

The background of the magazine cover is a festive holiday scene. In the foreground, two champagne flutes are filled with bubbly liquid. Behind them, a champagne bottle is chilling in a silver bucket. To the right, there are wrapped gifts in gold paper, adorned with gold tinsel and ornaments. The overall lighting is warm and celebratory.

World

Luxury Travel

Vol. 2 ■ Issue 5 ■ December, 2013

Magazine

**Five Best
Champagnes
to Welcome
the New Year**

Summer Christmas
Christmas in Australia

**January Festivals
around the Globe**

**Best MICE
Venues in
Asia**



Thanksgiving kicks off the holiday season. The most awaited holiday and festive season is here again, not to mention the upcoming New Year! It's the time to celebrate with your favourite person... and can a celebration be complete without the quintessential Champagne?

Yes, we talk all about the best champagnes of the world in our cover story this time. Read on, compare and pick the one that best defines you and enjoy a befitting New Year!

Is the winter chill keeping you from enjoying a fun Christmas? No worries mate! Head towards the southern hemisphere to witness and celebrate summer Christmas. This issue of the World Luxury Travel Magazine features Christmas in Australia. Find out more inside.

Getting back to business, our MICE section of the e-zine brings you the first part of the Best Mice Venues of Asia series. Find out their USPs and other facilities on offer.

The ASEAN Tourism Forum 2014 is going to be held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia in mid-January, 2014, and we are going to be covering the event live. Know more about this important ASEAN event in our Event Watch section.

Festivals say a lot about the people celebrating them. Our dedicated section on festivals around the globe brings you all the upcoming festivals every month. Pick the one you want to go to and do let us know why.

I thank you for all your messages on our [facebook page](#), feedback over [e-mail](#) and [twitter](#)! Your encouraging words really encourage the team at [World Luxury Tourism](#). I thank you for every word that you write to us! Please do keep the feedback coming.

Thank you!



Manashree Prakash
Editor-in-Chief

World
Luxury Travel
Magazine

■ Vol. 2 ■ Issue 5 ■ December, 2013

Editor-in-Chief :
Manashree

Travel Writers :
Prabha, Saurav

Contributing Photographers :
Prakash, Marc Sprengers

Website Counsellor :
Pramathesh

Designer :
Pranab

Contents

Five Best Champagnes to Welcome the New Year



5 || Cover Story

MICE Tourism || **36**



**Best MICE
Venues in Asia**

Feature || **20**



Summer Christmas
Christmas in Australia

**ASEAN Tourism
Forum 2014**



|| **49**
Event Watch

|| **54**
Happenings

**January
Festivals
around the
Globe**




Introducing the MICE Directory by www.worldluxurytourism.com (WLT)



To get listed, please send us the details of your MICE
Services to info@worldluxurytourism.com



Five Best Champagnes to Welcome the New Year

Two champagne flutes are shown clinking together, filled with sparkling champagne. The background is dark with out-of-focus lights, creating a bokeh effect. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

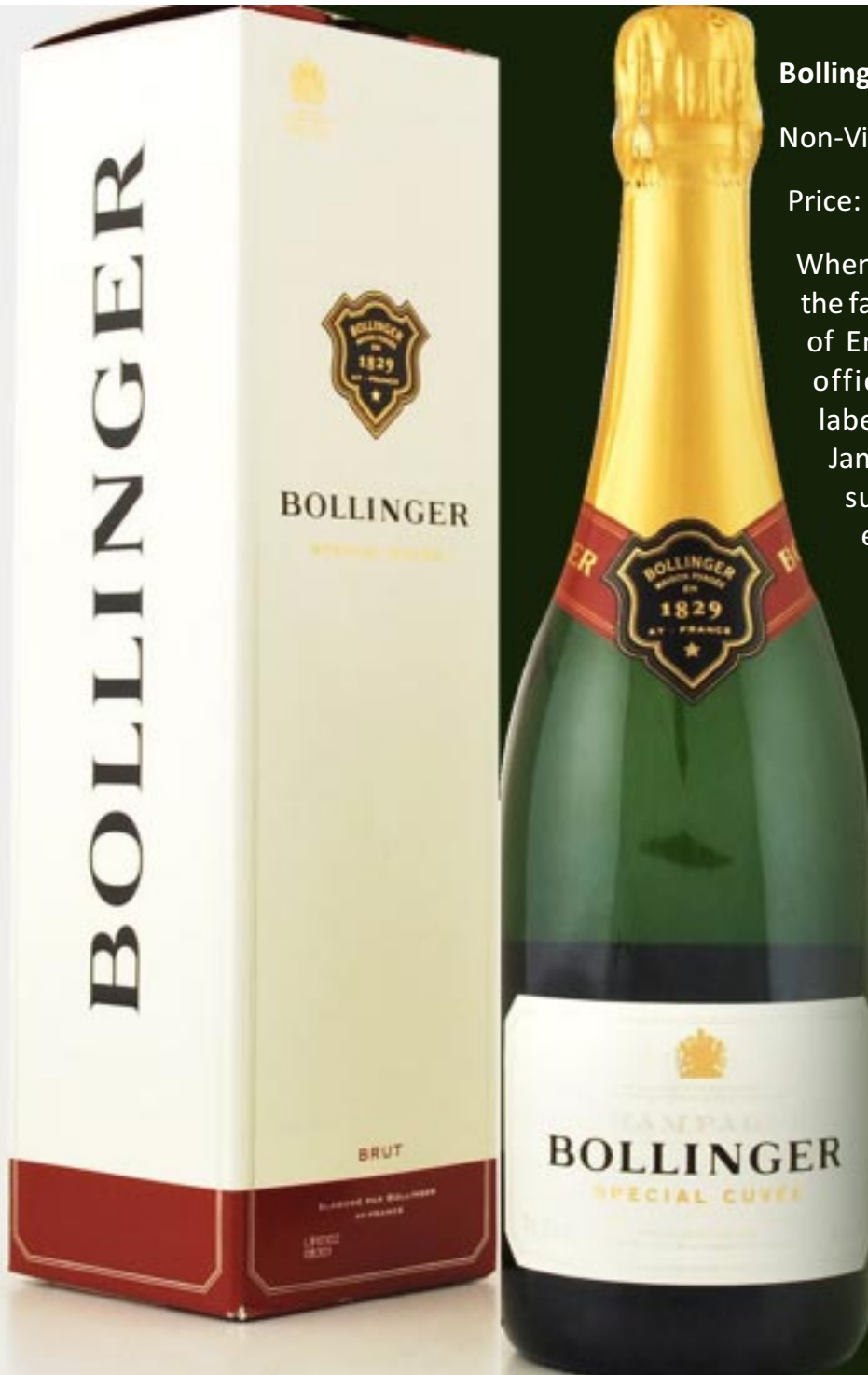
“Come quickly, I am tasting stars”, exclaimed Dom Perignon to his fellow monks, on taking his first sip of the ‘bubbly’ champagne, believed to have been invented by him. The honour is somewhat under dispute as it is believed that the real credit for inventing the sparkling champagne goes to Christopher Merrett, a British doctor. What is undisputed is the aura of luxury, glory and exclusivity associated with this celebrated wine. More paeans have been dedicated to champagne than any other drink in the world. It is impossible to imagine any celebration being complete without popping the champagne cork.



With the New Year just around the corner, there can be no better time to compile a list of some of the top champagnes to toast the coming year. Remember, only the sparkling wines from the Champagne region of France can be called champagne, others are classified as 'sparkling wines'. Moreover, champagne may be vintage (blend of wines from a single

year, and more expensive) or non-vintage (NV - blend of wines from different years).

So what are the five best champagnes to raise the New Year toast? Take a look.



Bollinger Special Cuvee

Non-Vintage

Price: \$50 to \$80

When a wine is said to be the favourite of the Queen of England (bearing her official stamp on the label) and of the suave James Bond, you can be sure that it is worth every encomium dedicated to it. Founded in 1829, the legendary Champagne Bollinger is produced by the renowned Bollinger family. This house is famous for the quality control of grapes produced from their estates and the traditional methods which go into the production of wines.



Bollinger Special Cuvee is an aromatic blend with whiffs of apples, honey, fresh toast, citrus and many more flavours making it a delight to the palate. Made from Grand and Premier Cru grapes, the Special Cuvee is 60 per cent Pinot Noir, 25 per cent Chardonnay, and 15 per cent Meunier. This pale, gold colour wine with its fine bubbles is an explosion of complex and delightful tastes.

Recommended Food Pairings: Any kind of

fish, particularly sushi and sashimi; seafood, poultry, white meat, Parmesan cheese.

Serving Tip: Best served at 10 – 12 degree Celsius.

Trivia: Bollinger is one of the few Houses which still use wooden, oak barrels for fermentation.

Veuve Clicquot Brut Yellow Label

Non-Vintage

Price: \$50 approx.

The motto of the Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin House - "only one quality, the finest", is reflected in the taste of their superb wines. Founded in 1772 by Philippe Clicquot, it achieved greater heights under the "Grand Dame of Champagne", Madame Clicquot. It also became one of the most renowned vineyards in France. With vineyards in the best growing areas of the region, the House focuses on maintaining high quality and the distinctive Clicquot taste of their wines.



This golden-yellow wine has a rich full flavour balanced with fresh and delicate overtones. Produced from premier and grand cru vineyards, it is mainly composed of Pinot Noir (50-55 per cent), with 15-20 per cent Pinot Meunier and 28-33 per cent Chardonnay. The resulting wine with its flavours of biscuits, peaches and vanilla, is perfectly delectable.

Recommended Food Pairings:

Salmon, pasta, risotto, potato crisps, cocktail food, parmesan, cheddar.

Serving Tip: Best served at 5 – 8 degree Celsius.

Trivia: An 1893 Veuve Clicquot bottle, the oldest in existence, was discovered in mint condition in a Scottish Castle and is now a priceless display at the visitor centre of the company in Reims.



Perrier Jouet Grand Brut

Non-Vintage

Price: \$40-58

The renowned Perrier Jouet House has produced wines, which graced the royal courts of Napoleon III and Queen Victoria. The vineyards, located in some of the best growing areas, have an enviable



99.2 per cent grand cru ranking. The House is committed to maintaining the high quality of the raw materials, particularly the chardonnays, which contribute to the trademark floral bouquet of the Perrier Jouet wines.

Fruit flavours, citrus touches, pears, apples, vanilla and flowery aromas delight the palate as one sips this pale yellow, sparkling champagne. Fresh and delicate with sparkling bubbles, this wine is an all-time favourite.

Recommended Food Pairings: Spring vegetables, poultry, smoked salmon, seafood.

Serving Tip: Best served at 7 – 9 degree Celsius.

Trivia: The Japanese anemone flowers which grace every Perrier Jouet champagne bottles were designed by a master glassworker Emile Galle, to symbolise the floral aroma which this champagne is famous for!





Piper-Heidsieck Brut 2006

Vintage Champagne

Price: \$61-77

The House of Piper Heidsieck was founded in 1785. This much awarded champagne House enjoyed the royal patronage of Queen Marie Antoinette and supplied wines to fourteen royal courts all over the world. It has been the official champagne supplier of the Cannes Film Festival for over twenty years now. The Cellar Master of the House, Regis Camis has been named the Sparkling Winemaker of the Year for the eighth time by the International Wine Challenge.



The clear, pale lemon yellow coloured champagne with golden glints has aromas of berries, spices, candied orange peel with a whiff of smokiness. The force of the Pinot Noir is beautifully balanced by the delicacy and freshness of the Chardonnays resulting in a vintage that is worthy of the House it comes from.

Recommended Food Pairings: Caviar, smoked salmon, oysters, risottos, seafood, and mild cheese.

Serving Tip: Best served at 10 degree Celsius.

Trivia: Hundred year old Heidsieck champagne bottles were discovered by divers in 1997. They were shipwrecked while on the way to the Russian Imperial family. Today they sell at \$275,000 per bottle.



Dom Perignon Rose 2003

Vintage Champagne

Price: \$283-400

The famed House of Moët & Chandon produces the legendary Dom Perignon, named after the Benedictine monk of the same name. Dom Perignon was responsible for many revolutionary wine-making techniques (though not for inventing champagne as is popularly believed). Today, Richard Geoffroy, the

Chef de Cave of Dom Pérignon is the custodian of its quality and iconic taste.

The Rose 2003 wine was produced in a year of extreme weather conditions with severe frosts followed by intense heat wave. The grapes were tasted on a daily basis for ripeness and then picked. An incredibly complex and rich wine was born with a silky taste and bursting with fruity flavours, vanilla and spice.

Recommended Food Pairings: Oyster, seafood, poultry, fresh vegetables.

Serving Tip: Best served at 10 – 12 degree Celsius.

Trivia: Dom Perignon champagnes are not produced more than six times in a decade.

Celebrate with Champagne

Champagne is synonymous with celebrations. Ring in a 'sparkling' New Year in every sense of the term with a bubbling glass of joy. Champagne is a treat for the palate at any time. As Madame Bollinger famously expressed, "I only drink champagne

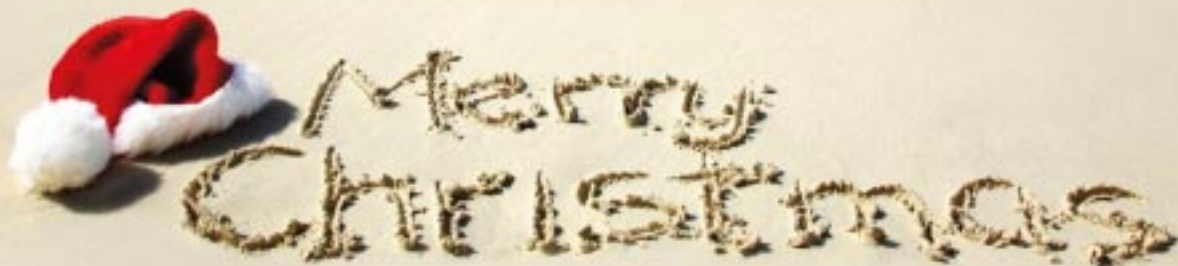


when I'm happy and when I'm sad. Sometimes I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I'm not in a hurry and drink it when I am; otherwise I never touch the stuff unless I am thirsty."



Summer Christmas

Christmas in Australia



"Sleigh bells ring, are you listening, in the lane, snow is glistening, A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walking in a winter wonderland" goes the popular song by Dean Martin. The association of Christmas and snow forms the quintessential image of Christmas in most people's minds. Not so in Australia where it would hardly be reasonable to ask for snow, considering that Christmas in Australia falls in summer. The reason being Australia's location, as the country lies in the



southern hemisphere and has seasons the reverse of those in the northern hemisphere.

The idea of Christmas in summer seems a little curious. Read on to find out what it is

like to celebrate Christmas in Australia. It will not be a white Christmas; there may be no roaring log fires, snowmen or reindeers, but if you thought it would not be fun, you are in for a surprise.



Climate

December marks the start of the summer season in Australia and it extends till February. Generally, the weather in December ranges from warm to hot with temperatures around 25-35 degree Celsius. Normally there are blue, clear skies though wet weather is not completely ruled out. In the Top End region, it is monsoon season

during this time. It is both and hot and humid there at this time and prone to cyclones too. Central Australia is very hot during this period and in the southern regions conditions can vary from pleasant to hot weather. The hot season is also the time for bushfires in Australia.





Holiday Season

December is the month of holidays in Australia with the major events being Christmas and Boxing Day. This is also the month of holidays for workers and school children (summer holidays). It is literally party time in Down Under. Needless to say,

hotels and tourist spots get overflowed at this time of the year.

Celebrations

Australia is a potpourri of myriad cultures and ethnicities. People from England, Ireland, America, Europe, China, Japan and

many other cultures have settled down here. Christmas celebrations in Australia reflect the influence of the rituals and customs of all these varied nationalities. Earlier, Christmas was celebrated in traditional English style (complete with roast turkey). However celebrations in recent times have veered away towards more practical customs in keeping with the local flavour and of course the weather.

The major trappings of Christmas however are all there. Presents are chosen, children leave stockings for Santa to fill and cards are sent out to friends and relatives. Australia Post issues Christmas postage stamps so cards can be mailed



at discounted postage rates. The mood of merriment spills over at in-house parties, visits to friends and family, and social gatherings. There is a midnight service for the church-goers, perfect for capturing the



spiritual essence of Christmas.

Decorations

The houses reflect the festive spirit with their cheerful and lovely decorations. Just like in every home around the globe, the Christmas tree occupies a place of honour. During





Christmas time in Australia, plants like Christmas bells, Christmas bush and Christmas orchid bloom and these are extensively used for Christmas decorations.

Apart from the mandatory stars, bells and holly there is another thing, which is an integral part of the Christmas tree decoration. You guessed it, a kangaroo! Hanging small wooden



kangaroos and even koalas are all part of the Christmas tree decorations. Outside, twinkling, fairy lights illuminating houses, shops and buildings lend enchantment to the whole scene. People have a passion for decorating their houses with lights as attractively as



possible and many of them even raise funds for charity through light decoration events and contests. One of the fun activities of Christmas includes scouting the neighbourhood and enjoying the displays of lights.



Christmas Food

Greeting cards still depict snow, reindeer sleighs and Santa Claus but the traditional dinners have been replaced to a large extent with feasts suitably adapted to the weather. So what is popular? Picnics on the beaches are, as are barbeques in the backyard, cold meat, salads and seafood. Cold turkey with cranberry sauce, ham with apple sauce, cold chicken, Christmas dampers, Pavlovas (a meringue based dessert named after the famous ballerina) and ice-cream pudding are





all popular dishes that feature on the Christmas menu. This is not to say that the traditional roast turkey, mince pies, custard and the flaming plum pudding (with the small favour baked which confers good luck upon the lucky finder!) have been completely done away with. There are many who favour the traditional fare too. All the

Christmas goodies are washed down with the great tasting Australian wines and chilled beers.

Outdoor Activities

Christmas in Australia, as it falls in summer, is marked by a plethora of outdoor activities. People love to spend their time outdoors



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

swimming, camping, playing cricket, enjoying barbecues in their backyards or heading towards the beach. Nothing beats the taste of a cold Christmas repast sitting by the cool waves in the sweltering Australian heat. Bondi Beach reportedly gets 40,000 visitors on Christmas Day. Do not be surprised to see Santa arriving on the beach in shorts or even on a surfboard.

Carols by Candlelight

One of the most popular Christmas traditions in Australia is the Carols by Candlelight, started in 1937 by Norman Banks, a radio announcer. The story goes that Norman, while walking home from work at night, saw an old lady

alone in her house, singing carols along with the radio with her face glowing in the light of a candle. It gave birth to the idea of gathering groups to sing together in candlelight. The idea was a huge hit, and since then people have been gathering in their towns and cities, lighting candles and singing carols together on Christmas Eve. Sitting under the star spangled sky, in parks and other outdoor spaces, people gather, often with food and drinks, and sing all their favourite Christmas carols together. Some popular and typical Australian carols include The Three Drovers and Six White Boomers. Today, the largest of such events, Carols by Candlelight (telecast live), is held in the Myer Music Bowl in Melbourne every year.





Christmas in July

Another Australian tradition which must be mentioned is 'Christmas in July'. This is a fun excuse to celebrated Christmas all over again, this time in the 'right' season – winter. Christmas in July (winter-time in Australia) is the perfect time to enjoy the traditional roast turkey, hot custard, the plum pudding (surrounded by flames) which may not have figured in the summer Christmas menu. Christmas trees, Santa Claus, hung-up





stockings and trips to the Australian snowfields are all on the cards during this celebration. It is a time for partying and nightclubs, hotels and restaurants feature special Christmas menus and are packed to the full. The top event on the social calendar at this time is the annual Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Christmas in July fundraiser Ball.

Top Events for Christmas Tourists:

- Carols by Candlelight, Melbourne
- Picnic on Bondi Beach, Sydney
- The Ashes, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, Sydney Harbour





Important Tip: Book early, book early, book early!

Recommended Movies (Australian Christmas theme)

- Miracle Down Under
- Bush Christmas

Recommended Readings (Australian Christmas theme)

- Night before Christmas (Yvonne Morrison)
- Wombat Divine (Mem Fox)

Jingle Bells Australian Style

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way, Christmas in Australia, on a scorching summer's day, jingle bells, jingle bells,

Christmas time is beaut, oh what fun it is to ride, in a rusty Holden Ute Engine's getting hot, Dodge the kangaroos, Swaggy climbs aboard, He is welcome too, All the family is there, Sitting by the pool, Christmas day, the Aussie way, By the barbecue!

That pretty much sums up the spirit of the Yuletide in Down Under! Have yourself a fair dinkum Christmas!



Best MICE Venues in Asia

Part 1





With countries like China, Singapore and Malaysia increasing their expenditure on facilities for MICE tourism, Asia continues to be the driving force in global tourism. The key factor behind Asia becoming the favourite among business travellers is its top notch convention centres. There are numerous world class convention centres providing state-of-the-art facilities for multifarious MICE events. We have made a list of the best MICE venues in Asia. The list will be published as a series and this is the first five (Part 1) of the long list. The services, the infrastructure, the location, the audio-video facilities, everything is exceptional in these convention centres. The centres are:

● Singapore Expo Convention & Exhibition Centre

This is the largest convention and exhibition centre in Singapore. Managed by Singex Venues Pte Ltd. Singapore EXPO Convention and Exhibition Centre was inaugurated in 1999. It is one of the completely equipped MICE venues in Asia. Singapore Expo is served by its own station on the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) route. The centre is the next station from Changi airport.

USPs

- Convention and Exhibition halls 1-6: Each hall has 10,000 sq. m. of column free indoor space. The design and layout of the halls allows for 60,000 sq. m. of contiguous space for large-scale events,
- Halls 7-9: Each hall offers 10,000 sq. m. of column free space. The design and layout of the halls allows for 30,000 sq. m. of contiguous space,
- Conference Halls G, H, J and K: Four



ground-level, column-free conference halls well suited for compact meetings,

- MAX Atria: Spacious foyers ideal as pre-function or light exhibition areas. Ten purpose built halls with 123,000 sq. m. space for indoor convention and exhibition,

- V-rooms: customised, flexible multi-purpose “In-Hall” designed and built mobile rooms ideal for board meetings, In-hall meetings, etc.,

- Modern audio-visual equipment and acoustically-treated walls,

- Sophisticated tiered seating arrangements,

- Open-air car park area of 8,000 sq. m., which can also be converted into spaces for mini exhibitions, product launches etc.,

- Other amenities include ATMs, a fully furnished Business Centre, Wi-Fi, 3.5 G mobile coverage connectivity, a licensed money changer, nursing rooms, prayer rooms and stationery supplies,

- Parking space for 2,200 vehicles.





● Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Singapore

The Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre offers more than 120,000 square metres or 1.3 million square feet of meeting space, making it one of the largest and most flexible locations in Asia. It is also the biggest MICE facility in Singapore. The ballroom is the largest in

Southeast Asia, capable of hosting up to 11,000 delegates at one time. Some prestigious events hosted in the centre are World Cities Summit 2012, 6th International Olympic Athlete Forum 2013, etc.

USPs

- Five floors of exhibition and convention space,

- Up to 2,000 exhibition booths and 250 meeting rooms,
- Can accommodate up to 45,000 delegates,
- A comprehensive one-stop event and exhibition solution provider that offers services ranging from technical needs like audio visual equipment to stage set-up and logistics,
- Grand Ballroom which can be configured into 16 rooms to hold smaller groups of a few hundred people.



● **Suntec
Singapore
International
Convention and
Exhibition
Centre**

It is one of the largest multi-purpose convention and exhibition facilities in the centre of the city. It has hosted some of the world's biggest meetings, exhibitions and conventions – including the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Bank Congress in 1994, World Economic Forum's East Asia Economic Summit, which has been held here several times. The centre has recently created a new Guinness



World Record for having the “Largest High-definition Video Wall”.

USPs

- 31 meeting rooms, area ranges from 27 sq. m. to 253 sq. m.,
- Four Exhibition halls



Suntec

SINGAPORE

International Convention & Exhibition Centre

spread over a space of 12,000 sq. m.,

- Three Convention halls with a total area of 12,000 sq. m.,
- A concourse, gallery and theatre with area of 930, 3180, and 624 sq. m. respectively.

● AsiaWorld-Expo, Hong Kong

AsiaWorld–Expo is Asia’s only column-free, ground-level exhibition, convention and events venue built over 70,000 sq. m. and is fully integrated with one of the world’s best airports, Hong Kong International Airport. The centre has hosted a number of successful, large-scale international exhibitions, including ITU TELECOM WORLD 2006, a series of China Sourcing Fairs and the Asian Aerospace International Expo and Congress.





USPs

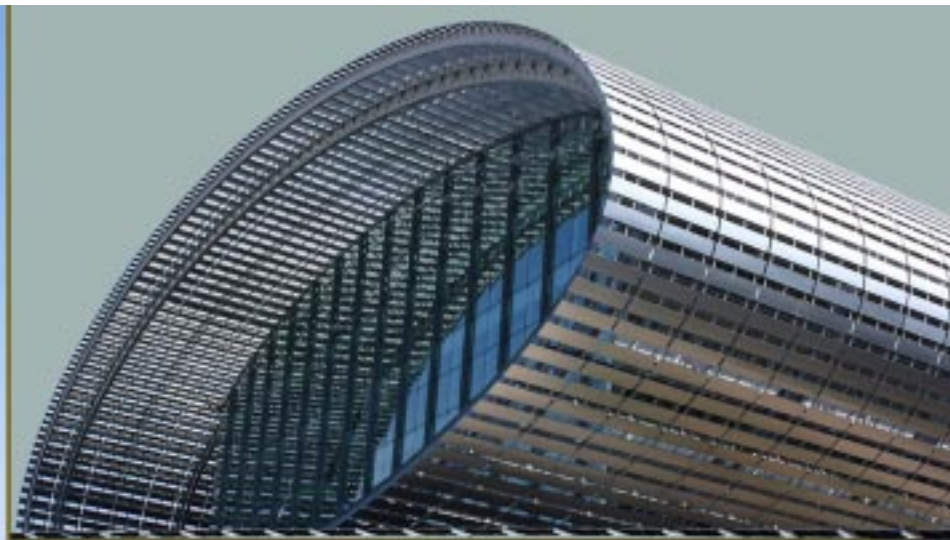
- AsiaWorld–Arena Hall: The biggest purpose-built indoor seated entertainment arena in Hong Kong with a maximum capacity of 14,000,
- AsiaWorld–Summit: Hong Kong's largest indoor conference and banquet venue that seats 700 to 5,000 persons
- Runway 11: Conference and function hall for 500 to 3,800 guests.

● Guangzhou International Convention And Exhibition Centre, China

The centre is possibly the largest convention centre in the world with 1,131,000 sq. m. of space and also has the world's largest exhibition hall of 157,935.21 sq. m. The centre is located on Pazhou Isle near the southern bank of the Zhujiang River (Pearl River). It is an ideal place for foreign trade, business communication and technological exhibitions. A variety of events are organized at the centre like the SF China, SF Expo China, Coatexpo China, ChinaCoat and many more.

USPs

- Indoor exhibition area of 338,000 sq. m.,
- Outdoor exhibition area of 43,600 sq. m.,
- Hall A, where the indoor exhibition area is of



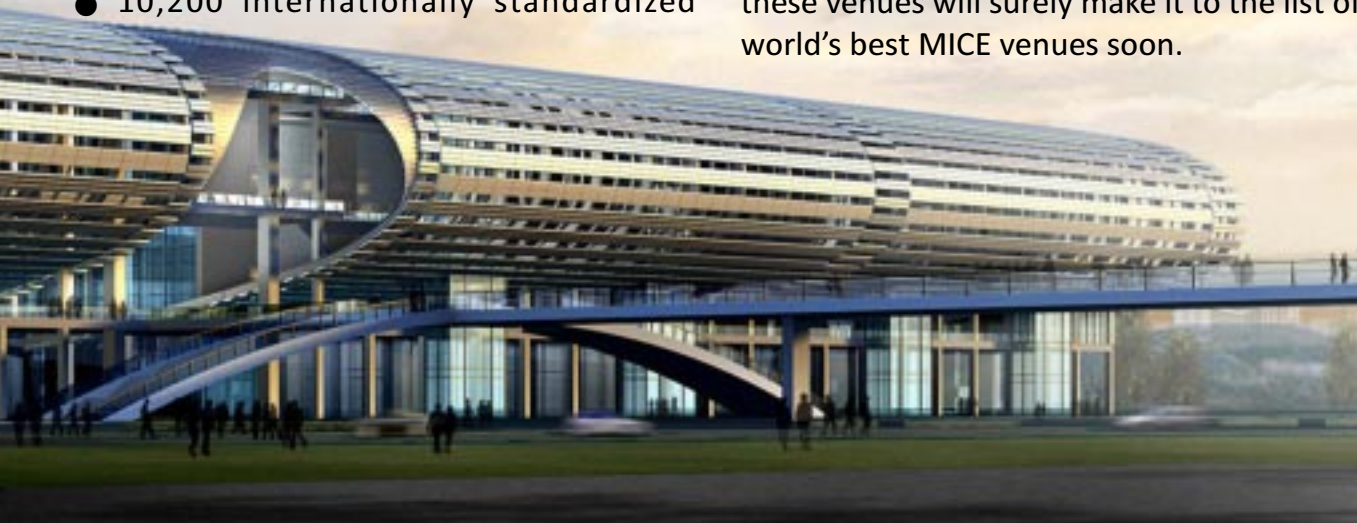
130,000 sq. m., the outdoor exhibition area is of 30,000 sq. m.,

- Hall B indoor exhibition area of 128,000 sq. m., the outdoor exhibition area of 13,600 sq. m.,
- Hall C with indoor exhibition area of 80,000 sq. m.,
- 10,200 internationally standardized

exhibition booths,

- 1,800 open-floor parking spaces and 40 parking spaces for large-size vehicles.

The versatility, the amenities, the hospitality and the infrastructure all these ingredients combine to make these centres a top-notch venue for MICE events in Asia. The increasing popularity and infrastructural expansion, these venues will surely make it to the list of world's best MICE venues soon.



Myanmar

Hospitality & Tourism Conference 2014

17 - 19 February 2014

Traders Hotel, Yangon

www.mhtc.sphereconferences.com



New Frontiers

Early bird
pricing ends
31 Jan 2014

SAVE UP TO
USD 221

The gateway to exploring opportunities
in Myanmar's booming hospitality and
tourism sector

Email us to find out if you are qualified as our hosted buyer!

For more information on the event, contact Thi Thi at +65 6848 5371 or email thithi@sphereconferences.com

A part of:



Co-located with:



Held in conjunction with:



Organiser:



Patron:



Co-organiser:



Media Partners:





ASEAN Advancing
Tourism
Together



ASEAN TOURISM FORUM 2014
16 - 23 JAN 2014 KUCHING, SARAWAK . MALAYSIA

**Event
Watch**

ASEAN Tourism Forum 2014

Malaysia is geared up to host 33rd ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) in Kuching, Sarawak in January, 2014. ATF aims to bring together the heads of national tourism organizations, luxury brands and media to promote tourism industry of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The event is held annually since its inauguration in 1981 in Malaysia.

The objective of ATF is to promote ASEAN region as one tourist destination where Asian hospitality and cultural diversity are at its best.

ATF aims to project ASEAN as an attractive, multi-faceted single destination, to create and increase awareness of ASEAN as a highly





ASEAN Advancing
Tourism
Together



ASEAN TOURISM FORUM 2014
16 - 23 JAN 2014 KUCHING, SARAWAK . MALAYSIA

competitive regional tourist destination in the Asia Pacific, attract more tourists to ASEAN member countries, promote intra-ASEAN travel and strengthen cooperation among the various sectors of the ASEAN tourism industry.

With the futuristic and optimistic theme “ASEAN-Advancing Tourism Together”, ATF 2014 will explore the sustainable development of tourism and look at how our tourism initiatives and plans can further support this decade’s mantra of “Tourism conserves preserves and protects”. The event is designed to share knowledge and provide thought provoking and



actionable insights on implementing innovative and sustainable energy initiatives.

ASEAN Tourism Forum 2014 will be an eight-day program in Kuching, Sarawak starting from January 16 to January 23, 2014





ASEAN Advancing
Tourism
Together



ASEAN TOURISM FORUM 2014
16 - 23 JAN 2014 KUCHING, SARAWAK . MALAYSIA



featuring ASEAN Tourism Conference(ATC), Travel Exchange (TRAVEX), ASEAN National Tourism Organization Meeting, and Ministerial Meeting. This year ATF will be hosting about 1,600 delegates including some

150 ASEAN Tourism Ministers and officials, 500 ASEAN exhibitors, 500 international buyers, 100 international and local media as well as 100 tourism trade visitors.

High on the a la carte ATF2014 is Opening Ceremony and Welcome Dinner by Y.A.B. Prime Minister of Malaysia, which is scheduled on January 20, 2014 in Sarawak State Legislative Assembly (Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak) and will be organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia in collaboration with State Government of Sarawak. There will also be an ATF Friendly Golf Game (for all TRAVEX delegates) on the same day at Kelab Golf Sarawak





ASEAN Advancing
Tourism
Together



ASEAN TOURISM FORUM 2014
16 - 23 JAN 2014 KUCHING, SARAWAK . MALAYSIA

(Sarawak Golf Club) in Kuching, Sarawak.

ATF features ATF TRAVEX and ATC organized by a joint collaboration of ASEAN Tourism Association (ASEANTA) and Tourism Malaysia. ATF TRAVEX, a three-day event for the selling and buying of regional individual tourism products of ASEAN member countries will be held from January 21 – 23, 2014. ATF TRAVEX is a platform which makes it easy and convenient for suppliers of ASEAN tourism products and services and international buyers to conduct business and meet quality participants through the Seller-Meet-Buyer (SMB) and the Buyer-Meet-Seller (BMS) appointment



scheduling sessions. Both parties can maximize their participation through flexible one-to-one pre-scheduled meetings to explore, negotiate and ink deals with each other.

The host city Kuching is the capital of Sarawak. Home





ASEAN Advancing
Tourism
Together



ASEAN TOURISM FORUM 2014
16 - 23 JAN 2014 KUCHING, SARAWAK . MALAYSIA



to world's oldest tropical rainforest it is an apt venue for the event. The city is situated at the banks of beautiful Sarawak River and has suitable climate to delight the delegates attending ATF.

The programs of
ATF 2014
will

be organized in Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCK) and Pullman Hotel, Kuching. BCK will be the host for ATF TRAVEX and ATC whereas the meetings will be organized in Pullman Hotel. Newly constructed BCK is situated on a grand six-hectare area facing the river and lush green forests. The five-star convention centre has all the advance facilities to host any world class event. Pullman Hotel is a top-class luxury hotel with 389 beautifully appointed spacious contemporary guest rooms and suites that can cater to the needs of discerning business travellers.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.atf-malaysia.com>





Happenings

January Festivals around the Globe

Edinburgh's Hogmanay

Place: Scotland

Dates: December 30, 2013 – January 1, 2014

Hogmanay Edinburgh annually holds one of the world's biggest New Year celebrations.

Thousands of people gather at the old streets of central Edinburgh for a huge party of music, merriment and remarkable fireworks displays with famous Edinburgh castle as a backdrop. The volume of people that head to Edinburgh every year has





become so great that the local council had to make this huge street party a ticket only event.

Trivia – Edinburgh's torchbearers will kick off choreographed celebrations to mark one of the momentous years in Scotland's history in 2014.

Black and White Carnivals (Carnaval de Negros y Blancos)

Place: Pasto,
Colombia

Dates: January 2 – 7
every year

Colombia's south-western city of Pasto comes alive every year with the renowned Blacks and Whites Carnivals. This ancient carnival is signified by its creative celebration. This



colourful event roots back to the time of Spanish rule, when one day African slaves were allowed a free day and was permitted to party and in good spirit the slave's masters coated their faces with black colour. The following day the slaves painted their faces white, and so began the legendary Festival of Blacks and Whites'.



The festival is largely a celebration of the rich cultural diversity of the region. Parades with elaborately designed floats and colourful costumes also mark the festival. The carnival consists of pre-carnival, the arrival of the Castaneda Family followed by the most exciting day of the blacks and the day of the whites. This celebration attracts a considerable number of Colombian and foreign tourists.

Trivia - People paint themselves with flour, talcum powder, tar, grease paint, or anything else that will stay on for the entire day.





shopping festivals, will celebrate its long 19 year journey with its upcoming edition in 2014.

This internationally acclaimed shopping festival brings a festive mood in the city. With additional offers and discounts it's time to shop till you drop in Dubai. Just enter this extravagant shopping festival, and we are sure you will end up

Dubai shopping festival

Place: Dubai

Dates: January 2, 2014 – February 2, 2014

Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF), one of the best





shopping more than you have really planned for.

DSF 2014 promises to bring more entertainment programs and events for the visitors as compared to other years. DSF have structured innumerable numbers of programs for different segments of people and special attention will also be given to every guest who will visit the festival. All these years the event has attracted 47 million visitors, pulling in Dh114 billion into the Dubai economy.

Trivia – This festival is another technique to promote tourism in the country.



Makar Sankranti

Place: India

Date: January 14 every year

Makar Sankranti is considered as one of the most auspicious occasions for the Hindus and it is celebrated with great devoutness, dedication and gaiety in every part of India. Makar Sankranti is a harvest festival and is also believed to mark the onset of spring in India. The special significance attached to the celebration of Makar Sankranti, is Kite Flying. On this day,





since morning the serene blue sky gets dotted with colourful kites of various shapes and sizes. The excitement of kite flying does not end with the inception of night. As the sun sets everyone gets ready with the paper lanterns (tukkal) which are tied to their kite-strings and flown in the night sky.

Trivia – The strings which are tied to the kite are made by applying glass powder to provide it a cutting edge. Makar Sankranti is celebrated differently in different Indian states. [Click here to know more about this harvest festival.](#)





La Tamborrada

Place: San Sebastian, Spain

Dates: January 19 – 20, 2014

This sleepy town comes alive during La Tamborrada, which dates back to 1720 when a baker was filling water barrels from a fountain near the Iglesia de San Vicente. While filling the barrels he began to sing, and a group of young girls passing by started banging on the barrels as accompanying instruments. A crowd started to gather and this spontaneous jam session evolved into La Tamborrada.





The tradition of beating the drum at its loudest still forms a part of the event. The drums are rolled out at Constitution Place at midnight of January 19, and a medley of drumming lasts for 24 hours. La Tamborrada Festival is also marked by traditional parade marches in military and cook uniforms, a music festival, food and other competitions. **Trivia** - Over 100 bands, actively take part in this ear-splitting drumming festival.

Wakakusa Yamayaki

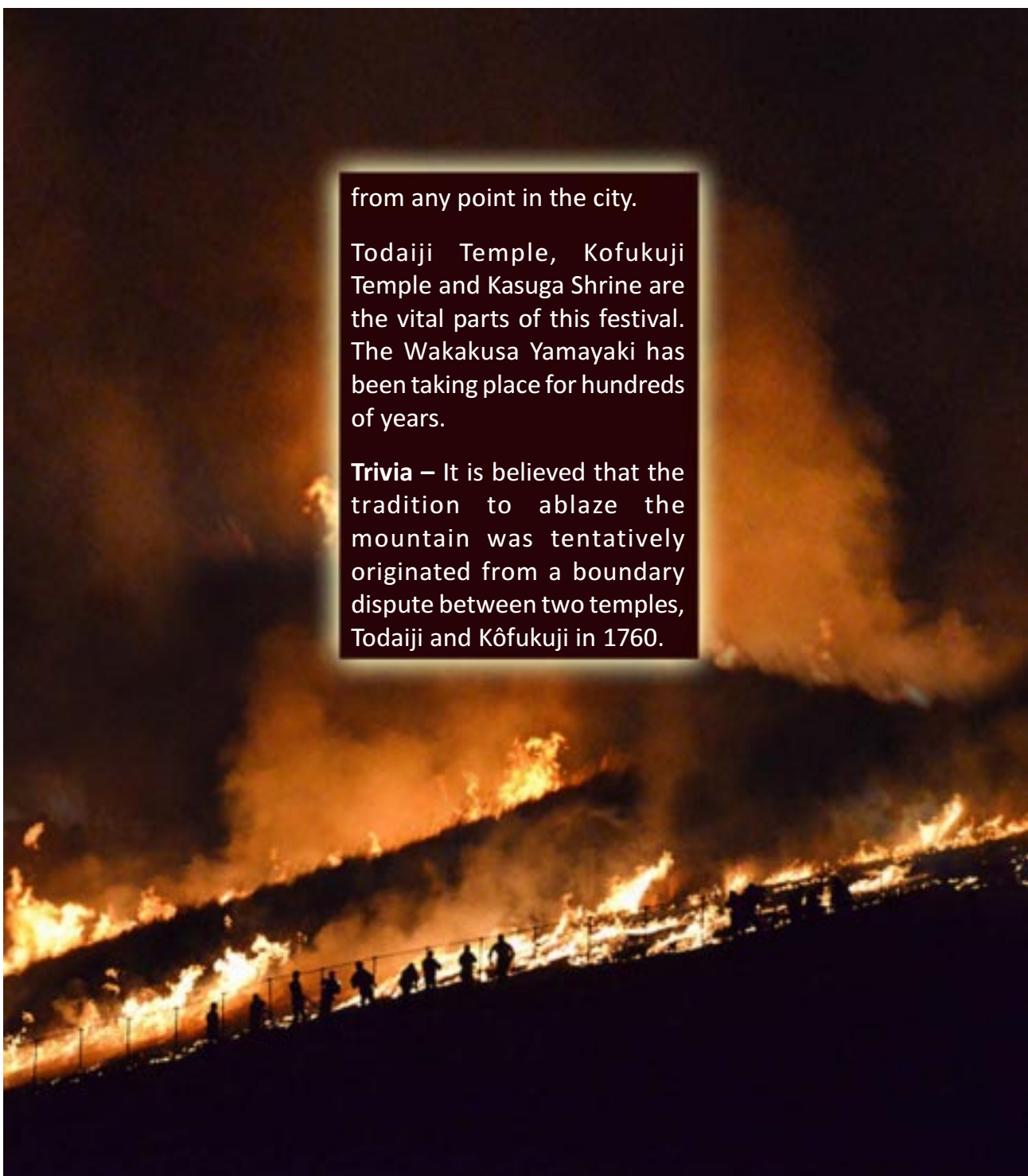
Place: Nara, Japan

Date: January 25, 2014

The Wakakusa Yamayaki is an annual festival which is observed by setting fire to the dead grass of Mt. Wakakusayama. About 30 people, involved in lighting the mountain on fire march from the Silk Road Exchange Hall in Nara Park and stops at Kasuga Shrine in order to



light the torches with sacred fire and then make their way to Wakakusayama where crowds gather to witness this event. This world's biggest bonfire continues for 30 minutes followed by spectacular firework displays. When grassy Mount Wakakusayama is ablaze, it can be seen



from any point in the city.

Todaiji Temple, Kofukuji Temple and Kasuga Shrine are the vital parts of this festival. The Wakakusa Yamayaki has been taking place for hundreds of years.

Trivia – It is believed that the tradition to ablaze the mountain was tentatively originated from a boundary dispute between two temples, Todaiji and Kôfukuji in 1760.

W L T

World Luxury Tourism