

Hotel Update



property. The 96 rooms and suites are outfitted with vintage nods, and modern amenities like 42-inch LCD televisions with DVD players, iPod docks and IP telephones. One of the hotel's five restaurants is the Michelin two-star-rated T'ang Court, revered for Cantonese specialties like shark's fin and dim sum. The hotel is located in the center of Shanghai's business district, close to the Shanghai Grand Theater, Municipal Government Building (HSBC Building) and the Bund. For more information, visit

yangtzeboutique.langhamhotels.com.

BUDDHA-BAR expanded into the hotel market with an inaugural hotel property opening in Prague earlier this year. The 36 rooms and three suites at the Buddha-Bar Hotel Prague, located just off Old Town Square, are outfitted in sultry red and gold hues, with dark undertones, Chinese lamps and a sprawling dragon design above the bed, while select rooms have private Japanese gardens or terraces. Bathrooms are outfitted with rain showers and built-in televisions facing the tub, and the fitness facilities offer a sauna and Jacuzzi. Meanwhile, the spa menu details treatments inspired by Himalayan and Tibetan techniques, using original and exclusive Buddhattitude products.

A recent renovation helped preserve some of the building's historical architectural details. Now, its bottom two floors house the Buddha-Bar restaurant, complete with an eight-and-a-half-foot-tall Buddha statue. Additional Buddha-Bar Hotel & Resort properties are slated to open in 2010 in Budapest, Paris and Panama. For more information, visit www.buddha-bar.com or www.buddha-bar-hotel.cz.

■ FOUR SEASONS SAN FRANCISCO

has just completed an extensive renovation of its guest rooms, including the 17th-floor Presidential Suite. The \$7-million project has transformed the rooms according to interior designer Frank Nicholson's vision, with floor-to-ceiling windows framing the city skyline and a window bench topped with pillows, for optimal viewing. The rooms also feature 42-inch LCD televisions set inside black granite-topped credenzas, and an updated theme of rich mochas and subtle teals.

The Presidential Suite, which features 180-degree views of San Francisco, has been upgraded with a custom sofa by Brunenschwig & Fils, handwoven area rugs, and a 50-inch LCD television. For more information, visit www.fourseasons.com/sanfrancisco.

■ **THEWIT HOTEL** is set to launch in Chicago's Theater District on May 1, with 298 rooms spread over 27 stories. Stunning from the inside and out (the exterior design evokes a lightning bolt striking from above), the hotel features two restaurants (one Italian, the other contemporary American), a rooftop lounge dubbed Roof, a multilevel screening room for up to 44 people, a fitness room and spa. For more information, visit www.thewithotel.com. —Ally Miola

■ **W DOHA HOTEL & RESIDENCES** recently opened in the West Bay of Doha, marking the brand's first foray into the Middle East market with 291 rooms, including 31 suites and 154 W Residences. The new property features Jean-Georges Vongerichten's restaurant Spice Market, a signature Bliss Spa, poolside shisha lounge, Champagne bar, and event and

luxury retail spaces. The hotel is one of 80 to 100 Starwood properties in the pipeline for this year. For more information, visit www.starwoodhotels.com.

■ **THE LANGHAM, YANGTZE BOUTIQUE, SHANGHAI** opens May 1, following the multimillion-dollar renovation that has created this Art Deco boutique-hotel