

GO ASIA Singapore



Business and pleasure

City state has plenty to offer for investors and visitors seeking amazing attractions



There's a huge range of food in Singapore to satisfy all tastes. Photo: Bloomberg

GO ASIA - SINGAPORE

Highly coveted housing

Developers focus on creating the ultimate luxury projects in a limited number of units, writes Nazvi Careem

The pace of growth of Singapore's luxury property market may lag behind that of other residential projects amid government curbs, but specialist developers continue to build elite condominiums and landed property to tap the country's high density of affluent residents.

SC Global Developments is among the leading luxury property developers in Singapore. The company is known for working with top-class architects and building limited-edition and exclusive properties in prime areas.

Its signature development so far is Seven Palms Sentosa Cove, an exclusive beachfront residence of 41 units.

The first phase of sales in 2009 saw the release of 10 units at about S\$8.5 million (HK\$51.4 million), or S\$3,300 per square foot.

Next year, the company is expected to launch its next major project, The Sculptura Ardmore – a 36-storey building at Ardmore Park consisting of 35 units, with two floors of car parking.

The size of the units range from 4,200 to 11,000 sq ft, and the structure is designed by Carlos Zapata.

Simon Cheong, CEO and chairman of SC Global Developments, said at its unveiling: "Sculptura Ardmore is a remarkable



Seven Palms Sentosa Cove is an exclusive beachfront residence consisting of 41 large-sized units.

development and will mark the group's first project in the prestigious Ardmore Park enclave.

"We realise what a truly unique opportunity we have with this highly coveted site in this most exclusive of neighbourhoods. With this rare opportunity on hand, we have spared no expense in this development, which will be our most expensive project to construct to date.

"We have brought forth a culmination of all of our experience,

knowledge and innovation in the luxury market over our past 12 years to pour into this truly original and visionary project."

Cheong wanted the development to encompass a fresh interpretation of luxury living. The apartments wrap around a central core with a curved glass façade with glass fins that slide along the exterior to protect residents from the sun.

Promoted as bungalows in the sky, Cheong says it is the ultimate in luxury.

"It is important that internal living spaces are not compromised by unconventional architecture," he says. "The challenge with Sculptura Ardmore was to create the best living spaces wrapped around an architectural form designed as a beautiful and elegant sculptural work of art."

SC Global's Seven Palms development is one of the most famous luxury residential properties in Singapore and was announced with much fanfare in 2009.

Built on around 114,000 sq ft of land at the southernmost end of Sentosa Cove, the property is a snug cul-de-sac flanked by Tanjong Beach and Sentosa golf course on one side and the South China Sea on the other.

Cheong was quoted as saying: "To step out of your residence and walk directly on to the beach is a

truly unique in urban Singapore. The allure of coastal living is truly captivating; nothing comes close to the hypnotic sounds of waves washing the shoreline."

To capture the ambience found in some of the world's finest boutique resorts, the residential units at Seven Palms are wrapped around an expansive grass-covered coconut grove in a U-shaped plan, with the remaining broad side completely open to the South China Sea.

The view across the grove to the open sea is complemented by the sight of a 45-metre infinity-edged lap pool stretching across the entire open side of the U-plan.

To maintain privacy and exclusivity, Seven Palms features only large-sized units within a low-density architecture to distinguish itself from other residential developments at Sentosa Cove.

The development features three-, four- and five-bedroom units in three, four-storey-high blocks formed around a square coconut grove measuring about 50 metres.

A huge, open-ended portal connects the coconut grove to the beach for physical and visual access. Under this portal is a luxuriously appointed beach club, complete with storage for water sports equipment, a glass-walled gymnasium and



abundant space for lounging, yoga and catered events.

Seven Palms also provides 100 car park lots for the 41 units.

All ground-floor and penthouse units come with a private lap pool. Penthouse units are on the fourth storey and feature a private roof terrace, a 10-metre lap pool and uninterrupted views of the South China Sea, the beach lagoon and the Sentosa golf course. Penthouses range from approximately 4,000 to 8,000 sq ft in size.

Apart from the through-space in every unit, the amount of daylight allowed into the interior or the level of privacy desired can be controlled by tilting movable panels in the front, and pivoted baffles that can direct views at the rear.

Other developments by SC Global include Hilltops, Martin No. 38 and The Marq on Paterson Hill.



Hilltops is among SC Global's many luxury developments in Singapore.

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Mix of ancient and modern

Museum showcases Egyptian mummy alongside iconic American designers, writes **Nazvi Careem**



The mummy of Nesperennub

A mysterious journey into ancient Egypt's burial sciences and an eye-opening insight into one of America's most influential design couples offer contrasting, yet fascinating, opportunities for families to widen their horizons at the ArtScience Museum at Singapore's iconic Marina Bay Sands resort.

In March, the museum celebrated a first for Singapore and Southeast Asia with the arrival of "Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb", in which the secrets of Egyptian burial practices and mummification processes are revealed in technologically advanced detail.

The exhibition features six mummies and more than 100 artefacts from the British Museum's famed Egyptian collection, along with an innovative 3D film that provides visitors with a new perspective on how the ancient Egyptians sent their dead to the afterlife.

The centrepiece of the show, which opened on April 27, is the mummy of Nesperennub, a temple priest who lived 3,000 years ago and died at approximately the age of 40.

"The British Museum is one of the world's top museums, with unparalleled expertise in the study of historic ancient Egypt. It's an honour to partner with such a distinguished organisation to bring 'Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb' to Southeast Asia for the first time," says Ross Leo, associate director of the ArtScience Museum.

"To enhance an already innovative exhibition, ArtScience Museum is introducing a host of interactive programming and workshops that will put our own unique stamp on 'Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb'," says Dr John Taylor, the exhibition's curator. "The result is an exhibition that provides a modern and insightful view on an ancient subject, and a visitor experience that's one-of-a-kind in every way."

Taylor, who is also assistant keeper of the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan for the British Museum, adds:



Iconic Eames furniture is on display at the ArtScience Museum. Photo: Reuters

"Having visited the United States, Europe, Japan, India and Australia, Nesperennub is now the most widely travelled ancient Egyptian in the world. The story of his life and death, as presented in the 3D film, opens a window onto the ancient past, which we hope will fascinate and inspire visitors of all ages."

The British Museum used cutting-edge CT scanning technology and computer visualisation techniques to perform a "virtual unwrapping" of Nesperennub without disturbing the cartonnage or any of the delicate material surrounding the mummy.

The result was 6,500 separate images, and the findings discovered were converted into a 3D film shedding light on Nesperennub's life and death. The 21-minute film is an integral part of the exhibition and complimentary for all ticket-holders.

Other exhibition attractions include "Amulets for the Afterlife", a workshop inspired by the various colourful amulets on display in "Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb". Taking place in the Embalmer's Workshop, this hands-on activity gives participants an opportunity to learn how amulets were made in ancient Egypt and create their own clay-baked and painted version to take home.

Also taking place in the Embalmer's Workshop is "The Secrets of Embalming", developed by ArtScience Museum, which shows visitors how ancient Egyptians preserved the departed through a hands-on demonstration that allows for audience participation.

From the ancient world to modern art, ArtScience Museum is also showing "Essential Eames: A Herman Miller Exhibition", which captures the spirit and philosophy that inspired Charles and Bernice "Ray" Eames, the husband-and-wife design team who made a massive impact on modern architecture and furniture concepts.

The exhibition is based on the book, *An Eames Primer*, by the couple's grandson, Eames Demetrios, and presented along with furniture company Herman Miller, with which Charles and Ray Eames had a unique relationship.

ATTRACTIONS

Featuring more than 100 pieces, "Essential Eames" will showcase a number of rare and never-before-seen works and images from the Eames family collection, the Eames office and the archives of Herman Miller.

The Eames' designs have graced homes and offices around the world for decades, and their creative output is also manifested in toy making and film.

Among their original furniture designs includes a chair for Pope John Paul II, which will be featured at the exhibition along with the Herman Miller Eames wood-shell chair and original paintings by Ray Eames, which will be shown in the Asia-Pacific for the first time.

The exhibition will also feature "Mathematica", designed in 1961 and explaining complex mathematical concepts through simple forms. The numbers-based exhibit has been on continuous display at the California Museum of Science for 27 years.

In addition, the exhibition will showcase "House of Cards", which is among the couple's most-loved toys, and a handful of films that they produced.

Apart from intellectual stimulation at Marina Bay Sands, families can also enjoy physical fun at a number of attractions.

One of the most popular is the 600-square-metre ice skating rink, which is made from synthetic ice, as well as an artificial river inside the mall on which visitors can ride sampan-like boats.

For a visual feast, check out the nightly "Wonder Full" sound and light show, which lasts 15 minutes and features visual effects and holograms projected on a wall of water.



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Tenure of Land: 99 Years from 27 Oct 2007 on Lot MK 34 Lot No. 2252K Building Plan Approval No. A0727-00001-2008 BP01/02/03/04 dated 22 Dec 2008, 24 Feb 2009, 3 Aug 2009 and 8 Feb 2013

GO ASIA - SINGAPORE

Tasty tour of Asian cuisine

Iconic dishes from many cultures are everywhere from stalls to upscale eateries. Reports by Lin Yang



Candlenut Kitchen serves classic Peranakan dishes such as beef buah keluak (above) and chendol cream (below).



From old favourites to new trends, Singapore has cemented its status as Asia's food hub. Those who are interested in sampling the many tastes of Asia need only make one stop. A perk of having a strategic trade location on the Strait of Malacca is the plethora of spices and flavours that come through this tiny city state. With Chinese, Malay and Indian roots, Singapore offers cuisine from all these cultures at a variety of venues.

To taste what the locals devour, head to one the island's hawker centres, that are outdoor food courts located in various neighbourhoods. Although most of these centres offer the same range of fare, a few standouts are worth mentioning.

Tian Tian Chicken Rice has been an institution, regularly cited for serving the best of this iconic dish. Its rice steamed in chicken broth is known for being very fragrant and buttery moist.

Tian Tian serves its chicken slow-braised in stock, with a home-made lime-based chilli sauce. Long queues are standard at the stall's original location in the Maxwell Food Centre, but Tian Tian has taken advantage of its growing brand by opening three more air conditioned locations around the island.

For Malay cuisine, head to Changi Village Hawker Centre, where two nasi lemak stalls have faced off for decades. Nasi lemak is



rice cooked in coconut milk and usually served with a variety of sides, such as anchovies, a fried-chicken wing, a sweet chilli sauce and a fish paste known as otah.

International Muslim Food is one of the stalls and arguably has the best fried chicken, while its competitor Mizzy's Corner might win on the sweet chilli sauce and coconut rice. Visitors will have to decide for themselves.

Peranakan cuisine, Chinese-styled dishes using Southeast Asian ingredients, has taken Singapore's food scene by storm with a series of upscale restaurant openings. One of them is Candlenut Kitchen, which reopened earlier this year with a fresh take on the cuisine.

"People in Singapore are increasingly trying to rediscover their roots, and are looking for traditions that are slowly being lost to Western influence," says Malcolm

Lee, Candlenut Kitchen's head chef and owner. "Peranakan food needs long hours of preparation and therefore is not easily available like other street food that can be found in cheap roadside or food court stalls with small kitchens."

Candlenut Kitchen features some Peranakan favourites, including beef buah keluak, a short rib set in rich gravy made from the buah keluak nut. The poisonous nut requires five days of soaking in water in order to be cleaned. Another dish, babi pongteh, features pork belly braised in preserved soybean paste and topped with chillis. Finish the meal off with chendol cream, a home-made coconut milk custard topped with pandan jelly and a palm sugar sauce.

Finally, no visit to Singapore would be complete without a giant plate of chilli crab. The crab is usually dripping with a chilli tomato gravy, so no diner can avoid digging in with their hands. At Long Beach Seafood, the chilli crab is made with fresh Sri Lankan crab sitting on top of an egg-thickened gravy. Long Beach Seafood will also provide Chinese-style steamed buns to sop up the leftover sauce.

Once full, take a walk along Singapore's picturesque East Coast Park and see some of the merchant ships that have come and gone from the city state's shores and have helped make this island a food haven for generations.

Hawker centres have appeal

If you are short on time, there are plenty of food centres across Singapore where visitors can sample a variety of dishes in one place.

Old Airport Road Food Centre is one of the most popular hawker centres in Singapore, and they do some Chinese-style dishes very well. Notable stalls include Katong Ah Soon Fried Oyster, which specialises in oysters stir-fried with egg with a chilli sauce dip on the side. Or, head to Xin Mei Xiang Lor Mee and sample this rice noodle soup with fish balls, prawn rolls, egg, and cilantro as toppings.

Blanco Court Kway Chap,

another stall, serves some of the best braised intestines in town.

Address: Block 51, Old Airport Road, Singapore

East Coast Seafood Centre, one of the best places to get seafood on the island, is located right on the water in Singapore's picturesque East Coast Park. Long Beach Seafood is located here, as well as plenty of other restaurants that will serve up chilli crab, black pepper crab, drunken prawns, and steamed fish.

http://goo.gl/maps/3RfxM

The Maxwell Road Hawker Centre near Chinatown has more than 100 stalls offering a variety of

dishes that include Chinese congee and char kway teow.

Address: Maxwell Road, Singapore

Koufu Cookhouse @ JEM, an alternative to sweaty outdoor dining, is an air conditioned upscale food court located in one of the largest neighbourhood malls in Singapore. Diners can get everything from chicken rice to curries, spicy hot pot, and even rojak, a traditional Malay salad with fresh fruit and vegetables over a dressing made with chillies, lime, sugar, and shrimp paste.

www.koufu.com.sg/concept-stores/koufuhouse



Maxwell Road Hawker Centre has variety. Photo: Singapore Tourism Board

Just the treatment

Evolving skyline adds to wealth of options, writes Catharine Nicol



Singapore's population flockes mostly to the day spas that pepper almost every street, but hotel spas are beginning to cater for more than just the international crowd. With a spa skyline that's constantly evolving, there's always a new spa, treatment or trend to discover.

At Banyan Tree's flagship spa at Marina Bay Sands, take an ear-popping ride to the 55th floor for the eye-popping views over the city. Inside, the interiors blend luxury with an enchanted forest style from the reception's centrepiece Tree of Life right through the vine-lined corridors to the spa suite details. Treatments focus on indigenous ingredients. The Classic Rejuvenation package of scrub is new, and uses locally sourced topical fruit, followed by an hour's energising Balinese massage. www.banyantreespa.com

Good for frazzled Singaporeans



COMO Shambhala Urban Escape offers a variety of massage therapy options.

or weary travellers, the new Jetset Recovery treatment at the COMO Shambhala Urban Escape, which opened in April, is the perfect mind-body combination of yoga or Pilates

plus massage. The private class is tailor-made – would you like to be relaxed or energised, increase flexibility or calm your mind, before a choice of deep tissue or signature

massage. Check out the naturopathy and nutrition in the spa and pre-natal and kids' classes in the studio.

www.comoshambhala.com

Over on Sentosa, ESPA's resort-sized, 10,000-square-metre lifestyle complex of pools and relaxation rooms, treatment cabins and sleep pods, gardens and water features surround Tangerine Café – tempting you to spend an entire day. The resort's new Spa Holidays have guests staying one to three nights in the spa-tastic Beach Villas and checking in every day for an itinerary of fitness, nutrition and beauty, plus spa cuisine. Central to the programme is bound to be a session in the spectacular Hammam. www.rvsentosa.com

Right in the middle of nature, Spa Boutique is housed in a beautifully historic 1930s black-and-white colonial bungalow. Those strong enough to withstand the tropical heat will love the garden

classes of Pilates and yoga. But to escape the climate, head into one of the airy treatment rooms for a signature Raindrop Therapy, where eight different oils are sprinkled along the spine before a balancing aromatherapy massage. There are also facials using Maria Galland skincare products.

www.spaboutique.com.sg

Relaunched this month, St. Gregory Spa's flagship location has a distinct Balinese style with water, bamboo and rattan to enhance the tropical feel. Indonesia features on the eclectic menu too, with the Mandi Kepala (hair crème bath) originally Javanese. There's a Balinese massage, beautifully firm, and Lomi Lomi and Shiatsu, and facials, scrubs and wraps by Elemis. A menu of Chinese therapies includes the renowned Tui Na massage, cupping and scraping. www.stgregoryspa.com

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GO ASIA - SINGAPORE

Luxury collection

Mall at Marina Bay Sands continues to add to its roster of top brands, many of which offer exclusive items. Reports by Nazvi Careem

SHOPPING

The Shoppes at Singapore's Marina Bay Sands is one of the city state's largest shopping malls, with an accent on luxury goods.

Italian fashion label Prada is the latest retailer to expand its presence at the nearly 1 million sq ft wonderland of high-end retailers.

Prada announced last month that it was expanding its duplex at The Shoppes to build a third level, which is designed to be the brand's first standalone men's boutique in Singapore.

The additional 2,500 sq ft of retail space – for a total of 9,483 sq ft – will also make Prada's store the first triplex at The Shoppes.

Last month, the mall also welcomed Japanese pearl jewellery expert Mikimoto and Swiss watchmaker Parmigiani Fleurier to its already impressive list of top brands, with men's fashion house



The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands houses more than 300 boutiques and restaurants. Photo: Timothy Hursley



Prada offers a limited-edition briefcase and bag at The Shoppes.

Ermenegildo Zegna also a new addition to The Shoppes family. Other brands include Anne Fontaine, Bally, Bottega Veneta, Bulgari, Burberry, Cartier, Christian Dior, Fendi, Ferragamo, Franck Muller, Gucci, Henry Cottons, Hermès, Hugo Boss, MaxMara, Miu Miu, Omega, Patek Philippe, Prada, Ralph Lauren, Stefano Ricci, Swarovski, Tiffany & Co, Tommy Hilfiger,

Versace, Wolford and Yves Saint Laurent, among others.

John Postle, vice-president of retail for Marina Bay Sands, says: "Prada's expansion alongside the addition of these well-known luxury brands is indeed a testament to The Shoppes' position as the leading luxury shopping destination in Asia.

"Furthermore, we are pleased to be the chosen destination for both Mikimoto and Parmigiani Fleurier to

open their inaugural standalone boutiques, and this is a perfect demonstration of the mall's continuous growth and momentum since our opening in 2010."

In another first for Prada, the retailer is bringing the limited-edition Oltremare Millennium crocodile briefcase and clutch bag to its expanded retail space. For this debut in Southeast Asia, Prada brought only six of these exclusive

bags to The Shoppes. Adding to the mall's more than 50 watch and jewellery boutiques, Mikimoto's flagship 400 sq ft outlet, at L1-32 Bay Level, features an interior inspired by the deep blue oceans in which the pearls reside. Mikimoto at The Shoppes – the brand's second store in Singapore – carries several exclusives, including the World of Creativity collection, a stunning diamond and white South Sea pearl jewellery set resembling a cascading waterfall.

Swiss luxury watchmaker Parmigiani Fleurier has its first standalone boutique in Southeast Asia in 366 sq ft of The Shoppes space. Studio Parmigiani will boast a spectacular collection of the most coveted timepieces, one of which is the limited-edition Bugatti Super Sport – The Hour Glass Exclusive. With an exterior made of white gold with black ADLC coating, polished and satin finish, there are only 10 of these pieces in the world.

Italian brand Ermenegildo Zegna, known for its iconic range of high-end, ready-to-wear suits and leather goods, has opened its fourth store in Singapore, a 3,540 sq ft boutique that also offers bespoke services.

One of the highlights of the shopping experience at The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands is the "island" boutique of established brand Louis Vuitton in the Crystal Pavilion. This is the retailer's largest boutique outside Paris and features a seemingly limitless array of items.

Sights and sounds of the city

Singapore offers shopping choices ranging from high-end luxury goods to hawker centres and ethnic enclaves.

The most famous retail belt on the island is Orchard Road, a colourful thoroughfare flanked on either side by high-end shops, eateries and entertainment outlets.

The shopping starts in earnest on Tanglin Road and a brisk walk to Orchard Road proper takes shoppers past names such as Prada, Gucci, Hermès, Christian Dior, Louis Vuitton and Burberry, and department stores such as Robinsons, TANGS, Takashimaya, Metro, OG and Isetan.

Bugis Street is an iconic shopping area in Singapore and features the country's largest street bazaar. There are close to 1,000 stalls selling a variety of items.

VARIETY

The second floor of the stretch is air conditioned, while across the road is Bugis Junction, featuring a number of large department stores. Bugis+, which is linked to Bugis Junction, has a host of retail stores, restaurants and cinemas.

Little India, along Serangoon

Road and taking in a number of side streets, is uniquely Singaporean and heavily Indian with traditional music, knick-knack shops and good old-fashioned Indian-style curry houses at every turn.

Trips to Little India should include a peek inside Mohamed Mustafa shopping complex, one of the most famous department stores in the region.

Tekka Market is an intriguing building used as a wet market and food centre and is probably one of the few places in the world where you will see Chinese stallholders speaking in Tamil.

Chinatown, which takes up a number of precincts, is Singapore's largest historic district and is filled with retailers selling an array of Chinese products in pre-war shophouses and stalls.



Bugis Junction features numerous department stores. Photo: Bloomberg

The Yue Hwa Department Store, famous for its Chinese products, such as tea, home ware and souvenirs, is part of the Chinatown geography, along with OG People's Park, which features the island's

largest shopping bridge over Upper Cross Street. For Malay and Arab-influenced items, Kampong Glam features shophouses turned into art galleries, craft and curio shops and restaurants.