

PM opens exclusive

Marina *76*

Bay *522.11.98*

Resort

LUMUT: For your next vacation, fancy spending RM3,500 a night in a two-million-year-old jungle on an island?

This resort on Marina Bay Estates in Pangkor Laut island is definitely meant for the well-heeled.

And it drew the admiration of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who opened it yesterday.

"I understand that quite a number have booked to stay at the resort. It is certainly the most expensive resort but I do not know if it is the best.

"But I am quite sure that Tan Sri Francis Yeoh and Mark Yeoh will say this is the best resort in the country and I am inclined to concur because the design is really unique," he said.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir described the resort as quite a historical place in terms of nature "and it is worthwhile paying that kind of money to stay in this place."

"I do hope this place will be successful and there will be a lot of visitors wanting to stay and experience life in an estate, in an original Malaysian jungle which is two million years old, not a synthetic one," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Mark Yeoh, executive director of Pangkor Laut Resort, said since the resort's opening in 1985, it had attracted over 50,000 tourists annually.

He said the resort had won many awards, ranging from the Prime Minister's service excellence award, the FIABCI best development award and the Pata UK Best Resort award in 1997.

"YTL has been involved in the tourism industry since 1985 and Pangkor Laut holds a special place in our hearts as it represents our first foray into the tourism industry.

"With our other award winning and world-class products like the Eastern and Oriental Express Train and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, it is our sincere hope that we have in a small way contributed to the success of Malaysia as the premier destination of the world," he said.

Marina Bay comprises nine individual estates nestled in the island's two-million-year-old rainforest with a free-form pool and outdoor bath and 24-hour butler service.

According to its brochure, rates per night range from