

01/03/2003

## Hotel-in-a-park experience

Shamini Gopalan

WITH its picturesque view, world-class service and "hotel-in-a-park" concept, visitors and guests of Putrajaya Shangri-La, will be in for an unforgettable experience.

The latest hotel in the Shangri-La chain was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Feb 4.

Strategically located on a green hilltop enclave overlooking the heart of Putrajaya, the hotel is only a 25-minute drive from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang and a 30-minute trip from Kuala Lumpur.

"Being a thoroughly modern and vibrant city, Putrajaya has a lot going for it. The city is constructed with detailed planning, innovative urban design and great respect for the environment. It is a city with a vision and heritage for the country's present and future generations," said Putrajaya Shangri-La general manager Philip Dailey.

"Future plans for the city include the building of more entertainment centres as well as retail outlets that will offer visitors the best of Malaysian and international designer brands. There will also be museums, galleries and theatres to keep visitors busy."

Dailey said the architecture of Putrajaya, although very modern, was also based on local traditional designs.

"Landmarks, such as the 'mercu tanda', the Putra mosque and the Perdana Putra Complex (Prime Minister's office) reflect the blend of traditional architecture with the most modern and up-to-date facilities.

"Putrajaya Shangri-La is built in such a way to complement the administrative capital. It not only blends in with the geographical location of the hillside but also with nature and the environment," said Dailey.

The five-star boutique hotel has 118 guestrooms built across four levels and each level has its own natural theme.

Spacious and stylishly-decorated with private terraces, the 'eco-rooms', as they are called, feature all natural linens, energy efficient lighting and biodegradable toiletries.

The hotel is also a haven of mouth-watering culinary delights with three restaurants and bars exuding tranquillity and subtle elegance.

The all-day Palm Hill Cafe offers both international and local cuisine, while the Azur features European cuisine with a hint of Mediterranean influence.

For pre-dinner drinks, guests can visit the Cobalt Bar located within the Azur.

At present, the Palm Hill Cafe is open for breakfast and lunch while the Azur is open for dinner.

For business meetings or private functions, the hotel offers four meeting rooms, of which the Dewan Putra Perdana Grand Room is the largest with a seating capacity of 200 people.

The hotel also features a world-class spa called Chi, where guests are assured the best in health-related services.

Other facilities include 24-hour room service, chauffeur-driven limousine service, valet parking, laundry services and complimentary shuttle service to the KLIA Express train terminal.

"The term 'boutique hotel' means a hotel that is small but luxurious with an intimate feel and more personalised service.

"Putrajaya Shangri-La is constructed to give travellers a wide variety

of services with a personal touch.

"This not only helps them recover more quickly from jet lag but also provides them with a hospitable experience which they will relish for a long time," said Dailey.