

## Lifestyle



## Experience exquisite flavours and everlasting moments at the Taj

TREAT your loved one to an unforgettable evening in an serene atmosphere under the stars as the two of you dine on a fabulous dinner cuisine including a fine selection of seafood, from garlic fried lagoon king prawn and baby octopus on ratatouille, cuttlefish and mussels sate with coriander cream sauce, mango glazed BBQ pork spare ribs, sautéed chicken and black olive and red wine sauce, turkey roulade, Thai spiced lamb chops, accompanied by a choice of live counters of grilled meat loaf, ham steaks, rock lobster and scrumptious salads and many more on this Valentine's Day, Sunday 14 February, at the Latitude and by the poolside of Taj Samudra, Colombo.

Treat the one you love to a romantic candle lit dinner by the poolside and Latitude on 14 February with live unplugged entertainment by X Calibre from 7:30 p.m. onwards. For those who are looking for just a sweet item to gift your loved ones, the Taj Samudra's Pebbles has a choice of delectable cookies, chocolates, Valentine cakes and more all infused with cupid's special ingredients to make your



Valentine's the sweetest ever.

Golden Dragon will offer an absolutely marvellous dinner on Valentine's Day. Traditional Beijing duck, steamed garoupa fillet with ginger and scallion, lobster and scallops with garlic butter, chef's style brandy chicken, and wok fried mushroom are just the beginning of truly great things to come. Special desserts made with more than a just touch of love are bound to leave you with a lingering memory of this outstanding dining experience on Valentine's Day at the Taj Samudra, Colombo.

## Love is in the air at Hilton Colombo

HILTON Colombo today announced its extensive Valentine's Day activities, probably the best line up in Colombo. The first party kicks off on the eve of Valentine's Day 13 February with the theme 'Be My Valentine' from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the hotel's poolside with live band Ricky & Legacy and the sensational singer Shamistha Dean along with DJ Naushad spinning all your favourite love songs!

Couples could enjoy a gourmet buffet spread prepared by the team of chefs and free corkage throughout the night. The highlight of the event will be the chance for every couple to win a weekend stay for two at the Hilton Bangkok, a weekend stay for two at the Presidential Suite at the Hilton Colombo inclusive of breakfast, weekend stay for two in a Deluxe Room inclusive of breakfast, and restaurant vouchers for two at Spices and Curry Leaf.

There will be a limited edition of four special Valentine's Day Cabanas available too at a special price which includes a complimentary bottle of bubbly and fresh strawberries with cream. Discount vouchers from Triumph will also be given away to all the ladies.

The next options, 'Love on the Menu' at the Spices Valentine's Day Brunch on 14 February from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Every couple will receive a glass of bubbly and chocolates too and Valentine's Day dinner buffet from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Il Ponte restaurant will also have a special five-course set menu carefully crafted by Chef Massimo Zampar inclusive of a complimentary glass of bubbly from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and live Jazz music to get you into the mood.

The newest Japanese restaurant in town, Ikoi Tei at the Dutch Hospital, will also have two options. Guests could either enjoy the special set menu or the Teppanyaki set menu for two during lunch and dinner with a complimentary glass of bubbly or Umeshu soda on arrival. Tickets for the above events are available from 5 to 14 February at the Special Events Desk from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Valentine's Day is not complete without hand-made



chocolates, flowers and cakes. Hilton Colombo's pastry shop, Fine Things will be selling beautiful Valentine's Day signature cakes, cupcakes, specialty chocolates and pralines, hand crafted cookies and flower arrangements from 11 to 14 February from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Don't forget to check out their signature cake 'Stick with me' - layer of chocolate chip sponge, layer of sticky toffee, layer of bitter sweet chocolate sandwiched with milk chocolate royal mousse and white chocolate mousse, topped with milk chocolate truffles.

Three lucky winners will be walking away with fabulous prizes courtesy Hilton Colombo; participate in the 'Be my Valentine' social media campaign by posting a picture or video of that special someone and express how much she or he means to you or why she/he is a huge part of your life followed by #BeMyValentine@hiltoncolombo.

For more details and for reservations, guests can call on 2544 644 ext 2012 or you may log into www.hiltoncolombo.lk/www.facebook.com/HiltonColombo, or follow on www.twitter.com/HiltonColombo, www.instagram/HiltonColombo.

## Owl and the Pussycat Hotel, Thalpe celebrates Valentine's weekend in style

WHEN the Owl and the Pussycat opened its doors on 15 December 2015, little was known as to what to expect. Today, it is the buzz about town especially in Galle and neighbouring resort areas. The Owl and the Pussycat - Sri Lanka's newest boutique hotel, offers guests a luxury long-haul hideaway in the southern coastal town of Thalpe, just a short tuk-tuk ride from the historic Galle Fort.

Owners - Reita Gadkari (London and Italy) and Shane Thantirimudalige (Galle) both property developers, have created a hotel that offers sophistication with a lively seaside atmosphere and access to an unparalleled experience with a Sri Lankan and international flavour.

Painted in deep pastels and vibrant bohemian hues, the property is designed by New York architect Uday Dhar. The hotel's furniture, colourful textiles and artwork are hand-made by artists from all over the world and include works by local craftsmen.

The property boasts generously sized rooms and suites (17 in total) eight with open-plan kitchens, ensuite bathrooms where some have private terraces and balconies. All the rooms have panoramic views of the Indian Ocean, 24 hour Wi-Fi, a restaurant that offers traditional local cuisine and also foods with Mediterranean accents. A bar and a café, a relaxed beach shack and a beautiful swimming pool hence make this one of the new must-visit places.

Guests are welcome to use the facilities, ensuring a sociable and relaxed local atmosphere. Together with live music and its philanthropic heart, this new hotspot is inspired by local influences, whilst still promising sophistication and style.

The chic café type restaurant serves simple but elegant food with the best local and imported ingredients. An early evening cocktail and an opportunity to grab a breathtaking sunset is guaranteed on a clear day while you relax and unwind at the beach shack and bar. Enjoy the lap pool as you gaze at the open sky or soak in the sun on the comfortable sun beds. Learn to fish with the local still fisherman or cycle, hike or get ready to roam the streets of the Galle Fort that's just ten minutes away.



Suite at OTP



En-suite Bathroom



Living Room



OTP - Exec Chef Anthony D'Costa

With barely a month after the opening, the hotel has already earned a name for not only hosting a spectacular New Year's Eve party, but for putting on a grand dinner during the recently concluded Literary Festival. Owl and the Pussycat is now ready to welcome you over the Valentine's Day Weekend by

enticing you with their special offer of dinner and an overnight stay which includes a special brunch on Sunday!

General Manager Ajith Gurugalle says that those who make reservations for dinner on the 13th should swing by early to the lively bar overlooking the ocean to enjoy an OTP signature cocktail with such names as The Gingered Owl and The Passionate Pussycat. The popular margarita already reputed for being the best, made by the hotel's very own barman is a must try. Watch the sun slip away with a wonderful even-



OTP Swimming pool

ing ahead while you leisurely enjoy your dinner. A delectable four course menu accompanied by live music completes the evening. Gordon Ramsey trained Chef Anthony D'Costa takes pride in presenting a lobster and steak his way accompanied by half a bottle of Champagne, while an extensive wine list also awaits.

Priced at the equivalent of \$ 75 per person - the Valentine's Day dinner (13) includes canapés and half a bottle of champagne. Those opting to stay over can take advantage of the special opening price starting at \$ 180/night plus 10% ser-

vice charge inclusive of breakfast/brunch on the 14th.

Finally fall asleep to the sound of the ocean in one of the 17 rooms or suites and wake up late on the morning of the 14th to savour Chef Anthony's delicious meal of a brunch in the hotel's open air restaurant.

Please email or call the hotel to make a reservation: bookings@otphotel.com, 777 24 0077, www.otphotel.com.

"And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand, they danced by the light of the moon" - Owl and the Pussycat Poem by Edward Lear

## 'Love Struck' at the Ramada Colombo

WHETHER you're outrageously in love or want to show your best friend the deep affection she blossoms in, Ramada Colombo's where you'd feel all love struck this valentines! Gestures of love expressed through pretty confectionaries, an enchantingly romantic tryst by the poolside or in the cosy set up of the Gardenia Coffeeshop, the hotels got so much for



Valentines cupcakes

guests to be excited about!

BAKED the patisserie at Ramada Colombo has a range of the cutest cakes, cookies and much more to

make that special someone feel all mushy inside. The delicious Valentine's Red Velvet cake is not only a treat for the tummy, but the very colour of red defines love, whilst chocolate, the symbol of love can be enjoyed in many adorable forms.

The glow of love shines over the Gardenia Coffeeshop and poolside and allows you and that special someone to indulge

in a lavish buffet spread priced at Rs. 2,900 nett per person. If you fancy, seat yourself under the stars of a twinkling night sky ... As the breeze touches your face, let the sounds of love songs through the years play to your heart.

Love Struck at Ramada Colombo will give guests a Valentine's Day they'd cherish for long after. Call 011 2422001 to make your reservation.



Valentines cookies

## Valentine's celebration at Harpo's Cafes and Restaurants

ENJOY a choice of romantic settings this Valentine's Day from dinner at The Bayleaf set in a grand 100-year old colonial mansion to casual relaxation at your cosy hangout at Commons Coffee House, chill out atmosphere at Park Street Mews restaurant and Curve - Tapas Bar & Restaurant and the cool ambiance at the heritage setting at Colombo Fort Cafe and Harpo's Pizza Parlour.

The weekend offers an exceptional range of special menus and deals giving you all the options to celebrate Valentine's Day in style.

The Bayleaf restaurant offers a Valentine's menu with Pasta di Valentino - homemade heart shaped ravioli and delicious desserts. The Bayleaf 'Neighbourhood' bar will offer a special deal on premium beverages and cichetti (Tapas). Dining options in the garden, verandah, balcony or the private rooms. Reservations 2695920.

Park Street Mews Restaurant, the trendiest venue in the city, presents a menu with starters and main with a choice of oven baked barramundi fish fillet with butternut squash, camembert, spinach and mushroom



Bayleaf Valentines

stuffed chicken breast, pan roast beef tournedos with arugula rosemary and caramelised onion, mixed grill and an exquisite selection of heart shaped desserts. Reservations 2300133.

Curve - Tapas Bar, a tapas restaurant bar and a city hot spot featuring live entertainment, has a Valentines tapas deal for singles with a deal on cocktails and for Valentine couples a tapas deal for two with two authentic Tapas dishes and two glasses of sparkling wine plus 13 February pre-Valentine live entertainment for the evening with CJ with Mintaka from 9 p.m.



Valentines Desserts

onwards. 2300183.

The Commons Coffee House, your cosy hangout, also celebrates on 13 and 14 February with a choice of exciting specials that you love with Cupid's Milkshake for two, Love Bites, Hot Date - grilled snapper, Way to a Man's Heart (butterfly fillet of beef), Cupid's Bliss (grilled stuffed chicken breast) and wind down with a selection of Sweetheart desserts. Reservations 2694435.

Colombo Fort Cafe, situated in a heritage site at the Dutch Hospital Complex has Cupid's Dinner for two with a delicious three course menu



Valentine's Pizza

with a glass of complimentary sparkling wine to celebrate Valentine's Day. Contact 2434946.

Enjoy a Valentine's pizza with your loved one with Harpo's Pizza on 13 and 14 February. All Harpo's Pizza Perks loyalty customers can enjoy extra perks with each Valentine order. Valentine's pizzas are available for dine in, take away or delivery at Harpo's Pizza Parlour Nugegoda or at 79 Gregory's Rd, Col 7. 486 9000.

Celebrate Valentine's at Harpo's Cafes and Restaurants. www.harpoonline.com..