THE INTIMATE COLLECTION

HO CHI MINH CITY

EVENTS DOSSIER

A 4 day events program to
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Prepared by
Asia Concierge

	DAY ONE	DAY TWO	DAY THREE	DAY FOUR
DESTINATION	HOME PORT TO HO CHI MINH CITY	HO CHI MINH CITY	HO CHI MINH CITY	HO CHI MINH CITY TO HOME PORT
BREAKFAST	NA	At hotel	At hotel	At hotel
MORNING	In flight	**Travel Program :** Morning 'Saigon Immersion' with special modes of transport	**Travel Program :** Optional Touring Five Senses of Saigon Immersive Culinary Mekong River Life Delta Rivers & Markets	Morning at leisure until transfer to airport
LUNCH		Lunch at Ros Yacht Club	Lunch at Quan Bui or The Deck	In flight
AFTERNOON	Group arrives at Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) airport and transfer to hotel	Afternoon Rivers and Tunnels (Cu Chi)	Optional touring continued	
EVENING	Rooftop function at hotel	Dinner at A Tung	Event at Chill Bar or Fine Arts Museum	
OVERNIGHT	Hotel Des Arts, M Gallery	Hotel Des Arts, M Gallery	Hotel Des Arts, M Gallery	In flight

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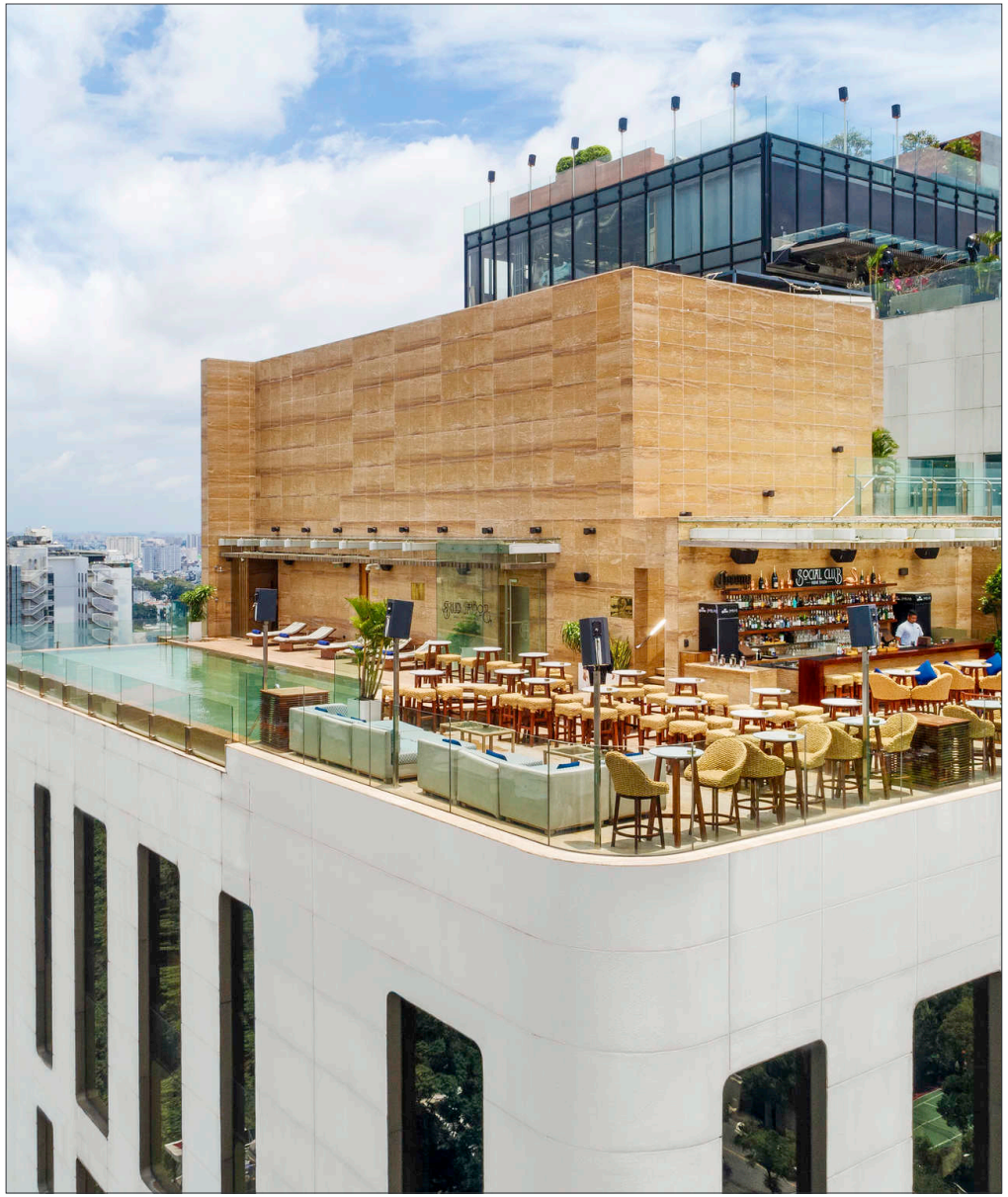
ARRIVAL

- Fast track airport arrival service
- Private vehicle transportation
- Private guide escort
- 10 x ao dai ladies welcome on arrival
- Welcome function on rooftop of hotel



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HOTEL DES ARTS, M GALLERY, SAIGON

SAIGON

LOCATION
District One, Ho Chi Minh City
DESIGN
Contemporary style with hints of art deco
ROOMS
165 rooms and suites

This art-filled boutique property is a stunning blend of French colonial and contemporary Vietnam, with world-class dining, an award-winning spa and topped with a rooftop pool and buzzy bar, at the heart of the country's most cosmopolitan city.

The building itself is a work of art with its smooth lines and sensuous curves, before you step through the enormous wooden doors and into the gorgeous triple-height lobby. Designed on Feng Shui principles, it sets the tone with acres of marble, floor-to-ceiling windows, statement lighting, sumptuous fabrics and huge vases of flowers. The female staff wear beautiful silk ao dai, the traditional Vietnamese dress, and the hotel is a showcase for the owner's gallery-worthy collection of paintings and antiques.

Saigon Opera House

French architecture

SAIGON IMMERSION

DEPART 0830 - 1200 / LUNCH AND AFTERNOON CU CHI (optional extension)

Ho Chi Minh City, commonly referred to as Saigon by all. A city of contrasts, from ancient pagodas and ramshackle shops to sleek skyscrapers and gourmet restaurants, seamlessly blending together the old and the new.

A short walk from the hotel leads us to the Opera House where our 40 colourful vespas will be waiting to whisk the group off through the streets of Saigon. We motor scooter past the Notre Dame Cathedral completed in 1880 and constructed entirely with imported materials from France. Across the road sits the grand Central Post Office, designed by a French architect with neoclassical architecture, vaulted roof, elaborate floor tiles and arched windows that are more reminiscent of European railway stations rather than the average post office.

Then continue through the side streets for our first stop at the Reunification Palace. Once known as the Presidential Palace served as central command for the South Vietnamese effort against the communist northern forces. It is now a capsule, unchanged by history and preserved in all its splendour, with the 1960's kitsch décor, archaic computer and telephone systems and underground bunkers covered in strategic war maps.

From here we change transport to old Army Jeeps to Tanh Dinh market - one of the oldest in the city and away from the commercial tourist centre. A bustling market selling everything you could ever imagine from the wet market, to the food stalls and small clothing outlets. We make a stop at Emperor Jade Pagoda. Built in the early 20th century by a Chinese man, who left China and went to Vietnam to live and do business. The Jade Emperor is known as the supreme god who heads and manages all things in heaven and earth.

From here a coach transfer take us to the riverside where we have the option to enjoy lunch at the chic Ros Yacht Club **(optional - see extension notes)**

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Army Jeeps in Saigon

Inclusions :

- 1 x vespa per guest with driver (helmet provided)
- Visits to sites as noted
- Army jeep transportation (3 per jeep)
- 1 x guide per 15 guests. Coach on standby
- Ladies in yolks appearing to serve drinks
- Private Tai Chi Class in park (optional)

Day Extension :

End program with lunch at ROS Yacht Club and after lunch continue by boat to Cu Chi Tunnels (see following content).

Vintage Vespas

Saigon Dining

ROS YACHT CLUB, SAIGON RIVER

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Lunch or dinner option

ROS YACHT CLUB

A key player in Saigon's food and drink scene. ROS is a day-to-night, Pan-Asian restaurant with nautical vibes and a hint of Cote d'Azur style.

More than just an exquisite meal with a panoramic riverfront view, dining experience at ROS meant to engage all of the senses by offering a chance to savor an innovative Pan-Asian cuisine, sip on a range of exotic cocktails, and immerse oneself in the serenity of the Saigon river. Regardless of the time of visit, from the morning well through the late night, ROS with its calming river view will take guests away from the urban fabric of the city - just for a while.

In the evening when illuminated buildings in the distance grow brighter and the night gets darker, ROS lights up and ready to make the evenings more memorable by indulging guests in an assortment of fun nightlife activities.

Inclusions :

- Private use of yacht (pending max no.)
- Pre dinner drinks on the terrace (if required)
- Set dinner menu with paired wine
- Free flow drinks during meal
- Evening entertainment options of DJ, string quartet, jazz band on deck

Note: The yacht has a limited capacity at 20 persons. For larger groups dining can be held inside the main restaurant after pre dinner at the outdoor lounge.

Saigon River speedboat journey

RIVERS AND TUNNELS

DEPART 0830 - RETURN 1300 * or DEPART 1330 - RETURN 1800

Our riverboat awaits as it leaves the centre of Saigon for the 90 minute cruise towards the Cu Chi district.

The Cu Chi area was used as operational headquarters by Vietcong guerrillas, they were instrumental in numerous military campaigns during the war and played a decisive role in defeating the American forces.

The tunnels were dug using simple tools by hand during the French occupation in the 1940's and expanded further during the Vietnam-American war in the 1960's.

The tunnels were used as hiding spots during combat, as well as serving as communication and supply routes, many people lived in the tunnels and the network was of great importance to the resistance strategy. The Americans tried to destroy the tunnels with heavy bombing campaigns, effectively turning the lush tropical jungle into a pockmarked moonscape.

The 120 km network of tunnels has been preserved and is now a thought provoking war memorial complex. A poignant and captivating program will help guests learn about the effects of the war in an area where over 10,000 people are estimated to have lost their lives.

Braver guests can go into a section of the unrestored tunnels!

Return to the city by motor-coach.

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Shooting range option at Cu Chi Tunnels

Inclusions :

- Speedboat transfer to Cu Chi Tunnels site
- Return motor-coach
- Ticketed entrance fees to Cu Chi Tunnels
- Guided tour of Cu Chi Tunnels
- Refreshment drinks at the tunnels
- Snacks, fruit, beer, soft drinks on speedboat

Bullets for shooting range not included (currently $1.50 per bullet - optional

NOTE: If having lunch at the ROS Yacht Club the speedboat can collect guests from the pier and continue onto Cu Chi Tunnels.

NOTE: Max capacity is 20 pax per speedboat

Cu Chi Tunnels

A by TUNG exterior

Evening event

A by TUNG DINING

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A by TUNG DINING

SAIGON

At Å by TUNG, savour every moment with Nordic-chic vibes and a sensational fine dining experience, making the first-of-its-kind debut in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City.

Owned and managed by celebrated head chef Hoang Tung, the youngest Vietnamese chef to rank in the Top 100 of Asia's Best Restaurants at the age of 28. Tung is the first local chef in Vietnam to set the benchmark for high quality seasonal tasting menus for a discerning clientele.

Dinner is served in the courtyard, which is beautifully lit with colour washes on the walls to accentuate the features including art nouveau style windows and wrought iron balconies. Tables with black linen positioned on a black carpet with gorgeous floral arrangements make this an elegant setting for any welcome event.

Inclusions :

- Welcome cocktail on arrival
- Elegant table settings with scented floral arrangement in courtyard
- Contemporary cuisine tasting menu (selection varies from season to season)
- Free flow wine, beer, soft drink x 2 hours
- Private section of restaurant
- Wine pairing available for surcharge on request

NOTE: A by Tung is closed every Monday.

Tai Chi moves

Incense coils

THE FIVE SENSES OF SAIGON

DEPART 0730 - 1100

This short, but fun, morning out incorporates the sights, sounds, smell and taste of Saigon in all its chaotic glory.

Start out in the early morning to visit a small but fascinating pagoda known for its wonderful friezes and art work and the smell of large burning incense coils. Watch locals enter and prayer for good fortune and health. Your smells will be put on full alert here. Continue to awaken your sense of taste with a cup of Vietnamese coffee at one of the many local, cool hangouts. Try your hand at a Egg coffee or the classic condensed milk coffee.

After our pick me up challenge your skills by joining and practicing with our Tai Chi instructor in a nearby local park while enjoying typical Vietnamese music. Stretch the muscles and learn some of the more typical exercise moves that form part of this art form.

Then take in the view of the city panoramic landscape at the Skydeck on 49th floor of the Bitexco Tower, located in the heart of the city. It is hear the sweeping expanse of Saigon can be seen into the horizon. The sheer level of development is astonishing when seen from above.

Return to the hotel thereafter or enjoy some free time shopping and wandering the busy streets.

Inclusions :

- Private transportation
- Visits to sites as noted
- 1 x guide per 10 guests.
- Private Tai Chi class in local park
- Vietnamese coffee break in local cafe
- Entry ticket to Skydeck viewing level

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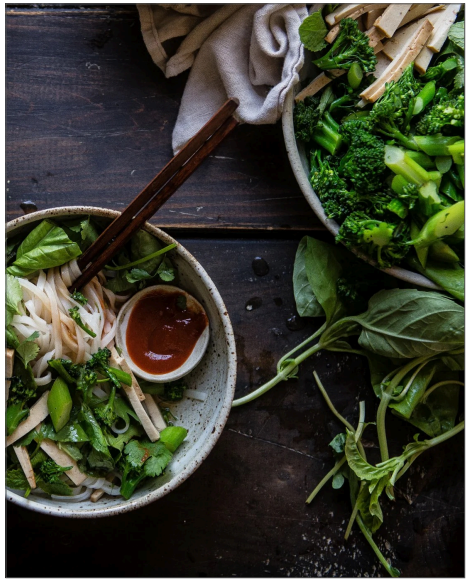

IMMERSIVE CULINARY EXPERIENCE

DEPART 1000 - 1400

Embark on a journey through the culinary traditions of Vietnam. Local chefs meticulously curate a daily menu inspiring guests from every corner of the world to discover Vietnam's vibrant culinary heritage.

Accompanied by our chefs, we start our foray with a visit to a local produce market offering insight into how the Vietnamese procure meats and vegetables on a daily basis. Each visitor experiences firsthand the bustling wet markets that continue to be a part of Vietnamese people's daily lives. We also learn how to bargain for produce through proper market etiquette.

A private restaurant space is set up for our food preparation. Each guest is assigned a private cook-station and provided the necessary ingredients to perfect a meticulously curated menu of classic Vietnamese dishes. Add new recipes and techniques to your culinary repertoire, all while experiencing firsthand the culture and heritage behind Vietnamese cooking.

Inclusions :

- Chef guided four course cooking class
- In-depth market visit
- Private cooking stations in private venue
- Vegetable carving and plating
- Elegant Vietnamese cookbook
- Branded apron (if required)
- Free flow drinks during class and lunch
- Dine on what you cook

Local sampan

Mekong River boats

MEKONG RIVER LIFE

DEPART 0730 - 1700

.The Mekong Delta is a rich fertile region of farmland interlaced with countless waterways crisscrossed by low-lying rice paddies. Today you will explore one of the country's most enchanting landscapes travelling by car and then motorised sampan (a flat bottomed wooden boat) into the 'rice bowl' of Vietnam.

Exploring Ben Tre, one of the lesser-visited provinces in the Mekong Delta, you will cruise along the Ham Luong River visiting small factories that provide an insight into how the local economy works. Stops include a brickworks, where bricks are still painstakingly made by hand, a salt refinery, a coconut processing workshop where you can sample fresh coconut and see how every single part of this versatile nut is turned into food and other products, and a mat weaving house, where straw mats are woven using a hand loom – you can even have a go at weaving yourself!

Stop at a peaceful village for a short walk to see more of local life in the community before travelling by bicycle or xe loi, a design of cyclo used only in the Delta, through fruit or-chards before stopping at a riverside restaurant for a delicious lunch.

The lunch will feature local specialities such as elephant ear fish and river shrimp. After lunch, there will be time to explore the garden or wander along the riverbanks with your guide before taking a rowing boat along narrow canals back to the main boat. Return to the pier in Ben Tre and transfer back to Ho Chi Minh City by vehicle.

Inclusions :

- Private transportation
- Visits to sites as noted
- 1 x guide per 10 guests.
- Lunch and 1 x beer, soft drink with meal
- Village bicycle ride - optional addition

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Local Cao Dai Temple

Mekong mangoes off to market

DELTA RIVERS & MARKETS (by speedboat)

DEPART 0800 - 1600

Travel by speedboat through downtown Ho Chi Minh directly into the 'rice bowl' of Vietnam and enjoy a light snacks on board. As you slip away from the city, via narrow canals, you enter the verdant green tributaries of the Mekong Delta.

Enjoy a brief stop at the ornate, overwater Tuong Van Pagoda, whilst your guide explains the importance of Buddhism to the many people of the Delta. Visit a bustling, colourful riverside market full of local curiosities, tropical fruits and all manner of fish and shellfish.

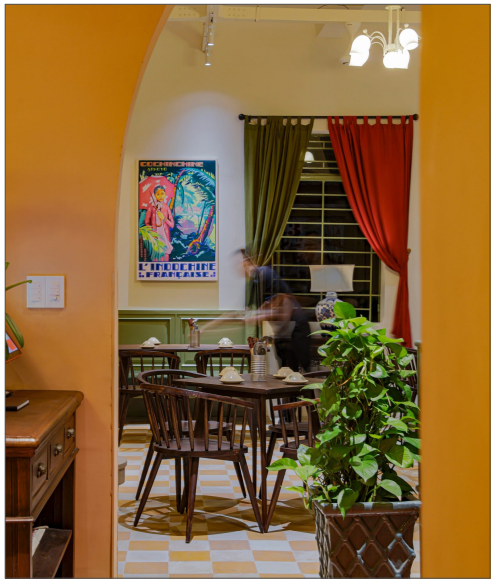
Mid-morning, reach the idyllic watery expanses of the Delta itself, known as the 'Delta of Nine Dragons' after the nine tributaries that splinter from the main Mekong River. Turn-ing off the Delta into small, winding canals of the Thu Thua area, drift along lazily shaded by a canopy of foliage. Spend time at family homes where you'll be invited to enjoy some refreshing, freshly cut coconuts and fiery Mekong whisky.

Lunch will be on the site of an orphanage run by Buddhist monks and a portion of the proceeds from your tour today helps support the school. The chef will prepare many Vietnamese dishes for lunch including the unusually-named fried elephant ear fish, a Mekong Delta speciality.

After lunch, visit the nearby Cao Dai Temple; a riot of colours celebrating a combination of different religions. Cruising through the Delta's canals there are countless opportunities to capture amazing photos of the scenery and local people as the boat passes buffalo's being used to plough fruit orchards and rice fields and other bucolic scenes. Return by speedboat back to Ho Chi Minh City in the mid afternoon.

Inclusions :

- Private transportation
- Visits to sites as noted
- 1 x guide per 10 guests.
- Lunch and 1 x beer, soft drink with meal



City lunch option

QUAN BUI BISTRO

Quán Bụi is quintessential Vietnamese home cooking served in a modern, chic Indochine setting located in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City.

The menu is an eclectic selection of traditional family recipes passed on from time to time. Using only fresh, high quality ingredients this is Vietnamese comfort food executed with love and passion. Family gatherings have always been important in Vietnamese culture, even though nowadays the rising middle class can afford to eat good food in fine restaurants but they still have a subconscious desire to eat dishes which remind them of simple rural life and family warmth.

Leave the hyped tourist restaurants aside and dine where the Vietnamese dine. Quan Bui is for those who want to enjoy real Vietnamese, home made style food with a contemporary Saigon feel.

Vietnam's food scene has evolved in recent years and Quan Bui is one such venue that is bringing the authenticity back within a stylish setting.

Inclusions :

- Private section of restaurant
- Set Vietnamese lunch menu
- Free flow drinks during meal (90 mins)
- Transfers by motor coach

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The Deck

Lunch option

THE DECK

The Deck Saigon's tranquil setting on the banks of the Saigon River—away from the cacophony of the city—makes this the perfect spot to linger for a few hours. The extensive menu combines European and Asian flavors, and there are good vegetarian and gluten-free options too.

Drawing a mix of expats, locals, and tourists, this restaurant is partially set on a riverfront deck (hence the name); it's been open since 2008. The menu is pan-Asian, while the breezy interiors include solid wooden chairs, creative lighting, and plenty of fresh flowers. Vietnamese ingredients are used in dishes like Phu Quoc prawn rolls and regional soft-shell-crab tempura—but foods sourced globally include French foie gras and New Zealand lamb.

Board a private speed boat for the 15 minute river journey from Saigon's city centre to moor directly in front of the restaurant.

Inclusions :

- Speedboat transfer from the city (x 2)
- Private section of restaurant
- Set lunch menu
- Free flow drinks during meal
- Return by coach (30 mins) or return speedboat

Evening event

SAIGON NIGHT MOVES

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SAIGON NIGHT MOVES - CHILL BAR

SAIGON

Saigon's hippest nightlife spot, a two-story restaurant and bar located on the twenty-sixth floor of an unassuming office block in the heart of the city.

Designed by the same creators as the Sirocco Bar in Bangkok, the venue deserves its lofty reputation. This sophisticated and happening place serves an excellent range of wines and cocktails.

The city's flat topography lends itself to a rooftop bar providing impressive views of this vibrant and ever changing city. Guests can watch the sun set and the lights come on as the city comes alive!

The Chill Bar is the ideal setting for a private drinks reception and/or a standing party event with heavy canapés and a variety of contemporary entertainment.

Chill becomes very popular with the local set from 8pm onwards and is particularly crowded during the later hours which adds to the party atmosphere.

Inclusions :

- Private section of venue
- Free flow drinks and cocktails (3 hours)
- Heavy canapés served (recommended)
- DJ option
- Contemporary dancers on bar (optional)
- Modern fashion show on stairs (optional)
- Other entertainment options available.

Note: Event pricing is based on day of the week and exact time frame for private function. We recommend we take a private section until 8pm, thereafter allowing outside guests. Exclusive use is not possible unless buy out.

Fine Arts Museum Courtyard

Evening event

THE FINE ARTS MUSEUM, SAIGON

French built elevator

Courtyard entrance

Pre dinner cocktail area

Long table setting in the courtyard

THE FINE ARTS MUSEUM
SAIGON

This grand colonial era mansion, once owned by one of the wealthiest Chinese families during the 19th century has a pleasing mix of French and Chinese influences.

The museum covers 3 floors which houses a collection featuring Vietnamese art works using traditional oil, silk and lacquer painting as well as ceramics and wood carving. The sculpture courtyard in the middle of the building makes the most stunning setting for dinner.

Guests are greeted on arrival with ladies wearing traditional outfits carrying lanterns with the sounds of drums as they enter the grounds. The candle lit staircase leads to the first floor where canapés and pre-dinner drinks are served in the main gallery surrounded by the art works.

Dinner is served in the courtyard, which is beautifully lit with colour washes on the walls to accentuate the features including the art nouveau style windows and the wrought iron balconies.

Tables with black linen positioned on a black carpet with gorgeous floral arrangements make this an elegant setting for any welcome event.

Inclusions :

- Private venue hire
- Foyer decorated with cocktail tables and lighting
- Pre dinner drinks and canapés in foyer
- String quartet during reception
- Elegant table settings with jasmine/frangipani scented floral arrangement in courtyard
- Catered Vietnamese dinner (large mix plated shared main)
- Free flow wine, beer, soft drink x 3 hours
- Traditional music and/or jazz during dinner
- Spotlight entertainment in alcoves above (saxophonist, violinist, opera singer)

Saigon

VIETNAM

Asia Concierge

Why us?

Ever evolving, ever changing … that's Asia in general. But no where is the pace of development as fast as found in the major cities of Vietnam.

Asia Concierge may be a new operator to market, however, it is managed at all levels by veterans and pioneer of the events industry in Asia.

It's Vietnam team have always been proud to lead the industry with the development of creative content and the sourcing of new venues.

It's Co Founding Partner, Paul Levrier, was the initial creator of events at the former Presidential Palace in Saigon, the first to turn the Fine Arts Museum and the Botanical Gardens into the event spaces they are today.

Under his direction he conceived exclusive use of the Temple of Literature in Hanoi and was the first to take over the Co Loa Citadel on its outskirts when incentive travel to Vietnam was unheard of. The vespa tours that are now so popular in the main cities of Vietnam was first devised and created by Paul via connections at a small vespa club in Ho Chi Minh City way back in 2004! Most recently, he led the operation of an event at the previously 'out of bounds' Hanoi Citadel in the heart of the city for 300 guests.

But our relentless pursuit does not stop there. Venues that have been tried and tested are now looked at with fresh eyes, taking concepts, theming and creative content beyond previous boundaries. New venue sourcing is ongoing, constantly on the look out for locations that are authentic and representative of Vietnam's rich culture.

This approach to our business extends to our excursion offerings. Not content with regular tour activities, a destination's highlights are brought to life with fine touches and elements that bring a sense of fun, exploration and further cultural understanding to the guest, leaving behind an indelible memory on ones time in Vietnam.

"Our legacy may have been created by the past, but we want to be remembered for what we are going to do today and tomorrow."

events.asia-concierge.com

Asia Concierge

SUPPORT TOOLS FROM THE ASIA CONCIERGE WEB PORTAL

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