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## RM50m Marina Bay resort a boost for tourism industry

MALAYSIA's tourism industry will be given an additional boost with the opening of the exclusive and up-market RM50 million Marina Bay resort at the Pangkor Laut island.

Developed by YTL Corporation Bhd, the resort is aimed at attracting the rich and famous with the going tenancy price of US\$2,000 (RM7,600) per day.

YTL Corporation executive director Mark Yeoh Seok Kah has termed the resort a "jewel in the crown" fit for kings and queens and the elite society.

"It is by far the most luxurious resort in Asia and we hope to attract high-end tourists from Europe and maybe Japan and Hong Kong.

"In fact, well before the resort was completed, we already had queries at our marketing office in London. We already have a confirmed booking by an English author to stay at the resort for one month at a discount price of US\$50,000. An English Lord is also interested in holidaying at our resort.

"However before we accept any bookings, we screen the potential tenants as we are very particular as to who stays at the resort," said Yeoh.

He added that there have also been offers to buy Marina Bay "but it is not for sale".

The resort is modelled on a similar concept in the Carribean Islands with nine self-contained estates.

An epitome of refined elegance, the Marina Bay either opens up to the bay or is tucked into the terraced hillside hugging the coastline.

To maintain the low density concept and to ensure privacy for guests, Yeoh said they built only nine estates.

Each estate is a collection of special purpose buildings with its own garden in tranquil natural surroundings. It has a personal house, dining house, bath house besides the lounge pavilion and a swimming pool.

"The estate is a place for tranquility, a place for contemplation, a place for family and a place for love," said Yeoh.

A dedicated staff of two service professionals cook and serve meals, address housekeeping requirements and unobstrusively coordinate all aspects of the guests' tenancy.

"The tenants can enjoy Asian dishes or continental food. They are versatile enough to cook any meals requested."

The resort is expected to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Nov 21.

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