

## THE REVERIE SAIGON

## Italian Artisry Meets Vietnamese Vitality

BY W.A. MULLER

he Reverie Saigon is not the place to go if you prefer your hotels as serene sanctuaries. In fact, it is one of the most extravagant hotels in the world, and by far the most glamourous hotel I've ever stayed at. The property makes guests feel as if they're

property makes guests feel as if they're in some surreal sojourn, not the middle of Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). Decorated with haute Italian furniture, dazzling jewels and palatial-style luxury, the Reverie Saigon, since its opening, has found itself atop the world's most desirable hotel properties and has been consistently voted the best hotel in Asia by several leading publications.

The hotel commands both the upper and lower floors of the contemporary, 39-story, mixed-use Times Square development in Ho Chi Minh City. With over-the-top grandeur that epitomizes the best of Italian design, the hotel transcends expectations, to offer a modern-day thesis on theatrically inspired splendor. From its rooms and suites to its restaurants and bars as well as its cavernous public spaces, all feature undeniable expressions of "fato a mano" (handmade) artistry in the world.

As visually stunning as the setting is inside, so too are the expansive views from



the city's highest hotel. You've never seen Saigon like this. From the beautiful and masculine colonial French architecture to the gentle twists of the Saigon River and the panorama of the sprawling city itself, the eyes have much to take in and be pleased with.

With entrances on Saigon's two most storied avenues, Dong Khoi Street and Nguyen Hue Boulevard, the Reverie sits at the center of the city's sophisticated section: District 1. As Saigon's mosthappening neighborhood for both business and leisure, D1 has become a sought-after destination for high-end shopping and the city's best dining spots.

Back inside, all rooms (there are 286 in total), have floor-to-ceiling windows, revealing views of Ho Chi Minh City's everevolving skyline, the Saigon River and the storied Mekong Delta beyond. The 12 categories of guestrooms offer the largest accommodation in the city, with 224 rooms ranging in size from an ample 462-570 square feet, and 62 suites ranging from a spacious 678 square feet to extravagantly large 3,369 square feet.

The interiors were designed by some of Italy's most recognized furnishing design brands-including Colombostile, Giorgetti, Poltrona Frau Group and Visionnaire-with styles ranging from chic modern to classical European, from whimsically romantic to fanciful and sophisticated. All guestrooms come outfitted with walk-in or walk-through closets and spacious bathrooms with separate tubs and rain showers. Bath amenities include Chopard in rooms and a choice of Hermès or Acqua di Parma in suites and are complemented by Frette linens throughout. Beds are also dressed in Frette, with smooth 400 thread count in rooms and silky 600 thread count in suites. Duvets are filled with the highest quality goose down, and pillow menus offer more than half a dozen options.

Occupying a bi-level

space on the top two floors of the hotel, the Reverie Lounge exquisitely redefines the conventional hotel club lounge and is exclusively available to suite guests. The airy retreat is open seven days a week and offers breakfast, afternoon tea and evening cocktails and canapés service daily, with refreshments and light snacks available throughout the day. A small meeting room is also available for complimentary use on a first come, first serve basis.

Three distinctive dining venues satisfy longings for Cantonese, refined French cuisine and hearty, home-style Italian. In addition, a deli serves up made-to-order salads, sandwiches and simple pastas along with homemade chocolate, cakes, cookies and macaroons.

Overseen by Italian Executive Chef Giovanni Parrella, each outlet strives to leave culinary impressions that are no less memorable than the hotel itself. Café Cardinal, the hotel's central gathering place, presents an airy perch with sweeping views of Saigon and captivates with its lively open kitchen, revealing a highly-skilled culinary team at work.

At the Royal Pavilion, Hong Kongese chefs, led by Chef de Cuisine Li Kam Wa, present the finest Cantonese to be had in all of Vietnam. Jade stones, vermillion and traditional Chinese scenes painted on gold leaf are juxtaposed with chairs and tableware designed by Provasi of Italy to accentuate the restaurant's stately ambiance.

At R&J, Italian Chef de Cuisine Fabrizio Valdetara delivers innovative presentations of home-style cooking from Italy's north right down to its south, with subtle twists of the imagination in a setting as passionate as its inspiration.

Whether Saigon is your first destination of your Vietnamese tour or your last, make the Reverie Saigon your first choice in hotel accommodation. From its striking elegance, haute Italian sophistication, large and plush rooms, superlative service and sumptuous dining, there is no hotel like it in the country, or one might say, in the world. Take my advice and book this hotel. You won't be disappointed!

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