving to express yourself to attainment of your full potential.

“Many women don’t know themselves, which makes it difficult for them to express themselves...”

Like Kanitha, Dina uses abstraction to get her point across. Voyage of Realization is as much an exploration of freedom of speech, as a depiction of the challenge of self-expression faced by many female artists.

According to Parusol, women in the Cambodian arts scene struggle to attain their full potential. “Many women don’t know themselves, which makes it difficult for them to express themselves through art,” she says.

Khchao Touch, one of few full-time female artists in the kingdom, never even considered herself an artist, before others branded her as such. “I just drew and then people wanted to exhibit my work,” she says. “It surprised me when people told me I was an artist, but it also pushed me to create more art.”

Efforts to promote female artists are now bearing fruit. “The scene is starting to grow and women are not afraid to show they are artists,” says Parusol.

Art or Female Art?

In promoting art made specifically by women, curators like Langlois, Parusol, and Saphan face the age-old feminist problem of whether they are supporting women artists because of their gender, or because of their artistic skills.

Langlois maintains positive discrimination is needed to kick start the scene.

Parusol agrees. “The point is that when women aren’t recognised as artists, you need to start somewhere,” she says. “It’s very important to first have a women’s voice.”

Yet Saphan says she felt no need to brand the Selapak Neari exhibition as female. “500 people showed up at the opening and no one noticed it was 18 national and international female artists,” she says. “I did not feel the need to accentuate the female aspect but rather the artistic journey.”

She maintains one of the biggest challenges facing women in the arts is to break out of the female artist mould. “They are artists because they are good at it, and not because they are women.”

That’s certainly where Kanitha stands. “I am an artist, not a female artist,” she says.

Focusing on female themes may be part and parcel of developing a more general feminist consciousness.



PHOTO BY ANDERS JIRÅS

Chan Pisey



PHOTO BY ANDERS JIRÅS

Chhan Dina

“For me, it’s about the story. Women see art in a different way.”

“I don’t feel a need to do only female art, but women like to draw other women because we know their feelings,” says Dina. “I’m a girl, I don’t know much about men.”

Oeur Sokuntevy, one of the most established young female artists in Cambodia, uses art to tell her story as a Cambodian woman. “For me, it’s about the story,” she says. “Women see art in a different way.”

In her most recent exhibition, Love to Death at the CCF, Tevy uses her own experiences to question the familial roles of women, their social status and relationships between men and women. Her paintings are bold and explicit, depicting intimate romantic and sexual situations.

Langlois, who gave Tevy her first solo exhibition back in 2006, is a big fan of her work. “She challenges the system most directly, without even intending to,” Langlois says. “She is completely unapologetic.”

Hiem An Kannitha, 26, is equally unapologetic, taking direct issue with the position of women in Khmer society. Entitled It’s Me, her mixed media on canvas exhibited at Sovanna Mall features pictures of women cut out of magazines, with a papier mache face emerging from the collage imprisoned in the image by a chain and lock.

“I am a woman living in a society with many cultural and traditional expectations of women,” she says. “But I never care about anything. [...] This is the way that I’ve found my life. I need freedom, to make decisions myself, and I have to do what I want.”

Breaking the Chains

Dina, Kanitha, and Tevy all describe creating art as an expression of freedom. Yet that freedom is delicate. “Most Khmer artists are a bit afraid, it is hard to say some things,” says Dina.

Politics is one thing, but the key issue facing female artists so far has been more about a lack of acknowledgment and support. It is not long ago that even arts enthusiasts were openly stating that there were no female artists in Cambodia.

Cambodia’s situation is not unique. As the contemporary arts scene has developed in neighbouring countries, women have become increasingly visible.

“Thai women are more fearless in crossing boundaries ... more edgy,” says Parusol. “Thailand has a more open atmosphere.” Likewise, she says that women in Vietnam are more aggressive. “There’s more open censorship there, but female artists are definitely defining themselves as professional artists.”

The next few years will determine whether Cambodia’s female artists will follow suit. Kanitha has no doubts she will. “People ask me what I want to do in the future,” she says. “That makes me angry. I am an artist.” And here to stay, it seems. ■

Blog Control 2.0

Unlike many parts of the world, Cambodia's virtual community remains relatively free from government censorship, but for how much longer. **Nina Lamparski** talks to some Cloggers.

At the end of September, the Revolutionary Courts in Tehran found Canadian-Iranian blogger and journalist Hossein Derakhshan guilty of speaking his mind and sentenced him to 19.5 years' imprisonment. Officially, the verdict stated that 'Hoder,' as he is known online, had cooperated with hostile countries; spread propaganda against the ruling establishment; promoted counter-revolutionary groups; and insulted Islamic thoughts and religious figures.

In reality, Hogger, 35, often referred to as 'Persian Blogfather' because he taught an entire generation of Iranians how to blog, was punished for expressing his opinions on the Web and encouraging others to voice theirs. "There's freedom of speech in Iran, but there is no freedom after speech in Iran," commented Iranian blogger Nikahang Kowsar in the aftermath of Derakhshan's sentencing.

Closer to home, Vietnamese blogger Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh spent ten days in jail last September for allegedly violating Article 258 of her country's criminal code. Authorities accused her website M_N_m (meaning 'Mother Mushroom') of "abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the State", because it featured posts against China's interference in national affairs. Following her release from prison, Nguyen briefly stopped blogging but has since started again and remains under police surveillance.

According to Reporters without Borders (RWB), at least 151 bloggers and cyber-dissidents were detained worldwide in 2009. "In authoritarian countries in which the traditional media are state-controlled, the Internet is the crucible in which repressed civil societies can revive and develop," observed the organisation in its recent Web 2.0 versus Control 2.0 report.

Unlike Vietnam and Myanmar, which both feature on RWB's Press Freedom Predators List 2010, Cambodia has so far largely steered clear of censoring online commentators. The only pub-

licised instance of direct government interference occurred last year, when the Ministry of Women's Affairs blocked domestic access to the reahu.net website of Khmer-American artist Koke Lor, after he uploaded "pornographic" and "degrading" photographs of bare-breasted Apsara dancers.

But generally speaking, the Internet remains a marginal rather than mass medium in Cambodia, and therefore appears non-threatening to power-brokers. Figures released in October by online data provider Internet World Stats showed that just 0.8 percent (or 113,380) of the Kingdom's 14.7 million inhabitants are regular Internet users. As a result, Cambodia's blogger community—whose members are known as Cloggers—is still in its infancy.

Most blogs written in Khmer Unicode are not about politics, but rather evolve around "young people's daily lives", according to Chantra Be, one of Cambodia's most prominent bloggers and co-organiser of Phnom Penh's annual BarCamp event. Held in late September, the tech forum united scores of local and international open-source supporters, social media fans, web entrepreneurs, software companies, digital journalists and students.

"Many Cambodians use their blogs like a diary, to talk about personal things, like what they did during the day," says Be who works as social media manager for local tech firm Sabay. "Blogs here often aren't created for an outside or anonymous crowd, but to network with your friends."

Still in his 20s, Be is already considered a veteran in Cambodia's nascent online scene. Back in 2006, together with four other bloggers, including well-known political journalist Tharum Bun, Be formed the Team Clogger collective that organised university workshops across the country to help more than 2,000 students become Web-proficient.

"We explained basic IT skills, how to send emails, browse the Web and use blogs," says Be. "The workshops were

very successful because Cambodians want to learn about these new technologies. They know it will help them in their careers. They are much more connected to the outside world than previous generations."

The regular training sessions culminated in the 2007 Cloggers Summit, uniting bloggers, web journalists, scholars and social media fans from around the world on Cambodian soil. The following year, the summit was replaced by Phnom Penh's first BarCamp gathering, which attracted around 300 people. "Now, we had more than 1,000," says Be of the 2010 edition.

But the rising interest in online communication does not necessarily generate more blogs. "My recent research shows that blogs are stagnating. The same goes for platforms like Twitter and LinkedIn, which are mainly used by companies to promote their products. Facebook on the other hand is exploding. In the last four months or so, the number of Cambodian Facebook users has jumped from 60,000 to almost 120,000."

In Be's opinion, the social network's popularity is partially due to it being "like a personal diary but much easier and quicker to use than blogs."

Most importantly, Facebook makes computers obsolete because the website can be accessed and updated from anywhere in Cambodia via mobile phones, which are owned by a whopping 6.5 million people, based upon latest statistics by international information consultancy Budde Communication.

In essence, Cambodia's weak Internet penetration, coupled with a culture where interpersonal relationships still overrule public debates, have kept young Khmers from embracing blogging en masse with the same fervour as neighbouring Asian countries. In its new study Cambodia – A Land of Opportunity, the Konrad Adenauer research foundation notes that "many start blogs and then quit, leaving a small but fiercely dedicated group of young men and women to provide thoughtful commentary on issues facing the country".

Among them is journalist Kounila Keo who won first prize in the blogging competition of this year's Blogfest.Asia, held in Penang in late October. Her website www.blueladyblog.com, launched in January 2007, acts as a gatekeeper of Cambodian life, featuring posts like Nepotism: A Family Problem, Status of Cambodian Women, and How Can You Keep Yourself Free from Corruption?

"The main topics on my blog are my take on Cambodian education, politics, lifestyle, press freedom, culture and simply social issues I deem necessary to address, for example human and women's rights," explains Keo.

"I blog because I want to express my personal opinions about some particular issues that mainstream media might not publish. The mainstream media stick to a certain kind of agenda to avoid the government's censorship. The voice that cannot be heard in the real world is now heard in the virtual world."

Although progress might be slow, Keo believes social media platforms are definitely changing the way that young Cambodians communicate.

"Blogging popularity has grown among high school and especially university students who embrace open-mindedness, new thoughts and opinions," she says. "They start to talk about something such as politics, which isn't really a welcomed topic. The old generation have been taught to be silent so they become safe. Yet, the young generation these days learn to be more expressive and break social taboos."

For now, the voices of Keo and other political Cloggers continue to resound in Cambodia's virtual world. However, there are signs that this could potentially change in the near future. In January 2009, the Ministry of Information announced it was re-drafting current media regulations to include the Internet, yet insisted that the revised version would not curtail press freedom.

But in March this year, the state-owned Telecom Cambodia caused considerable public outcry when its deputy director, referring to the legislative changes, told a local newspaper: "If any website attacks the government or displays inappropriate images such as pornography, we can block all of them."

While government officials denied the claims, a justified sense of unease continues to linger within media circles. "I am quite concerned about the future of freedom of expression in the Cambodian bloggersphere," admits Keo. "The government has been tight-lipped about the regulations and says that it'll take a few years before they are released. If the regulations were to be peremptory, the critical online community would surely face censorship like in Vietnam. And, I hate to say that Cambodia might be the next to join the domino effect of limiting and censoring online voices in Southeast Asia." ■





See It, Film It, Change It

With greater accessibility to new technology, video recording of human rights abuses is coming of age in Cambodia. Words by **Clive Graham-Ranger**. Photo by **Conor Wall**.



Cambodia's oppressed have a lot to thank Peter Gabriel for . . . and it's not just his music. Twenty years ago the former Genesis singer founded Witness. With a catch line of, "See It, Film It, Change It", the empowering organisation has secured justice for tens of thousands across the globe by handing out cameras and training human rights activists in 50 countries in the use of video to back-up courtroom testimony.

"Armed with cameras, front-line activists are letting the truth do the talking," Gabriel told a press conference when he launched his initiative in the use of video reportage.

"Video can be very powerful, as the filmed beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles in 1991 showed," says Ryan Schlieff, Witness's New York-based Asia project manager.

The organisation works closely with the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights [Licadho] providing training in storyboarding, scripting, filming and editing evidence to be presented in court.

"It has produced some powerful and influential advocacy videos—including coverage of the forced evictions in Dey Krahorm, Borei Keila, Group 78, Boeung Kak Lake, Kampong Speu and others," says Schlieff. "It now has 60 video cameras in 18 provinces and the results have proved to be vital for the communities and individuals who have used them."

Video evidence came of age in Cambodia when Sovath Loun, a Buddhist monk in Siem Reap, used his mobile phone to film 100 police and military personnel as they opened fire on farmers in Chi Krong. He transmitted the pictures along with other material he received from a farmer who had recorded the attack on his phone. Video of the deputy district police chief giving the signal for another officer to open fire with his AK-47 was sent to human rights groups in Phnom Penh.

Reporting such incidents as occurred in Chi Krong is neither without restriction nor risk.

"Before anyone comes to work for us, we explain that you can

say some things about Cambodia, but it's very restrictive and it's getting worse," explains Naly Pilorge, a Licadho director. "There has definitely been a shift since the last election in terms of intolerance to criticism."

Advances in video, though, have gone hand in hand with the emergence of a class of citizen-reporter prepared to ignore Big Brother. Digital technology and the advent of cell phone cameras have opened the way for everyone to record vital evidence. In the wrong hands, though, an event can take on a wholly different and untruthful meaning. For that reason, Licadho sees handing out cameras as only stage one of an operation that is subject to a series of editing checks and balances before a finished video is released.

So before a shot is framed and the record button pressed, potential video advocates attend tutorials in the classroom. Top of their mental checklist is that their evidence must answer the vital where, what, who and why questions to set the scene.

They are then moved on to the practical use of zoom, tilt and pan to give visual emphasis and the need to record clear and distinct audio when covering demonstrations. Close-ups to convey emotions such as anger, frustration and fear, are recommended as is the gradual isolation of such emotions in a crowd.

In many cases those new-found skills are put to the test in real-life situations in the field, sometimes exposing the digital operatives to potential risks. The end-product is subsequently edited together to create an accurate and truthful record of events.

Efficient, compelling and reliable are three words drummed into editors as they approach raw footage and compress time and space to create a meaningful and dynamic video record. Their work is then viewed, sometimes altered and ultimately given the seal of approval from experienced human rights advocates who ensure the evidence will pass the close scrutiny of lawyers looking to ban the footage.

Back out on the street, safeguarding the subjects of interviews in often high-risk situations is also taken into account.

"Security is paramount," Schlieff told me. "Each person with a camera is instructed to explain the entire project to their interview-

ees, the potential risks and thereafter request consent for the use of each interview. At times it may be necessary to not include footage or blur out faces if there is a chance an individual would be put at risk."

Risk is high on the agenda for groups such as Licadho, Human Rights Watch, the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights and the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, which continue their criticism of abuses. Fear of arrest and imprisonment, however, have driven many human rights activists underground and on to the internet as bloggers and self-styled cloggers and Khloggers (Cambodia's English-speaking and Khmer internet clique) rather than face a daily barrage of threats, arrest, violence, criticism and complaint.

"Generally speaking, I've found most Cambodians embrace the internet as a place for self-expression 'first', with human rights then being reflected in their opinions," says John Weeks, an American in Cambodia who regularly consults with human rights groups on net strategy.

Sopheap Chak is among cyberspace's most controversial Cambodian bloggers, openly addressing subjects such as human trafficking, corruption, forced land evictions and women's rights. Her public profile is brave. Rather than hide behind such sobriquets as "Details are Sketchy", "Idiot/Savant" and "KI Media" as do others, she is identifiable, reasoned but confrontational. "If everyone keeps silent to intimidation, intimidation will gain its position," she says, adding that she is far from dispirited. "By making our voices heard, we can create change."

Her crusading work is being followed up by a new generation of cyber-savvy youngsters who are becoming a potent sounding board for the present and future. After some initial training in Phnom Penh, Lux Mean, who works for the International Republican Institute, is giving young people a voice on the internet.

"I hope they will put important issues on their blogs such as health, employment, their immediate environment, education, gangsters and the like," he says. "I would like to see the day come soon when young Cambodians will be as familiar with the internet as are others their age around the world." ■



Inking Identity

Though tattoos in Cambodia have long been sought after for mystical purposes, body painting is taking on new meaning for some Cambodians seeking a link with their past. Words by **Mai Lynn Miller Nguyen**. Photos by **Conor Wall**.

A glance at Lorn Luy reveals more than most people could share in a long conversation. He wears his heart on his sleeve—quite literally. Tattoos form a seamless tableau of representations stretching up his left arm.

“It’s the memory of everything,” says Lorn. “My trade, everything I’ve learned, the loves of my life.”

His first tattoo depicts Hanuman, a deity from Hindu lore, on the top of his wrist. Intertwined with images of the Naga snake and art from the Angkorean period are portraits of his wife and son, snaking around his forearm and bicep. His leg has also become his canvas, featuring a tiger fighting his own name in Khmer script.

It took Lorn eight months to learn how to tattoo, picking up the skill from a Cambodian-American friend. Together, they created a homemade tattoo machine and Lorn began practicing on himself.

A graduate of the Royal University of Fine Arts, Lorn makes his living as a painter and sculptor. Viewing tattoos as simply another form of art, he decided to become a tattoo artist. Having replaced his earlier homemade machine with a gun imported from the US, Lorn has tattooed nearly a dozen friends, and friends of friends thus far. It has become a handy additional means of income to support his family.

Tattooing in Cambodia is by no means new—the practice is thought to date back to the Angkorean era. ‘Magic’ tattoos, known by the Sanskrit word Yantra, are associated with mystical abilities to ward off evil. Though Yantra tattoos are no longer as common as they once were, they are still seen as a form of defence, particularly by soldiers who desire immunity from bullets and other dangers.

Although protective Yantra tattoos have long existed in Cambodia, it is still relatively rare to find tattoos chosen for their visual impact. Conspicuous tattoos carry a stigma for many Cambodians, particularly in rural areas.

“Most Cambodians think badly of tattoos,” says Ros Sidin, the Cambodian owner of RSD Tattoo Shop. “They think those with

tattoos are gangsters and that it would be difficult to find a job if they had one.”

Though most of his clients are foreigners, Ros believes about a third are Cambodians. He anticipates it will be another five to ten years before tattoos become widely accepted by Cambodians. Not that he is complaining. “I think there are too few tattoo studios in Cambodia, so I have no competition,” he says.

Many of the Cambodians that do seek the studio’s services have been raised abroad, says Ros. According to Phanna Nam, who now lives in Phnom Penh after being brought up in the US, it is common for Cambodians in the US to choose tattoos demonstrating their heritage, such as Angkor Wat.

Phanna recently had the image of Preah Vihear imprinted on his back by Lorn Luy. For him, depicting a nationalistic symbol on his body is a way of respecting his roots. “This one is to show off, to let people know who I am,” he says.

Working with Lorn on the design, Phanna is planning a tattoo which merges a portrait inspired by the faces of Bayon with his own likeness—drawing a connection between modern day Cambodia and the empire that founded the nation. “It’s to symbolise that I’m Angkorean, we’re Angkorean,” says Phanna. “It’s about representing how strong Cambodians are.”

Lorn expresses similar sentiments about fusing Khmer symbols and art on his body. “I want to let the world know I am Cambodian,” he says.

Neither Phanna nor Lorn are fazed by the permanent nature of tattoos. They regard their tattoos as an exterior visualisation of who they are, who they always will be. “I don’t have a problem with having a Khmer tattoo early in my life,” says Phanna. “I’m Khmer. Khmer forever.”

Lorn Luy is available to tattoo by appointment only, Tel: 017 262 108 for English speakers or 089 869 885 for Khmer speakers.

RSD Tattoo Studio, 17 Street 51, Tel: 016 787 816. 📍



Joining Golf's Mile-High Club

Mark Bibby Jackson visits Vietnam's central highlands hill station and has a right royal experience on the greens of the Dalat Palace.



PHOTO BY TALBOTIMAGES.COM

"I'm not sure there's a prettier setting for golf than Dalat," said Dave Beman, the former professional golfer who was the Commissioner of the US PGA Tour for 25 years. Beman rated the greens at the Dalat Palace Golf Club "as good as you're ever going to find."

My green was the par-five sixth. With water to the left, pine trees all along the right, and a myopic peninsular green that is scenic and scary in equal proportions, the second longest hole on the course is regarded as the course's signature hole. It also proved to be my crowning glory.

Having nailed my drive straight down the fairway and fly-hacked my second on 50 metres or so, I drove my third onto the edge of the green, chipped to a few feet and holed my par putt before drawing breath. It was only then that my caddy, Minh, informed me that this was the hardest hole on the

I'm not sure there's a prettier setting for golf than Dalat

course, otherwise no doubt I would have choked on the putt.

What I forgot to mention was that my first drive landed in the water, only to be scooped out by Minh. Indeed, overall my Palace experience had more to do with the omnipresent water than the verdant greens. Fortunately Minh proved as expert in scooping errant balls from lakes as she was on advising me which club to use, and thus we managed to complete the round without having to send back for golf ball reinforcements.

In between my hacks and Minh's scoops, strolling around Vietnam's oldest golf course was a memorable experience.

Some 5,000 feet (or 1 mile) above sea level, the temperate

climate that first drew travellers to the hill station provides ideal conditions for a round of golf, as well as being a welcome respite from the heat of the country's largest city, Ho Chi Minh City.

A chain of demanding golf holes, the course twists through a landscape of bougainvillea, red salvia, impatiens, mimosa and hydrangeas. Both its challenge and beauty is recognised by Golf Digest (USA), which four times running has put the layout at the top of its biennial Planet Golf survey of Vietnam. This is a colourful course that befits the town famed for its annual flower festival.

The course is also steeped in history. Although reputed

to date back to 1922, when the French architect, Ernest Hebrard, laid out the master urban plan for the still fledgling hill station, 1931 would appear a more likely date for the opening of the St Andrews of Vietnam, according to Jim Sullivan of Mandarin Media, who has carried out extensive research on the history of the course.

Around 1930, golf course architectural firm, Colt & Alison, listed the "Ville de Dalat" in "Indo China" as one of the courses in their worldwide portfolio, according to Sullivan. By 1933, the course was definitely open for play. Literature of the time lists golf as one option available to guests at the Grand Hotel de Dalat.

Quite how involved Bao Dai was in the design of the course is another moot point. Born in 1913, Vietnam's last emperor spent much of his youth in France, not returning to Vietnam until 1932,

by which time the course had almost certainly opened.

What is not in dispute is Bao Dai's love of the sport of kings. Dalat's popularity as a royal holiday resort was predominantly due to the big game, now by and large extinct, found in the forests around Dalat. However, while not hunting Bao Dai took the opportunity to take in some golf. His clubs are on display in his former villa near the end of Dalat's Trieu Viet Vuong Street.

After Bao Dai's abdication in 1945, the course fell into disrepair. Those now playing the course have a debt of gratitude to Dao Huy Hach, a doctor and keen golfer, who was largely responsible for restoring the course in the 50s and 60s, according to Sullivan. He also added a ninth hole. The remaining nine holes were part of further renovations that took place in the 90s.

Despite the impending Vietnam War, Billy Casper played a round in Dalat in early 1966, a few months before beating Arnold Palmer to win the U.S. Open. Indeed golf was played at the course throughout the war, with Dr. Hach teeing off his final round in 1974.

The clubhouse, a Le Touquet style villa with Tudor details is one of hundreds of villas built in Dalat by the French throughout the 1930s and 1940s. Sadly relatively few still remain.

Those that do, provide an interesting excursion away from the course. Easily the outstanding property is the Dalat Palace Hotel which, unlike the golf course, does date back to 1922. This historic property, originally called the Lang Bian Palace, soon became the centre of western colonial society in the central highlands.

Featuring 38 luxury rooms, the Palace boasted the most modern amenities of the time, as well as an orchestra, tennis courts, and a private fruit and vegetable garden, providing foreign ingredients such as the strawberries, which are still grown in Dalat to this day.

Along with the golf course, a cinema was built by the 1930s, and there were frequent jazz concerts. Meals in the hotel

restaurant were simple but reflected its European origins. As a final stamp of culinary authenticity, hotel guidelines stipulated that butter, and never grease, should be used for cooking.

The hotel's Le Rabelais Restaurant still resonates with the grandeur of the time when Bao Dai would hold banquets there. Replete with four poster beds and open fire places in the bedrooms, and iron clawfoot bath tubs and fawcets in the en suite bathrooms, you get the sense that nothing has changed since Bao Dai bid adieu to the Palace.

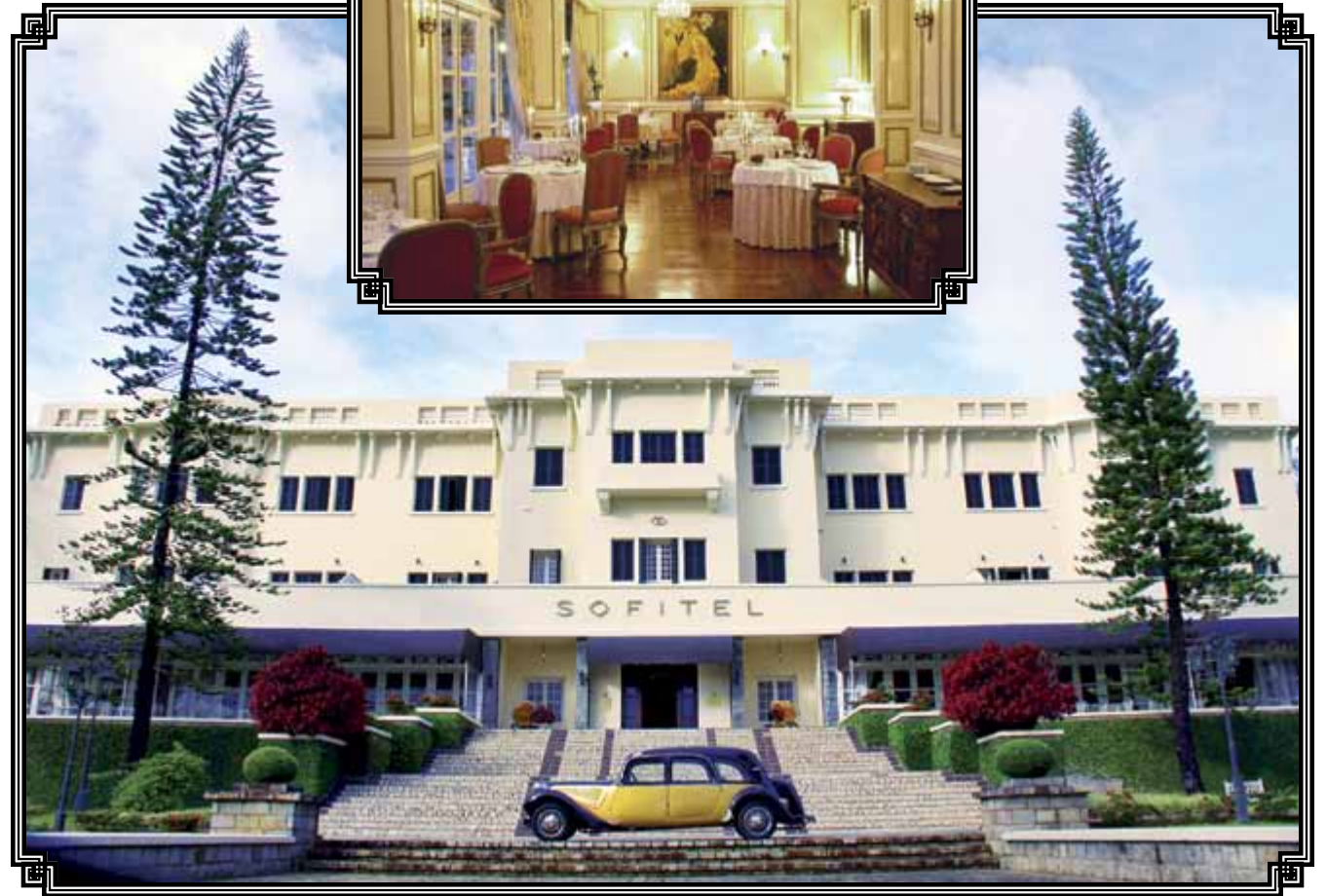
Since May, both the Dalat Palace Golf Course and Hotel have come under new ownership. A new clubhouse with spa, Jacuzzi and modern pro-shop, as well as a golfing academy are planned for 2011/12. Providing the facilities and catering that modern golfers demand, the danger is that the charm of the past might become lost in the stampede for modernity. The Vietnam Open is the prize on offer.

The new owners state that the old clubhouse will remain, although stripped of its original function, and the character of the course will be preserved. As for the hotel, modern touches, such as improved meeting facilities, shower cubicles and swimming pool will help push the Palace into the current century hopefully without losing the essence of the one just past.

In a 2007 interview, Casper said that "Dalat was a special place." Beman might have been guilty of hyperbole in describing the greens as the best he's ever putted, but both the golf course and hotel are beyond compare within the region. With changes in the wind, now might just be a good time to visit the timeless twin Dalat Palaces, before modern times catch up with them.

The author is much indebted to Jim Sullivan and Scott Resch for their research on the history of the Dalat Palace Golf Club.

For more information about the Dalat Palace Golf Club, visit: www.dalatpalace.vn and for the Dalat Palace Hotel, visit: www.dalatpalacegolf.vn. **A**



DISCOVERING MYANMAR'S COLONIAL PAST

With rampant construction rewriting much of its history, Myanmar is a country displaced from time. But does its past also hold the key to its future? **Jeremy Kressmann** visits the historic town of Pyin U Lwin looking for answers.

Myanmar is a country haunted by the ghosts of its history. No matter where you travel inside this sequestered military dictatorship, a visit often feels weighed down by the country's ambiguous past, the answers seemingly lingering just below the surface.

Perhaps of all the unknowns circulating through Myanmar, no era is as misunderstood or repudiated as the nation's colonial age — the period from 1886 to 1948 when British administrators, soldiers and architects, transformed the landscape of Burma, as it was then known, with western-style buildings and ideas. As Myanmar gained its independence in 1948, moving through a series of destabilising coups, this age of British cultural dominance receded from view, becoming just another footnote in a long line of chaotic events.

Yet even 60 years after Britain's departure, the country is still littered with the husks of its colonial legacy; crumbling Anglican churches, dusty Victorian-era railway stations and baroque movie palaces remain, obscured by layers of pigeon droppings and rubbish. Though the voices of this bygone era are fading fast, visitors can still track down these vestiges of Britain's colonial empire-building in places like Pyin U Lwin, a sleepy hill town nearly 70 kilometres east of Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon, once known as Rangoon.

Pyin U Lwin, or Maymyo as it was known by the British, began its history as a military outpost established in 1896. The town's higher elevation and cooler climes made it an attractive summer retreat for colonial types, whose presence echoes through Pyin U Lwin to this day. Unlike Yangon, where the



traces of colonial architecture are slowly being demolished by construction and neglect, the colonial architecture and feel of Pyin U Lwin remains remarkably intact. From the city's downtown to the hulking grandeur of its opulent villas on the periphery, a tantalising wealth of historical treasures awaits the curious visitor.

Downtown Pyin U Lwin

Those arriving in Pyin U Lwin by train are immediately confronted by the city's legacy. As soon as you step outside the train station, a collection of rickety British-era horse carriages approaches to transport you to

the city centre. Rocking along Pyin U Lwin's bumpy roads to the clip-clopping of horse hooves, you're reminded that this vintage transportation is as much a symbol of the town's history as it is a necessity in a country wracked by fuel shortages and lacking the means to afford proper cars.

Upon your drop off in Pyin U Lwin's historic downtown, the British past comes plainly into view. Unlike many other Burmese cities, which have gradually seen their colonial centres supplanted by a Chinese-fuelled construction boom, Pyin U Lwin maintains a genteel architectural aura frozen in a different age.

Anchoring the town's centre is the Purcell Tower, a stately clock tower said to be a present from Britain's revered Queen Victoria. This ageing relic dominates Pyin U Lwin's historic Mandalay-Lashio road, lined by a number of sturdy colonial-style facades and shops. Just down the street is Diamond Confectionery, one of several cheery Indian-style sweet shops stocking local jams, jelly-filled pastries and curry puffs. The shop's hardwood-lined interior, stacked with sturdy jars and neat glass cases, evokes a different era of retail—a time before credit cards or coupons.

As you linger among Pyin U Lwin's side alleys, other telltale signs of its history come into view. On one side of main street, a gorgeous Art-Deco cinema lies empty, replete with a beautiful neon marquee. Across the road what appears to be a British Press Club sits vacant, a former journalist watering hole long-since shuttered, its sturdy exterior marred by cracking paint and broken windows.

What is surprising about this historic district is not the vast number of notable buildings or their excellent state of preservation; instead the mystery is the apparent indifference of the town's residents to the wealth of history all around them. Perhaps in a country where simply surviving is a challenge, preserving the past is by necessity low on the list of priorities.

Further Afield

The extent of Pyin U Lwin's colonial past is not limited to its ramshackle downtown. Further afield an astounding collection of colonial British mansions ring the city centre. Home to a collection of colonial officials and military brass, many of these elegant structures once boasted



spacious yards flanked by hedges and towering pine trees. Their sprawling bulk was capped by framed gables and awnings decorated with quaint stucco fronts in bright pastel colours. The most famous of these mansions is Candacraig, memorialised by writer Paul Theroux in his novel *The Great Railway Bazaar*.

A little exploration by bicycle exposes a very different scene. Today the neat yards of yesterday are choked by weeds. The window shutters complain in the breeze, tilting loosely at odd angles from their hinges. The silence aches to be filled with the long-lost sounds of purpose. Yet the grandness of these structures is still obvious.

It's possible to close your eyes and drift back to another time, when crisply uniformed British officers and their families strolled the mansions' porches and lit candles in their windows at nightfall. It's a vision driven less by colonial nostalgia than a simple lament of the lack of direction and purpose these dilapidated buildings represent. Though some of the mansions have been reborn as lodging for visiting guests, many seem to be caught in limbo between a forgotten past and an uncertain future.

Botanic Gardens

On the outskirts of Pyin U Lwin is yet another sign of its former British history: the remarkably well-maintained National Kandawgyi Botanic Gardens. Kandawgyi first opened in 1915, stocked with a collection of more than 400 species of local plant life along with about 250 varieties of orchid from around Myanmar.

A stroll through this idyllic country park offers visitors a

startling oasis of beauty in a country characterised by horrible roads and a general lack of infrastructure. A serene lake is populated with the chirp of songbirds, while a tiny island of Chinese-style shrines occupies the lake's centre. The well-manicured trails, collections of orchids and handsome Nan Myint viewing tower suggest the sense of order you might find in a traditional English country retreat.

In many ways, Kandawgyi is an anomaly — a well-maintained relic of the long-gone European presence. In fact, Pyin U Lwin's residents flock to the park to enjoy its welcoming amenities. If Pyin U Lwin's mansions and centre are a study in neglect, Kandawgyi is their opposite. Nature and beauty, it seems, have transcended the glaring differences that long characterised the Burmese/English dynamic.

From the Past to the Future

Given the current political state of Myanmar, respect for Pyin U Lwin is symbolic of a larger debate. Can this former British possession shake off its colonial past while still acknowledging its future? Pyin U Lwin today idealises a "simpler" time—a symbol of a different era when life was not as hard as it is now. Yet glorifying this colonial past as somehow better is just as simplistic; the Burma of Britain was a repressive chapter in what has been a long and troubled march towards modernity. The beauty of Pyin U Lwin then, is its ability to help visitors and locals alike understand the mistakes of the past while seeing the possibilities of the future. ■



Unlike many other Burmese cities, Pyin U Lwin maintains a genteel architectural aura frozen in a different age

Running ...and Riding...

through Angkor



The first weekend in December, around 4,000 people will descend upon Siem Reap for the kingdom's biggest sporting event. **Nicky McGavin** talks to the organisers of the Angkor Wat Half Marathon.

With one of the most famous sunrises in the world, ancient temples, exotic jungles, rice fields and traditional villages all forming the seductive backdrop for the Angkor Wat International Half Marathon, it comes as little surprise that the event has become the largest of its type in the country. Over 1,500 people from almost 50 countries will run, walk or amble through the ancient temple complex.

Taking place on Dec. 5, the Angkor run offers a number of possibilities for athletes of different standards, from the half marathon to a 10km race and a 3km family run. The 21km half marathon takes runners past 11 temples, including Angkor Wat, Ta Prohm, Beantey Kdei and Bayon.

Muy Lath, part of the Angkor Wat Half Marathon steering committee, states that it is not just running through a world heritage site that makes the event unique. "It is the generosity of the message behind the marathon that supports a good cause right here in Cambodia, the home of the Angkor Wat," he says. Proceeds go to raise funds for landmine victims and the disabled in Cambodia.

Sem Phalla has been working on the half marathon since the beginning. Originally the event was much more modest in scale. "In the first race in 1996, we only had 600 participants, all foreigners", he says. "Only about 1,000 people came to watch them run. It was a difficult time for us. There was political instability and we were still learning how to run an international marathon. We had lots of teething problems.

"Then we had more political turmoil in 1997. We were afraid that no-one would come, especially as the airport was destroyed. But actually they came. Not a big increase in numbers like we have had since then, but

the same as before. We kept the balance. Some runners even saw the Khmer Rouge soldiers in the jungle while they ran."

A large number of Cambodians are expected to take part this year, according to Muy Lath.

"Most come to join in the race as a form of tourism," says Phalla. "It's a really splendid way of enjoying our heritage. Some even stop running to take pictures."

The more serious athletes won't be hanging around to take holiday snaps. Amongst them is the kingdom's leading marathon runner, Hem Bunting who ran his initial race in 2003 taking first place in the 10km run. Bunting went on to win each 21km race until 2006. Since then, he has won silver and bronze medals at the 2007 Southeast Asian Games, and carried the flag for Cambodia at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

Not all of the half-marathon's success stories are so high profile. Yamaguchi Taku, known as Tak, is the director of Hearts of Gold, a Japanese NGO that supports the management of the event. He recalls how many disabled runners have taken part in the event. "Each

runner has a different story, but so many have told me how happy they are to join, and how their life has changed as a result," he says.

Tak believes that the marathon has helped change attitudes towards sport within the country.

Muy Lath agrees. "People are starting to understand the benefits of sports, which is tremendous for a healthy lifestyle, as well as the enjoyment and accomplishment one receives upon completion," he says.

Tak adds that even the children who live at Angkor Wat making a living selling things to tourists want to take part this year. "Not only do they want to run", he says, "but they also want to give souvenirs to the runners. How great is that? Normally they sell, but this year they give!"

Associated with, but separate from the half-marathon, the Angkor Wat Bike Race and Ride is managed by the NGO Village Focus International. Taking place the day before the main event on Dec. 4, organisers hope for more than 300 participants this year. The funds are being raised to support the organisation's projects in Cambodia.

Not for the faint of heart, the 100km bike race attracts committed riders. Cambodians have done very well here over the years, and a strong Khmer team of cycling enthusiasts, many of whom have represented Cambodia at international level, usually makes a strong showing.

In addition to the 100km race, there is a 30km bike race as well as a 12km scenic fun-ride through the temples for less serious riders. Highly popular with spectators, the weirdest part of the event is the cyclo race, in which slightly demented barangs chase each other in rented cyclos.

To help celebrate this year's anniversary, there will be special awards for supporters over the years. "Our vision is and always has been having local staff plan and execute this event, by the people of Cambodia for the people of Cambodia," Muy Lath says of the future. "We can definitely see the half marathon one day having 10,000 runners as it has so much potential and great staff and supporters behind it."

For more information about the half marathon, visit the official website online at: www.angkoramarathon.org.



Team Psychlo from Left to Right. Front Row: Cheryl Turner, Mike Kiess, Ikemiya Miwa, Louisa Pertocucci
Back Row: Erika Hoffman Kiess, Tiffany Tsang, Drew McDowell, Dennis McMahon, Phil Psilos

PHOTO BY ROB TIZARD

THE NATURE OF JUSTICE

This month Meta House hosts the Cambodian premiere of **WAR DON DON**, an award-winning documentary about post-conflict justice in Sierra Leone. **AsiaLIFE** talks to director **Rebecca Richman Cohen** about the documentary and its parallels with Cambodia.



In the summer of 2006, Rebecca Richman Cohen sat behind bullet-proof glass in the observer gallery of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. She was watching the trial of Issa Hassan Sesay, the former interim leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the main rebel faction in a conflict that devastated Sierra Leone between 1991 and 2002.

Cohen was working at the Special Court as a legal intern on the defence team for Alex Tamba Brima, a former military commander of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, another faction involved in the war. Over

her time at the Special Court, Cohen found herself drawn to observe the trial of Sesay with increasing fascination.

"I came to know lawyers for both the prosecution and the defence at Issa Sesay's trial," she explains. "It seemed that both sides had some of the brightest and most impassioned lawyers I've ever met—and I was fascinated by the moral, political, and legal questions that their commitments evoked."

Realising that a documentary film could capture the complexities of the issues presented by the Sesay case in a way that neither law review articles nor mainstream media could represent, she set about making

the film that became **WAR DON DON** ("war is over").

A film about "the nature of justice," according to Cohen, **WAR DON DON** explores the concept of criminal responsibility and some of the moral questions that arise when nine men are tried for crimes committed during a decade long civil war involving multiple factions, and perhaps thousands of individual perpetrators. It is also an examination of the character of one individual and the battle to define how he would be perceived.

Leaving school in Sierra Leone aged 16, Issay Sesay worked as a trader in the Ivory Coast when he was, according

to his testimony, unknowingly recruited by RUF leader and founder Foday Sankoh to join a planned revolutionary insurgency against the Sierra Leone government. Sankoh was a former corporal in the Sierra Leone army who had fought for future Liberian President Charles Taylor in neighbouring Liberia.

According to Sesay, he and other young men were told they would be taken to Burkina Faso where they would be employed in a restaurant. Instead they found themselves in Liberia to receive ideological training and instruction in the use of arms and tactical warfare.

When the RUF began its attacks on villages in eastern Sierra Leone in 1991, Issa Sesay was 21. Over the next decade RUF's war against the Sierra Leone government resulted in the death of tens of thousands of civilians and the displacement of over two million people. The RUF became notorious for its brutality, with its forces carrying out amputations, rape and the destruction of entire villages.

In 2002, acting as interim leader for the RUF after the arrest of Sankoh, Sesay completed the disarmament of the RUF with the support of other west African nations and the UN. This ended the war, bringing peace to Sierra Leone.

On Mar. 7, 2003, Sesay was indicted by the Special Court on 18 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, extermination, terrorism, rape, sexual slavery and enlistment of child soldiers. As military commander, Sesay was deemed responsible for the actions of RUF subordinates, actions that included rape, murder, mutilation and amputation.

Prosecutor David Crane described looking into Sesay's eyes during his opening address as, "the first time I looked into the eyes of a human being and realised they have no soul."

On Feb. 25, 2009, Sesay was found guilty of 16 of the 18 charges against him and was later sentenced to 52 years imprisonment, the longest sentence handed down by the Special Court. Wayne Jordash,

lead defence counsel for Sesay, described the sentence requested by the prosecution as a "continuation of the process of demonisation that seeks to hold Mr. Sesay responsible for the crimes of all the RUF."

As the Special Court for Sierra Leone moves towards the conclusion of its final case, that against former Liberian President Charles Taylor, it seems destined to become the first international criminal tribunal to complete its mandate.


The court shares many similarities with Cambodia's Khmer Rouge Tribunal, including a hybrid structure that utilises both local and international staff, and a narrow jurisdiction that is likely to result in the prosecution of only a handful of those accused.

In 2011 the Khmer Rouge Tribunal will begin its second trial, that against the four accused persons—Nuon Chea, Khieu Samphan, Ieng Sary and Ieng Thirith—who are alleged to have been senior leaders of the Democratic Kampuchea regime responsible for millions of deaths during a period of rule in Cambodia between 1975 and 1979. **WAR DON DON** provides a fascinating insight into the experiences of

a nation that has been through a similar process of seeking justice and reconciliation and highlights some of the debates that such a trial may ignite.

Cohen says she is pleased to have created a film that stimulates thought and discussion about international

criminal justice. "Different audiences will come to their own conclusions," she says. "One of the greatest joys of documentary filmmaking is the debate that arises from having to sort through the tensions within and between conflicting stories."

WAR DON DON is being hosted by the Cambodian Center for Human Rights at the Meta House, 37 Sothea Blvd., Phnom Penh, on Dec. 9 at 7pm. For more information, contact Nicolaus Mesterharm on: 012 607 465. Admission is free. 



*I struggled with
the knowledge of this evil,
but without him,
my parents wouldn't have
made it out alive...*

Returning to their Roots

Many returning Khmers share one thing in common — they have all moved to a foreign culture, their own. **Anvaya** is a networking group that helps Khmers raised overseas but now working here to realise they are not alone. Words by **Dorine Schreiner**. Photo by **James Grant**.

Cambodians have settled in foreign countries for various reasons over the years. Those who left before 1970 were often part of the elite. Well-educated, they found asylum in France. Between 1970 and 1975 another group of educated people left Cambodia, mostly heading to the USA and Australia. After 1975, refugees fled to any country available to them. While some travelled with their Cambodian families, others were adopted as children and have now come to Cambodia to settle in a foreign culture.

Despite the different routes they took, many Cambodian returnees share one thing, a feeling of otherness upon returning to the country of their birth.

About once a month, members of the Anvaya network meet. Meaning family, ancestors and lineage, the word 'Anvaya' sums up what it stands for: a network of Khmers with a similar heritage, who were born or raised in a foreign country and have now returned, seeking a role in the future of Cambodia.

Feeling outsiders in the country they grew up in as well as in Cambodia, the organisation provides an opportunity to share their sense of belonging and bond with others in the same situation.

"Anvaya brings together people who might have not met otherwise," says Soreasmey Ke Bin the organisation's founder. "One of the goals is to exchange information between us."

The number of members is increasing to about 150, most between thirty and forty years of age. The majority live in Phnom Penh, but some are from Siem Reap and Kep as well.

Each one has a personal story. In April 1975, Julie Thai's family left Phnom Penh and made it to France, where she was born. She heard many stories about the beauty of Cambodia, but the family was never able to go back. In 2002, when she was 23, she went on her first trip to the old kingdom.

Although she had never been to Cambodia and was raised in a different culture, she decided to settle in the country of her roots.

"The funny thing is that the family was pretty scared when I decided to settle here, and at the same time very proud," she says. "Now, they all want to visit and once they have, they keep telling me I was the smartest one to come back here. One very touching, almost magical moment was to see my grandmother, who never went back to Phnom Penh, and my daughter speak Khmer together."

For Julie, Anvaya provides an opportunity to meet people with Cambodian roots who have the same passion for Cambodia, even though they might have developed this feeling later on in life.

"Somehow, none of us feels like complete foreigners, but we're not Cambodian either," Julie explains. "All of us are trying to fit in between local Khmers and expats, but which group do we belong to?"

Chariya Preap sees Anvaya as a bridge that allows Khmers from abroad to seek support. Making the drastic transition from Boston to Phnom Penh was an emotional decision for her. The journey to find answers about her heritage was not a glorious one. She discovered family

members who were victims of brutal executions, and one who was a Khmer Rouge officer.

"I struggled with the knowledge of this evil, but without him, my parents wouldn't have made it out alive," she says. "There are struggles we undergo as Cambodians who were fortunate enough to win a lottery ticket to leave the camps, but it's not all luxury, the survivor's guilt of leaving loved ones behind has entrapped me for as long as I can remember."

It's not just heritage, but being brought up between two cultures that can be confusing. Stephanie Seng grew up in France, but as a young adult she came to Cambodia each summer, before moving to Phnom Penh in 2006. Her sense of belonging is divided between her two cultures. "Through Anvaya I wanted to meet people who have this same feeling," she explains. "I wanted to know how they were dealing with living in two different cultures."

A convenient way to meet new people, share experiences and get to know each other better, Anvaya also serves as a good social and business network.

"The idea is to get all overseas Cambodians here to get together," says Soreasmey Ke Bin. Once a little community is established, a more specific event will be organised, dedicated to people who are working in the same field or interested in the same subjects."

To register with Anvaya, at least one grandparent has to be born in Cambodia, and you must have spent most of your life abroad before returning to Cambodia. For more information, visit: www.anvaya.info.

Food Corner: Mamma Mia!

Though Phnom Penh residents are familiar with **Giorgio Arcasi**, the owner of the long-running Pop Café da Giorgio, it is **Rosa Arcasi** they have to thank for the authentic Italian cuisine. In an **AsiaLIFE** exclusive, **Mai Lynn Miller Nguyen** sits down with mother and son to unlock the key to Italian cooking. Photos by **James Grant**.



Ask anyone to name their favourite cook and chances are you'll hear that mother knows best. Yet when Giorgio Arcasi of Pop Café brags about his mother's culinary talents, it's more than filial bias. The secret behind one of the town's most frequented restaurants is Mamma Rosa.

Calling himself the "usual hopeless Italian boy", Giorgio professes he can't even cook an omelette. So, when he took over what was then a shop and bar in 2003, he asked his mother to design a menu for the restaurant.

"Mamma has come regularly since the beginning," says Giorgio. "She created many popular dishes from my

childhood in Naples. I grew up with fantastic food, I was very lucky."

Rosa continues to reside in Naples, making recurrent visits to Phnom Penh. Each time she comes, she helps develop Pop Café's menu, gradually introducing more dishes over the years.

During a lively lunch hour, the restaurant packed with Italians, Rosa recalls the first time she demonstrated her skills for the kitchen staff.

"It was a pleasant surprise for my mother," says Giorgio, translating her words. "She just showed the staff one time how to make the food, and immediately my chef picked it up, she could do it."

Under Rosa's direction, the head chef has become like an Italian now, mastering the cuisine. Still, when Giorgio is confronted with a taste that's not quite right, it is Rosa who ensures the cooking is just right.

"Sometimes I ask her, Mamma, this food is not the way it should be, please check it out," says Giorgio. "Mamma, I don't know what is going on. Of course, she is an expert, she tells me immediately what the problem is."

For the aspiring Italian cook, Rosa advises the use of fresh ingredients, stating that Italian food relies upon the quality of ingredients.

"When you buy ingredients, don't try to save on money,"

she says. "Try to buy what you find the best."

Giorgio observes that this is the reason why his restaurant is so popular. "You see all the Italian people here, they come here for this reason," he says. "I don't look at the price, I look for genuine Italian ingredients."

Begin with recipes until you have developed a feel for the food, recommends Rosa. However, ultimately Italian cooking is about experimenting, tasting, and enjoying the entire process.

"Italian food is not just put 20 grams of basil and 30 grams of tomato sauce and mix it together," says Giorgio. "You have to cook with love."

Cooking has always been intuitive for Rosa. Without

formal training or the guidance of cookbooks, she has always followed her instincts—the very key to her success.

"You need passion," she says. "With cooking, if you have a good feeling about it, then you will learn quickly. It's like my garden. You must love to cook just like you love the way that you make your plants grow, taking care of them everyday."

As mother and son discuss the art of cooking, their Italian approach to dining is plain to see. It is part of la dolce vita, the sweet life.

"For Italians, food is not just something that you have to put in your mouth to fill up your stomach and have the energy to go on," says Giorgio. "It's more important than that—it's also a way to get your family and friends together. Food is a very important part of who we are. It's about enjoying life, enjoying the company of friends and family."

Pop Café captures this attitude, with an environment as comfortable as a friend's house. Giorgio has created an extension of the Arcasi home in Napoli, where his mother used to serve the same dishes that Phnom Penh residents enjoy today.

"My favourite is the linguine ai polipetti, the pasta with

small octopus, that is a delicacy where I come from," says Giorgio. "We managed to create the same dish here. At the market, Mamma found some octopus, and they work perfectly."

With fresh tomatoes in a white wine sauce, the linguine ai polipetti (US\$7.50) is a savoury yet slightly sweet delight. Giorgio also suggests beginning a meal with his garlicky tomato basil bruschetta (US\$5) and finishing on a sweet note with tiramisu (US\$4.50).

And what more can we expect from Mamma Rosa this visit? Giorgio turns to ask the authority, who responds in a rush of enthusiastic Italian.

"Mamma has something in mind," says Giorgio. "She is thinking to make a pasta that in Napoli we call a Sicilian pasta, with meatballs, eggplant, and mozzarella cheese."

Created with Mamma Rosa's loving touch, the new dish is bound to be as delicious as all her other specialties. Though many expats may long for the cooking of their own mothers, Pop Café is as close to home cooking as you are likely to find in Phnom Penh.

Pop Café da Giorgio, 371 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 012 562 892, Open daily from 11.30am to 2pm and 6pm to 10pm. 📍



The United Nations of Coffee with a Kick

Where better place than the UN's favourite nation to try out a positive cornucopia of coffee with an extra dash? **AsiaLIFE** finds the best alcohol coffee drinks in town and the worst geographers.



The Irish

If you prefer your poison to be a blend of the finest Italian coffee infused with a bit of Irish blarney, then head no further than Paddy Rice. Take one Illy coffee, add a shot of Jameson's, some sugar (optional) and top with cream, and you have the classic Irish Coffee (US\$3.75). Those with a sweeter tooth should opt for a Paddy's Girl, which has an extra dash of chocolate liquor (US\$4.50). Paddy also does a tasty Galliano Hot Shot (US\$3.50)—half a shot of espresso, half galliano and a dollop of whipped cream—that tastes like you've died and gone to sweet coffee heaven.

Paddy Rice, 213 Sisowath Quay.

The Mexican

Over at Java Café, the Irish coffee (US\$3.25) has a bit of an identity

crisis. With a shot of Lavazza espresso, steamed milk and a dram of Johnnie Walker Red clearly someone needs a whisk(e)y geography lesson here, although the coffee gets full marks for taste. Using espresso, steamed milk, kahlua, and a shot of Pepe Lopez tequila, crowned with cream, the tangy Mexican Coffee (US\$3.50) is equally good and more consistent at least in terms of geography. If rum is more to your taste, try the Jamaican Coffee with a shot of Havana Rum (US\$3.25). Another apparent misnomer, maybe it's a political thing.

Java Café & Gallery, 56 Siha-nouk Blvd.

The Cuban

Down the Quay at Chow, the coffee cocktail special inclines towards the east. The Mandarin

Orange Espresso (US\$6) mixes Absolut Mandarin vodka, Kahlua, Cointreau and Illy espresso for a fruity kick that stands out from the usual caffeinated options. Drank on the breezy rooftop of Chow, the coffee with a twist of citrus makes for a fresh pick-me-up.

Chow, 277 Sisowath Quay.

The Colonial

The Elephant Bar at Raffles evokes the feel of Cambodia's colonial past. From the doorman in traditional garb, to the stately interior, an aura of the 1920s pervades. Specialty coffees (US\$8) range from the classic Irish to the do-it-yourself with a "choice liquor coffee". Experimentation aside, opt for the combination of coffee, sugar, cream, and

Napoleon French brandy in the Royal Coffee.

Elephant Bar, Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Street 92.

The Caffeine Hit

If all of the above prove too hot for the tropics, head to Metro for the most divine Espresso Martini (US\$5.50) money can buy outside of the Eternal City. Ideal preparation for a big night out, a shot each of Napoli Coffee, Stoli Vodka, and Tia Maria, is sure to put you right in the mood. Just make sure you don't mistake this smooth shot of nectar for a nightcap otherwise you might end up having sleepless nights dreaming of coffee beans.

Metro Café, Cnr. Sisowath Quay and Street 148. ☑



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GIFTS GALORE

*T'was the night before Christmas,
All together they met,
Every gift thoughtfully chosen,
Oh the joy they would get!*

The holidays come but once a year—the occasion to revel in the delight of your beloveds. Gathered from locally based shops, this assortment presents unique options for him, her, and the little ones to find under the tree.


(Clockwise from top left) *Pink fairy lights* from Couleurs d'Asie (US\$10), *Red striped girl's shirt* from Chillli Kids (US\$13), *Grey striped boy's shirt* from Chillli Kids (US\$12), *Patchwork key chains* from Chillli Kids (US\$5 each), *Teddy bear* by Goel at Keo K'Jay (US\$30), *Pink dress* from Chillli Kids (US\$15), *Green pencil case* from Smateria (US\$3), *Saw clutch* from Water Lily (US\$20), *Knit creature* by Cambodia Knits at Chillli Kids (US\$15), *Strawberry flip-flops* from Chillli Kids (US\$5)


Silver fruit candle from Couleurs d'Asie (US\$10), *Shibourie silk clutch* from Jasmine (US\$36), *Snakeskin ballet flats* from Jasmine (US\$89), *Gold necklace* from Subtyl (US\$26), *Gold women's watch* from Couleurs d'Asie (US\$18), *Button necklace* from Water Lily (US\$28), *Glass necklace with ribbon* from Jasmine (US\$120), *Holiday decorations* from International Book Centre.



Screenprinted clutch from Keo K'jay (US\$18), *Button ring* from Water Lily (US\$25), *Lion candle* from Couleurs d'Asie (US\$7), *Knit bracelet* from Keo K'jay (US\$7), *Red brooch* from Water Lily (US\$18), *Wooden ring* from Water Lily (US\$15), *Red espadrilles* from Wanderlust (US\$4), *Computer bag* from Water Lily (US\$25), *Red rattan bangle* from Wanderlust (US\$8), *Christmas tree* from Couleurs d'Asie (US\$7), *Holiday decorations* from IBC.

Screenprinted napkins from Keo K'jay (US\$16), *Ornaments* from Daughters of Cambodia (Price upon request), *Brown leather handbag* from Subtyl (US\$78), *Teapot* from Wanderlust (US\$18), *Embroidered silk clutch* from Jasmine (US\$36), *Stocking* from Daughters of Cambodia (Price upon request), *Cuckoo clock* from Wanderlust (US\$18), *Kroma bracelets* from Wanderlust (US\$12), *Silk ornaments* from Subtyl (US\$7), *Bamboo box* from Wanderlust (US\$8), *Blue silk necklace* from Wanderlust (US\$12), *Sleep mask* from Daughters of Cambodia (Price upon request).



Small Bayon candle from Couleurs d'Asie (US\$7), *Cocktail shaker* from Pencil Supermarket (US\$7), *Striped silk tie* from Subtyl (US\$20), *Leather business card holder* from IBC (US\$3), *Leather belt* from Subtyl (US\$40), *Silk notebook* from Couleurs d'Asie (US\$7), *Watch* from Couleurs d'Asie (US\$16), *Bracelet* from Swatch (US\$50), *Leather coasters* from Couleurs d'Asie (US\$9), *Incense box* from Couleurs d'Asie (US\$12), *Tea Tray* from DeCosy (US\$12), *Jean-Paul Gautier Evian* from Lucky Supermarket (US\$9), *Disco ball string* from IBC (US\$2.90). 

Art Direction and Photography: James Grant
(SlikPhotography – JamesGrantPhoto.com)

Styling: Mai Lynn Miller Nguyen

JOY

A FESTIVE SEASON CELEBRATION



• **DECEMBER 5, 12, 19 & 24**
CHRISTMAS HIGH TEA
at the Conservatory

• **DECEMBER 24**
CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER
at Café Monivong
and Restaurant Le Royal

• **DECEMBER 25**
CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH
at Café Monivong

CHRISTMAS DAY HIGH TEA
at the Conservatory

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER
at Café Monivong
and Restaurant Le Royal

• **DECEMBER 31**
NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER
at Café Monivong
Restaurant Le Royal
and the Poolside

CHAMPAGNE PARTY & DISCO
at the Elephant Bar

• **JANUARY 1**
NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH
AND DINNER
at Café Monivong



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Angkor Airways
32 Norodom Blvd., Tel: 023 222 056

Bangkok Airways
61A Street 214, Tel: 023 722 545

China Airlines
32 Norodom Blvd., Tel: 023 222 393

Dragon Air
168 Monireth Blvd., Tel: 023 424 300

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Korean Air
F3-R03, 254 Monivong Blvd.
Tel: 023 224 047/8

Lao Airlines
58C Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 023 216 563

Malaysia Airlines
172 Monivong Blvd., Tel: 023 218 923
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Royal Khmer Airlines
36B Mao Tse Tung Blvd., Tel: 023 994 502

Shanghai Air
19 Street 106, Tel: 023 723 999

Siem Reap Airways
61A Street 214, Tel: 023 722 545

Silk Air
313 Sisowath Quay (Himawari Hotel),
Tel: 023 426 808

Thai Airways
294 Mao Tse Tung Blvd., Tel: 023 214 359
Bangkok-based airline connects twice daily between the Thai capital and Phnom Penh. Multiple daily flights are also operated to Ho Chi Minh City and Phuket.

Vietnam Airlines
41 Street 214, Tel: 023 363 396
Flies internationally throughout Asia and to Paris, Frankfurt, Moscow, Sydney, Melbourne, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

battambang

La Villa
185 Pom Romchek 5, Tel: 012 826 186, 089 930 951. lavilla@online.com.kh, www.lavilla-battambang.com
Beautifully restored 1930s colonial house with six rooms is the premium hotel in the country's second city and with an excellent kitchen and bar.

Riverside Balcony Bar & Restaurant
West bank of river, Tel: 012 437 421
Traditional wooden house with great views of the river and good food, ideal for a sunset cocktail lounging over the river. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 4pm to 11pm.

chau Doc (vietnam)
Victoria Chau Doc Hotel
32 Le Loi, Tel: +84 76 865 010
www.victoriahotels-asia.com
A few kilometres on the Vietnamese side of the border, Chau Doc's finest has views of the Bassac River, a swimming pool, restaurant serving both international & Vietnamese cuisine and great massages. Has its own speed boat running between Chau Doc and Phnom Penh.

kampot
Bar Red
Old Market area, Tel: 092 724 720
Restaurant and bar in close to the river, just around the corner from Bokor Mountain Lodge, is a good spot for a late night drink with personable host Steve, or to try some Indian food including their gargantuan samosas. Open from 6pm to late.

Blissful Guest House
Kampot, Tel: 012 513 024, 092 494 331
www.blissfulguesthouse.com
Small guest house, with 11 rooms, set in a quiet part of town with downstairs restaurant and bar, and communal TV room upstairs.

Bokor Mountain Lodge
Riverfront, Kampot, Tel: 033 932 314, 017 712 062. www.bokorlodge.com
Beautiful French colonial building situated on riverfront with well-fitted air-conditioned rooms. Has a good restaurant and bar with some outside seating overlooking the river.

Epic Arts Café
Old Market, Kampot
Employing deaf staff, this café next to the old market has a good range of bagels, shakes, brownies and coffee. Is also the centre for the community arts programme. Open from 7am to 6pm.

Jasmine
House 25 Riverside Road, Kampot,
Tel: 012 927 313
Run by the friendly Jasmine and her husband Mark, this café/restaurant is a stylish oasis on the Kampot riverfront. Tasty Thai, Khmer & café fare, also has photography decorating the walls.

Les Manguiers
2km north of Kampot, Tel: 092 330 050
Small resort with bungalows and rooms set in beautiful gardens overlooking the river with a restaurant which has daily changing, freshly prepared food. Best to book up in advance especially at weekends.

Mea Culpa
44 Sovansokar, Kampot, Tel: 012 504 769
meaculpakampot@gmail.com
Accommodation established by the former manager of Bokor Mountain Lodge set in the French Quarter. Six rooms have air con, hot water, DVD and TV. The large garden has a patio pizzeria and bar.

Nataya Coral Bay Resort
Prek Ampil, Kampot, Tel: 016 226 471, 012 902 823. natayaresort@yahoo.com
Only 16km from Kampot, this top-end hideaway comes complete with eight beachfront bungalows, a 25m infinity pool, a 2km private beach, stilt huts off a 300m pier, and simply oodles of relaxation.

Rikitikitavi
Riverfront, Kampot, Tel: 012 274 820, 012 235 102, www.rikikititavi-kampot.com
Western food served in large portions in this river-facing restaurant, bar and three-room guesthouse. A more upmarket



Hotel review

Raffles Hotel Le Royal
Nora Lindstrom

Historic grandeur, impeccable class and luxurious comfort define Phnom Penh's oldest hotel, Raffles Hotel Le Royal. Designed by French architect Ernest Hébrard and opened in 1929, the French colonial-style building has seen a lot, from being a Japanese barracks during WWII, through serving as the unofficial headquarters of the foreign press corps in the years before the fall of Phnom Penh, to hosting UNTAC personnel in the early 1990s.

Service is impeccable from start to finish. Bulky luggage disappears before you even enter the building, only to be relocated to your room shortly after you've entered and had a guided tour of all the room's amenities.

Though Raffles serves the top end of the market, the variety of rooms and suites mean you don't have to be filthy rich to enjoy its luxurious offerings.

For something out of the ordinary, opt for one of the four personality suites (US\$305 per night). Located in the old part of the hotel, the suites are named after famous individuals with special connections to Cambodia.

The Charles de Gaulle suite honours the late French president's visit to Cambodia in 1966. Its large, bright and high-ceilinged room comes with a huge, four-post double bed, a comfortable seating area, a large writing desk and ample wardrobe space. Two windows give out views of the hotel's driveway and the gardens of the Elephant Bar. The bathroom rivals the bedroom in size. Complete with traditional, stand-alone bathtub and separate modern shower, the white and green-tiled room exudes old-school beauty.

The hotel's general amenities leave equally little to desire. Enjoy classic cocktails at the Elephant Bar, dine like a royal at Restaurant Le Royal, or try out one of the themed buffet dinners at Café Monivong, where the complimentary buffet breakfast is served. Sumptuous to the extent that you may want to consider skipping dinner the night before, the large spread has everything from regular breakfast pastries and fresh bread, through different action stations, to Asian-style hot dishes.

Last but not least, the establishment's two large pools and the in-house Amrita Spa make sure your stay at Raffles Hotel Le Royal is both memorable and relaxing.

Raffles Hotel Le Royal,
92 Rukhak Vithei, Tel: 023 981 888. www.raffles.com

venue for Kampot, the upstairs seating affords great sunset views. Restaurant and bar open 7 days a week.

Rusty Keyhole
Outside Kampot
This British pub is the place for expats to chew the fat over a pint. Friendly British owner has recreated the atmosphere of a rural pub in outer Kampot, or at least as close as it gets. Rusty has moved from riverside location to the paddy fields but the ribs remain as good as ever. Open 8.30am to midnight.

kep
The Beach House
Opp. Kep Beach, Tel: 012 712 750
www.thebeachhousekep.com
Small hotel with pool in an excellent location, directly opposite Kep's mermaid statue. Relaxed café, and tasteful western-style rooms all with sea view. Can organise trips to nearby Rabbit Island or further afield to Bokor Mountain.

Breezes
Route 33, Kep, Tel: 097 675 9072
Situated on the main coast road about halfway between Kep Beach and the ferry to Rabbit Island, this stylish restaurant and lounge is located right by the sea in a green, wooded area. The food is a fusion of Asian and western with a focus on small dishes with plenty of seafood. Free pick-up and return to Kep hotels.

Champey Inn Resort
Tel: 012 501 742
Sea-fronted resort with fan-cooled bungalows. Has a swimming pool, a restaurant, a bar and a pleasant garden.

Kep Lodge
Tel: 092 435 330, 017 879 526
www.keplodge.com
Eight nicely decorated private bungalows with a big veranda, pool table, salt water swimming pool with a great view and WiFi. Also has a cosy bar and a restaurant with Khmer and western food.

Knai Bang Chatt Resort
Tel: 017 917 452, knaibangchatt.com
Exclusive seaside resort just along from the crab stalls, which has opened up its doors to the public. Elegant swimming pool, air-con, gym, library and fantastic gardens, this resort is the ideal place to get away from Phnom Penh. Good restaurant with fantastic views of the sea. Check for special offers. Also has a Sailing Club next door with bar and restaurant, as well as Hobby Cats.

Le Bout du Monde
Kep, Tel: 011 964 181
www.leboutdumondekep.com
Individual and separate bungalows in traditional Khmer architecture located at a top of a hill with good views and nice gardens. Serves French and Khmer cuisine. Rooms have hot water, mini-bar, fan and safe.

Led Zeppelin
At the roundabout, Kep
Small bar which sells the coldest beer in town situated right by the Kep roundabout. Ambience is distinctly rustic but chilled, and the limited range of snacks offers great value.

Veranda Natural Resort
Tel: 033 399 035, 012 888 619,
www.veranda-resort.com
Traditional wooden bungalows set in the hillside, some with fans and others with air-con. Settle down for the night and listen to the jungle purr. Has a good restaurant and bar with some quite stunning sweeping views down to the coast.

phnom penh – deluxe
Amanjaya
1 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 214 747
www.amanjaya-pancam-hotel.com

Large hotel with a great central location along the riverfront. The rooms are spacious and well-equipped with tasteful Khmer decorations. The downstairs restaurant doubles up as the air-con K West bar.

Cambodiana
313 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 426 288
www.hotelcambodiana.com
Great riverside location with spectacular sweeping views of the confluence of three rivers. Large rooms with air-con, in-room safes and good bathrooms. Live band plays nightly (except Mondays) from 8.15pm to late.

Himawari
313 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 214 555
www.himawarihotel.com
The 115 beautifully-designed suites have air-con, cable TV, IDD, Internet, in-room safes and large bathrooms. Nice swimming pool and good gym facilities as well as two good tennis courts.

Imperial Garden Hotel
315 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 219 991
Large hotel and villa complex next to the Cambodiana. Has a swimming pool, gym and tennis court.

Intercontinental
296 Mao Tse Tung, Tel: 023 424 888
www.ichotelsgroup.com
One of Phnom Penh's most luxurious 5-star hotels, the 346 air-con rooms have all the expected facilities including in-room safes and king size beds. Also has a large swimming pool, a Clark Hatch Fitness Centre, spa and beauty salon.

Raffles Hotel Le Royal
Street 92, Tel: 023 981 888
www.phnompenh.raffles.com
Emanates the same class as its more famous namesake in Singapore. The Elephant Bar is a popular expat haunt during the 4pm to 8pm happy hour. Beautiful gardens with a separate swimming pool for kids plus reasonably priced apartments for long stays.

Sunway Hotel
1 Street 92, Tel: 023 430 333,
phnompenh.sunwayhotels.com
Luxurious international four-star hotel located close to Wat Phnom with 138 well-sized rooms, spa, good business centre and meeting facilities.

phnom penh – mid
Asia Club
456 Monivong Blvd., Tel: 023 721 766
An oasis of water and green in the city, the five bungalows and four rooms with air-con and bath, large safe and flatscreen tv. The beautiful swimming pool is tucked around the back of Man Han Lou Restaurant and you can have drinks and food delivered from Man Han Lou Restaurant.

Almond Hotel
128F Sotheaors Blvd, Tel: 023 220 822
www.almondhotel.com.kh
56-room hotel located close to the Royal Palace and the riverfront with spacious rooms with WiFi. Downstairs restaurant serves dim sum and Cantonese food. Also has a spa.

Anise
2C Street 278, Tel: 023 222 522,
www.anisehotel.com
Small hotel with well-fitted, good size rooms, all equipped with air-con, in-room safe and hot water. Downstairs restaurant serves good Asian cuisine.

Billabong
5 Street 158, Tel: 023 223 703
www.thebillabonghotel.com
Centrally-located mini-hotel with a great

swimming pool surrounded by beautiful palm trees, with reasonably-sized rooms with air-con, serves good Asian food.

Blue Lime
42 Street 19z (off street 19), Tel: 023 222 260
www.bluelime.asia
Centrally-located mini-hotel with a great swimming pool and contemporary rooms is a good flashpacker option.

Bougainvillier
277G Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 220 528
www.bougainvillierhotel.com
Elegant, riverfront restaurant using gourmet homemade ingredients, specialising in foie gras, with plus a regularly changing specials board and excellent French wines. Three course set. lunches are also available. Open from 6am to 11pm.

Circa 51
155 Street 51, Phnom Penh,
Tel: 012 585 714. www.circa51.com
Combining a retro design vibe with both modern and traditional touches, this boutique hotel promises to deliver stylish exclusivity a short walk away from the capital's main action. All rooms come with A/C, flat screen TV and DVD player, iPod docking, mini-bar and writing desk. Has 11m pool and bar with menu featuring western, Khmer, and Pakistani dishes.

DP Lodge
47 Street 322, Tel: 023 213 503
Hotel-restaurant catering for business travellers to the Penh, is housed in a large villa and has a pleasant open-air balcony and good value food.

FCC Phnom Penh
362 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 012 253 222
www.fcccambodia.com
Phnom Penh's landmark restaurant has

seven rooms with balconies offering views of the river. Each is individually designed and meticulously outfitted with high-speed Internet access and the latest mod cons.

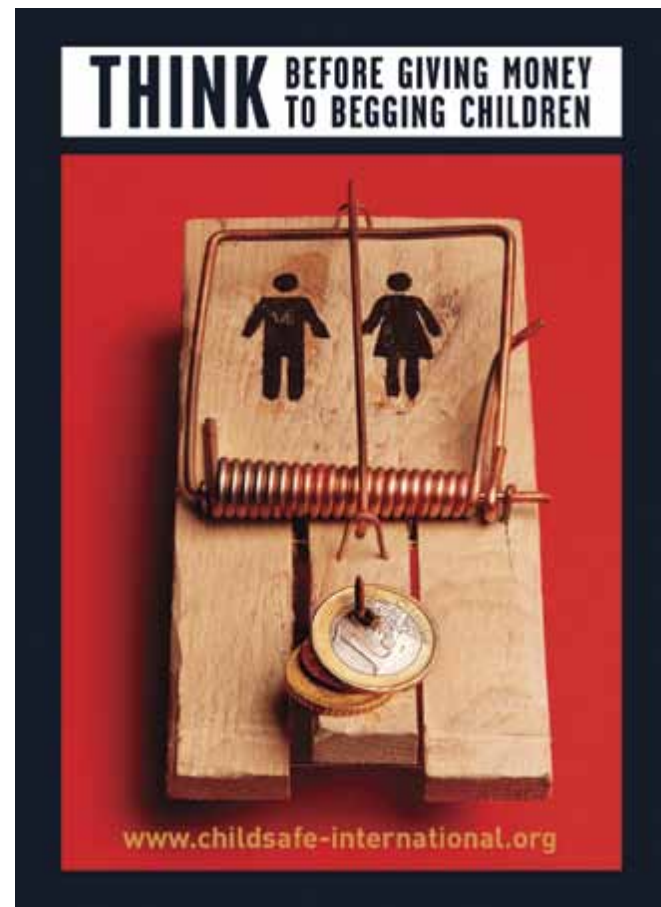
Goldiana
10-12 Street 282, Tel: 023 219 558
www.goldiana.com
Extremely popular hotel for visiting NGO workers due to its close proximity to NGO-land and reasonable prices.

Hotel Cara
18 Street 47 & 84, Tel: 023 430 066 / 023 998 422, stay@hotelcara.com, www.hotelcara.com
Just north of Wat Phnom, this stylish boutique hotel has well-fitted rooms at very reasonable rates and a great sushi restaurant.

Kabiki
22 Street 264, Tel: 023 222 290
www.thekabiki.com
First hotel in Cambodia dedicated to families and children, with two salt-water pools designed with children in mind. The rooms have a double bed and a bunk bed as well as a small outside area for small children. Bar and restaurant. WiFi.

Lebiz Hotel & Library
79F Street 128, Tel: 023 998 608/610, info@lebizhotel.com, www.lebizhotel.com
Luxury accommodation with a competitive edge and sleek modern design offers a full range of specialty services tailored to business needs, and cutting-edge technology to maximise comfort and productivity. Has unique library.

Paddy Rice
213-217 Sisowath Quay,
Tel: 023990321, www.paddyrice.net
Former Hope and Anchor has newly refurbished rooms with solar hot water, cable



TV, air conditioning, WiFi and great views of the river from its balconies. Downstairs restaurant offers full western and Asian cuisine, and sports bar shows all popular live sports.

River 108
2 Street 108, Tel: 023 218 785, www.river108.com

Art deco hotel aimed at the flashpacker set, the river view rooms are extremely comfortable with flat screen TV and separate bathroom and toilet. Efficient WiFi, good working space and spacious rooms make this the perfect business option.

The Pavilion
227 Street 19, Tel: 023 222 280, www.pavilion-cambodia.com

Beautiful boutique hotel set in a colonial building with large, unique rooms, each with either a small balcony or garden. Outdoor swimming pool, free WiFi and a small poolside restaurant.

The Quay
Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 224 894, http://thequayhotel.com

Five-storey, 16-room riverside boutique hotel has beautiful contemporary rooms designed by Gary Fell. The stand-out features are the roof-top jacuzzi and the very contemporary ground-floor bar and Chow Restaurant with WiFi.

Queen Boutique Hotel
49A Street 214, Tel: 023 211 683, om@queenboutique.asia

Boutique hotel located conveniently close to all the major attractions including the Royal Palace and National Museum.

The Villa Paradiso
27 Street 222 corner Street 51, Tel: 023 213 720, www.thevillaparisado.com

The Villa Paradiso is a great addition to the scene, with ten uniquely designed and beautifully furnished rooms, ranging in style from Balinese, thought Japanese to the modern.

phnom penh - budget
Blue Dog Guest House

13 Street 51, Tel: 012 658 075
Small guesthouse close to the Golden Mile with cheap upstairs rooms, some with A/C. Khmer art gallery on ground floor, features artwork by owner. Has ground-floor restaurant.

California 2
79 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 077 503 144, www.cafecaliforniaphnompenh.com

New guest house and bar on the riverfront with well-priced rooms with air con and security box. Downstairs bar has great Tex-Mex food and pool table.

Cara Hotel
18 Street 47, Tel: 023 430 666, www.hotelcara.com

Just north of Wat Phnom, this stylish boutique hotel has well-fitted rooms

at very reasonable rates and a great sushi restaurant.

Feeling Home
Cnr. Streets 278 & 63, Tel: 023 221 522, www.feelinghomecambodia.com
Stylish nine-room boutique hotel with ample rooms at competitive rates, including flatscreen TV, air-con, security box and great beds. Also has two apartments, an Asian restaurant and a Café Sentiment coffee house.

L'Imprevu
Highway 1, 7km past Monivong Bridge Tel: 024 390 405, www.hotel-imprevu-resort.com
Complex with twenty-four bungalows just outside of Phnom Penh. Tennis courts and excellent swimming pool make this a good break from the city.

Le Rit's
71 Street 240, Tel: 023-213-160, sales@nyemo.com
Small & charming 6-room guesthouse with spacious rooms is managed by NYEMO NGO, part of its hospitality training. Rooms equipped with queen sized bed, cable TV, private bathroom. The restaurant has a European set lunch menu and serves authentic Khmer food a la carte for diner. Also has a boutique handicraft shop set in a beautiful garden.

Sokha Heng Guesthouse
29 Street 178, Tel: 023 990 077
Modern 25-room guesthouse located conveniently close to the National Museum. Has well-priced rooms with air-con and hot water.

Tonle Sap Guest House
4-6 Street 104, Tel: 023 986 722, www.tonlesapguesthouse.com
Clean, well-kept guesthouse upstairs with 15 rooms, with air-con, fans, hot water, cable TV. Downstairs Pickled Parrot bar open 24 hours.

Velkommen Inn
23 Street 104, Tel: 092 177 710
Just off the riverfront, situated above Velkommen Inn Restaurant is the guesthouse of the same name. The spotless rooms have air-con, cable TV, minibar, safety box and an suite rooms with hot water. The hotel is located close to the bus stations and the ferry dock.

sihanoukville
Holy Cow
Ekareach Street, Tel: 012 478 510
Beautiful restaurant set in a relaxing garden environment on the main street, with terracotta terrace downstairs and wooden dining area upstairs. Competitively-priced, good cuisine including vegetarian options. Open daily from 9.30am to 11:00pm.

Independence Hotel
Independence Beach, Tel: 012 728 090, www.independenceshotel.net



Beautifully restored hotel on Independence Beach, originally opened in 1963, reopened in 2007 following a complete refurbishment. Has beautiful infinity pool and sweeping ocean views from most rooms. Also has a gym, conference rooms and circular garden.

Le Vivier de 'La Pailotte'
Victory Hill
Upmarket French restaurant that outshines the other places on Sihanoukville's late night drinking street. Sophisticated French cuisine served in a beautiful garden setting. Open for lunch and dinner.

Luna d'autunno
Ekareach Street, Tel: 034 934 280
Best Italian restaurant in Sihanoukville, serves a similar menu to the one in Phnom Penh, but with a heavier emphasis on seafood. The beautiful roof-top terrace and interior air-con restaurant are both open for lunch and dinner.

Maharajah
Victory Hill Sihanouk Ville, Tel: 015 966 221
Excellent Indian restaurant, popular with expats and local curry lovers due to its authentic, fresh and hygienic Halal food.

Reef Resort
Road to Serendipity Beach, Tel: 012 315 338, www.reefresort.com.kh
Guesthouse set around a beautiful pool with well apportioned air-con rooms, in-room safe and cable TV, family rooms also available. Has a welcoming bar with excellent TV screen, slate pool table and excellent Mexican cuisine.

Scuba Nation
Lane off road to Serendipity Beach Tel: 012 604 680, 012 715 785, www.divecambodia.com
Five-star PADI centre offering daily trips to the area's many islands and reefs including the decent dive sites at Koh Rung Samloem and Koh Kon, also runs a range of PADI-certified courses, and has an office in Phnom Penh.

Sokha Beach Resort
Sokha Beach, Tel: 034 935 999
With its own private beach, excellent swimming pool and fine restaurants, Sokha is the most up-market place to stay in Sihanoukville. A live Filipino band plays around the cocktail bar at night.

Starfish Bakery Café
Behind Samadera Market, Tel: 012 952 011
Excellent place for a healthy breakfast or lunch set in a relaxing garden with good bread, salads, sandwiches, juices and porridge. Has a small shop run by the

Rajana Association selling clothes and handcrafts. Good place to go for a massage. Open for breakfast and lunch.

Zoco
Independence Hotel, Road to Serendipity Beach
Two fashion boutiques – one on the way to Serendipity Beach, the other in Independence Hotel – run by the Spanish-born Nuria, sells dresses, skirts, bags and accessories. Has another shop in Phnom Penh.

travel
Blazing Trails
Killing Fields Road, Tel: 012 676 381
Adventure tourism company that runs trips on quad bikes to Phnom Tmao, Tonle Bati and neighbouring villages. Free pick up for anyone within Phnom Penh.

Cambodia Uncovered
11B Street 370, Tel: 012 507 097, www.cambodiauncovered.com
Offers village and cultural tours in Phnom Penh and surrounds including road trips, Mekong cruises, accommodation, cooking classes and other activities.

Exotissimo Travel
6th Floor, SSN Center No. 66, Norodom Blvd, Tel: 023 218 948, go.cambodia@exotissimo.com, www.exotissimo.com
Excellent French-owned agency specialising in adventure tourism, flight bookings, package holidays and a range of well-run tours of Southeast Asia. Brochures are available online.

Helicopters Cambodia
10 Street 310 Phnom Penh, Tel: 012 814 500/023 213 706, www.helicopterscambodia.com
Cambodia's longest running Aviation Company with over 12 years experience operating in the Kingdom offers scenic flights around the Temples of Angkor and beyond. Is a wholly owned subsidiary of Helicopters New Zealand Group.

Intrepid Travel
468 Sivutha Blvd., Tel: 063 966 655
For travellers with a yearning to get off the beaten track, Intrepid opens up a whole new world of adventure travel. With a huge variety of tours available, Intrepid travellers explore the world's most amazing places.

Travel Indochina
43-44EO Street 108, Tel: 023 991 978, www.travelindochina.com.au
Australian-owned and managed travel company specialising in small group journeys around Asia that can tailor trips for individuals. **K1**

listings
siem reap

siem reap - bars
AHA
The Passage, Tel: 063 965 501
Sophisticated and beautifully designed wine bar selling a wide range of wines from around the world and tapas, as well as great cheese and Lavazza coffee. Open from 10.30am to 10.30pm.

Angkor What?
Pub Street, Tel: 012 181 4001
"Promoting irresponsible drinking since 1998," this graffiti-laden bar is the mainstay of Pub Street. A healthy mix of loud rock, punk and grunge, buckets of vodka and red bull for US\$6 and a pool table ensures that you will never feel alone. Buy 2 buckets in one purchase, get a free Angkor What? T-shirt. Open from 5pm to late.

Banana Leaf
Pub Street, Tel: 012 378 488
At the top of Pub Street, the Banana Leaf offers live music every Friday night and some Saturdays, with popular local expat band, Cambojam, and special drinks promotions. Open from 9am to late.

Café Central Brasserie
Old Market, Tel: 012 181 4001
New contemporary and stylish brasserie style bar on the corner facing Old Market, serving generous salads, sandwiches, pasta, pizzas and burgers. Reportedly the best breakfast in town. Open from 7am to 11pm.

Central Bar & Brasserie
Old Market.
New contemporary and stylish bar/restaurant on the corner facing Old Market, serving generous salads, sandwiches, pasta, pizzas and burgers. Reportedly the best breakfast in town. Open from 7am to 11pm.

Fresh at Chili Si-Dang
East River, Tel: 012 723 488
Riverside dining, balcony views, a relaxing lounge downstairs, and a pool table. Fresh food, including traditional Khmer cuisine, cheese, sandwiches, a generous selection of vegetarian food, Australian steak, and ice cream sundaes. Only 2 minutes walk, along the Siem Reap River, away from the hustle and bustle of Pub Street.

Funky Munky
Pub Street, Tel: 092 276 751
Good mix of music, excellent film posters and pool table compete with the pub grub for your attention. Try the Sunday lunch or build your own burger. Alternatively compete in the most competitive 'charity' quiz on a Thursday.

Giddy Gecko Bar
Lane off Pub Street, Tel: 092 857 400
Late night drinking den that has a good range of cocktails. Good option for those wanting to get away from the hordes on Pub Street. Happy Hour from 4pm to 8pm, buy 2 drinks, get one free (cocktails and beer). Open from 11am to late.

Laundry Bar
Old Market
Extremely chilled music bar just off Pub Street with great mellow decor and extremely cool t-shirts. Its multi-page music catalogue makes for the perfect respite

from the Cambodian obsession with hip hop. Free drink during the 6pm to 9pm washing hours. Open 6pm to late.

Linga Bar
Alley behind Pub Street, Tel: 012 246 912, www.lingabar.com
Laid back, gay-friendly bar with extremely chilled Buddha Bar tunes and some amazing light boxes that serves a great range of cocktails. Free WiFi. Open from 5pm to late.

Little Pari
The Lane, off Pub Street,
The newest and bluest bar in town! Very sweet, very stylish little jewel of a bar, much like the eponymous owner herself, Pari. This jazz/wine bar serves delicious Asianised cocktails, wines and beers. Open from 7pm until closing.

Miss Wong
Lane off Pub Street, Tel: 092 428 332
Imagine yourself in China at the turn of the last century and you won't go much wrong in Miss Wong. Extremely welcome addition to the same-old Siem Reap bar scene, serves excellent and original cocktails and dim sum. Open late.

Molly Malone's
Pub Street Tel: 063 963 533, www.mollymalonescambodia.com
Wood panelled Irish Pub with lots of Irish memorabilia. The Guinness either comes in a cold can or alongside some steak in a pie. Also has a small guest house upstairs with air-con rooms. Open from 7am to midnight.

Nest
Sivutha Blvd. Tel: 017 925 181
A step up for Siem Reap, Nest is high level drinking and dining, serving light Mediterranean and Asian food in a unique, highly stylised setting, with loungers and table settings.

Picasso
Alley West
A very cosy wine and tapas bar, with artful décor and a curved bar making conversation easy and fun. Good selection of wines and delicious tapas make this a regular haunt for expats. Open from 5pm to midnight.

Red Piano
Pub Street, Tel: 063 964 750, www.redpianocambodia.com
Bar set in a beautiful 100-year old colonial building that dominates one end of Pub Street. Lounge chairs spill out onto the street and the upstairs restaurant has great views of the méléé down below. Open from 7am to 11.30pm.

The Station
Street 7, Old Market Area, Tel: 017 98 24 85
A modern bar serving Illy Coffee, breakfasts, salads, fresh sandwiches, Khmer and Thai food, teas, fruit drinks, ice-cold draft beer, fine wines and more. High speed WiFi. Live music and DJs on the weekends.

Silk Garden
The Lane, off Pub Street, Tel: 012 98 91 63
Attractive garden bar, serving crepes and western food in a relaxed, comfortable setting. Frequently hosts live music and guest DJs.

The Warehouse
Old Market, Tel: 012 530 227, 63 965 204
Popular expat bar opposite the old market that plays great music with good Asian-western fusion cuisine, this is a great place to hide from the hordes along Pub Street. Cocktail happy hour everyday from 4pm to 8pm, buy two get one free traditional Sunday roasts, well-stocked bar and homemade infused vodkas. Open from 10am to 3am.

the blue pumpkin

bakery
ice cream
restaurant
lounge

free old market - siem reap
www.tbumpkin.com
spot 063 963 574
open 06:00 to 22:00

central siem reap

you to explore the mysteries of Khmer cuisine in comfort.

Moksha

The Passage, Old market, Tel: 012 181 3981

Contemporary Asian food, mixing special grills and regional classics, with signature dishes including marinated beef with fried red ants, and grilled duck breast with tamarind. Open 11am to 11pm.

Ombrelle Restaurant

Wat Bo Road (In Ombrelle et Kimono boutique hotel) Tel: 063 965 880

A delightfully designed, intimate restaurant serving fresh French and Khmer food.

Paris-Saigon

Wat Bo Area, Tel: 012 605 780

Refined French and Vietnamese dining that claims, with cause, to serve the best chicken pho in town.

Sala Bai

Taphul Road Tel: 063 963 329

Training restaurant for the hospitality school for underprivileged children, with superb western and Khmer cuisine, even if the servers are sometimes a little shy. Good food for a very good cause.

Samsara

The Passage., Tel: 017 82 44 74

The only South Indian restaurant in town, serving dosa and wada and many other tasty dishes. Open 11am to 11pm.

Selantra

Wat Bo Road, Tel: 012 569 975

Architect designed restaurant created by a former chef of the Hotel de la Paix, serving Khmer and western food.

Singing Tree Café

West Alley, Old Market, Tel: 012 490 265

Colourful, contemporary café serves vegan suitable juices, shakes, coffees and teas, grilled sandwiches and cookies. Has ethos of serving healthy, mostly vegetarian and freshly made meals as well as sustaining efforts to provide information on variety of environmental and social subjects relevant to Siem Reap. Open 11am to 9pm.

The Soup Dragon

Pub Street, Tel: 063 96 49 30

Multi-storied restaurant continues to pull in strong crowds for its extensive menu of western, Vietnamese and Khmer dishes. Open from 6am to 11pm.

The Sugar Palm

Taphul Road, Tel: 063 964 838

Sister of the Sugar Palm in Phnom Penh, this restaurant offers tasty, beautifully presented high-end Khmer dining in a lovely traditional house

Tigre de Papier

Pub Street, Siem Reap, Tel: 012 265 811

The thing that differentiates this place from all the other restaurants along Pub Street is its half-day cookery classes, starting at 9am. Friendly, helpful French management ensures consistent quality of food.

Triskell d'Angkor

Pub Street Area.

Modern restaurant serving French buckwheat crepes, stuffed with all kinds of meat, sausages, cheese, vegetables, eggs and fish, as well as pizzas, Khmer food and more. Open from 10.30am to 11.30pm.

Viroth's

Wat Bo Road, Tel: 012 826 346

Elegant restaurant on the other side of river with excellent terrace garden is a good place to try royal Khmer cuisine including amok and beef lok lak.

Viva!

Pub Street and Old Market Area

Full menu of traditional Mexican dishes, with fresh tortillas made each day.

siem reap - shops

Carnets d'Asie

333 Sivutha Boulevard

Set in an arcade, this gallery-cum-bookshop has an extensive selection of photographs and books on Cambodia, including some black and white prints from the early 20th Century.

Eric Raisina

53 Veal Village, Siem Reap

Tel: 012 965 207, 063 963 207

Accessories, home decorations, textiles and clothing created by Madagascan-born and French-trained designer. His amazingly vibrant designs have collected quite a following throughout the fashion world. Phone in advance for an appointment.

Garden of Desire

The Passage

Tel: 012 319 116

Unique and beautiful gold, silvery and acrylic jewellery designed and created by Ly Piseth. All of the pieces are handmade.

Jasmine Boutique

FCC Angkor, Pokambor Avenue

Tel: 063 760 610

Same sophisticated, stylish boutique as on Street 240 in Phnom Penh, the perfect place for the ball gown you forgot to bring with you.

Oro Rosso

Old Market, Tel 092 985 986

Formerly Söng, but with the same owner even if under a different name and the same classic, feminine styles. Open from 9am to 10pm.

Poetry

Alley West, Tel: 015 378 088

A dizzying array of quirky jewellery, fashion and paraphernalia, designed by local artists and others from all over the world.

Rogue

Old Market

Formerly the Boom Boom Room, Rouge continues to provide the most up to date music from its massive catalogue of music, movies, and television serials.

Siem Reap Book Centre

Pub Street Area., Tel: 012 929 298

A range of history books, catalogues, text books, stationery, office supplies, souvenirs, and gifts, newspapers and magazines are on sale daily from 8am to 11pm.

Smateria

The Alley West, Tel: 063 964 343

www.smateria.com

Boutique specialising in accessories made from recycled materials including a range of bags and wallets made from old fruit juice cartons, plastic bags and mosquito nets.

U-Care Pharmacy

Next to Old Market, Tel: 063 965 396

Reliable western-style pharmacist and drugstore that also has two branches in Phnom Penh and sells health and beauty products. Open 8am to 12am.

Wanderlust

The Alley West,

Tel: 063 965 980

Clothes that make you look good and feel great, in invigorating bright colours and classic designs with a twist. Also sells shoes, cushions and jewellery. ☑



Miao Xiang Xi Healthy Vegetarian Restaurant Gabrielle Doman

Chinese food and vegetarian cuisine may not seem likely bed-fellows, but at Miao Xiang Xi Healthy Vegetarian Restaurant, that's the concept behind the menu. Judging by how packed the venue gets with Chinese business people and intrepid veggies both at lunch-times and early evenings, we'd say it's been a success.

Despite its unassuming appearance, every tofu-lover this side of Monivong has ventured in to sample the restaurant's range of noodle soups, fried veggies and faux meat.

The latter might be a touchy subject for many carnivores but, for the vegetarians out there, the menu's hotdogs (4,000 riel), meatballs (3,000 riel), chicken thighs (4,000 riel) and chicken wings (4,000 riel), all made from beans, make a fun and tasty (albeit a little dry) alternative to the city's usual rice and noodle-based options.

If veggies are what you're after, there are plenty of dishes to try, including a delicious plate of fried mixed mushrooms (3,000 riel), a whopping plate of vegetable tempura (4,000 riel), a wide selection of noodle soups (between 3,000 and 4,000 riel) and several tofu dishes, such as 'fry tao-hou with ginger' (4,000 riel). The

roast dumplings (3,500 riel for eight) are also well worth the indulgence. The menu includes photographs of each dish as well as descriptions in English, Khmer and Chinese, so you are always sure of exactly what you're getting.

Service can be a little relaxed, but Miao Xiang Xi is a venue you'll be happy to linger in. It's anything but lacking in atmosphere. Noodle dishes are prepared in a wok on a single flame outside, the television blares with Chinese soap operas and movies, and tables packed with chattering groups sampling the enourmous hot pot—a noodle soup with a selection of ingredients on the side for 10,000 riel—all ensure you'll have a lively meal.

With no alcohol available on the premises, green tea is provided for free, and a selection of sweet bubble teas is available. Miao Xiang Xi might be a long trek down Monivong Boulevard, but its varied menu, friendly service and pocket-change prices make it one of the best vegetarian restaurants in the city.

Miao Xiang Xi Healthy Vegetarian Restaurant,
699 Monivong Boulevard,
Tel: 011 764 558. Open daily from 7am to 9pm. ☑

listings
food & drink

cambodian

Boat Noodle

8B Street 294, Tel: 012 774 287, 016 504 588

Khmer and Thai restaurant with excellent, well-priced food, set in a beautiful, traditional wooden house. Open every day from 7am to 10pm.

Frizz

67 Street 240, Tel: 023 220 953, 012 845 525

Dutch-run, restaurant specialising in authentic Khmer cuisine, including good amok, which runs cookery classes too. Open 10am to 11pm.

Green Pepper

6F Sotheaors Blvd, Tel: 011 427 776

Serving Khmer and Thai food in a cosy setting near the riverfront. Open from 7am to 10pm. A/C

K'NYAY

25K Suramarit Blvd. (Street 268),

Tel: 023 225 225 or 092 665 225,

www.knyay.com, knyay@hotmail.com

Modern Khmer restaurant tucked away down an alley off Sihanouk Blvd, with a menu including a selection of freshly prepared, vegan dishes, along with traditional

Cambodian specialties. Offers a selection of cakes, ice creams and sorbets, using all vegan ingredients. Open 12pm to 9pm (Mon to Fri), 7am to 9pm (Sat), closed Sunday.

Malis

136 Norodom Bvd., Tel: 023 221 022

www.malisrestaurant.com

Beautiful modern Khmer restaurant with a courtyard set around narrow water channels and decorated with terracotta floor tiles. Has air-con rooms inside for those who find the midday sun too much. The cuisine is modern Khmer, with no MSG. A/C

Restaurant Le Royal

Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Tel: 023 981 888

www.affles.com/phnompenh, dining.phompenh@affles.com

The finest French & Khmer cuisine in the most elegant restaurants. The Chef's Degustation menu allows you to try a myriad of dishes in a single meal. Private rooms are available on request. Open from 6.30pm to 10.30pm. A/C

Romdeng

74 Street 174, Tel: 092 219 565

Run by the same NGO as Friends, this non-profit training school restaurant specialises in Khmer cuisine. Food has a fresh and daring flavour, especially if you opt for the crispy tarantulas as a starter. Good place to try fermented fish prahok. Open 11am to 9pm.

The Local

39C Street 454, Tel: 077 905 522

Café with a courtyard, art deco style mezzanine bar and dining room displaying art from the Apsara gallery with menu established by Khmer chef and cookbook author Sok Chhong. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 11pm.

chinese

Hua Nam

753 Monivong Bvd., Tel: 023 364 005

Singapore Nasi Lemak...

Traditional Set
Fish, Egg, Otah, Luncheon Meat, Ikan Bilis & Sambal chilli

Full Set
Chicken Wing, Fish, Egg, Otah, Luncheon Meat, Ikan Bilis & Sambal chilli

Served Daily for Lunch & Dinner from USD 3.50

and Nyonya Specials

Drop in at DP Lodge for a taste of traditional Singapore favourite dishes served fresh daily. And look out for more weekend Nyonya special dishes.

dp lodge
No.47 street 322
Boeung Keng Kang I,
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street cuisine

Bpawng moa-an ang (grilled chicken eggs)
Conor Wall

Price:
600 riel per egg

Ingredients:
A small hole is punched in one end of the chicken egg. Using a small pipe the egg's contents are then sucked out leaving only an empty shell. The contents are then placed in a large pot and mixed with salt, pepper, oyster sauce, sugar, chicken seasoning powder, MSG and one top-secret ingredient which the sellers guard with their lives. Once mixed well, the new concoction is then pumped back into the empty eggshells before being slowly grilled.

Served:
Single eggs are served in a quaint little plastic bag, while multiple eggs are served kebab-like on a skewer.

Taste:
Once the hardened eggshell is peeled off, a greyish/white interior with a texture not too dissimilar to that of a boiled egg remains. It tastes like a boiled egg with a touch more seasoning and that extra special kick of the secret ingredient. 🍷👍👍👍👍👍

Where to get it:
Available from a variety of old motorbikes with a box-like grill attached to the side, which looks like it should have a goggled co-driver in it. Depending on the weather, an umbrella might also be opened to protect the precious eggs from the elements. However the carts most familiar trait is its brain-numbing pre-recorded advertising chant 'bpawng moa-an ang, p'som-greung bppee-seh, mee-an rou-as-jee-at chngou-ee chngang', which loosely translates as: 'fried chicken eggs, special ingredients, delicious taste'.

Other Info:
Available all day, and unfortunately at night too. It was recently reported that a rural grilled egg seller was stabbed by a disgruntled resident who couldn't take the sound of the carts pre-recorded advertising. 🚫

Large Chinese restaurant that specialises in seafood and duck and has a good selection of wines, with VIP rooms. Open 11am to 2pm, 5pm to 10pm. **A/C**

Man Han Lou Restaurant
456 Monivong Blvd., Tel: 023 721 966
Micro-brewery with four types of German-style beer. Has extensive Chinese, Thai, Khmer and Vietnamese menus, as well as dim sum breakfast from 6am to 10am. **A/C**

Mekong Village
290 Monivong Bvd., Tel: 023 218 888
Large Chinese restaurant that specialises in crispy Beijing duck and stays open until late. Open 12pm to late.

Sam Doo
56-58 Kampuchea Krom (Street 128), Tel: 023 218 773
The place for dim sum in Phnom Penh, baskets of steamed prawn dumplings, pork buns and more go for a pittance. The wonton soup and other tasty meals are a steal. Open 7am to 2am.

Xiang Palace
Intercontinental Hotel, 296 Mao Tse Tung Boulevard, Tel: 023 424 885
Up market restaurant with possibly the best range of Cantonese cuisine in town, served in opulent surroundings. Open 11.30am to 2.30pm (Sunday from 9.30pm), 5.30pm to 10.30pm. **A/C**

Yi Sang Chinese Restaurant
128F Sotheaors Blvd., Tel: 023 220 922
www.almondhotel.com.kh
Set on the ground floor of the Almond Hotel, this stylish restaurant specialises in Cantonese food and dim sum that fuses the traditional with the contemporary, including excellent dim sum. Open from 6.30am to 10am, 11.30am to 2pm and 5.30pm to 10pm - dim sum not served in the evening. **A/C**

french
Atmosphere
141C Norodom Bvd., Tel: 023 994 224, 012 960 573
Well-established air-con restaurant serves fine French food in an elegant yet tastefully decorated setting, close to the Independence Monument. Open from 11am to 2pm and 6pm to 10.30pm. Closed Sundays. **A/C**

Armand's
33 Street 108, Tel: 015 548 966
A true bistro experience in a cosy wood-panelled space, despite the informal and relaxed ambience it has the menu to even satisfy high-rollers. Open 5pm until late. Closed Mondays. **A/C**

Bougainvillier
277C Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 220 528, www.bougainvillierhotel.com
Elegant, riverfront restaurant using gourmet homemade ingredients, specialising in foie gras. Fish, beef, gourmet pasta dishes and langoustine also feature, plus a regularly changing specials board and excellent French wines. Three course set lunches are also available. Open from 6am to 11pm. **A/C**

Comme à la Maison
13 Street 57, Tel: 012 951 869, commelamaison-delicatessen.com
Decidedly sophisticated French restaurant with a beautiful outdoor terrace area at the front, yet secluded from the street. One of the best French kitchens in town, shown by its popularity both at lunch time and at night. Small delicatessen at the back of the restaurant. Open daily from 6am to 10.30pm. 🍷

Equinox
3A Street 278, Tel: 012 586 139, 092 791 958
With welcoming al fresco downstairs bar and large space upstairs, this one of the more popular places on the golden mile.

Has regular exhibitions, live music and events as well as serving good food. Open 7am to late, serves food to midnight. 🍷

K West
1 Street 154 (Cnr. Sisowath Quay), Tel: 023 214 747
Stylish aircon bar and restaurant below the Amanjaya with an excellent steak menu and good value happy hour from 6pm to 8pm Fridays. Now has a brasserie menu with daily specials. Also has free WiFi. Open 6.30am to midnight. **A/C**

La Marmite
Corner Streets 108 & 51, Tel: 012 391 746
This small, reasonably priced French bistro has two adjoining rooms (one non-smoking) creating a relaxed, cosy atmosphere. Serves excellent fish, steaks and offal as well as daily specials, for a taste of real home-cooked French cuisine. Open 11am to 2.30pm, 6pm to 10.30pm. **A/C**

La Residence Restaurant
22/24 Street 214, Tel: 023 224 582
Fine dining on an international scale in this sophisticated restaurant, where French classics meet gourmet, modern cuisine. Open from 11.30am to 2pm, 6.30pm to 10.30pm. **A/C**

Le Gourmet
NagaWorld, Hun Sen Park, Tel: 023 228 822.
Kitsch meets tradition at this up-scale restaurant. Quality ingredients come together in beautiful presentation on the plate, with the luxury of the surroundings complemented by professional and attentive service.

Le Jardin
16 Street 360, Tel: 011 723 399
Beautiful shaded restaurant with large garden and spacious outdoor play area for kids with excellent ice cream. Open 8am to 10pm (closed Mondays).

Le Sauvignon
6B Street 302, Tel: 092 730 250
Contemporary wine bar and restaurant serves a variety of wines with a focus on classy French whites. Open Monday to Saturday, noon till late.

Restaurant Le Royal
Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Tel: 023 981 888, www.raffles.com/phnompenh dining.phompenh@raffles.com
Treat yourself to the finest French & Khmer cuisine in one of Indochina's most elegant restaurants. The Chef's Degustation menu allows you to try a myriad of dishes in a single meal in a refined atmosphere patronised by the who's who of Phnom Penh. Private rooms are available on request. Open from 6.30pm to 10.30pm. **A/C**

Tamarind
31 Street 240, Tel: 012 830 139
Bold Mediterranean, North African restaurant set on three floors which serves couscous, tagines, chawarma, tapas and mezze. Small bar with pool table downstairs denies the elegance upstairs, especially the roof terrace, which opens after sunset. Open 10am to 12pm. **A/C**

The Wine Restaurant
219 Street 19, Tel: 023 223 527
Excellent fine dining restaurant in the same grounds as Open Wine deli. The fresh food and extensive selection of wines make this one of the more exclusive places to dine in town. **A/C**

Topaz
182 Norodom Bvd., Tel: 012 346 555, 023 221 622
Sophisticated, air-con restaurant with outside dining, upstairs bar, wine shop, cigar room and private rooms. One of Phnom Penh's finest restaurants. Has a popular piano bar, night club upstairs. Open 11am to 2pm and 6pm to 11pm. **A/C**



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Izakaya Yumi
Darren Gall

Traditional 'izakaya' restaurants are found all over Japan and now, thanks to Yumi, in Phnom Penh too. Loosely translated as "a shop to sit and drink sake", izakaya restaurants are typically small spaces with a long bar and a handful of tables that serve what could be described as Japanese tapas style cuisine to go with the core purpose of their being, which is drinking. There are many different types or styles of izakaya, usually defined by the food they offer—modern izakaya also proffer a wide variety of beverages from sake to beer, wine, whisky and other spirits.

A minimalist restaurant with a Zen feel to the garden, Yumi is tucked into a cosy space in Street 288 between Monivong Boulevard and Street 63 in BKK 1. It fits into the yakitory-ya category of izakaya, although the selection of dishes is diverse enough and well chosen to give a delightful sampling of Japanese cuisine. The wine list is taut, but offers a quality and diversity that sees it well suited to the cuisine on offer—or vice-versa as it should be in an izakaya.

Served on small plates and designed for sharing, at Yumi the dishes are in the US\$2.50 to US\$5 range. Our first plates to arrive were beef sushi roll, beef yakitori skewers and a selection of tempura veg-

etables. My glass of rosé had just enough body and red fruit character to be complimented by the excellent beef sushi, yet did not overpower the dish. A more substantial red might have been in order for the beef skewers, but with its open ended bar leading into the garden, Yumi's is a place that invites well-chilled beverages on a hot night in the Penh, despite its cool, trendy setting. The light, fluffy, crispy vegetable tempura was delicious, especially when matched with the zippy freshness of the Anakena Sauvignon Blanc.

Our next round of plates consisted of tonkatsu chicken, pumpkin gyoza and steamed bok choy. The Sauvignon Blanc had a lush mid-palate of tropical fruits brought together by a brace of crisp, citrus acidity. The wine was matched by the sweet notes of the pumpkin gyoza. The bok choy was fresh and not overly cooked.

A zazen-like groove washing over me, I moved on to chilled, dry, Gekikikan sake to go with the exquisite tonkatsu.

All too soon, we made our way back into steamy, chaotic Phnom Penh, the spell broken. Whilst it lasted, Yumi's had been an enchanting dining experience, my own Zen moment and one I wish to repeat again very soon.

Yumi, 29a Street 298,
Tel: 092 163 903. 📍

review

Van's Restaurant
5 Street 102, Tel: 023 722 067
French fine-dining in a grand setting awaits at Van's, located on the second floor of a well preserved colonial era building near the city's Post Office. Open every day from 11.30am to 2.30pm and 5pm to 10.30pm. A/C 🍷

indian sub-continent
Al Almeen
34 Street 108, Tel: 016 514 933
Malaysian-Indian halal restaurant located next to the night market serves good value thali and traditional Indian dishes including biryani. Complimentary sweet tea makes up for the lack of alcohol on the premises and the lassis come recommended. Open from 11 to 2.30pm and 5.30pm to 10.30pm (Mon to Sat), and 9am to 2.30pm and 5.30pm to 10.30pm (Sun).

Annam
1C Street 282, Tel: 023 726 661, 099 926 661
Beautiful terracotta terrace and garden restaurant serving north and south Indian cuisine, with an open kitchen and air-con kids' playpen. Has free WiFi, draught beer with all-day happy hour, a good selection of wines, and big screen showing Bollywood music and movies. Ideal for small banquets and business meetings. Offers outdoor catering and delivery food. Open from 11am to 11pm. Closed on Tuesdays. A/C 🍷

Dosa Corner
15 Street 51, Tel: 012 673 276 Street
This small south Indian restaurant opened in January. True to its name it has a wide range of very good value dosa as well as thali and biryani dishes. Air-conditioned, it's open from 7am to 10pm. A/C 🍷

East India
9 Street 114, Tel: 023 992 007
South Indian cuisine predominates in this pristine restaurant with excellent breads including nine types of dosa and an all-you-can-eat vegetarian Sunday special. Open 11am to 2pm, 5.30pm to 10.30pm. A/C 🍷

Flavours of India
158 Street 63, Tel: 012 886 374, 023 990 455
Relaxing Indian and Nepalese restaurant with friendly staff and a good range of dishes including good value vegetarian and meat thalis. Open 10am to 11pm. A/C 🍷

Irrawaddi
24 Street 334, Tel: 012 979 510
Authentic Myanmar food at very reasonable prices in a clean setting with paintings of the Burmese countryside decorating the walls. Open 10am to 10pm, closed on Mondays.

Mount Manaslu Café
1a Street 282, Tel: 023 996 514, 012 637 485, 017 760 740
Nepalese restaurant set in the heart of Boeung Keng Kang serves authentic cuisine

from the kingdom as well as Indian, Khmer, Thai and Chinese dishes. Also has a good range of cocktails and shakes. A/C 🍷

Saffron
17B Street 278, Tel: 012 247 832
Pakistani and Middle Eastern café, restaurant and wine bar. The curries are excellent and not too spicy, and come with a range of breads and chutneys. The wines have a bias towards the antipodes, including possibly the best range of wines by the glass in town. Open 11am to 11pm. A/C 🍷

Sher-e-Punjab
16 Street 130, Tel: 092 992 901
Just off the riverfront, this restaurant is a favourite haunt of Phnom Penh expats due to its tasty tandoori dishes. Highly courteous service, and generous free snacks and condiments make this a wallet friendly option. Has another outlet on Sothearos Blvd. A/C 🍷

Shiva Shakti
70 Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 012 813 817, 023 213 062
Decidedly upmarket and sophisticated Indian restaurant in a beautiful setting with prices to match. Good place for an Indian treat, especially the tandooris. Open from 11am to 2pm, 6pm to 10.30pm. Closed Mondays. A/C 🍷

international
Aussie XL Café
205A Street 51, Tel: 023 301 301
Aussie style bistro food with quick lunch menu and a good selection of house wines and retail wines. Open 7am to 11pm. A/C

Bodhi Tree Umma
50 Street 113, Tel: 023 211 397
Relaxed garden atmosphere and open balcony restaurant with an imaginative menu, located opposite Tuol Sleng. Open 7am to 9pm.

Cafe Monivong
Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Tel: 023 981 888
Wicker armchairs and marble tables covered with crisp white tablecloths create the perfect place to relax and linger over a delightful alfresco breakfast, lunch or dinner. Western and Asian cuisines are available buffet-style or a la carte. Private rooms are available on request. Buffet from 6am to 10am, 12pm to 2.30pm, 6pm to 10pm, a la carte from 11am to 11pm. A/C 🍷

Chow
277 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 224 894
Contemporary and sophisticated riverfront restaurant that serves Southeast Asian cuisine, a wide range of cocktails, juices and lily coffee. The rooftop deck with spectacular views of the river is a great place to have a drink during its half-price 4pm to 8pm happy hour. Open daily from 7am to 11pm. A/C 🍷

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Dream-up
128 D1 Sothearos Blvd, Tel: 016 63 44 14
Serving Russian, western and Khmer food with live jam sessions on Friday to Sunday 7pm and a clown show and puppet theatre every last Sunday. Russian films are shown at the weekends. from 4.30pm to 7pm. Happy hour is 5pm to 7pm **A/C**

Edelweiss Restaurant
375 Sisowath Quay,
Tel: 092 341 329, 012 422 589
This open-air restaurant specialising in German and Khmer food offers the perfect spot to enjoy an Erdinger beer while watching life go by on the riverfront. Open 10am to late.

Elsewhere
2 Street 278, Tel: 012 660 232
On the Golden Mile, with two pools, sleek white walls and sensible 8am to 11pm opening hours. The menu at Elsewhere features soups, salads, sandwiches and pastas. Don't miss out on their infamous cocktails. There is also a kids' menu with child-friendly dishes. Has boutique clothes shop upstairs. **A/C**

FCC Phnom Penh
363 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 724 014
The first stop for newcomers and it's easy to see why. Set in a beautiful colonial house with sumptuous views across the river on one side and the National Museum to the other, it's best to come at sunset when the streets below are most crowded, the cocktails are half price and draft beer goes for US\$1. Open daily from 7am to midnight. **A/C**

Fish
Sisowath Quay, cnr of Street 108,
Tel: 023 222 685, fishphnompenh.com
Contemporary, modern restaurant specialising in all things oceanic. Menu includes everything from lobster through sushi to gourmet fish and chips for upmarket, but reasonable prices. Open 7am to late.

Flavours
Cnr. Street 51 & 278, Tel: 017 765 896
Relaxing restaurant and popular bar run by Quebecois with comfortable chairs that fall out onto the street. The mix of Asian and western cuisine has proved so popular that they have a copycat restaurant opposite. Open 7am to late.

Friends
215 Street 13, Tel: 012 802 072
Non-profit training restaurant where all the proceeds go to the neighbouring street-kid school. Food is a reliable mix of Mediterranean and Asian with tapas thrown in if you are not feeling too hungry. Great juices. Another one of Phnom Penh's places

designed to take it easy, but this time with a clear conscience. Open 11am to 9pm.

Garden Centre Café
60-61 Street 108, Tel: 023 997 850,
092 429 968, gardencentercafe.com
Popular expat restaurant with fresh ingredients and lots of healthy options. Open from 7am to 10pm (closed Mondays). **A/C**

Garden Centre Café 2
4B Street 57, Tel: 023 363 002,
092 206 582, gardencentercafe.com
More compact version of the Garden Centre is conveniently located close to popular Street 278. Open from 7am to 10pm (closed Tuesdays). **A/C**

Gasolina
56/58 Street 57, Tel: 012 373 009
The largest garden bar in town has an extensive menu. Crêche facilities make this a popular choice with families at weekends. Has regular events with live music and DJs, even fashion shows. Open from 8am to 12am. **A/C**

Green Vespa
95 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 012 887 228
Arguably the best pub grub in town and guaranteed never to send you home hungry. Country pub style menu with wide range of breakfasts. Special food offers each night of the week with a range of alcohol at bargain prices. Open 6.30am till late. **A/C**

Golden Mermaid
Corner Street 104 & 13, Tel: 023 998 480
Sophisticated restaurant near the Post Office in the old quarter, serving traditional Old European fare in an elegant, relaxed atmosphere, housed in a beautifully restored French colonial building. Open everyday from 7.00am to 10.30pm.

Gym Bar
42 Street 178, Tel: 012 815 884
The best sports bar in town also has reasonable food. Good burgers, curries and an ignominiously named Joel Garner hot dog. Open 11am till late. **A/C**

Irina Russian Restaurant
15 Street 352,
Tel: 012 833 524, 092 833 524
Russian restaurant of iconic Phnom Penh status. If you can walk out of the restaurant after hitting the vodka then you are doing well. Open daily from 11am until the vodka runs out. **A/C**

Java Cafe & Gallery
56 Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 023 987 420
Great coffees, salads, mix-and-match sandwiches and juices served in an elegant setting. The upstairs terrace, overlooking the Independence Monument, is a good place to watch the chaos below, while the downstairs space is a great place for coffee and catching up on your emails. Has exhibitions both upstairs and down. Open 7am to 10pm. **A/C**

Kandal House
239 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 986 803
Very friendly riverside established serving good and reasonably priced homemade pasta and a variety of Asian dishes. Open 8am to late.

Kebab
156 Street 51, Tel: 08 607 582
Fast food joint located outside of the Heart of Darkness nightclub has burgers, kebabs, fajitas, chicken wings and falafels for those looking to stock up before the trip home. Also does deliveries.

La Croisette
241 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 220 554
Riverfront restaurant with an ample outside dining area screened off by trees that serves good, reasonably-priced food, also has a cool, air-con restaurant inside. Often arranges special events. Open 7am to late. **A/C**

Le Quay Café
Cnr. Sisowath Quay & Street 110,
Tel: 023 998 730,
www.amaraspa.hotelcara.com
Enjoy the menu of sushi, salads, paninis, crepes and Asian specialties, with a wide range of healthy power juices, smoothies, cocktails, coffees, beers and wines, either beside a relaxing water feature or on the riverside terrace. Smoke free environment for lunch and dinner. Open from 10.30am to 10.30pm. **A/C**

Le Rit's
71 Street 240, Tel: 023 213 160
Restaurant and boutique handicraft shop run by NGO NYEMO set in a beautiful garden. The restaurant specialises in European pre set lunch menu and serves authentic Khmer food a la carte for dinner. Open from 7am to 10 pm.

Lime Restaurant + Bar
79F Street 128, Tel: 023 998 608/610,
info@lebizhotel.com, www.lebizhotel.com
Located in Lebiz Hotel Lime serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, offering a stylish mix of Asian and western favourites with a focus on fresh, healthy and local ingredients, with regular changes to the menu.

Lotus Blanc
61 Street 51, Tel: 017 602 251
Run by local NGO Pour un Sourire d'Enfant, this centrally located training restaurant has a monthly changing lunch menu as well as a la carte Khmer dishes. Serves both Asian and continental breakfast. Open 6.30am to 10 am, and 11.30am to 4pm.

Madeleine's
172Eo Street 51, Tel: 012 988 432
Restaurant and Cafe offers a variety of organic lunches and freshly baked food and provides catering. Open from 8am to 5pm (closed Sundays).

Metro Café
Cnr. Sisowath Quay & Street 148.
Tel: 023 222 275
Stylish and swish, Metro has much more than a cool décor and changing light boxes, with reasonably priced Tiger and house wines and a great range of Martinis, try the Espresso. Gets very popular especially late on, while during the day is a good time to enjoy the free WiFi while enjoying a coffee in a smoke free environment. Open 7:30am to 1am. **A/C**

Nature & Sea
Cnr. Street 51 & 278, Tel: 012 195 3810
Laid back eatery overlooking Wat Lanka that serves many types of fish dishes as well as some great crepes if you can make it up the 3 flights of stairs. Also sells some take home organic produce. Open everyday 8am to 10pm.

Ocean
11 Street 288, Tel: 017 766 690
European managed Mediterranean restaurant that dishes up some of the best fish and seafood in town. Try the red snapper or the squid with rocket. Often has exhibitions around the understated walls. **A/C**

One More Pub
16E Street 294, Tel: 017 327 378
English-style bar with comfortable wooden bar stools, filled with traditional paraphernalia and enough flags to make the UN envious. No hip hop nor techno, just great 60s & 70s music and excellent European cuisine. Open from 5pm to Midnight, happy hour from 5pm to 7pm, closed Sundays. **A/C**

Pacharan
389 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 224 394
Barcelona comes to Phnom Penh via London's Mayfair in this exquisite up-market bodega. Set in a beautiful colonial building with great decor, an open kitchen and sweeping views of the river, this air-con restaurant specialises in tapas and fine Spanish wines. Second branch in Ho Chi Minh City. Open from 11am to 12am. **A/C**

Paddy Rice
213-217 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023990321, www.paddyrice.net
Riverside restaurant serves homely food, including Guinness and steak pie, fish and chips, bangers and mash, best breakfast with rib-eye beef, pork or chicken in bacon, and Argentinean steaks. Asian menu also available. Caters for groups. Open 7.30am to late. **A/C**

Pelican
4D Street 278, Tel: 023 214 540
A variety of pies made fresh every day, served hot and ready to eat in a cardboard takeaway box. Open 10 am to 7pm.

Pickled Parrot
4-6 Street 104, Tel: 012 633 779, 023 986 722
www.tonlesapguesthouse.com

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Restaurant Tell
13 Street 90, Tel: 023 430 650
Up-market eatery that re-creates the genuine feel of an Alpine chalet, has a spacious indoor restaurant and outdoor terrace with rotisserie and bar. European menu with imported steaks, fondue, raclette and an extensive wine list. Open 11.30am to 2pm, 5pm to 11pm. **A/C**

Rising Sun
20 Street 178, Tel: 012 970 718
English-style pub with good breakfast, meat pies and hamburgers has a regular following at night, especially on Fridays. Great posters of British films and TV classics adorn the walls. Ideal for that touch of nostalgia and the fish and chips are good, although not wrapped in newspaper. Open 7am to last orders. 📶

Riverhouse Restaurant
6 Street 110, Tel: 012 766 743, 023 212 302
Sophisticated restaurant with a welcoming outside seating area that serves up a mix of Asian and western food. Has a nightclub upstairs. **A/C**

Riverside Bistro
Cnr. Sisowath Quay & Street 148, Tel: 012 277 882, 023 213 898
Popular restaurant with expats and tourists alike mainly due to its large outdoor terrace area to view the river. Serves a mixture of Asian and western food with an emphasis on German cuisine. Has rock music videos and a pool table in the music bar at the back. Open from 7am to 2am.

Sarika Pool & Pizza Bar
9 Street 566, Toul Kork, Tel: 017 456 116, chitchatt@saenterprises.asia
Relax with the whole family by the pool in a tropical garden setting or in the beautifully restored wooden Khmer house, with children's games, charcoal BBQ and pizza bar. Open daily 10am to 11pm. **A/C** 📶

Scoop Bistro Bar
2-6A Regency Square, Mao Tse Tung Blvd., Tel: 023 424 457
Chic bistro with a simple, yet refined black & white design with comfortable, high-backed dining chairs providing seclusion from other diners. Wonderfully conceived menu with homemade pasta and varied selection of vegetarian dishes. Lounge area is ideal for cocktail or coffee. Three private rooms. Open 11am to midnight, closed Sundays, reservations recommended. **A/C**

Simply Donuts
529 Kampuchea Krom Blvd & cnr. Street 233, Tel: 012 235 205
Tasty donuts at a reasonable price for those who like to eat their dough without the "ugh". Open daily from 7am to 8pm. **A/C** 📶

Steve's Steakhouse
20 Street 51, cnr. Street 282, Tel: 023 987 320
Longstanding restaurant specialising in local grain-fed beef as well as a large variety of imported steaks, hamburgers, ribs and Greek cuisine. Has a terraced lounge with pool tables upstairs as well as a sports bar with large screen TV and a 12pm to 7.30pm happy hour. Open from 11am to 10.30pm. **A/C** 📶

Sonoma Oyster Bar
159 Street 278 (behind Lucky Supermarket on Sihanouk Blvd), Tel: 023 223 617, 077 723 911
Phnom Penh's first and only independent oyster bar has drawn a crowd of expats and Cambodians seeking high-quality oysters in a cosy setting. Open daily for lunch 10:30am – 2:00pm and dinner 5:00pm to 11:00pm. **A/C**

T-Bone Steak House
392 Monivong Boulevard & Street 360, Tel: 012 900 138
Contemporary restaurant serving a premium selection of both imported and Cambodian beef, in a sophisticated air-conditioned setting – a carnivore's delight. Open 12pm to 2pm, 5pm to 11pm. **A/C**

The Shop
39 Street 240, Tel: 092 955 963, 023 986 964
Stylish café, with a wide range of fresh bread, tempting patisseries and juices, excellent salads and sandwiches. Crowded at lunchtime, but the small, cool courtyard at the back creates a perfect haven from the sun. Has a Chocolate Shop three doors along, and a second outlet in Tuol Kork. Open 7am to 7pm (Mon. to Sat, 7am to 3pm Sun.)

italian
Aria D'Italia
9 Street 254, Tel: 012 840 705
Cute little Italian pizzeria tucked away between Streets 51 and 55, next to Naga Clinic. Well-priced lunch set menu and home-made ravioli. Home delivery available. Open 10.30am to 2pm, 5.30pm to 10pm. **A/C** 📶
Bistro Romano
NagaWorld, Hun Sen Park, Tel: 023 228 822
Best known for its sumptuous Sunday Prosecco Brunch, this stylised Italian restaurant in the NagaWorld complex specialises in Italian cuisine. **A/C**

Cafe Monivong
Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Tel: 023 981 888
Indulge in home made antipasti, fresh prepared pasta and risotto as well as oven-baked, crispy pizzas and pair it all with the finest selection of Italian wines, every Saturday night from 6pm to 10pm. **03** 📶 **A/C**

La Volpaia
20-22 Street 13, Tel: 023 992 739
Part of a global pizzeria chain that includes Florence, Tokyo, Seoul and Phnom Penh, the cuisine is excellent with pizza and pasta cooked fresh in front of your eyes. **A/C** 📶

Le Duo
17 Street 228, Tel: 012 342 921, 023 991 906
This beautiful if flamboyant restaurant has the option of sitting outside or inside in air-con. Excellent wood-fired pizzas, pasta and fish dishes. Friendly Sicilian owner will guide you through the extensive wine list. Open from 11.45am to 2.15pm, 6.15pm to 10.15pm (closed Wednesday lunch). **A/C**

Luna d'Autunno
6C Street 29, Tel: 023 220 895
Beautiful courtyard or stylish interior air-con restaurant, whichever you choose, Luna has more classical pizzas, both red and white, to choose from than most restaurants. Also serves excellent pasta and other up-market Italian food. Good wine cellar on view in the restaurant. Open 11am to 2.30pm, 5.30pm to 10.30pm. **A/C** 📶

Pop Café
371 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 012 562 892
Sophisticated, small Italian restaurant located next to the FCC that serves light, contemporary Italian cuisine including fresh pasta and pizzas. Extremely popular with expats. Open for lunch from 11.30am to 2.30pm, 5.30pm to 10pm for dinner. **02** **A/C**

japanese & korean
Fusion Sushi
Cnr. Streets 47 & 84, Tel: 023 986 114
Located inside Cara Hotel this beautifully decorated restaurant dishes up excellent Japanese and Korean food. **A/C**

Le Seoul
62 Monivong Blvd, Tel: 012 971 516
Popular up-market South Korean restaurant specialising in BBQ, each table is equipped with its own charcoal burner, with all beef imported from the U.S. Open from 11am to 2.30pm, 5pm to 10pm. **A/C**

Mr. Sushi & Kokoro
18 Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 012 601 095
Affordable, canteen-style restaurant with lots of specials dotted around the walls and a charismatic owner to keep you entertained between bites. Open 11.30am to 2pm, 5.30pm to 9pm. **A/C**

Suzume
14A Street 51, Tel: 092 748 393
Good Japanese food set in a modern setting with lots of specials, has option of sitting either western or Japanese style. Open 11am to 2pm, 5pm to 11pm. **A/C**

Origami
88 Sothea Bvd., Tel: 012 968 095
Up-market, contemporary Japanese restaurant with a spacious air-con area downstairs and four private rooms upstairs. Specialises in sushi and tempura, and has Asahi, Kirin and Sapporo beers. Open from 11.30am to 2pm, 5.30pm to 9.30pm. **A/C**

Yumi Restaurant, Bar and Grill
29a Street 288, Tel: 092 163 903
Elegant but inexpensive English-run Yaki-tori restaurant nestled in to a quiet street in BKK that serves top-notch Japanese nibbles, hot and cold sake, plum wine, wine and beer. Don't leave without trying the salt and chilli squid. **A/C**

mexican & tex-mex
Alley Cat Café
Cnr. of Streets 19, 178, Tel: 012 306 845
Small, friendly patio café serving good Mexican food and claiming to have the biggest burgers in town. Hard to find, Alley Cat is tucked down an alley at the back of the National Museum, the first on the right if you are coming from Street 178. 📶

California II
79 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 077 503 144
American-style bar with some of the best Mexican food in town, the excellent pool table and great tunes make this a good place to while away a few hours on the riverfront. Open 24/7 with good rooms upstairs. **A/C** 📶

Cantina
347 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 222 502
A mainstay of the riverside scene, this is a popular meeting place for local expats with a large selection of Mexican beers and tequilas, and sinfully good margaritas. Serves good Mexican fare, and features photographs that capture the changing face of Cambodia. Open 2:30pm to 11pm closed on Saturdays.

Casa Lika
16 Street 136, Tel: 012 429 542
American-run family restaurant serving up good Mexican fare in an authentic setting with rustic brick walls and colourful Mexican artwork, great music and even better tacos make this a good place to share some Coronas with friends. Open 10am to midnight, closed on Mondays.

Freebird
69 Street 240, Tel: 023 224 712
Aircon American bar with neon lighting, a variety of memorabilia, comfortable seats and rock music. International menu with good lunch offers, an excellent range of bottled sauces, excellent International, Mexican food and burgers. Be prepared for some good solid R&R. Open 7am to midnight. **A/C** 📶

Sharky Bar
126 Street 130, Tel: 023 211 825, 012 228 045
Not just a pretty face, the biggest and

bar talk



The Local and The Local 2 Mai Lynn Miller Nguyen

Kamala Hood circled the globe for years before settling down in Cambodia. As the owner of The Local, situated near Russian Market, and a riverside outpost, The Local 2, the Australian continues to rack up the miles, going back and forth between each bar multiple times in a day.

Opened in September, The Local meets the demand for bars in the quiet Russian Market area. Especially popular for its rooftop bar overlooking the city, it has been embraced by residents of the neighbourhood.

"I called it The Local because there are a lot of expats who live around the area. It's their local bar," says Hood. "When I opened, people were coming in and saying, finally there's a bar here that stays open later than nine."

Though the riverside may not lack watering holes, Hood set upon creating another kind of "place where everyone knows your name" with The Local 2, launched in October. "Everyone's welcome. My clientele are all different ages, all different nationalities and everyone gets along really well," she says.

Coming from a musical family, Hood aims to foster live performances, even when impromptu. Both places are equipped with a guitar, keyboard, harmonica, and two microphones. "Jam sessions are on Sunday, but people are welcome to grab an instrument and get up anytime they want," she says.

Fancy a killer pool competition on Wednesday? A quiz night, featuring local gossip, on Thursday? And on these nights The Local 2 gets even more socially-oriented.

As for drinks, Kingdom Beer goes for US\$2 and Coronas for US\$2.50. The list of wines includes an Australian Long Flat Shiraz for US\$3.75.

Hood takes cocktails seriously, training her staff to the standards of the Australian Bartenders Association—with one extra touch. "I make them over pour every shot," she laughs. Her creation, The Local (US\$3.50), mixes vodka, coconut giff, pineapple juice, fresh lychees, basil and lime for a tropical refresher.

The weekly cocktail special comes at a cost of US\$2 and all drinks are discounted 50 cents during Happy Hour from 5pm to 7pm.

Food encompasses western and Khmer cuisine, including the Skippy Loc Lak special made with kangaroo meat (US\$8.50). Tight Arse Tuesdays at The Local offer US\$4 menu items and a US\$3 barbecue along with extended Happy Hour from noon to close.

With two distinct yet equally welcoming atmospheres, why not fit both in on one night? Just look out for Hood on her own journey across town. **The Local (Tuol Tompong)**, 39C Street 454, and **The Local 2 (Riverside)**, 8 Street 144, Tel: 068 891 677, www.thelocal-cambodia.com, Open daily from 7.30am to late. 📶



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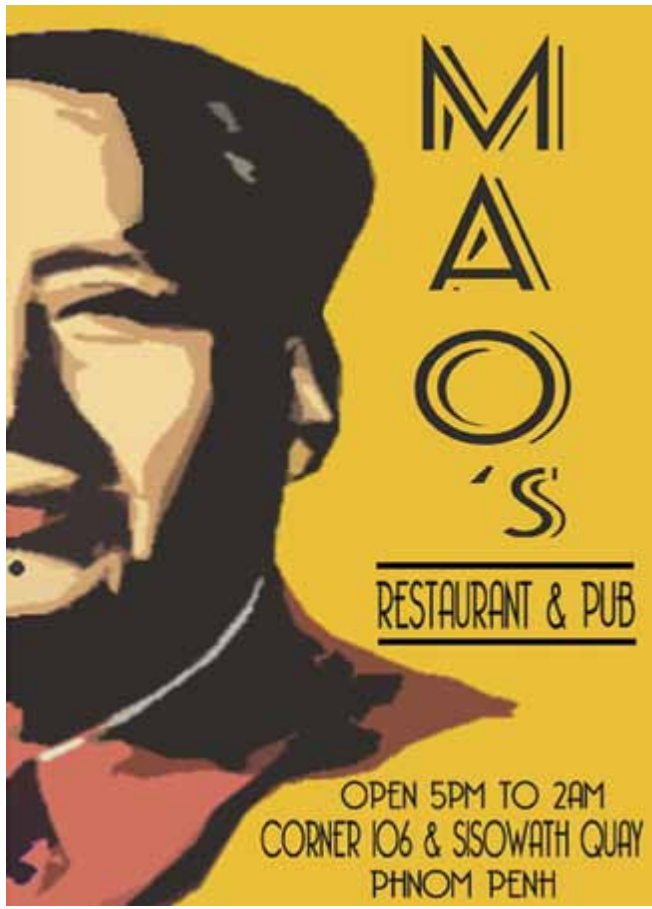
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MIAO'S RESTAURANT & PUB

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CORNER 106 & SISOWATH QUAY
PHNOM PENH

most famous of Phnom Penh's bars has a surprisingly good Mexican menu. The burritos and burgers are extremely good, although of gargantuan proportions and provide an alternative to the sad men sitting at the bar. Open 4pm to 2am. **A/C**

pan-asian
Anise Terrace
2C Street 278 & 57, Tel: 023 222 522
Beautiful terrace restaurant serving up Southeast Asian cuisine with excellent value breakfasts, also sells New Zealand ice cream. Open 6am to 11pm.

Kucina Filipina Garden
180 Street 294, Tel: 023 993 219, 099 860 775
Popular Filipino eatery serves excellent value meals including vegetarian options. Has a buffet lunch during the week and a buffet dinner each Friday and Saturday from 6pm to 8.30pm. Open from 8am-8.30pm, closed Sundays.

Lemongrass
14 Street 130, Tel: 012 996 707
Elegant Thai-managed restaurant with stylish use of heavy wood and artefacts to create a far more luxurious ambience than the reasonable prices would suggest. Open 10am to 10pm. **A/C**

Le Liban
3 Street 466, Tel: 023 727 130
Lebanese restaurant with beautiful indoor and outdoor seating and authentic middle-eastern cuisine served in an elegant atmosphere. Open from 11am to 3pm, 6pm to 11pm, closed Mondays. **A/C**

Le Wok
33 Street 178, Tel: 092 821 857
Light and modern pan-Asian and French eatery with dishes such as prawns with lime and wasabi and Mekong lobster thermidor, and a comprehensive list of wines and cocktails. Open Daily from 9am to 11pm.

Paratan Restaurant
42 Street 172, Tel: 012 530 707, 011 530 707
Cosy, traditional-style Khmer-Thai restaurant near Wat Saravorn is set on two floors, with the first one featuring an open-air balcony. Open daily 9am to 10pm. **A/C**

Shawarma
117 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 720 011
Quick and casual Middle Eastern dining, as well as the Penh's possibly only real shawarma, serving Lebanese flavours all-round, the establishment also has a shisha lounge. Open 9am to midnight. **A/C**

Singapore Kitchen
110 Street 360, Tel: 092 201 304, 017 821 480
Specialising in classic Singapore hawker food, try the laksa - full of wholesome ingre-

lients and with a great spicy sauce or those wanting a more subtle flavour could do worse than trying the Hainanese chicken rice. Open from 11am to 9.30pm, does delivery. **A/C**

Singapura BKK Restaurant
31 Street 294, Tel: 015 371 759, 097 6884 505
Singapore and Malaysian restaurant serves non-vegetarian and vegetarian food, specialising in Halal chicken. The nasi lemak is excellent value for money. Also does catering at reasonable prices. Open from 7am to 10pm.

The Pangea
NagaWorld, Hun Sen Park, Tel: 023 228 822
Pan-Asian fusion restaurant with a western flair that specialises in all-you-can-eat dinner buffets, with a large dim sum brunch served every Sunday. Great views over Hun Sen Park. **A/C**

The Vegetarian
11 Street 200, Tel: 012 905 766
Modern and friendly restaurant serving wholesome Asian and western dishes with all natural, healthy and fresh vegetarian ingredients. Open from 10am to 10pm, closed Sundays.

cafés
Art Café
37 Sothea Blvd, Tel: 012 834 517
Elegant bistro in the style of a European coffee house is now transposed to the Meta House with regular classical music performances. **A/C**

Brown Coffee & Bakery
17 Street 214, Tel: 023 217 262
Stylish, locally owned café with bakery on the premises serves a variety of coffees and pastries, with the green tea latte a house speciality. Open 7.30am to 8pm.

Café El Mundo
219 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 012 520 775
Affordable and stylish riverside café and restaurant with adjacent apartments for short-term hire. Seating available on the mezzanine lounge, ground-floor restaurant and on the streetside terrace. Open 6.30am to 10.30pm.

Café Fresco I
363 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 217 041
This outlet at the base of the FCC sells strong lily coffee and mix-and-match sandwiches. The interior has a slight retro 70s feel to it and there is a pleasant outside seating area. Open 7am to 9.30pm. **A/C**

Café Fresco II
Cnr. Streets 51 & 306, Tel: 023 224 891
Second outlet of the popular riverside café is in BKK. Has a similar feel and menu to its fore-runner including the same excellent coffee. Open 7am to 7pm. **A/C**

Café Living Room
9 Street 306, Tel: 023 726 139
Set in a stylish villa, Living Room has healthy salads and snack plates, plus a great tea and coffee menu. Has a kid's

playroom and baby changing room and uses organic and fair trade produce. Open everyday from 7am to 8.30pm. **A/C**

Café Sentiment
64 Monivong Blvd., Tel: 023 221 922
Sovanna Mall; Cnr. Streets 63 & 278
Popular coffee shop chain run by the same Thalians group that manages Malis and Topaz restaurants, has a good range of coffees and snacks. Free WiFi and air-con make these outlets a good place to take some time out. Second outlet in Sovanna Mall. **A/C**

Café Jeji
170 Street 450, (near the Russian Market), Tel: 012 543 360, 092 600 750
Quiet, cosy café serving bistro-style western cuisine, with extensive range of coffees, pasta dishes, pannini and wraps and fabulous cheesecake making this an ideal spot to escape the bustle of the nearby Russian Market. Air-conditioned dining upstairs. Open every day from 7am to 9pm. **A/C**

Chill Ice Cream & Coffee Lounge
219D Sisowath Quay, Tel: 092 547 534
Pretty, casual lounge on the riverside offering coffee, sandwiches, cocktails, and some of the best homemade ice cream in town, as well as inventive ice cream cocktails. Open 11am to midnight. **A/C**

Corner 33
33E2 Sothea Blvd., Tel: 092 998 850
First-floor café overlooking the Royal Palace with Asian and western meals served for breakfast, lunch and dinner with a nice selection of wines, cocktails, smoothies, and coffees. Four computer terminals allow customers to surf while they chill. **A/C**

Java Café & Gallery
56 Sihanouk Boulevard, Tel: 023 987 420
Great coffees, salads, mix-and-match sandwiches and juices served in an elegant setting. The relaxed inside dining area has a small gallery attached to it. Open 7am to 10pm. **A/C**

Madeleine's Café & Bakery
172 Street 51, Tel: 012 988 432
Small restaurant offers a variety of organic lunches and freshly baked food and provides catering. Open from 8am to 5pm (closed Sundays).

Morning Café
32C Street 592, Tel: 023 982 109, 012 808 816
Cosy air-conditioned coffee house with relaxed atmosphere, located in Toul Kork district serves Khmer, Thai and European cuisine. Open every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6am to 9pm.

The Coffee Maker
50 Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 023 987 721, 012 506 400
Modern café overlooking Hun Sen Park,

serving coffee, juices and light refreshments is popular with middle-class Khmers, and makes for a great place to watch the early evening exercises. **A/C**

The Deli
13 Street 178, Tel: 012 851 234
Chic delicatessen, bakery and small restaurant serving excellent bread and pastries, with take-away menu. Open from 7am to 9pm (closed Sundays). **A/C**

TWG Tea Shop
Inside Amanjaya Hotel, 1 Street 154 & Sisowath Quay, Tel: 089 472 847, 098 661 388, www.twgtea.com
30 types of beautifully packaged loose and bagged teas, as well as six different types of flower teas. Also retails cups and teapots.

Vego
3E0 Street 51, Tel: 012 984 596
Modern salad bar offering home-made bagels, fresh fruit and vegetable juices, as well as wraps and salads for eat-in or takeaway. Choose from a large selection of ingredients to create your own lunchtime plate of greens. Open 8am to 8pm. **A/C**

bars
3 Rivers
14 Street 258, Tel: 017 776 582
Chilled outdoor garden bar with big screen for sports and films. Serves hearty Western meals and local dishes to boot. Open daily from 9am till late. **A/C**

Aristocrat Cigar Bar
NagaWorld, Hun Sen Park, Tel: 023 228 822
Club aimed at attracting wealthy expats and Khmers who like a good cigar and glass of wine. Not as stuffy as you might imagine with cigars from US\$10. Open Monday to Sunday, from 12pm to midnight. **A/C**

Brasserie Durga
94 Street 130 (near Central Market), Tel: 023 221 740
Set in a renovated French colonial building this newly renovated space overlooks Central Market. It's a great place to escape the heat and listen to live music. A spacious area upstairs is available for private parties. Open daily from 7am to midnight. **A/C**

Brauhaus
34 Street 130, Tel: 099 311 188
What does this apparently inconsequential bar have to do with Heinz? The number 57. That's the number of beers on sale from around the world here. The widest selection of beer in town, German food and live music makes Brauhaus worth a try. Open daily from 3:30pm - midnight. **A/C**

Cadillac Bar & Grill
219E Sisowath Quay, Tel: 011 713 567
Air-conditioned riverfront bar which

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grapevine



The Natives are Festive
Darren Gall

I once heard a quip about how wine companies loved planting Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon all over the place because, no matter how hard winemakers tried to stamp their imprimatur on them, they still ended up tasting pretty much like Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon.

The comment was made at a time when the wine world was just opening up for wine producers keen to export their labels. The first casualties were indigenous varieties and local winemaking traditions. Thankfully, some of the more traditional producers are fighting back, reviving long forgotten varieties and wine styles and offering them up to a global palate happy to rediscover that everything old is new again.

My favourite tipples for this festive season are:

Prosecco: The classic Italian bubbles is an excellent and affordable alternative to Champagne, offering up soft, ripe, pear, sherbet and lychee notes followed by green-apple-crunchy acidity.

Alberino: This Spanish beauty is a sort of cross between Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier, exhibiting notes of passion fruit, citrus and apricot, the wines are best consumed young when their crispness and freshness balance out the sometimes fleshy mid-palate.

Pinot Gris/Grigio: Stuff the New World imitators there is just no comparison to the im-

peccable Italian version, flinty dry and crisp with understated fruit notes, it is the perfect antipasti companion.

Carmenere: This Chilean speciality is sometimes known as the forgotten variety or the Jurassic variety, (as in once dead, now brought back to life). Nobody does it better than the Chileans who produce Carmenere wines with rich, brooding dark berry fruits wrapped in silky, seductive, very fine tannins.

Malbec: What Carmenere is to Chile, Malbec is to Argentina, something of a national flag-bearer and the variety that has come to be known as Argentina's, with its big, inky mouthfuls of forest berries with spice notes and plenty of lively tannin.

Tempranillo: The grand Spanish red variety produces wines of immense depth and character wrapped in lashings of leathery, drying tannins.

Tannat: From the Basque influenced regions of southwest France near the Pyrenees, these full bodied red wines taste like pure, crushed raspberries wrapped in furry, assertive tannins.

Darren Gall is a 20-year veteran of the wine industry with experience in all of its facets from brand ambassador to winemaking and grape growing. For information on any aspects of the industry, contact him at: darren_gall@yahoo.com.

promises a hassle-free drink. Mixing up burgers, pasta and some Asian food with blues and rock 'n' roll. Open 7.30am to midnight Monday to Sunday. **A/C**

California II
79 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 077 503 144
American-style bar with some of the best Mexican food in town, the excellent pool table and great tunes make this a good place to while away a few hours on the riverfront. Open 24/7 with guest rooms upstairs. **A/C**

Cantina
347 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 222 502
A mainstay of the riverside scene, this is a popular meeting place for local expats with a large selection of Mexican beers and tequilas, and sinfully good margaritas. Serves good Mexican fare, and features photographs that capture the changing face of Cambodia. Open 2:30pm to 11pm closed Saturdays. **A/C**

Chow
277 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 224 894
Contemporary and sophisticated river-front restaurant that serves Southeast Asian cuisine, a wide range of cocktails, juices and Illy coffee. The rooftop deck with spectacular views of the river is a great place to have a drink during its half-price 4pm to 8pm happy hour. Open daily from 7am to 11pm. **A/C**

Do It All Pub & Bistro
61 Street 174, Tel: 023 220 904
Dishes out African, Asian and Western cuisine, with hip hop and reggae played into the early hours of the morning. Open daily 9am to 4am. **A/C**

Dodo Rhum House
42C Street 178, Tel: 012 549 373
Naming a bar after an extinct bird is a brave move considering the turnover rate for bars in town, but Dodo has survived longer than most mainly due to the 20 different flavoured rums created by the owner to say nothing of the loyalty of the French expat community. Open 5pm till late. **A/C**

Dream-up
128 D1 Sotheaeros Blvd, Tel: 016 63 44 14
Serving Russian, western and Khmer food and offering live jazz and blues with jam sessions Friday to Sunday at 7pm. Last Sunday of every month features a clown show and puppet theatre. Russian film screenings at the weekends from 4.30pm. Happy hour 5 to 7pm. Open from 11.30am to 2.30pm, 5pm to 10.30pm (Tue - Fri), 11am to 10.30pm Sat, Sun. Closed Mondays. **A/C**

Elephant Bar
Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Street 92
Tel: 023 981 888
Flamboyant carpet, comfortable wicker chairs and hotel pianist provide a sense of a time gone by, you can imagine Jackie Kennedy drinking here. Its many signature cocktails, including the femme fatale make this a popular place with expats especially during the two-for-one happy hours (4pm to 8pm). Open 2pm to midnight from Monday to Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12pm to midnight. **A/C**

Elsewhere
2 Street 278, Tel: 023 994 2311, 012 414 596
Re-located to the bustling Golden Street, with two pools, sleek white walls and sensible 8am to 11pm opening hours, Elsewhere might not still host its monthly parties but the infamous cocktails remain. Menu features soups, salads, sandwiches and pastas. There is also a kids' menu with child-friendly dishes, and a boutique clothes shop upstairs. Open daily 8am - midnight. **A/C**

Equinox
3A Street 278, Tel: 012 586 139 or 092 791 958
Cool French-run hang-out with welcoming al fresco downstairs bar and cool open balcony above. Good cocktails, excellent choice in music, best foosball table in town and regular art exhibitions make this one of the more popular places on the golden mile. Good place for a bite and WiFi. Open 7am to late, serves food from 7am to midnight and delivers from 8am to 10pm. **A/C**

FCC
363 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 724 014
It's easy to see why FCC is first stop for newcomers. Set in a beautiful colonial building with stunning views across the river on one side and the National Museum to the other, it's best to come at sunset when the streets below are crowded with life, the cocktails are half price and draft beer goes for US\$1. Open daily from 7am to midnight. **A/C**

Flavours
Cnr. streets 51 & 278, Tel: 023 224 752, 092 853 336
Relaxing French-Canadian run restaurant bar with comfortable al fresco seating situated across the street from Wat Lanka. The mix of Asian and western cuisine has proved so popular that they have a copycat restaurant opposite. Open daily 7am to midnight.

Fly Lounge
21 Street 148, Tel: 089 509 007
This cool Cambodian-owned chill-out lounge with indoor pool, funky décor and dance floor, throws regular themed parties. Open 5pm to 1am. **A/C**

Freebird
69 Street 240, Tel: 023 224 712
Airconditioned American bar with neon lighting, a variety of memorabilia, and rock music. International menu with good lunch offers, an excellent range of bottled sauces, Mexican food and burgers. Great place to spend a hung-over day hiding from the sun, eating greasy food delivered by the sweetest staff in town. Open 7am to midnight. **A/C**

Gasolina
56/58 Street 57, Tel: 012 691 402
The largest garden bar in town has an extensive menu. Crêche facilities make this a popular choice with families at weekends. Has regular events with live music and DJs, gallery space and fashion shows. Open daily from 8am to 12am. **A/C**

Green Vespa
95 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 012 887 228
The walls of this popular expat haunt are strewn with photos of vespas and VIPs and the excellent selection of single malt whiskies is without comparison. Excellent food, especially at lunch times, while in the evening the bar is often packed with expats trying to forget about work. Good music, especially if you are an 80s throw-back. Open from 8am to 11pm. **A/C**

Gym Bar
42 Street 178, Tel: 012 815 884
The best sports bar in town with more wide screens than sense and a nine-ball pool table to boot. Ideal for watching EPL games or any other sport including rugby, Aussie Rules and American Football. The food is good and there's a non-sports quiz every Tuesday. Open 11am to late. **A/C**

Harem Shisha Lounge
157 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 990 244
Share in an ancient ritual and enjoy the many fruity flavours of the shisha pipe at Harem. With lavish golden surroundings and chilled world house beats, the Penh's first shisha bar offers signature cocktails and exotic Middle Eastern street tapas menu. Open from 5pm till late. **A/C**

theWarehouse

The Warehouse Phnom Penh would like to invite you to meet some new friends, and perhaps revisit some old ones too

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featured drink



Chairman Mao Mai Lynn Miller Nguyen

Leading the cocktail revolution in Phnom Penh, the Chairman Mao is one drink to be reckoned with. A signature mix at newly opened riverside bar Mao's, the blend of champagne, orange juice, and grenadine is worthy of its presidential namesake.

"Champagne is the best drink in the world, Chairman Mao was the greatest man of the 20th century," says the bar's chef-manager known as 'Napoleon.' "Together they make a formidable cocktail. The red colour represents communism, with orange juice for vitamins. The force!"

Since opening in October, Mao's has been drawing in the masses. With crimson walls garnished with technicolour prints of Mao Tse-Tung, the décor evokes the early days of the People's Republic of China. No need for class war and intimidation methods—Mao's is an environment that develops a spirit of camaraderie.

Chairman Mao (US\$5.50) at Mao's, Sisowath Quay at Street 106, Tel: 023 992 726, Open daily 5pm to 2am.

Howie's Bar 32 Street 51

Air-conditioned and open until very very late, this is the Heart's unofficial chill-out bar although the sound system could give its neighbour a run for its money. Tends to be a popular late night hang-out, especially around the 'mini' pool table. Open 7pm to 6am. **A/C**

K West

1 Street 154 (Cnr. Sisowath Quay), Tel: 023 214 747

Air-conditioned Hotel bar and restaurant with happy hour from 6pm to 8pm on Fridays. Renowned for excellent mojitos and great steaks. Open 6.30am to midnight. **A/C**

Kingdom Breweries

1748 National Road 5, Tel: 023 430 180, www.kingdombreweries.com

State of the art European brewery specialising in premium pilsener. Tours of the facility are organised on a regular basis, culminating in frothy cold ones at the brewery's bar overlooking the Tonle Sap River. **A/C**

Le Sauvignon

6B Street 302, Tel: 092 730 250

Contemporary wine bar and restaurant serves a variety of wines with a focus on high-end French whites. Open Monday to Saturday 12pm till late.

Liquid

3B Street 278, Tel: 023 720 157

Welcoming open air bar on golden street run by the same owner as Flavours. Has one of the best pool tables in town with happy hour from 5pm to 8pm. **A/C**

Lobby Lounge

296 Mao Tse Tung Blvd (Intercontinental Hotel), Tel: 023 424 888

An elegant lounge situated in the lobby of the Intercontinental Hotel. Reasonable prices and excellent service. Open daily from 10am – 11:30pm. **A/C**

Man Han Lou

456 Monivong Blvd., Tel: 023 721 966

Cambodia's first micro-brewery with four types of German-style beer. The dark beer comes recommended, avoid the green unless you are on St Paddy's night. Open daily from 6am to 10 pm. **A/C**

Mao's

Cnr. Street 106 and Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 992 726

Mao meets American lounge bar in a French colonial building, this is a funky bar and restaurant, jam-packed with the Chairman's paraphernalia. High ceilings with exposed beams create a sense of space, while the good-sized stage makes the space perfect for future gigs. Food is prepared by Café Yeji. Has WiFi and two pool tables. Open 5pm to 2am.

Maxine's (Snow's)

Over Japanese Bridge, Tel: 012 200 617

Stirring eclectic bar right on the river, boasting the best sunset views in Cambodia. Across the Japanese Bridge, Maxine's, or "Snow's", is well worth seeking out for its laid-back ambience and old Indochine charm. Open from sunset till midnight, closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Memphis Pub

3 Street 118, Tel: 012 871 263

Only permanent rock venue in town with a house band that plays covers from 10pm till 1.30am, later at weekends. Also has open mike sessions on Mondays. Open from 8pm 'till late, closed Sundays. Buy-1-get-1-free on cocktails everyday from 8pm to 10pm. **A/C**

Meta House

37 Sotheaors Blvd, opposite Phnom Penh centre. Tel: 012 607 465 / 067 867 305 www.meta-house.com

Multi-media arts centre established by German film-maker Nico Mesterherm has a very cool bar showing films each day apart from Mondays. Centre also houses the German Cambodia Cultural Centre and the Art Café. Open from 2pm till midnight. Closed Mondays. **A/C**

Metro Café

Cnr. Sisowath Quay & Street 148, Tel: 023 222 275

Stylish and swish, Metro has much more than a cool décor and changing light boxes, with reasonably priced Tiger and house wines and a great range of Martinis, (try the Espresso). Gets very popular especially late on, while during the day is a good time to enjoy the free WiFi while enjoying a coffee in a smoke free environment. Open 7:30am to 1am. **A/C**

Moto Café

76, Sotheaors, Tel: 023 999 299

Phnom Penh's only race car themed bar. Serving up both western and Asian food with an extensive drinks list. Overlooking Vietnamese Friendship park. Happy hour from 4pm – 7.30pm. **A/C**

Munich Beer Restaurant

86 Sotheaors Blvd, Tel: 012 265 551

Second of the Penh's micro-breweries offers both gold and stout beer at very reasonable prices – treat yourself to a stein. Open daily from 6:30am to 11:00pm. **A/C**

One More Pub

16E Street 294, Tel: 017 327 378

English-style bar with comfortable wooden bar stools. No hip hop or techno, only great classic 60s & 70s music. Has elegant, terracotta-tiled terrace and 3 guest rooms upstairs. Open from 5pm to late, happy hour from 5pm to 7pm, closed Sundays. **A/C**

Open Wine

219 Street 19, Tel: 023 223 527

Large wine shop and deli with well-priced wines from around the world. Has an outside dining area with occasional wine tastings. Open from 7am to 11pm every day. **A/C**

Pacharan

389 Sisowath Quay, el: 023 224 394

Barcelona comes to Phnom Penh in this exquisitely up-market bodega. Specialising in tapas and fine Spanish wines, this restaurant and bar is set in a beautiful colonial building with great decoration, an open kitchen and sweeping views of the river. Happy hour from 4pm – 7:30pm Open daily from 11am to 11pm. **A/C**

Paddy Rice

213-217 Sisowath Quay,

Tel: 023990321, www.paddyrice.net

Irish sports bar on riverside with big screen live sports, serves home cooked western and Asian favourites alongside a fully stocked bar including Guinness and a fine selection Irish whiskeys with daily happy hour from 4pm to 8pm. Often has live music events and a weekly pub quiz. Open 7.30am to late. **A/C**

Pickled Parrot

4-6 Street 104, Tel: 012 633 779

Air-conditioned bar with excellent 9-ball pool table, that's a popular late night, expat hang-out. Reliable international cuisine is available at the bar, free internet and 24-hour cable sports channels. Clean well-kept guesthouse upstairs with 15 rooms. Open 24/7. **A/C**

QBa Club

313 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 218 189

www.hotelcambodiana.com

A stylish hotel bar and nightclub with nightly live bands playing from 9pm till 1am. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 4pm – 2am. **A/C**

Rising Sun

20 Street 178, Tel: 012 970 718

English-style pub with reliable breakfast, meat pies and hamburgers. Has a regular following around the bar at night especially on Fridays. Great posters of British films and TV classics adorn the walls. Ideal for that touch of nostalgia and good fish and chips – though not wrapped in a newspaper. Open daily from 7am till late.

Riverside Bistro

Cnr. Sisowath Quay & Street 148, Tel: 012 277 882 / 023 213 898

Popular riverside restaurant has a music bar at the back with live bands playing most nights of the week from 8:30 to midnight. Rock music videos are played in the main bar area. Open daily from 7am to 2am. **A/C**

Rory's Irish Pub

33 Street 178, Tel: 012 425 702

Arguably the most Irish of the Irish bars in town (though don't tell Alan at the Green Vespa that) with barmads dressed in emerald green. Good place to talk to local expats or try the Irish stew. Open from Monday to Sunday at 7am to midnight or 2am at weekends. **A/C**

Rubies

Cnr. Streets 19 & 240,

Tel: 012 823 962 / 092 319 769

Small corner wine bar with warm wood panelled interior and a loyal following. Open 5pm till late, closed Mondays.

Saffron

11 Street 278, Tel: 012 247 832, 016 355 867

Pakistani and Middle Eastern café, restaurant and wine bar. The curries are excellent, not too spicy, and come with a range of breads and chutneys. The wines have a bias towards the antipodes, including pos-

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 No 456 Monivong Blvd. (corner Street 466 behind Man Han Lou Restuarant)

sibly the best range of wines by the glass in town. Open daily 11 am to 11pm. **A/C**

Scoop Bistro Bar
 2-6A Regency Square, Mao Tse Tung Blvd., Tel: 023 216 130
 Elegant, chic bistro with a simple, yet refined black and white design. Comfortable, high-backed dining chairs provide seclusion from other diners. Slightly raised lounge area is ideal for cocktail or coffee. Has three private rooms. Open from 11.30am to midnight, closed Sundays, reservations recommended. **A/C**

Sharky Bar
 126 Street 130, Tel: 012 228 045, www.sharkybar.blogspot.com
 Biggest and most famous of Phnom Penh's bars is set on the first floor with countless pool tables and a large balcony to look out over the street. Guaranteed to be lively – a place where anything can happen, especially if you get a bit too close to the local clientele. Serves surprisingly good food, especially the Mexican, and has frequent live music. Open 4pm to 2am, take away 5pm til late. **A/C**

Sonoma Oyster Bar
 159 Street 278 (behind Lucky Supermarket on Sihanouk Blvd), Tel: 023 223 617, 077 723 911
 Phnom Penh's first and only independent oyster bar has drawn a crowd of expats and Cambodians seeking high-quality oysters in a cosy setting. Open daily for lunch 10:30am – 2:00pm and dinner 5:00pm to 11:00pm. **A/C**

The Cavern
 19 Street 104, Tel: 078 638 240
 Unique rock 'n' roll themed pub and restaurant, with guitar-shaped bar, brick arches and huge photo murals of famous rock musicians. Has good western food and large range of single malt whiskies and wines. Live music performances by up-and-coming local bands and live premier league football. Open from 11:30am to 2am. **A/C**

Touk
 Sisowath Quay at Street 178, Tel: 012 248 694
 Though not a contender to neighbouring FCC, Touk offers fantastic views of the river, a respectable happy hour, and occasional live music on Saturday. Open daily 7am -1am.

The Chinese House
 128 Sothearos Blvd., Tel: 023 356 399
 Decadent cocktail bar set in beautiful old Chinese house. Has art exhibitions, film nights and parties downstairs and opulence upstairs. Open from 6pm till late, closed on Tuesdays.

The Tree Bar
 22 Street 118, Tel: 017 523 379
 A cosy pub serving up drinks and decent pub grub. Open daily 4pm – 2am.

Velkommen Inn
 23 Street 104, Tel: 092 177 710
 Hotel restaurant and bar off the riverfront offers a wide selection of western dishes as well as several Scandinavian specialities with a full bar, draught beer, wine and spirits, and free popcorn while you drink. Open 7am till late. From Monday to Sunday.

Zeppelin Bar
 109C Street 51, Tel: 012 881 181
 If you like your music heavy then this is the bar for you. Over 1,000 vinyl albums played by stone-faced DJ owner in small bar next to the infamous Walkabout. Remarkably good food considering the setting, especially late at night. Try the dumplings. Open daily 5pm to 4am.

gay
Blue Chili
 36 Street 178, Tel: 012 566 353, www.bluechilibar.com
 This welcoming bar run by Thai national Oak is currently the number one gay bar in town. Chic décor makes this one of the coolest bars in town, even if you're straight. The drag shows on Friday and Saturday are an additional draw. Open from 5pm till late.

Classic
 20 Street 118
 Very Khmer bar that has nightly drag shows, after which the dance floor fills up with all-comers.

Nightclubs
Darlin Darlin
 NagaWorld, Hun Sen Park, Tel: 023 228 822
 Top-end nightclub with live music popular among the high-flyers of the city. Ladies night every Tuesday and Wednesday first drink is free. Glamour party all night with celebrities and the hottest models of Phnom Penh every Thursday. Semi-private booths in a chic environment make for an unrivalled experience. Open daily 7:30pm until 3:00am.

Heart of Darkness
 38 Street 51, Tel: 023 222 415
 The most famous of the city's nightspots with a good-sized dance floor make this the in-place in town. Has well priced spirits and mixers and is totally packed out on Friday and Saturday nights. Open 8:30pm to 4am.

Memphis Pub
 3 Street 118, Tel: 012 871 263
 The only permanent rock venue in town with a house band that plays covers. Band plays from 10pm til 1.30am, later at weekends. Also has open mike sessions on Mondays. Open from 8pm till late, closed Sundays. Buy-1-get-1-free on cocktails everyday from 2pm to 10pm.

QBa Club
 313 Sisowath Quay (Hotel Cambodiana), Tel: 023 218 189, www.hotelcambodiana.com
 A stylish hotel bar and nightclub which has great live bands playing from 9pm till 1am. Enjoy a signature cocktail and relaxed while the listing to the bands. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 4pm – 2am.

Riverhouse Lounge
 6 Street 110, Tel: 023 212 302
 The alternative dance venue for both expats and young Khmers with a self-contained air-con dance room and great balcony to chill out. Mon-Wed, Fri is hip hop, Thu is Ladies night, Sat is house and Sun is dance remix. Open daily 4pm to 2am.

Saint Tropez
 31 Street 174, Tel: 077 212 100, 097 9000 401
 Upscale club, complete with fake beach, deck bar, and a stylised indoor restaurant, suggests the French Riviera. Menu includes western and Khmer cuisine. Ladies get free bubbly between 9.30pm and 11pm on Thursdays, while Sundays feature a free daytime barbecue in a Cuban ambience. Open daily 6pm to 2pm.

Studio 182
 182 Norodom Boulevard, Tel: 077 777 182
 The best venue for live jazz music, featuring a quartet performing jazz standards, Latin favourites and great soul tracks. House band with changing lead vocalist, brings the essence of lounge cool to Phnom Penh nightly with 3 sets at 7pm, 9pm and 10:30pm. Non-smoking and Open from Monday to Thursday 5pm to 2am band plays at 7pm and Friday to Saturday band plays at 9pm.

listings culture

cinemas
Le Cinema
 French Cultural Centre
 218 Street 184 Tel: 023 213 124
 100-seat cinema shows international art house and mainstream movies with occasional films in English. Children's cinema on Saturday mornings at 10am.

Meta House
 37 Sothearos Blvd., (opposite of Buildbright, Phnom Penh centre), Tel: 012 607 465
 Movie shorts and documentaries from Cambodia and the rest of Asia. Movies normally start at 7pm, closed Mondays.

galleries
Asasax
 192 Street 178, Tel: 023 217 795
 Shop and gallery space devoted to Cambodian artist Asasax, just across from the National Museum.

Bophana Audiovisual Resource Centre
 64 Street 200, Tel: 023 992 174
 Preserving much of Cambodia's audiovisual material, has regular exhibitions. Open from 8am to 6pm (Mon to Fri), 2pm to 6pm (Sat).

Dori Thy Gallery
 9 Street 278 Tel: 012 661 552
 Features the black and white photographs of German photographer, Doris Boettcher. Open every Saturday and Sunday from 10am-6pm.

Equinox
 3A Street 278, Tel: 012 586 139, 092 791 958
 Cool French-run restaurant and bar has art exhibitions each month. Open 7am to late.

FCC Phnom Penh
 363 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 724 014
 Phnom Penh's landmark restaurant has a permanent, rotating exhibition devoted to photography. Open 7am to midnight.

French Cultural Centre
 218 Street 184, Tel: 023 213 124
 Large space in the grand floor of the cultural centre has changing exhibitions and hosts special talks and events. Second gallery space is on the opposite side of the road by Café du Centre.

Happy Painting Gallery
 FCC
 Open since 1995, this air-con art shop sells the colourful and positive works of iconic artist Stef. Accepts all major credit cards. Open from 8am to 10pm.

Java Café & Gallery
 56 Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 023 987 420, www.javaarts.org
 Contemporary art gallery with regular exhibitions of Cambodian and international artists. Has second gallery on the ground floor. Website has details about Cambodia's contemporary art scene.

Meta House
 37 Sothearos Blvd., Tel: 012 607 465
 Multimedia arts centre on three floors has regular exhibitions, interviews with filmmakers and short films, contains the Art Café. Open Tues. to Sun. 2pm to 10pm.

Mutrak Gallery
 409 Street 246, Tel: 012 294 731

Gallery featuring works of Cambodian artist Leang Seckon, viewing by appointment only.

New Art Gallery
 20 Street 9, Tel: 012 824 570
 More art shop that does framing than gallery, it does have occasional exhibitions.

Pich Sopheap
 24 Street 80, www.saklapel.org
 Lakeside studio of the Khmer artist, viewing is by appointment only.

Reyum Institute of Arts & Culture
 47 Street 178, Tel: 023 217 149
 Gallery with regular exhibitions of Cambodian artists. Part of an NGO established to preserve traditional and contemporary Cambodian arts.

Sa Sa Gallery
 7 Street 360, Tel: 011 936 855
 Gallery inside Baitong Restaurant devoted to the works of Cambodia's Art Rebels (Stiev Selapak).

Scan Gallery
 4 Street 282, Tel: 023 214 498
 Contemporary art gallery within boutique hotel close to Wat Lanka. Open from 7am to midnight.

The Mansion (Sino-Khmer Residence)
 28 Sothearos Blvd. (opposite the National Museum), Tel: 023 724 014
 This beautiful, derelict French colonial building has been converted into a venue for occasional exhibitions and parties. Walk into the building and wander around for a taste of what the Penh used to be like.

The Chinese House 16
 128 Sothearos Blvd., Tel: 023 356 399
 Cocktail bar set in beautiful old Chinese house has revolving exhibitions on the ground floor.

performing arts
Amrita Performing Arts
 128-G9 Sothearos Blvd., Tel: 023 220 424, www.amritaperformingarts.org
 Performance art company that puts on contemporary & classical music, dance & theatre.

Apsara Arts Association
 71 Street 598, Tel: 011 550 302
 Organisation that promotes Cambodian arts & culture. Stages performances by request. Open from 7.30am to 10.30am (Mon to Sat).

Cambodian Living Arts
 407 Street 246
 Art organisation devoted to the revival of traditional Khmer performing arts that puts on occasional performances.

Chaktomuk Conference Hall
 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 725 119
 Designed by master Cambodian architect Vann Molyvann, this under-utilised building is worth a visit. Open from 7am to 11.30am and 2pm to 5pm (Mon. to Fri.).

Chenla Theatre
 Cnr. Mao Tse Tung & Monireth Blvds., Tel: 023 883 050, www.culturalcenter-cambodia.com
 One of the capital's major theatres, it has regular performances of theatre, dance and music.

Epic Arts
 1DEO Sothearos Blvd., Tel: 023 998 474, www.epicarts.org.uk
 Organisation that uses art to empower people with disabilities.

Sovanna Phum Khmer Art Association
 166 Street 99 corner of 484, Tel: 023 987 564
 Theatre with performances of shadow puppetry, classical and masked dances every Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm.

beauty spot



The French Element Nora Lindstrom

Jérôme Haurie knows about fabulous hair. Having swapped the hectic Beijing hair scene for the more languorous Phnom Penh climate earlier this year, Haurie has quickly become many expat's go-to man for giving some TLC to their tresses.

Located in a low-rise building by Himarawi Hotel, Haurie's salon–The French Element–is a pink and white affair designed by local design studio Room. Floor-to-ceiling windows provide light and add a sense of space, while the funky music playing in the background makes the place feel contemporary cool. These really are surroundings befitting a forward-looking hair artist.

Blondes, whose wispy golden locks are often unknown matter to local stylists, are likely to find a saviour in Haurie. The balayage (from US\$30) is perfect as a brightening treatment. Said to have emerged in Paris in the 1970s, it involves having highlights put in using a special comb which results in a more natural look. It can also be combined with splashes of colouring to achieve more diversity in the style.

Other treatments include basic cut and blow dry's starting

ing at US\$23 for women, a variety of hair treatments from US\$5 up, and hair straightening from US\$80. Either L'Oreal or Schwarzkopf products are used for all treatments. Haurie also makes house calls at two days notice, though that will see an extra US\$60 added to your bill.

At French Elements, you get more than a great cut. Haurie is full of advice on hair care, mindful of the special stresses that living in Phnom Penh places on your tresses. His number one advice is to protect your hair from the sun with shampoo and conditioner made specifically for sun exposure. Regular hair treatments come next. Haurie recommends these every few weeks to prevent damage. He also notes that even those who are looking to grow their hair longer should have it trimmed on a regular basis, as dryness travels from the tips up and a lack of regular cuts may in fact mean more damage.

In any of the above, Haurie is of course happy to help. **The French Element, Unit D, Himawari Hotel, Tel: 077 283 332. Open Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 8pm. www.thefrenchelement.com.**

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listings

leisure & wellness

amusement

Kambol Cart Raceway
Angsoul, Kandal, Tel: 012 232 332
A few kilometres west of the airport is Phnom Penh's flashiest go-cart track. Boasting a 900m international standard sized track complete with hairpin turns, the track can be rented by the hour, half-day or the entire day. Open daily from 9am to 6pm.

Parkway Square
113 Mao Tse Tung Blvd.
Ten-pin bowling alley and a dodgy doggem track for those who haven't had enough of close shaves on the streets of Phnom Penh.

Phnom Penh Water Park
50 Street 110, Tel: 023 881 008
Traditional mix of slides and wave pools is open daily from 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Phnom Tamao Wildlife Park
Phnom Tamao, 44 kilometres out of the capital along Highway 2.
Cambodia's best wildlife centre. All animals are either rescued from traders or bred at the centre. Many of the animals are critically endangered. Open daily from 8am to 4pm.

Sorya Centre
Corner Street 63 & 142
The top floor of Phnom Penh's original shopping centre has a rink devoted to roller-skating and roller-blading, including skates and blades for hire.

Soun Soben
Tiger Road, Prek Eng, Kandal, Tel: 016 642 493, 017 772 456
Need a new angle for a day out, then why not go fishing. Fishing available with all equipment provided. Restaurant is available for private party or functions. Open from 6am to 7pm.

classes
Cambodian Cooking Class
Frizz Restaurant, 67 Street 240, Tel: 012 524 801
First and only Khmer cooking school for travellers & expats in Phnom Penh, includes transport to the market and a colourful 16-page recipe booklet. Open 10am to 10pm.

Capoeira
Tchou Tchou pre-school, 23 Street 21
Lessons in this rhythmic Brazilian cross between dance and martial arts are held every Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8pm. Contact Michel on 012 458 167.

Garden Yoga Room
456 Monivong Blvd. (cnr. Street 466)
Tel: 023 721 765, 012 357 561
www.asiagarden.com.kh
Yoga classes everyday includes free swim. Walk-in fees: US\$4 for Khmer, US\$8 for foreigners with 10-class passes (valid 3 months) US\$30 for Khmer, US\$70 for foreigners. See website for schedule.

Global Art Centre
Behind house 206 Norodom Blvd., Tel: 012 514 790
An international art and creative programme designed for children aged 4-18. Classes held Tuesday to Friday in the afternoon and all day on Saturday. Free trial. Open from 1pm to 5pm, closed Mondays.

Khmer School for Expats & Travellers
Tel: 012 867 117
Khmer-language lessons given on a one-to-one tuition basis only, a typical course lasts for 30 hours. Open daily from 7am to 8pm.

Khmer School of Language
52G Street 454, Tel: 023 213 047
Khmer-language lessons given at the school or in the privacy of your own home or office. All teachers are experienced and trained at the school. Open 8am to 12pm, 2pm to 5pm.

My First Khmer
PO Box 1498, Tel: 012 342 315
A network of university students offering language, translation, and interpreting services. Professional, affordable, and experienced. Call for a free lesson. Open daily from 8am to 8pm.

Nataraj Yoga Center
52 Street 302, Tel: 855 12 250 817, www.yogacambodia.com
Daily classes in yoga and pilates, check website for schedule and prices.

Open Palm Studio
12 Street 101, Tel: 012 633 278
The first official spinning facility in Phnom Penh on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.15am. Call to book in advance. Open from 8am to 9.30am, and 5pm to 7pm.

Photography Tours
126 Street 136, Tel: 092 526 706
www.nathanhortonphotography.com
Weekend photography tuition and guided tours to Kampong Chhnang and Udong, covering technical and creative considerations in the context of travel photography.

Gigong
Living Room, 9 Street 306
Gigong practice group meets every Monday and Wednesday at 5.30pm to 6.30pm. For more information contact, Phil 012 892 249.

Scuba Nation Dive Centre
18E0 Sothea Blvd., Tel: 012 715 785
Learn to scuba dive in Phnom Penh. The academic part of the course takes place in the Plaza Hotel pool, while the real diving is over a weekend in Sihanoukville. Open 12pm to 6pm during rainy season, but 9am to 6pm during dry season.

Yoga Classes at Himawari Hotel
313 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 092197 701
Available every day from 9:30am to 10am.

dental
European Dental Clinic
160A Norodom Blvd., Tel: 023 211 363
French-run dental practice since 1994 which provides full dental hygiene services with modern equipment. Open 8am to 12pm (Mon to Fri) and 2pm to 7pm (Sat).

SOS Dental Clinic
161 Street 51, Tel: 023 216 911
International quality dental clinic, fully equipped with the latest equipment including dental cameras. US dentist explains the process of what is going on with your teeth and has multi-lingual staff. Open from 8am to 12pm and 2pm to 5.30pm (Mon to Sat), 2pm to 5.30pm (Sun).

gyms
Clark Hatch Fitness Centre
Intercontinental Hotel, 3/F Mao Tse Tung Boulevard, Tel: 011 380 769
Well-equipped fitness centre run by a regional gym company that even has a rowing machine, and many classes. Open 6am to 10pm (weekdays), 8am to 8pm (weekends)

Fitness One
Himawari Hotel, 313 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 214 555
Small, well-equipped gym with outdoor swimming pool, steam room and jacuzzi. Open daily from 6am to 10pm.

Raffles Amrita Spa
Raffles Le Royal Hotel, Tel: 023 981 888
Modern gym and pool in Phnom Penh's most elegant hotel. Use of gym, pool, sauna and Jacuzzi is available to non-guests. Open from 6am to 10pm.

Physique Club
Hotel Cambodiana, 313 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 012 810 432
Reasonable selection of equipment in the gym and a pool overlooking the river. Open from 6am to 10pm.

The Gym at The Place
90 Sihanouk Blvd, Tel: 023 999 699
Modern establishment featuring a fully equipped gym and weekly classes in dance, yoga and aerobics. Open 6am to 10pm (Mon to Fri) and 8am to 10pm (weekends).

VIP Club
227Eo Norodom Blvd, Tel: 023 993 535
Large sports complex with gym, outdoor swimming pools, sauna, steam room and tennis courts. Open from 6am to 9pm.

hairdressers
Arya Vong Kim
P31 Street Platinum (by Sovanna Mall), Tel: 011 516 575, 011 512 980
Professional beauty salon run by French-Khmer hairdresser Arya Vong Kim, focuses on quality hair care, including great cuts and colouring, with L'Oréal products. Open 9am to 7pm.

De Gran
19 Street 352, Tel: 023 999 707

Classy yet affordable Japanese-run hair salon in beautiful premises with excellent service. Open from 10am to 8pm, closed Tuesdays.

Eriq Amtalla
407 Street 246, Tel: 016 839 546, 017 839 546
Unisex hairdressers run by highly qualified hair dresser, is open from 9am to 6pm (Mon to Thu) and 9am to 7pm (Fri to Sat). Appointments preferred.

Hair & Nail Studio
51D Street 214, Tel: 023 992 626
Sleek Cambodian-run beauty salon offers quality nail care using OPI products, and hair, body and facial treatments. Open 9am to 8pm.

Image Beauty
57AE0 Street 240, Tel: 012 455 239
Khmer, English and Thai speaking stylists trained in hair, facial and nail treatment, with L'Oréal products. Free WiFi, tea and coffee provided. Open 9am to 8.30pm.

Tokyo Hair Dresser
8A1, Mao Tse Tung Blvd., Tel: 017 880 740, 016 679 830
Comfortable hair salon with a modern facilities, run by Japanese hairdresser who will provide a hair consultation prior to treatment. Open 9am to 7pm, closed Mondays.

medical
American Medical Centre
Ground Floor Cambodiana Hotel
313 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 991 863
Team of international and Khmer doctors that provide general practice services to clients, including the American Embassy. Can arrange emergency evacuation. 24/7 service.

International SOS Medical Clinic
161 Street 51, Tel: 023 216 911
Globally renowned provider of medical assistance & international health care with multilingual staff. Expat and Khmer doctors offer general practice, specialist and emergency repatriation services. Members have access to SOS clinics around the globe. On-site laboratory, dental facilities and 24/7 service. Open 8am to 10pm (8am to 6pm weekends).

Naga Clinic
11 Street 254, Tel: 023 211 300, 011 811 175
French-Khmer run clinic with a team of international and Khmer doctors. Impressive range of modern facilities and 24-hour pharmacy on site. Can perform minor surgery. 24/7 service.

Phnom Penh Counselling Centre
11 Street 420, Tel: 092 700 910 / 023 218 974
Full range of counselling services with international and Khmer supervised therapists. Fees are based on a sliding fee scale and ability to pay. Insurance and Employee Assistance Programme arrangements possible.

Royal Rattanak Hospital
11 Street 592, Toul Kork, Tel: 023 991 000, 023 365 555
www.royalrattanakhospital.com
A Thai owned and run private hospital with extensive services that strives to provide high standard and quality medical care by professional care team. Open 24/7.

optics
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SOS



Sexually Transmitted Infections Dr Christoph Bendick

They're not a sexy topic, nor dinner party conversation, but they can dominate our lives from time to time. The term sexually transmitted infection (STI) refers to those infections spread by sexual contact. They can also be transmitted from a pregnant woman to her foetus before or during delivery.

Over the past years, there has been an increase in the number of STIs in many parts of the world. In western societies, chlamydia is the most common STI, followed by genital warts. Worldwide, the most common STIs are: chlamydia, genital warts (infection with human papilloma-virus [HPV]—certain types of HPV can cause cervical cancer); syphilis; genital herpes; gonorrhoea; hepatitis B (and, to a certain degree, hepatitis C); human immunodeficiency virus which may lead to AIDS; trichomoniasis; pubic lice; and scabies.

STIs are caused by micro-organisms such as bacteria or viruses or by parasites. These infections can be passed from one person to another during any kind of sexual activity.

Not everyone with an STI suffers from symptoms, but typical symptoms are: discharge from vagina, penis or anus; in women, bleeding after sex or between periods; sores, blisters, warts, rashes, irritation or itching near genitals or anus; pain upon passing urine, or needing to pass urine more often than usual; pain during sexual activity; and lower abdominal pain.

Upon suspicion of an STI, it is important to get competent advice and to be tested and treated by a GP, a urologist (men), a gynaecologist (women) or a dermatologist. Untreated STIs may lead to complications and serious problems, such as infertility, disability and even death. Once diagnosed with an STI, it is important to get adequate medication and to follow treatment instructions carefully. Sexual activity should be suspended for the period of therapy.

Screening tests for STIs are available. Alternatively consider regular medical check-ups. If diagnosed, it is important to contact previous partners who may be at risk, to prevent them from spreading the infection to others and to encourage them to seek treatment for themselves.

Some simple measures can reduce the risk of catching an STI. Safer sex methods include using condoms. These largely prevent HIV transmission and reduce the risk of most STIs. Condoms should always be used where there is a risk of transmission even if the risk is considered low. Seeking treatment early for any STI is recommended as it may prevent the development of chronic infections.

Dr Christoph Bendick is a German Medical Specialist in STI's and Dermatology. He is working at the International SOS clinic in Phnom Penh. For more information please email: sue.kemp@internationalsos.com. 📧

pools

Asia Club

456 Monivong Blvd., Tel: 023 721 766
Beautiful swimming pool tucked around the back of Man Han Lou Restaurant near Caltex Bokor. Members get a discount at both Man Han Lou Restaurant and Master Kang Health Care Centre.

L'imprevu Resort

Highway 1, 7km past Monivong Bridge, Tel: 012 655 440

Peaceful resort complex just outside of the city has bungalows, tennis court, table tennis, boules and a beautiful swimming pool. Children for free.

The Club at Northbridge

1km off National Road 4, Tel: 023 886 012
International school has a pool for members. Open every day, there are also tennis courts and playground for kids.

spas

Amara Spa

Corner of Sisowath Quay & St.110, Tel: 023 998 730 / 023 695 6584, spa@hotelcara.com, www.amaraspa.hotelcara.com

Comprehensive day spa providing a wide selection of facials, body massages and treatments, arranged in a four-storey modern facility at riverfront. Open from 11am to 11pm.

Amatak Beauty Spa

4 Street 228, Tel: 023 722 029, 012 360 490

www.amatakbeautyspa.com
Beautiful, up-market spa set in a large villa close to Monument Books established by Khmer beautician who worked at Raffles Hotel Le Royal. Provides lessons for those interested in learning spa techniques. Open from 9am to 10pm.

Aziadee

16AB Street 282, Tel: 023 996 921
Relaxing, air-conditioned massage parlour with individual rooms. Open daily from 9am to 9pm.

Bliss

29 Street 240, Tel: 023 215 754

Health spa at back and upstairs in this beautiful French colonial building. Have a massage, facial, body scrub or simply wallow in a flower bath. Open 9am to 9pm, closed Monday.

Champey Spa & Salon

38 Street 57, Tel: 012 670 939, 023 222 846, www.champeyspa.com
Peaceful spa in the heart of Boeung Keng Kang 1 district has a full range of massages and body treatments. Open from 9am to 11pm.

Derma-Care Skin Clinic

161B Norodom Blvd., Tel: 023 217 092, 016 900 828, 017 719 693
Staffed by two qualified dermatologists this professional skin clinic offers a range of beauty treatments using American Derma-Rx products, minor dermatologic surgery, antioxidant boosters, chemical peeling, and lipolysis. Open from 9am to 7pm.

Dermal Spa

4C Street 57, Tel: 012 222 898
Spa offering beauty salon, foot massage and body massage services, specialises in Dermalogica skin and beauty products. Open 9am to 10.30pm.

EL Skin and Wellness Centre

115E0 Street 109, Tel: 012 681 948
Using Dermalogica, L'Oréal, Jane Iredale and OPI products for a variety of face and body treatments, spa provides a professional, relaxed ambience for customers to sample products before purchase. Open 0am to 7pm.

In-Style

4E1 Street 51, cnr. Street 118,

Tel: 023 214 621, 012 909 747

Set in beautiful old building with high ceilings and tastefully decorated rooms and using all natural products imported from Bali, this spa offers the full range of massages and beauty treatments with an emphasis on the Balinese. Open 9am to 9pm.

Master Kang Health Care Centre

456 Monivong Blvd., Tel: 023 721 765
Large health centre next to Man Han Lou Restaurant offers foot massage in either public or private rooms downstairs, with both Chinese and oil massage upstairs. Downstairs also has a grand piano which is played in the evenings. Open from 10am to 12pm.

Miss Care & Spa

4B Street 278, Tel: 023 221 130
Small beauty parlour and spa set on the Golden Street, with well-priced massages range and beauty treatments. Open from 9am to 11pm.

Monorom Massage

B87 - B91 Street 199 (near Sovanna Mall), Tel: 017 555 778

Professional foot and body massage parlour that offers unique fish treatment. Also has free sauna and steam room. Open from 10am to midnight.

Punarnava

Ayurveda Centre Spa, Hotel Cambodiana, 313 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 012 810 432
Traditional Indian-style Ayurveda massage and healing that can provide relief to a range of physical ailments. All staff are professionally trained. Open daily from 8am to 11pm.

Raffles Amrita Spa

Tel: 023 981 888

Raffles Amrita Spa offers relaxation and rejuvenation through a wide selection of services and facilities including treatment rooms, outdoor lap and fun pool, Jacuzzi, fitness centre, sauna and steam room. Open daily from 6am to 10pm.

Sawasdee Massage

6B Street 57, Tel: 023 996 670
Oil, Thai-style and foot massage are available from trained masseuses in this parlour, which also does beauty treatments. For a few dollars more than the dorm-style mattress massages, you can have the privacy of your own room. Open 9am to 11pm.

Seeing Hands Massage

6 Street 94, 209, 246, 253 Street 53, Tel: 016 856 188
String of massage parlours where the service is provided by the blind at a very reasonable price. Open 9am to 7pm.

Shiatsu-Ya

37B Street 306, Tel: 023 994 777
Excellent shiatsu massage by qualified practitioner given in basic surroundings. Open from 9am to 12pm, 2pm to 8.30pm, closed Mondays.

Singapore Parkway Salon

G15 Parkway Square Shopping Centre, 133 Mao Tse Tung, Tel: 023 690 3132, 016 859 000
Hairdresser also has unique body toxin footbath. Open from 9am to 8pm.

The Spa at NagaWorld

Hun Sen Park, Tel: 023 228 822
This luxurious spa promises to bring the ancient Cambodian spa therapy to the world, and claims to be the only all-suite unisex spa in Cambodia. Therapy rooms with sauna, steam and flower bath are inviting, and the spa uses Tomichik flowers as part of its treatment. Open from 10am to 3am.

The Villa Paradiso Spa

27 Street 222 corner Street 51, Tel: 023 213 720, www.thevillaparadiso.com
Professional spa set in individual huts

around a lush, tropical pool. A proper sauna and top-end Jacuzzi are highlights. All treatments conducted using natural substances only. Bookings recommended. Open daily from 8am-8pm.

Villa Spa

456 Monivong Blvd., (cnr. Street 466) Tel: 023 721 765, 012 357 561 www.asiagarden.com.kh

Aromatherapy massage in private boutique VIP rooms (villa and bungalow style) from professional Chinese and Khmer therapists from Master Kang Health Care Centre; women customers only. Beauty, manicure and pedicure coming soon.

sports general

Ball Hockey

Played every Thursday night at City Villa, corner of Streets 360 and 71 at 7pm. To play, contact Peter: peterloucks@ispp.edu.kh

Cambodian Federation of Rugby

cambodianfederationofrugby.com
Proper 15-a-side rugby league with four senior teams as well as kid's touch and women's rugby teams. Contact Larry: khmer_rugby@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

Cambodia Golf & Country Club

Route 4, Kompong Speur, Tel: 023 363 666
International standard, 18-hole golf course. Open everyday from 6am until dark.

Cricket

Infrequent fun games played at a school off Street 360, near Street 63, on Sunday mornings. No equipment required and little prior knowledge of the rules is needed. Contact Majid at Saffron Wine Bar on 012 247 832.

Football: The Bayon Wanderers

www.bayonwanderers.com
Mixed Khmer and western team. Training sessions are held at the City Villa court on Wednesday and Friday, 8pm to 10pm and at the Old Stadium on Tuesday from 4.30 pm to dark. Contact Billy Barnaart on 012 803 040 (available from 11am to 10pm). Sunday play at 2pm.

Hash House Harriers

8, Street 360 (cnr. Street 71)
The Hash meets at the railway station every Sunday at 2:15pm. An ideal way to see the countryside either walking or running, and then to make a public (school) exhibition of yourself. Contact 012 832 509 for details.

Phnom Penh Ultimate Frisbee

A fast paced fun game that is open to everyone, regardless of skill set or gender, Phnom Penh Ultimate has games a couple of times a week at ISPP and Northbridge. Contact CraigDGerard@gmail.com for details on times and locations.

Royal Cambodia

Phnom Penh Golf Club, National Road 4
The other international standard golf course.

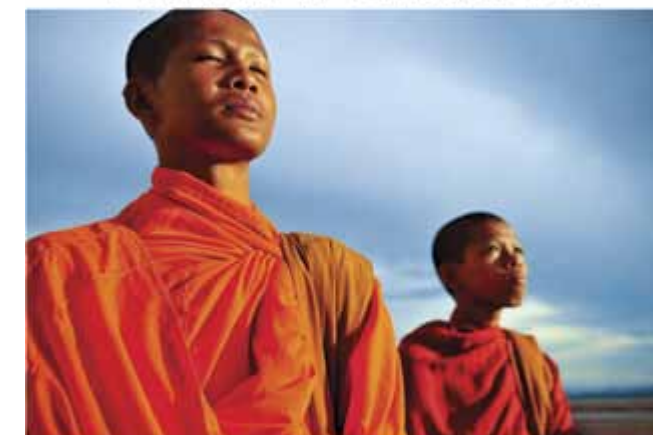
Tennis

The Club at Northbridge, 1km off National Road 4, Tel: 023 886 012
Excellent tennis court. Book in advance. Open daily from 8am to 2pm and 3pm to 6pm.

Touch Rugby

Mixed touch rugby (touch football) is played most Saturday afternoons at 3:30 pm at Northbridge School. Tournaments also within Southeast Asia. Please contact Rowena (rowena.eastick@yahoo.com), or Paul 012 516 460. 📧

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Tel: (855-23) 222 416-8 e-mail: ican@ican.edu.kh www.ican.edu.kh

on the move



Negotiating with the Landlord David Murphy

So you've found your dream Cambodian Property and it's time to work out the finer details with the owner. Landlords are much more open to spending money on improvements or purchasing additional furniture at this time—use it.

Draw up a wish list of changes you require and go through it with your landlord. In most cases the landlord will seriously consider items that add or retain value to the property including re-painting, installation of additional air-con units and purchasing of basic furniture. Landlords tend to balk at purchasing of plasma TVs and coffee makers, but put them on the list and use them as leverage items, "I won't require a plasma TV if you fit the second bedroom with an air-con...."

Get a feel for your landlord and be sure not to over play your hand, just last week a landlord lost his nut with a Khmer agent for asking too much on behalf of their client and cancelled all negotiations. Find the middle ground early in proceedings.

With the items agreed in principle, the landlord will use this as an opportunity to ask

for a greater up-front payment, and in some cases the landlord is justified to do so. Painting and basic furniture are relatively inexpensive however, the installation of a couple of air-con units can hurt the owners cash flow. If you agree to an additional up-front payment you must ensure it is taken as rent in advance and not as an additional bond. Bonds are dead money and are often difficult to receive at lease-end, whereas up-front rental payments will give you a tangible benefit.

The final requirement is to ensure both you and the landlord understand when the improvements will be delivered. It's not much fun moving into a place with wet paint. Have all improvements listed as a condition in the lease. This is the base document you can fall back upon if there is any disagreement, but more about that next month.

David Murphy is managing director of *Independent Property Services*. For any property needs, contact David at: dmurphy@independentpropertyservices.com, or check out *IPS* online at: www.independentpropertyservices.com.

tion, contemplation, creativity, conscience and global citizenship.

Harvest Education Centre
247 Street 456, Tel: 023 630 0710, 011 277 129, harvestedc2@gmail.com
American curriculum international school that employs qualified foreign teachers with over 150 children from 50 different nationalities. Classes from 7.30am to 4.30pm.

iCan International School
85 Sothearos Blvd, Tel: 023 222 418 www.ican.edu.kh
iCAN is a truly international school. It offers affordable, high quality education to 330 children, aged 2-12, from 29 different nationalities, using the British curriculum. iCAN is a contemporary, purpose-built school and is the first in Cambodia with interactive whiteboards in every classroom. All iCAN teachers are fully qualified, experienced and encourage a love of learning that goes beyond what is taught.

International School of Phnom Penh
146 Norodom Blvd, Tel: 023 213 103 www.ispp.edu.kh
Founded in 1989, this non-profit, non-sectarian international school has 567 students from Pre-K to Grade 12. The largest international school with over 65 professional teachers, and the only authorised IB Programme in the country.

Lycée Français René Descartes
Street 96, Tel: 023 722 044
French school offering primary and secondary level education, extra-curricular activities include basketball, football and rugby.

Northbridge School
1km off National Road 4 on the way to the airport, Tel: 023 886 000 www.niscambodia.com
U.S.-accredited school offering Nursery-Grade 12 university preparatory international education. Purpose built facility with expansive playing fields, playgrounds and pool on secure, manicured grounds. PYP/IBO candidate school.

Zaman International School
2843 Street 3, Tel: 023 214 040 www.zamanisc.org
International school that teaches a full curriculum to children from four to 18. Facilities include basketball and volleyball courts, a football field and a science lab.

it & software
Conical Hat (Cambodia) Ltd.
135 Street 472, Tel: 023 362 957 www.conicalhat.com
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Sciaroni & Associates
24 Street 462, Tel: 023 210 225 www.sa-cambodia.com
Law firm with a good reputation. Just the ticket if you get into a spot of bother.

Office Space
Top Recruitment Cambodia
592, Building F Phnom Penh Centre, Cnr. Sothearos & Sihanouk Blvds., Tel: 023 997 492, www.top-recruitment.com
Highly professional company that pro-

vides comprehensive services including recruitment, staff outsourcing, payroll management and staff development consulting.

Pets
Happy Dog
233 Kampuchea Krom (Street 128), Tel: 012 321 333
Just what man's best friend wanted. This shop specialises in dog food, toys, products and services, including veterinary, boarding, grooming and shampoo. Open from 8am to 8pm.

Post Office
Main Post Office
Cnr. Street 102 & Street 13
Open from 6.30am to 9pm. The place to go if you want to send something overseas or get a PO Box.

Photography
AsiaMotion
Tel: 092 806 117, www.asiamotion.net
Photographic agency established by Isabelle Lesser in November 2008 as a cooperation between local and international photographers.

Melon Rouge Agency
84 Sothearos Blvd, Tel: 092 644 811, www.melon-rouge.com
Photographic agency that offers a full range of visual products and services from fashion, life style, reportage, 360° panoramic pictures, to cultural event organisation.

Nathan Horton Photography
Tel: 092 526 706 www.nathanhortonphotography.com
Full service professional photographer. Hotels, bars, restaurants, spas and location work. Call for Travel Photography workshops and Travel Photography tours.

James Grant – Slik Photography
Tel: 092 212 880 www.JamesGrantPhoto.com
Commercially trained and fine art qualified professional photographer with over eight years' experience in fashion, lifestyle and still life.

Printing
Digital Advertising
90E Street 44, Tel: 023 987 600, 012 800 991
Print house with modern equipment that provides full print services as well as graphic design.

Sok Heng Printing House
1297B Street Luo 5, Stoeung Mean Chey, Tel: 011 939 255, 012 939 255 www.sokheng.com
Modern print house providing a full range of printing services. Graphic design available.

Relocation, Shipping
Crown
115-116 Street 335, Tel: 023 881 004, www.crownrelo.com
Global transportation and relocation company with over 150 offices in 50 countries, specialising in expat support and household shipment. Business hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm (Mon to Fri), 8:30am to 12pm (Sat).

Security Firms
MPA
23 Street 214, Tel: 023 210 836
Well-established security company that is responsible for keeping many of the town's buildings safe and sound.

Telecoms
Beeline
Norodom Blvd., Tel: 090 999 611, www.beeline.com.kh
Mobile phone company offering VoIP international calls at attractive rates.

Cadcoms
825A Monivong Blvd., Tel: 023 726 680
Communications company with Norwegian connections has launched the qb 3G entertainment network with competitive talk packages.

Cambodia Samarat Communication
56 Norodom Blvd., Tel: 016 810 001
Internet provider that issues the 016 SIM card.

Camshin
6B-7B 294 Mao Tse Tung Blvd. Tel: 023 367 801
Internet provider that also installs land lines and issues the 011 SIM card.

City Link
170 Norodom Blvd., Tel: 023 220 112
One of the major internet providers in Phnom Penh.

Ezecom
7D Russian Blvd., Tel: 023 888 181 www.ezecom.com.kh
Internet service provider that promises boundless internet packages suited to everyone's needs. Good packages for those looking for unlimited downloads.

Hello
Tel: 016 810 000, www.hello.com.kh
Mobile phone provider that has the 015 and 016 SIM card.

Mobitel
33 Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 012 801 801
Largest ISP in the country. Major mobile phone company which issues the 012 SIM card.

Online
60 Monivong Blvd., Tel: 023 727 272
The biggest of the Internet providers. Watch out for their hotspots around town.

Smart Mobile
464A Preah Monivong Blvd. Tel: 010 201 000, www.smart.com.kh, <http://facebook.com/SmartMobileKH>
One of the most dynamic and fastest growing mobile telecom service providers in the country. Issues the 010, 069, 070, and 093 prefixes.

Star-Cell
173 Nehru Blvd., Tel: 023 888 887
Mobile phone providers with the 098 SIM Card, has established an office within Siem Reap too.

TeleSurf
33 Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 012 800 800 www.telesurf.com.kh
Internet service provider (ISP) providing 24-hour broadband Internet service.

listings

shopping

art
Happy Painting Gallery
FCC, Sisowath Quay, happypainting.net
Open since 1995, popular air-con art shop sells the extremely colourful and positive works of iconic artist Stef. Accepts all major credit cards. Open from 8am to 10pm.

beauty products
Angkor Soap
16C Street 374, Tel: 023 223 720, 015 935 789. www.angkorsoaps.com
Specialising in handmade soaps and natural spa products. Open daily from 8am to 5pm

Raffles Amrita Spa
Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Tel: 023 981 888 www.affles.com/phnompenh, phnompenh@affles.com
Distinctive collection of Raffles Amrita spa private label and international spa products are available for purchase. Open from 6am to 10pm.

chemists
U-Care Pharmacy
26-28 Sothearos Blvd., Tel: 023 222 499 14 Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 023 224 099
High quality western-style chemist and pharmacy that sells the full range of beauty products, including international brands. Open 8am to 10pm.

Pharmalink
11 Street 254, 14 Street 432 20D Street 184, Tel: 023 215 727
Modern, western-standard pharmacy on the way to the Russian Market with a range of western products on sale. Open from 8am to 5pm, closed Sundays.

books & cds
Carnets d'Asie
French Cultural Centre 218 Street 184, Tel: 012 799 959
French-language bookshop has sections on Cambodia and Asia as well as general fiction, with a good range of French magazines and newspapers. Open from 8am to 8pm (closed Sun).

D's Books
12E Street 178 & 79 Street 240 Tel: 092 675 629
Second-hand book shop with over 20,000 copies and some originals, with a

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money matters



All that Glitters Trevor Keidan

It's been a while since I've talked about gold, but once again I have good reason to—thanks to Ben Bernanke and the United States Federal Reserve.

The Fed's latest moves—buying US treasuries as part of its quantitative easing programme—has once again sparked fears of inflation. Added to risks associated with Europe, in particular the health of Ireland's economy, and the dollar's expected continued slide, gold is looking like a good bet. After all, gold loves inflation, risk and a weakening dollar. Should the normal rules apply, I see no reason why gold shouldn't continue to rise.

In months gone by, there was some speculation that gold was going to be the next bubble. However, the US Federal Reserve seems to have single-handedly put those fears to rest with its quantitative easing programme.

Regardless of what the Fed has done, or will do next, when adjusted for inflation, gold still looks cheap. Based on gold's price in the 80s, and taking inflation into account, at today's prices gold should be in the US\$2,000 range.

This is not to say that investors should rush out and put all their money in gold. Instead they should take a measured approach, as they would with other investments.

And how do you buy gold? Today, investors are spoiled for choice. Gold can be bought in the same way you can buy shares, through brokers and on exchanges. For example, there are Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), mutual funds and mining stocks. There are also the more traditional means of getting in to gold, by buying gold bullion and jewellery.

Although buying gold might be easy, second-guessing what it will do is next to impossible. Investors should not assume that gold will always go up. In the short-term it could even come down.

However in the medium- to long-term all the indications are that gold will climb. This is because the dollar is expected to weaken, inflation could become a reality and the overall US economy is not expected to improve anytime soon. This is all good for gold...and it could be good for you as a gold investor too.

Trevor Keidan is Managing Director of Infinity Financial Solutions. This company provides impartial, tailor-made, personal financial advice to clients in Cambodia and Southeast Asia. Should you wish to contact Trevor please send an email to tkeidan@infinsolutions.com.

heavy emphasis on best sellers, National Geographic past-issues and travel books. Open from 9am to 9pm.

Le Phnom Shop
Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Tel: 023 981 888
www.raffles.com/phnompenh,
dining.phnompenh@raffles.com
Small shop offering books and souvenirs including recipes from the hotel's pastry chef. Open from 7am to 9pm.

Monument Books
111 Norodom Blvd.,
Tel: 023 217 617, 012 333 966
Extensive range of new English-language books in town including recent releases and sections on Asia, Cambodia, travel, cuisine, design and management. Good children's section as well as a wide choice of magazines and newspapers. Open from 7.30am to 8pm.

Open Book
41Eo Street 240
A welcoming reading room open to anyone to drop in, with a good range of children's books in English, French and Khmer. Apart from the library books, there's a range of illustrated children's books in multiple languages for sale.

crafts & furniture
Angkor Heritage Shop
Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Tel: 023 981 888
angkorheritages@yahoo.com
The sophisticated artistry of Cambodian craftsmen is evident in the intricate carvings of divine sculptures and Buddha statues, each piece is modelled on stunning Angkorian art.

Art Wood
23 Street 294, Tel: 090 249 999,
076 224 9999, www.artwood.asia
Combining classic Khmer design with straight modern angles, young Khmer designer Yin Daravy's shop sells everything from bed sets to bookshelves and dining tables. Can make furniture to order. Open 8am to 7pm.

Artisans D'Angkor
12A Eo Street 13, Craft Centre,
Tel: 063 963 330, Silk Farm Tel: 063 380 375
Specialising in stone and wood carving, lacquering and silk paintings, all items are hand made by the students at the organisation's training centre. Open daily from 9am to 9pm.

Bazar Art de Vivre
28 Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 012 776 492
Elegant furniture and home fittings shop specialises in antique furniture, furnishings by Bloom Atelier and Cambodian silks. Open from 9am to 6pm (closed Sunday).

Beyond Interiors
14e Street 306, Tel: 023 987 840,
012 930 332, www.beyondinteriors.biz
Managed by Australian designer Bronwyn

Blue, this interior design showroom can provide the ultimate design solution to your interior dilemma. All products from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia are made with travel in mind and have been treated to withstand any climate. Open from 9am to 7pm

Chez l'Artisan
42D Street 178, Tel: 012 869 634
Quaint shop with high-quality wooden furniture and lampshades that also produces made-to-measure goods on request. Open from 10am to 6:30pm.

I Ching Decor
85 Sothea's Blvd., Tel: 023 220 873,
012 558 000, 092 660 746
www.ichingdecor.com
Boutique interior design shop offering advice on architectural work and interior design, as well as providing custom-made furniture, home accessories, kitchenware, lighting and bedroom suites. Open from 9am to 6pm, closed Sundays.

Pavillon d'Asie
24 - 26 Sihanouk Blvd., Tel: 012 497 217
Antique lovers dream, with a large array of well-restored furniture and decorative objects. Wooden cabinets jostle for space with Buddha statues and old wooden boxes. Upstairs are pieces from the French colonial era. Open 10am to 7pm, closed Sundays.

Private Collection
Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Tel: 023 981 888
One of the best carpet stores in Phnom Penh with various silk items like pashmina shawls or silk bed covers.

fashion
Ambre
37 Street 178, Tel: 023 217 935,
012 688 608
The high-end fashion designs created by Cambodian designer Romyda Keth are popular all over the world, this beautiful colonial building with colour-themed rooms makes the perfect setting for the city's most glamorous design shop. Also has men's fashion. Open 10am to 6pm, closed Sunday.

Beautiful Shoes
138 Street 143, Tel: 012 848 438
Located near Tuol Sleng Museum, this family-run business measures your feet and designs the shoe exactly as you wish. The shop also caters for men. Open from 7am to 6:30pm.

Bliss
29 Street 240, Tel: 023 215 754
A beautiful colonial building houses this exquisite shop with funky patterned cushions, quilts and an excellent clothing line. The health spa at the back of the shop also sells Spana beauty products. Open from 9am to 9pm (closed Mondays).

Jasmine Boutique
73 Street 240, Tel: 023 223 103,



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shop talk



Daughters of Cambodia Mai Lynn Miller Nguyen

The approaching festive season is the time to find gifts for loved ones. Grossly over-commercialised in the West, here in Cambodia it provides an opportunity to put a little bit back into society.

At the Daughters of Cambodia shop, a range of clothing, accessories, and home décor make for socially conscientious shopping. Locally made and well-crafted, products are great options for meaningful presents—helping to address one of Cambodia's greatest challenges.

A non-governmental organisation, Daughters works with women, and some men, who have been trafficked into the sex industry. Ruth Elliott, a British psychologist, founded Daughters in 2007 based on her experience working in anti-trafficking projects.

The NGO runs a day centre for women who voluntarily leave the sex industry, offering medical services, counselling, and life skills programmes for self-empowerment. Over the years, the centre has tripled in size.

"We're trying to help the women make and sustain changes in their own lives that work for them, in reality, in their context, in their culture, and in their own communities," says Elliott.

At present, Daughters works with approximately 70 victims of sex trafficking. From discussions with women working in brothels, Elliott

identified the need for an alternative income as essential for those aiming to exit.

Daughters runs five businesses to provide their clients with financial independence. The majority are employed as producers in the day centre's workshop, receiving a fair trade salary. Products have been designed by foreign volunteers, though some clients are now learning design techniques. Proceeds from sales fund clients' salaries and support the organisation's programmes.

Opened in March as part of a visitors centre, which also includes a café and beauty salon, the shop features easy-to-wear pieces, marked by subtle detailing and earthy shades. Local references appear, such as the sleeveless ruffled blouse printed with Khmer script (US\$16). Respecting ethical sensibilities, Daughters incorporates naturally dyed, hand woven cottons that are eco-friendly. Colourful necklaces (US\$14) and linen handbags (US\$24) are among the accessories.

This month, Daughters rolls out a range of Christmas products, including ornaments and stockings. Yet even after December ends, Daughters demonstrates a giving spirit all year round.

Daughters of Cambodia,
65 Street 178, Tel: 077 657 678, Open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 6pm. 📍

063 760 610,
www.jasmineboutique.net
Established in 2001 by Kellianne Karatau and Cassandra McMillan, this boutique creates its own collection of designs twice a year using hand-woven Cambodian silk. Open 8am to 6pm.
Kambuja
165 Street 110
Stylish fashion outlet with clothing designed to fuse west with east.

Keo
92 Street 222, Tel: 012 941 643
Haute couture fashion house run by Sylvain Lim, the grand master of Cambodian fashion, has some pret a porter too.

Khmer Attitude
Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Tel: 023 981 888
Fashion boutique that offers the finest Khmer silk clothing for men, women and children, including designs by Romyda Keth, and exclusive jewellery that complement the limited edition outfits.

Ororosso
75 Street 240, Tel: 023 211 741
www.ororosso.asia
Featuring classical 1950s and 1960s inspired Italian designs by Khmer designer Keo Sophea, and Belgian designer Wesley Taller, this boutique has stylish yet functional men and women's clothing for work or play. Open from 9am to 9pm.

Promesses and Kaprices
20 Street 282, Tel: 023 993 527
Lingerie shop stocked with exclusive French and Thai undergarments. Complete with a VIP changing room Promesses is about more than just getting that everyday bra. Chic, new prêt-à-porter shop Kaprices is located upstairs. Open 9am to 7pm.

Sapors
11 Street 59,
Tel: 012 900 470
Modelling agency, training school for housekeeping, as well as a beauty training school.

Smateria
8Eo Street 57, Tel: 023 211 701
7 Street 178 023 214 720
www.smateria.com
Boutique specialising in accessories made from recycled materials including a range of bags and wallets made from old fruit juice cartons, plastic bags and mosquito nets.

Spicy Green Mango
4a Street 278 Tel: 012-915-968
29 Street 178 Tel: 023-215-017
Now open in two locations, designer Anya Weis offers a very different style of clothing to any other shop in Phnom Penh with imaginative, colourful skirts, trousers, t-shirts, belts and shoes.

Subtyl
43 Street 240
Up-market boutique selling Cambodian handmade women's clothes, scarves, shoes, bags and other accessories in contemporary and interesting designs, the Subtyl collection combines class with colour. Chillikids children's clothing is also stocked at the shop. Open 9am to 7pm.

Sweet Soul
35E Street 288,
Tel: 023 307 685
Funky hip hop boutique stocking original brand clothes and accessories, including Sean John, Rocawear and Supra. Mainly for men, though some clothes for women too. One of a kind in the capital. Open 10am to 7pm

Wanderlust
21 Street 240, Tel: 023 221 982
Fantastic 100 percent cotton clothing by Elizabeth Kiester with frocks and shirts

as cute as candy, and a variety of cool and funky accessories both for you and your home. Open 10am to 7pm, Sundays 12pm to 5pm

Water Lily
37 Street 240, Tel: 012 812 469
Eclectic shop run by Christine Gauthier selling her distinctive range of colourful unique necklaces, beads, earrings, flamboyant hats and bags. Open 8am to 5.30pm (closed Sunday).

Zoco
22B Street 278, Tel: 017 755 964
Fashion boutique run by the Spanish-born Nuria, sells dresses, skirts, bags and accessories. Has another store on the way to Serendipity Beach in Sihanoukville and a boutique in the Independence Hotel. Open daily from 9am to 9pm.

food
Alpine Trading
13 Street 90,
Tel: 012 961 084
Quality European beer importer supplies restaurants, cafes and bars.

AusKhmer – The Pantry Shop
125 Street 105, 42 Street 178,
Tel: 023 993 859, 023 214 478
This small deli features a variety of modestly priced wines, Australian beers, and shelves full of French delicacies, cheeses, antipasti, and cold cuts, as well as a selection of sweets, teas, olive oils and other neatly packaged products. Open 10am to 8pm.

Bong Karem
Tel: 092 235 336
Italian gelato delivered to your door! Also available at Kabiki, Meta House, La Veranda, Living Room, Cafe Yeji. Delivery available from 12pm to 5pm.

Boutique Tea Shop
Inside Amanjaya Pancam Hotel, Cnr. Street 154 and Sisowath Quay
Tel: 017 200 600, 098 508 080
TWG TEA products including loose teas, packaged teas, tea bags, gift collections and tea accessories are available for delivery, with special gift promotions. Open from 8am to 7:30pm

Butcher & Co.
219 Street 19, Tel: 023 223 527
Quality French butchers in the same building as Open Wine with some of the finest cuts in the city.

Camory – Premium Cookie Boutique
167 Sisowath Quay, Tel: 023 224 937
www.camoryfoods.com
Makes cookies using agricultural produce from the provinces such as cashew nuts from Kampong Cham and Monduliri honey. A portion of the profits helps fund education for a local orphanage. Open 9am to 8.30pm.

Comme a la Maison
13 Street 57, Tel: 012 951 869
Decidedly sophisticated French restaurant has a small delicatessen and bakery at the back of the restaurant ideal for that morning baguette or croissant with your coffee. Open from 6am to 10.30pm.

Dan's Meats
51A Street 214, Tel: 012 906 072
Phnom Penh's man of meat, Lanzi, supplies his strictly non-vegetarian products to many of the restaurants and bars around town. A good range of quality products is for sale at his butcher's shop. Open from 7:30 to 6:30, closed Sundays.

Kampot Pepper Promotion Association
www.kampotpepper.biz
High quality green, black, red and white

pepper from Kampot province produced according to traditional methods.

Kurata Pepper
Cnr. Streets 63 & 322, Tel: 023 726 480
Selling organic Koh Kong pepper and associated products, Kurata is one of the more unusual shops in town. Watch the workers shift through the peppercorns in a room near the front entrance. Open everyday from 8am to 7pm.

Le Phnom Shop
Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Tel: 023 981 888
Enjoy fresh breakfast pastries in the morning or arrive after 6pm for 50 percent off the pastries, cakes, sandwiches, salads and bread. Open from 7am to 9pm.

Lotus Pond
10 Street 178 above Banyan Restaurant,
Tel: 023 217 620, 012 348 865
Boutique silk and design shop retails high quality Cambodian handicrafts, such as pure Cambodian silk, carvings, statues and homemade accessories. Open from 9am to 8pm.

Madeines Bakery
172Eo Street 51, BKK I, Tel: 012 988 432
Bakery and restaurant offers a variety of baked goods as well as organic lunches and catering services. Open from 8am to 5pm, closed Sundays.

The Deli
13 Street 178, Tel: 012 851 234
Café and bakery with a good range of take away breads, sandwiches and pastries. Now has a second outlet on Street 51. Open from 6.30am to 6.30pm, delivery service (within 30 minutes) is only from 7am to 11pm.

Veggy's
23 Street 240, Tel: 023 211 534
One of the few shops catering for western tastes – marmite, Branston pickle, cereals, Barilla pasta, Lao coffee and other expat essentials. Good range of cheeses, salad and meats are stored in the walk-in cold room at the back. Open 8am to 7pm.

silks & accessories
Couleurs d'Asie
33 Street 240, Tel: 023 221 075
www.couleursd'asie.net
Shop selling French-designed silk & linen bags, scarves, cushions, pillow cases and quilts, has a selection of soaps and bath salts from Senteurs d'Angkor, Amata beauty products and Eric Raisina's unique textiles and clothing. Open 9am to 7pm (Mon to Sat), 9am to 3pm (Sun).

Friends 'n' Stuff
215 Street 13, Tel: 012 955 722
Colourful shop with unique products designed by Mith Samlanh/Friends students and parents of former street kids. Range includes clothes, necklaces, purses and second-hand goods. Also has a nail bar run by students from the beauty class. Open from 11am to 9pm.

La Clef de Sol
75E Street 108, Tel: 092 194 468
Boutique shop on the opposite La Marmite restaurant has a good range of household goods and home decorations, including tablecloths, bed linen, curtains and bags. Also does made-to-order goods. Open 10am to 7pm, closed Mondays.

Le Rit's
71 Street 240, Tel: 023-213-160
Handicraft boutique on the grounds of the training restaurant Le Rit's, the social enterprise managed by NGO NYEMO. Fun, funky and a bit different to the norm, the silks

and accessories are in fantastic bright colours. Also has a great range of children toys and hangings butterflies and bird mobiles. Second outlet on the eastern edge of Russian Market. Open from 7am to 10 pm.

Mekong Quilts
49 Street 240, Tel: 023 219 607
www.mekong-quilts.org
Outlet for NGO Mekong Plus, stocks a large range of hand-crafted bed covers, home accessories, gifts and decorations. All the profits from the store are cycled through Mekong Plus, which provides scholarships to promote many health and quality of life initiatives in remote villages in Svay Rieng Province. Open 9am to 7pm.

Mulberry Boutique
9 Street 51,
Tel: 016 222 750
Boutique silk and souvenir shop next to Flavours restaurant has a wide range of quality silk products, including bags, scarves, wall hangings and cushion covers, as well as jewellery. Open from 8am to 9:30pm.

Sayon Silk Works
Street 19, Tel: 023 990 219,
www.sayonsilkworks.com
Since 2001 self-taught Cambodian designer Sayon has created all her own handbags, cushions, scarves and quilts from Cambodian silk, which are on sale in her boutique behind Royal Palace. Open from 9am to 7pm.

Silk & Pepper
Amanjaya Hotel
Range of contemporary silk home interior products inspired by Asian and western designs with tailor-made silks and linens. Also sells Kampot pepper. Open from 8.30am to 7pm.

Sobbhana Boutique
24 Street 144/49, Tel: 023 219 455
www.sobbhana.org
A not for profit organisation founded by Princess Norodom Marie, offering a range of colourful, handwoven silk products. Profits help to support local women by funding the training, medical care and education of weavers.

Wine
AusKhmer - The Pantry Shop
125 Street 105, Tel: 023 993 859
This small deli features a variety of modestly priced wines, Australian beers, and shelves full of French delicacies, cheeses, antipasti and cold cuts. Also has an outlet on Street 178. Open 10am to 8pm.

Celliers d'Asie
62B & 98 Street 432, Tel: 023 986 350
Wine supplier with the largest quantity of retail stock in town, the Celliers d'Asie group has been providing wine to most of the top hotels and restaurants in town for over ten years. Open 8am to 12pm and 2pm to 6pm, closed Sundays.

Open Wine
219 Street 19, Tel: 023 223 527
Aircon wine shop and tasting gallery sells wines, severac, calvados and meat. Open from 7pm to 11pm.

Quarto Products
30, 31 Street 108, Tel: 023 221 576
email: yuthana@quarto-products.com
Fine food and wine distributors with large range of wines from around the world is open from 8:30am to 1pm and 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

Red Apron
15-17 Eo Street 240, Tel: 023 990 951
Home of wine enthusiasts in Phnom Penh is both a wine boutique and tasting gallery. With around 300 wines, the boutique has far more range for a special occasion than the supermarkets. Open from 9am to 9pm. 📍



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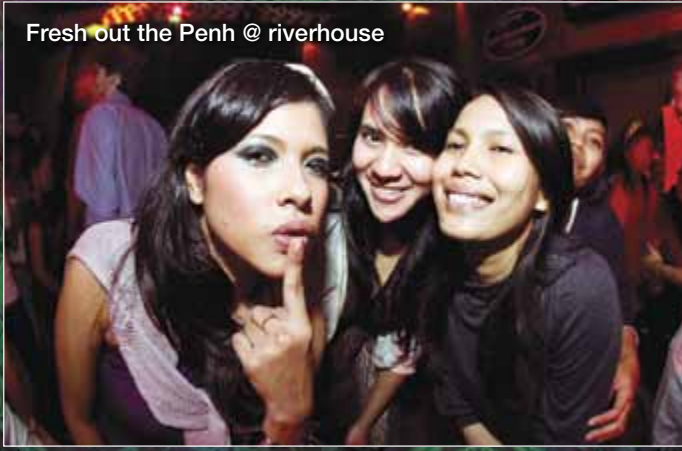
SPOTLIGHT



Elements Club



Canada Tower 1st birthday



Fresh out the Penh @ riverhouse



Velvet - Riverhouse Lounge



Fresh out the Penh @ riverhouse



Elements Club



Harem



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VIP program launch - Riverhouse Lounge



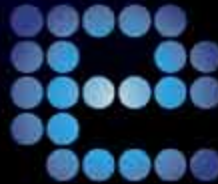
VIP program launch - Riverhouse Lounge



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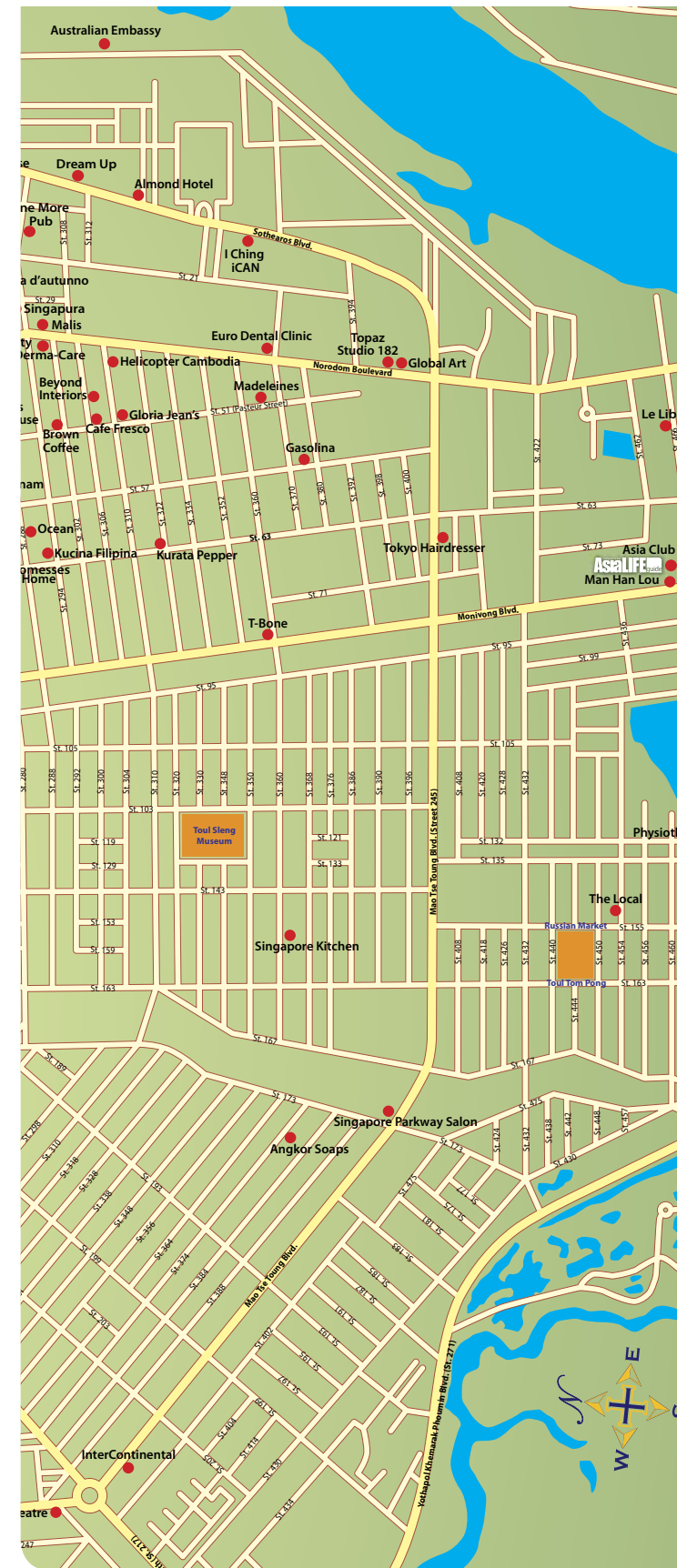
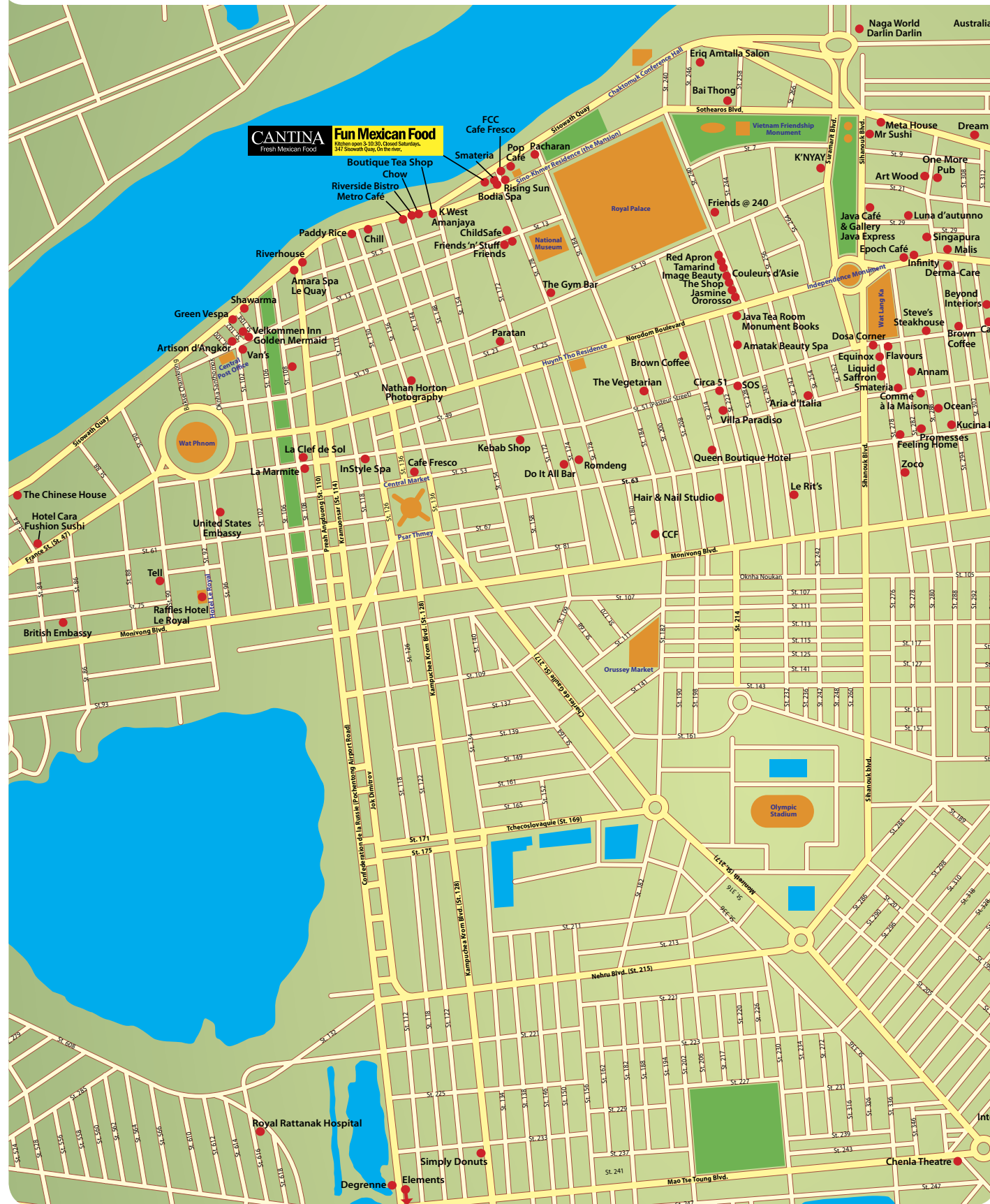


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album review



CEELO GREEN THE LADY KILLER

'F* you'—the title of the first single released from CeeLo Green's third album should be enough to realise this isn't an easy listening, mellow R&B album. No classic lady killer then, but there again CeeLo likes to mix things up—classic soul with jazz and Motown. The first single is, undoubtedly, profane but it's also catchy and infectious. It's not the only track on the album that stands out. With a bevy of well known producers on hand—Salaam Remi and Brit synthesisers Fraser T. Smith and Paul Epworth, Bruno Mars' crew the Smeezingtons—coupled with the singer's voice, there is a lot of old school soul in here to make you want to keep listening. When he slows down, as he does with the seductive 'Bodies' or 'No One's Gonna Love You', it doesn't throw you off. There's an 80s inspired homage in 'Bright Lights Bigger City' with the tune of 'Billie Jean' echoing in the background. The collaboration with Earth Wind and Fire's Philip Bailey on 'Fool for You' is the closest to old-school on the album. Plenty in here to make you want to groove to soul, in a way that only Cee-Lo knows how.



GIRLS BROKEN DREAMS CLUB

It's clear that Girls have grown up a lot since their debut 'Album' last year. The scabiness of their sound and look on debut is all gone, replaced by a band that, well, sounds like a band. Bassist and producer Chet White has created an ode to modern day American rock 'n' roll. Frontman Christopher Owens' songwriting skills too get better on this album. There's a lonesomeness about his writing that tears at you. The simple lyrics in 'Substance' coupled with a great guitar solo and Owens' deep voice, make this a stunning track. In another heartbreaking song, 'Thee Oh So Protective One', he sings: "He'll never know about the times that you cried in your bedroom/ About the times that you cried in your classroom/ About your mother or your father or the way you got your broken heart." In 'Carolina' you get a hint of what the band is thinking in terms of its future—it is a hybrid of sorts, still rock, but with a rising tempo on the guitar towards the end of the track. It is the fusion of love songs, great chords and Owens' great voice that make Girls a band to keep on your radar, as they are going to get better.



ORCHESTRAL MANOEUVRES IN THE DARK HISTORY OF MODERN

No, you are not mistaken. OMD is the same band you heard in John Hughes' *Pretty in Pink*. This album marks their comeback. In today's world where the unlikely of people become pop stars and legends need to do the most unsavoury things to compete with tween acts, OMD's comeback is no surprise. Neither, sadly is the album. It's reliable, safe, even good, but I suspect it's all that and more for the synth-disco nostalgics amongst us alone. There are definitely tracks in *History of Modern* that will make it to your iPod. 'The Future, the Past, and Forever After' is fun and catchy, which is why you're listening to OMD in the first place. It's the lush, romantic 80s electronica that you're craving. But OMD will not appeal to a young generation with this album, much like *Tears for Fears* or Erasure's comeback albums were played only by fans, and failed to elicit any response from the youth. This isn't to suggest that old bands can't reunite and relaunch, but there's a time, place and market for everything, and OMD's cheesy romantic ballads better suited for proms, might not be young people's "thang" right now.



BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN THE PROMISE: THE DARKNESS ON THE EDGE OF TOWN STORY

Unlike other releases, where a few never-before-heard are thrown together and re-released, 'The Promise' is an impressive compilation. The Boss did it right with this album that contains two CD sets of unreleased songs written when Springsteen was producing 'Darkness on the Edge of Town', his seminal work between 1977 to 1978. There are 22 tracks we've not had the pleasure to hear before—and pleasure it is—even if you're not a die hard Springsteen fan. There's also a deluxe set which contains the unreleased work plus *Darkness* re-mastered and three DVDs that are packaged in a notebook format which includes the Boss' handwritten notes from that time in the studio. In total it is ten hours of audio and video. Is the music that didn't make the cut to *Darkness* any good? Absolutely. To the point where you have to wonder why it didn't appear in subsequent albums. At least we have it now. 'Racing in the Street' is a ballad in which the Boss sings about a girlfriend who: "Stares off alone into the night/ With the eyes of one who hates for just being born." This is classic Springsteen, grim but still hopeful, about soldiering on despite the circumstances. Other noteworthy songs

John Thornton

top ten



Official 97.5 Love FM Phnom Penh Top 10

no.	title	artist
1	<i>Just The Way You Are</i>	Bruno Mars
2	<i>Love The Way You Lie</i>	Eminem feat. Rihanna
3	<i>Like A G6</i>	Far East Movement
4	<i>Beautiful Monster</i>	Neyo
5	<i>2012</i>	Jay Sean feat. Nicki Minaj
6	<i>Club Can't Handle Me</i>	Flo Rida
7	<i>Teenage Dream</i>	Katy Perry
8	<i>Just A Dream</i>	Nelly
9	<i>Speechless</i>	Lady Gaga
10	<i>Take It Off</i>	Kesha

UK Top 10

1	<i>Only Girl (In The World)</i>	Rihanna
2	<i>The Flood</i>	Take That
3	<i>Firework</i>	Katy Perry
4	<i>Shine A Light</i>	McFly feat. Taio Cruz
5	<i>Happiness</i>	Alexis Jordan
6	<i>Cooler Than Me</i>	Mike Posner
7	<i>Promise This</i>	Cheryl Cole
8	<i>Just The Way You Are</i>	Bruno Mars
9	<i>Make You Feel My Love</i>	Adele
10	<i>Forget You</i>	Cee Lo Green

US Top 10

1	<i>What's My Name</i>	Rihanna feat. Drake
2	<i>Like A G6</i>	Far*East Movement feat. Cataracs & Dev
3	<i>Just The Way You Are</i>	Bruno Mars
4	<i>Only Girl (In The World)</i>	Rihanna
5	<i>We R Who We R</i>	Ke\$ha
6	<i>Just A Dream</i>	Nelly
7	<i>Raise Your Glass</i>	P!nk
8	<i>Bottoms Up</i>	Trey Songz feat. Nicki Minaj
9	<i>DJ Got Us Falling In Love</i>	Usher feat. Pitbull
10	<i>Firework</i>	Katy Perry

endorsed



Burma VJ Nora Lindstrom

Academy Award Nominee for Best Documentary Feature, *Burma VJ* packs a punch. It's one of those films that may make you question what you're doing with your life, and whether you shouldn't be doing something more worthwhile.

Very current in the aftermath of the Nov. 7 mock-elections, the film follows 27-year-old "Joshua", an undercover video journalist who together with a group of others documents the reality of life in the junta-led country. Shooting at great personal risk using handheld video cameras, the VJs cover events in the streets of Yangon, producing footage which is then smuggled out of the country and broadcast back into Myanmar via satellite.

The material is also offered to international media, making it is some of the only real news coming out of the police state.

The documentary, made by filmmaker Anders Ostergaard, strings together footage by Joshua and his friends with a focus on the historical and dramatic days of September 2007, when the Buddhist monks started marching. Hiding amongst the crowds and doing their best to evade the police and state intelligence, the VJs document the uprising. Without their tireless efforts, this show of defiance against their despotic rulers may have gone largely unnoticed. This, without question, is important journalism.

Burma VJ is not without its parallels in Cambodia. Recent crackdowns on the freedom of speech, including the imprisonment of journalists on charges of disinformation, raise concerns about the future of the freedom of expression in Myanmar's neighbour too.

Yet at the same time, Cambodian VJs are making their debut. Students are embracing social media and film, while monks and ordinary villagers are using video cameras to document human rights abuses taking place around the country. Screened almost every month at Meta House, *Burma VJ* could be a source of inspiration for more Cambodians to start exercising their freedom of speech.

The documentary is however also a reminder that in dictatorships, freedom often comes at a cost. At least five VJs and individual activists who took part in the film are currently incarcerated for their roles in the Saffron Revolution. In the film itself, Joshua has to flee the country and the VJs' office is raided.

Nevertheless, their inspirational work continues. The outlet for the Burmese VJs' footage, the Democratic Voice of Burma, covered the recent elections, providing a vital window into the country at a time when international observers and foreign journalists were banned by the junta. We can only hope these brave freedom fighters have the courage to continue.

letter



ILLUSTRATION BY WUTH / OUR BOOKS

A Letter on Hiding from Christmas

Will Koenig

Living in a foreign land is always a challenge.

It's not the big things. When you buy the plane ticket to the tropics, you know it will be hot, that people will speak a different language and drive on the wrong side of the road. If you've read the guide books, you expect to see people walking about in colourful robes, fighting in the streets, and eating household pets—or doing all three if you've stumbled upon a group of particularly naughty monks.

Most tourists, whether short term or the permanent variety, want to see the exotic and bizarre—and take pictures to send home to their less-adventurous friends and relatives. I baffled any number of Cambodians by dropping what I was doing to take dozens of shots of what they considered mundane: a cow trundling down a suburban street or food vendors cooking with charcoal on the side of the road.

The little things turn you into a stereotype of a cranky expat. It's the motorcycle-driving 10-year-old who constantly beeps his horn while you're stuck in the middle of a traffic jam that prompts you to explode in a lengthy tirade, which he won't understand anyway.

It's being stuck in a provincial village and realising that, no matter how exciting this adventure will appear in retrospect, all you really want is a slice of pizza.

And it's spending Christmas Eve year after year entirely surrounded by Cambodians, no matter how nice and friendly they are. Because they don't realise that Madonna songs—that's the pop singer not the mother of Jesus—really don't fit with the traditional western conception of Christmas.

Despite the presence of a scraggly fake Christmas tree and loads of holiday cheer—the desire to party transcends all cultures—I could never

bring myself to enjoy the festive season in Cambodia. The knowledge that I was being an ungrateful barang Grinch certainly made me feel guilty, but it didn't help me to feel cheerful.

I knew that if I were back home, I'd just be lounging on a couch, eating pumpkin pie while watching *Die Hard* and *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. The presents from my beloved family would involve mundane things such as socks. It would not be a white Christmas, as Western Oregon winters deliver little more than shades of grey. But it would be Christmas at home.

So after several Christmases in Cambodia, I learned that the best thing to do was get out of town. To avoid even the hint of Christmas. My wife, being Cambodian, didn't mind the lack of Christmas.

On some level it was a relief to get away from foreigners obsessed with fuzzy stockings,

twinkling lights and fat men dressed in red.

We spent Christmas in her hometown, on the banks of the Mekong. No Christmas talk, no Christmas trees, just treks through the countryside, swimming in the Mekong and dolphin watching. There was plenty of family though. Over the course of the week I met an absurd number of her relatives. It was refreshing to forget the little things and remember the big things that made it worth living in Cambodia.

Unsurprisingly, there was no pizza in Kratie, but I can fondly reflect on that now we live in America. This Christmas we will reminisce about the good old days, while watching *Gremlins* and eating pumpkin pie. And my wife will sit by the window, waiting to take pictures of any errant snowflake.

Will Koenig lives with his wife and son in Oregon, where he eats too much pumpkin pie and pizza. Contact him at will.koenig@gmail.com.

bookshelf



Palo Alto
James Franco
Scribner

It's almost easy to dislike James Franco, actor, filmmaker, writer in various genres and now PhD aspirant at Yale as a young man who has it all and remains so darn grounded. But, dislike him you can't for that very reason. In his first collection of short stories, *Palo Alto*, Franco portrays the inner angst of the teenage mind told by a group of interconnected teens, all in the first person. Although the minutia of his painstaking attention to detail can sometimes overwhelm, this allows Franco to reassert his characters' struggles with their own identity. He grasps their inner angst well, be it a group of students debating slavery in 1800 or the rage that leads a boy to kill another in a bitter locker room brawl, or the man who rapes his girlfriend with vegetables. Be warned, it is a violent read but one that shouldn't disappoint.



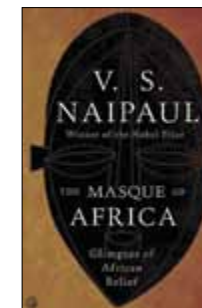
Player One
Douglas Coupland
William Heinemann

Fans of Douglas Coupland who read *Hey Nostradamus* (2004) might feel a sense of déjà vu with *Player One* in that the characters find themselves in the middle of a massacre. But that is where the similarity ends. In his latest offering, Coupland writes about four people caught in the middle of a maelstrom, at an airport bar, where there is no order, anywhere in the world. Then news comes that a sniper has descended into the airport bar and is shooting people—all this is told by a fifth narrator, Player One, whose identity remains cloaked until the end. It is against this seemingly horrific backdrop that the characters come together, free to share their innermost secrets and fears, however awful. Above all it is told by a master storyteller like. His dark humour provides a commentary on the modernity that traps us in our existence and the hope that loneliness can be outdone.



Life
Keith Richards
Little, Brown and Co.

Even if you don't like the Rolling Stones (but how can you not?) there's no denying that Keith Richards is the soul of the band and, as Michiko Kakutani said, "the very avatar of rebellion: the desperado, the buccaneer, the poète maudit, the soul survivor and main offender, the torn and frayed outlaw, and the coolest dude on the planet, named both No. 1 on the rock stars most-likely-to-die list and the one life form (besides the cockroach) capable of surviving nuclear war." This sentence alone should prompt you to want to read the autobiography that has enthralled readers since its release last month. Entertaining, engaging and candid, it is not just a memoir of Richards but of rock and roll back then—its coming of age and its climb to superpower. Oh and Richard also dishes on his relationship with Mick Jagger, which should leave you clambering for this memoir.



The Masque of Africa: Glimpses of African Belief
V. S. Naipaul
Alfred Knopf

For 50 years Nobel Laureate V.S. Naipaul has written about the displaced, people like himself, an East Indian whose family found itself in Trinidad. His writing has taken him to far flung places when no one was going. And he has often said things that no one would dare to say, for which he has been both acclaimed and vilified. In *Masque of Africa*, some of his earlier work is reprised as he writes about his travels and observations on Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Gabon and South Africa. His firm opinions will shock, for example when he says that as Africa approaches modernity, it "remained a land of bush...with no future." But now, at 78, he returns to these places to learn about African beliefs: from sorcery in Uganda to witchcraft in Nigeria, no subject is spared.

pub quiz

On Christmas Day...

- 1) What was the name of the former dictator of Romania, who was executed on Christmas Day, 1989?
- 2) What is the capital of Nicaragua, which was devastated by an earthquake on Christmas Day, 1972?
- 3) Unable to maintain control over a disintegrating Soviet Union, who announced his resignation as president on Christmas Day, 1991?
- 4) For which 1951 film did actor Humphrey Bogart, who was born in New York on Christmas Day, 1899, win the Academy Award for best actor playing a gin-drinking boatman?
- 5) From the Welsh for "session", what name is given to the competitive festival of music and poetry, the first of which was held on Christmas Day, 1176 in Cardigan Castle?

Christmas Stuffing

- 6) What fruity sauce is traditionally served with turkey?
- 7) What sort of pudding is demanded in the song 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'?
- 8) Which Victorian cook wrote a definitive guide to Christmas?
- 9) What is traditionally stirred on 'Stir-up Sunday'?
- 10) The turkey is a native of which continent?

Christmas Songs

- 11) According to the 1949 hit single, 'All I Want For Christmas' is what?
- 12) According to the song, 'Frosty The Snowman' what kind of soul does Frosty have?
- 13) Which Christmas song starts "Sleigh bells ring, are you listening"?
- 14) 'Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy' is a Christmas song featuring which odd couple?
- 15) It would of been a laugh if Daddy had seen Mommy doing what last night?

Christmas Films

- 16) In 'The Muppet Christmas Carol', who plays Ebenezer Scrooge?
- 17) In which film do Kevin's parents go to France for the Christmas holidays?
- 18) Who produced and co-wrote The Nightmare Before Christmas?
- 19) 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas', who played the Grinch?
- 20) Who played Kris Kringle in the 1994 version of 'Miracle on 34th Street'?

Christmas Around the World

- 21) Where is Sinterklaas, helped by colourful helpers known as "Black Petes"?
- 22) In many parts of Central Europe fish is eaten for Christmas dinner, which fish?
- 23) Which ASEAN country has earned the distinction of celebrating the world's longest Christmas season?
- 24) Who found himself in hot water after he alleged that he spent Christmas in 1968 on a boat in Cambodia?
- 25) The Euphorbia pulcherrima, native to Mexico and Central America, has become associated with Christmas, especially in North America. How is it more commonly known?

Christmas in the Movies

26)



27)



28)



29)



30)



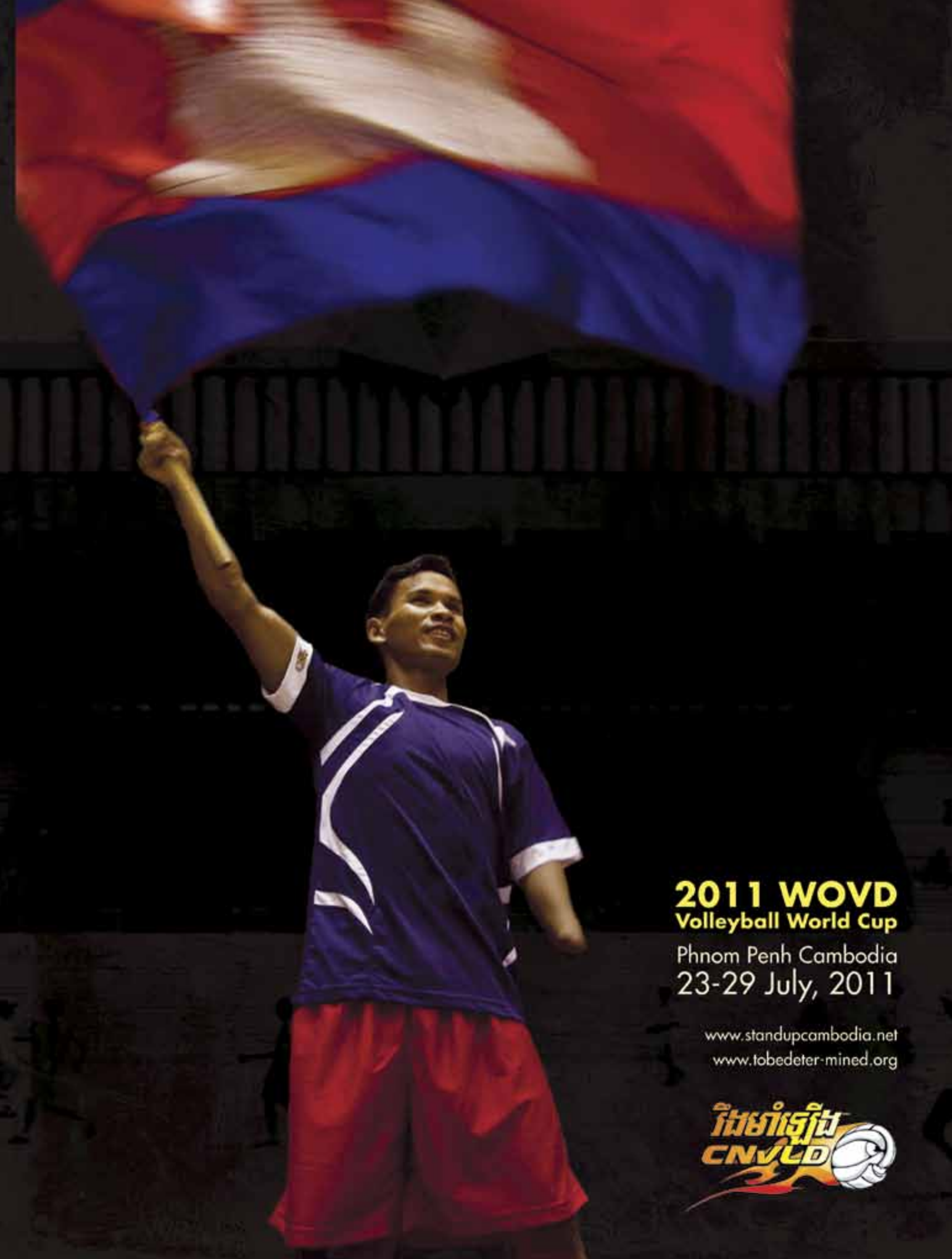
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				6				7
		5	7					
				5	8			

- pub quiz answers
- 1) Nikolai Ceausescu 2) Managua 3) Mikhail Gorbachev 4) The African Queen 5) The Eisteddfod 6) Cranberry Jelly 7) Figgy Pudding 8) Mrs Beeton 9) Christmas Pudding 10) North America 11) My Two Front Teeth 12) A Jolly Happy Soul 13) Winter Wonderland 14) Bing Crosby and David Bowie 15) Kissing Santa Claus 16) Michael Caine 17) Home Alone 18) Tim Burton 19) Jim Carrey 20) Richard Attenborough 21) The Netherlands 22) Carp 23) The Philippines 24) John Kerry 25) Poinsettia 26) Die Hard 27) When Harry Met Sally 28) Trading Places 29) Love Actually 30) Little Women



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