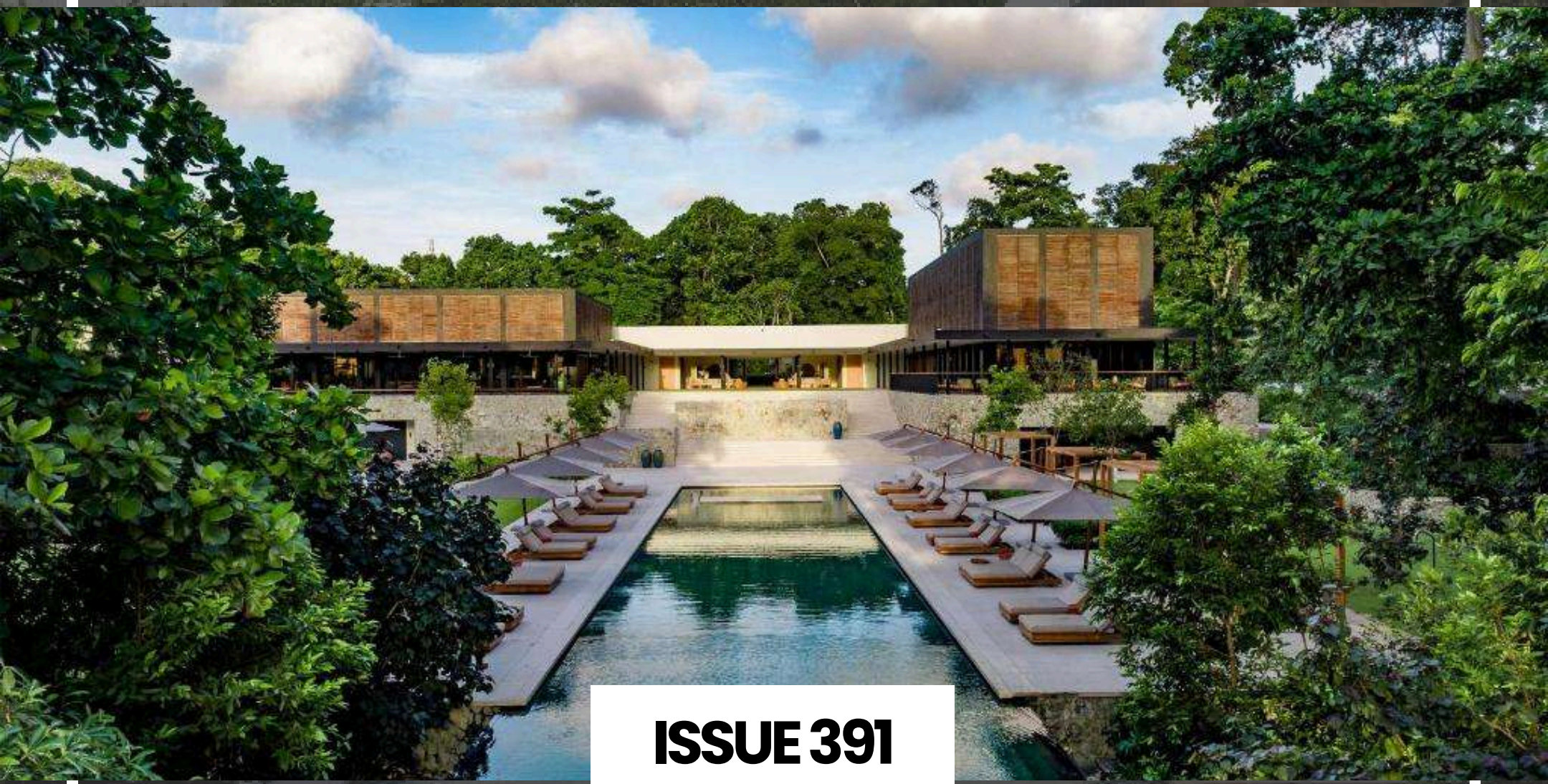
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Jin Jiang Hotels Brings Renjoy to Desaru With Techvance, Plans Perak Hotel



Jin Jiang Hotels (Malaysia) will introduce Southeast Asia's first Renjoy Hotel in Desaru, Johor, according to a statement issued on 29 October. It has signed a management agreement with Techvance Hotel & Resort, the hospitality arm of Techvance Group. The upper midscale Sand & Sandals Desaru Beach Resort & Spa will be refreshed and rebranded as Renjoy Hotel Desaru.

Upgrades cover refreshed rooms, new dining experiences and improved resort facilities. Regional general manager Li Xun said Desaru's beachfront setting provides a strong foundation for the brand, while Techvance Group managing director Datuk Edward Lau said guests will keep the hospitality they know. A 7 Days Premium Hotel is also planned for Tanjung Malim, Perak, in the first half of 2027.

Malaysia recorded 42.2 million international arrivals in 2025, up 11.2% year on year, with China contributing about 4.7 million. Johor welcomed 10.63 million overnight tourists, has 34,986 hotel rooms and targets 12 million tourists under Visit Johor Year 2026. As at 30 June 2026, parent Jin Jiang Hotels operated 14,404 hotels with 1,393,084 rooms in over 50 countries and regions.

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Hilton Unveils Waldorf Astoria Kuala Lumpur, Brand's First Malaysian Luxury Address



Hilton has unveiled Waldorf Astoria Kuala Lumpur, the brand's first property in Malaysia, on 30 October. Located at 73 Jalan Raja Chulan in the Golden Triangle, it offers 268 suites from 80 to 745 square metres, ranging from one bedroom suites to the Waldorf Astoria Suite. Hilton says the design suits longer stays and multigenerational travel. Deboss Collective used natural stone, timber, woven textiles and handcrafted finishes, with joinery drawing on traditional Malay marquetry.

Dining includes The Istana, Yaari, developed with chef Garima Arora, and JG KL, abc kitchens KL and The Bar by JG, developed with chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, plus the Peacock Alley lounge. The two floor spa covers 2,275 square metres. Event space totals 3,745 square metres, including a 1,545 square metre Grand Ballroom for up to 2,500 guests at receptions.

The art collection was curated with the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia. Hilton Asia Pacific president Alan Watts described an all suite experience with a residential character. Reservations are open through the hotel website or the Hilton Honors app.

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iBilik and Wyndham Scale Up From Seven Signed Hotels Toward Regional Reach



iBilik Group is stepping up its hospitality ambitions, moving from seven signed hotels to a target of 80 within three years. Through its Wyndham Hotels & Resorts partnership, the Malaysian group seeks a larger portfolio and opportunities across Southeast Asia. Within three months of collaborating in 2026, the parties signed six additional hotels, bringing the total to seven. Properties and overseas destinations have yet to be identified.

The partnership covers Microtel by Wyndham, Baymont by Wyndham and Trademark Collection by Wyndham, serving value conscious and distinctive stay travellers. Wyndham's branding and standards combine with iBilik's experience in accommodation and property management to strengthen positioning, consistency and guest experience. iBilik also operates Kingston, Swing & Pillows and LiLLA. Its 0 to 100 ecosystem, spanning property, accommodation and lifestyle services such as confinement care and senior care, supports growth through technology and automation.

Southeast Asia is the initial region of interest, with no countries or overseas properties confirmed. The priority remains a stronger Malaysian base, with pace depending on suitable properties. Success rests on consistent service and a sustainable operating model.

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Magma Kiara and Jalex Explore Interior Collaboration for Wolo Mont Kiara Hotel



Magma Kiara Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Main Market listed Magma Group Bhd, has signed a memorandum of collaboration with interior fit out specialist Jalex Sdn Bhd, dated 28 October. It explores appointing Jalex as interior adviser for the hotel in Wolo Hotel & Residences, Mont Kiara, Kuala Lumpur. The memorandum is non binding and not a formal appointment, so any engagement needs a definitive written agreement.

The scope covers hotel interior design coordination, material selection, and furniture, fixtures and equipment, alongside appointed designers, consultants and contractors. It may cover procurement coordination, mock up reviews, inspections and handover. Founded in 1988, Jalex reports over 500 completed projects, including 88 hotels. CEO Alan Wong Siew Ong hopes to bring that experience to the project.

The mixed use development along Persiaran Dutamas costs about RM850 million and comprises 378 private residences, 98 serviced residences, a 63 room boutique hotel and retail space. The hotel occupies levels 49 to 56 of the 60 storey tower and will join Design Hotels and Marriott Bonvoy. Completion is targeted for the fourth quarter of 2030.

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Oriental Holdings Pays RM91 Million in Full for Bayview Hotel Langkawi Purchase



Oriental Holdings Bhd has completed its RM91 million cash acquisition of Bayview Hotel Langkawi through wholly owned subsidiary Northam Langkawi Sdn Bhd. In a Bursa filing on 26 October, the group said it paid the purchase consideration in full that day. The seller was Boon Siew Development Sdn Bhd. The property is a 282 room hotel in Kedah with supporting amenities and facilities, described as four star in the group's November 2025 announcement.

The purchase forms part of a RM411 million related party package announced on 7 November 2025. It also covers the equity of Northam Georgetown Sdn Bhd for RM167 million, and Bayview Hotel Georgetown with Wisma Boon Siew for RM153 million. Northam Georgetown owns Bayview Beach Resort Penang in Batu Ferringhi.

The Northam Georgetown takeover comprises a RM153.1 million share subscription for a 96.84% stake, plus RM13.9 million for the remaining 3.16%. The group said on 16 October that the share subscription was completed after it paid the subscription price. The report does not state whether the other purchases have been completed.

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B Ferry Connects Puteri Harbour, Batam as 1.5 Million Indonesians Visited Johor



The Puteri Harbour to Batam ferry launched in Johor on 1 November, operated by B Ferry. It runs from the Puteri Harbour International Ferry Terminal in Iskandar Puteri to the Gold Coast Ferry Terminal in Bengkong, Batam, adding to existing links from Stulang Laut and Pasir Gudang. Indonesia's Consul General in Johor Baru, Sigit Suryantoro Widiyanto, said the route suits travellers heading to western Batam.

Return adult fares are RM195 from Puteri Harbour and Rp780,000 from Batam, with child fares at RM140 and Rp620,000. Fares include an air conditioned cabin, 20 kg of baggage and departure port tax. The crossing takes about two hours, with check in 90 minutes before departure. Reports differ on sailing times, so confirm with B Ferry before booking.

About 1.5 million Indonesians visited Johor in 2025, and they made up 79% of its 127,000 international patients. Eight of the 11 ferry links between Indonesia and Malaysia are in Johor. Sigit said talks are under way to restore a Bandung to Johor flight, and that more routes would benefit both countries.

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AirAsia Names Bahrain Board Led by Serra Kirdar, Eyes March 2027 Start



AirAsia has named the board of directors for its Bahrain operations, to be chaired by Dr Serra Kirdar, with Datuk Fam Lee Ee as vice chairman. The non executive directors are Dr Faisal Khalid Kanoo, Nawaf Al Zayani, Akram Safa, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon and Tan Sri Jamaludin Ibrahim. AirAsia wants Bahrain to serve as a hub linking Asia with the Middle East, Europe and Australia.

Flights are targeted to begin by March 2027, subject to regional conditions, and the report notes that the situation in the region required AirAsia to adjust its initial plans. Capital A chief executive Tony Fernandes said Bahrain is strategically important as the gateway connecting Asean with the Middle East, Europe and beyond, adding that the company is there for the long term.

Asia Digital Engineering plans aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul capabilities, while logistics arm Teleport is expanding cargo capacity in Bahrain. Fernandes said Bahrain awarded AirAsia a Golden Licence to support its expansion. The report did not state the group's ownership stake, specific routes, aircraft numbers or investment amounts for the Bahrain operations.

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