

# French village experience at Bukit Tinggi

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**BUKIT TINGGI**, Sat: Malaysians can visit a part of France in their own backyard at Colmar Tropicale in Bukit Tinggi.

Colmar Tropicale, set amid 6,400ha of lush greenery, has created a milestone in Malaysia's tourism as it is the only French theme resort in the region.

The latest addition to Bukit Tinggi Resort, Colmar Tropicale is an inspiration of French artistry and is a replica of Colmar, an authentic northeastern French village in Alsace dating back to the 16th century.

Colmar Mayor Gilbert Meyer made an official visit today to Colmar Tropicale and presented a gift consist-

ing of a pair of storks from Alsace to Berjaya Group executive director Khor Poh Waa.

According to Meyer, the emblematic bird of Alsace symbolises fertility from the regional council of Alsace and it is another milestone towards fostering closer ties and friendship between Colmar, France and Colmar Tropicale, Bukit Tinggi.

The idea of building a French-themed resort was first mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after his visit to Colmar in July 1994.

Colmar Tropicale opened its door on July 14 last year, on French Bastille Day, and has since recorded 500,000 visitors.

The resort comprises 260 units of hotel rooms and one-to-six-bedroom suites. Plans for the second phase of the

development include a French castle and bungalow units.

Meyer said he is confident Malaysia will be able to attract three million visitors soon, the same number who visit his town every year.

Meanwhile, Khor said this is indeed a significant occasion for France and Malaysia as both Colmar and Colmar Tropicale have taken the initiative to foster better relations especially in the field of tourism.

"Colmar Tropicale is merely the beginning of a whole new horizon where there are yet a lot more opportunities to explore between our two countries," said Khor.

Also present at the ceremony was Pahang Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Tan Mohd Aminuddin and Ambassador of France to Malaysia Xavier Driencourt.