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TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

The Luxury Collection restores pre-colonial complex for authentic stays in Singapore

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The Duxton Club, Singapore. A Luxury Collection property

By STAFF REPORTS

Marriott International-owned The Luxury Collection Hotels & Resorts is increasing its footprint in the Asian market with the opening of a Singapore property in early 2017.



The Luxury Collection property, The Duxton Club, is in partnership with boutique developers Harpreet and Satinder Garcha, and marks the first hotel to be opened by the brand in Singapore. Located in the Tanjong Pagar conservation district, and boarding the culturally-rich Chinatown, The Duxton Club is in close proximity to Singapore's epicenter of stylish leisure and dining.

Singapore stays

Prior to opening, The Duxton Club has undergone a multi-million-dollar renovation to ready the property as part of The Luxury Collection. During the renovations, the developers paid close attention to preserving the property's architectural heritage to offer guests an authentic experience while staying in Singapore.

The hotel comprises two pre-war colonial shophouse buildings that are within short walking distance to one another. The Duxton House on Duxton Road and The Duxton Terrace on Murray Street will open in early 2017 and July 2017, respectively.

"We are thrilled to bring The Luxury Collection to Singapore," said Rajit Sukumaran, senior vice president, acquisitions and development at Marriott International Asia Pacific, in a statement. "We are confident that The Duxton Club will make its mark on the country's highly competitive hospitality market, and we're proud to work with Harpreet and Satinder Garcha, who are passionate about design and adaptive-reuse heritage projects."

The Duxton House includes 50 guestrooms spread across eight adjoining three-story buildings. The early 19th century complex has been reimagined by designer Anouska Hempel, who has worked with high-end retailers Van Cleef & Arpels and Louis Vuitton, as well as a host of residential developers in London.



Computer rendering of The Duxton House, designed by Anouska Hempel

When complete, The Duxton House will also include a destination restaurant, signature bar and private cigar room.

Nearby, about 600 feet away, The Duxton Terrace complex includes 14 adjoining three- and four-story colonial-era buildings. The Duxton Terrace includes 138 guestrooms.

The Duxton Terrace, completed in 1929, has been restored by architect and designer Jacques Garcia, who has worked on restoration projects at The Louvre and The Palace of Versailles. As with its sister property, The Duxton Terrace will offer guests five dining and cocktail venues including a signature and lobby bar, an all-day dining restaurant, a poolside bar and an exclusive member's club.

Guests will have access to all amenities within The Duxton Club complex.

"The debut of a hotel in Singapore in collaboration with two iconic designers marks an important milestone for The Luxury Collection, as we continue to expand our global footprint in new destinations around the world," said Meredith Dichter, global brand director at The Luxury Collection, in a brand statement.

"Recently, surpassing 100 hotels in more than 30 countries, our mission to offer global explorers truly indigenous experiences wherever they travel will reach new heights with the opening of The Duxton Club next year," she said.

Singapore has a population of 5.4 million made up of a mix of predominantly ethnic Chinese, as well as Malays and Indians. The population also includes approximately 400,000 highly skilled expats from Western countries who work or study in Singapore.

Beyond its large population given the country's small size, Singapore has a robust economy that is characterized by open trade and regulatory efficiencies. This, along with a strong Singapore dollar and low unemployment, has resulted in Singaporean consumers having the highest disposable income per household in Asia, with an average of \$97,762, according to a 2015 report by Borderfree (see story).

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