



*Good luck, good health, good cheer
and Happy New Year!*



Spring is in the air

The market is transformed into a giant flower garden full of vibrant colors during Tet

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The ultimate in 2020 Tet Lunar New Year countdowns

Toast the Lunar New Year from our sky bars with privileged scenes of Hanoi's sky line

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Tips for visiting Hanoi at Tet

Why you should plan ahead when visiting Hanoi during tet

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Do Van Dan (Mr.)
Chairman/CEO

Elegance Hospitality Group

Chairman's message

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

As the Lunar New Year falls at the end of January, this edition of the EHG Post includes a number of features relating to cuisine, Hanoi travel tips, some traditions relating to the Tet period and how La Siesta Hotels are celebrating Vietnam's most important holiday period.

This January we celebrate two new years based on the Gregorian and Lunar calendars: the western new year on Wednesday 1 January and Tet Nguyen Dan (Tet) three weeks later. It is the lunar calendar which determines the date of Tet which varies annually according to the moon's cycle. This year, lunar new year's day falls on Saturday 25 January 2020. This is the first day of the new year that has a new moon. The lunar calendar also determines Vietnam's system of zodiac signs, represented by 12 animals - the belief being that the animal ruling one's birth year greatly influences one's personality and destiny. With this year's Tet we bid farewell to the Year of the Pig (the last in the animal list) and welcome the Year of the Rat, the first in the 12 animal zodiac signs.

If you are here in Hanoi in the run-up to and/or during Tet, you will be wrapped up in the festive atmosphere that fills the air, witness streets full of peach blossom trees and other colorful flowers, Hanoi's famous Quang An flower market will be jam packed with a huge variety of plants while streets such as Hang Ma are transformed into Aladdin's caves of colors and traditional Tet symbols, while food is always high on the agenda.

Over Tet the La Siesta hotels' restaurants invite you to enjoy special Tet set menus while our sky bars provide ringside views of Hanoi's Tet firework displays.

On behalf of all our hotels in Hanoi, our La Siesta staff wish you a happy 2020 and a prosperous Lunar New Year. Chúc mừng năm mới" (Happy New Year) and "Cung chúc tân xuân" (gracious wishes for the new spring)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Do Van Dan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

“

We are able to combine a five-star experience with



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

THE COLORFUL AND CULINARY TRADITIONS OF TET

The spirit of spring is in the air as La Siesta hotels & resorts celebrate Vietnam's most important holiday period. Welcome to the arrival of spring and new beginnings.

During the Tet lunar new year Hanoi and Hoi An are abuzz with festive activities at this beautiful time of the year. Red and yellow colors are in abundance, streets are lit with red lanterns, homes are decorated with pink cherry blossom (in the north) and the atmosphere has an exciting vibe.

Throughout La Siesta properties subtle touches of Tet highlight this significant occasion. Our hotel lobbies and restaurants are decorated simply yet symbolically. Small ornamental displays of pink peach blossom trees signifying the warding off of bad luck are decorated with hanging red and gold paper denoting good fortune, prosperity and happiness. Small kumquat trees take pride of place, their deep orange fruits representing fertility and abundance for the coming year.

Food is high on the agenda. La Siesta's restaurants present special Tet set menus over the three Tet days (24, 25 and 26 January) featuring dishes popular throughout the year as well as symbolic Tet cuisine such as Banh Tet, fried spring rolls and traditional sweet Tet cakes.

Additional highlights include:

- Red Bean Hoi An and the Temple round of three days off Tet menus with a mouthwatering special 40+ dish Tet buffet on 27 January
- The Twilight Sky Bar's Lunar New Year cocktail week (La Siesta premium Cau Go) presents three kinds of cocktails and the lucky money tree from 21 to 27 January
- On 24 January La Siesta Classic May May's Moonlight Sky Bar festivities include a lunar new year's eve luxury lucky draw
- And, of course our four Hanoi sky bars provide awesome views of Tet new year's eve city firework displays

Our La Siesta staff give a warm new year welcome and are on hand with tips for Tet to ensure you make the most of your Hanoi and Hoi An January visits.

At La Siesta hotels and resorts immerse yourself in Vietnam's lunar new year customs and accompanying cuisine where eye-catching decorations and special menus introduce you to the world of Tet.

a down-to-earth personality.”

January and February 2020 – *winter/spring*

EHG's restaurants and bars have a great selection of food and beverage offers as we start the year 2020 and welcome the lunar new year.



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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

Vietnam Inspiration

Visiting Hanoi, you not only encounter a paradise
of food but also a unique drinking culture.
Come with us on a journey to explore some of the best
spirits such as local Sampan Rhum and Royal Sedang Gin.
Enjoy unique cocktails made from these spirits and local
craft beers.
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 180,000 vnd++
Lighthouse Sky Bar

Happy Hour Lunch

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

Wine buffet

Free-flowing wine on 12 varieties over a 2-hour period
Price at 595,000 vnd++/person for maximum 2 hours
Cloud Nine Restaurant

Tet Lunar New Year

Tet Special Set menu
Cloud Nine Restaurant

Fireworks & Countdown Party

Lighthouse Sky Bar

Valentine's Day

Valentine special Set menu
Cloud Nine Restaurant

Special Valentine cocktails

Cloud Nine Restaurant

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

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

Happy Hours

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 all day 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

Diamond Sky Bar & The Gourmet Corner Restaurant

Celebrate the New Year season

1 January 2020 – New Year special set menu

The Gourmet Corner

Weekly live music

Wednesdays: instrumental music duo from 20:00 – 22:00

Saturdays: Local acoustic band from 20:00 – 22:00

Fridays or Sundays: Invited individual singers perform
selections of pop, rock, country, Jazz, blues...
from 20:00-21:30

Please check on the relevant days for more information

Diamond Sky Bar

Tet Lunar New Year

Tet Special set menu

The Gourmet Corner Restaurant

Tet Countdown Party

Live music from 20:00 - 23:30

Special menu to celebrate Tet Lunar New Year

Fireworks - Countdown Party - Lucky draw

Diamond Sky Bar

Valentine's Day

Friday 14 February 2020

Buy 1 cocktail get 1 free over a 2-hour period
for tables reserved per couple

Special set menu for Valentine's Day

The Gourmet Corner Restaurant

Valentine Drinks

Special beverage menu, accompanied
by romantic live music from 20:00-22:00

Diamond Sky Bar



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**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

Special prices:

Local beers 45,000 vnd ++

Mixed drinks 80,000 vnd++

Classic cocktails 95,000 vnd++

House wine by the glass 125,000 vnd+

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

Available 17:00-19:00

Twilight Sky Bar

A Quartet of Evening Music

Enjoy live music performed by our resident musicians

Thursdays live cover band and acoustics

Fridays & Saturdays DJ nights

Sundays violin and guitar instrumental duo

Timing 20:30-22:30

Twilight Sky Bar

Lobster promotion

10% discount, applied to advance booking

Red Bean Cau Go Restaurant

Tet Lunar New Year Cocktail Week

Enjoy 3 kinds of cocktails and the lucky money tree

Available 21-27 January 2020

Twilight Sky Bar

Valentines Cocktails and Chocolate Week

Love story cocktail week with 3 kinds of cocktails and chocolate

Available 8-14 February 2020

Twilight 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 at Red Bean Trendy

Buy 1 get 1 free on classic cocktails, mixed drinks & 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

Special street food delight
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

Tet celebrations

Special Tet Lunar New Year Set Menu
Available 24, 25 and 26 January 2020
Red Bean Trendy Restaurant

Happy Hour at the Den Bar

Buy 1 get 1 free on classic cocktails, mixed drinks & 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

Love is in the Air

Valentine's Day Set Menu at Red Bean followed by
live music at the Den Bar
Friday 14 February 2020
Red Bean Trendy Restaurant



Scan here, get there!



Scan here, get there!

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

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

**Red Bean Ma May Bar & Restaurant
Happy Hours**

PURE MONDAY Buy 2 pay 1 on Gin* and Vodka*
TEQUIRUM TUESDAY Buy 3 pay 2 on Tequila* and Rum*
WHISKEY WEDNESDAY Buy 3 pay 2 on Whiskey*
THIRSTY THIRSDAY Buy 2 pay 1 on 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
*Cocktails, shots, and mixed drinks
Available 16:00-18:00

Weekly Event

Every Friday evening
LOVE IS IN THE AIR
Special deals for two: 2 complimentary glasses of house wine when
ordering 2 set menus
Enjoy live acoustic music 19:00-21:00

Festive Events "Tết!"

Lunar New Year holiday menu and Tết Set menu
Available 24, 25 and 26 January 2020
Price from 650.000 vnd++/set

**Please note the regular menu is not available
during the 3 days of Tet**

Be My Valentine

Friday 14 February 2020
Special set dinner menu accompanied by live music
Price at 1,200,000vnd++/couple
20% discount on a bottle of rosé and sparkling wine
Dinner 18:00-22:00 with live acoustic music: 19:00-21:00

Moonlight Sky Bar

Happy Hours

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays: Buy 3 pay 2 on
Signature and modern twist cocktails and house
wine by the glass
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays: Buy 2 pay 1 on
Mixed drinks, local beers, classic cocktails
and local herbal & fruit wines
Available: daily 17:00-18:00 except Thursdays

Weekly Event

Thirsty Thursday

Free flowing local beers, mixed drinks, house wine by the
glass and soft drinks over a 2-hour period
Price at 500,000 vnd++/person
Available: 17:00 -19:00

Beer Lovers Package

Standard In-House Fermentation

Price at 450.000 VND++for every 6 bottles of
TRUC BACH | TIGER CRYSTAL | BARETT RED SMOKY |
FURBREW LONG BIÊN IPA
Available: 17:00 to midnight
PREMIUM IN-HOUSE FERMENTATION
01 complimentary Chef's cheese, cold cut and mixed nuts
platter for every 6 bottles of
LA TRAPPE QUADRUPEL TRAPPIST
Available: 17:00 to midnight

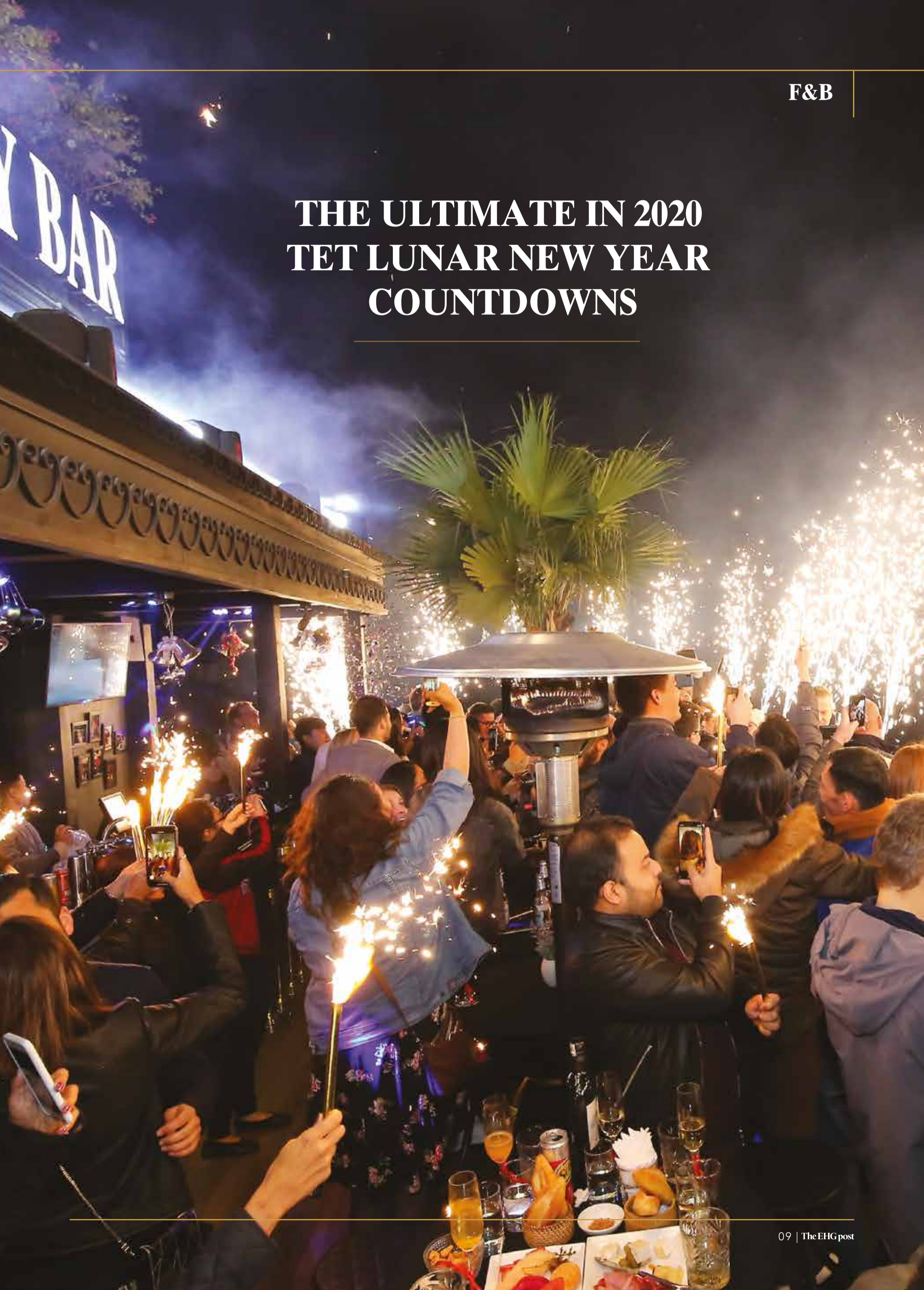
Festive Events "Tết!"

Celebrate Lunar New Year's Eve
Standing entrance fee of 680.000vnd++/person includes 01
glass of Crémant de Bougogne and lucky draw with a chance
to win a voucher for a 01-night-stay at a 5-star resort in Hoi
An, Quang Nam and other prizes
Various packages price from 1,850,000vnd++/person
Friday 24 January 2020
Available 21:00-midnight

Be My Valentine

Special couple's cocktails 269,000vnd++/person
For wine lovers enjoy a 20% discount on
a bottle of rosé and champagne
Friday 14 February 2020
Available all day

THE ULTIMATE IN 2020 TET LUNAR NEW YEAR COUNTDOWNS





STRIKING TET FIREWORKS TO LIGHT UP HANOI'S NIGHT SKIES

Governed by tradition, taboos and legends, Tet Nguyen Dan (Tet for short) welcomes the Lunar New Year and Spring's arrival. It is Vietnam's most important festival and public holiday. The lunar and solar calendars are linked in Vietnam; the former dictates the observance of festivals and rituals according to the cycles of the moon. The New Year starts on the first night of the first moon of the first month of the lunar calendar.

Also known as The 'Feast of the First Morning of the First Day', Tet is when the new and good replace old and bad elements. It is the country's largest holiday period and the most important time for family gatherings and reunions of friends.

Hanoi's celebrations are traditionally marked by stunning firework displays. This year 2020, the Year of the Rat, will be welcomed by 30 city-wide firework displays across 30 districts including Hoan Kiem Lake, Lac Long Quan Flower Garden, My Dinh Stadium, Thong Nhat Park, Van Quan Lake, and Son Tay Ancient Citadel.

On New Year's Eve, as the clock strikes midnight, welcoming in 25 January, Hanoi's night sky will light up with 15 minutes of high altitude firework displays at six venues and lower height displays at the other 24 locations. This is an important way to countdown Tet - colorful lights and the roar of the fireworks are believed to drive away bad luck and evil spirits. They also visually bid farewell to the old year and welcome the new one.

La Siesta invites you to toast the Lunar New Year from one of our four sky bars with privileged scenes of Hanoi's sky line, Hoan Kiem Lake, the Red River and neighboring districts for some of the most awesome views of this year's firework displays.

At La Siesta Cau Go, take the spiral staircase to the stylishly cool Twilight Sky Bar on the rooftop levels. Enjoy some of Hanoi's best cocktails with a ringside view of the two most spectacular firework displays over Hoan Kiem Lake and Thong Nhat Park.

A few blocks away the Diamond Sky Bar at La Siesta Lo Su, and the Lighthouse Sky Bar at La Siesta Hang Be provide sophisticated settings with particularly superb views across the Red River to capture the Gia Lam district displays.





Or, climb the mini Long Bien Bridge at La Siesta Classic Ma May's Moonlight Sky Bar for a 360-degree ringside seat and your place on the bridge to marvel at most of the city's central firework displays.

The orientations and outlooks of EHG's sky bars take you to the heart of the action and give the best views of Hanoi's celebrations. Welcome the New Year with a glass of champagne or cocktail in hand as we countdown the coming of spring.



THE GOLDEN FACE OF SAPA



In 2013, at the age of 27, Tuan Le invented the Sapa Cocktail for the third round of the 2013 Diageo World Class Bartender competition held in Ho Chi Minh City (the final of which was in Bangkok). The cocktail is the visual interpretation of what Sapa means to Tuan - complete with iconic symbols such as Sapa's water irrigation system, ingredients found in Sapa and the thick mountain clouds.

Six years later, and now GM of La Siesta Premium Cau Go, Tuan has taken his signature cocktail, which remains close to his heart, one step further by creating a more luxurious version. The Golden Sapa cocktail lives up to its gilded, themed name as one of the most premium cocktails in Hanoi. This 2019 adaptation of the 2013 original is currently only available at La Siesta Premium Cau Go and is believed to be the most expensive cocktail in Hanoi.

So what makes this golden creation so memorable and a class above its 'parent'?

Golden Sapa incorporates the same ingredients as the Sapa cocktail but using more premium varieties. Zacapa XO 25, Sampan Rhum distilled in Quang Nam province, apricot liqueur from Sapa, homemade Sapa syrup (star anise, honey, caraman, sugarcane juice and kumquat juice) are combined to create a golden orange drink with a sweet light taste, which is not overtly alcoholic. It is topped with a layer of smooth white cinnamon foam (made from cream, cinnamon and apricot liqueur) and sprinkled with 24 carat

edible gold leaf. But this is not all, Golden Sapa is accompanied by an S-shaped cake. The S represents both Sapa and the outline of Vietnam and the ingredients include apricot liqueur and white chocolate covered in 24 carat edible gold leaf.

Golden Sapa, as well as Sapa cocktail, cannot be made without a vital piece of equipment which hints at Sapa's bamboo water irrigation system. Tuan calls it the Sapa Tree - a cleverly constructed series of 'pipes' and balancing levers allowing the cocktail liquid to be heated and trickle along the seesawing pipes. The effect is then enveloped in dry ice representing the mountain clouds of Sapa. He designed this on paper and then found a bronze casting artisan in Hanoi's Old Quarter to make it. The Sapa Tree went through four construction updates before Tuan was happy with the final result. Anh Son, now 46-years old, is the artisan with the pavement as his workshop, who patiently and with good humour worked with Tuan to perfect this mechanism. Why out of all the artisans in the Old Quarter and neighboring districts was Anh Son chosen? Tuan says he was struck by his friendliness and ready smile. Anh Son has since made another eight Sapa Trees. Tuan's Sapa cocktails are only available at bars where he has worked and/or been associated with.

As to whether Anh Son has seen the Sapa Tree in action Tuan explains he has invited him to some of the bars in the past to show him the success of his masterpiece and to have a Sapa cocktail or two. As one can imagine Anh Son is immensely proud and no doubt will be looking forward to sampling the Golden Sapa in the future.

BE POSITIVE AND INSPIRE OTHERS

At just 28 years old Le Xuan Hai is Restaurant Manager of La Siesta's Red Bean Cau Go restaurant. A relative newcomer on the La Siesta block, Hai quickly cemented his position within EHG's La Siesta brand by bringing even greater success to Red Bean Cau Go.

Hai was born in Hai Phong, Vietnam's 3rd largest city, some 100km from Hanoi. His parents, now retired, were workers. They encouraged their son to study hard and were proud when he majored in Business Administration at the FPT and Vietnam Commerce University. Hai decided to focus on a hospitality career and he had a taster of the industry when working as a bartender to help fund his university studies.

After graduating, he aspired to work in a dynamic, professional environment which would challenge his abilities. Before joining EHG, he worked for over three years at Lotte and the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel Hanoi; however, he explains, he found his dream job at La Siesta and Red Bean.

First impressions count and during his first week a year ago, he was immediately struck by the high level of truly heartfelt service from every department. Similarly, the warm welcome from his colleagues and the management ensured he quickly settled into the EHG family. And, what he loves most about Red Bean are his lovely colleagues, the beautiful luxurious restaurant and great teamwork.

So, what is the secret of his success given the impressive contribution made to Red Bean and the F&B department? Actually, there is no secret of success he admits. He simply attributes it to his very positive and uncomplicated mindset enabling him to inspire positivity in others. He also operates as though Red Bean were his own business, hence the need to work ten times harder. His philosophy is to contribute the best he can in any situation - when one tries one's best one definitely achieves something worthwhile.

Heeding advice is important and for Hai the most valuable words of wisdom have come from his GM, Mr Tuan Le, who says "always think and live positively then you will do extraordinary things and inspire everyone around you with your positive energy".

And finally, Hai's advice to others. No matter the field of work, just be yourself and show the best of your abilities. After every journey look back at what you did or didn't do and keep planning to complete the next task in hand.



THE ESSENCE OF TAMANU OIL



Scan here, get there!

A TROPICAL REMEDY AND SKIN TREATMENT

While the body's skin can be dry massaged, the absence of oil makes the whole massage for both the therapist and customer less comfortable. Therefore, the spa world incorporates oils which are compatible for massage. This ensures smooth movement of technique and avoids unpleasant friction between a therapist's hands and the skin.

The many types of massage are chosen for a variety of reasons and conditions. In parallel, the oils applied depend on the treatment. Each oil should have certain properties suitable for that particular massage which in turn enhances the overall benefits and effect.

The two categories of oil used are essential oils, i.e. the 'essence' of a plant's fragrance, and base (or carrier) oils which dilute essential oils and 'carry' them onto the skin.

La Spa uses two base oils: Olive Oil and Tamanu Oil. For hundreds of years, the latter has provided holistic and medicinal benefits in Asian cultures. Tamanu is a natural nut oil with healing and anti-inflammatory qualities. This richly scented oil is extracted from the nut kernels of the tropical evergreen Tamanu nut tree. It is indigenous to South East Asia, Polynesia, East Africa and south Indian coastal regions; in Vietnam it grows wild in central, south east and south west mountainous regions. Here are a few reasons why people love Tamanu Oil. It:

1. Contains antiseptic, antibiotic, antibacterial, antifungal properties
2. Relieves and protects the skin against inflammation, redness, sunburn and insect bites
3. Regenerates the skin by promoting the formation of new tissue and healthy cell growth and studies show the oil has properties which aid the skin to heal faster and reduce the effects of scarring
4. Its high antibacterial and wound-healing properties help relieve acne scars
5. Possesses antioxidant, anti-aging and anti-wrinkle properties
6. Nourishes and repairs epidermal cells of dry and damaged skin
7. The oil has a rich fatty acid content making it a great skin moisturizer
8. Hypoallergenic (non-irritant, non-sensitizing) qualities
9. For some people its antifungal properties make it an effective remedy for athlete's foot
10. The oil can be used cosmetically, combined with creams, shampoos and conditioners

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.



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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 18:0-21:00

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

HANOI IN BLOOM FOR TET



Cho Hoa Quang An (Quang An flower market in Tay Ho district) is Hanoi's largest and best known fresh flower wholesale market in north Vietnam. In the past flower sellers from the market garden villages of Nghi Tam, Ngoc Ha, Tu Lien, Quang Ba, Nhat Tan, Phu Thuong and Tay Tuu met spontaneously to sell their flowers at the junction of Au Co and Xuan Dieu streets. However, when Tay Ho district was formed in 1996/98 the flower market became permanently established at its current location near the Red River.

Although open 24 hours a day, it is most active from 22:00 overnight to 07:00; hence one needs to be an early riser to see the flower market at its best. Merchants, small traders and wholesale buyers select the best blooms to sell in their shops during the day. Individual customers also buy flowers for their homes and work places. However, the market has a special significance and presence during the Tet Lunar New Year when it is transformed into a giant flower garden full of energy and vibrant colors. People visit not only to buy flowers but also to enjoy the whole Tet experience and happy colorful atmosphere.



Flowers play a very important role at Tet in ancestor worship when families place them as offerings in pagodas, temples and communal houses and the demand for fresh flowers soars.

Flowers sold at the market (loose or in ready-made arrangements and bouquets) come from Hanoi's outer suburbs and as far away as Da Lat 1,400km away. Almost every type of flower is found here - including cherry blossom, lilies, roses, carnations, orchids, chrysanthemums, tulips, hydrangeas, sunflowers, gerber daisies and so on. Often sellers specialize in one type of flower, making it easier to make a choice. Two particular species sold have a deep and poignant significance at Tet. Peach blossom heralds the arrival of spring while the Kumquat tree signifies reunion – both these elements underpin the meaning of Tet.

The weather is significantly cooler at this time of year so people wrap up warmly as they wander among the colorful flower displays. Everyone, young and old, loves the atmosphere that pervades this flower market. Motorbike riders dodge in and out of the displays as they drive away with bunches of flowers strapped to the back of their bikes.

TIPS FOR VISITING HANOI AT TET



WHY YOU SHOULD PLAN AHEAD WHEN VISITING HANOI DURING TET

Governed by tradition, taboos and legends, Tet Nguyen Dan (Tet) welcomes the lunar New Year and spring's arrival. People honor their ancestors and make offerings at family altars. Custom dictates that actions and thoughts at the start of the lunar New Year influence one's fate and prosperity for the coming 12 months.

This is the country's most important festival and major seven-day public holiday. During this time, visitors will discover Hanoi's quieter side as the city streets are less crowded and frenetic. However, aside from enjoying the peace, visitors need to be aware of factors which could impact on travel plans during Tet.

Many people return to their home towns and villages for customary family reunions. Schools, state offices and many businesses, including some family-run restaurants, close over the statutory holiday period (from three to seven days). Banks are also shut so make sure you do not need to use banking facilities at this time.

Public services may be limited and extremely overcrowded with a high volume of domestic travelers. Tickets for trains, planes and intercity buses sell out well in advance, while prices rise steeply, sometimes by as much as 30%. Therefore, it is advisable not to book at the last minute.

While some tourist sites remain open, many museums, exhibitions and other tourist venues may close extra early during the first three days of Tet or alter their opening hours.

Significant religious sites outside Hanoi such as the Perfume Pagoda (Ha Tay) and Bai Dinh Pagoda (Ninh Binh province) are inundated with Vietnamese visitors. While this makes for an interesting local experience it also signals travel nightmares, congested roads and jam-packed sites.

Tet is a good time for shopping - prices are reasonable because sellers want to start the new year well; however, one should avoid aggressive bargaining which is considered to bring bad luck for the year.

An important tradition to note is Vietnamese people believe that the first person to visit one's home on New Year's Day dictates the coming year's fortunes. Therefore, this individual should be successful with a good character and moral values. One should not visit Vietnamese families on this day unless invited to.

On the plus side, Tet New Year's Day gives one the luxury of enjoying Hanoi's normally noisy and crowded places in peace. Wander the unusually empty, quiet alleys bereft of people, cars and motorbikes and see the quiet side of Vietnam's capital.

Tet 2020 calendar

7 days' statutory holiday

23 January – 1st day of the holidays

24 January – Vietnamese New Year's Eve

25 January – Vietnamese New Year's Day

26-29 January inclusive – Tet holidays (during which Government offices, state-owned companies and schools will be closed)



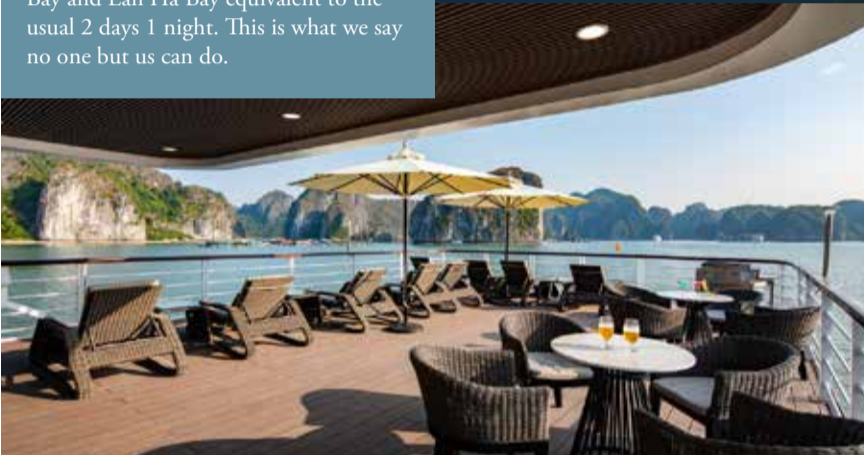
JadeSails is an elite and unique sailboat designed with the idea of creating a luxurious open space so that visitors can harmoniously blend into the natural wonders of the world Halong Bay with the elegant and modern interior includes: Restaurants, Lounge bar & cafe, Sundeck, Swimming bar, Spa, Gym...

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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.

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