

# Weekendin

May 2014

Seven days a weekend | familyissue

Singapore

## The Best Hideaways in Phuket

### A Getaway with the Kids

*Whimsical accommodation for the family*

### Meet the Moms

*Getting to know some marvelous mothers*

### Family Dining

*Great spots for the kids*

### Summer SOS with Spotlight

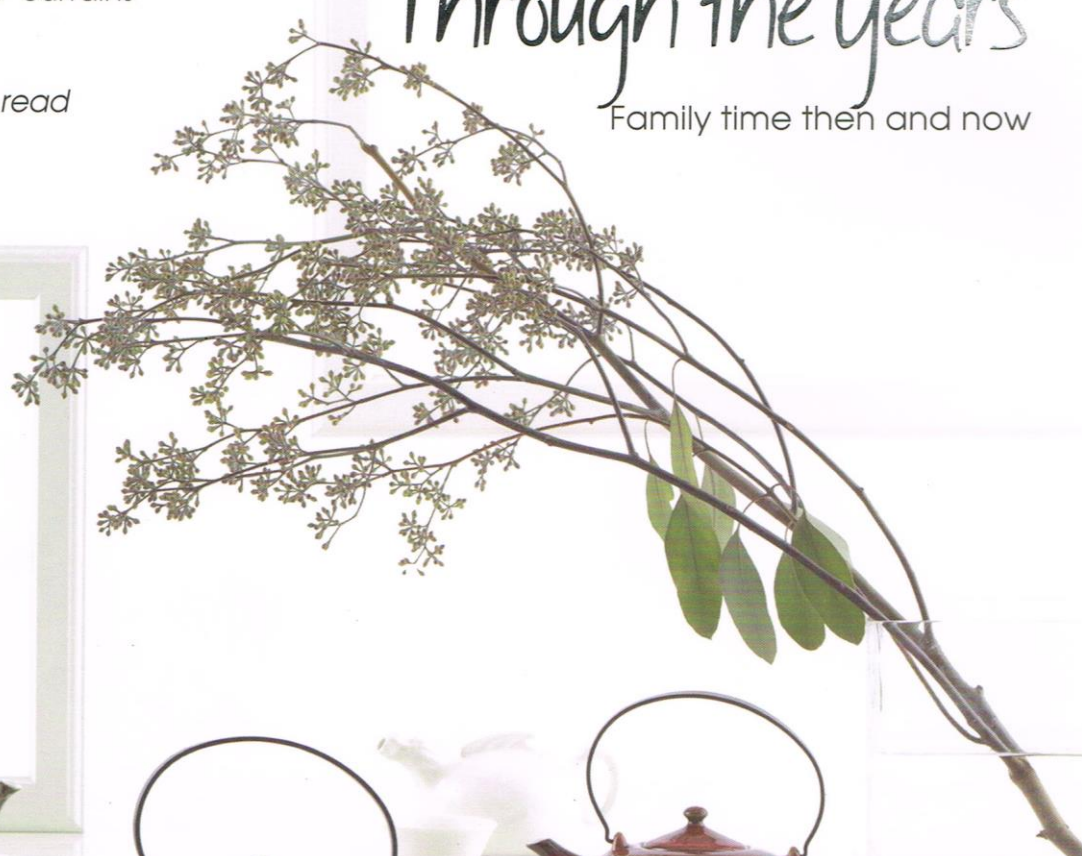
*Brilliant blinds and creative curtains*

### Indie Bookstores

*Quirky places for a good read*

## Through the Years

Family time then and now





# Aqua Expeditions

**Expanding its luxury cruises** to the Indochina region, Aqua Expeditions is launching its third luxury vessel in September 2014. Established by founder and CEO Francesco Galli Zugaro, Aqua Expeditions is an adventure travel company, which offers boutique small ship cruises. Though hitherto limited to cruises through the Amazon River in Peru, the company is bringing its trademark small ship cruise to Southeast Asia.

Aqua Expeditions has already made a mark in the luxury cruise scene with its cruises through the more remote and rich natural areas of the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve and its tributaries in the upper Amazon River. The first company to introduce five-star cruises to the Amazon River in Peru, it has

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two luxury river expedition vessels called the Aqua Amazon and the Aqua Aria. Both the vessels are small ships, which hold a relatively small number of people to enhance the experience and provide better service. The Aqua Amazon hosts only 24 passengers while the Aqua Aria can carry 32 on board. The Aqua Expeditions' flagship vessel, the Aqua Amazon, has 12 suites with outside-facing panoramic windows so that passengers can bask in the beauty of the river and their beautiful surroundings from the comfort of their suite. The Aqua Aria holds 32 passengers and has 16 suites

which, along with panoramic windows similar to those of the Aqua Amazon, include 8 Design Suites on the first deck and another 8 Design Suites on the second deck. Both cruises offer nature-based tours where you can explore and wonder at colourful Amazonian birds and animals from the Amazon manatee to the three-toed sloth. With English-speaking naturalists as part of the crew, these cruises provide guided tours through the last great unexplored region in the world with the advantage of returning to the comfort of a floating five-star hotel.

Following the success of the Amazonian cruises, the company is launching a new vessel and cruise to the Asian region as well. The Aqua Mekong, a luxury vessel like the Aqua Amazon and Aqua Aria, will be spacious enough to be grand, and also small enough to be intimate, so that the trip can be a getaway, a family vacation and a tour all at once. This sophisticated small ship, unlike those of the other Aqua expeditions, will be cruising on the Mekong River between Cambodia and Vietnam. The boat itself will hold 40 passengers in 20 Design Suites. As with the Aqua Aria, guests can choose whether they want to stay on the first or the second deck. However, unlike the Aqua Aria, they can also choose whether or not they want a balcony. Whether you would like the special experience at the top deck exercise room overlooking the river, or you would like to be pampered at the spa, this ship has got you covered. It even has ten bicycles, which can be taken, free of charge, if you should like to explore the area independently when on shore. With facilities and social areas including boutiques, a private screening room, indoor and outdoor bars, an observation deck and a plunge pool, this ship may just bring the ultimate cruise experience. As with the other cruises, no effort was spared at enhancing the pleasure the cruise provides through its details. Everything from the décor to the cuisine will be designed to complement the experience of the cruise through Asia. Based in Ho Chi Minh City, the architects Noor drew their in-

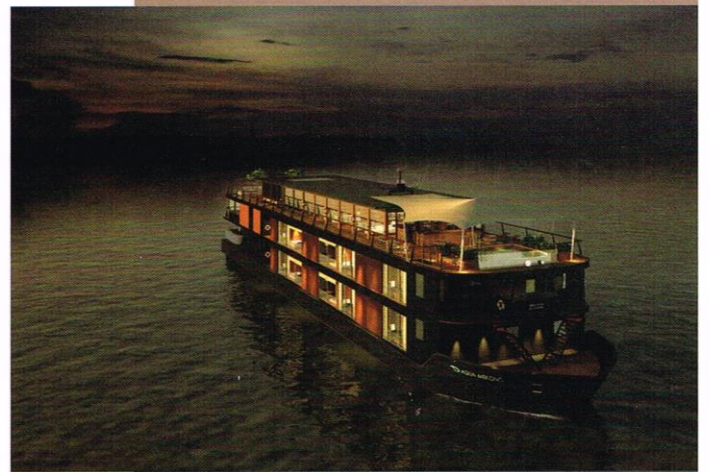
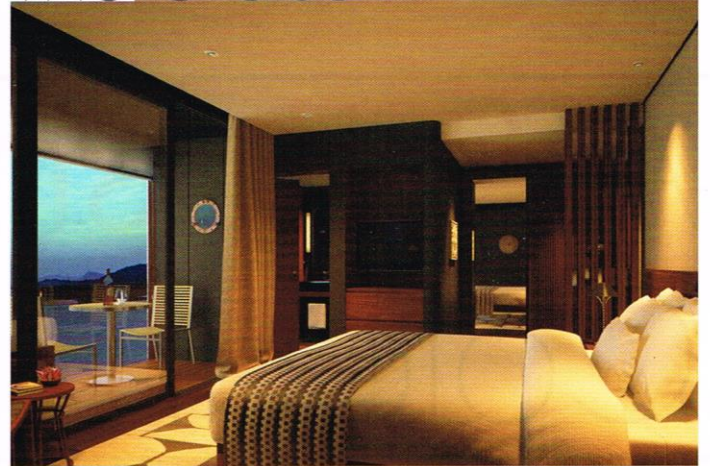


inspiration from local cultures and traditions for their design, including from Vietnam, where the ship was constructed. To add to the authentic experience, each of the suites will be decorated in Asian style, using fabrics and materials found locally.

Joining the culinary team as will be Michelin starred Chef David Thompson. This appointment by CEO and Founder Francesco Galli Zugaro is in keep with the practise of working with celebrated chefs, as with the Executive Chef of Aqua Expeditions' Amazonian cruises, Pedro Miguel Schiaffino. Regarding the selection of the Aqua Mekong's David Thompson, Galli Zugaro commented, As Asia's top ranked chef on 'San Pellegrino World 50 Best Restaurants', David is the perfect fit for the exclusive Aqua Mekong. With his unique culinary experience and first-hand knowledge of Asian ingredients and palates, we will be able to provide guests with the authentic culinary experience they expect from the Aqua Expeditions cruise.

Guests will be treated to an exclusive menu that is influenced by the culinary traditions of Mekong River culture. As Executive Chef, David Thompson says, The food will be based on the cooking of Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, the countries which depend on the Mekong River. I look forward to setting sail. Local ingredients from the Khmer Kampot Pepper to the Mekong River Prawns will be present in the dishes, which will be part of the Southeast Asian cuisine, so that guests can truly gain a taste of Southeast Asia. The Aqua Mekong will operate 3, 4 and 7-night itineraries that will run from Siem Riep down to My Tho with a stop in Phnom Penh. With its daily river and shore excursions, the Aqua Mekong may give you the model water safari experience.

## The Cruise



### Aqua Expeditions

T 6270 4002 | M 9128 7519 | [www.aquaexpeditions.com](http://www.aquaexpeditions.com)