

Ritz-Carlton To Open First China Resort In 2008

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Ritz-Carlton continues its presence into China with the 2008 opening of its first resort, situated on an exclusive site along the South China Sea. The Ritz-Carlton, Sanya, with expansive views of Yalong Bay, in Hainan Province, will include 451 rooms, suites, and private villas, as well as a 30,000 square foot spa, the largest and most lavish in the region.

The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong and The Portman Ritz-Carlton, Shanghai are two of Asia's most award-winning hotels. In addition to Sanya, they will be joined by five other properties now under construction in China, including: Beijing, Financial Street (2006), Beijing (at China Central Place, 2007), Guangzhou (2007), Shenzhen (2008), and Hong Kong-Kowloon (2009). China Jin Mao Group, Ltd. will be the owners of The Ritz-Carlton, Sanya.

"China continues to enhance its reputation as a desirable destination for exploration by the world's most sophisticated leisure travelers. Sanya, with its tropical climate, pristine beaches, and array of unique and exotic natural attractions is an exciting new location for The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company to continue its growth in the country," said Simon F. Cooper, president and chief operating officer. "The extensive conference facilities planned for this resort should also attract significant meetings and incentive customers," he predicted.

Situated at the southern-most tip of Hainan Island, Sanya lies in the southern valley of the Wuzhi Valley Mountains. Known for its temperate weather, lush tropical forests, and miles of secluded beaches, Sanya is home to attractions including the Nantian Hot Springs, Monkey Island, and the Nanshan Caves. The area also includes four championship-caliber golf courses, and was a stop on the 2006 European tour.

Architects WAT. & G. plan a U-shaped design for The Ritz-Carlton, Sanya, with two wings housing guest rooms of 600 square feet, the largest of any hotel in the destination. Guests seeking the ultimate in exclusivity can reserve one of 35 spacious villas, each with an individual plunge pool. Those reserving The Ritz-Carlton Club level accommodations will enjoy their own lounge area with frequent food and beverage presentations throughout the day.

Three restaurants, and a poolside bar and grill area will all offer scenic views of the lagoon or the beach. Recreational choices will include tennis, swimming pools, a full-service fitness center, and a signature Ritz Kids Club for the younger resort guests. The stylish spa will be distinguished by an aquatonic-swimming pool, plus 20 private rooms offering a menu of regional and international therapies and beauty treatments, from massages to facials.

For meetings, conferences and special social events, The Ritz-Carlton, Sanya will provide 17,600 square feet of flexible space. A ballroom of 10,000 square feet is divisible by four, with five smaller rooms also an option for planners. A wedding chapel, on the grounds of the resort, will be the backdrop for intimate, waterfront ceremonies.

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