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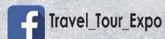
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February2018









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Feature of the Issue

Happy Hearts Month, everyone!

COVER – Weekend markets are not only for eating and shopping, but they also serve as a place to socialize and support local entrepreneurs. There are many weekend markets in Manila, but the markets in Salcedo and Legazpi Villages in Makati are some of the oldest and most well-known, especially among the residents. Aside from organic vegetables and fruits, you can find delicious meals and various merchandise such as bags, artisinal products, and more. Go around different stalls while enjoying a snack or cool drink. This month, we made a list of stalls that are currently open in Legazpi and Salcedo Village that you need to visit ASAP.

TRAVEL – Longing for a relaxing environment in the middle of the crowded and busy streets of Manila? Philippine Primer features great staycation spots right in the city that are perfect for a Valentine's Day celebration! Choose from our recommended hotels that offer the best deals, complete with exciting activities you can enjoy during your leisure time. You don't need to go far to experience a weekend getaway! These hotels are dubbed as the "best of the best," ensuring quality service

Plus! We have more Chinese New Year treats in store for you so check out Philippine Primer's special feature!

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Weekend Markets in Makati

When it comes to weekend markets, the ones situated in Salcedo and Legaspi in Makati City top the list. Salcedo Saturday Market started to operate in 2004 and is usually found within the vicinity of Salcedo Park. Legazpi Sunday Market, on the other hand, opened in 1993 and is usually held in car parks found along Legaspi Street.

Today, both markets operate as community markets where you can find a variety of products ranging from food to artisan crafts. They welcome street not only local patrons but foreign guests as well.









Organic vegetables





Global cuisine





Legazpi Sunday Market traces its roots as an organic market that offers a wide array of organic products both for the local and foreign patrons alike. With a number of organic booths present, there are some that stand out like Mara's Organic Market and Shumei Natural Agricultural Farm, owned and managed by a Japanese farming specialist, Mr. Shima.

Aside from the organic products that these markets sell, there are also food kiosks available to try and explore. Some of the dishes highlighted in these markets include *Pad Thai* and *Mee Goreng* from Southeast Asia, paella from Spain; and takoyaki and gyoza from Japan.





Mara's Organic Market is known to be an outlet of traditional, organic, natural and artisanal products. Shumei Natural Agricultural Farm, on the other hand, is an outlet that features and supports organic products from the provinces of Zambales and Rizal.

A miscellany of great finds





Compared to Salcedo Saturday Market, the one in Legazpi features booths that cater not only organic products but also a wide array of goods and souvenirs. You can find different products that are categorized either as free-trade, used, or antique, at prices anyone can afford.

Weekend Market Tips

TIP #1 Visit these markets earlier than as usual.

TIP #2 Bring your own eco-bags.

Both markets open at 7:00 AM. We recommend you to visit these places earlier than expected to enjoy hassle free shopping, and to grab products while they last.

Since Makati City implements Plastic Bag Ban. We recommend you to bring your own shopping bags that you can use when buying products.



Ikomai & Tochi Desserts



You can now get these famous Japanese skewers at Satisfy your Thai cravings and try their Pad Thai (P245) Salcedo Saturday Market at an affordable price. Try their kushikatsu or Japanese deep fried skewers. For a full meal, head for Ikomai Restaurant located along H.V. Dela Costa Street. ⊕www.ikomai.today ⊕ikomaistreet

Azuthai



and their Pomelo Salad (P195). You can visit Azuthai's branch in Makati as well, located a few minutes away.

Sabor de Espana



They have an all Spanish menu for only P220. Paella has always been the crowd favorite; we receommend you call them ahead of time so you don't run out of it.

Premium Local



They sell homemade artisanal products that use no preservatives or additives. We recommend the Moringa's Pesto Smoked Tuyo in Olive Oil. Tip: Show an empty bottle of Premium Local on your next visit and Local is also available at Legazpi Sunday Market!

5 Amadeo's Nature Farm



Make a stop at Nature's Farmacy, with products that are all-natural and made with real fruits. All flavors are at P150 except for Aloe Vera which is at P250. Buy 6 of any flavor and get 1 bottle free.

Forest Berries is also available at Legazpi SundayMarket!

6 Ribs Manila



Sample their melt-in-your-mouth slabs together with a sweet chili sauce. This stall is a hit with visitors every Saturday.

① ribsmanila

Ribs Manila is also available at Legazpi Sunday Market!

Monster Burger



Their 100% Australian beef burgers are juicy and delicious. They only offer quarter pounders and half pounders, so make sure you come with an empty stomach.

Monster Burger is also available at Legazpi Market!

8 Slow Burger



This burger stall uses 100% grassfed beef! Even the sauces and cheese used in the burgers are all handmade. Each burger also includes homegrown vegetables.

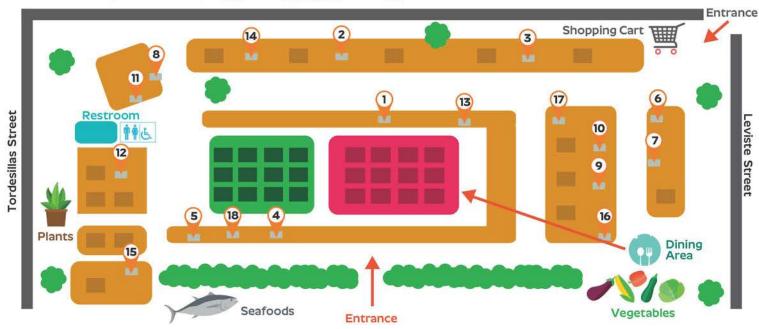
Slow Burger is also available at Legazpi Market!

Milea Orchard & Bee Farm



Check out their natural and organic honey products made from their farm in Batangas. All products can be purchased online.

www.milea.ph ① mileabeefarm Milea Orchard & Bee Farm is also available at Legazoi Market!



10 Nana Meng's Tsokolate



Besides traditional Filipino pure cocoa, they also sell peanut blend and cashew nut blend tsokolate. You can dissolve this in hot water and add sugar and/or milk to taste.

Nana Meng Tsokolate

13 Cinq Dessert Boutique



This is the patisserie shop located on Jupiter Street. Their cakes are great as a gift. Get their pilita tart – a gluten-free coconut sugar pili tart.

@www.cing.com.ph ①cinqdessertboutique

Down to Earth



Here you can find meat and organic vegetables from Bukidnon. Make sure you grab a pot of their microgreens which are perfect for salads.

(f) downtoearthphilippines

14 Al Halabi



If you ever want to try Hummus and Falafel, this is the place to go! They also have various vegetable dishes such as spinach pie.

12 The Breadery



This popular bakery-cafe in Ortigas started as a bread stall in Salcedo Saturday Market. They sell artisanal breads and pastries. Tip: Get your bread right before closing to get a 20% discount.

① thebreadery

15 Rafik Shawarma



They serve Middle-Eastern style Shawarma and vegetable samosas with potatoes, carrots, and peas.

RafikWagyuShawarma

Berci's Gyros



Berci's Gyros (P110) is good for those who want light yet hearty meal. You can order Falafel, a deep-fried ball of ground chickpeas, if you're a vegan.

17 Take Root



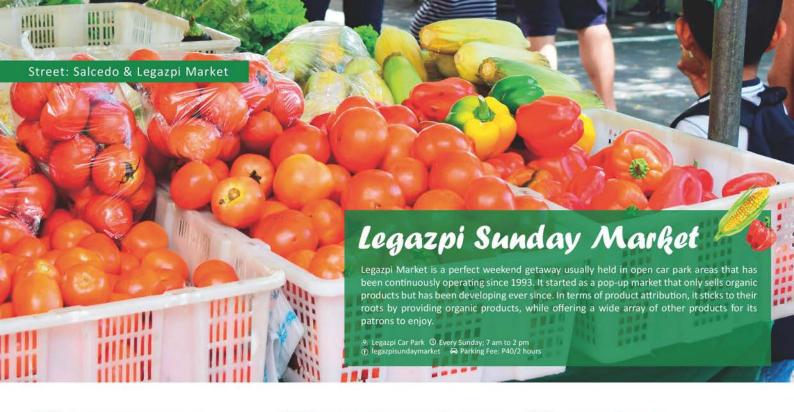
This stall sells Kale chips in five flavors including cheese and sour cream. It's the perfect snack for vegetarians.

The Real Moroccan Cuisine



Try one of the popular spicy dishes, the Morocco Ratatouille. In addition, they also sell Kums (bean's paste) and other dips and pastes for vegetarians.

The Real Moroccan Cuisine is also available at Legazpi Market!



Asian Hawker Food



We recommend the Malaysian noodle. The dish is cooked after ordering so it is always served fresh.

Khun Caesar's Thai Kitchen



This stall offers Thai dishes. The Pad Thai is available in seafood, beef or vegetables.

Cheryl's Cuisine



They sell Chinese street food such as steamed buns and dumplings. The oyster omelette (P190) is worth a try. They are also available at Salcedo Saturday Market.

4 Picole



They have a variety of healthy ice pops. The pops are additive-free and made from real fruit. It'll surely make you feel cool in hot days!

⊕ www.picolehealthyicepops.com
⊕ PicoleHealthyicePops

5 Maryland Chickan



This fried watermelon is one of the unusual snacks you can find ate the Legazpi Sunday Market. It looks like doughnut with a bit of watermelon as filling. It is topped with a special homemade icing!

6 Kefseft



This stall sells dairy products such as milk, cheese, and yogurt form a farm run by a Japanese couple. Savor the real taste of Japanese milk!

Stanford Shaw



Stanford Shaw offers home brewed ginger ale. The one and only ginger ale tastes full bodied and fresh, and there is nothing like it on the market.

8 Kal's Woodcraft



You can find stylish wooden products good as home decors. Check out their custom-made furniture and wooden kitchenware!

Mayown



They sell handmade crocheted products. The stuffed animals are irresistibly cute!



10 ALOHA



This gift shop sells homemade Japanese delicacies such as *Daifuku-mochi*, sweets made from rice, and *Tsukemono* pickles. They also sell a Japanese slipper called *Waraji* which is made from Abaca.

Novelty Handicraft



Here you can find fine quality silk scarves made from Negros Island where sericulture or silk farming is thriving. Also available are products made from capiz shells.

12 Brown Tree Crafts



They sell wicker products made of Virofibers such as coaster, luncheon mats, and storage organizers. Virofiber is an environmental-friendly material that is water and UV resistant.

Brown Tree Crafts

13 Filhands Arts and Crafts



This store sells handmade goods using coconut shells such as soap dishes and ashtrays.

Filhands

14 Siklo Pilipinas



You can find unique bags and wallets made from recycled tires here. The products are water-resistant so it is good for people who are active and sports lovers.

siklopilipinas

15 Harl's



They sell a variety of leather goods such as wallets, coin cases, small bags, slippers, personal organizers, bags and backpacks. Price of a bag is about P4,000.

16 What if



They sell hand-knitted beach towels, travel blankets and the like. They are only open every other Saturday.

Urbn Wud



Products here are made from recycled wood. The stackable box can be used as magazine rack or shelf. They also have stylish furniture such as chairs and tables.

① urbnwudfurniture

18 Monteville



Check out their handmade watch boxes, passport holder, remote control stand, and office organizer / file holder. We recommend the Tea Box or Cutlery Box with transparent window (P680) which is makes for an ideal gift.

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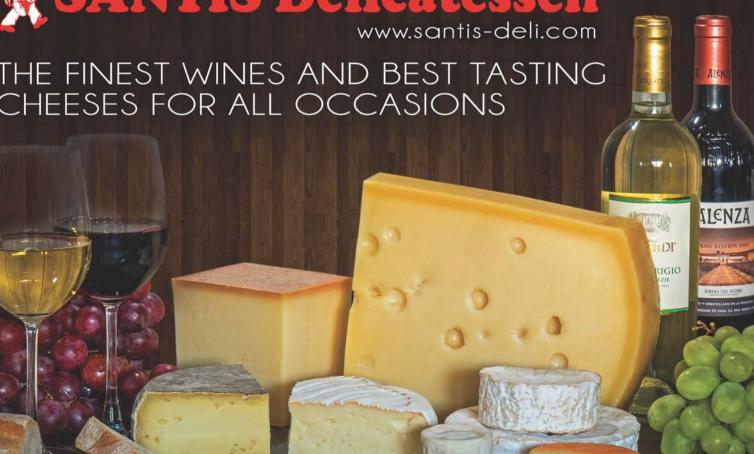


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Let us take you to a culinary journey to Switzerland through its food, where dining is nothing less than luxury.

CHEESE FONDUE

Derived from the French word fondre which means 'to melt', this iconic Swiss dish is made up of melted Gruyère and Emmental cheese with a little bit of white wine, garlic and black pepper. Served in a communal pot, you can enjoy the fondue by dipping small pieces of bread using delicate long-stemmed forks.

Aside from the traditional fondue, Chesa Bianca also offers a variety of Swiss Cheese Fondue Selection: Wallisser Tomaten Fondue (traditional Emmental and Gruyère cheese fondue with white wine, tomato concassé and oregano), Genfer Fondue (traditional fondue with Emmental, Gruyère and raclette cheese enriched with morels), Moitié-Moitié Fondue (traditional fondue with Gruyère and Vacherin cheese) and Beef Fondue Bourguignonne. (traditional beef fondue with six home made sauces and French fries).

RACLETTE

Another famously cheesy dish is the Raclette. A wheel of semi-hard cheese is melted and the bubbling top layer than is scraped onto marble potatoes, gherkins, and cocktail onions. This can also be accompanied with your choice of grilled garlic tiger prawns, crispy fried chicken, smoked farmer's ham or grilled cubed sirloin steak in it's perfect doneness.

CORDON BLEU

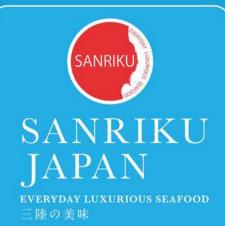
Cordon Bleu has been a mainstay of Swiss tavern menus for centuries. In Chesa Bianca, our Schweins (pork) Cordon Bleu is made of ham and gruyere cheese stuffed breaded pork escalope. Trust us, it definitely oozes with cheese when cut in half.



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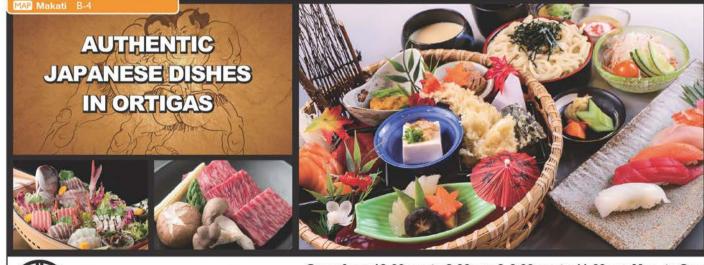


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MAP BGC D-2

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Corner Tree Café serves vegetarian comfort food that's loved and appreciated by vegetarians and meat-lovers alike. This cozy restaurant - tucked in a tiny corner of Jupiter Street in Makati offers dishes that will appeal even to the pickiest

Try their popular Arroz ala Cubana or Spinach Mushroom Lasagna, one of their best-sellers and pair it with a glass of wine or your choice of beer.

Corner Tree Café is recognized as one of Asia's Best Restaurants by the Miele Guide of Asia and considered one of the best-if not-the best vegetarian restaurant in the

- № 150 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati
- Q 02-897-0295
- ⊙ 11:00 am-10:00 pm (Daily)
- @ cornertreecafe.com
- Corner Tree Cafe

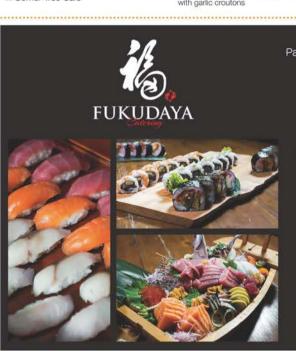


Dilled Egg Salad Sandwich on Ciabatta



Caramelized Apple and Feta Cheese Salad with garlic croutons





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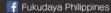
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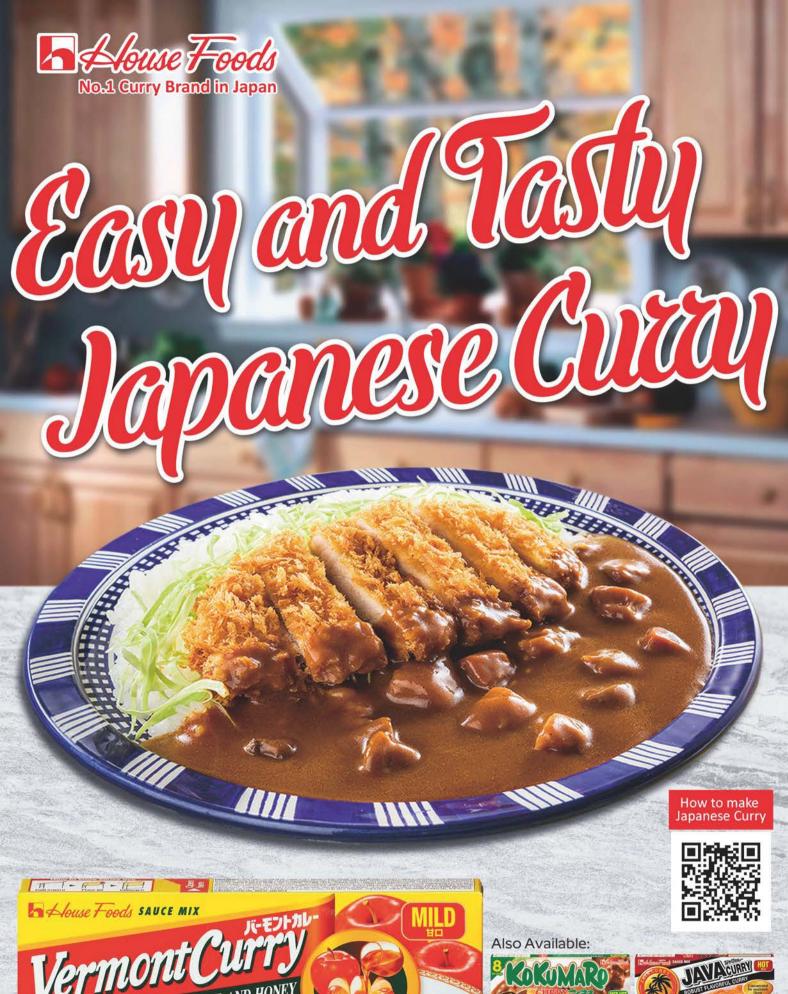
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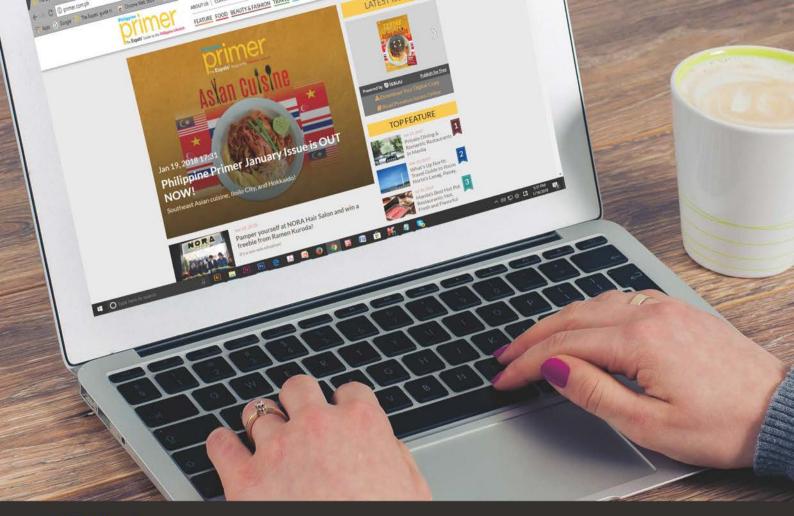






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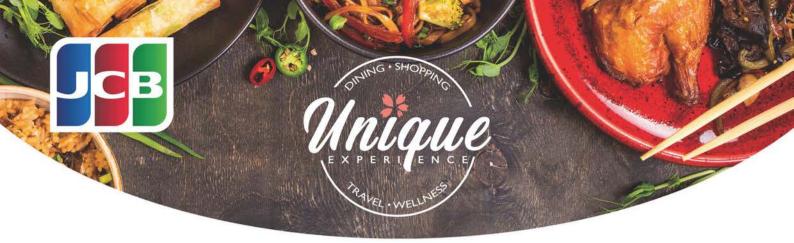
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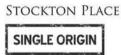






















































DINING















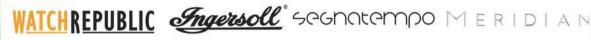




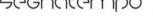




SHOPPING









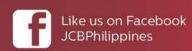




















Known to be the oldest Chinatown in the world, this vibrant enclave of Chinese community in Manila plays a significant role in history. With streets brimming with decades-old establishments, iconic restaurants, and historic landmarks, Manila's very own Chinatown—Binondo—welcomes everyone to a cultural destination like no other.

How to get to Binondo:

By public transport: Take the MRT 3 and get off at Taft Avenue station. From there, transfer to LRT1 in EDSA station and get off at the UN Avenue. Ride a jeepney bound for Divisoria, and get off at Binondo Church.

What to do



Buy Hopia and other Chinese treats in Eng Bee Tin and Holand.



Take home some pickled fruits from James Grocery.



Ride the *kalesa* and wander around Chinatown.



Dine in at the original branch of David's Tea House.



Browse some lucky charms at Feng



Visit different Chinese groceries for some great finds.



Do some shopping at Lucky China Town



Join a food tour!

What to see



Drop by Binondo Church.



Visit the Seng Guan Temple.



Visit the Santo Cristo de Longos Shrine.



Watch the dragon dance at Ongpin street.



See the Filipino-Chinese Friendship Arch.



Check out the Carriedo Fountain.



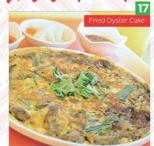
Visit the temple of Kuang Kong, God of War.



Visit the Sta. Cruz Church.



Where to eat



Sincerity Restaurant

A popular place for snacks, Sincerity is known for their Fried Chicken and oyster cake.



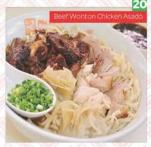
New Po Heng

The best place to buy Chinese Lumpia in Chinatown.



Wai Ying Fastfood

among favorite tourists because of its affordable Chinese food offerings.



Masuki

Since 1930's they've been serving the best chicken mami, siopao and siomai.



President Grand Palace

Enjoy a traditional Chinese feast!



Shanghai Fried Siopao

Affordable and delicious fried siopao!



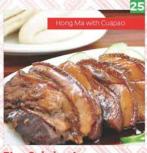
Lan Zhou La Mien

Try the Knife Mien, made up of noodles and shrimp.



Café Mezzanine

One hundred percent of its proceeds go to the Binondo and Paco Volunteer Fire Brigade.



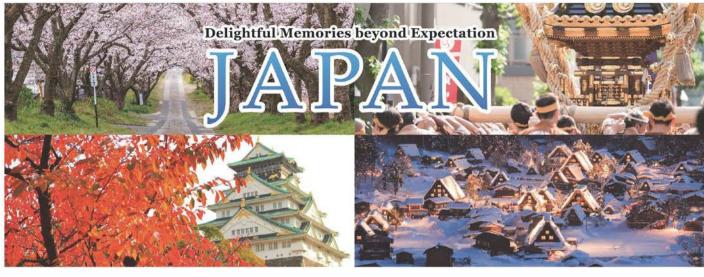
The Original Sa Lido Restaurant

One of the classic and timeless restaurants in Chinatown.



Dong Bei Dumplings

Get the Pork Dumplings to experience the Beijing dumplings that they are famed for.







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TRAVEL SALOON CEBU J CENTRE MALL:

Unit 2L 170, J CENTRE MALL, A.S. Fortune S Bakilid, Mandaue City, Cobu, 6014 Tei: +63 (0)32-260-8024 Email Address: Initiating illegal, and ille



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AMAKUSA

Travel Itinerary

- ▶ Departure at Fukuoka Airport
- ► Fukuoka Airport to Kumamoto Subway via bullet train
- ► Arrival at Kumamoto Station Stay: Hotel Nikko

DAY 2

- ► Kumamoto Station via A-Train
- ► Arrival at Misumi Station
- ▶ Sea Cruise
- ► Arrival at Matsushima Port
- ▶ Shopping at L'isola Terrace
- ▶ Lunch at Fukushin
- ▶ Dolphin Watching Tour or Sweet Cruise
- ▶ Shiro Amakusa Memorial Hall Stay: Hotel Ryugu (Angel of Ladder)

DAV 3

- ► Transfer to Shimoshima Amakusa via bus or private car
- ▶ Visit Nonoya Sarasa
- ► Lunch at Kaisen-Kura
- ▶ Adam Arakawa Monument
- ▶ Visit Oe Church Stay: Gosoku No Kutsu

DAY 4

- ► Sakitsu Church & Village
- ► Unzen-Amakusa National Park (sea-cliff view)
- ► Amakusa Airport (AMX) Fukuoka - Narita - Manila

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Recommended Hotels with Pools

SOFITEL PHILIPPINE 00000 PLAZA MANILA

Sofitel Hotels and Resorts is a five-star luxury hotel located in Pasay City. The structure, designed by National Artists Leandro Locsin and Ildefonso P. Santos, is one which aims to welcome guests to a cultural oasis, overflowing with the warmth of Filipino hospitality.

The hotel has 609 guest rooms, ranging from Opera Suites, Luxury Suites, Prestige Suites, Sofitel Suites, and the Imperial Residence which all provide high-end accommodations and services to make your stay one for the books. Each room is intricately designed to make sure that it has the words comfort and luxury written on it, something that Sofitel promises to every guest who checks in.

Aside from the pool which offers one of the best sunset views in Manila, Sofitel also has different facilities that target the wellness of their guests: Le Spa, Philippe Tordjman Le Salon, Vietura Aesthetic Lifestyle, So Fit, and Nail Artisan.

CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

O 02-551-5555

@ www.sofitelmanila.com

Images are from Sofitel Manila's website.











I'M HOTEL

BBBBB

The sophisticated urban living you've been longing for is now made possible by I'M Hotel - the first five-star hotel in Poblacion, Makati.

Opened last December 2016, this luxury hotel prides itself in delivering personalized service to all their guests, letting them feel and claim the property as their own, thus the name "I'M Hotel." Designed by a renowned Singapore-based architect, the property is a picture of sophistication and elegance. The hotel features 434 rooms, including 182 suites equipped with an Electrolux-fitted kitchenette, living room, and dining area - all facing the beautiful concrete jungle of Makati.

The infinity pool is one of the most sought-after features of I'M Hotel. It can be seen upon entering the lobby. There are also lounging beds positioned at an elevated platform above the pool that serve as a fantastic vantage point for sunbathing and people-watching. Have a relaxing experience at the I'm Onsen Spa, the first sento-style spa in the country.

A Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City

Q 02-755-7888

@ www.imhotel.com

Images are from I'M Hotel's website.















FAIRMONT 60000 MAKATI

If you've ever wanted to go for luxury in Makati yet still want access to the best that the business district has to offer, then the Fairmont Makati is the hotel for you.

This 280-room hotel is set in the heart of the central business district and is close to the best shopping and dining options the city has to offer. It's a short walk from Greenbelt and Glorietta, giving you free reign to take in all the different dining options these malls have to offer. It's also a few minutes away from Poblacion, home to some of Makati's best restaurants and bars.

- 🖭 1 Raffles Drive, Makati Avenue, Makati City
- © 02-795-1888
- @ www.fairmont.com/Makati

Images are from Fairmont Makati's Facebook page.







MARCO POLO 00000 ORTIGAS MANILA

Marco Polo Ortigas Manila is one of the two hotels that earned the 2017 Five-Star rating from Forbes Travel Guide. With this, it can be said that this hotel promises nothing but the best and the finest accommodation experience one could ever have in the metro.

Located in Ortigas Center, Marco Polo features 316 spacious rooms and suites designed to fit the needs of every guest. Choose from the Superior, Deluxe, and Premier Rooms, or splurge and book their Superior and Deluxe Suites which bring class and comfort at the same time.

- Meralco Avenue and Sapphire Street, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
- © 02-720-7777
- www.marcopolohotels.com

Images are from Marco Polo Ortigas Manila's website.







NEW WORLD MAKATI HOTEL

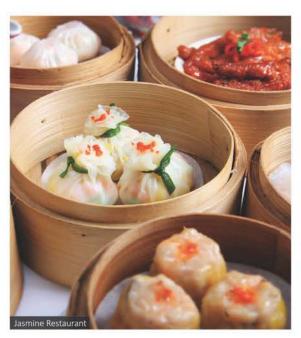
A luxury retreat and destination, New World Hotel is located in the heart of the financial district of the country, Makati City, right across Greenbelt.

The 595 stylishly-appointed guestrooms and suites combine stunning city views with comfort. The hotel has a pillar-free ballroom, two banquet salons, and two premium function rooms with their own kitchen. Close to offices of major corporations and embassies, New World Hotel is the ideal location to host your next meeting, exhibition, or event.

All guest rooms are modern, luxuriously appointed, fully-equipped with complimentary wifi

- Esperanza Street corner Makati Avenue, Avala Center. Makati City
- © 02-811-6888
- www.newworldhotels.com

Images are from New World Makati Hotel's website.







Recommended Hotels with Restaurants

JOY-NOSTALG 00000 HOTEL AND SUITES

Managed by AccorHotels, Joy-Nostalg Hotel and Suites promises the experience of staying in a five-star hotel in Manila combined with the personality and exclusivity of a private residence.

It's also the first and only serviced apartment given the prestigious Deluxe classification by the Department of Tourism.

Apart from being close to one of the country's largest malls, Joy-Nostalg also aims to please your palate with Nostalgia Dining Lounge. It's a classy dining lounge that doesn't stop at serving good food and providing stellar service; they also give you three distinct vibes if you book one of their three private function rooms.

- 🖭 17 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center (Topaz Road Entrance), Pasig City
- Q 02-637-7888 / 02-706-7777
- www.joynostalgsuites.com

Images are from Joy-Nostalg Suites' website.







MANILA HOTEL PROPOR

A premier hotel in the Philippines, Manila Hotel is a five-star hotel that embodies sophistication and luxury making it the primary choice for hosting historic events. It has also housed world leaders and famous personalities from all over the world throughout its illustrious decades of operation.

Manila Hotel has four dedicated restaurants all conducive to holding meetings. Dine in at Café Ilang-Ilang for a chic casual experience. For those seeking a royal ambiance, there's the Champagne Room, famed for its grand interiors and impeccable service. Those craving for Chinese cuisine can proceed to the Mabuhay Palace to experience what a lavish Chinese dining experience is truly like. For a meatier choice, the Cowrie Grill is where the most succulent meats are served.

- One Rizal Park, Manila
- © 02-527-0011
- @ www.manila-hotel.com.ph

Images are from Manila Hotel website.







CONRAD MANILA DODGO

Located atop S'Maison in Pasay, Conrad Manila is a visually-striking escape from the city with easy access to a number of shopping, dining, and local attractions. Its structure, inspired by the "vessels that traverse the bay," provides a good view not only of the waters in front but also of the Makati skyline.

Guests get to choose from seven different kinds of rooms - Twin Premier Room, Twin Deluxe Room, King Premier Room, King Deluxe Room, Bay View Twin Deluxe Room, Bay View King Premier Room, and Bayview King Deluxe Room. These are all said to be "intelligent guest rooms," designed to move from energy-saving mode to activating the air-conditioning in anticipation of the guests' arrival.

- ⚠ Seaside Boulevard, Coral Way, Mall of Asia, Pasay City O 02-833-9999
- @ www.conradmanila.com

Images are from Conrad Manila's website

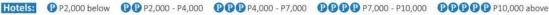


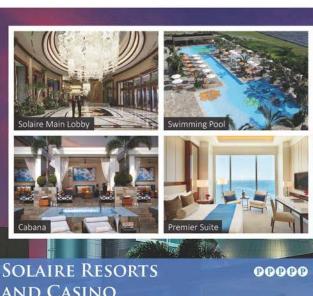












AND CASINO

located in Entertainment City. It is considered to be one of the most

make sure that their guests feel like royalty during their stay.

- www.solaireresort.com

CITY OF DREAMS



City of Dreams is a 6.2-hectare luxury integrated resort and casino which features hotels such as Nobu, Hyatt, and NÜWA, along with other brands and premium dining outlets. It is also the home to the DreamWorks-inspired DreamPlay which gives a different kind of entertainment for people of all ages. Located close to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, SM Mall of Asia, and other key destinations, City of Dreams is the place to be for anyone who wants to try a different kind of fun and entertainment.

NÜWA, one of the three hotels in the complex, offers comfort, exclusivity, and luxury with its rooms and suites. Nobu Hotel is another hotel with interiors reminiscent of the Japanese aesthetic. Just like NÜWA, Nobu Hotel also has its own restaurant, Nobu Restaurant, which takes pride in serving innovative new-style Japanese cuisine.

- 🕰 Asean Avenue corner Roxas Blvd., Entertainment City, Parañaque City
- © 02-800-8080
- @ www.cityofdreams.com.ph

Images are from City of Dreams' website and Facebook page





SOLAIRE







Images are from Solaire Resorts and Casino.





Recommended Hotels with Casinos





MARRIOTT HOTEL

DODDO

Not all casino-hotels can be found at Entertainment City. Some can be found right outside the airport, like the Manila Marriott Hotel.

Found within Resorts World Manila, the Manila Marriott Hotel gives you elegance and world-class service in a location that can't be beat.

It's called the centerpiece of Resorts World Manila for a reason. Its proximity to Resort World Manila's casinos make it ideal for international high-rollers. Coupled with world-class amenities and our trademark Filipino hospitality, you're bound to enjoy your stay at the Marriott, especially after a couple of rounds at the tables of Resorts World Manila.

- 2 Resorts Drive, Pasay City
- Q 02-988-9999
- www.marriott.com

Images are from Marriott Hotel's website













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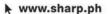
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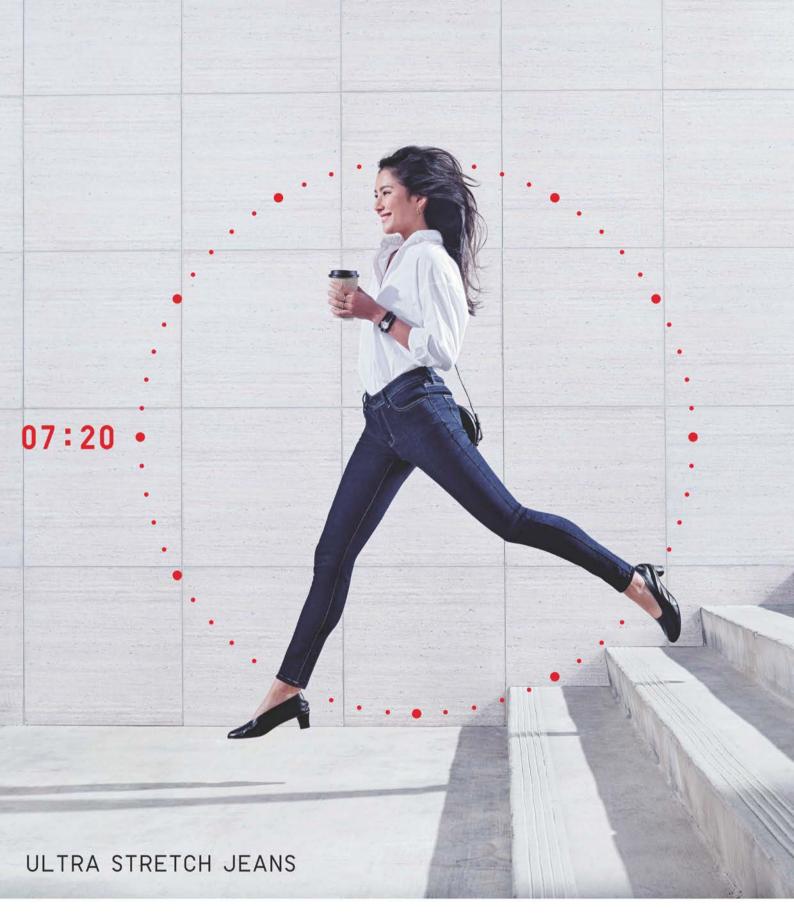














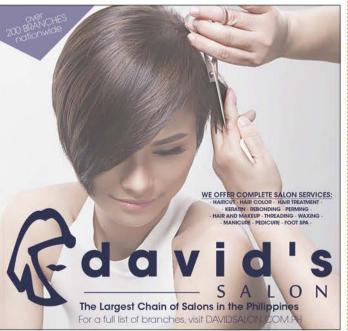
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Genius Academy provides a safe, reliable, and fun learning environment for children of any age. This friendly tutorial center also caters to professionals of all ages, levels and nationalities. ESL classes include debate, reading, writing and grammar classes.

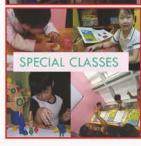
 Writing & Speaking ● Reading & Listening

SPECIAL CLASSES

- GABE Help students to be more creative and imaginative.
- PLAY FACTO assist in developing children's mathematical and creative thinking.
- •Fun Science Help kids to be ready from the real science classes. ORDA – Practice basic math lesson in a fun way!

Addres: UGF, F1 Hotel, 32nd St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City 0949-473-4506 (Smart) / 0927-294-8953 (Globe) / 02-869-59-11







MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

For an expat, there are basic necessities that you need to know to have a comfortable stay in the Philippines. Apart from food, means of transportation, and emergency hotlines, it is important to be aware of health services around the Metro. This includes finding a physician you can talk to about your health condition as you live in the Philippines.

To help you out, here are 4 trusted medical professionals in Manila, who are highly-experienced and trained to provide the best care for their patients. Get to know them as you read their profile and each of their specializations.



Rogelio F. Varela Jr., MD

Urology and Venereology

Dr. Rogelio Varela Jr. is a urologist and a venereologist by profession. As a urologist, he treats kidney ailments, prostate cancer cases, and erectile dysfunction. As a venereologist, he treats patients who are diagnosed with STIs like HIV or gonorrhea. When he was young, he used to have bronchial asthma and was required to see a doctor often. Because of their frequent meetings, Dr. Varela was enticed to venture in the field of medicine and has been practicing for about 11 years now. He graduated with a degree in Psychology at the University of Sto. Tomas, took his MD at Our Lady of Fatima in Valenzuela City, and had his residency training for general surgery and urology at East Avenue Medical Center. Dr. Rogelio Varela Jr. was the past vice president of the residents organization at East Avenue Medical City, and is currently the medical director of St. Patrick's Health Care System Inc. His advice for aspiring doctors: "Being a doctor is really a challenging profession. To succeed in the field, your goal is to treat patients, see them as how they need the services, and be really dedicated in the profession you chose to venture to."

Make an appointment:

- ✓ St. Patrick's Health Care Systems, Inc. 566 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City / Tuesday and Friday: 1 pm to 4 pm Contact No.: 0997-095-3782
- Room 206, St. Clare's Medical Center, 1838 Dian St., Palanan, Makati City / Tuesday: 2 pm to 4 pm, Thursday: 3 pm to 5 pm
- Healthway Medical Clinic, Greenbelt 5, Makati City / Tuesday Thursday: 5 pm to 8 pm Contact No.: 02-720-6109



Abygail L. Recio, MD

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Abygail Recio is an obstetrician and gynecologist by profession. She took up B.S. Medical Technology at the Philippine Women's University, her MD at University of Perpetual Help, and her residency training at Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center. She has been a medical doctor for about 16 years and considers taking care of her patients as a commitment and a calling. Currently, Dr. Abygail Recio is a Medical Specialist of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Sta. Ana Hospital. Dr. Recio offers the following services: obstretical and gynecological services which include prenatal care and delivery, general women's health concerns, maternal care, examination and treatment of the reproductive system, examination and treatment of women's diseases, and malignant cysts and infertility among others.

Make an appointment:

Room 206, St. Clare's Medical Center, 1838 Dian St., Palanan, Makati City / Thursday to Saturday: 4 pm to 6 pm Contact No.: 02-831-6511

✓ Ace Pateros Medical Center, 884 P. Herrera, Pateros, Taguig City / Thursday to Saturday: 8 am to 12 pm Contact No.: 02-706-9398



Dr. Darvin is an otolaryngologist or an ENT specialist by profession. As an otolaryngologist, he treats ailments in the ears, nose and throat, and conducts head and neck surgery if needed. He graduated with a degree in Medical Technology at the University of Sto. Tomas, took his MD at the De La Salle University College of Medicine, his residency training for internal medicine at Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center, and his fellowship training in ENT at Manila Doctor's Medical Center in U.N. Avenue, Manila City. He usually starts his day by holding his clinic for about two to three hours every day in Manila, Pasay, and Makati, and conducts immediate surgery for patients as needed. As an ENT specialist, Dr. Darvin offers the following services: examination and consultation on general diseases of the ears, nose, and throat; head and neck conditions; and screening, surgery and reconstructive surgery of cancer tumors and other conditions of the head and neck.

Make an appointment:

- ✓ Manila Doctors Hospital Rm. 1122, 667 United Nations Ave, Ermita, Manila City / Tuesdays & Thursdays: 3 pm to 5 pm Saturday: 1 pm to 2 pm

Fides Rosary B. Francisco, MD, DPPS

General Pediatrics

Dr. Francisco is a pediatrician by profession and has been in the medical field for about 14 years. She took her undergraduate degree in Biology at West Visayas State University in Iloilo City and her medical degree at the Our Lady of Fatima University-College of Medicine. She believes that all doctors are trained to face emergency cases and to think under pressure, but hopes that her patients don't suffer severe cases and can be given remedies. Because of the hard work she continuously gives in her chosen field, she was awarded as the top performing doctor at St. Clare's Medical Center in 2017. As a pediatrician, Dr. Francisco offers the following services: consultations, physical examinations, vaccinations, medical or surgical clearance, and counseling.

Make an appointment:

- Room 206, St. Clare's Medical Center, 1838 Dian St., Palanan, Makati City Tuesday: 10 am to 12 nn, Saturday: 1 pm to 3:30 pm Contact No: 02-831-6511
- ✓ Borough Medical Clinic, 2F South Wing, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City Wednesday: 10 am to 1 pm, Sunday: 1 pm to 3 pm Contact No: 02-556-0557-61
- ✓ Medical Center Taguig, Levi Mariano Ave., Taguig City Tuesday: 6 pm to 8 pm, Thursday: 6 pm to 8 pm







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- Fire resistance

Comfort for generations

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- Uniform lighting

Long life for generations

- Consistent light output
- Better heat dissipation

Business Talk

An interview with the top executives in the Philippines
Get a first person point of view when it comes to business



One of the leading and most prestigious resorts and hotels here in the Philippines is Solaire Resort and Casino. It is known as a luxury five-star hotel complete with world-class amenities that can rival the best of what the world has to offer. Five years on and Solaire has not lost a beat. One of the people responsible for keeping the engine running is Gianpietro Iseppi, Vice President of Hotel Operations for Solaire Resort and Casino.

In this edition of Business Talk, we sat down with the half-Filipino, half-Swiss VP to know the ins and outs of the hotel industry as well as Solaire's push towards the future.

What does your role in Solaire Resort entail?

I oversee all the rooms and front-of-house operations. If you're anywhere in our public areas, I usually have some influence on what you'll see. Rooms are my specialty, and that includes housekeeping, public areas, and front house

How did you get in the hotel industry?

My father's family owned a very small hotel in Switzerland. Each hotel had about 10 rooms and every summer I would go up there - and that was the requirement: we had to work there. Ever since I was six years old, I've been serving tables. When it came time to make a decision on where to go to school and what to focus my career on, I always knew what I was going to do by the time I was 10

What is the idea behind Solaire?

Solaire is an integrated resort that brings world-class amenities to the doorstep of the Philippines. The long-term goal is for the brand to influence more people to visit the Philippines and eventually expanding worldwide.

What was the approach to developing Solaire?

I came to Solaire about a year after they opened. I believe that Entertainment City grew around Solaire. The idea was [to put up] a homegrown brand bringing international service with Filipino hospitality at its core.

This was the vision of Mr. Enrique Razon, our chairman and owner. He was the one who was willing to take the risk. He has seen the world and he wanted to bring a world-class brand right to the shores of Manila.

What separates Solaire from the other establishments or the other resorts here in

For us, we stay very true to our brand. Our brand, our clientele, and our vision is luxury. Everything that we do revolves around luxury, whether it's the stone coming from Italian quarries or the marble sourced from Turkey. The designs that we use for every single restaurant, the people that work here, everything we do is about luxury; we don't compromise.

How has Solaire fared ever since it was put up?

People who are renowned in the gaming industry fly here to Solaire to answer the questions "what's going on," "what's happening," "why am I hearing Solaire in Manila" when four or five years ago you wouldn't hear a humming of the word "Solaire".

Now, it's a brand that's starting to gain traction and people are wondering what's happening here and why people are talking about us.

Are there any particular achievements that you would want to highlight?

When I joined the property, I told Mr. Razon that we are going to be given the Forbes Travel Guide five-star award. He told me to not come back if I can't hit that

Forbes rates over 6,000 hotels globally, and only 173 earn a five-star rating. We were able to do that in our second year of operation and that's something unheard of in this business. To hit over 600 standards and to consistently score above 90% with a mystery auditor, it's something we're very proud of.

What are some of these standards that are the hardest to hit?

Any megaresort or integrated resort operator will tell you that efficiency is always the most difficult part to hit. As the brand and the number of rooms grow, the harder it gets to deliver bags to rooms within 10 minutes. It's hard to ensure that your check-in is done within 5 minutes because the property is on 10 plus hectares [of land]. To be able to do that with 800 guests every single day is difficult.

Would you call that as one of the bigger challenges you faced as the VP for Hotel Operations or was there something tougher?

The mindset of a lot of the team members, to get on the same page and everyone speaking, that takes a while. You have to create a corporate culture. You have to create a culture of not just telling people what to do, but asking people to do things and believing in what you're saying.

We had to teach them how to use certain terms the right way. We had to get them speaking fluently, easily and not robotic. The Filipino workforce powers the world and it's nice to be able to use that homegrown hospitality here and now.

What plans does Solaire have for the future apart from the global expansion?

Refining this brand is the most important thing for us. This is the center of the world for us right now when it comes to Solaire. Growing from this point and making sure the brand is known worldwide as a luxury five-star integrated resort is the

When I say refining the brand, it's [about] constantly evolving. If you come back here next month, there will be new shops opening up. There will be new emotions, new dining concepts, and be new room concepts; we will never

How would you describe the way you manage at

I believe in relationships. I believe that to get people to do what you want over and over again, they need to believe in you as a person. I believe that relationships are the core of long-term success and that's me.

Leadership by example is very important for us and that's how the entire management team is. We're involved in everything. We're on the floors every day, walking 15,000 steps because we want to know what's going on with the property. We don't hold meetings in the offices. We're walking the property and we're seeing what's what. We're very quick to act and we're very free with our opinions.

Who are some of the people you look up to?

Coming from Las Vegas, when I look at hotels and mega resort people, I look at Steve Wynn. The things he did in Las Vegas — The Mirage, Treasure Island — his concepts, his never-ending visions, he was a visionary.

When you look at a guy like Steve Wynn, his time was 20 years ago. You look at a guy like Enrique Razon and his time is now. He is a young man who's hungry and has a lot to prove. He bursts out of the gates faster than most people.

Can you give us a quote/word/phrase that motivates you to do well in your job?

There are two things that I've always lived by. One was "Do what everyone else won't."

When I was a young man in this business, I would always do the tasks and jobs that everyone had too much pride to bother with. When I was young, it was taking out the garbage or doing the dishes because someone didn't show up for their shift. It was also about making difficult decisions.

Nowadays, I believe in the adage "Anything worth doing is worth overdoing." I don't believe that there's room for mediocrity.

For the complete interview, you may view it at www.primer.com.ph



"DRUM TAO — SAMURAI DRUM ROCK," the return of the Japanese troupe with a spectacular new show on April 19th — 22nd, 2018 at the Kia Theatre, Quezon City.

World-renowned Japanese martial arts and drum-playing extraordinaires, Drum Tao have an exciting stage show for 2018 with costumes created by fashion designer Junko Koshino.

After playing to audiences of more than 7 million, in 400 cities and 17 countries that include Switzerland, Denmark, Israel, USA, Australia, Spain, Belgium, UK and Germany, critically-acclaimed Drum Tao will explode onto the Manila stage with its eclectic mix of dance and martial arts as the dynamic and innovative Japanese performers beat their Wadaiko Drums.

Drum Tao is world class entertainment at the highest level. It is an innovative contemporary Japanese production that has thrilled audiences with this ground-breaking presentation and one-of-a-kind show.



Get your tickets now!

Tickets go on sale to the public 15 January, 2018.

Online Booking: Ticketnet.com.ph | 02-911-5555

Ticket Prices: From ₱800, ₱1500, ₱2500, ₱3500, ₱4500 (excludes ticket service fee)

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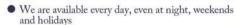


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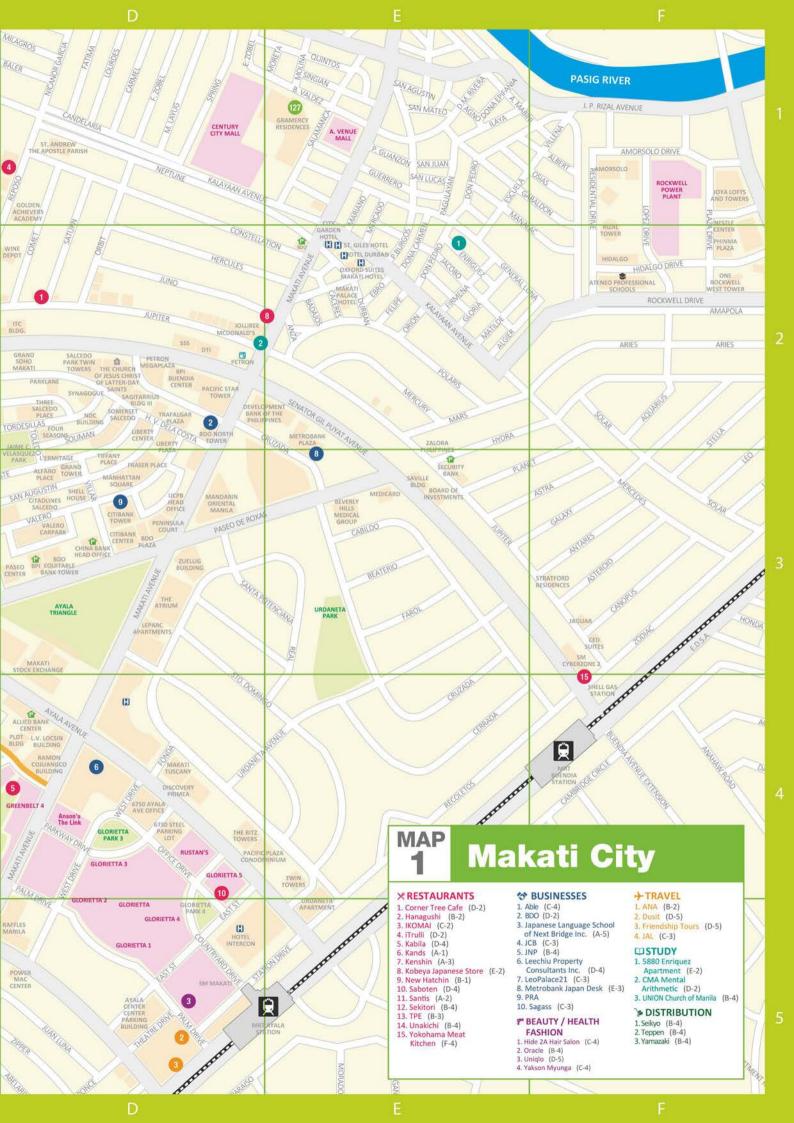
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What's New in the Metro?



Serenata Festival 2018

Celebrated annually and slated every 14th of February, Serenata Festival is a musical extravaganza held at Pasay. This they event unites all musicians as showcase their musicality and how well-versed they are in using their instruments.

Pasay City



Food and Hotel Expo Manila

Come and be part of the most-awaited Food and Hotel Expo Manila 2018. The event aims to deliver and showcase network opportunities and strengthen sectors of food, beverage, and hotel service not only within the country but globally as well.

Halls 3-4, SMX Convention Center, Pasay City



Voltes V Run Manila

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the first ever Voltes V Run is set to stage in Manila this year! Registered runners will get an exclusive Voltes V-themed race shirt, race bib, drawstring bag and a finisher's medal at the end of the 5-km specially themed route, designed to make fans immersed in the world of their favorite anime series.

McKinley West, BGC, Taguig City

LAS PIÑAS



43rd Bamboo Organ Festival

Witness the longest-running annual international music festival held in the country, the Bamboo Organ Festival. This year, the festival is introducing to its audience the cornetto, one of the ancient instruments in Intramuros, used between 1600 and 1850.

Vouth Center, St. Joseph's Parish Church, Las Piñas City

QUEZON CITY



INCUBUS Live in Manila

The much-loved American rock band Incubus will once again own center stage through their comeback concert happening in February 2018!

O Smart Araneta Coliseum, Cubao, Quezon City



Arkipelago Weekend Market

This 2018, there's a new and upcoming weekend market to look forward to, which is the Arkipelago Weekend Market in Bagtikan Street, Makati City.

Pagtikan Street, San Antonio, Makati City

Basic Creative Writing: Recovering Wonder through Words

Want to develop and further enhance your talent on creative writing? Now is the right time! Come and be part of Avala Museum's Basic Creative Writing: Recovering Wonder through Words with Anna Felicia Sanchez as its facilitator.

Ayala Museum, Makati City

PAMPANGA



22nd Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta

The Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta is now on its 22nd year! This event features a variety of sports aviation activities to give spectators all-out fun & entertainment at Clark, Pampanga.

Air Force City, Clarkfield, Pampanga City

SPOTLIGHT





Travel Tour Expo 2018

Feb 9, 10, 11 Expo

Travel Tour Expo 2018, the country's biggest travel expo, is set to once again pack the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City with travel junkies this coming February 9 to 11, 2018.

This expo will showcase both local and international travel destinations and their discounted deals, presentations from various exhibitors, live performances from a number of celebrities, raffle draws, and a lot more.

SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Ground, Pasay City

BAGUIO CIT



Panagbenga Festival 2018

February is a very important month for couples, but it takes on a special meaning for the citizens of Baguio City. It is the month when the city goes into full bloom, figuratively and literally, as the citizens of Baguio celebrate the Panagbenga Festival. Highlights of the festival include the Parade of Floats, Street Dancing and Band Competition, Session Road in Bloom, and the Pony Boys Day.

♀ Baguio City



For more events, please visit primer.com.ph/events

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