

Time Out

Muscat

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THE PERFECT BREAK

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Your guide to the hidden Muscat

51
must-do
activities

Summer 2010

Muscat

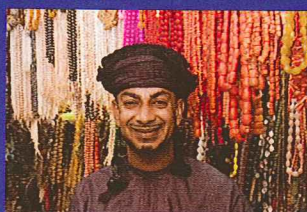
for visitors

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TOUR



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My Muscat

Christoph K Franzen

Hotel manager

My job

I joined Grand Hyatt Muscat as a general manager in February 2009, and I worked here previously for four years from 2001 to 2005 as director of rooms. In our business there is not really a typical day, but in general we always start with a morning briefing. Depending on the functions or VIP movements, for example royalties or heads of state, the day takes shape. Every day brings something new and exciting – when you think you have seen it all, life in a hotel throws you another situation right at the time when you least expect.

My weekend

I like to spend time with my wife and two children – we enjoy going out to nice restaurants or just simply playing games with my little ones at home or on the beach. If time permits, I love taking my Harley Davidson out and tour around the Hajar mountains, or go for a drive towards Sur on the beach road.

My favourite places

Tuscany, the Grand Hyatt Muscat's Italian restaurant, is one of my favourite hotspots, and at the moment my favourite shop is the Harley Davidson showroom – you can find me there picking up accessories and parts for my bike, much to the dismay of my wife. For a drink and a laugh, I go with my friends to the Safari Pub – there is a great band playing the best covers every evening – or maybe the John Barry Bar, which has a talented jazz duo.

My tour of Muscat

For a little bit of culture, I would show my friends around the corniche, the bustling fish market, the authentic souk, the overwhelming Grand Mosque, the impressive fort and the beautiful Sultan's Palace. If they can spare some extra days, I would take my friends out to the mountains; Jebel Shams has great hikes and stunning views.

My getaway

I have a few, depending on the time, and I always take my bike. If I have a few hours, I'll go to Sifah or Yiti beach. For a day trip, I like to drive to Sur over the beach road or drive up to Jebel Shams. Any longer and I might do the long tour to Salalah and explore the Dhofar region. About five months ago, my biking buddy Oliver and I rode through the Sultanate and around the UAE. Before that I rode the Garden Route in South Africa and then part of the Australian South East, and last summer around Italy, Austria and Switzerland. This year I hope to tour Asia.

Grand Hyatt Muscat (24 641 234)