# MAGAZINE

# A STYLE TO REMEMBER



No.8



y profession has seen me spend a large proportion of my life in hotels. Naturally among these establishments I have firm favourites, where I meet other guests I know, and funnily enough they always tell me the same thing: they arrive somewhere and immediately notice there is 'something special' about the place. What it may be is very hard to pin down; it's like an 'aura', atmosphere or 'feel'. This makes them wonder what is so different about it that sets it apart from other hotels. What does it exude? What makes it so distinctive and unique? It seems to have a special 'personality' that goes beyond its clean-cut, aesthetic appeal. The Romans used to call the power of attraction of a place its genius loci. Indeed, they believed such places were inhabited by a special 'protective spirit' that made people feel particularly at ease there.

That charming, time-worn concept has survived into modern times, though

nowadays it is linked with a form of architectural design that sets out to blend buildings harmoniously into their setting and backdrop. GHM works with the world's top architects, who are not merely intent on taking account of measurable aspects, but have a gift for making the hotels they design feel so 'right' somehow that visitors are simply blown away by the experience of staying there.

One constantly recurring theme when chatting with fellow GHM hotel guests is that they find it very hard to leave when their stay comes to an end. I must say the same holds true for me. Whenever my check-out time approaches I lament having to leave a truly captivating world of unparalleled hospitality. Somehow the other guests must feel the same mysterious 'pull' of

the place as I do. There is no other explanation for the steadily expanding family of GHM guests and the growing number of repeat visitors. So what creates the impression of this genius loci? Is it the perfect service, carefully honed right down to the finest detail? Or is it the friendly and seemingly effortlessly efficient staff? Or maybe the seamless way GHM's hotels melt into their beautiful natural surroundings? I fear we will never know for sure. The secret of these special places seems to be a benevolent spirit that inhabits them, charms visitors and eludes description in mere words.

James Graf, a truly cosmopolitan man with Swiss roots, earned an enviable reputation in Europe as a freelance research journalist and photographer for media and TV companies. However, being an expert on gambling, he has also advised government bodies in the USA, Canada and Thailand, and in 1991 helped to pave the way for the legalisation of casinos in Switzerland. He also mentored PhD students at the universities of Zurich and Basle and the Business and Hotel Management School in Lucerne on political and economic aspects of lifting the ban on gambling. For many years now he has been based in Asia, where he writes studies on people in hotels and has got to know some of the world's top establishments. It was through this work that he became a good friend of GHM President Hans Jenni, with whom he developed the idea behind THE MAGAZINE. Graf is passionate about what he does and always strives for perfection. THE MAGAZINE is his attempt to produce a publication whose original concept and layout adequately reflect the GHM slogan: A Style to Remember.



GIRAF, EDITOR-IN-



# THE SETAI

SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI

Best Hotel in Florida (The Gold List 2010, Condé Nast Traveller)
World's Best Large City Hotels 2010 (Travel & Leisure)
Top Ten Hotels worldwide 2010 (Bilanz Magazine, Switzerland)
Most Excellent Hotel n the US and Canada 2009 (Condé Nast Johansens)
Readers' Choice Awards Top 100 US Hotels 2009 (Condé Nast Traveller)
Award of Excellence 2009 (Wine Spectator)
US Readers' Choice Award 2009 (SpaFinder)
Best Resort in North America, Readers Award 2009 (Gallivanter's Guide)
Best Ambience/Design, The Gold List 2009 (Condé Nast Traveller)
Best Resort in North America 2009 (Gallivanter's Guide)
The Gold List 2008 (Condé Nast Traveller)

# THE DATAI

LANGKAW

Best Design Hotel in Malaysia (The Gold List 2010, Condé Nast Traveller)
The Gulai House Winner of Innovative Restaurant (Malaysian Tourism Awards 2009)
Runner up Best Spa in Asia 2009 (Condé Nast Traveller)
Readers' Award No. 4 in Leisure Hotels Asia and Indian 2009 Sub/Continent (Condé Nast Traveller)
Readers' Award No. 25 in The World's Top 100 2009 (Condé Nast Traveller)
No 7 Readers' Award 2006, World's Top 100 (Condé Nast Traveller)
No 8 Readers' Award 2005, World's Top 100 (Condé Nast Traveller)
No 10 Readers' Award 2004, World's Top 100 (Condé Nast Traveller)
No 1 Readers' Spa Award 2004, World's Top 100 (Condé Nast Traveller)
No 1 Readers' Award 2001, World's Top 100 (Condé Nast Traveller)

# THE LEGIAN

BAL

Travelers' Choice Award 2009, Top 100 Luxury World (Trip Advisor) Travelers' Choice Award 2009, Top 10 Luxury Asia (Trip Advisor)

# THE NAM HAI

HOLAN, VIETNAVI

Commitment to Quality Award 2009, Regional Winner Asia&Pacific 2009 (The Leading Hotels of the World)

Best Destination Spa 2009 (Asia Spa&Wellness Festival Gold Awards)

The Hot List (Property Report Asia 2009)

5-Star Architecture Award 2009 (Asia Pacific Property Awards)

Best Resort 2009 (Hotel & Lodge Magazine)

## THE STRAND

YANCON

ASEAN Green Hotel Standard Award 2008 Top Hotels in Asia No 8 2008 (Travel & Leisure) One of The World's Best Hotels (Traveller and Leisure Magazine 2007)

## THE CHEDI CLUB

TANÀH GAJAH, UBUD, BALI

Indonesia's Leading Boutique Hotel (World Travel Awards 2007) Top Hot List (Condé Nat Traveller 2005)

## THE CHEDI

MUSCAT, OMAN

No 1 in Spas in Middle East, Africa & Indian Ocean, Readers' Award 2009 (Condé Nast Traveller) No 2 Readers' Award 2008 and 2007, World's Top 100 (Condé Nast Traveller)

## THE CHEDI

CHIANG MAI

Beste Kueche in Asien, Maximum Points in The Gold List 2010 (Condé Nast Traveller) The Gold List 2009 (Condé Nast Traveller) Selection Awards 2009, Excellence in service, accommodation and guest satisfaction (Tablet Hotels)







EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT MANAGER, THE SETA



"GHM's product and philosophy, with its passion for hospitality and its commitment to meeting the requirements of every single guest, really appeal to me. Working at The Setai has been a joy from day one. The Setai offers something for every traveller. It is a hotel with two different faces: day and night. The atmosphere changes all the time, allowing our guests to enjoy a relaxed ambience in the centre of an exotic city renowned for its nightlife. The Setai attracts a wide variety of visitors, from honeymooning couples to celebrities; from the outside it projects a look of understated charm, but once inside the feeling and experience are very different. The variety of guests we have here is one of the things that motivates me. 'Expect the unexpected' is the best way to describe a day at The Setai. Working at the hotel inspires me to be creative and to enhance the service we offer, to continually rework areas of the hotel and to react to guests' feedback and comments. Being part of a growing, but not massive, company is an incentive to grow with GHM and to go on exploring the world within the group."

Kevin-Justin Abramowicz studied dental medicine and economics at the University of Zurich before taking a Bachelor of Science course in International Hospitality Management at Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne between 2001 and 2005. His successful career in the hotel business began in 2001 as Manager of the Bar at the 17-Gault Millau, five-star Ermitage Relais & Châteaux Hotel in Zurich. In 2003, he moved to Hong Kong to take up an internship as Front Office/Assistant Manager at the five-star Hyatt Regency and Langham hotels, then worked as Front Office Manager at the five-star Delamar Greenwich Harbor. Since 2007, Kevin-Justin Abramowicz, who is of dual Swiss-German nationality and speaks five languages, has been Director of Rooms at The Setai and he was recently promoted to Executive Assistant Manager.



The 45 alludes to the engine size and the 8 to the number of cylinders, whereas the 'Italia' shows the national importance of Ferrari's reputation as a longstanding motoring legend. Although designed for the road, Ferrari's latest offering has a mid-mounted engine and all the traits of a mean racing machine. In fact, all-time world champion Michael Schumacher used his racing experience to personally influence some of the car's features, including its drive train, design (concept by Pininfarina), aerodynamics, instrument panel and handling. On the performance side, the car packs a real punch. With 570 PS and a maximum torque of 540 newton metres, it can rocket from 0 to 100 km/h in 3.4 seconds, hitting a maximum speed of 325 km/h (just short of the 350 km/h needed for a jumbo jet to leave the runway!). Despite this, its consumption stats are bang

on track, with fuel consumption of 13.7 L and CO2 emissions of 320 g/km, in line with the relevant standards. Further innovations include the purely hydraulic steering and the CT Off and Race settings. The Race setting allows the rear axle to take precisely as much control as the bend will tolerate. CT Off deactivates traction control and switches the ESP to drift mode - just before the car spins, the stability control mechanism sweeps the rear end back into line. There is no gear stick, nor will there be for future model ranges. With the new direct transmission, gear gates are a thing of the past. Formula 1 was also the inspiration for the temperature control system, which monitors heat levels in the engine, tyres and brakes. The price tag of € 250,000 is high, but not too high for the dedicated enthusiast, considering the legendary status of the brand.





IRSHAD MOBARAK, ORGANISER OF WILDLIFE AND BIRDWATCHING TOURS, THE DATAI, LANGKAWI

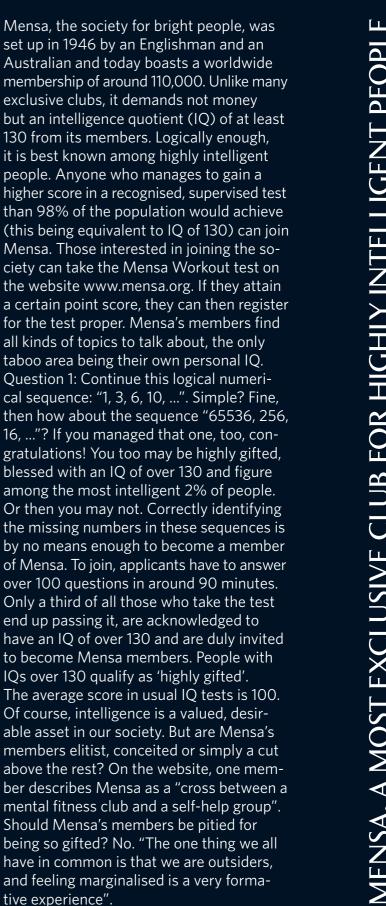
What do butterflies reveal about hotels and their surroundings? Quite simply, if lots of butterflies are fluttering around the grounds of a hotel, then the guests are bound to feel at home too. Butterflies only flourish in the kind of rich and healthy environments that hotel guests find so pleasant. Here on Langkawi we have over 500 species of butterfly. In fact, I know of no other place in the world where so many kinds of butterfly thrive and boast such colour and beauty. This variety of species is thanks to the wide diversity of the tropical forest, which offers caterpillars the perfect conditions to grow and develop. In many other parts of the world, agricultural monoculture has been embraced to the detriment of caterpillars. I hope that everyone contributes to protecting the natural features of this group of islands so that it remains the butterfly paradise it is today.

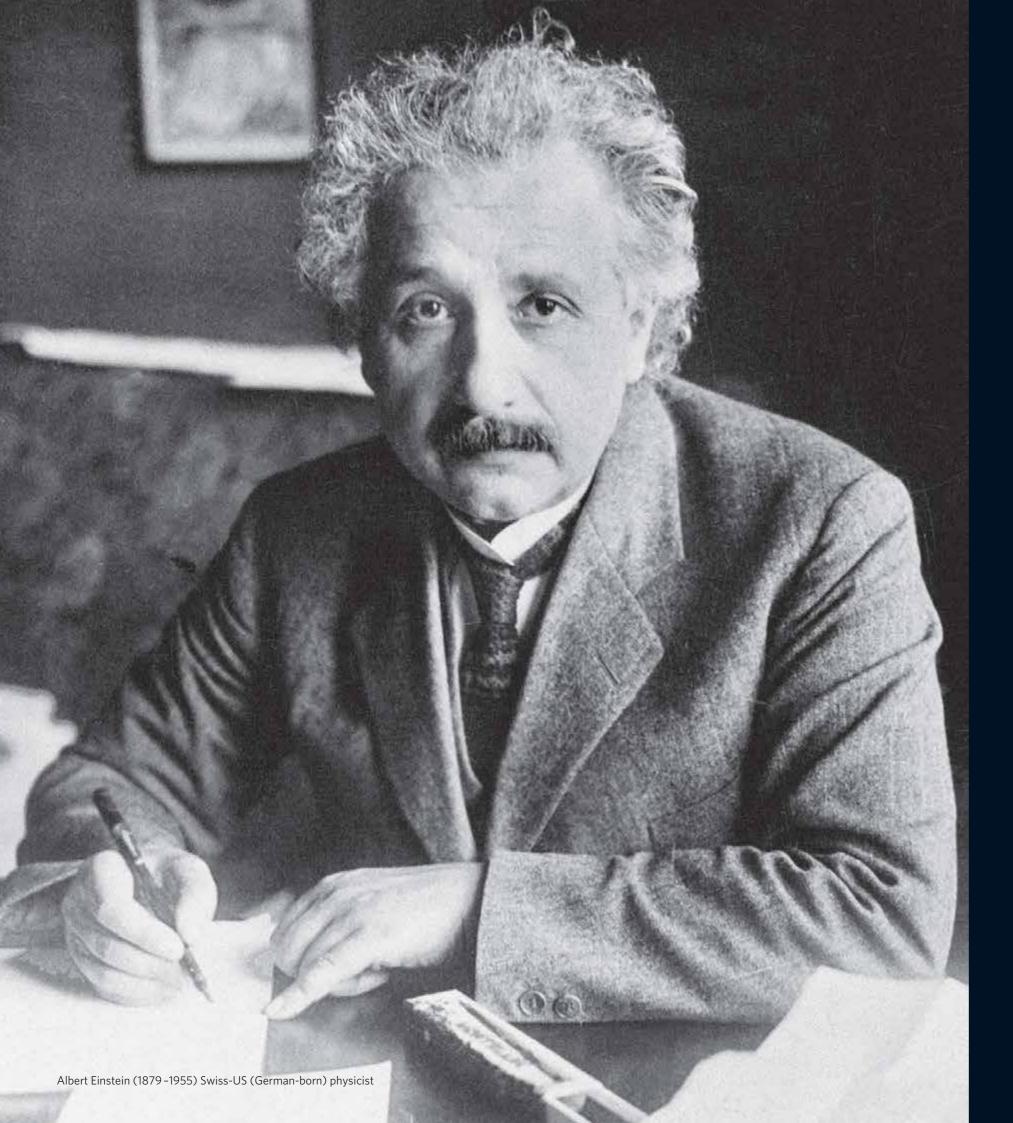
monitored by the research team.

Butterflies are unparalleled opportunists. Each autumn, billions of migrating insects, butterflies and moths fly to the Mediterranean or North Africa to escape the cold, wet European winter. In so doing, these delicate creatures cover tremendous distances, including high ground, and even cross the Alps. Now, an English research team led by Dana Hill from the Rothamsted Agricultural Research Centre in Harpenden has shown that butterflies are masters at exploiting seasonal winter air currents. The researchers used special insect radar equipment to monitor the spring swarms of migrating insects returning to England from the south and found that they were flying at heights WONDERS of several hundred metres above sea level. At the same time, they managed to prove that the insects not only know which direction to fly in, but also make the most of strong tail winds and are also capable of positioning themselves in the wind in such a way as to make faster headway without being blown off course. In fact the researchers found that the insects reached speeds of up to 100 kph and are capable of covering distances of over 700 km in just 8 hours! This means it takes them only 4 days to reach their destination. An estimated 1 billion insects or more took part in the migrations

ONTRARIAN APPROACH: DR MARC FABER











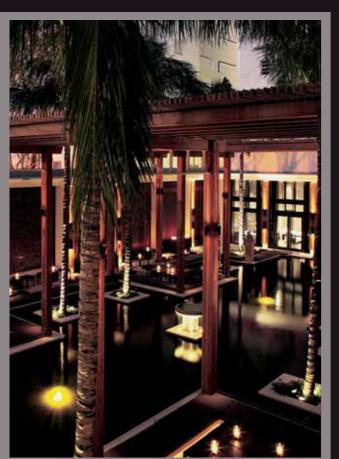






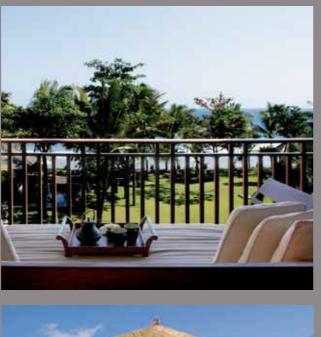


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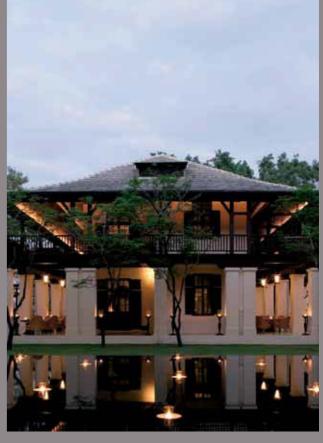
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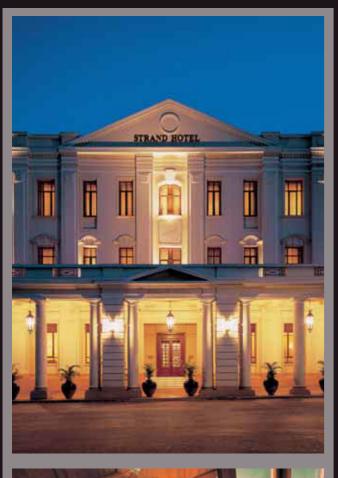


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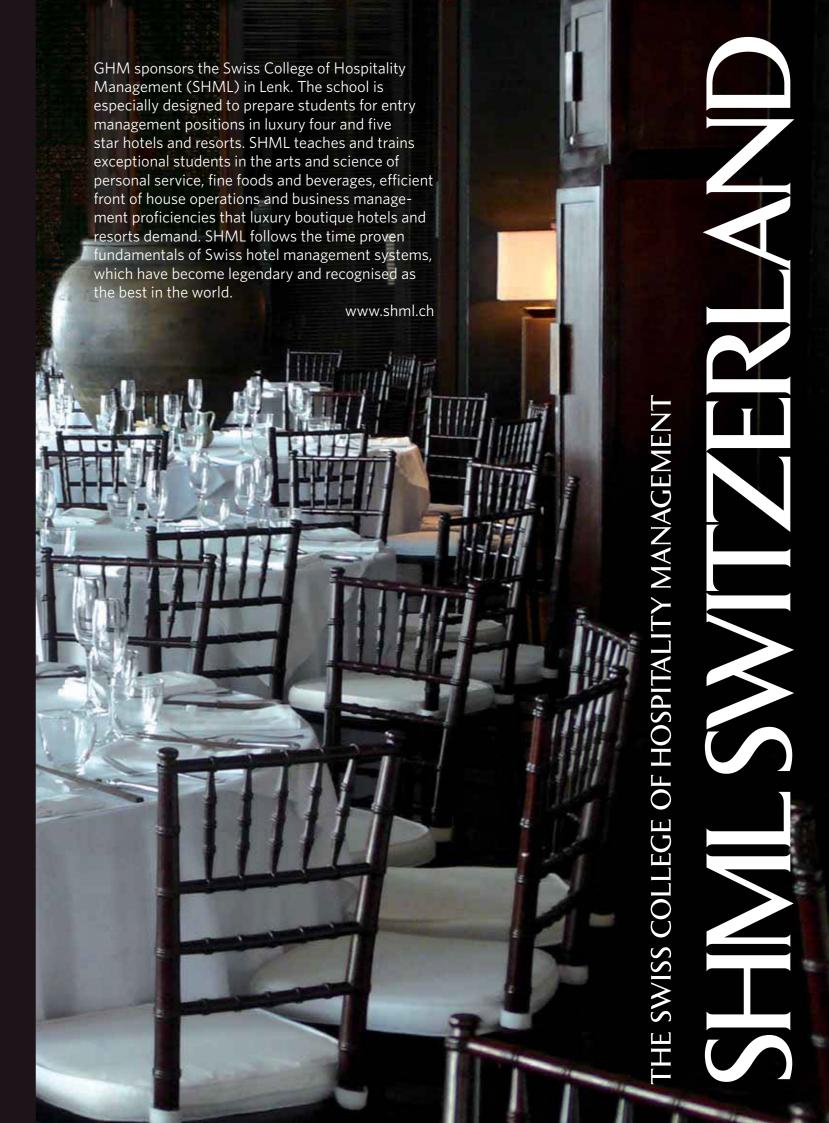
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Established in 1992, General Hotel Management Ltd (GHM) is a market leader in conceptualising, developing and operating an exclusive group of hotels and resorts worldwide. With an expansive portfolio and several more in the pipeline, GHM prides itself in providing guests with a distinctive lifestyle experience that is unrivalled. Each GHM hotel or resort is one of a kind, possessing distinctive concepts and design elements. This special relationship with the land and its culture enables GHM to provide guests with a genuine, close-up experience of the best each destination has to offer in varied aspects such as culture, geography and history. The signature GHM style is best defined as Asian-inspired designs with delicate details. GHM's portfolio of properties comprises The Setai, The Datai, The Legian, The Club at The Legian, The Nam Hai, The Strand, The Chedi Club, Tanah Gajah - Ubud, The Chedi, Muscat and The Chedi, Chiang Mai. For conceptual reasons The Chedi Phuket, The Saujana, The Carcosa, The Chedi Milan and The Andaman no longer belong to the GHM Group, but 12 more projects are currently under preparation.









## FUTURE GHM PROJECTS

- The Nizuc, Riviera Maya, Mexico
- The Ananti Club, Seoul
- The Malkai, Barka, Oman
- The Chedi, Cairo
- The Chedi, Jordan
- The Chedi, Andermatt, Switzerland
- The Chedi, Kilada Hills, Greece
- The Chedi, Thracian Cliffs, Cape Kaliakra, Bulgaria
- The Chedi, Tamouda Bay, Morocco
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