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The Gold List 2011

BANGKOK **Metropolitan, Bangkok**

Just around the corner from Lumpini Park in the centre of Bangkok, this 171-room sister to London's famous Metropolitan is an ultra-modern hotel with Comme des Garçons staff uniforms, hand-woven silk curtains and paintings by Thai artist Natee Utarit. Guests can relax in the COMO Shambhala Urban Escape before heading down for cocktails in the stylish Met Bar.

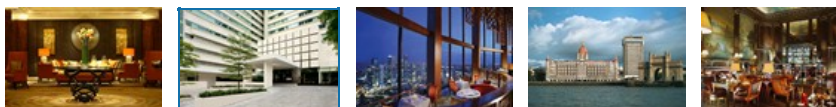
X-factor The new Nahm restaurant, opened by chef David Thompson in September (Nahm London holds a Michelin star), is a showcase for such regional Thai delicacies as stir-fried baby squid with sugar-snap peas, and coconut and turmeric crab curry.

Metropolitan: 27 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand (00 66 2 625 3322; www.metropolitan.bangkok.como.bz). Doubles from 8,580 baht (about £180)

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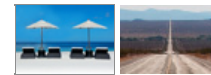
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Hotels

New hotel opens in Zanzibar

By Sam Rogers 11 Apr 2011

ZANZIBAR Set to become a jewel in Tanzania's crown for its luxury and design, The Residence Zanzibar marks the opening of the first member of The Leading Hotels of the World in the country.

Located on a remote southwest corner of the island of Zanzibar, The Residence promises the highest of luxuries and the most personalised of service: each villa is assigned a personal butler for the duration of the visitors' stay.

Stretching over 80 acres, the 66 villas are decorated by Hirsche & Bedner Associates in a style that draws inspiration from the Swahili, Omani, British and Indian cultures present in Zanzibar. Each villa has its own oasis with a private terrace and swimming pool, but the structures remain modern and

natural, fitting in with the surroundings.

Aiming to provide guests with a calming experience, The Residence features a state-of-the-art wellness centre and spa. The spa is set in five acres of tropical gardens and features six spacious treatment pavilions, each with its own private garden, outdoor shower, bathtub and relaxation area.

Other activities for guests range from non-motorised water sports like kayaking and snorkelling to dolphin safaris, as well as short trips to discover the incredible architecture of Stone Town and the wilderness of the Jozani Forest, home of the rare red colobus monkey.

Sustainability is key: The Residence has invested in a number of initiatives to support the island and conserve its water supply and natural surroundings. A desalination plant produces all of the hotel's soft water and a waste water recycling plant, drawing on waste from throughout the hotel, is used to irrigate the tropical gardens.

For more information, and to book, visit www.theresidence.com.

[Read our destination guide to Zanzibar](#)

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