

# Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

## Four Seasons Hotel Singapore

There's nothing quite like checking into a Four Seasons hotel. From the moment you arrive, you're recognized, greeted and then personally escorted to your room. The professionalism of the staff, chatting graciously as they introduce you to the features of your room, simply can't be improved upon.

Glowing after being on the receiving end of the highly personalized service that distinguishes the hotel group's famous "culture of hospitality," visiting **Cognoscenti Magazine** editors were soon settled in the considerable comfort of their 11<sup>th</sup> floor Premier category room at the **Four Seasons Singapore**.

From the room's extra-wide entrance foyer to its extra-generous closet space, from the oversized bars of *L'Occitane* soap to the super-fluffy towels and bathrobes, just about everything at this Four Seasons is, well, just a little bit *grander* than at most other hotels.

At 60 square meters, the Premier rooms are very spacious. Even the deluxe rooms at the Four Seasons Singapore are 50 square meters—well over the "luxury" size threshold. Bathrooms alone are over 12 square meters in size!

Rooms are decorated in classic continental style with very solid wooden furniture, while the muted color palate of sand and sage green gives a proper nod to

the Asian setting. Adorning the walls are well-chosen works of art—there are more than 1,500 such pieces at the hotel. The premier room's corner exposure presents fine city views on two sides, with plenty of lush tropical greenery visible in addition to Singapore's ubiquitous skyscrapers.



*Classical continental elegance with a nod to Asian style.*

The marble-tiled bathroom is one of the nicest we've encountered anywhere. It features large dual sinks and a separate bath and shower—amenities that are standard throughout the hotel. The toilet is housed in a separate room of its own—not at all the claustrophobic little cubicle that one sometimes encounters at lesser hotels. The bathtub, however, isn't long enough to fully stretch out one's legs.

The Four Seasons Singapore's pleasures extend well beyond its tastefully-appointed rooms. Recreational facilities include a well-equipped gym with individually-programmable TV

monitors, two outdoor swimming pools (one is rooftop) and two air-conditioned tennis courts. Duffers can work on their strokes in the OptiGolf simulator, and there's a regulation-size snooker table, too.

At the hotel's elegant **Jiang-Nan Chun** restaurant, traditional Cantonese cuisine is enhanced with modern presentational flourishes. Picking up pairs of silver-tipped chopsticks, we began with a trio of dim

sums from the kitchen of Chef Albert Tse, each resting atop a dollop of pretty sauce. Among them, the cod-filled pastry in black pepper sauce was particularly lovely in taste and texture.

Crispy Peking duck combined with Granny Smith apple, raspberry *coulis*, and velvety foie gras to yield a *tour de force* of contrasting culinary textures. Reflecting, like Singapore itself, the influences of different cultures, the dish was a prime example of Tropical Asian cooking. The only disappointment of the meal came in the form of double-boiled Chinese cabbage with mushrooms, bamboo piths and dried scallops—chewy, tough even.

Every Sunday the hotel stages a lavish buffet brunch that sprawls across several different venues, from the **190 Restaurant** through the bar and out onto the terrace. In the stylish black-and-tan lounge area, a pianist and a cellist accompany a smoky-voiced chanteuse in performing jazz classics for the entertainment of the diners. The truly gourmet spread runs the gamut from oysters, shrimp and lobsters to Peking duck, Mediterranean salads and Japanese Tempura. There's even a free flow of Bloody Marys, or fresh juices and power drinks for the health-conscious.

A stay at a Four Seasons should be “stressless and seamless,” says hotel PR Director Juliana Ang. “Our service has to be more than warm and friendly. It needs to show a level of thoughtfulness and intelligence throughout. Here the service is—one could almost say—obsessive of the details. Our responsibility is to optimize the guests’ time, because the time guests have with us is so short, so precious.”

*Precious indeed*, we were thinking when we checked out of the Four Seasons Singapore. And, just as at the end of our finest stays at other world-class hotels, we were sorry to leave.

This article was written by Nicole Medvecky-Riggs, Contributing Editor to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

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*Delicate dim sums at the hotel's Jiang-Nan Chun restaurant*

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