



*It is time to **FORGET** the **PAST**  
& **CELEBRATE** a new **BEGINNING**.*



**Where boutique  
and luxury go  
hand in hand**

La Siesta, a pioneer  
in Vietnam's luxury  
boutique hotel  
industry

page 03



**2019 Festive fare**

The Christmas and  
western New Year  
period is firmly on the  
Vietnamese calendar.

page 08 - 11



**East meets West**

Hanoi at Christmas  
time - chúc mừng  
Giáng Sinh (Happy  
Christmas)

page 17



**Do Van Dan (Mr.)**  
Chairman/CEO

Elegance Hospitality Group

## *Chairman's message*

### **FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS IN HANOI**

Welcome to this edition of the November and December EHG Post where we keep you informed of new initiatives in our group, F&B promotions and recommendations of what to do in and around Hanoi.

As we bid farewell to 2019 we invite you to wine and dine in our Red Bean, The Gourmet Corner and Cloud Nine restaurants and our sky bars to celebrate this festive season. Special Vietnamese menus and traditional western dishes reflect the Christmas and New Year period while countdown parties at Twilight, Lighthouse, Diamond and Ma May sky bars welcome 2020. If this is your first visit to Vietnam and Hanoi, then you may be taken by surprise when you see the extent of Western influenced festivities as the city celebrates the end of December and the start of the New Year. Here East meets West as Christmas has become an important festival with a lot of emphasis placed on Christmas Eve.

EHG never stand still as our group constantly refines our service and creates new experiences for our guests. Right from day one when our first property opened 20 years ago we have been a pioneer in Vietnam's luxury boutique hotel sector and a trendsetter followed by others. An important initiative which is incorporated into our philosophy and work ethic is the Go Green movement. Throughout EHG we take our responsibility seriously playing our part in environmental protection. In this edition we look at the recent resourcefulness of La Spa in this regards.

On behalf of EHG and our Hanoi hotels, we say chúc mừng giáng sinh và chúc mừng năm mới – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you are here at the end of December, we hope you have a truly memorable and inspirational Christmas.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

“

*We are able to combine a five-star experience with*



## WHERE BOUTIQUE AND LUXURY GO HAND IN HAND

### LA SIESTA, A PIONEER IN VIETNAM'S LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL INDUSTRY

In 2017 the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ranked Vietnam as the third fastest-growing tourist destination. An 'Asia Pacific Visitor Forecasts 2019-2023' report from the PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) predicts the country will lead the region in terms of average annual tourism growth. In recent years this bright future has instigated a huge surge of interest in Vietnam's expanding hospitality market from the leading international hotel brands. Savills Vietnam report that the number of global hotel operators setting up in Vietnam increased from 30 in 2010 to nearly 80 at the end of 2017, all eager for a slice of the action.

As the demand for upscale accommodation increases year on year, and despite the strong presence of global brands, Vietnam's home-grown hotels continue to dominate and shape the country's hospitality industry - especially the innovative and state-of-the-art boutique properties.

The early 1980s saw the rise of the boutique hotel in major US and European cities. However, it was another 20 years before Vietnam's fledgling boutique hotel industry was born - and it has come a long way since then. Say the words boutique now and the concept of upscale and avant-garde spring to mind.

*a down-to-earth personality.*”

Arguably and understandably one of Vietnam's leading home-grown boutique hotel groups, EHG, has long been a pioneer in the country. Our group has blazed a trail through Hanoi's Old Quarter with the La Siesta collection of five hotels, while La Siesta Resort & Spa propelled the property into Hoi An's elite list.

The La Siesta brand is aspirational and creatively stylish, clearly showing the benefits of an intimate bijou environment with the advantage of many luxuries. Our strong independent personality and size provide five-star service with the personal touch where "everybody knows your name". We become your home from home, your friend in Vietnam. We have complete freedom of interior design and high-end accessories focusing on meticulous detail and the utmost comfort. Our four sky bars Twilight, Diamond, Lighthouse and Sky Bar Ma May, plus cutting-edge Red Bean, Cloud Nine and Temple restaurants are cool, trendy places to wine and dine. Luxury is also defined by how you, our guests, feel about the La Siesta brand. The sensations you experience, the way you are treated and how we are different. This is in large part thanks to our staff. Our people, some of the best in the industry, are engaging, proactive, put you first and create conversations. You can connect with us.

We speak the language of luxury from the moment you set foot in our properties to when we bid you farewell. The dictionary defines the word luxury as something desirable, with surroundings that offer extreme comfort and enjoyment. We, at La Siesta, will continue our journey, refining and shaping Vietnam's boutique hotel industry, bringing our guests something uniquely different.

# November & December 2019 - *Autumn/Winter*

EHG's restaurants and bars have a great selection of food and beverage offers as 2019 draws to a close.



## **CLOUD NINE RESTAURANT & LIGHTHOUSE SKY BAR**

Add: 27 Hang Be Str., Hoan Kiem Dist., Hanoi  
Tel: (84-24) 3929 0011

### **Happy Hour**

Buy 1 get 1 free on all local and craft beers,  
mixed drinks and cocktails  
Available 16:00-18:00  
*Lighthouse Sky Bar*

### **Ladies Night**

Live music from our resident cover band  
Complimentary red sangria cocktail per lady  
Every Friday night 20:00 to late  
*Lighthouse Sky Bar*

### **The Lighthouse afternoon tea**

Tea set per person VND180,000++  
*Lighthouse Sky Bar*

### **Happy Lunch**

30% discount on food menu  
Available 11:30-15:00  
*Cloud Nine Restaurant*

### **Wine buffet**

Free-flowing wine on 10 varieties over a 2-hour period  
Price at VND550,000++/person for maximum 2 hours  
*Cloud Nine Restaurant*

### **Celebrate the festive season**

31 December 2019 - **Countdown party**  
Special packages from VND2,980,000 for 2 people  
*Lighthouse Sky Bar*

24 December 2019 - **Christmas special set menu**  
31 December 2019 - **New Year's Eve special set menu**  
*Cloud Nine Restaurant*



Scan here, get there!



**RED BEAN CAU GO RESTAURANT  
& TWILIGHT SKY BAR**

Add: 1 Cau Go Str., Hoan Kiem Dist., Hanoi  
Tel: (84-24) 3938 0963, Ext 705

**Stunning view happy hour**

50% discount on all local beers, mixed drinks and classic cocktails

Available 17:00-19:00  
*Twilight Sky Bar*

**Cocktail Craze – Guest Bartender nights**

Enjoy our cocktail menu created by some of Vietnam's top bartenders and mixologists, and guest bartender nights during November

*Twilight Sky Bar*

**Lobster promotion**

10% discount, applied to advance booking  
*Red Bean Cau Go Restaurant*

**Thursday & Sunday nights are music nights**

Enjoy live music performed by our resident musicians  
Entry free 20:30-22:30

*Twilight Sky Bar*

**Celebrate the festive season**

24 December 2019 - **Twilight Christmas celebrations**

31 December 2019 - **Twilight countdown party**

*Twilight Sky Bar*

24 and 25 December 2019 - **Christmas special set menu**

31 December 2019 - **New Year's Eve special set menu**

*Red Bean Cau Go Restaurant*



Scan here, get there!



Scan here, get there!

**RED BEAN MA MAY RESTAURANT  
& SKY BAR**

Add: Ground floor, 94 Ma May Str.,  
Hoan Kiem Dist., Hanoi  
Tel: (+84-24) 3926 3641, Ext 8105

**Happy Hours**

**Pure Monday:**

Buy 2 get 1 free on gin & vodka  
(cocktails, shots and mixed drinks)

**Tequi-Rhum Tuesday:**

Buy 3 get 1 free on tequila and rum  
(cocktails, shots, and mixed drinks)

**Whiskey Wednesday:**

Buy 3 get 1 free whiskey  
(cocktails, shots, and mixed drinks)

**Thirsty Thursday:**

Buy 2 get 1 free on all Classic cocktails

**Love is in the air on Friday:**

50% discount on classic cocktails,  
local beers and wine by the glass

**Boredom-be-gone weekends:**

Buy 2 get 1 free on all local beers  
Available 16:00-18:00

*Red Bean Ma May Restaurant*

**Love is in the Air**

Enjoy live acoustic music 19:00-21:00

Special deals for two for those who wear RED:

+1 complimentary dessert when ordering  
from the à la carte menu

+2 complimentary glasses of house wine  
when ordering 2 set menus

Every Friday

*Red Bean Ma May Restaurant*

**Celebrate the festive season**

24 & 25 December 2019 - **Christmas special set menu**

31 December 2019 & 1 January 2020 -

**New Year special menu**

Available 18:00-22:00

Price from VND1,300,000++/guest

*Red Bean Ma May Restaurant*

**Happy Hour**

50% discount on selected beverage menu

Available 16:00-19:00

*Sky Bar Ma May*

**Themed Nights**

Live music from our resident cover band and local artists

Special deals for guests wearing a color  
matching the theme night

Every Friday 21:00-23:00

*Sky Bar Ma May*

**Celebrate the festive season**

Christmas and New Year celebrations

Special deals for couples, families and groups of friends  
celebrating Christmas Eve and the countdown

to 2020 in our party

24 and 31 December 2019

*Sky Bar Ma May*



Scan here, get there!

**THE GOURMET CORNER RESTAURANT  
& DIAMOND SKY BAR**

Add: 32 Lo Su Str., Hoan Kiem Dist., Hanoi  
Tel: (+84-24) 3935 1632

**Happy Hour**

Buy 2 get 1 free on classic cocktails, craft beers, mixed drinks  
and wine by the glass  
Available 17:00-19:00

*Diamond Sky Bar & The Gourmet Corner Restaurant*

**Cocktail specials**

Each month the Diamond Sky Bar showcases a selection  
of spirit-based cocktails

Buy 2 get 1 free on featured cocktails

Available each evening during the month

*Diamond Sky Bar*

**Wine of the Month – wine pairing**

Each month the Diamond Sky Bar and Gourmet Corner present a  
pair of carefully selected wines of the season.

1 complimentary plate of spring rolls when purchasing 1 bottle  
from the selected wine menu

*Buy 2 get 1 free from selected wine menu by the glass*

**Celebrate the festive season**

24 & 25 December 2019 - Christmas special set menu

*The Gourmet Corner Restaurant*

**Music Nights**

Wednesday: Music instrument duet from 20:00 – 22:00

Saturday: Local Acoustic band from 20:00 – 22:00

Invited individual singers on either Friday and/or Sunday from  
20:00 – 21:30: Pop, rock, country, Jazz, Blue...

Please check on the certain date for more information

*Diamond Sky Bar*



Scan here, get there!

**RED BEAN TRENDY RESTAURANT  
& THE DEN BAR**

Add: 12 Nguyen Quang Bich Str., Hoan Kiem Dist., Hanoi  
Tel: (+84-24) 3923 4026

**Happy Hour**

Buy 1 get 1 free on classic cocktails, mixed drinks and local beers  
Buy 2 get 1 free on signature cocktails and wine by the glass

Available 17:00-18:30

*Red Bean Trendy Restaurant*

**Trendy Street Food buffet lunch**

Enjoy over 63 street food dishes from around Vietnam

Price from VND265,000++/ guest

Available 12:00 – 15:30 daily

*Red Bean Trendy Restaurant*

**Red Bean music night**

Violin & saxophone instrumental duo

Every Tuesday night 19:30-21:30

*Red Bean Trendy Restaurant*

**Celebrate the festive season**

24 & 25 December 2019 - Christmas special set menu

31 December 2019 & 1 January 2020 - New Year special menu

Accompanied by our resident violin & saxophone instrumental duo

Available 19:30-21:30

Including a complimentary small bottle  
of sparkling wine for 2 persons

*Red Bean Trendy Restaurant*

**The Den Happy Hours**

Buy 1 get 1 free on classic cocktails, mixed drinks and local beers

Buy 2 get 1 free on signature cocktails and wine by the glass

Available 16:00-18:00 and 22:30-23:30

*The Den Bar*

**Friday night music and cocktails**

Live music from our resident band and signature cocktail  
demonstrations

Every Friday night 21:00-23:00

*The Den Bar*







# 2019 Festive Fare



Christmas and western New Year period is firmly on the Vietnamese calendar. Whilst not public holidays, Vietnam goes to town with festive celebrations. City streets are festooned with decorations, the atmosphere is in a party mood and food is high on the agenda.

EHG's restaurants and bars are cool sophisticated places to enjoy the festive period with friends and family. With four restaurant brands encompassing eight branches across seven properties, four sky bars and one speakeasy bar in Hanoi, one is spoilt for choice when it comes to casual fine dining and party options during Christmas and the New Year. Our restaurants feature a selection of special Vietnamese and traditional Western set menus during this occasion, while our sky bars are the places to be for the 2020 New Year countdown.

La Siesta's Red Bean is EHG's flagship restaurant named after the simple red bean which symbolizes love and fidelity. The brand promotes modern Vietnamese cuisine through a culinary and historical journey of colors, aromas, textures and tastes living up to its reputation of "dine at Red Bean and fall in love with Vietnam"

**Red Bean Ma May**, ground floor La Siesta Classic Ma May, is a haven from the cacophony on the streets outside. Designed with classical and Asian features and bathed in warm lighting this cozy setting particularly complements this time of year.

24 & 25 December 2019 - *Christmas special set menu*  
31 December 2019 & 1 January 2020 - *New Year special menu*

For a more modern setting then look no further than **Red Bean Trendy** on the 8th floor of La Siesta Trendy Nguyen Quang Bich. Angular and straight lines, black matt floor tiles, walls in a mock grey concrete effect and floor to ceiling windows creates a 'New York' look and feel for your Christmas and New Year.

24 & 25 December 2019 - *Christmas special set menu*  
31 December 2019 & 1 January 2020 - *New Year special menu*

**Red Bean Cau Go** at La Siesta Premium Cau Go inspires a romantic chic French-colonial feel with its color palette of muted greys, black and white, together with sophisticated furnishings creates a soothing ambiance.

24 and 25 December 2019 - *Christmas special set menu*  
31 December 2019- *New Year's Eve special set menu*

**Red Bean Hoi An** is light and spacious with an idyllic outlook across the pool, extending into the courtyard and tropical gardens of La Siesta Resort & Spa Hoi An. It plays to the natural setting outside drawing one's eye through the Asian paneled windows to the gardens. This season enjoy sumptuous buffets accompanied by varied live music and entertainment.

24 December - *Christmas celebration*. Welcome drinks, canapés, buffet dinner and live entertainment





31 December – *New Year's Eve celebratory dinner and countdown party*. Welcome drinks, canapés, buffet dinner and live entertainment

The 12th floor **Gourmet Corner** restaurant of La Siesta Lo Su, gives amazing views of Hanoi across the Red River and Hoan Kiem Lake. Designed in steely blue and greys the restaurant has a sophisticated feel with a backdrop of the city's Christmas lights.

24 & 25 December 2019 - *Christmas special set menu*

**Cloud Nine**, located on 9th floor of La Siesta Premium Hang Be, probably offers one of the most dramatic Christmas experiences. Walls of floor to ceiling windows with 360 degree stunning views gives the feeling one is dining high this season in the clouds above Hanoi.

24 December 2019 - *Christmas special set menu*

31 December 2019 – *New Year's Eve special set menu*

**The Temple** is named after a traditional place of worship which borders La Siesta resort's grounds and opens out onto the salt water pool. Enjoy seasonal Christmas and New Year buffet feasts accompanied by live music.

24 December 2019 - *Christmas celebration*. Welcome drinks, canapés, buffet dinner and live entertainment

31 December 2019 – *New Year's Eve celebratory dinner and countdown party*. Welcome drinks, canapés, buffet dinner and live entertainment

For some of the best panoramic views across Hanoi and the places to be to countdown the New Year with families and friends look no further than the Twilight, Diamond, Lighthouse and Ma May sky bars. Chic, trendy and sophisticated these spaces are the perfect settings to raise a toast to Christmas and ring in the New Year.

So, we say in Vietnamese, chúc mừng Giáng Sinh (happy Christmas) and chúc mừng năm mới (happy New Year) as we wish you a happy end to 2019 and a prosperous 2020.



# THE COCKTAIL UNIVERSE



## WHO NEEDS A COCKTAIL GLASS WHEN YOU HAVE FRUIT?

The recording of recipes and stories about cocktails can be traced back to the 19th century when an American bartender from New York started documenting classic cognac-based cocktails. Jerry Thomas (1830-1885), nicknamed the Professor, is credited with turning cocktail making into an art form and many consider him the founding father of modern bar tending. Fast forward to today's world where cocktail mania is all the rage and no more so than in Vietnam. The industry here has spawned some of the most creative mixologists in SE Asia, who have invented clever cocktails with great stories.

When Dien Van Dung graduated from Hanoi Tourism College he didn't consider the direction of his career, but, after 10 years as a waiter, his attention was drawn to bar tending and mixology. Dung worked previously with one of Vietnam's best mixologists while at Lotte and now, as the Twilight Sky Bar's new head barman, he relishes the freedom to create inspirational new beverages. Through 'Gravity', his new cocktail exclusive to Twilight, he demonstrates how a cocktail has a story which also reflects personal aspirations.

Inspiration for this cocktail goes back 6 years to 2013 when Dung watched the movie Gravity starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney. What, you may ask, is the connection between a movie featuring two American astronauts stranded in space and a gin and orange based cocktail? Dung loved the feeling of weightlessness and the enormity of space portrayed by the movie, whilst closer to home his long-held dreams of becoming a pilot were dashed after

being told he would never meet the minimum height requirement. Over the next few years his love of flying and thoughts of space swirled around his head as he mulled over ideas for a cocktail that would illustrate, as best he could, the movie Gravity.

The two base ingredients are fresh orange and Tanqueray gin - a smooth premium London dry gin. Its recipe is a closely guarded trade secret but Tanqueray gin, in its classically designed green bottle, is known to contain four botanicals: juniper, coriander, angelica root and liquorice. This particular gin complements his chosen ingredients including fresh basil. The pulp of a large orange is scooped out of its shell and blended with Dung's homemade syrup of cinnamon, star anise and sugar. Mixed with Tanqueray gin, a little orange jam and fresh basil leaves the liquid is poured into the orange shell - and now the cocktail theatrics begin. The orange starts spinning, like the earth rotating, surrounded by a blanket of dry ice swirling around its surface like clouds.

When ready to drink, this warming orange and gin cocktail is transferred atop a large conch shell from where the dry ice 'clouds' flow. It is an artistically beautiful presentation combining many elements. Dung naturally called his creation Gravity after his favorite film. It is also personally close to his heart as he explains: "Gravity shows how I can live my dream through this cocktail".

### *Gravity cocktail*

*Available exclusively at the Twilight Sky Bar*

*Created by Dien Van Dung*

*Awards: Vietnam Young Bar Tender of the Year (2012)  
and runner up Vietnam Bartender Competition (2015)*

# NGUYEN THUY LINH HOSPITALITY FROM THE HEART

Hospitality starts from the heart. First and last impressions count and the guest relations experience sets the tone for a guest's entire stay. A strong service culture, genuine, authentic care and attention as well as really engaged individuals represent the La Siesta brand.

27 year-old Nguyen Thuy Linh is Guest Relations Supervisor at La Siesta Trendy Nguyen Quang Bich. After graduating in Business Management in London her beloved Hanoi called her back. As an Hanoian born and bred she knew 'there is no place like home'. Once back she worked as a receptionist in a couple of small Old Quarter hotels and was surprised by how much she adored the hospitality industry. "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life" made perfect sense to her.

The second hotel Linh worked at was opposite La Siesta Trendy when two things caught her attention. Black is her favorite clothes color so she was struck by the female staff's black velvet ao dais, the uniform at that time. And secondly, the hotel's cool trendy design. She successfully applied to work at La Siesta Trendy and her three years to date have been some of the happiest and most career-inspired.

Working as a GRO is demanding. Linh explains that one of the most challenging and important aspects is the ability to read a person allowing one to anticipate a guest's feelings and expectations in a very short space of time.

As to the three most important qualities a GRO should possess, Linh singles out: good communication skills (especially listening), the ability to understand and empathize, and finally a caring and patient personality.

She has many memories at La Siesta Trendy but one in particular, during her first week at work, will stay with her forever. While escorting recently checked-in visitors to their guestroom she accidentally opened the wrong room. It was occupied and the guests were inside. Her heart stopped beating; she was mortified and so embarrassed that it kept preying on her mind. The next day when those guests checked-out she apologized profusely to them. But she needn't have worried. They invited her to sit with them and what the male guest said will be forever printed in her memory.

*"Don't worry about it, girl. I forgive you. Everyone makes mistakes in their life and if you can forgive just do it. I have cancer. All I have is a few months left. This is the last trip in my life and I don't want to make anyone feel sad because of me. Life is short. Remain happy while you still can".* Linh was very emotional on hearing his words, and from then on she lives by his wise comments and kindness.



# NEW PLANTS AND PAPER TRAILS



## A LITTLE BIT OF EFFORT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Researchers estimate around 5 billion trees globally are cut down each year. 58,000 forest fires destroyed around 8.8million acres in 2018. Worldwide around 4 billion trees are felled for paper each year. It takes 24 trees to make one tonne of paper and 10 litres of water to make one A4 size sheet. These are just a few of the hundreds of staggering statistics regarding trees in relation to environmental protection and climate change.



Urging everyone to play their part in stemming the damage being inflicted on our planet, La Spa Director Ms Bui Thi Kim Cuc launched the La Spa Go Green initiative on 10 July, a program that is now being introduced throughout the EHG group. The La Spa team is implementing a comprehensive series of both educational and fun activities and initiatives - two of which relate to plants and paper.

Each team member has been given a ceramic pot in which to grow and nurture their own herbal plants at home. This is a fun but meaningful way to learn about caring for plants, which need time and devoted care. The plant growing project is now one of La Spa's KPIs; each staff member's cultivation ability is evaluated and judged and their herbal plant pots will then be displayed in each of La Siesta's sky bars.

The second initiative recognizes the importance of recycling paper. EHG has long been lining guestroom waste bins with newspaper instead of plastic bin bags, but La Spa has taken things one step further. The team is giving a new lease of life to out-of-date Vietnam Newspapers, EHG/Hoi An Posts and magazines. Instead of disposing of them they are fashioned into eco-friendly, stylish paper carrier bags in three sizes - small, medium and large. La Spa has banned plastic bags (as well as all other plastic items) so customers who buy a product are given a handmade paper bag while, if a customer tries to bring a plastic bag into La Spa it is swapped for a paper bag. Each staff member makes these bags in their spare time and an instructional paper-bag-making video has been recorded and uploaded to YouTube. This initiative is hugely popular with La Spa customers and the team also run short workshops for hotel guests and La Spa customers who want to make their own unique set of bags.

# CRUISING EMERALD WATERS AND LIMESTONE ROCKS

Ha Long Bay is a UNESCO World Heritage site, due to its cultural, historical and geological importance. A vast bay, dotted with around 2,000 limestone cliffs and islets. Its breathtaking, mystical and magnificent scenery cannot fail to impress.

Recognizing that not everyone has the luxury of time you may wish to consider a one-day cruise to ensure you do not miss out on the wonders of Ha Long bay's magic. The daily cruise commences with an 8am pick-up from your hotel, driving through the Red River delta. Arriving at Bai Chai Ha Long boat station mid-morning you will be welcomed on-board by the cruise captain and his team.

The four-hour cruise commences with lunch on board against the backdrop of spectacular views. Travel through dramatic scenery sailing past caves, grottoes and striking islets including Thien Cung Grotto (Heavenly Palace), Dinh Huong islet (Incense burner islet) and Trong Mai islet (fighting cocks islet). At the end of this cruise you disembark at 4pm and make your way back to Hanoi and your hotel.

This one-day excursion is a perfect way to see the best Ha Long Bay has to offer in a short space of time.

Please contact the front desk for more information and to book.



Scan here, get there!

# FOOD IS THE WAY TO HANOI'S HEART



Scan here, get there!



## HANOI – THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN STREET FOOD CAPITAL

Eating street food-style is a very social affair; Vietnamese people seemingly don't like dining solo but prefer the company of others. The street food industry is part of the national culture and a street food tour is one of the best ways to get to know Vietnam. Hanoi is considered one of South East Asia's street food capitals. The best way to dine is perched on a small stool amongst the hustle and bustle of the city.

Meet your guide and begin the journey with a walking tour of the old quarter's '36 streets'. The area is over 1,000 years old and despite centuries of change, its special charm is preserved. Sample some of Hanoi and Vietnam's iconic dishes from hundreds of food stalls from Pho Bo or Pho Ga (beef or chicken noodle soup), Bun Cha to Banh Cuon and Bun Rieu Cua. Rub shoulders with the locals as you perch on low street side stools sipping Hanoi's legendary egg coffee or ca phe sua da (Vietnamese iced coffee). Our guide will lead you down hidden alleys to discover equally hidden food stalls and local restaurants and will explain about the history of the dishes you will sample as well as some of Hanoi's heritage.

**Hanoi Street Food Tour**  
Runs daily:  
Lunchtime 11:30-14:30  
Dinnertime 18:00-21:00

2 people 35 USD\$ pp  
4 people 30 USD\$ pp  
6 people 25 USD\$ pp

# SEASONS OF FLOWERS



## PURPLES, BLUES AND YELLOW - HANOI'S FLOWERING MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

People around the world love flowers. The Vietnamese are no exception and this passion is particularly strong in Hanoi. While the city has four seasons – spring, summer, autumn and winter – uniquely Hanoi 'celebrates' 12 flower seasons, each with a significant flower. The lotus is of course the symbolic flower of Vietnam, together with the milk flower, but many other flowers are equally important to Hanoians, especially when it comes to decorating people's homes.



The 12 months of flowers:

- January – peach blossom
- February – orchid tree flower (ban)
- March – sua flower and bombax flower
- April – lily
- May – phoenix and banaba flowers
- June (and summer) – lotus
- July – sau and sunflowers
- August – xoan flower
- September/October – milk flower (hoa sua)
- October – daisies
- November – forget-me-nots and heather (thach thao)
- December- mustard flower (cai vang)

Purples and blues are the colors of November. This is season of forget-me-nots and heather. The former, also known as the Myosotis flower, which means mouse's ear in Greek, is a tiny flowering plant. It symbolizes true, undying love and fidelity, remembrance after death, memories and connections that last through time. Heather (thach thao in Vietnamese) originated in Italy. Traditional purple heather represents admiration, solitude and beauty, while the pink variety symbolizes good luck.

Yellow comes to Hanoi in December with the vibrant yellow mustard flower (cai vang in Vietnamese). It carpets gardens and provides colorful bouquets for brides at this time of year. Fields on the outskirts of Hanoi provide a fabulous display of color to attract locals and visitors alike.



# EAST MEETS WEST



## HANOI AT CHRISTMAS TIME - CHÚC MỪNG GIÁNG SINH (HAPPY CHRISTMAS)

Western visitors to Hanoi in December are often amazed at how much the Vietnamese have adopted Western Christmas traditions. Festivities and the decorations often rival anything they see at home. At the end of December Hanoi dons its Christmas guise as its streets come alive with spirit and symbols of this time of year.

Christmas is a festival traditionally not part of Vietnamese society. The concept of celebrating this time of year was originated by hotels wishing to make Western visitors feel more "at home" in Vietnam. However, now it is a firm fixture in the annual calendar, followed enthusiastically by the Vietnamese. Virtually every commercial building is heavily decorated and seasonal songs blare out from sound systems.

Father Christmas (affectionately known as 'Ông già Noel in Vietnamese – 'old man Christmas') is a common sight. Complete with red suit and white beard, a sack of presents and his elves, he dashes across shop fronts in his sleigh. Snowmen, with smiling faces, together with penguins, stand ankle deep in fake cotton wool snow. Brightly decorated Christmas trees abound both inside and outside hotels, restaurants, shops and shopping centers, ablaze with lights.

There is even a street – Hang Ma - which is dedicated to the selling of Christmas items. Here almost every conceivable type of decoration is available and the shops make a glittering spectacle with every shade of tinsel and sparkling baubles on display outside.

Although not a Catholic country, many Vietnamese do practice Catholicism. Hanoi is home to a number of Catholic Churches, three of the most iconic being St Joseph's Cathedral in the center by Hoan Kiem Lake, Cua Bac (North Gate) Church along Phan Dinh Phuong

and Ham Long Church south of Hoan Kiem Lake. These resemble a typical western Catholic church. Featuring nativity scenes, candles and Christmas lights, they are packed to the hilt on Christmas Eve with worshippers spilling onto the steps, celebrating midnight mass.

Hanoi is a wonderful destination at any time of year but Christmas gives it some extra special magic. Now it is impossible to imagine Vietnam, and Hanoi, without Christmas.





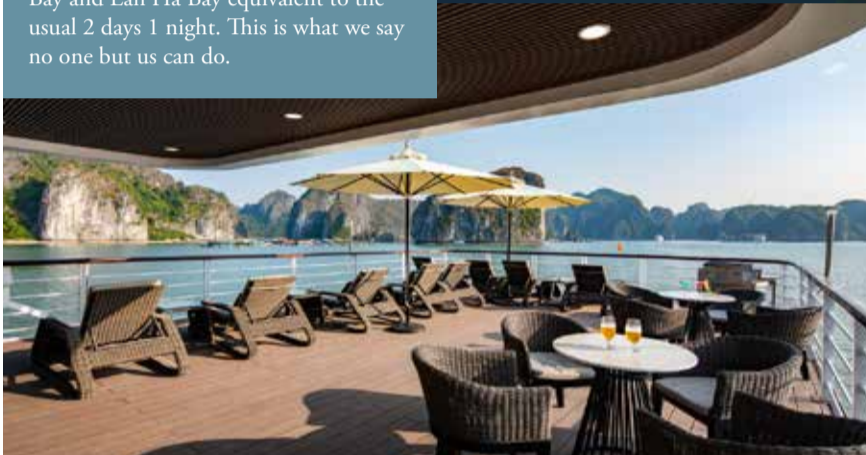
JadeSails is an elite and unique sailboat designed with the idea of creating a luxurious open space so that visitors can harmoniously blend into the natural wonders of the world Halong Bay with the elegant and modern interior includes: Restaurants, Lounge bar & cafe, Sundeck, Swimming bar, Spa, Gym...

Our itinerary with a difference and unique gives you ample opportunities to experience an unforgettable vacation by getting away from crowds and the standard route. Only 8 hours, but we bring you a journey to discover Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay equivalent to the usual 2 days 1 night. This is what we say no one but us can do.



*As the only luxury cruise exploring the Ha Long bay and Lan Ha bay for the full day trip*

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# SPEAKING VIETNAMESE

## DAILY CONVERSATION

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	PRONUNCIATION
Hello/ Hi/ Good morning/ Good afternoon/ Good evening	Xin chào	Sin chow
Goodbye	Tạm biệt	Tam bee it
Good night	Chúc ngủ ngon	Chook ngu ngon
See you again	Hẹn gặp lại	Hen gawp lie
How are you?	Bạn có khỏe không?	Ban co kwe khome?
I'm fine, thank you!	Cảm ơn bạn tôi khỏe	Gahm un ban thoy kwe
What's your name?	Bạn tên gì?	Ban thane zee?
My name is...	Tôi là...	Thoy la...
Thank you	Cảm ơn	Gahm un
You're welcome	Không có chi	Khom go chee
Sorry/ Excuse me	Xin lỗi	Seen loy
No problem	Không sao	Khome xao
Yes	Vâng	Vung
No	Không	Khome
Can you help me?	Bạn giúp tôi được không?	Ban zoop thoy duc khom?
I don't understand	Tôi không hiểu	Toy kung hey-oh
I understand	Tôi hiểu	Toy hey-oh
Happy New Year!	Chúc mừng năm mới!	Chuck moong numb moi!

## SHOPPING

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	PRONUNCIATION
I would like something else	Tôi muốn cái khác	Toy muan kai khac
Souvenir	Quà lưu niệm	Wa lew niem
Bag	Bao	Bao
How much?	Bao nhiêu tiền?	Bow neuw tee-en?
Can you give me a discount?	Bớt được không?	Bot duoc kung?
That's too expensive	Đắt quá	Dat wa
I can't afford it	Tôi không đủ tiền	Toy kung du tien
Ok, I'll take it	Tôi mua cái này	Toy moo-ah kuy nay
I don't want to buy this	Tôi không mua	Toy kung moo-ah
Smaller size	Cỡ nhỏ hơn	Cor nyor hurn
Larger size	Cỡ lớn hơn	Cor lurn hurn
What is this?	Cái gì đây?	Kie zee day
Can I have a look?	Tôi có thể xem được không?	Toy co the xem duoc kung?

### ABOUT

Elegance Hospitality is a group of hotels renowned for our well-equipped facilities and sophisticated service. Founded in the early 2000s, we have developed from our first hotel in Hanoi to the current chain of 6 boutique hotels in Hanoi's Old Quarter and one outstanding resort in Hoi An Town. Our distinctive collection of properties redefines the very concept of boutique and luxury hospitality.

### HEAD OFFICE

Unit 402, 4th Floor, Asia Tower  
6 Nha Tho St., Hoan Kiem Dist., Hanoi  
Tel: (+84 24) 3862 2222

For media, please contact Ms.Anh:  
anh.nguyen@ehg.com.vn



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