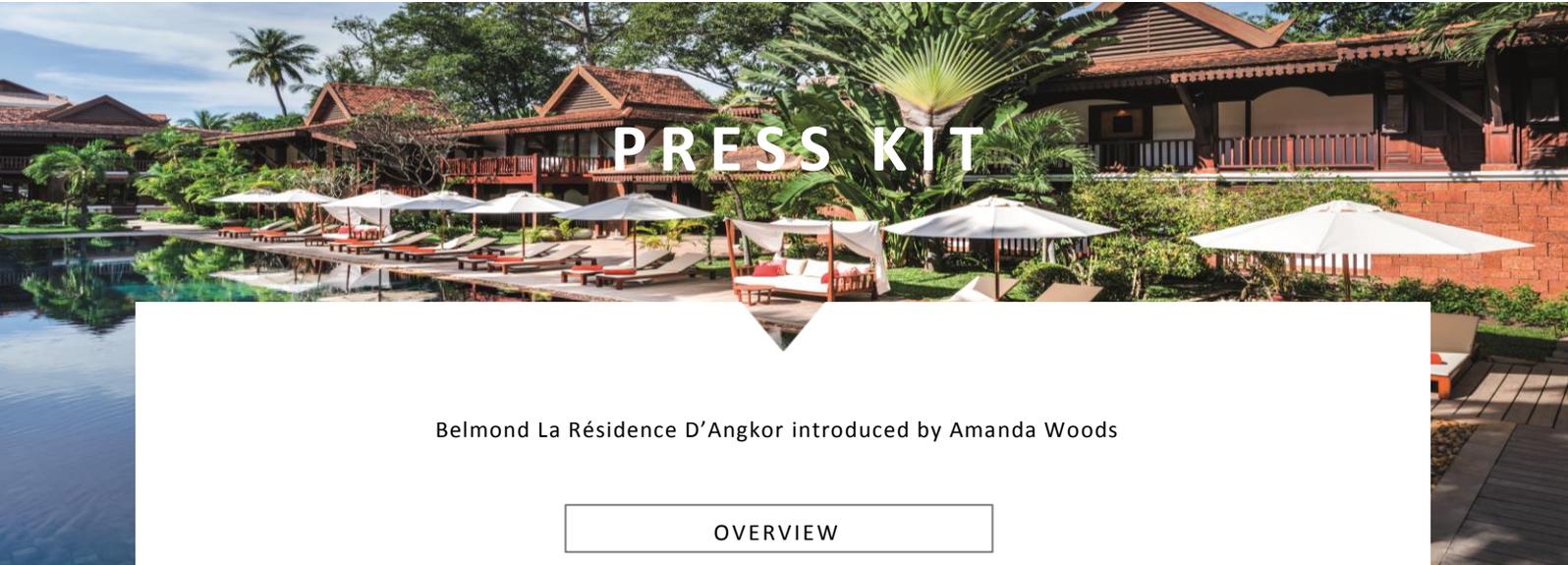




BELMOND
LA RÉSIDENCE D'ANGKOR
SIEM REAP



PRESS KIT

Belmond La Résidence D'Angkor introduced by Amanda Woods

OVERVIEW

In the heart of Siem Reap there is a discreet entrance that leads to a rare oasis in the bustling town.

A luxury retreat surrounded by tropical walled gardens, Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor reopened as an all-suites hotel in November 2016 after a complete refurbishment.

Leading international designers and architects GA Design and Beyond Design have created 20 Poolside Junior Suites, 18 Junior Suites, 12 Garden Junior Suites, 8 Deluxe Studio Suites, and one Deluxe Poolside Suite with a large alfresco terrace and views across the pool and lush tropical gardens.

Each suite features exquisite locally hand-woven jewel-toned silks, traditionally carved hardwood furnishings and bespoke artworks from contemporary Cambodian artists.

Three internationally recognised local artists, Khvay Samnang, Neak Sophal, and Lim Sokchanlina have created individual artworks for each of the hotel's suites. Guests are welcome to purchase reproductions from the artists as a unique souvenir.

As well as curating the art collection, South East Asian Art specialist Roger Nelson has personally selected a collection of books for the hotel's new library where guests can learn about ancient and modern Cambodian culture or simply sit back and relax in a serene space.

Another new addition, the hotel's air-conditioned meeting room is filled with natural light, providing a relaxed and inspirational new space for everything from business conferences to yoga classes.

Former fine dining restaurant, Circle, has become Spice Circle, where guests can watch chefs cooking Khmer and Cambodian dishes at hawker-style food stations by night and enjoy an international breakfast in the morning. In addition to a new outdoor seating space and water feature, Spice Circle features a colourful tuk tuk that has been reborn as a salad station.

At Ember restaurant guests can dine on organic Asian food with a Latin twist, watch chefs at work in the new show kitchen and see the cheese melt on their pizzas in the pizza oven, while in the Martini Lounge bar they can sip creative cocktails and snack on fresh tapas.

With its large gardens on the banks of a tree-lined river Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor may feel like it is miles from anywhere, but in reality Siem Reap and Cambodia's famous temples are right on its doorstep.

Less than ten minutes by car from Angkor Wat, the hotel is a mere five minute walk from Siem Reap's Old Market and entertainment district, and just two minutes from Kandal Village, a small community of cafes, restaurants and shops where one-off designer items and unusual treasures can be found.

After exploring the ancient temple complex and busy town, guests can cool down in the award-winning saltwater swimming pool, unwind in the indoor relaxation pool and be pampered in the best spa in Siem Reap.

Today Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor offers all the latest conveniences including fast Internet, interactive televisions and air conditioning in all bedrooms.

While it may be filled with luxury touches, the refurbishment of this beautiful hideaway has not changed its soul. Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor remains an extraordinary hotel with authentic Cambodian character and local ambiance.

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

Adventurers first started travelling to see the temples at Angkor more than a hundred years ago, but the brutal Khmer Rouge regime stopped tourism in its tracks following its takeover in 1975.

Relative stability returned following Pol Pot's death in 1998 and the tourism industry was revived.

As the town of Siem Reap started to grow the hotel that would become Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor was built in an enviable location just a few minutes' walk from the market square.

Originally developed by Pansea Hotels & Resorts, the Pansea Angkor embraced traditional architecture using local materials and was built around an oversized swimming pool, reminiscent of water reservoirs at the temple complex.

In 2006 Pansea Angkor was purchased by Orient-Express Hotels and three years later eight suites and the Kong Kea Spa were added to the hotel.

The hotel was renamed Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor in 2014 and underwent a complete refurbishment in 2016 which saw the property transformed into an all suites hotel with new dining facilities, meeting room and library.

PEOPLE

Thomas Henseler, General Manager

Formerly the General Manager at the Belmond Governor's Residence in Yangon, Thomas Henseler recently switched into the same role for Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao and has now added Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor to his role. Growing up in Germany, he had his heart set on being a mechanic, but his grandmother, who had lived through World War II, felt that he should be a chef, so that he would always be near food and never be hungry. For a Christmas present the year before he graduated from school, his parents gave him a set of knives, a gift that set him on his career path. He trained and worked as a chef in Germany and went to hotel school in Heidelberg, southwest Germany, after which he moved overseas. His work saw him cooking in hotel kitchens in Malaysia, Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Egypt. He says: "Asian culture and Asian cooking were new to me, so I learned about a lot of new ingredients and cooking techniques." He also learned other important lessons about the hotel business along the way. "In Malaysia in 1995, I assisted in the opening of one of the first eco-resorts, which had no TV and no mini-bar in the rooms. The problem was that the mostly Asian clientele wanted entertainment and cold beer in the room!"

Henseler spent years working in Mexico and Peru, transitioning from the kitchen to director of Food and Beverage, and adding Spanish to his repertoire of fluent German and English, and passable Russian and Bahasa. He enjoyed his five years in Myanmar, which has "still remained largely untouched outside the large cities," but is excited to now have properties in both Luang Prabang and Siem Reap under his wing. A lively, good-humoured man, with a soft spot for motorbikes, cigars and outdoor activities, he is a wellspring of thought-provoking, interesting, and entertaining stories. "In Uzbekistan, the government froze the U.S. account of the hotel where I was working, so for two months we had to pay the staff in imported foods—

they had no money but did have Swiss chocolate, Scottish salmon and French veal loin as salaries.”

Lackhena Chum, Spa Manager

The multi award-winning Kong Kea spa has long been considered the best in Siem Reap. When it was time to relaunch Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor after a full refurbishment, Belmond turned to a specialist spa manager.

Lackhena Chum was born in the Kongpong Charm province 300km from Siem Reap and spent seven years working in luxury spas in Europe before returning to Cambodia.

After studying at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Lackhena moved to Belgium when she was 24 and worked as a spa therapist in Belgium, Luxembourg and France.

Lackhena says that when she joined the Kong Kea Spa its range of treatments was already exceptional and she will therefore continue to offer a range of signature treatments using organic Botanik Essence products.

But Lackhena is making some fresh additions to the spa menu including bamboo massages, and seasonal treatments including head to toe coconut treatments in the hot season, and mango-based treatments in the mango season.

Lackhena says the Kong Kea Spa is the perfect place for people to slow down and listen to what their bodies are trying to tell them. “Our spa garden is perfect for absorbing the good energy from nature and returning any bad energy to the earth.”

On her days off Lackhena loves to help her family and friends release any pain and stress they may have. She is also passionate about supporting a small NGO called ODECA which helps local children and which she visits on a regular basis.

As for the future, Lackhena says she wants to continue to grow, learn and help people. “Massage is not just for relaxation. We can help some long-term problems and take care of our health without relying on too much medication.”

EXPERIENCES

Mystery Dine Around

A progressive dinner with a tuk tuk twist, the Mystery Dine Around is a chance to experience some of the best dining in Siem Reap in a short period of time. The hotel selects five gourmet highlights and takes guests by tuk tuk to enjoy five different courses in five different restaurants. With advance notice dietary requirements can be catered for in this private experience for small groups, couples or single travellers who want a real taste of Cambodia.

Circus Dinner Experience

After visiting the Angkor temples, Phare Cambodian Circus is the top attraction in Siem Reap—and with good reason. Often compared to Cirque du Soleil, Phare mixes live music, dance and theatre with daring circus acts to tell unique Cambodian stories. Begin the evening with a pre-circus starter and main course at Ember, be transported to the big top by tuk tuk for the show and then return to the hotel for dessert in the Martini Lounge as you recount a night to remember.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor supports Together for Cambodia. This orphanage and school for children is not only committed to helping disadvantaged and vulnerable children of all ages, it also works to help keep families together by providing women with vocational training.

As well as donating food to the organisation every month, Belmond La Residence d'Angkor invites the children to take part in special events at the hotel, including learning how to make gingerbread houses with the hotel's chefs at Christmas.

Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor works with a number of independent local food producers including the small free-range chicken farm, Eggscellent.

The staff also comes together on clean up days, with everyone from the gardener to the general manager working side by side to clear rubbish from the streets around the hotel and along the riverbank.