



THE  
VENETIAN<sup>®</sup>  
MACAO

times  
Extra  
weekend Guide

Macau Daily Times | Edition 2538 | 15 Apr 2016



MOVIES: GREEN ROOM  
BOOKS: BUCKY F----- DENT BY DAVID DUCHOVNY  
MUSIC: SUPER BY PET SHOP BOYS  
WINE: THE GRAND DUCHY  
FOOD: LEGEND OF THE ORIENT

# THE CHARACTER OF THE MARATHON

■ X3

At Walt Disney World, you might find Darth Vader, Tinker Bell or a classic Disney princess running alongside half-marathon participants. These events are no ordinary races,

and the trips that participants make are no ordinary Disney visits. Few care about race times, particularly with opportunities to pose with costumed characters such as Donald Duck

and Boba Fett. Racing is mostly about getting to the photo ops before lines get too long. This week, the Florida theme park hosts its first Star Wars Half Marathon.



**DRIVE IN**

Jake Coyle, AP Film Writer

**IN 'GREEN ROOM' A PUNK BAND  
FACES THE TRULY HARDCORE**

Play your early stuff," is the advice given to the punk band The Ain't Rights when their dirt-broke, gas-siphoning tour lands a last-minute gig at an Oregon backwoods roadhouse in Jeremy Saulnier's brisk and brutal genre exercise "Green Room." The tip from the spikey-haired 'zine reporter who's set up the show (an excellent David W. Thompson, from "Win Win") isn't because the crowd will be expecting the band's nonexistent "hits," but because he knows the angriest,

heaviest tunes will go down best. They'll be playing for skinheads. The band, a grimy group of punks (Anton Yelchin, Alia Shawkat, Joe Cole, and Callum Turner) from Virginia limping across the country, shrug. They've had Neo-Nazis at their shows before. When they drive along a remote dirt road in their beat-up van, they're still not intimidated by the swastikas and Confederate flags around them. They provocatively open with the Dead Kennedys' "Nazi

Punks F--- Off." The trouble doesn't come then, but after the show backstage, where the band returns to the green room to find a girl on the ground with a knife in her head. Things go south quickly, and the band is confronted with something far more hardcore than anything in their record collection. The road movie that "Green Room" started out to be veers abruptly into a siege film as the head Neo-Nazi (Patrick Stewart, using his refined cordiality for menace) sends

AP PHOTO



From left: Callum Turner, Anton Yelchin and Alia Shawkat in a scene from "Green Room"



AP PHOTO

From left: Jake Kasch, Macon Blair and Patrick Stewart

waves of "true believers" into the roadhouse to dispatch the witnesses. "Green Room" is Saulnier's follow-up to his self-financed breakthrough "Blue Ruin," a lean and riveting revenge tale also acted out by a novice in violence (Macon Blair, who pops here, too). The writer-director's latest confirms him as a rising filmmaker who can crisply craft John Carpenter-style atmosphere, mete out unnervingly merciless pain for his characters, and assemble robust, earthy thrillers with relatively meager means. I like the early scenes of "Green Room" best. In brief

glimpses, Saulnier fully captures the experience of a struggling band on the road: waking up somewhere different each night, debating favorite music, making fart jokes in the van. It's not very hardcore of me to say this, but I wish it continued on this plane, rather than settle into a gruesome and protracted battle - as well-executed as the carnage is. Once it enters the grindhouse, it stays there. But you can't have a siege thriller without a siege, and "Green Room" is certainly among the genre's finest examples. Guns are employed, but the most chilling

violence comes from teeth and blades on split-open flesh. It's not pleasant, nor is it meant to be. In such moments, the earlier boasts of the band about their lack of social media presence - "When you take it all virtual, you lose the texture" - have come back to haunt them. You want texture? "Green Room" has it.

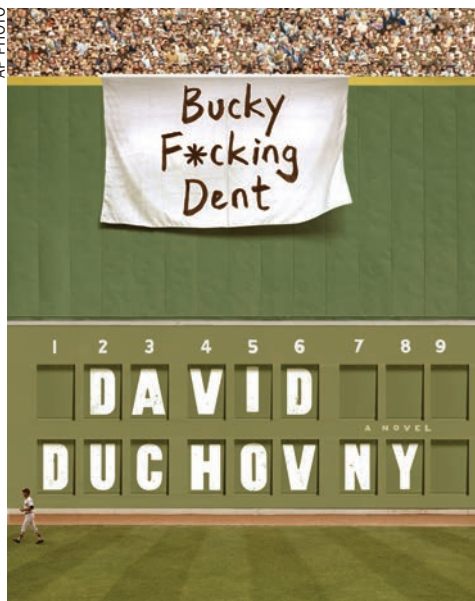
"Green Room," an A24 release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong brutal graphic violence, gory images, language and some drug content." Running time: 95 minutes. ★★★★★

**BOOK IT**

**DUCHOVNY HITS HOME  
RUN WITH NEW NOVEL**

Actor David Duchovny, recently seen as Fox Mulder on "The X-Files" TV revival, follows his humorous New York Times best-seller "Holy Cow" with another funny and heartfelt story, "Bucky F----- Dent." Ted Fullilove doesn't have much of a life. He lives alone, works at Yankee Stadium in a Mr. Peanut costume, and is estranged from his father. Although he works for the Yankees, he's passionate about the Boston Red Sox. In the 1978 season, the Sox have a lead that looks insurmountable, and Ted wonders if this finally will be the year the Sox break the Bambino curse. Ever since the owner of the Red Sox traded away Babe Ruth to the Yankees at the end of the 1919 season, the Yankees have had success and the Red Sox have wallowed in misery. Ted's father, Marty, who is stricken with cancer and dying, loves the Red Sox. Though they haven't spoken in years, Ted decides to move in with Marty so he can take care of him. Their relationship is strained, but they find solace and comfort together with baseball. Marty wants to live long enough to see the curse of the Sox broken. As the season progresses, Ted begins to steal newspapers and makes sure Marty hears the Sox are winning, though the Yankees are actually gaining in the standings. Baseball fans will know why Duchovny gave the title to this book, and he does a terrific job of blending quirky and emotional writing in this story that

AP PHOTO



"Bucky F----- Dent" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), by David Duchovny

is ultimately about the relationship between a father and his son. Duchovny has hit this one out of the park. Jeff Ayers, AP

**TTUNES**

**PET SHOP BOYS STAY DANCEABLE  
AND ELECTRIC ON 'SUPER'**

AP PHOTO



Pet Shop Boys, "Super" (x2 Records)

Pet Shop Boys take another drink from the fountain of youth on "Super," offering more dance than pop 13 studio albums and more than 30 years after "West End Girls." Written in Berlin and recorded in Los Angeles, "Super" is the second installment of a probable trilogy with triple Grammy-winning producer Stuart Price, and the duo delves into the nightclub scene with their usual aplomb. Neil Tennant is a keen observer with sharp storytelling skills, allowing him to shape all that data into tunes like "The Pop Kids," the album's first single, a tale of 1990s club-goers looking back 15 years as if it were another lifetime. "Twenty-something" shows the difference 15 years can make and how traditional careers have become more elusive — "Thirty's calling round the bend / Will your ideas ever trend?" — and come with sometimes soul-crushing pressures. Chris Lowe has an uncanny ability to keep even the most overfamiliar keyboard sounds from drifting to the far side of cheesy and there's enough variety to ensure that none overstay their welcome. A few slow tunes and instrumentals cleverly break the dance music dominance. The protagonist of "The Dictator Decides" agrees the world would be better off without him, and Tennant sees the tracks of the machines' tears on the poignant "Sad Robot World." Pet Shop Boys will perform four sold-out shows in July at London's Royal Opera House. Is dancing in the aisles improper etiquette?

Pablo Gorondi, AP



## NEWS OF THE WORLD

Anick Jesdanun, AP



Runners in a half-marathon at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif

# At Disney, running a race is all about the costume

Disney has races to honor classic Disney and Pixar characters (January and September), princesses (February), Tinker Bell (May) and superheroes from Disney's Marvel comic books (November). There's also one at Disneyland Paris in September. This week, the Florida theme park hosts its first Star Wars Half Marathon — The Dark Side, following last year's debut of The Light Side race at Disneyland in California. Another Light Side half marathon is scheduled for January 2017, with registration opening this June. The races combine two of the world's biggest franchises, while capitalizing on Disney's USD4 billion purchase of Lucasfilm in 2012.

Many runners come for the weekend or even the week, turning the trip into a "runcation" as they bring family to ride the rides

and, for adults, drink the drinks at Epcot's World Showcase. It becomes less of a test of endurance than a challenge to get up early after full days at the parks — races start before dawn to minimize disruptions.

Costumes are a must for many participants.

"I have a thing about princesses," said Brooke Laing, who works at an investment bank in New York. "I wanted to dress up and have that all-girls weekend, getting to put on a tiara and have that childish experience."

You can even ride a roller coaster near the halfway point of a full marathon in January — though if you run too fast in an early-morning event, you may find the ride not yet open.

"Disney usually puts on a pretty good show for anything you go to," said Misty Hayes, a Fort

Worth, Texas, police officer. "How many have the option of jumping on the roller coaster? It was pretty awesome."

The Disney races aren't free of gripe, though. They have gotten very popular in recent years, and many sell out within an hour of registration. Spouses and friends have been shut out for waiting too long. And this year, new policies put a cramp on costumes. No more face masks such as Chewbacca. Princess Leia robes and Darth Vader capes also can't be too long.

Darrell Saria, a federal government employee in Winnipeg, Canada, said he understands the need for safety and believes it pushes people to be more creative. He has run as a mashup of Goofy and Darth Vader, and another time combining the Muppets' Animal and Boba Fett.

He said the races turn into a social gathering.

"I've met a lot of people," he said. "People who do make their own costumes give each other praises, and they intermingle. People will dress up just to have fun with it and make people smile."

And hey, if you're going to Disney for a race, why not do two, three or even four on consecutive days? Finish multiple races for bonus medals featuring Dopey, Goofy and Dumbo (get it?). Wear them

all as you visit the theme parks afterward and take pride as they clink and clank against each other. You also get bonus medals for running Disney races on multiple weekends. Those doing the "Star Wars" races on both coasts this year get a Millennium Falcon medal.

Disney "figured out that if you're going to come down, especially if you're traveling from out of town,

■ **The Disney races aren't free of gripe, though. They have gotten very popular in recent years, and many sell out within an hour of registration**

you might as well maximize your time out there and maximize your fun," said Mike Czernek, a software engineer who lives about an hour away in Melbourne, Florida, yet stays at a Disney World hotel for the weekend.

Mark Wietbrock, a security-technology salesman in Lake St. Louis, Missouri, does a Disney World race — or consecutive races — every other year. His wife and two younger kids, 6 and 8, have done various races with him. He said the trips are also a chance for him and his wife to return to where they started dating in 2000.

"It's the best of both worlds to get to run and get to enjoy the parks," he said.

For many runners, vacation time and money are the limiting factors. Disney races tend to be more expensive than hometown races, and multi-race challenges are even more so — pricier than signing up for the races individually.

Collecting 11 medals from seven races in January cost more than \$1,000 in registration fees, not to mention airfare and hotels. Though there's no admission fee to run through the parks, the finish is in the parking lot, so you have to pay to re-enter.

Rob Biggar, a software programmer in Setauket, New York, said Disney's multi-race challenges become "much more a test of your wallet than your stamina."

## DISNEY RACES

**REGISTRATION AT** [rundisney.com](http://rundisney.com) typically opens noon ET on a Tuesday months before the race. For instance, sign-ups begin April 26 for Disney World races in January 2017. Get to a computer early — 12:05 p.m. could be too late given how long the registration page takes. You may be able to register through tour groups and charities, with donations or fundraising required.



WORLD OF BACCHUS

Jacky I.F. Cheong

The Grand Duchy



DOMAINE SCHUMACHER-LETHAL CRÉMANT DE LUXEMBOURG CUVÉE PIERRE NV

A blend of Pinot Blanc, Auxerrois Blanc and Chardonnay. Bright citrine with shimmering golden reflex, the refreshing nose offers grapefruit, pink apple, wet stone and lily. With crispy acidity, medium-fine mousse and clean minerality, the expressive palate delivers lemon, lime, saline and flint. Medium-bodied at 12.5%, the citrusy entry carries onto a lively mid-palate, leading to a juicy finish.



DOMAINE SCHUMACHER-LETHAL GRAND PREMIER CRU WORMELDANGE HEILIGENHÄUSCHEN PINOT BLANC 2013

A single-varietal Pinot Blanc. Pastel citrine with shimmering sun-glow reflex, the pristine nose effuses lemon, pomelo, fine chalk and orchard blossom. With pleasing acidity, palpable minerality and slight petillance, the focused palate emanates quince, starfruit, seashell and frangipane. Medium-bodied at 12.5%, the fragrant entry evolves into a supple mid-palate, leading to a peppery finish.



DOMAINE SCHUMACHER-LETHAL CRÉMANT DE LUXEMBOURG ROSÉ BRUT NV

A blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Translucent scarlet with gleaming copper reflex, the floral nose presents cranberry, redcurrant, and fresh dough and potpourri. With abundant acidity, traces of tannins, medium-fine mousse and clear minerality, the fruit-driven palate supplies raspberry, rosehip, bouquet gami and seashell. Medium-bodied at 12.5%, the flowery entry continues through an energetic mid-palate, leading to a tart finish.



DOMAINE SCHUMACHER-LETHAL GRAND PREMIER CRU WORMELDANGE ELTERBERG PINOT GRIS 2013

A single-varietal Pinot Gris. Luminous citrine with glowing straw reflex, the pure nose furnishes bergamot, yellow apple, fresh herbs and lemon blossom. With generous acidity, firm minerality and slight petillance, the concentrated palate provides lime, white peach, sea salt and jasmine. Medium-full bodied at 12.5%, the fleshy entry persists through a tangy mid-palate, leading to a spicy finish.

With a population of ca. 560,000 and covering just under 2,600 sq km, Luxembourg – officially the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg – is the 7th smallest country in Europe by area. Surrounded by Germany, Belgium and France, Luxembourg is in the very heart of Europe, both geographically and historically. Part of the Roman Republic and later on Roman Empire, modern-day Luxembourg was ruled by a succession of Frankish kingdoms (the Franks were a Germanic tribe) as Late Antiquity gave way to the Early Middle Ages. From the High Middle Ages to the Late Middle Ages, Luxembourg gradually evolved from a country into a duchy. It was the seat of the powerful House of Luxembourg, which completed against the House of Hohenstaufen and House of Wittelsbach for the throne of the Holy Roman Empire, until the unstoppable rise of the House of Habsburg. Occupied by Revolutionary France, Luxembourg was re-established as a Grand Duchy in 1815 by the Treaty of Paris, following the second abdication of Napoléon Bonaparte. From 1815 to 1839, it was part of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands. On 19 April 1839, both Belgium and Luxembourg seceded from the union. From 1659 to 1839, three successive partitions of Luxembourg by Germany, Belgium and France drastically reduced Luxembourg's territory by some 75% from ca. 10,700 sq km. Luxembourg is the only Grand Duchy – defined as a sovereign state whose head bears the

title of Grand Duke / Duchess – still in existence today. It has three official languages: Luxembourgish (a West Germanic language, sometimes difficult to differentiate from dialects in neighbouring regions), German and French (primarily the administrative language). Oenologically, Luxembourg comprises both French and German elements. Most of Luxembourg's vineyards are situated in the southeast, on the left bank of the river Mosel (Moselle in French); on the other side is the Mosel region, one of Germany's 13 wine regions, renamed from Mosel-Saar-Ruwer in 2007. Grape varieties are unmistakably Germanic, although most wines are fully fermented without much residual sugar. In terms of wine legislation, however, Luxembourg is remarkably French. The country has but one wine region, Moselle Luxembourgeoise, which may produce wines of all colours, whereas vendanges tardives, vin de glace and vin de paille are defined as speciality wines. Under the Marque Nationale system established in 1935 (one year before the French AOC system regulated by Institut National de l'Origine et de la Qualité in 1936), wines can be classified as Appellation Contrôlée, Vin Classé, Premier Cru and Grand Premier Cru respectively, depending on ratings they received at panel tastings.

To explore the hidden side of Mosel(le), contact Ms Betty Mak of Grand Wine Cellar; W: www.grandwinecellar.com.hk; E: enquiry@gwc.com.hk; T: +852 3695 2389

Jacky I.F. Cheong is a legal professional by day and columnist by night. Having spent his formative years in Britain, France, and Germany, he regularly writes about wine, fine arts, classical music, and politics in several languages

RESTAURANTS

CANTONESE



GRAND IMPERIAL COURT  
10:00 - 23:00  
T: 88022539  
Level 2, MGM MACAU



IMPERIAL COURT  
Mon - Friday  
11:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 23:00  
Sat, Sun & Public Holidays  
10:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 23:00  
T: 8802 2361  
VIP Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU

BEIJING KITCHEN

Level 1, Grand Hyatt Macau  
Opening Hours  
11:30am - 24:00



KAM LAI HEEN  
Grand Lapa, Macau  
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F  
T: 8793 3821  
11:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 - 22:00  
(Close on Tuesday)

SHANGHAI MIN

Level 1, The Shops at The Boulevard  
Opening Hours  
11:00 - 15:00; 18:00 - 22:30

SHANGHAI

CATALPA GARDEN  
Mon - Sunday  
11:00 - 15:00 / 17:30 - 23:00  
Hotel Royal, 2-4  
Estrada da Vitoria  
T: 28552222



JADE ORCHID  
Mon - Sun  
11:00am - 3:00pm & 6:00pm - 11:00pm  
Mezzanine Floor, Harbourview Hotel, Macau  
Fisherman's Wharf  
T: (853) 8799 6315 | (853) 8799 6316

FRENCH

寶雅座  
AUX BEAUX ARTS

AUX BEAUX ARTS  
Tue - Fri: 18:00 - 24:00  
Sat & Sun: 11:00 - 24:00  
Closed every Monday  
T: 8802 2319  
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU

GLOBAL

HARD ROCK CAFE  
Level 2, Hard Rock Hotel  
Opening Hours  
Monday to Sunday: 11:00 - 02:00  
Sunday: 10:00 - 02:00

CAFÉ BELA VISTA  
Grand Lapa, Macau  
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F  
T: 87933871  
Mon - Thurs  
06:30 - 15:00 / 6:00 - 22:00  
Fri - Sunday  
06:30 - 22:00

MEZZA9 MACAU  
Level 3, Grand Hyatt Macau  
Opening Hours  
Dinner: 5:30 - 11:00



VIDA RICA (RESTAURANT)  
2/F, Avenida Dr Sun Yat Sen, NAPE  
T: 8805 8918  
Mon - Sunday  
6:30 - 14:30 / 18:00 - 23:00



MORTON'S OF CHICAGO  
The Venetian(r) Macao-Resort-Hotel  
Taipa, Macau  
T:853 8117 5000  
mortons.com  
• Bar  
Open daily at 3pm  
• Dining Room  
Monday - Saturday: 13:00 - 23:00  
Sunday: 17:00 - 22:00



PRAHA RESTAURANT  
Mon - Sun  
6:30am - 00:00am  
Mezzanine Floor, Harbourview Hotel, Macau  
Fisherman's Wharf  
T: (853) 8799 6606

ABA BAR

ABA BAR  
Tue-Sun: 17:00 - 24:00  
Closed every Monday  
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



MGM PASTRY BAR  
10:00 - :00  
T: 8802 2324  
Main Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU



ROSSIO  
Mon - Sun: 07:00 - 23:00  
T: 8802 2385  
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



SQUARE EIGHT  
T: 8802 2389  
24 hours  
Level 1, MGM MACAU

ITALIAN

LA GONDOLA  
Mon - Sunday  
11:00am - 11:00pm  
Praia de Cheoc Van, Coloane,  
next to swimming pool  
T: 2888 0156



PORTOFINO  
Casino Level1, Shop 1039,  
The Venetian Macao  
TEL: +853 8118 9950



AFRIKANA  
Monday to Sunday  
6:00pm - 3:00am  
Location : AfriKana, Macau Fisherman's Wharf  
Telephone Number : (853) 8299 3678

JAPANESE

SHINJI BY KANESAKA  
Level 1, Crown Towers  
Lunch 12:00 - 15:00  
Dinner 18:00 - 23:00  
Closed on  
Tuesday (Lunch and Dinner)  
Wednesday (Lunch)

ASIAN PACIFIC

ASIA KITCHEN  
Level 2, SOHO at City of Dreams  
Opening Hours  
11:00 - 23:00

GOLDEN PAVILION  
Level 1, Casino at City of Dreams  
Opening Hours  
24 Hours



GOLDEN PEACOCK  
Casino Level1, Shop 1037,  
The Venetian Macao  
TEL: +853 8118 9696  
Monday - Sunday:  
11:00 - 23:00

PORTUGUESE

CLUBE MILITAR  
975 Avenida da Praia Grande  
T: 2871 4000  
12:30 - 15:00 / 19:00 - 23:00

FERNANDO'S  
9 Praia de Hac Sa, Coloane  
T: 2888 2264  
12:00 - 21:30

WESTERN

FOGO SAMBA  
Shop 2412 (ST. Mark's Square)  
The Venetian Macao  
TEL: +853 2882 8499

THAI



NAAM  
Grand Lapa, Macau  
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, The Resort  
T: 8793 4818  
12:00 - 14:30 / 18:30 - 22:30  
(Close on Mondays)

BARS & PUBS



38 LOUNGE  
Atrira Macau,  
Avenida de Kwong Tung, 38/F Taipa  
Sun-Thu: 13:00 - 02:00  
Fri, Sat and Eve of public holiday:  
15:00 - 03:00

R BAR  
Level 1, Hard Rock Hotel  
Opening Hours  
Sun to Thu:  
11:00 - 23:00  
Fri & Sat:  
11:00 - 24:00



BELLINI LOUNGE  
Casino Level 1, Shop 1041,  
The Venetian Macao  
CONTACT US:  
Tel: +853 8118 9940  
Daily: 16:00 - 04:00



D2  
Macau Fisherman's Wharf  
Edf. New Orleans III  
Macau



LION'S BAR  
Thursday to Tuesday  
19:00 - 17:00  
(Close every Wednesday)  
Tel: 8802 2375 / 8802 2376

VIDA RICA BAR  
2/F, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE  
T: 8805 8928  
Monday to Tuesday: 12:00 - 00:00  
Friday: 12:00 - 01:00  
Saturday: 14:00 - 01:00  
Sunday: 14:00 - 00:00

VASCO  
Grand Lapa, Macau  
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F  
T: 8793 3831  
Monday to Thursday: 18:30 - 12:00  
Friday to Saturday: 18:00 - 02:00  
Sunday: 18:00 - 24:00



## TASTE OF EDESIA

Irene Sam, Bangkok

## FOOD

## LEGEND OF THE ORIENT

It's three o'clock in the afternoon and I have just arrived at the Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok following a short flight from Macau. While the temperature in this city is warmer, the humidity is lower than my hometown. With the bright sun shining above my head, I am looking forward to my exciting adventure in the fashionable capital of Thailand.

Upon arrival, the Front Desk Manager at the hotel immediately escorts me to my room after a quick check-in. At the door of my room, the Floor Butler greets me warmly and introduces himself.

"My name is Amnat Prajit. My team and I will be taking care of you during your stay. Should you need any help, don't hesitate to press the 'butler' button in the room. We will be at your service immediately," he explains.

After being settled in my room at the Garden Wing of the hotel, I finally begin to sit back and relax on the sofa. With a glass of iced lemon-grass tea on my hand, I look out the floor-to-ceiling window. The view of the magnificent Chao Phraya River is stunning. The water gleams as light hits the surface of the river. Wooden boats move steadily as they travel on to their destination. The horizon boasts a sense of serenity, and the lush green garden beside the swimming pool adds vivacity to the scene.

Built in 1876, The Oriental, as it was then known, was the first luxury hotel in the Kingdom of Siam. Beginning with Tsar Nicholas II of Russia during the nineteenth century, the legendary hotel has welcomed numerous heads of state, captains of industry and a host of world-renowned writers and celebrities over the years. It has long been famous for its service, style and elegance.

The establishment has recently completed a comprehensive renovation of the historic Authors' and Garden Wings. The newly renovated Garden Room's contemporary interior design combines the hotel's unique colonial inspired heritage and Thai culture, designed to significantly enhance the facilities and services of this award-winning hotel. Eager to find out more about its history, I decide to leave the comfort of my room and meet Etienne de Villiers, Director of Public Relations to have a tour of the Royal Suite.

"The six-bedroom, 600 square metre suite occupies the entire first floor of the renowned Authors' Wing, which was the original Oriental Hotel," says Etienne as we step into the private elevator to access the one-bedroom, 315 square metre Royal Suite and the adjoining 165 square metre Ambassador Suite with two bedrooms, as well as three further separate guest rooms to accommodate family and entourage.

"The comprehensive renovation of the Authors' Wing and the construction of the Grand Royal Suite have been designed to restore the celebrated heart of the hotel to its classic late-nineteenth-century design. For our Thai designers, the story of The Oriental Hotel, which is also in part the story of Thailand and the flourishing of Bangkok in the late 1800s, inspired the opulent suite's interiors," he adds.

The overall interior design is lavish yet elegant and encompasses many traditional fretwork details and ceiling mouldings inspired by the hotel's iconic heritage. The finest Thai silk has been used extensively throughout with golden silk in the master living spaces, while the master bedroom spaces take on a rich purple tone against a backdrop of white walls and traditional mouldings.

"I heard that the Thai royal family visits the hotel often. Is it true?" I ask.

"I can't tell you exactly when, but when you see the Authors' Wing closed down with members of security and police moving around our property, most probably that's the time they are here, but

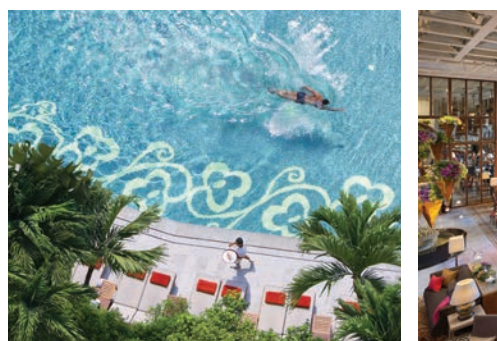
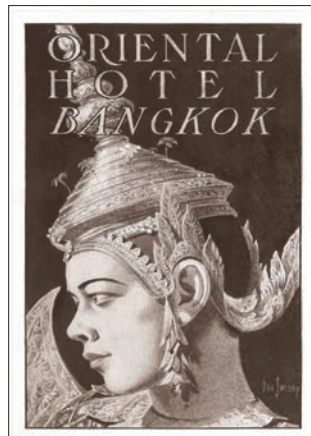
as a matter of fact, back in January of this year, the Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok kicked off its 140th anniversary celebration with a gala event presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana of Thailand," he answers.

In addition to hosting the Thai royal family, the famed hotel also has a longstanding affinity with the literary world. Inside the renowned Authors' Lounge – a favorite destination for afternoon tea, society weddings and elegant events, there are four salons named after famous authors who were guests of the hotel: Joseph Conrad, Somerset Maugham, Noël Coward and James Michener. On the walls, quotations from their books, and in some cases, signed books are on display. Another outstanding characteristic of the hotel is its unique urban resort environment, which allows guests to enjoy the extensive river frontage to its fullest. The hotel's private teakwood shuttle boats provide daily access to the world famous Thai Cooking School, the hotel's Thai restaurant, the award-winning Oriental Spa and Health Centre located across the River; as well as the nearest skytrain station and River City Shopping Centre.

"The river is back in fashion these days. Back in the nineteenth century, people only traveled through with boats. There were no roads back then, and the road that is just in front of the hotel, the Oriental Avenue, is actually built for our property, as there were guests who complained that they could not get to the hotel without a boat," he comments.

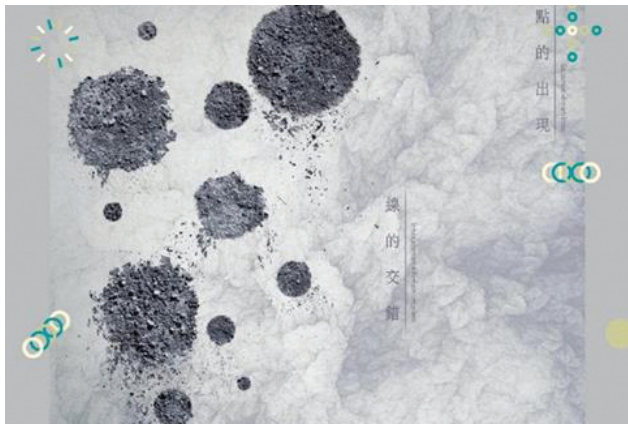
Taking the hotel river shuttle is a great way to avoid traffic in Bangkok. The spectacular golden hue of the sun is more beautiful than ever at dawn and there is no better way to appreciate the marvelous scenery than to be in a luxurious wooden boat.

As night falls, the Bamboo Bar is the perfect place to be for a sophisticated night of fun with live jazz. Originally opened in a tiny room in the hotel back in 1953, the Bamboo Bar has grown into an institution frequented by world high society. The essence of the old bar inspired the new design created. Bamboo is used for the bar, chairs, and wall and ceiling finishes. Original black rattan armchairs have been restored and replicas of rattan seating shown in early twentieth century photos are created. Tiger skin print patterns are retained on bar stools and some armchairs. The famous Thaijito and other Bamboo Bar originals created by the bar's legendary barkeeper for three decades, Sompong Boonsri, remain on the cocktail menu, along with the classics that are still mixed according to their original recipes. Hanging on the wall are historical images of the hotel and bar, and pictures of former patrons, including Louis Armstrong, Mick Jagger and Audrey Hepburn. Other artifacts include jazz instruments and explorer memorabilia, like binoculars. "The overall mood creates a nostalgic explorer's den, like before," Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok's General Manager, Amanda Hyndman explains, "It is a marriage between the colonial era and contemporary design, thereby creating a sense of place that signifies the Orient of old." While walking back to my room located in the Garden Wing, I stop several times, marveling at the lobby with violet flowers and exotic lanterns hung from the ceiling. The light by the river gives me the illusion that I am in a nineteenth-century novel. Staying at this remarkable hotel is not only a precious adventure, but it also gives me a glimpse of the past. The old, quaint elevator finally arrives on the third floor. The musky smell of Citronella from the lobby lingers on as I head back into my room. Although in a dreamy state of mind and ready to hit the sack, I firmly admit that I have become a fan of the Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok.





**WHAT'S ON**



**TODAY (APR 15)**  
POINT AND POINT

"Driven by an anonymous impulse, my feet stepped onto the bus – that's how my journey begins. As the vehicle moves, the colours of the flowing scene out of the window disorientated me. Unconscious indulgence as such sweeps away my sense of existence and direction. On and off, my sense wakes and ponders why I am here and where I should be heading to. While such confusion and indulgence takes over me, countless passengers come and go with different faces, and then I realize there have been unintentional subtle interaction amongst us. I contemplate our existence and am lost in these questions and doubts. Overwhelmed with all these bewilderment, a voice from afar breaks my thoughts, 'the bus terminates here, please leave the carriage'."

TIME: 8pm  
DATE: April 15-17  
VENUE: Edifício do Antigo Tribunal  
ADMISSION: MOP120  
ORGANIZER: The Dancer Studio Macao  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 6326 4455  
<http://www.macaoticket.com>



**TOMORROW (APR 16)**  
SPECIAL PRODUCTION SERIES – "NEW JIANGNAN SILK AND BAMBOO MUSIC – WORKS BY GU GUANREN"

Gu Guanren is a national first class highly esteemed composer in the Chinese music circle. He has served as Chairman of the Artistic Committee, as well as General Director and Artistic Director of the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra, Vice-president of the China Nationalities Orchestra Society, member of the Direction of the Chinese Musician Association and member of the presidium of the Shanghai Musician Association. Currently Gu Guanren is composer of the Arts Creation Centre of the Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture, Radio, Films and TV, and recipient of the Special Subsidy granted by the State Council for his contribution in culture.

TIME: 8pm  
VENUE: Dom Pedro V Theatre  
ADMISSION: MOP60  
ORGANIZER: Macau Chinese Orchestra  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699  
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/ochm>



**ALICE IN WONDERLAND ROOFTOP PARTY**

Alice In Wonderland Rooftop Party coming up! Join it and have fun from way up high in downtown, take the best view of inner harbor and historic city, along with the infectious beats from DJs, snacks, drinks, and more!

TIME: 6pm till late  
VENUE: Le Chinois Terrace, 18/F, Sofitel Macau At Ponte 16  
ADMISSION: MOP150 (with 2drinks, an extra drink if enter before 10pm)  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8861 0016  
ORGANIZER: Sofitel Macau  
<http://www.sofitelmacau.com>



**SUNDAY (APR 17)**  
CANTONESE OPERA

Cantonese Opera Performance 2016 features 39 shows tailor-made to afford opera lovers, and in particular the young generation, the opportunity of experiencing this traditional and much loved art.

TIME: 7:30pm  
VENUE: Cinema Alegria, No.85 E, Estrada do Repouso  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2893 8996  
ORGANIZER: Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau  
[http://content.macaotourism.gov.mo/uploads/mgto\\_shows\\_entertainment/Yueju\\_2016.pdf](http://content.macaotourism.gov.mo/uploads/mgto_shows_entertainment/Yueju_2016.pdf)



**MONDAY (APR 18)**  
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME 2016:  
WEATHERS OF LOVE – PHOTO EXHIBITION BY CHAN WAI KWONG

'Weathers of Love' is the sequel to 'Love of Daily Life', a full retrospective collection of Hong Kong

photographer Chan Wai Kwong's reflection on his self, life and love. The works are simple narratives revealing an adult's solitude, cynicism, sexuality, as well as family bonds, love, friendship and narcissism. Nearly 300 black-and-white, hand developed photos are displayed, from top to bottom, left to right, creating a strong visual impact. Regardless of their quality, they are a true and unadorned part of his life and emotional universe. In terms of visual language, being too candid or plainly straight forward isn't always well accepted by society, as almost everybody is hiding real truth close to heart. But in this showcase, we can see Chan revealed, true and bare.

TIME: 12pm-7pm (closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)  
UNTIL: May 1, 2016  
VENUE: Ox Warehouse, at the intersection of Av. Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026  
ORGANIZER: Ox Warehouse  
<http://oxwarehouse.blogspot.com>



**TUESDAY (APR 19)**  
"POST MODERN STILL LIFE" DRAWING & PAINTING BY MARCO SZETO

An exhibition of Marco Szeto, renowned artist of Hong Kong and Macau, will be held to demonstrate his artistic application of micro observation, in-depth examination, exaggeration, layering, penetration, deconstruction and restructuring in an attempt to seek for a new relationship between form and space. Media employed include pen and ink, bamboo pen, watercolor, pastel, oil, Chinese ink and collage; their complement and collision create unexpected experience and strong visual impact. This is in keeping with the artist's view of conflict, contradiction, harmonization in the modern society as well as the convergence and contrast throughout the ages, which has nothing in common with traditional realistic expressions and logical spatial arrangements. Wandering between Chinese and Western, abstract and figurative, subjective and objective, the exhibition presents still life drawings and paintings of diversified styles.

OPENING HOURS: 10am-6:30pm  
UNTIL: May 15, 2016  
VENUE: Calcada Da Barra, No. 16 R/C LJ A, Edif. San Chak, Macau  
ADMISSION: Free  
ORGANIZER: Dare to Dream Gallery  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820  
<http://www.daretodreamgallery.com>

**WEDNESDAY (APR 20)**  
THE CHARMS OF FLOWERS – EXHIBITION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

As an art form for more than 3,000 years, traditional Chinese flower arrangement is regarded as the origin of Oriental floral arrangement with profound influence. To promote this cultural essence of China, Jao Tsung-I Academy and the Macau Academy



of Flower Arrangement Designer jointly present The Charms of Flowers – Exhibition of Traditional Chinese Flower Arrangement. Featuring assorted seasonal blossoming flowers exquisitely arranged in six types of traditional Chinese containers, this exhibition gracefully presents the unique charm of the art of flower arrangement, and provides the visitors with a better understanding of this valuable Intangible Cultural Heritage in China, in a direct yet aesthetic way.



TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
UNTIL: July 31, 2016

VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

ORGANIZERS: Cultural Affairs Bureau & The Macau Academy of Flower Arrangement Designer  
<http://www.ajti.gov.mo>



### THURSDAY (APR 21)

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

This exhibition showcases nearly 30 works representative of the abstract collection including installations with rich painting qualities. The painting media and techniques used include ink wash, mixed techniques, mixed media, ready-mades, oil paints, acrylic paints, etc. The artists have conducted outstanding experimentation and exploration on the integrated techniques of abstract paintings and mixed materials with successful achievements. The works display strong personal styles through subjective abstract composition of shapes and colours, or independent thinking with symbolic meaning regarding ready-mades. The variety of art forms has fully resembled the laborious navigation of abstract art languages explored by Macau artists since the 1980s, whose works feature immense open-minded artistic characteristics of the Sino-Western cultural integration in Macau.

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

ORGANIZER: Macau Museum of Art  
<http://www.mam.gov.mo>

# Sands WEEKEND



JOLIN TSAI <PLAY> WORLD TOUR 2016 - MACAO

8pm, 30 April (Saturday)

Cotai Arena

Pop diva Jolin Tsai has been praised for her use of cutting edge special effects, amazing stage production and spectacular costume designs. The show takes place with an elaborate stage setup that sees Tsai move through a range of costumes and settings, including as Medusa, the Greek mythological character with snakes for hair. The stage also transforms into a Chinese inn, a European-style cabaret and an enchanting underwater world where Tsai dresses as a Mermaid. This is a musical spectacle you won't want to miss.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD280, call reservations +853 2882 8818  
[cotaiticketing.com](http://cotaiticketing.com)



SHREK THE MUSICAL – THE BROADWAY SMASH HIT SHOW

22 July - 7 August

The Venetian Theatre

SHREK The Musical, the smash hit show from New York's Broadway, brings the hilarious story of everyone's favourite ogre to life on stage. During its Broadway run, SHREK The Musical played over 500 performances, garnered eight 2009 Tony Award nominations. Now the hit stage version is coming to Macao this summer. One show daily on Tuesday to Friday, two shows daily on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD180, call reservations +853 2882 8818  
[cotaiticketing.com](http://cotaiticketing.com)



SHREKFAST CHARACTER BREAKFAST WITH THE DREAMWORKS GANG

Daily 10am (Saturday to Monday) 9am (Tuesday to Friday)

Urumqi Ballroom, Level 4, Sands Cotai Central

Wake up to the coolest buffet breakfast on earth. Experience the ultimate feast at Shrekfast with your favourite characters from DreamWorks Animation. Catch exclusive stage performances and capture memorable moments with your best buddies from Shrek, Kung Fu Panda (now celebrating his third great movie), Madagascar, How To Train Your Dragon and many more! Don't miss out either on the DreamWorks Experience All Star Parade, Character Meet and Greet and other great promotions.

Adult: MOP238+ Child (4-12 years): MOP138+  
Family Package (3 Adults + 1 Child): MOP688+

Reservations: +853 8113 7915

Shrekfast prices are subject to a 10% service charge.

For details of all our great DreamWorks events and promotions visit  
[www.sandscotai.com/dreamworks/winter-activities.html](http://www.sandscotai.com/dreamworks/winter-activities.html)



SUNDAY ABBONDANZA – PIZZA PASTA E DI PIU

Every Sunday: 11am-3pm

Portofino, The Venetian Macao

Savour a true taste of Italy with Portofino's Sunday Lunch. All you can eat from just MOP298, plus 10% service charge!

Every Sunday, tuck into tempting Italian favourites specially recommended by our chef, including all-new Antipasti, Soups, Main Courses and Desserts. Portofino is located at Casino Level 1039

Reservations: +853 8118 9950 or email [portofino.reservation@venetian.com.mo](mailto:portofino.reservation@venetian.com.mo).



澳門金沙度假區  
**Sands**  
RESORTS  
COTAI STRIP MACAO





# WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

By Laurie Triefeldt

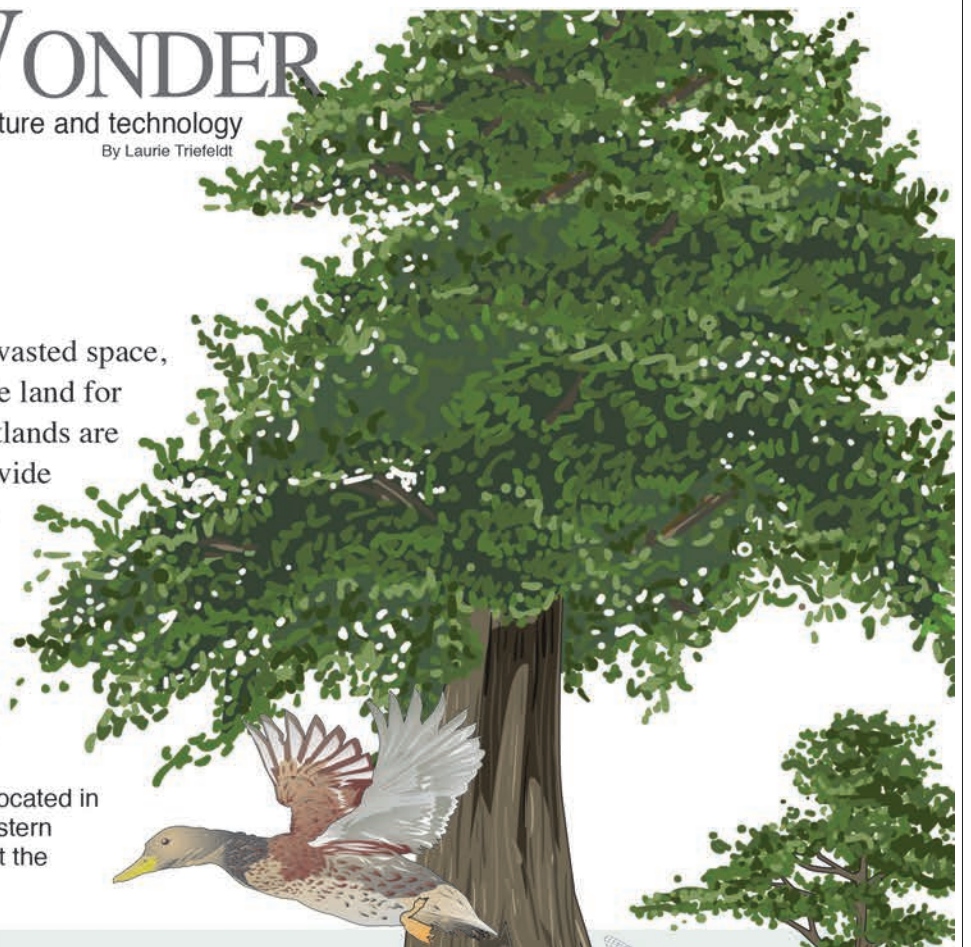
# SWAMPS

There was a time when swamps were thought to be nothing more than wet, wasted space, home to pests and mosquitoes. They were often drained and filled in to create land for agriculture or building. Today, in many parts of the world, these forested wetlands are protected and treasured as valuable and vulnerable ecosystems. Swamps provide homes and food for a huge variety of fish and wildlife. Swamps also act like sponges, filtering out pollutants and helping to control flooding.

## What is a swamp?

Swamps and marshes are two types of wetland areas; swamps contain many trees and shrubs, while marshes do not. Swamp vegetation is submerged in water for most or part of the year. Many swamps are classified by the trees that grow in them. There are two main types of swamps: freshwater swamps and saltwater swamps.

Some well-known swamps in the United States include the **The Great Dismal Swamp** located in northeastern North Carolina and southern Virginia, the **Okefenokee Swamp** in southeastern Georgia and northern Florida, and the **Florida Everglades**. The **Atchafalaya Swamp** at the lower end of the Mississippi River is the largest swamp in the U.S.



### SALTWATER SWAMP

**Saltwater swamps** help anchor coastal soil and sand.

**Raccoons** eat shellfish found in swamps.

**Mangrove swamps** form in salty water along tropical coastlines.

Florida has about 1,042 square miles (2,700 sq. km) of mangrove swamps. Many species of fish can be found only in these mangrove forests and nowhere else in the world.

Saltwater swamps and marshes are sometimes called the **nurseries of the ocean** because they provide shelter and food for many newborn animals.

The **American alligator** prefers fresh water, but it can sometimes be found in brackish water. The **American crocodile** actually prefers salty water and often lives in mangrove swamps.

Crabs and other shellfish are abundant in mangrove swamps. The swamps are also home to a huge variety of birds. The **brown pelican** is found in coastal swamps of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

### FRESHWATER SWAMP

These flooded forests often form in lowlands around lakes and streams. Rain and seasonal flooding cause water levels to rise. A variety of water-friendly trees and plants grow in the swamps' still waters and soggy soil.

**Great blue herons** are large wading birds that can be found in freshwater and saltwater swamps and other wetlands.

**Cypress swamps** are found in the southern United States. **Bald cypress** trees have wide bases and "knees" that grow up from their roots and poke out of the water. These trees grow to 100 to 120 feet (30 to 36 m) tall.

**Wood ducks** are about half the size of a mallard duck. They prefer to live in freshwater forested wetlands.

**Beavers** often live in swamps. Sometimes their dams can block waterways and cause forest flooding, which helps create a swamp.

Many kinds of **turtles** make their homes in freshwater swamps. They sun themselves on fallen tree limbs.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <http://www.nhptv.org>; <http://education.nationalgeographic.org>; <http://www.bbc.co.uk>; <http://www.okefenokee.com>;

Chat with the author and like us on Facebook — [www.facebook.com/worldofwonder2014](http://www.facebook.com/worldofwonder2014)