



HENK MEYKNECHT

Guardian of the Heritage Art Deco Elegance

Henk Meyknecht, who was born in the Netherlands and grew up in a family of hoteliers, has been appointed by the Langham Hotels International as the Managing Director of The Langham, Yangtze Boutique, Shanghai. With a solid education background in hotel management, first at Maastricht in Netherlands and then Cornell University in US, as well as more than 25 years working experience in top ranking hotels such as Hilton International, Peninsula Group and Intercontinental Hotels in Europe, North America and the Far East, he is quite a fit for his new position as the Managing Director of the international luxurious boutique hotel. At present, he is committed to organizing a property show at the World Expo 2010, aiming to let

more people to know Langham, Yangtze Boutique Hotel as well as the Langham Hotels International which governs this legendary heritage hotel.

Langham Hotels International (LHI) is an international group which set up its first hotel in London in 1865. With its elegant design, innovative hospitality and genuine service, it became a frequented place by royalty, diplomats and artistic and literary celebrities. LHI has three famous brands, namely, Langham Hotels, Langham Place and Eaton Hotels International. The Langham operates in many countries and cities, Auckland, Boston, Hongkong, Shanghai, London, just to name a few. Langham Place, which also operates in many countries, is

featured by modern elegance and embracement of local sights, sounds, tastes and traditions. As for Eaton Hotels International, it offers upscale Eaton Luxe, mid scale Eaton Smart and Eaton House serviced apartments, providing high levels of comfort and service in a clearly defined value for money proposition while incorporating the latest sustainability practices.

As a member of Eaton Hotels International, Eaton Luxe, Nanqiao, Shanghai, which was opened at 2010, serves as the first and only international deluxe hotel in the key town of Nanqiao, where several multinational high-tech manufacturing plants have been established. With its 204 rooms and suites equipped with comprehensive facilities and services, together with its sophisticated yet simple lifestyle brand, Eaton Luxe, Nanqiao appeals to both business and leisure travelers.

In Shanghai, apart from the Eaton Luxe, Nanqiao, which is under the management of Eaton Hotels International, there is also The Langham Yangtze Boutique, which also falls within the family of Langham Hotels International. With its opening in May 2009, it became the first boutique property of Langham Hotels International in China.

It is a development of Yangtze Hotel, the once "Third Largest Hotel in the Far East" with a history dating back to 1934. Designed as an iconic art deco masterpiece and neo-classic architecture by renowned archi-



tect Li Pan, its grand opening was widely reported by influential newspapers in Shanghai and was well-attended by top film stars such as Hu Die and Xu Lai at that time.

As an important meeting place for Shanghai's upper class, Yangtze Hotel was a favorite choice for many famous celebrities, tycoons, social elites or even gangsters. The hotel flourished and its side business, the Yangtze Dance Hall, was particularly successful. With its modern and spacious "sprung dance floor", foreign jazz band and colorful lights flashed according to rhythm of music, it became a popular venue for top national and local celebrities to perform. Among them, the famous singer of the time, Yao li, was rather impressive. Her song "Rose Rose I Love You" was so popular that it was recorded in English by the famous American singer, Frankie Laine in 1951.

The boutique hotel re-emerges with lavish art deco-inspired interiors designed by the award-winning Duncan & Miller & Ullmann Design. With the focus on symmetric patterns and sharp lines, rich colors as well as bold geometric shapes, the renovated hotel bears a classic and extravagant flavor of Old Shanghai. In addition, by combining with all the modern conveniences and services that a luxury hotel can offer, it becomes a very popular choice for travelling elites.

Located at the centre of the Shanghai's business district, The



Langham, Yangtze Boutique has easy access to the major transportation hubs and scenic spots of Shanghai, Nanjing Road, The People's Square, Shanghai Grand Theatre, Shanghai Municipal Government building and The Bund.

The property features 96 elegantly appointed guestrooms

and suites. In addition, it introduces Chuan Residences – three spa-themed rooms with direct access to the hotel's signature Chuan Spa. Also, it boasts of finest restaurants and bars, elegantly appointed meeting space and well-equipped world class spa and health club.

As for dining and drinking, The



Langham, Yangtze Boutique provides five exquisite options, namely, the T'ang Court, Mado Izakaya, Palm Court, Ciao Dining Room & Bambin and The Bar. The T'ang Court has a reputation for its award winning Cantonese dishes such as shark's fin, abalona and bird's nest. Mado Izakaya is a particular Japanese restaurant which offers many traditional favourites such as sashimi, tempura and yakitori, with a particular emphasis on various crab dishes, alongside an extensive list of sake and beers. Palm Court is an ideal place for relaxation. With the Signature Langham Afternoon Tea, premium coffee and tea, snacks and cocktails throughout the day, accompanied with live classical music in the afternoon, guests can enjoy themselves with grace and leisure to their ultimate satisfaction. For Ciao Dining Room & Bambino, it not only caters to the tastes of those who prefer Italian Mediterranean food, but also offers the chance to sip barrista coffee and home-made Italian pastries at the adjacent cafe.

Among all the dining and drinking choices provided by The Langham, Yangtze Boutique, The Bar, which offers a rich variety of classic cocktails, vintage wines, fine champagnes and whiskeys, is a much frequented place by guests of various kinds for its excellent service and rich variety of romantic stories. Here, the wine list is perused by experienced connoisseurs. Apart from various outstanding vintages, fine champagnes, aged whiskies

and brandies, The Bar also offers crisp and refreshing beer at the optimum temperature.

Of all the drinks and wines it offers, The Bar is especially renowned for three cocktails which are named after three famous and glamorous mistresses. The cocktail "Rose, Rose I Love You" was named after the classic 1930's song performed here by the famous singer Ms Yao Li. As for the cocktail "May West's Attitude Adjuster" which includes Gordon, Ron, Jose and Lex as its ingredients, it is named after Ms West, the world's most sexy, glamorous and infamous drinkers who has hundreds of thousands suitors. The "Garbo Talks!" is named after the smoothest and richest lady of the day, Ms. Garbo, who asked for whisky with ginger ale on the side each time she came to the bar.

As a boutique hotel which aims at providing a sense of serenity and comfort in a dynamic city, The Langham, Yangtze provides a private sanctuary, Chuan Spa. It boasts of opulent changing rooms and four private treatment rooms with a wide array of services such as massages, body scrubs, skin exfoliation, facials and other treatments designed to alleviate fatigue or simply assist to restore balance to body. The award-winning Chuan Spa is based on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and the balance of five Wu Xing elements. A team of professionals practicing TCM provide health assessment and treatments using acupuncture,

acupressure, moxibustion and Ho Guan healing techniques are also on hand for consultation.

The Langham, Yangtze Boutique also provides a first-rate Fitness Center for those who are passionate for their body shape and fitness. The center offers a wide range of state-of-the-art cardio and strength machines equipped with audio-visual equipment for entertainment plus a complete series of weights. In addition, regular exercise classes taught by professional gymnasts who give instructions based on specially-designed fitness programmes are available to sports enthusiasts. After strenuous exercises, Contemplation Corner is the right place to have some rest with a cup of five-element tea.

Under Henk Meyknecht's management, as well as the relentless efforts of other professionals and employees, The Langham, Yangtze Boutique has won many weighty awards, such as "China Best New Hotel 2009" Award, "China Best Design Hotels--China Best Culture Hotel 2009" Award and "2010 Shanghai's Best Restaurants" Award.



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