



# Travellers' checks

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## Testing the water

Pool-based extravaganza *The House of Dancing Water* is set to premiere on September 16 in Macau's City of Dreams (www.cityofdreamsmacau.com). Created and directed by Belgian Franco Dragone – known for his work with Cirque du Soleil – the US\$250 million show will feature 77 international performers. Tickets are due to go on sale at a special opening price range of HK\$380 to HK\$1,280.



**Class act** Korean Air has the best first-class service in Asia, at least according to British travel magazine *Business Destinations* and its readers. The airline received high scores for its on-board seating and facilities, its check-in system and customer service. The airline's first-class Kosmo suites can apparently be transformed into a living room, bedroom, theatre or office. Among the features that contributed to the win are 26.5-inch seats that convert into flat 79-inch-long beds, 23-inch LCD entertainment monitors, spacious work tables and organic cuisine.

# Hot spots

## Crown Metropol, Melbourne

**What is it?** Melbourne's newest hotel is a conundrum. It looks and feels like an uber-chic boutique hotel, with an eclectic US\$1 million art collection, creative carpets, witty sculptures and subtle mood lighting. Yet, concealed off "organically constructed" corridors are a whopping 658 colour-calibrated rooms. From the outside, the building's S-shape resembles a giant black wave washing across the business end of town, with a steel-framed modernist box boldly sculpted to the front. Inside, a voluptuously curved ribbon staircase links the reception to Gordon Ramsay's Maze and Maze Grill restaurants on the first level. A skywalk takes guests past luxury boutiques into the entertainment "precinct". Meanwhile, up on the 27th floor, guests recline poolside on Miami-bright sun loungers, cosy up on rattan daybeds or float over the city in a dazzling turquoise, 25-metre waterfall-edge indoor pool.

**What are the rooms like?** Manhattan-style loft rooms, studios (below), spa suites, regular rooms and an apartment-style residence all boast city and bay views. The sophisticated colour palette affects subtle changes across the hotel's 18 levels and decor in all of the rooms conveys a glossy, streamlined designer edge. Floor-to-ceiling windows add dimension and space, and shoji-inspired privacy screens slide between bathroom and bedroom. In-room toys include an iPod docking station, an LCD television with 53 free-to-air channels, including some in Chinese, and wireless internet. Guests sleep under original artwork – on both walls and bed linen – soothed into unconsciousness by fruit smoothies from the fridge.

**What about dining?** In Maze and Maze Grill, screens shield diners as they graze under Foscarini's oversized beacon lights on Ramsay's French cuisine with an Australian twist. Led by Michelin-star chef de cuisine Josh Emmett, Maze has become the hottest meal ticket in town. It also creates the hotel's in-room fare. For an additional A\$110 (HK\$700) a room, guests can enjoy member privileges at 28, an intimate, sky-high lounge where an expansive breakfast is served, an expert barista is on hand and a complimentary cocktail hour neatly rounds out the day.

**Is there a spa?** The luxuriously soulful Isika day spa has treatments to suit all schedules, including a 15-minute express manicure, one-hour treatments and four-day wellness retreats. Adjacent to the pool deck and a hi-tech gymnasium, it has 10 treatment rooms with steam showers, rose-petal-strewn baths and massage tables.

**What's the bottom line?** Luxe rooms are available from A\$249 a night, spa accommodation begins at A\$449 and The Apartment is A\$5,000 a night.

Crown Metropol is at 8 Whiteman Street, Southbank, Melbourne, Australia, tel: 61 3 9292 8888; www.crownmetropol.com.au. *Carol West*



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Now – 31 Oct 2010	Cherating Beach, Malaysia (MH)	HK\$8,340 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$6,740 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$5,540 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$5,040 <sup>up</sup>
	Bintan Island, Indonesia (SQ)	HK\$8,020 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$7,220 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$5,280 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$4,780 <sup>up</sup>
	Phuket, Thailand (TG)	HK\$8,720 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$7,520 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$6,060 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$5,560 <sup>up</sup>
	Bali, Indonesia (CX)	HK\$10,300 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$8,800 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$7,020 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$6,520 <sup>up</sup>
	Kabira, Okinawa (CI&AE / CX&AE)	HK\$11,300 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$8,800 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$7,660 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$7,160 <sup>up</sup>
	Sahoro, Hokkaido (CX)	HK\$11,800 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$9,800 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$8,360 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$7,860 <sup>up</sup>
	Kani, Maldives (SQ)	HK\$13,580 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$12,580 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$9,780 <sup>up</sup>	HK\$9,280 <sup>up</sup>

\*Terms & conditions apply

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For reservation, please call 3111 9388, book online at [www.clubmed.com.hk](http://www.clubmed.com.hk) or contact your travel agent.