

GLOBAL

DESTINATIONS

A Guide to the world of Hospitality and Tourism

◆ Taj Exotica Maldives ◆ Cambodia ◆ Raffles Phnom Penh and Siem Reap



Readers: Our Most Precious Asset

Kempinski: Stay Royally in UAE



Emirates Palace



Kempinski, Palm Jumeirah

Having decided to visit ATM in Dubai after four years (heard the show was again growing), I decided to use this opportunity to cover some top end hotels for my august readers. I thought Kempinski which has hotels spread across UAE would be an ideal option. I immediately e-mailed Lashley Pulsipher, Regional Director of PR - India, Middle East & Africa. She was quick and kind enough to invite me in three of her prominent properties and connected me to the right people in all the properties - Mohammed Alaoui, PR and Communication Manager, Emirates Palace, Monique Andrade, PR & Marketing Manager, Kempinski Hotel & Residences Palm Jumeirah and Maria Dakova, PR, Kempinski Hotel Ajman. Unfortunately I could not visit Kempinski Hotel Ajman. Both the properties impressed me so much that I decided to do a photo feature.

Emirates Palace

Arriving at the Dubai airport, Emirates Palace limousine drove me down to the hotel located in Abu Dhabi. As we entered the hotel – the gardens, the facade of the building give an impression that I was entering a Royal Palace. On arrival I had a quick check - in and was taken to my room which is a long walk giving me a taste of how huge the property is. I was later informed that it's a kilometer from the East to West Wings.

The Palace is spread across 100 hectares and inspite of such a huge space available the hotel has just 394 rooms (302 rooms and 92 suites). The hotel has spent substantially on greenery around the hotel (85 hectares of manicured lawns), plenty of water spaces - 12 external fountains and 8 indoor water features, wall display carpets, chandeliers (1,002 - the largest weighing 2.5 tonnes),

huge meeting and conference rooms (Ballroom with a guest capacity of 2,400 theatre style), huge auditorium (1,100 guests), 128 kitchens and pantries, for the health conscious theres the 6.5 kilometre jogging and cycling trail plus a 1.3 kilometre stretch of private beach, 114 domes (Central Dome 72.6 metres above ground), two landscaped swimming pools, an Anantara Spa, a Marina that can accommodate up to 167 yachts. As Mohammed Alaoui took me around the Palace I could





Kempinski Hotel & Residences Palm Jumeirah

My next destination was Kempinski Palm Jumeirah. On arrival I was greeted by the charming Monique Andrade. Though it may not be as grand as Emirates Palace, it was in its own way a unique luxury property with an excellent pool and a private beach. But the best part is that it's a 5-star all-suite hotel giving guests the much required extra space.

Located on the man-made island of Palm Jumeirah, the Hotel gives an excellent view of the Dubai skyline Spread across five



acres of landscaped gardens, 500 metres of white sand private beach, a 1,200 sqm free-form outdoor swimming pool including a shaded area for children it has 244 exquisite suites, penthouses and villas that vary from 112 and 894 sqm. I loved the villas that had five bedrooms and those with an outdoor private pool or Jacuzzi.

I enjoyed my breakfast and dinners at the restaurant located just across the beautiful swimming pool. I was even able to relish some good Indian food. I had the pleasure of experiencing a SPA treatment at their Cinq Mondes, a renowned French SPA company.

The hotel is also ideally suited for MICE, corporate cocktail receptions;



Alessandro Redaelli

see substantial presence of gold and marble across the hotel. When I mentioned this he smiled and said an estimated \$3 billion was spent to build the property and it took 3 years plus 20,000 workers.

The Palace has fourteen restaurants and lounges. I relished the all-day restaurant, Le Vendome Brasserie which has a lot of international buffet and I requested the chef to make some Indian dishes which he quickly obliged. I also tried some excellent pasta at Mezzaluna.

Since its inception in 2005 the Palace has catered to celebrities, heads of states, and royal families from across the globe. Apart from this top end luxury crowd Emirates Palace has also turned out to be an excellent MICE venue with a total meeting and conference space exceeding 7,000 sqm. Time pressing I was not able to relish all the facilities of this truly iconic Abu Dhabi landmark.

private fashion shows themed parties, ladies tea parties, kid's birthday parties and even lavish weddings.

I also had the pleasure of spending quality time with their General Manager, Alessandro Redaelli who is quite a jolly person. He expects a lot of Indians to visit the hotel (currently many favour



the Kempinski Mall of the Emirates Hotel in Dubai) when the second phase of the hotels expansion will get over in a year. "We will then have 355 rooms and six themed restaurants and three bars. We will also have three large temperature controlled swimming pools and a 3000 square meter spa with over 25 treatment rooms. As Indians mainly travel with families this will be an ideal option," said Redaelli.



MALDIVES
BY VIVANTA.
AS EXCLUSIVE AS IT IS
ALL INCLUSIVE.



Banish boring buffets. Go a-la-carte with a vengeance across meals, across restaurants. Dive into signature cocktails and handpicked wines. Take the plunge – snorkel at the breathtakingly beautiful House Reef. Feed a stingray. Sail into the sunset on a traditional Maldivian Dhoni. Surf all day long - the WiFi's on the house. Dip into our complimentary mini-bar. It's all included. Of course, one element is missing: monotony.

mALLdives
UNLIMITED

VIVANTA
CORAL REEF MALDIVES
BY TAJ

For bookings, contact your local travel consultant or call the hotel directly on 00 (960) 664 0233 vivanta.coralreef@tajhotels.com