Beyond Lion Rock, Establishing New Territory

*Hyatt to open Hong Kong’s first globally-branded hotel in Sha Tin*

*Hong Kong, January 2009:* In Hong Kong’s bustling urban epicentres, there is no shortage of leading international hotels. But move away from the central districts, and options become more limited.

However, visitors and locals will soon be able to stay in an international-standard hotel, in the heart of Hong Kong’s ‘countryside’. *Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Sha Tin*, opening mid-February 2009, will be the first globally-branded hotel in the New Territories.

Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Sha Tin will soon be one of three Hyatts in Hong Kong, alongside the legendary Grand Hyatt Hong Kong in Wan Chai and Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Tsim Sha Tsui, opening in Summer 2009.

Adjacent to The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and conveniently located at University MTR Station, Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Sha Tin is housed in a striking 26-floor curvilinear building with stunning views of Tolo Harbour and the surrounding countryside. The hotel is a few minutes by car from Hong Kong Science Park and Hong Kong Jockey Club.

To take maximum advantage of these breathtaking vistas, architectural firm Wong Tung & Partners has included multiple terraces and balconies to create significant amounts of outdoor space, and installed oversized picture windows wherever possible to allow the light and scenery to flood in.

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Working closely with the architects was interior designer Steve Leung and his team, whose main objective with Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Sha Tin has been to ‘bring the outdoors in’. To achieve this, Leung has utilised timeless, natural materials such as stone and wood, and devised an elegant, nature-inspired colour palette to complement and blend into the surrounding environment.

Establishing this tone right from the outset is an eye-catching, contemporary tree-patterned wall mural that greets guests in the airy, marble- and limestone-lined lobby. Comprising layers of stained wood veneers, the tree design is echoed on an oversized rectangular glass lighting pendant that dominates the five-metre high ceiling, then continues on frosted glass balustrades.

On the lobby level, over 1,000 square metres (10,764 sq ft) has been dedicated to meeting and event space, including the pillar-less Regency Ballroom and three Salons (meeting rooms) of varying sizes that can be combined to create larger meeting spaces. Regency Ballroom, and each of the Salons, has its own separate entrance and driveway to create a more exclusive commencement to private events. Also, the Salons have an outdoor terrace, ideal for cocktails or coffee breaks.

Regency Ballroom measures 430 square metres (4,628 sq ft) and caters to up to 384 for a seated dinner, or can be divided into two for smaller events. With its soaring 6.2- metre high ceiling; theatrical backlit-marble proscenium-style entrance; capacious pre-function space; and nearby bridal room; the ballroom is perfect for grand weddings and special events. In addition, the hotel’s myriad outdoor spaces and gazebo by the pool, make for ideal photographic backdrops.

Cafe, also on the lobby level, features four show kitchens serving home-style international favourites and local Hong Kong cuisine fresh out of the pan, wok or grill. Dominated by an oversized velvet central sofa, Cafe includes a 10-seater private room with a 42-inch LCD TV screen, ideal for race day gatherings, and an alluring lounge area segregated by a striking suspended screen of undulating walnut wood slats. The restaurant opens onto a spacious terrace overlooking the pool and mountains, loosely inspired by Yucca de Lac, a much-loved (but since closed) New Territories’ alfresco restaurant, which was a famous backdrop for countless Cantonese films of the 1960s and 1970s.
One floor above, in the upper lobby, a backlit alabaster wall with an arresting bamboo design marks the entrance to both the Tin Tin Bar and the Chinese restaurant, Sha Tin 18.

To the left, Tin Tin Bar’s vivid blood-red colour scheme, zebra-print carpeting and round booths, make it a highly seductive space for drinks. A floor-to-ceiling wine cellar at the entrance holds over a thousand bottles.

To the right, Sha Tin 18 features four interactive show kitchens preparing authentic Cantonese cuisine and Dongguan specialties: a pastry kitchen and tea bar; a noodle and dumpling station with bar seating; a wok kitchen creating wok-fried, claypot and steamed dishes; and a barbecue kitchen with two Beech ovens, which will roast the restaurant’s signature Peking Duck and Sha Tin Roast Pigeon. Off the main dining space are five private rooms as well as a vast outdoor terrace furnished with comfortable sofa seating, to best absorb the mountain views.

Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Sha Tin houses 567 guestrooms and suites with views of Tolo Harbour, Lion Rock and Sha Tin Racecourse, including 133 Long Stay Suites and one Presidential Suite.

Standard guestrooms measure 35 square metres (377 sq ft) and include bathrooms with glass walls, so guests can watch TV from the soaking tub, alongside separate rainshowers and WCs. The contemporary rooms themselves feature photographic montages of old and new Hong Kong; bamboo accessories; a 42-inch multi-channel LCD flatscreen TV; and wired and wireless broadband Internet access.

With a higher proportion of Long Stay Suites than most Hyatt hotels, long-staying guests can arrive at the hotel via their own private entrance. A combination of Deluxe and one or two bedroom Executives, Long Stay Suites measure from 38 to 158 square metres (409 to 1,702 sq ft) and feature their own dry pantry with basic kitchen facilities such as microwave oven and toaster. Measuring 230 square metres (2,476 sq ft), the Presidential Suite enjoys the most magnificent views of Tolo Harbour and Ma On Shan peak. The vast space includes a large vestibule and a separate service entrance; a living space with a 50-inch LCD TV; a pantry; a dining area; a study area; and two bedrooms with king-size beds. The master bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe area while the master bathroom features his and hers WCs, a whirlpool and a rain shower and steam room.

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The 24th to 26th floors are dedicated to **Regency Club** where guests have access to a dedicated concierge and the Regency Club facilities on the 25th floor. These facilities include a private lounge with a dramatic ‘sky terrace’, where guests can enjoy complimentary continental buffet breakfast, the all-day tea / coffee service and evening cocktails and canapés. The Regency Meeting Suite offers workstations and meeting rooms that are exclusive for Regency Club guests.

Making the most of its tranquil, green location (the air in Sha Tin is officially recorded as among the cleanest in Hong Kong) are the top-notch resort facilities at Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Sha Tin. An open-air relaxation area includes a 25-metre heated outdoor swimming pool, a whirlpool, a sun deck, a tennis court and Camp Hyatt — Hong Kong’s first resort-style kids club. Overlooking the pool area is a fully-equipped fitness centre, next to changing rooms that feature a whirlpool, a sauna and a steam room. A limited number of fitness centre memberships will be available to the public.

On 5th floor, **Melo Spa** is named after the pomelo which Sha Tin is famous for (in Cantonese, pomelo directly translates as Sha Tin grapefruit), and its skin and fruit are incorporated into the spa’s signature treatments. There are nine treatment rooms — four of which have private outdoor terraces overlooking the mountains — furnished with large whirlpool bath tubs, oversized rain shower cubicles, changing areas and grooming stations. There is also a foot / head and shoulder massage room featuring 12 custom-designed loungers with built-in foot basins, perfect for pampering parties.

“Our unique location — seemingly ‘away-from-it-all’ but actually only 20-minutes from Central — is a huge advantage,” says General Manager Robert Hamer. “As well as being a convenient MICE [meetings, incentives, conferences and events] venue, we expect Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Sha Tin to be popular with overseas guests looking for an alternative to hotels in the city hub, and also local residents looking for a weekend retreat to recuperate and regenerate after a busy week at work. We’re a true definition of an urban oasis.”

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About Hyatt in China

Hyatt Hotels & Resorts currently operates 13 hotels in Greater China: Park Hyatt Beijing, Park Hyatt Shanghai, Grand Hyatt Beijing, Grand Hyatt Guangzhou, Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, Grand Hyatt Shanghai, Hyatt on the Bund, Grand Hyatt Taipei, Hyatt Regency Dongguan, Hyatt Regency Hangzhou, Hyatt Regency Jing Jin CityResort and Spa, Hyatt Regency Tianjin and Hyatt Regency Xian, with an additional 14 hotels under development.

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