



MACAO GOVERNMENT TOURISM OFFICE



SPRING 2018 MACAO NEWS UPDATE

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WHAT'S NEW

Macao launches 2018 Macao Year of Gastronomy

On 17 January, the Macao Government Tourism Office launched the 2018 Macao Year of Gastronomy. The line-up of activities and celebrations will feature a programme of local and international initiatives designed to raise awareness of Macao's unique culinary credentials and strengthen its reputation as a gastronomic hub. These will include the development of new culinary walking tour routes, culinary experiences and gastronomy-themed activities and promotions.

The Macao Government Tourism Office launched a new gastronomy-focused website in 2017, as an inspiring source of information about Macao's rich and diverse food scene and unique culture. www.gastronomy.gov.mo

Taipa Village welcomes new retail and dining offerings

Taipa Village, one of Macao's most traditional and atmospheric areas, has recently welcomed a number of new restaurants and boutique shops, increasing its already extensive dining and retail portfolio.

Recently-opened eateries adding flavour to Taipa Village include the contemporary Italian restaurant Bella Taipa, which has its very own rooftop terrace overlooking the village, and La Famiglia, an exquisite Portuguese-Italian restaurant with a friendly, family-run atmosphere. Other new additions include the American-style restaurant Shake Shake Homa, juice bar Guava Juice, a boutique coffee and lifestyle shop called Rooftop Macau and Bare Nutrition, a retailer selling natural and organic personal care products.



Taipa Village is located on the island of Taipa, south of the Macao peninsula and connected to it via three bridges. www.taipavillagemacau.com

Macao takes the lead in the Forbes Travel Guide 2018 with the most five-star hotels and restaurants

Forbes Travel Guide has unveiled its 2018 Star Award Winners, with Macao surpassing Paris as the city with the most five-star hotels and restaurants. With 12 of Macao's hotels being awarded five-star status, the city has secured the top spot, followed by Paris with 10 five-star hotels, London with nine and Hong Kong with eight. The Macao properties which achieved the coveted top award were Altira, Banyan Tree, Conrad, Encore, Four Seasons, Mandarin Oriental, MGM, Nüwa (former Crown Towers), Star Tower (at Studio City), Wynn Macau, Wynn Palace and The Ritz-Carlton.



Macao was also the most awarded city in the restaurants category with a total of 12 restaurants receiving the five-star accolade, one more than last year. The Macao five-star restaurants include Aurora (Altira), Belon (Banyan Tree), Golden Flower (Encore), Il Teatro, Mizumi and Wing Lei (Wynn), Jade Dragon (City of Dreams), Shinji by Kanesaka, Sushi Mizumi, The Tasting Room (City of Dreams), Tenmasa and Vida Rica (Mandarin Oriental).

The prestigious Forbes Travel Guide, which is celebrating its 60th year, uses incognito inspectors to rate and rank the world's finest hotels, restaurants and spas. For the full list of winners, please click [here](#).

[ACCESS TO MACAO](#)

Cathay Pacific adds additional routes to meet demand

In December 2017, Cathay Pacific boosted the frequency of its flights between Manchester and Hong Kong, from five days a week to daily. Cathay Pacific is also launching a four times-weekly service direct to Hong Kong from Dublin airport in June. The new year-round service will be Dublin Airport's first ever direct route to the Asia-Pacific region.

Along with the new flights, Macao is set to become even more accessible for UK visitors with the opening of the much-anticipated Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge, which is expected to take place later this year. The bridge will give direct road access between Macao and Hong Kong.

NEW HOTELS

MGM COTAI opens its doors

MGM COTAI, which opened its doors on 13 February 2018, is the latest addition to MGM's portfolio in Macao. With its unique contemporary design, Asia's first adaptive and dynamic theatre, as well as one of the world's largest collections of sensory digital art, the MGM COTAI is set to impress.



The hotel also boasts 1,400 stylish rooms and suites, meeting spaces to suit corporate events of different sizes, a state-of-the-art spa, sophisticated retail options, and nine unique restaurants and bars, led by globally-acclaimed chefs, including the two Michelin-starred French-Argentinian chef Mauro Colagreco; Peruvian and Nikkei expert Mitsuharu Tsumura; award-winning chef and American TV personality Graham Elliot; and Singaporean pastry chef Janice Wong.

<https://www.mgm.mo/en/cotai>

Other forthcoming hotel developments* include the following:

Morpheus

Morpheus, a fifth tower within the City of Dreams Macau complex, is due to open later this year. The 160-metre-high building, designed by London-based Zaha Hadid Architects, will be shaped as an abstract figure of eight, connected at its low and top levels and with two bridges in the middle area. The new 39-storey building will host a new flagship hotel with around 780 rooms, including six duplex villas and three lavish villas with a private pool, as well as an infinity swimming pool on the 40th floor – at 130 metres high – several restaurants, meeting facilities and an executive lounge.

It has also recently been announced that Morpheus is collaborating with the legendary chef Alain Ducasse, one of the world's most decorated chefs. An entire floor will be dedicated to two Ducasse restaurants and a bar. <http://www.cityofdreamsmacau.com/en/hotels/detail/morpheus>

Grand Lisboa Palace

Aiming for construction to be completed by the end of 2018 is the Grand Lisboa Palace, a resort that will feature three hotels with around 2,000 rooms: Grand Lisboa Palace Hotel (approximately 1,400 rooms); Palazzo Versace Macau (Asia's first Palazzo Versace, under the creative direction of designer Donatella Versace – approximately 290 rooms); and Karl Lagerfeld Hotel (the world's first hotel to be designed entirely by Karl Lagerfeld – approximately 290 rooms).

Grand Lisboa Palace's design is inspired by landmark European architecture and traditional Chinese motifs, celebrating the meeting of East and West. It will also feature a grand wedding pavilion, extensive wellness facilities including six swimming pools and three spas, diverse food and beverage offerings, including Michelin-starred dining, a lifestyle shopping mall and a casino.

****Important Note:*** Dates and details of hotel openings are based on latest information supplied by third parties, which has been updated as of March 2018. As the Macao Government Tourism Office cannot

guarantee the accuracy of this information, which may be subject to change, we recommend that you verify the latest details with the companies concerned prior to use.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Macao plays host to series of fascinating and colourful events and festivals throughout the year, which bring to life its unique and multicultural heritage. Here is a highlight of those which are coming up soon:

- **29th Macao Arts Festival, 27 April - 31 May**

Performance artists from across the world gather in Macao for the annual Arts Festival. Over the course of a month, audiences can enjoy a dazzling programme of local and international theatre, traditional and modern dance, Chinese and Western music, multimedia and visual arts. To top things off, several performances are hosted by some of Macao's enchanting and atmospheric UNESCO-listed World Heritage sites.



- **The Procession of Our Lady of Fátima, 13 May**

The Procession of Our Lady of Fátima parades through the streets of Macao on the thirteenth day of May every year, in order to commemorate her apparition to three peasant children in Fátima (Portugal) in 1917. A woman dressed in white clothing carries the statue from St. Dominic's Church to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha, where an open-air mass is held.



- **Feast of the Drunken Dragon, 22 May**

One of Macao's most famous – and wild – local festivals, this event involves fishermen drinking large amounts of rice wine and dancing with wooden dragons in a procession that takes them from the Kuan Tai temple near Senado Square to Macao's Inner Harbour. This is all done to commemorate the slaying of a sea dragon.



- **The Macao International Dragon Boat Races, 16 – 18 June**

The Dragon Boat Festival (which falls on the fifth day of the fifth month in Chinese Lunar Calendar) commemorates the Chinese poet Qu Yuan, who protested corruption by drowning himself. Today, the hugely popular Macao International Dragon Boat Races take place on Nam Van Lake on the historic Praia Grande shorefront with many local and international teams participating in one of the most popular outdoor parties in Macao.



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About Macao:

A Special Administrative Region of China since 1999, Macao blends the best of east and west, old and new and is one of Asia's most intriguing destinations. Located just 40 miles from Hong Kong on China's south coast, it offers a world class hotel, restaurant, shopping and entertainment scene, whilst retaining its unique Portuguese-Chinese culture in its UNESCO World Heritage listed architecture, colourful events and fusion cuisine. Chosen as one of Lonely Planet's top 10 regions for travel in 2015, Macao packs a lot into its 11 square miles and makes the perfect addition to a Far East holiday or stopover en route "Down Under".

About the Macao Government Tourism Office:

The Macao Government Tourism Office is the tourism development arm of the government of the Macao SAR (Special Administrative Region) dedicated to promoting Macao as a preferred destination and co-ordinating related activities and services within the local tourism industry. www.macaotourism.gov.mo