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ABODE

FALL FASHION ISSUE

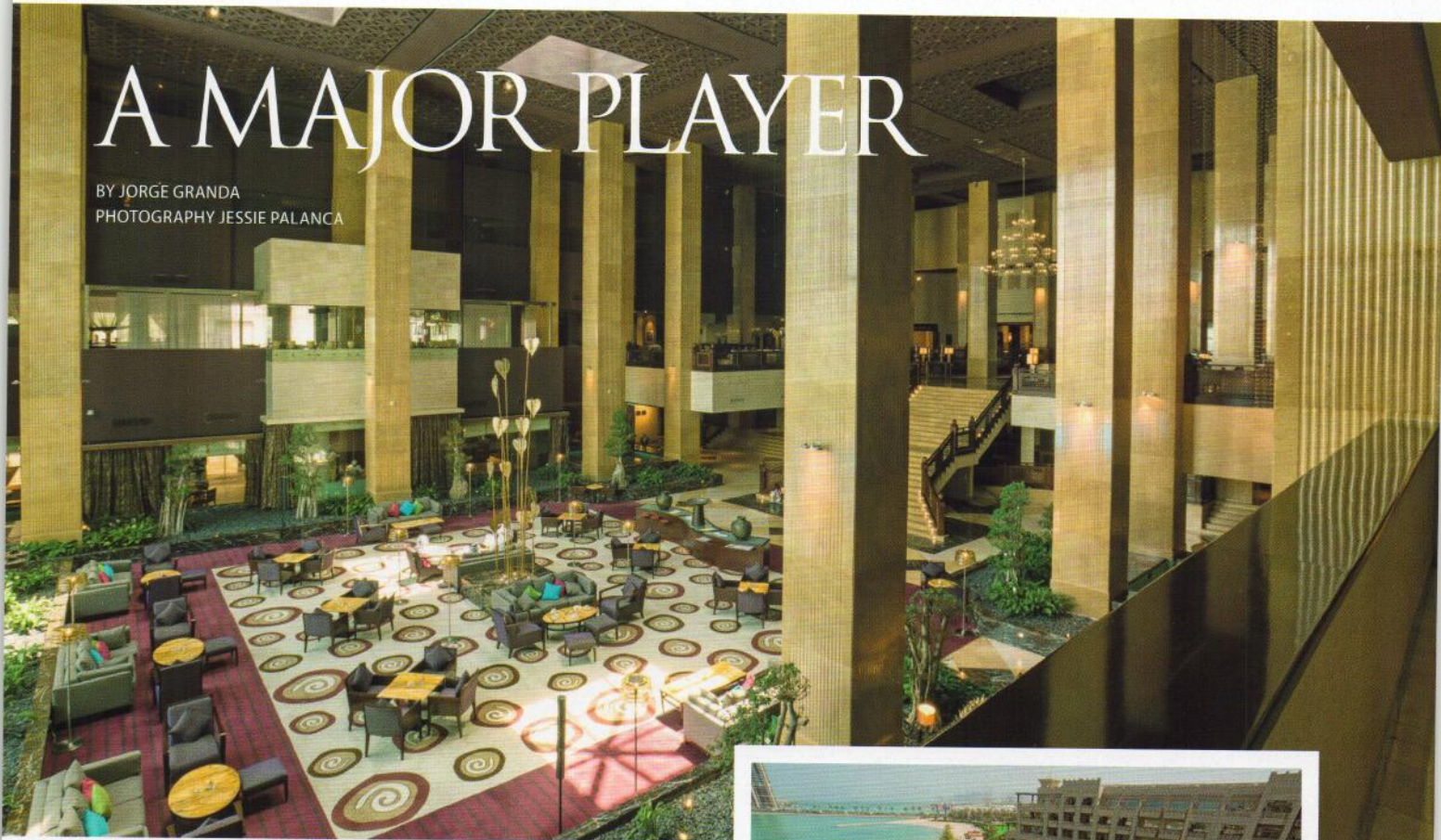
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A MAJOR PLAYER

BY JORGE GRANDA
PHOTOGRAPHY JESSIE PALANCA



The Grand Hyatt Doha has always been a majestic property, but it lacked serious personality until Christoph Franzen and Noha Belhaj took over respectively as the new GM and the new marketing manager. Today the Grand Hyatt is not only one of the most astonishing looking hotels in Doha, but is also a hot spot where the city's "crème de la crème" gather.

Arriving at the Grand Hyatt Doha feels like entering an arabian palace. The hotel's majestic entrance amazes with its spectacular floor-to-ceiling 17 m glass window that looks onto the bay. In addition, the Grand Hyatt is walking distance to the The Pearl and offers a staggering view of beautiful surroundings and gardens. Spanning 155,000 sq. m of beachfront, the hotel and residential complex is any vacationer's dream come true. I had the privilege to stay during a weekend and my experience could not have been any better.

The Grand Hyatt Doha offers its guests, four signature restaurants, two lounges, a private beach, three outdoor swimming pools, plus a luxurious spa.

A ROOM FOR A KING

My room was definitely a highlight of my stay. A palace within itself, beautifully designed in rich woods and decorated with fine

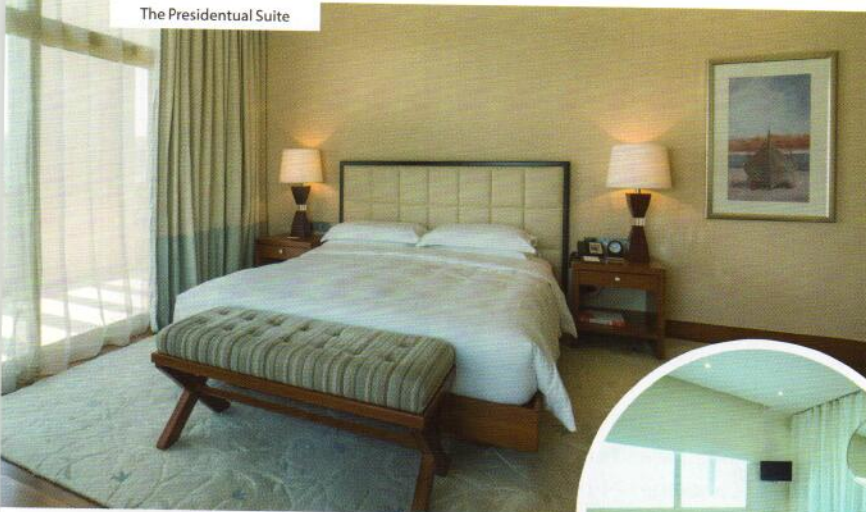


furniture, the Presidential Suite was a sanctuary of comfort and extreme luxury. It's the ultimate pampering, with a balcony so massive that one could host a party there for 100 of your friends. The view of the hotel gardens plus the dramatic backdrop of Doha's skyline is just brilliant. Each morning I enjoyed a refreshing shower in the brilliantly designed marble bathroom with separate bath and shower. Coffee and tea machine, in-room minibar, high-speed internet access, i-Pod docking stations and over 45 TV channels made my suite a home away from home.

LUNCH AT ROCCA

Rocca is the first of the four restaurants I visit. Located by the hotel pool, its mediterranean menu reflects the cuisine of France, Italy and Greece. I recommend starting with their Mushroom and Gorgonzola Bruschetta, Beef Carpaccio with roquette salad or the deliciously fresh Buffalo Mozzarella Caprese with basil pesto. For the main courses I would highly recommend trying any of

The Presidential Suite



the pizzas. It is in my opinion one of the best pizzas in town. The Rocca pizza with fresh tomato, mozzarella cheese, onion, capsicum, bacon and rocket leaves is particularly delicious. The Quattro fromaggio with tomato sauce, taleggio, gorgonzola, mozzarella and parmesan cheese is also a winner. The Spaghetti Carbonara with cream, beef bacon, onion, parmesan cheese and egg is a delight, and the "Tagliata style" beef tenderloin with roasted pumpkin butter sauce and parmesan cream spinach exceeds expectations. Finally, a warm chocolate fondant dessert makes the end that much sweeter.

HATS OFF TO THE THAIS

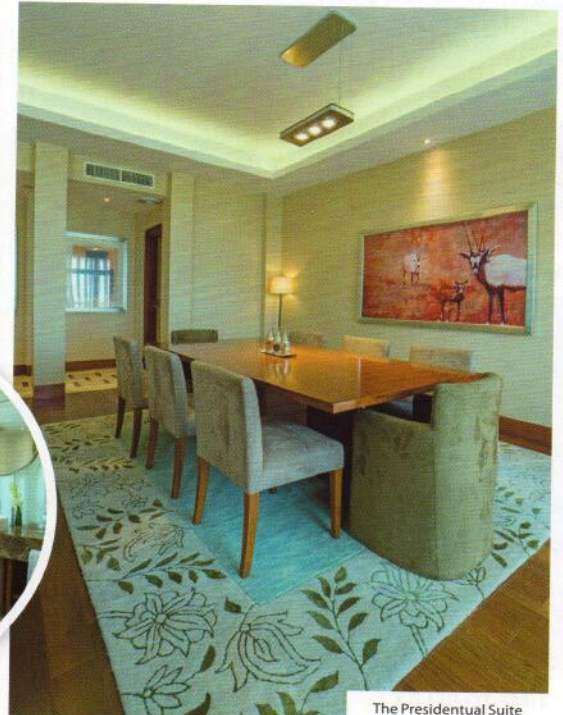
The Issan is a scintillating culinary journey through authentic and delicious Thai dishes. The à-la-carte menu includes succulent small portions of Fried Vegetable, Grouper Red Curry Sauce, Minced Beef with Hot Basil, Roast Duck Curry, Shrimp Cakes with Sweet Chilli dip and Shrimp Spring Rolls. I particularly enjoyed the minced chicken. The concept behind Issan is to order small portions of different dishes in order to get a taste of different dishes. I've said in the past that Issan is the best Thai restaurant in Qatar, and I stand firm - whatever you try there is simply extraordinary.

PARTY TIME AT DUNES

I must admit that up until some time ago, I wasn't a big fan of Dunes. The lounge was boring and merely a location where one savoured a couple of beverages before going to dinner. But now Dunes is one of the hottest spots in town, especially on Thursday nights with its "House of Groove" parties when the lounge turns into a magnificent nightclub and Doha's glitterati gather here to party all night long. Also amazing are Friday's "A1 Nights at The Grill", when the restaurant turns into a fabulous party hub with loud music and a top-notch entertainment including international DJs and dancers. It is a bit different from Dunes because the space is bigger and the music is louder. Also it is darker than Dunes.

BRUNCH AT THE GRILL

All five-star hotels in Doha host brunch on Friday, but no one does it better than the Grand Hyatt with their unique "themed" brunches at the Grill. Whether it's an ABBA brunch or a Hawaiian brunch, you'll be sure to have a memorable time. I absolutely love the brunches at Hyatt; I have probably been to 10 so far this year. This contemporary restaurant also offers the



The Presidential Suite

juiciest Australian and New Zealand premium meat, as well as fresh seafood, all prepared in an open kitchen. The variety of dishes is extravagant, the service is good, and the crowd is humming - everyone there is in the right mood. When the temperature goes down the courtyard is perfect. You feel as though you're in Europe.



The Swimming Pool



TIME TO RELAX

After indulging in all the food, drinks and fun, why not shift gears and head to the spa for a massage and facial? Jaula is grand in every way. The spa features eight spa suites, two VIP hydro spa suites, one couple suite, one VIP couple suite with a private pool, relaxation male and female area, two tranquility pools, sauna infrared room, steam room, plunge pool and Jacuzzi. It is truly a journey of wellness. The therapists provide attentive and customized services. This time I wanted to try one of their facials. I opted for the one hour Contour Cryotherapy Facial, which costs QR 600. This facial focuses on contouring and firming, which is for mature, dry and dehydrated skin, using Cryotherapy Ice Cubes and Neurocosmetic products, that hydrates deeply and uplifts the skin. The facial was excellent leaving my skin soft and radiant. The overall ambiance and décor of the spa is sublime and exquisite. There's no noise that can disturb the peace and the soft music relaxes every fibre in your body. I believe Jaula spa is the largest in Doha and, based on my experience, also one of the best.



INSIDE THE GRAND HYATT ACCOMMODATIONS

The hotel features 249 guestrooms including 17 Grand Suites, eight Grand Executive Suites, 10 Al Mirqab Suites, two Presidential Suites and two Royal Suites.

All Accommodations Offer

- Rooms ranging from 40 to 205 square metres
- All rooms with balconies and majority with sea view
- Grand Club™ guests enjoy access to a private lounge that offers complimentary continental breakfast, all-day tea and coffee service, evening cocktails and canapés

SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Airport Limousine and personal airport greeting • 24-hour Assistant Manager/ Concierge • 24-hour Technology Concierge • 24-hour in-room dining • High-speed Internet access and wireless access • Safe deposit boxes • Foreign currency exchange • Valet parking • Laundry and dry cleaning service • Babysitting service • Retail shops • Full-service Business Centre • iPod docking stations • Indoor parking • Complimentary valet parking • Private meeting rooms • Multilingual staff • Beauty salon • Florist • Major credit cards accepted



VILLAS

Adjacent to the hotel, a residential complex provides both long or short-term accommodation rentals with fully outfitted kitchens as well as access to two swimming pools and a private beach.

- 14 four-bedroom beachfront villas on three floors with a maid's room
- 5 four-bedroom villas on three floors with maid's room
- 40 three-bedroom villas with a maid's room
- 32 two-bedroom villas

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- 400 metre private beach
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Jaula Spa with separate sections for ladies and gentlemen, including five spacious treatment rooms for ladies, three treatment rooms for men, and four couples' treatment suites.
- Fully equipped gymnasium with the latest cardio and strength equipment
- Private ladies gym
- Steam room, sauna, whirlpool and inhalation rooms
- 25-metre four-lane indoor pool