

# Experiencing another world

La Résidence Phou Vao in Luang Prabang offers a glimpse of another world, another way of life. Luxurious living was an art and travel

Luang Prabang is the ancient Lao capital where legends are told in gold relief on temple doors, the mighty Mekong river snakes through the verdant jungle, and French bakeries serve freshly brewed café au lait and baguettes... You can't fault La Résidence Phou Vao for its immaculate choice of location.

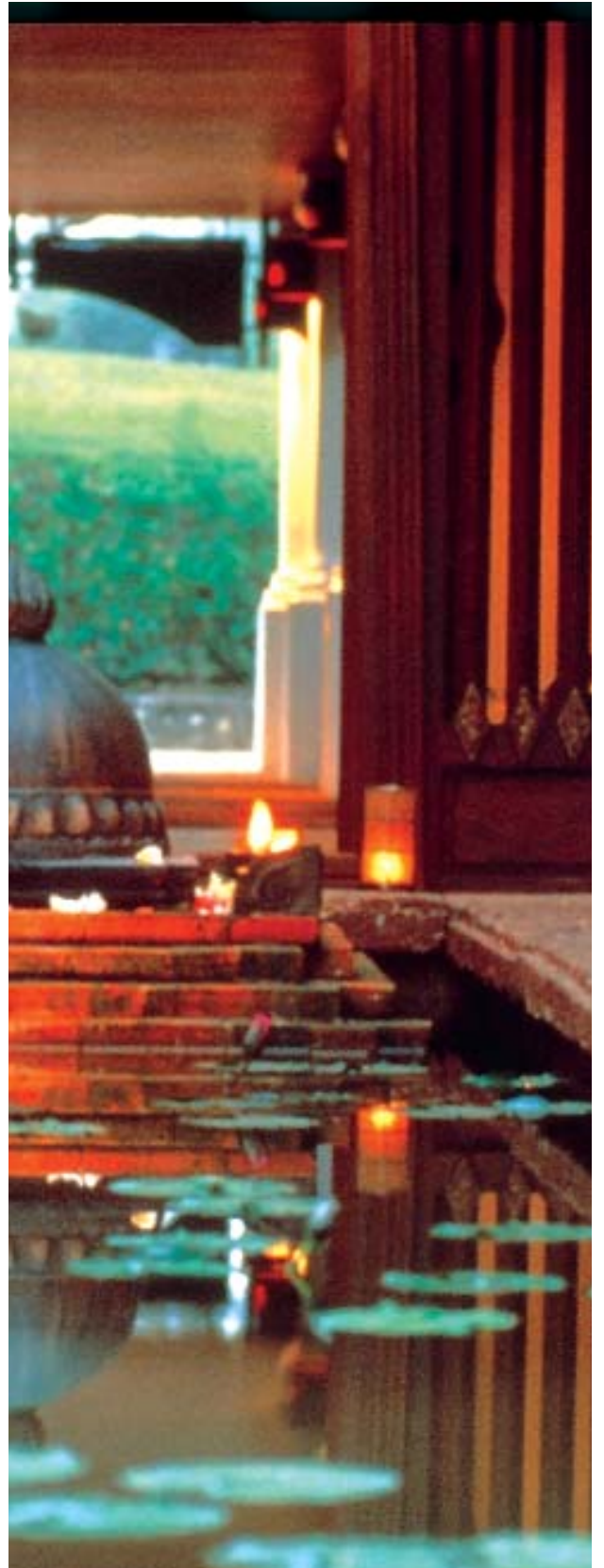
The history of Luang Prabang can be traced back as far as the



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ng Prabang offers an experi-  
time of elegance, when gra-  
a true indulgence.

fourth century when communities along the Mekong river began to  
form into townships, so called *muang*. This development culmi-  
nated in the formation of the Lane Xang (million elephants)  
Kingdom by King Fa Ngum. In 1345 A.D., Xien Thong – now  
known as Luang Prabang – was established as its capital. In the  
seventeenth century, the Kingdom entered its most illustrious era,  
establishing the first contacts with Europeans. During the 19<sup>th</sup>







century Laos came under French influence until its independence in 1949.

Luang Prabang's rich history is evident in its architecture, a unique blend of Lao urban structures with those built by the European colonial authorities in the 19th and 20th centuries. Its unique, remarkably well-preserved townscape illustrates a key stage in the blending of these two distinct cultural traditions.

Set amidst three hectares of lush gardens, rich with bougainvillea, palms and frangipani, the Pansea offers 34 Lao-styled accommodations and extraordinary mountain views, not to mention easy access to the town's numerous temples and

## Hotel interior and architectural design are a combination of rosewood and stone accentuated by Lao furnishings and intricate details

La Residence Phou Vao accommodates its guests in a style that reflects the cultural heritage of this ancient kingdom. Hotel interior and architectural design are a combination of rosewood and stone accentuated by Lao furnishings and intricate details, yet still preserving the simplicity and tranquility of the place.

48 apartment living

religious sites. The hotel's spectacular infinity pool seemingly spills into the valley below, whilst overlooking Mount Phou Si and That Makmo : a Buddhist monument renowned for its massive, melon-shaped top.

These breathtaking views can also be enjoyed from the hotel's restaurant, which is adjacent to the infinity pool. On the menu is a

selection of French specialties with exotic touches as well as traditional Lao dishes. "Every morning, our pastry chef bakes his own croissants, Danish pastries and baguettes," says Aung Ko Ko. For breakfast, guests can top these with the hotel's homemade jam which comes in such delectable flavors as tamarind, pineapple and papaya.



Rooms are decorated with local crafts and cotton linens, and have balconies that look out over the surrounding countryside. Guests can relax on the daybeds on the balcony or have a private massage. The La R sidence Phou Vao will soon offer its guests a full range of massages and spa treatments when the spa, which is being built on the hotel grounds is completed in October. "Looking at the design it'll be the most beautiful spa of the all our hotels," enthuses Aung Ko Ko, Room Division Manager.

La R sidence Phou Vao in Luang Prabang is one of the six Pansea Orient-Express Hotels. This small but distinctive brand of boutique hotels is a partnership between Pansea Hotels & Resorts and Orient-Express Hotels, formed at the start of 2004. The majority of the group's properties are situated in World Heritage locations. The Pansea hotel group aims to reflect and protect their environments, preserve local traditions and propagate the unique heritage of each location. The group firmly believes

only eco-friendly and carefully controlled tourism is sustainable both for the destinations as well as for its hotels.

"When guests arrive, they comment on how magnificent the hotel is," Aung Ko Ko says proudly. "Several have said that of all the countries they've traveled to, our hotel is the best they've ever stayed in. This is not only a kind compliment, but also our daily goal!" ■

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### PANSEA ORIENT-EXPRESS HOTELS

- Napasai, Samui Island, THAILAND
- La R sidence Phou Vao, Luang Prabang, LAOS
- La R sidence d'Angkor, Siem Reap, CAMBODIA
- The Governor's Residence, Yangon, MYANMAR
- Jimbaran Puri Bali, Bali, INDONESIA
- Ubud Hanging Gardens, Bali, INDONESIA (scheduled to open July 2005)

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