

Diner's Paradise

Often hailed as a gourmet's paradise, come April, Singapore will throw in ambience and a fine cast of chefs and wine experts to complete the dining experience

Text CASSANDRA JAMES

The World Gourmet Summit (WGS) is an extravaganza that positions Singapore as a world-class gastronomic destination with a fascinating culinary culture.

This odyssey will take place from 7 to 13 April 2002. Entering its sixth year, WGS 2002 will focus on the theme 'The Art of Dining', emphasizing the artistry of dining with wine.

In line with the theme, WGS 2002 will bring together chefs from the USA, France, Italy, Australia, Spain, China and India to display their culinary brilliance. Wineries from Spain, France, Germany, Italy and Australia have also been invited to present their fine wines and share their expertise on the art of winemaking.

As the terms 'eating' and 'dining' connote different experiences, the Masterclasses of WGS 2002 go beyond food to address what fine dining entails, including etiquette, tips on home entertaining, cooking demonstrations and more.

It will be a summit where past, present and future culinary achievements take centre stage. The summit will also cross cultural boundaries, because Singapore is a crossroads between the East

and West for gastronomy as well as geography. The summit seeks to highlight the logical and natural association between cuisine, great wines, excellent service and trends of modern lifestyle. Participants will witness how these complement one another through wine pairing, presentation and food. Bringing together the best of Asian, international and fusion haute cuisine, the series of gourmet activities will be hosted at some of Singapore's best restaurants and hotels.

Here are some selected programmes.

CULINARY MASTERCLASSES, 9 TO 12 APRIL 2002

Watch as world-class chefs whip up a storm, vintners present their notes on food and wine matching and learn tips on how to entertain at home in style. Held at The Singapore Cooking School and the Spice Garden restaurant.

MASTERCHEF SAFARIS, 9 TO 11 APRIL 2002

This gastronomic adventure is one of the most popular. Aply called a 'safari', diners will

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the shared and differing opinions, discussion of techniques and of course, wines, an eye-opener. The classes will be held at The Gallery Evason Hotel.

GRAND FINALE DINNER, 13 APRIL 2002

This evening will be a spectacular showcase of signature dishes from the chefs, accompanied by fine wines from guest vintners. The banquet will unfold amid glitzy entertainment to bring the week-long gastronomic adventure in Singapore to a befitting climax. The gala dinner will be hosted at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore.

For more information, logon to www.worldgourmetsummit.com ♦

SINGAPORE'S RIVER TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Singapore's first-ever integrated river transport system is ready to set sail with the appointment of two operators, Singapore River Cruises & Leisure Pte Ltd and Singapore Explorer Pte Ltd.

Slated to be ready in the middle of 2002, the river transport system will offer an alternative way to journey along the Singapore River. This represents part of the larger plan to enhance and revitalise the river district. Said Singapore Tourism Board's Chief Executive Yeo Khee Leng: "... The increased mobility and accessibility, coupled with an exciting events calendar, are expected to increase human traffic and revive businesses along the river. We hope to inject vibrancy to this historical waterway and make the Singapore River a world-class waterfront destination."

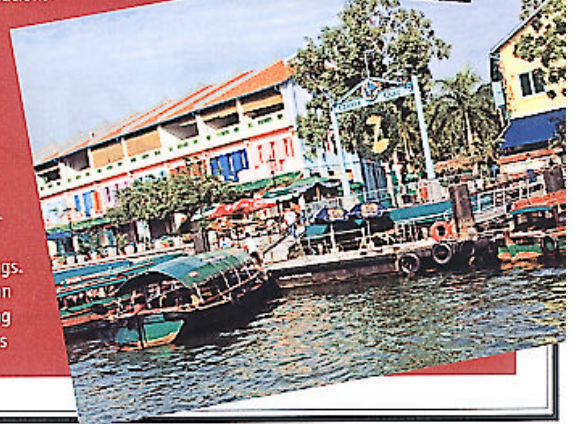
The river transport services will operate along the length of the Singapore River from Kim Seng to the New Merlion Park, servicing both banks.

The operators will also introduce custom-made air-conditioned boats with glass ceilings. These vessels will be an addition to the existing bumboats and sampans

which will all be refurbished.

Embarkation points dot the entire waterway, allowing passengers flexibility to visit key attractions and name landing points of their choice. The new glass ceiling boats will be used for the loop services.

The operating hours will be from 8am until 11.30pm, with prices starting from S\$2.00. Additionally, special river sightseeing cruises will be conducted, and these can be combined with walking tours.



embark on a gastronomic trail that takes them to different restaurants in one evening, each serving a course matched with the wines of guest vintners. Get ready to cruise the highways in luxurious and spirited vehicles (last year, it was Harley Davidsons and vintage cars) to reach your gourmet destinations. Highly organised, just sit back, relax and expect a special evening.

WINE MASTERCLASSES, 9 TO 12 APRIL 2002

Presented by the Tasting Room, the four themed Wine Masterclasses will gather key individuals from the four major wine-producing regions—Spain, Australia, France and Germany—in one location. Connoisseurs and novices alike will find