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CHECK IT OUT HANOI LA SIESTA CENTRAL HOTEL & SPA



A boutique hotel with just 27 guestrooms across five floors has opened on Cau Go Street in the heart of the Vietnamese capital's historic Old Quarter. The dress-circle locale means guests of Hanoi La Siesta Central Hotel & Spa have views over the rooftops of the heritage town on one side of the building and across Hoan Kiem Lake on the other.

The property is owned and operated by Vietnamese company Elegance Hospitality Group and chairman and founder Do Van Dan has taken a special interest in the conversion of this historic home into a very smart, well-priced hotel. Inside he's gone for a classic and understated elegance, with dark wood panelling, black and white tiles and cream upholstery. Nineteen of the guestrooms come with lake views; the Junior Suite Lake View and Premium La Siesta Suite Balcony claim the best outlooks. All feature king-size beds, large flat-screen TVs and super-smart bathrooms with rain showers.

The mezzanine-level day spa is the headline act and follows the classic black and white theme across

seven treatment rooms; the menu is inspired by traditional Vietnamese healing practices.

EHG has emerged as one of Vietnam's leading boutique chains. Do Van Dan learned the ropes working as a hotel receptionist before opening a 10-room property with just four staff in 2006. The Central is the group's sixth hotel in Hanoi.

DON'T MISS: The hotel offers a range of options from a Hanoi street-food tour to day trips to destinations including the Bat Trang Ceramic Village or Tay Phuong Pagado and Van Phuc silk village.

DINING IN: There are great lake views from the rooftop Red Bean restaurant and Twilight Sky Bar (try the extra spicy Welcome to the Sky tippie with vodka, fresh mandarin juice and homemade hot spice puree). In the restaurant, executive chef Dinh Van Manh oversees a great Vietnamese menu along with regional and Western dishes such as Thang Long grilled fish or crabmeat and green asparagus

soup, Asian-style, alongside grilled Australian striploin.

DINING OUT: Try Banh Mi 25 for Vietnamese-style baguettes or nab a table on the pavement at the Parisian-style La Terrasse at the historic Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi.

ASK THE CONCIERGE: Take a stroll to Giang Cafe, which specialises in ca phe trung, or egg coffee, a Hanoi specialty in which a creamy soft, meringue-like egg-white foam is perched atop dense Vietnamese coffee.

CHECKING IN: From \$US85 (\$107); premium suite from \$US169. More: hanoilasiestacentralhotel.com.

ALSO TRY: La Siesta Hoi An Resort & Spa, Vietnam; Avani Riverside Bangkok Hotel; Seven Terraces, George Town, Penang.

CHRISTINE McCABE

ACCOMMODATION BUZZ

Sydney's Sheraton on the Park has announced a \$40 million refurbishment of all 558 guestrooms and suites due for completion early next year; the 21st-floor Sheraton Club will be reconfigured to frame views of Sydney Harbour and Hyde Park • Sri Lanka's Cantaloupe Hotels in Galle have released a special Big Blue package giving guests the chance to visit the breeding ground of a 200-strong pod of blue whales 9.6km offshore; from \$US880 (\$1107) for three nights and four days including breakfasts, airport transfers, whale watching and dinner; the package is available October 1-December 23 • Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group makes its Caribbean debut on November 1 when it takes over the management of a luxury hotel on Canouan Island in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; the Mandarin Oriental Canouan has 26 oceanview suites and 12 pool villas and a day spa that includes overwater treatment cabanas • The 16-room Dunstane House in Edinburgh's West End has unveiled an elegant million-pound makeover that delivers understated luxury with "an authentic Scottish soul"; sister property Hampton House unveils a further eight renovated guestrooms later this year • Out-of-towners who've booked tickets to My Fair Lady at Sydney's Capitol Theatre can take advantage of a special package at the Metro Hotel Marlow Sydney Central, opposite the venue; from \$140, it includes hot buffet breakfast for two adults and midday checkout.

CELEBRATION VOYAGES

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Auckland to Sydney 16 days, Jan 5, 2018[†]; Feb 6, 2018[†]
From \$8,499*

[†]Fare based on Dec 4 sailing. *Ports of call vary.
*Offers expire November 14th, 2017. All fares are in Australian dollars, cruise-only, for new bookings only, per guest, double occupancy, subject to availability. Some suite categories may not be available. Taxes, Fees and Port Expenses are included. Fares are not combinable with any other offer, may vary by sailing date, are capacity controlled, and are subject to change without prior notice. Premium Suite Shipboard credit offer of \$1,000USD per suite (\$500USD/person) on select voyages available only in PH, PS, OW, SS, WG and GR suite categories only, and is not combinable with any other shipboard credit offer. Shipboard credit offer of \$300USD per suite (\$150USD/person) on select voyages, and is not combinable with any other shipboard credit offer. Air credit available on new bookings only made between September 4th, 2017 and November 14th, 2017, for round-trip flights booked by November 14th, 2017 through Seabourn's Flight Ease program based on promo RX. Offer is available to guests 1 & 2 sharing a suite, is non-transferable, and is not combinable with any other fares. Certain restrictions may apply. Seats are limited and may not be available on every flight. Fares include one complimentary checked bag, additional fees for baggage and other charges may be directly assessed by airlines or airports; please refer to the applicable airline website for further information. Air Credit not combinable with any other shipboard credit (except Premium Suite SBC or \$300USD SBC, but not both) or air offer, may vary by sailing date, are capacity controlled, and are subject to change without prior notice. All savings amounts are included in fares shown. Certain restrictions apply. Seabourn reserves the right to correct errors. Ships' registry: Bahamas. ©2017 Seabourn.



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