

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

SOUTHEAST ASIA

JULY 2014

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BEACHES+ISLANDS

**BACKWATER
BLISS IN**

BURMA

**A PINT IN
PYONGYANG**

BALI
**RETREATS
FOR A
RESTART**

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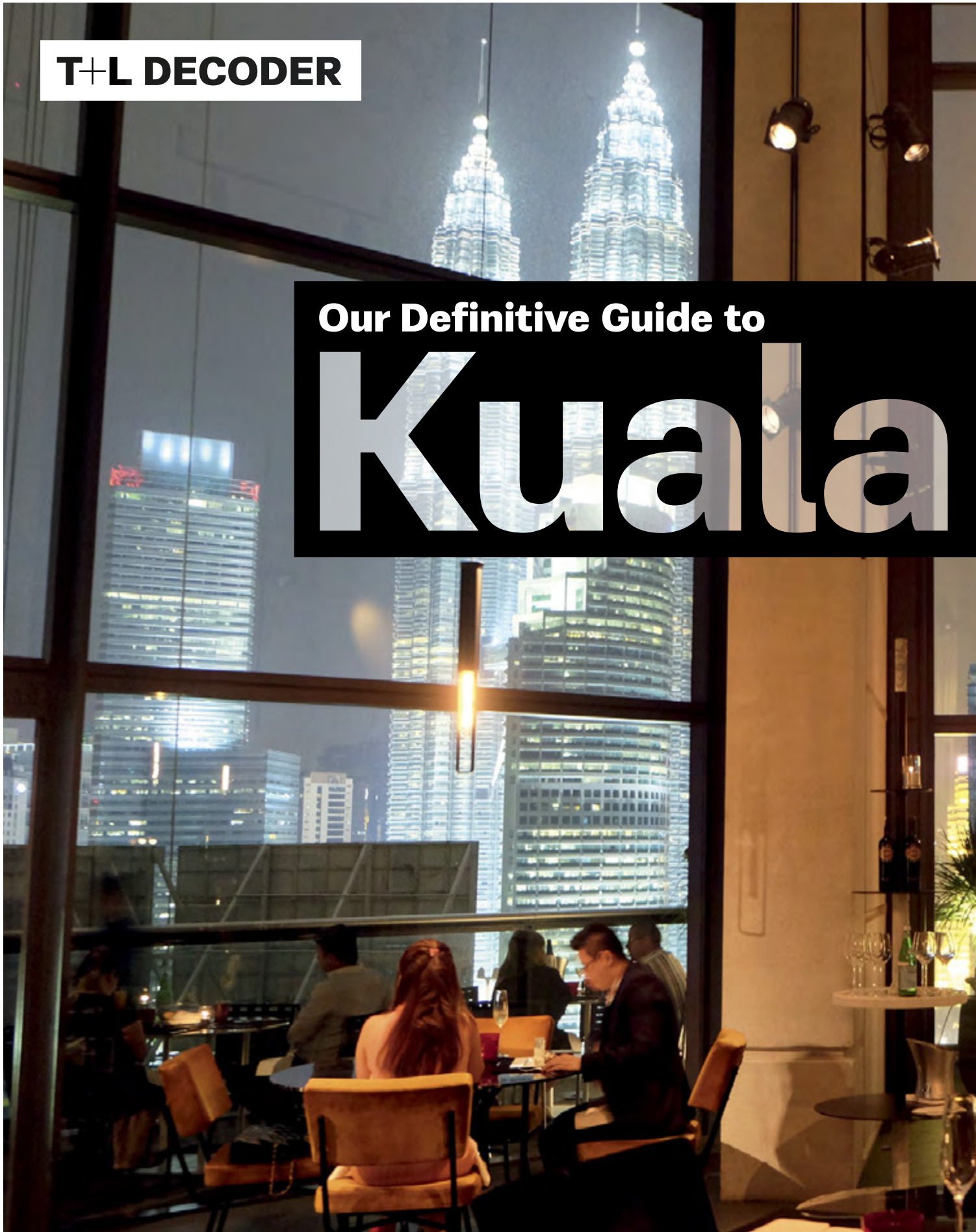
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ON CAMBODIA'S SOUTHERN COAST

T+L DECODER

Our Definitive Guide to

Kuala



Tastemakers
appreciate the
shiny views from
Claret Wine Bar.

Lumpur

Around the Malaysian capital, Mark Lean steps beyond the glitzy rooftop bars, mean martinis and killer views to uncover a city full of charms to the many cultures that call it home. Photographed by Kit Chan



STAY

SHOP

SEE+DO

EAT

LOCAL TAKE



Clockwise from left: Shake it up at Hit & Mrs.; dining at Old China Café; Barlai is in a converted house; homemade crab pasta at perennial favorite Nerovivo.

Drink

Omakase + Appreciate

There's no signage at this joint that's fast becoming the worst kept secret for the well-connected. Inside are winning cocktails such as the elderflower martini and vodka collins. *Ming Annexe Building, 9 Jln. Ampang; 603/2148-0122; drinks for two RM80.*

Providence The current place to be seen at 2 a.m. on Saturday. The crowd? Models and TV personalities. Order? A bottle of champagne, naturally. *The Intermark, 182 Jln. Tun Razak; 6010/252-7678; drinks for two RM100.*

Heli Lounge Bar After the last helicopter lifts off pre-sunset, lounge chairs pop up on the roof of Menara KH, turning this helipad into a spot to chill out to a blend of funky house tracks. *34F, Menara KH, Jln. Sultan Ismail; facebook.com/heliloungebar; drinks for two RM80.*

Claret Wine Bar At this interior design dream, the city's tastemakers appreciate the wine selections and the shiny views. *23A, Tower B, The Troika, KLCC; 603/2162-0886; troikaskyding.com; drinks for two RM60.*

Barlai A house/art gallery/bar for theater types. The balmy terrace has antiquated off-white wooden louvers and mosaic tiles. *3 Jln. Sin Chew Kee, Bukit Bintang; 603/2141-7850; drinks for two RM70.*

Funky new openings, plus a couple of old favorites.

BIJAN Chef Zulkifli Razali's careful renditions of treasured family recipes make a trip to this sedate bungalow restaurant—owned by sisters Lissa and Way Cheng Yeoh, and up the hill from party street Changkat Bukit Bintang—worthwhile. Try the turmeric chicken with tender morsels of jackfruit; stir-fried asparagus in a zingy prawn paste; as well as flavorsome duck *rendang*, slow-cooked with coconut milk and pestle-pounded spices. *3 Jln. Ceylon; 603/2031-3575; bijanrestaurant.com; RM200.*

OLD CHINA CAFÉ

Straits Chinese cuisine (a mix of Chinese and

Malay cooking styles and ingredients) can be tricky to perfect. But the chefs here have it covered. Adventurous eaters should opt for desserts like sago with caramelized palm sugar, and durian in coconut milk. Added attraction: the nostalgic elements in this pre-war shop house, where ceiling fans whirl above marble top wooden tables, flanked by feng shui mirrors that amplify good vibes. *11 Jln. Balai Polis; 603/2072-5915; oldchina.com.my; lunch for two RM80.*

KAMPACHI BY EQUATORIAL

Check out the floor-to-ceiling glass-front Kampachi, located at the Norman Foster-designed Troika, for upscale Japanese

fare. Reservations are recommended as this spot, popular with movers and shakers, fills for both lunch and dinner. *The Troika, Jln. Binjai; 603/2181-2282; kampachi.com.my; RM300.*

NEROVIVO This modern trattoria remains one of the buzziest Italians in town, and is a top choice to impress clients or a date. The menu takes inspiration from both northern and southern Italy with more than 20 pizzas made in the wood-fire oven, as well as a la carte dishes like the Sicilian risotto with tiger prawns and green asparagus, and

the charcoal-grilled T-bone. *3A Jln. Ceylon; 603/2070-3120; nerovivo.com; RM250.*

HIT & MRS Its stylish, reimagined 1970's interiors of a suburban Malaysian home—wicker chairs, jade tiles, chintzy cushions, a bold tropical wallpaper centerpiece—get the thumbs up from KL's trendy set. Likewise the food that includes winners like butternut pumpkin risotto, and lamb loin served with pickled purple carrots, carrot mousse and Dukkah nuts. *15-15A Lorong Kurau, Taman Bukit Pantai; 603/2282-3571; thebiggroup.co/hitandmrs; RM250.*

Restaurant rates represent approximate prices for dinner for two, unless noted.