

WEEKLY INSIGHTS HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER

Malaysia eyes allowing tourists from 10 nations next month: minister

Malaysia is eyeing a trial border reopening for international tourists next month after a nearly two-year closure, Tourism Minister Nancy Shukri told Nikkei Asia in an exclusive interview.

Nancy said her ministry has proposed launching travel bubbles by mid-November that would allow visitors access to holiday haven Langkawi and pockets of the southern tip of Johor, which borders Singapore.

She said the ministry has also finalized a list of 10 countries whose fully vaccinated citizens would be allowed to participate, as the government aims to nurse the coronavirus-hit economy back to health.

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Extend SST exemption for another year, says hotel group

The Malaysia Budget and Business Hotel Association is proposing that exemption of sales and service tax (SST) for hotels be extended for a further year until December 2022.

The association's president, Sri Ganesh Michiel, said the extension could be provided for in the 2022 federal budget and should apply to tourist accommodations in all tax categories including accommodation, tour packages and retail, which were adversely affected by the pandemic.

The government previously extended the SST exemption for hotels until Dec 31 this year to support the tourism sector. [READ MORE](#)



Increased demand for Johor Bahru, Muar hotels after Malaysia lifts interstate travel restrictions

Hotel occupancy rates in Johor Bahru and Muar have increased by up to 80 per cent since interstate travel resumed in Malaysia last week, said the chairman of Johor's Tourism, Youth and Sports Committee.

At Desaru Coast near Kota Tinggi, the average occupancy rate was about 65 per cent, said Onn Hafiz Ghazi, who is also an executive council member for Johor state.

After months of inactivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr Onn Hafiz said boat operators at Mersing jetty were busy again with the arrival of visitors. [READ MORE](#)



Accor plants a Pullman in Singapore

Singapore's first Pullman branded property will be opening in 1Q 2022, occupying the former site of the Grand Park Orchard.

Currently undergoing refurbishment, the 308-key Pullman Singapore Orchard will reopen as a mixed-use development, including the city's flagship Apple store. In-hotel amenities will include an outdoor pool and bar, fitness club and F&B options.

Garth Simmons, CEO of Accor Southeast Asia, Japan and South Korea, notes that the new launch comes in step with Singapore's recent border reopening push, "as a much-anticipated addition to our network in Singapore, and will open as visitors start to return to one of Asia's most exciting destinations". [READ MORE](#)



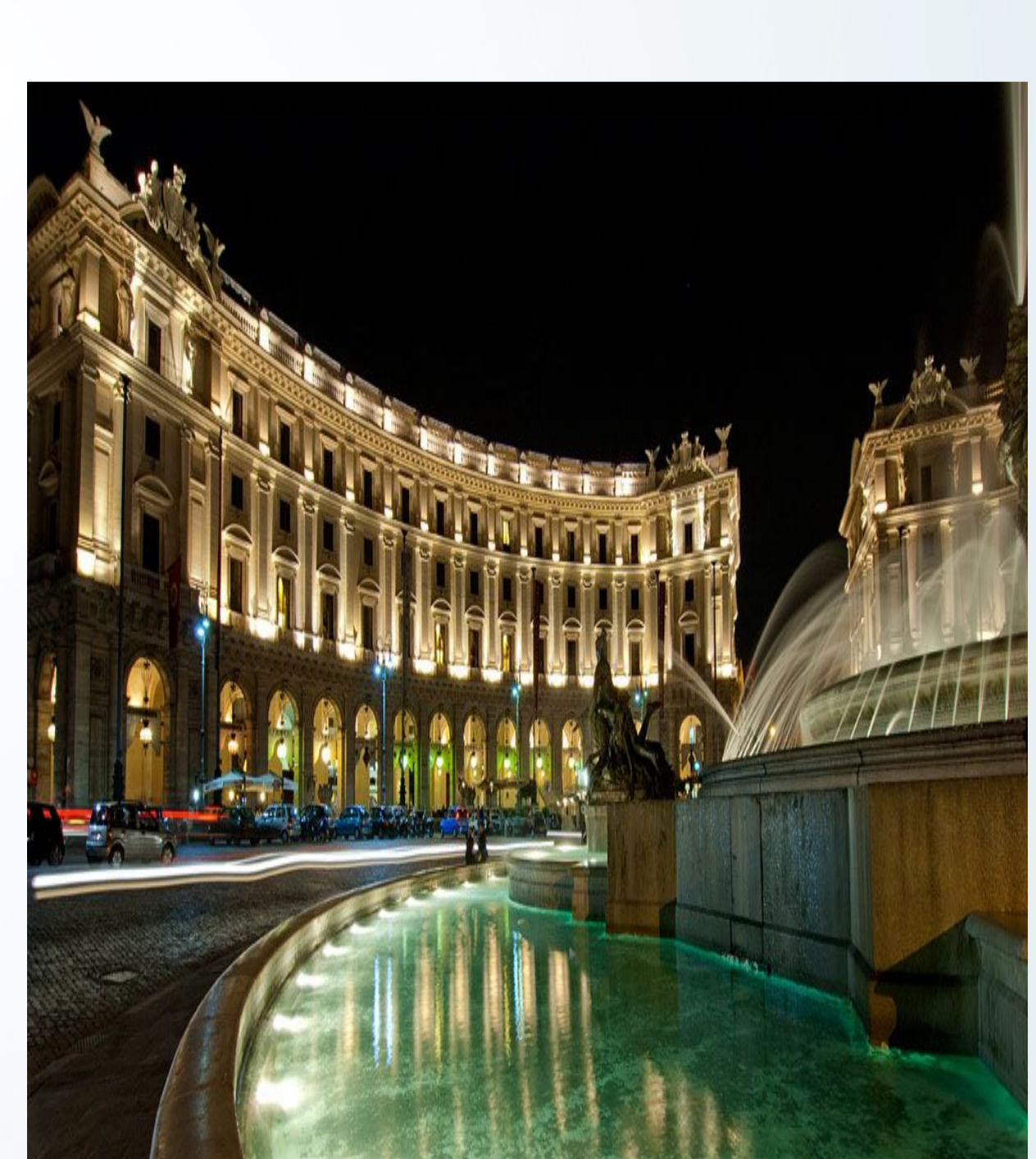
Anantara Arrives In Italy With Iconic Rome Addition

Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas announces the addition of Anantara Palazzo Naiadi Rome Hotel to its portfolio, marking the brand's debut in Italy. The addition of this historic property, which is a member of The Leading Hotels of the World, heralds the continued growth of Anantara's European footprint.

Immersed in the splendour of ancient Rome, Anantara Palazzo Naiadi Rome sits at the heart of Piazza della Repubblica and has a fascinating architectural history with original elements commissioned by Pope Clement XI for the Vatican in 1705.

The building is suspended over the ancient Diocletian Thermal Baths, whose excavated foundations, pools and mosaics can be seen through the lower ground floor.

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Oaks Hotels to debut in Egypt by 2025

Minor Hotels' Oaks Hotels, Resorts & Suites brand will make its way to Egypt for the first time. The Oaks Egypt New Capital Apartments & Suites will open by 2025. It will be looking to cater to the development's growing administrative and financial professionals.

When it opens, the hotel will add 400 keys to the area, with the property split between two wings. One wing will have suites, studios and one- and two-bedroom apartments, while the second wing will have 203 branded suites. The building will be connected by a rooftop bar and a retail area on the ground floor.

The new property is owned by Margins Development, a private real estate developer with numerous high-end commercial projects in Cairo. [READ MORE](#)

