

DISCOVER
PATTAYA

CULTURE

BRINGING
ELEVATED
AMERICAN
SOUL FOOD
TO

Dangkok

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



Bangkok

Discover Pattaya loves Qulture and has for a long time been a fan of its cafe and lounge bar in Pattaya. So we were delighted to find that the concept has proved successful enough to expand to a magnificent flagship restaurant on Sukhumvit Khlong Tan Nuea, Bangkok. It's already proving to be a dining destination for lovers of Traditional American Soul food blended with Qulture's unique flavours and the good old American Southern hospitality



Qulture enthusiasts even include the United States Ambassador to Thailand Sam K O'Neil. He assumed his duties here at the beginning of the year but has quickly made it an important culinary mission to seek out some great American cuisine. A regular diner at Qulture's restaurant he also was amongst an esteemed selective group of attendees at a very special Chef's table dinner.





QULTURE FAMILY

Every part of Qulture's menu has been specially created by Chef Brandon Orange. He uses the traditional soul-food recipes passed down from his grandmother and mother that he learned while growing up in Mississippi. Now the legacy of Qulture continues as Brandon's son Bryan joins the team at Bangkok to learn from the master.

QULTURE Signature French Toast

For as well as having outstanding menus that go well beyond the usual American burgers with dishes such as Southern Shrimp & Grits, Blackened Stuffed Salmon, Chargrilled Oysters and Southern Style Oxtails. The standout Qulture dish is undoubtedly its Stuffed French toast - with over a million views on Instagram and TikTok this signature dish has gone viral with or without the amazing Evelyn's Fried Chicken



QULTURE PATTAYA

Where the story began and grew with demand, not only for the amazing breakfasts and brunches at the Cafe but long into the night. With live jazz, insane cocktails and the best vibe in town the Qulture Bar and Lounge is a great place to come or even to take over for your own special party. No wonder when the USS Abraham Lincoln dropped anchor releasing 5,000 sailors and marines onto the streets of Pattaya, many found their way to Qulture to treat themselves to a taste of home

culturethailand.com

PATTAYA

Located in front of the Rivera Jomtien (2nd Road)
Qulture Lounge & Cafe Mon - Sat 8am - 5:30pm
Qulture Lounge & Bar Tues - Sun 11am - 10pm

BANGKOK

845, 847 Sukhumvit Rd, Khlong Tan Nuea, Watthana,
Bangkok 10110 culturethailand.com 0646581083
opens daily 9am-11pm

DISCOVER PATTAYA

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This Month in Discover Pattaya

Hi Everyone

Whenever I go to Bangkok I have a great time and it always makes me think why don't I do it more often? During my last visit I was particularly pleased to follow some Pattaya friends who are doing extremely well and coming to the Big Mango with their new ventures.

Culture who are this month's Cover Story have an amazing luxury restaurant all gold and shiny that looks even more impressive when all lit up at night. Also, Mike and Carlos have moved from Vietnam to Thailand to bring Monkey & Macchiato Coffee shop to Bangkok as an oasis of calm for serious coffee drinkers. So in this month's Discover Pattaya and Beyond we feature Bangkok and although there's plenty of fun at Asiatique, Jurassic World and Nextopia, discover Bangkok's National Museum. We found it fascinating so the next time you visit the capital why not spare some time to get a real overview of the country where you live with its traditions, culture and history all under one roof.

Even further "beyond" Jason and Carla embark on a long trip to discover the delights of Kazakhstan whilst back in Pattaya we gear up for some Halloween, Thanksgiving and dare I say it even Christmas preparations!

We hope you enjoy reading this month's issue and all of us at Discover Pattaya wish you a great month ahead. Please contact us if you want to be part of our next edition at:

Pattayatrader.com Pattaya Trader

or via our 3 Facebook pages:

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Pattaya Trader Expat Ladies Group and
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AVANI

Pattaya Resort

Thanksgiving Feast At Dicey Reilly's

Gather, give thanks and celebrate with family and friends over a generous Thanksgiving buffet at Dicey Reilly's.

Enjoy a festive spread featuring golden roasted turkey with traditional stuffing, roasted beef, honey-glazed ham, comforting seasonal favourites, classic accompaniments and an irresistible selection of desserts.

Date: Thursday 26 November 2026
Time: 11.00 am – 10.00 pm
Price: THB 2,200 net per person,
Venue: Dicey Reilly's

Avani Pattaya Resort
218/2-3 Moo 10, Beach Road, Pattaya 20260 Thailand

T: 038 412 120
E: pattaya@avanihotels.com

AVANIHOTELS.COM

HALLOWEEN DINNER BUFFET

31 October 2026 | 06:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Goji Kitchen Grill & Bar

Treat your senses to an unforgettable feast of fresh seafood and sizzling grills. A thrilling night of flavors awaits, crafted to delight every palate.

THB 1,788++ per person

SPECIAL TREAT

Kids dressed in Halloween costumes dine free!
(One child under 11 years old per one paying adult)



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A TABLE



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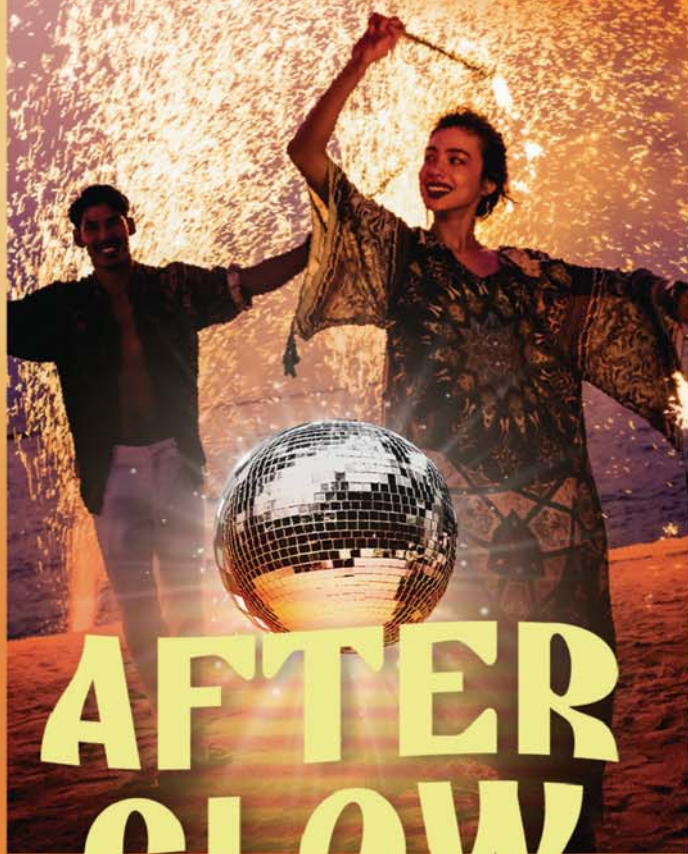


Happening



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pullman
PATTAYA G



AFTER GLOW

Viva La Glow

Christmas Eve Dinner

24th December / 6.30 – 10PM

@The Beach Club Restaurant
Adults THB 2,650 net

Add THB 1,000 net per person for free-flow house wine, local beer, selected cocktails & soft drinks

Kids (7-12 years) THB 900 net
(Kids under 7 years eat for free)

Christmas-Inspired Buffet & Fresh Seafood
/ Acoustic Live Band

Christmas Day Brunch

25th December / 12 – 3PM

@The Beach Club Restaurant
Adults THB 2,650 net

Add THB 1,000 net per person for free-flow house wine, local beer, selected cocktails & soft drinks

Kids (7-12 years) THB 900 net
(Kids under 7 years eat for free)

Christmas-Inspired Buffet & Fresh Seafood /
Craft-Your-Own Cocktail Stations / Live DJ



Glow Beachfront Last Sundowner Party

31st Dec / 5.30 – 8PM
@The Beach Club Bar

Party Bed THB 4,000 net
(Max.6)

THB 2,000 F&B Credit /
A Bottle of Prosecco / Live DJ



Ring in the New Year's Eve Dinner

31st Dec / 6.30 – 10PM
@The Beach Club Restaurant

Adults THB 2,950 net

Festive-Inspired International
Buffet / Fresh & Grilled Seafood

Add THB 1,000 net per person for free-flow house wine, local beer, selected cocktails & soft drinks

Kids (7-12 years) THB 1,100 net
(Kids under 7 years eat for free)



AfterGlow Night 2027

31st Dec / 9PM – 1AM
@The Beach Club Bar

Live DJ / Live Fire Show / Fireworks

Party Bed THB 9,999 net (Max.4)

Party Daybed / THB 3,000 F&B Credit /
A Bottle of Rapeneau Champagne Brut

VIP Party Bed THB 16,999 net
(Max.4)

Beach Party Daybed / THB 5,000 F&B Credit /
A Magnum of Champagne



SCAN HERE!
FOR MORE INFO

The Beach Club Pattaya | Open every day from 11am till 9 pm (10pm on Friday & Saturday)

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CA' DEI FRATI
 — WINE PAIRING DINNER —
 At

Sunplay Paradiso
 — BANGSARAY —
 by diVino Bangkok



In the tranquil enclave of Bang Saray, finding an evening that really captures the essence of refined relaxation is always a treat. The recent gathering at Sunplay Paradiso for the Ca' Dei Frati Wine pairing dinner delivered precisely that. Kicking off at sunset there was a welcome hour by the outside bar, perfectly positioned by the striking, swimming pool at Sunplay. Guests trickled in, eager to unwind, socialize, and sample some of the delightful finger food on offer. Of course, the more experienced diners amongst us wisely exercised a bit of restraint, resisting the temptation to fill up on savoury starter bites because we all knew a massive culinary journey lay ahead.

For our welcome we were introduced to a wonderfully crisp Cuvée Dei Frati Metodo Classico Brut, which immediately set a high standard for the night. It proved to be a cut above the standard prosecco you usually encounter around town, carrying a refined elegance that instantly put everyone in a celebratory mood. We then moved inside to the beautifully designed restaurant for the antipasti course. I opted for the decadent Monte cheese soufflé, a rich creation layered with smooth milk cream, a drizzle of sharp balsamic vinegar, and a deliciously crispy slice of bacon, paired wonderfully with the I Frati Lugana DOC.

As the evening rolled along for my Primi I chose the picci with river sardines, skillfully sidestepping the mushroom alternative since fungi aren't really my favourite thing. Unfortunately it turns out that river sardines aren't really my thing either, although the accompanying Rosa Dei Frati red wine I really did enjoy with its distinct raspberry and caramel notes. The Secondi, however, was for me the highlight of the entire evening. Slow-cooked beef, featuring the tender Cappello del Prete cut braised to absolute perfection, melted in my mouth and was powerfully complemented by a robust Ronchedone Vino Rosso. The sheer depth of the wine stood up magnificently to the richness of the beef, creating a combination of tastes that lingered long after the plates were cleared. While some diners chose the alternative branzino fish option with its delicate Lugana sauce and grapes, the beef lover in me felt completely spoiled by this masterful main course.



Following the savory triumphs, we were treated to a magnificent selection of formaggi featuring a cheese plate sourced directly from the Garda Lake region. It was served alongside a small dish of honey, though personal preference led me to appreciate the unmasked, bold flavors of the cheese on their own. The cheese was paired with the best wine of the night the Amarone Pietro dal Cero Valpolicella DOCG it's a (4000 baht bottle retail price) vintage from 2015. Finally to round off the meal, there was a delightful pineapple cheesecake served with a rich cup of Illy coffee for those who requested it. The entire menu flowed seamlessly and the price of 3,000 baht net per person felt entirely justified given the sheer quality of the ingredients and the free-flowing wine pairings.

Beyond the phenomenal food and wine, what also made the night special was the atmosphere cultivated by Roberto and his partner. They acted as wonderful, attentive hosts to the diners - many of whom are already loyal friends of this delightful restaurant. I also appreciated the music selection throughout the night. We initially settled into our seats accompanied by smooth, relaxing jazz piano, but halfway through the evening, the energy shifted dynamically into a lively mix of upbeat Italian pop and catchy Thai numbers, transforming the mood into a vibrant party atmosphere.



For anyone living the expat dream in the Chon Buri area, looking to elevate their weekend dining experience, keep an eye out for future events here by reaching out directly to Roberto at 092 348 5199 to book, or visit the Sunplay Asia Bangsaray Complex located at number two, Moo six, Soi Tessaban twelve in Bang Sare, Sattahip District.

If you're interested in hosting an event in your own restaurant or would like to join one of the many that come up in and around Pattaya organised by Italasia then contact Mauro Sciacaluga via email mauro@italasiagroup.com or visit the Italasia showroom in North Pattaya

SYMPHONY OF ELEMENTS

Savour an indulgent selection of seafood on ice, sushi and sashimi, fresh ceviche, carved prime rib and whole sea bass, charcoal grilled rock lobster and river prawns, complemented by French pastries and a live crêpes Suzette station.

**3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 October, 7, 14, 21 and 28 November,
5, 12 and 19 December 2026.**

6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

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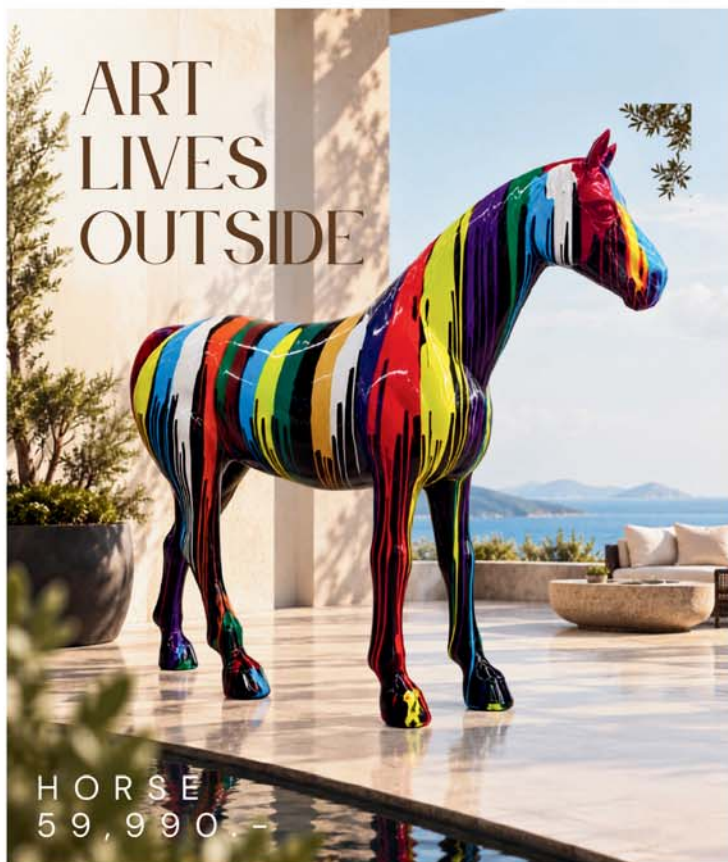
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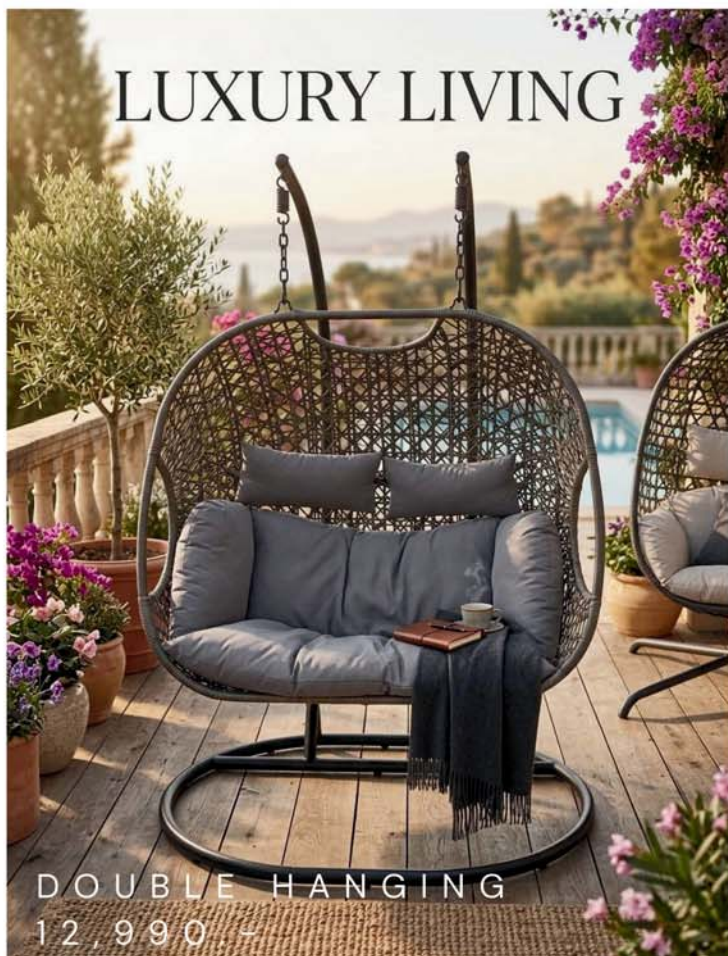


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Thursday November 26th

Appetizers

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OR
Creamy Tomato Soup

Main Course

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with sides of pork chipolata, cheesy mashed potato,
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For Reservations:

064 620 9225

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Sampling the Brand-New Canella Bellini *at Terrazza Baia*

Prosecco is practically the lifeblood of Pattaya's social scene, frequently greeting us as the very first chilled glass of bubbly when we step into the most exclusive and upmarket events around town. It has rightfully earned its crown as the ultimate drink of choice to get any glamorous party started here on the Eastern Seaboard. So it was with delight and eager anticipation that I recently received an invitation to sample a brand-new, variation on this old favorite, hosted at the stunningly beautiful and newly opened Terrazza Baia Restaurant. A charming Italian restaurant famed for its authentic homemade pasta, this gorgeous venue boasts a spacious beachfront terrace located on the second floor of the Central Festival shopping center, offering panoramic views stretching all along Pattaya Beach Road.

As we settled in to experience this exciting new arrival, the hospitality proved nothing short of exceptional as the hosts generously supplied us with delicious samples from their carefully curated cold cut selection, which complemented the flavor profile of the tasting. It is always an absolute pleasure to attend any event organized by the team at Italasia, because they have a genuine passion for the fine wines and beverages they promote. Their impeccable taste, deep industry knowledge, and unwavering dedication always impress me, effortlessly solidifying their reputation as the premier wine and beverage supplier of choice right here in Pattaya.

The focal point of the afternoon centered around a fascinating deep dive into the history, ingredients, and meticulous production methods behind the traditional Bellini cocktail, courtesy of the renowned Canella brand.

Looking closely at the presentation and chatting with the experts, I learned that this sparkling masterpiece captures the authentic essence of Venice right here in Thailand. The classic recipe is expertly proportioned, consisting of approximately seventy to seventy-five percent Prosecco, translating precisely to three parts fine Spumante Brut combined with one part fresh white peach purée, finished off with a subtle touch of raspberry juice that imparts its signature, delicate flavor and lovely pink hue.

What makes this version so remarkable is that it is crafted using hand-picked white peaches grown directly by the Canella family, ensuring an uncompromising standard of agricultural quality and fresh flavor.

The conversation naturally drifted toward the rich historical origins of the drink, which was originally created by Arrigo Cipriani at the legendary Harry's Bar in Venice. Historically, enjoying a true Bellini was strictly limited to a fleeting summer indulgence when fresh white peaches reached their absolute peak ripeness during specific calendar months.



However, modern ingenuity has bridged the gap between tradition and convenience through an innovative production technique. The brilliant creators developed a specialized method to pasteurize the fine wine and fresh fruit juice together seamlessly without ever relying on chemical preservatives, artificial flavorings, or added sugar, keeping the beverage gluten-free, low in calories, and wonderfully natural with an alcohol content hovering gently around a very approachable five percent.

At only five percent alcohol by volume, the drink isn't overwhelmingly strong, but it put me in a wonderfully relaxed, elevated mood as I admired the stunning seaside view from the open-air terrace restaurant area at Terrazza Baia. Our geographical exploration also touched upon the finer points of wine production, highlighting Valdobbiadene as the historical, rugged hillside region renowned for producing premium Prosecco, which stands in fascinating contrast to the newer, more commercial flat-land cultivation areas extending outward toward Venice.

For those fellow expats in town who are keen to elevate their next private gathering or social function with something truly special, you can easily book a table at Terrazza Baia by calling 065 707 4889. To find out more about Italasia wines contact Mauro Sciacaluga at their showroom in North Pattaya. He can be contacted via email at mauro@italasiagroup.com, and has some wonderful special deals for local customers eager to try and purchase Canella Bellinini this exciting new Italian cocktail sensation.



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Italy
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12noon - 1:30 am

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Pattaya's Luxury Sports Centre Confirms its love of Raquet Sports by adding Squash to its Tennis and Pickleball Tournaments





Sports Update

For October by Steve Wade

At time of writing the Premier League is only five games into the season but with the international break in place and the next set of fixtures not kicking off until the 10th of the month, now might be the time to take a look at any early season clues there might be which help us to decide the final destination of the title and who is going to be battling against relegation. At the top, even at this early stage, the table is taking on a familiar shape. Manchester City have won all of their first five games and lead and we have Arsenal in second, having won four of their first five. That doesn't tell the whole story though. In their most recent game Arsenal went to Brighton and got a 3-0 drubbing whilst City, although coming out on top against Sunderland 5-3, gave up a host of chances and were fortunate not to concede more goals in the match before running out the eventual winners.

I was surprised to see that the bookmakers still make the Gunners slight favourites to retain the title after the latest set of results and I think this has something to do with the fact that City have Enzo Maresca as their manager, who took over from Pep Guardiola at the start of the season. Obviously Guardiola is a hard act to follow, to say the least and like eight other teams at the start of this year's campaign who started with new faces at the helm, people seem to be taking a let's wait and see approach before voicing their opinions. It was an interesting set of results all round in the final set of fixtures before the break. Coventry, who had lost their first four games without scoring and had shipped 10 goals in the process, went to Nottingham Forest without their two first choice strikers and won 0-1, Spurs, who keep getting made favourites in games they have no right to be favourites in, hosted Aston Villa and conceded three goals before finally finding the net twice late in the game, their first goals of the season, to make the score 2-3. The manager at Spurs, Roberto De Zerbi, is going to have some serious questions to answer soon, especially given the amount of money they spent in the close season.

At Liverpool, Andoli Iraola seems to be getting a good response from the players and given the quality of the squad, they could be dangerous in the league and a lively outsider in the Champions League. Meanwhile at Chelsea, Xabi Alonso was going along nicely and his team were scoring goals for fun until the wheels came off at Brentford, who gave them a 3-0 beating at the Community Stadium. Like Liverpool, Chelsea are stacked with quality players and it may be prudent to reserve judgement on both teams until we have more results to go on. Amongst the others, both the aforementioned Brighton and Brentford will be a danger to all, without perhaps the depth of squads required to make a sustained challenge for the title. Hull City, who everyone expected to be the season's whipping boys, have responded with a great run of four games undefeated including two wins and even the defeat at Newcastle was an excellent performance, having gone two down early the Tigers roared back and were unlucky not to get a point after battering the Newcastle goal late in the second half. And what to make of Manchester United? Looks like the same old story, pre season optimism followed by early season disappointment. We shall see.

The Premier League gets going again with a full set of fixtures on the 10th and the only other sport that has a busy month is F1, where we have races on the 4th in Bahrain, the 11th in Singapore and the US on the 25th. We'll take a closer look at the standings next month. That's about it for October. Happy viewing everyone.

Enzo Maresca



Mikel Arteta



Xabi Alonso



Andoni Iraola



FUNTASEA HAUNTED CASTLE FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday, 31 October 2026

Time: 6:00 – 10:00 PM

Venue: Royal Summit Chamber at Royal Cliff Beach Hotel

Step through the mysterious gates of the Funtasea Haunted Castle and enter a world where magic and mystery await! Meet mischievous wizards, encounter Count Dracula and his spooky friends, discover mummies rising from the shadows and venture deep inside the castle in search of hidden treasure. With plenty of delicious food and beverages, exciting games, fun-filled activities and fantastic prizes, there's something for the whole family to enjoy.

Get into the Halloween spirit and dress to impress for our Costume Competition! Show off your creativity and stand a chance to win exciting prizes.

Great news! The popular haunted house returns with more ghosts and surprises.

Book early and make sure your family doesn't miss one of Pattaya's best family Halloween celebrations!



In-House Guest

THB 650 net

Outside Guest

THB 950 net

Ticket Includes:

- 1 glass of mocktail or cocktail
- 1 scoop of ice cream or 2 Halloween cookies
- Participation in exciting games and activities on stage
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For more information or to book your entry ticket, please contact the Marketing Department at
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PATTAYA GOLF WEEK 11th-17th OCTOBER

By Tim Lee

What is the one thing that drove Sigmund Freud crazy? Freud was a psychiatrist who pondered many things. He searched for insight into the human psyche and the reason for often misconceived motivations. But one thing perplexed him to his grave why someone would want to put a small, dimpled ball into an obscure hole? In his pre-Oedipus days, he realized the uncanny in golf. He lived through the nightmare of soft ball "featheries" morphing into hard ball "gutties" in the mid-1800s.

To him the skill and technique needed with featheries served one better than the gutties' wish-fulfillment of power and distance. Eventually he woke up to the fact that the game of golf had changed forever. But one thing remained the same and puzzled him to the end—why putting a small object in a tiny hole caused such a thrill that it became a neurotic obsession? What was the motivation?

"Golf is an ineffectual attempt to put an elusive ball into an obscure hole with implements entirely ill-adapted to the purpose," he is reported to have said.

This month, motivations will be multiple and obsessions will seek fulfillment during Pattaya Golf Week, Oct. 11-17. Some will come for the Pattaya Master Jacket. Some to improve their game. Some just for fun.

Whatever the reason, top golf courses and premier championship venues in the area will host the event: Siam Country Club Plantation, Waterside, Rolling Hills and Chee Chan.

The luxurious Siam Country Club Plantation is a world-class 27-hole course set on former sugar cane and pineapple plantations boasting fast greens and panoramic views. Chee Chan Golf Resort is a visually stunning and striking course nestled right next to the iconic Buddha Mountain. Both courses offer top-tier amenities.

During last year's Pattaya Golf Week event, there were specific individual daily round winners managed by event coordinators such as Thailand Golf Tours and Golf About Asia. During the tournament rounds hosted at the Siam Country Club Plantation, Andrew Spinks won the daily competition by scoring 36 Stableford points.

He barely beat out runner-up John Oxley, who finished with 35 points. With their common wish-fulfillment of the Pattaya Masters Jacket at stake, Spinks and Oxley went back and forth, using skill and technique that would make the old psychiatrist proud. But only one can wear the masters jacket and make his dreams come true.



After four rounds in heat that would melt Dali's clocks, Spinks found the "obscure hole" and walked away with the coveted prize—hanging the Pattaya Masters Jacket in his closet among the repressed memories of past championship performances.

A number of golfers achieved personal goals at last year's event. Below is a list of the top prize winners:

Daily Round Winner:

First Place: Andrew Spinks (36 points)

Second Place: John Oxley (35 points)

Third Place: Avon Pont (34 points)

Best Front 9: Paul Smith (19 points)

Best Back 9: Bob Spicer (18 points, won via countback.)

For this year's event, many local, national, and international golfers will compete for the coveted master's jacket. Player registration is October 12. Chee Chan Golf Resort will host the first round. Siam Country Club Plantation will host the final three rounds.



2026 PATTAYA GOLF WEEK EVENT SCHEDULE:

Sunday, October 11: Player registration (15:00–17:00) and a welcome dinner.

Monday, October 12: Tournament Round No. 1 at Chee Chan Golf Resort.

Tuesday, October 13: Tournament Round No. 2 at Siam Country Club Plantation.

Wednesday, October 14: Free leisure day.

Thursday, October 15: Tournament Round No. 3 at Siam Country Club Waterside.

Friday, October 16: Tournament Round No. 4 at Siam Country Club Rolling Hills, followed by a farewell party and awards night beginning at 18:00.

Competition Prizes: Daily and overall prizes for Stableford and low gross scores across all grades, competing for the Pattaya Masters Jacket.



For anyone who enjoys watching endurance sports, or perhaps has secretly wondered what it would be like to swim, cycle and run all in the same event, the Pattana Triathlon Festival returns to Chonburi this month. To be held at Pattana Sports Resort in Khao Khansong, Si Racha. The annual event brings together athletes from Thailand and overseas for a challenging day of swimming, cycling and running. However, the festival is also designed to accommodate different levels of experience and so it includes several race distances ranging from a relatively short Super Sprint through to a demanding long-distance triathlon.

The 2026 festival runs (forgive the pun) across October 17–18, with the main races taking place on Sunday, October 18. Pattana Sports Resort providing the ideal setting for a triathlon as it combines sporting facilities with lakeside areas, training zones and open roads within the resort and surrounding countryside. Making it an enjoyable and scenic location for participants and spectators alike.

For experienced triathletes, the Long Distance option provides a serious test of endurance: 1,900 metres of swimming, followed by 90 kilometres on the bike and a 21.1-kilometre run. At the other end of the scale, the Super Sprint involves a 400-metre swim, 13-kilometre cycle and 2.5-kilometre run, making it a much more approachable introduction to the sport. Between these extremes is an Olympic-distance triathlon consisting of a 1,500-metre swim, 44-kilometre bike ride and 10-kilometre run. There is also a Sprint distance of 750 metres swimming, 16 kilometres cycling and 5 kilometres running. A Duathlon option is available too, replacing the swim with a 5-kilometre run before the 44-kilometre cycle and final 10-kilometre run.

One of the interesting additions to this year's festival is the Ultimate Team Long Distance. For this teams of three athletes compete together, with every member completing all three disciplines. Their individual times are combined to determine the team's result, although each athlete can also compete for individual awards based on their own finishing time. The first races get underway early in the morning, with the Long Distance Relay scheduled for 6:10am and the Olympic and Duathlon events at 6:20am. The Sprint follows at 7:00am, with the Super Sprint starting at 7:10am.

For spectators, the event offers an opportunity to see competitors tackle all three disciplines at close quarters. Triathlon is particularly interesting to watch because the race changes character several times. Athletes begin in the water, transition to bicycles and then finish on foot, with the transition stages themselves becoming an important part of the competition.

Pattana Sports Resort has established itself as a venue for sporting and endurance events, and its facilities make it possible for competitors and supporters to spend time at the resort around the race. Race entitlements include an event shirt, finisher's medal, race number, e-certificate, water bottle, race belt and athlete insurance. The event also provides the practical facilities expected at a major endurance race, including hydration stations, medical assistance, baggage facilities, showers and changing areas. So whether you are a seasoned triathlete looking for your next challenge, a newcomer tempted by the Super Sprint, or simply a sports fan who enjoys the atmosphere of a major endurance event, the Pattana Triathlon Festival promises



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International Schools in Thailand: What Are Parents Really Paying For?



For families moving to Thailand, or for Thai parents considering an international education for their children, one of the biggest questions is “How much is it going to cost?” International schools in Thailand have become increasingly popular, but they certainly aren’t all priced the same. Depending on the school, curriculum and location, annual tuition can range from a few hundred thousand baht to well over one million baht. But the more useful question for parents should actually be “What are you actually getting for your money?”

At the top end of the market, fees can cover much more than classroom teaching. International schools may offer extensive sports facilities, swimming pools, theatres, music departments, science laboratories, libraries, technology centres and large campuses. There can also be specialist teachers for subjects such as art, drama, music, languages and physical education.

=Also a good international school should provide pastoral care, counselling and academic support, as well as helping students prepare for life beyond school. For older children in particular, university counselling can be an important part of the package. Schools with experienced university guidance teams can help students navigate applications to universities in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Europe and elsewhere.

This is one reason simply comparing schools by their annual fees can be misleading. It is easy to be dazzled when visiting an international school. A spectacular sports complex, modern classrooms and an impressive performing arts centre certainly make a good first impression. But parents should also look at what happens inside those buildings. How large are the classes? How experienced are the teachers? How long do teachers tend to stay at the school? What support is available for children who need extra help? And what opportunities are there for students who are academically gifted?

Another major consideration is the curriculum. British schools commonly follow programmes leading to IGCSE and A Levels, while American schools may offer an American High School Diploma and Advanced Placement courses. International Baccalaureate schools follow the IB framework. Each has its strengths, and the right choice can depend on the child's abilities, interests and eventual university plans.

Parents should consider registration or enrolment fees, deposits, development fees, uniforms, books, meals, transport, school trips, examination fees and extracurricular activities. Transport can be particularly significant for families living some distance from school. A school that looks affordable on paper may become considerably more expensive once daily transport and other extras are included. Then there are the extras that parents actually want their children to enjoy. Sports teams, music lessons, overseas trips, clubs, competitions and specialist activities can all be an important part of an international education. Some are included in tuition while others cost extra, so it is worth asking for a complete list before making a decision.

There are now international schools at a wide range of price points in the Pattaya/Chon Buri area. Some newer schools have excellent modern facilities but are still building their reputation and alumni network whereas established schools may have decades of examination results, university placements and former students to demonstrate their track record. Most importantly parents should consider: their child. A school that is perfect for one student may be completely wrong for another. Some children thrive in a large, highly competitive environment, while others perform much better in a smaller school where teachers know them personally. One child may love competitive sport; another may be passionate about music, technology or art.

The best international school is the one where your child is likely to feel comfortable, challenged and supported. So for families considering international schools the advice is fairly simple: don't just ask "How much is the tuition?" Ask what that tuition includes, what comes on top, what the school does particularly well and, most importantly, what your child will actually experience every day. Visit the school, talk to teachers and parents. Ask about examination results and university destinations. Look carefully at the curriculum and the school's approach to pastoral care and don't be afraid to ask questions about additional fees.

An international education is a substantial investment, and for many families it will be one of the biggest expenses they take on. But if you look beyond the impressive buildings and glossy brochures, you can begin to work out whether you are simply paying for a prestigious name – or investing in an education that genuinely offers value for your child. The best school is the one that offers the right combination of education, opportunity, support and environment for your particular child.



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Khun Yodsaenklai, a professional Muay Thai fighter.



Royal Cliff Hotels Group Continues Annual Tradition of Giving with a visit to the Pattaya Redemptorist School for the Blind

As part of its long-standing commitment to supporting the local community, the Royal Cliff Hotels Group management team was honoured to continue its annual tradition of giving with a visit to the Pattaya Redemptorist School for the Blind. Led by Managing Director and CEO, Khun Panga Vathanakul and Khun Vitanart Vathanakul, Royal Cliff's talented culinary team prepared a delicious lunch for the children and staff. In addition, the Royal Cliff proudly presented a donation of THB 100,000 to support the school's invaluable work and help enhance the lives of the children in its care.



One of Thailand's beloved actresses, Khun Punyaporn Poonpipat, delighted the children with a special speech, filling the day with smiles, laughter and happiness.

Khun Punyaporn Poonpipat, together with her wonderful fan club, generously treated the children to a variety of sweet delights, creating a joyful and memorable experience for everyone.



Adding to the joy of the occasion, the Royal Cliff was delighted to welcome one of Thailand's beloved actresses, Khun Punyaporn Poonpipat, together with her wonderful fan club. They generously treated the children to a variety of sweet delights, including refreshing Korean bingsu, creating a day filled with laughter, happiness, and unforgettable memories.

The Royal Cliff Hotels Group extends its heartfelt gratitude to the children and staff for their incredibly warm welcome and the beautiful songs they performed. Their courage, resilience, and unwavering positivity in the face of life's challenges serve as a powerful inspiration to us all. Royal Cliff Hotels Group, believe that even the smallest act of kindness can make a meaningful difference. Together, we can help build a brighter future for our community.

Royal Cliff Hotels Group's Managing Director and CEO, Khun Panga Vathanakul and Khun Vitanart Vathanakul, proudly present a donation of THB 100,000 to support the invaluable work of the Pattaya Redemptorist School for the Blind and help enhance the lives of the children in its care.

Khun Vitanart Vathanakul, CEO of Royal Cliff Hotels Group, together with the Royal Cliff's talented culinary team, prepared a delicious lunch for the children and staff of the Pattaya Redemptorist School for the Blind.

Khun Vitanart Vathanakul, CEO of Royal Cliff Hotels Group, personally helped prepare meals for each child.



What Business Owners Need to Know When Closing a Company in Thailand

Many business owners think that once they stop doing business, their company is considered as automatically "closed." Well, this is not the case. A Thai company does not automatically close just because it has stopped operating or is no longer generating income. As long as the company remains registered, its legal, accounting, and tax obligations continue.

As a legal consultant to business owners, one of the first questions I ask business owners is: Are you just suspending operations temporarily, or are you intending to close the company permanently? Because the correct procedure and requirements will be different.

A company may become inactive but still be a registered legal entity. There may be ongoing filing, accounting, tax, and corporate obligations during this time.

That is why leaving a company inactive without following the proper process can cause problems later on. Outstanding filings, taxes, accounting requirements, or other liabilities may need to be addressed before the company can be formally closed.

What Happens When You Decide to Close Permanently?

If you decide to permanently close your Thai company, you will need to follow a formal process of dissolution and liquidation.

The shareholders first must formally agree to the decision to dissolve the company. Then, a liquidator is appointed to take care of the company's remaining affairs. The liquidator is responsible for collecting credits, paying debts, dealing with company assets, managing employee matters, and completing tax obligations.

It is important to understand that closing a company is more than cancelling its registration. There are still legal and tax matters that need to be properly completed before the company can be fully closed.

Once the dissolution is registered, the company must also complete the required tax filings and notify the Revenue Department. The dissolution date is generally treated as the end of the company's accounting period for tax purposes.

Closing a company in Thailand is a process. If you do each stage properly you can avoid tax, accounting, or legal problems later on.

Don't Forget VAT and Tax Registration

If your company is registered for VAT, there are additional steps to take when closing the business. It is necessary to properly cancel the company's VAT registration with the Revenue Department. Cancellation of the company's VAT registration with the Revenue Department must be done properly.

The company may also still have tax and filing obligations until the required cancelation and closing procedures are completed. In my experience, this is something business owners fail to consider. Part of the closure process is dealing with the tax and VAT requirements which can help avoid any unnecessary issues in the future.

When Is the Company Really Closed?

The company is considered to be closed only when the process of liquidation is properly completed and the required registration procedures are finalized.

A Consultant's Advice

Before you decide to close down your company, you should review your company's assets, debts, contracts, employees, tax status, accounting records, licenses, bank accounts, and any ongoing legal obligations. It is also important for foreign business owners to consider whether the company is connected to visas, work permits, leases, property, business licenses, or other arrangements that may have to be dealt with separately.

The important thing to note is that stopping business is not the same thing as closing a company. Proper dissolution and liquidation make sure that the company's outstanding obligations are settled, without leaving unresolved problems behind. You should get professional legal and accounting advice before you start the process of dissolving a company.



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The Love Legend of Ma Mya and Chao Noi Sukhakasem:

Real History or Historical Fiction?

By Songpone Siriwanlert

The Love Legend of Ma Mya and Chao Noi Sukhakasem: Real History or Historical Fiction? Many of you may have heard the Northern Thai folk song titled "Ma Mya."

Song Lyrics Excerpt

"It happened eighty years ago. Chao Noi Sukhakasem was fifteen years old. His father sent him to study far away in Mawlamyine, and thus began their fateful, tragic tale.

Ma Mya was a young street vendor, a Burmese girl from Mawlamyine. Radiant as the shining moon, many men vied for her heart. Ma Mya loved no one else; she gave her heart to the young prince, the son of the Viceroy of Chiang Mai.

When the prince completed his studies, he had to part from Ma Mya. Feeling as though a knife chopped and a sword slashed through their hearts, she disguised herself as a man to follow him. The prince was of royal blood, but his beloved was Burmese. Violating long-held traditions, they were forced to part ways.

Oh, on that day, the day she had to be sent back home, the prince arranged an elephant procession to send her back through tears. Ma Mya was heartbroken, filled with bitter sorrow. She bowed down in farewell, untied her hair to wipe his feet, bidding farewell for this lifetime.

The prince died of a broken heart; Ma Mya ordained as a nun. Such is the nature of love..." (Lyrics by Jaran Manopetch)

The lyrics serve as a vivid summary of the narrative. Below is the story as documented in historical records:

Historical Account Lieutenant Chao Uttarakon Koson (Sukhakasem Na Chiangmai)—originally known as Chao Noi Sukhakasem—was the eldest son of Chao Kaew Nawarat and Chao Chamariwong of the Thipphayachak Dynasty. Born in 1880, he was sent at age 15 to study at St. Patrick's School in Mawlamyine, Myanmar. In 1902, he fell in love with a young Burmese vendor, and they lived together as husband and wife.

When news reached the Chiang Mai royal court, he was recalled in 1903. Ma Mya disguised herself as a man to join his caravan, keeping her identity hidden with the help of trusted aides. Eventually, the truth was exposed. The court forced a complete separation, deporting Ma Mya back to Myanmar due to their vast difference in social status and the expectation that Chao Noi Sukhakasem would become the next ruler of Chiang Mai. He was subsequently forced to marry Chao Bua Chum Na Chiangmai against his will. Devastated by the separation, Chao Noi Sukhakasem fell into severe alcoholism and passed away from chronic alcoholism on March 20, 1914, at the age of 33.

Historical Analysis

Questions remain regarding whether Ma Mya was a real person or a fictional character. This topic was explored during a panel hosted by the Art & Culture Club titled "Behind the Love Story of Ma Mya" on August 22, 2019, at the Matichon Academy Hall. Several contradictions were raised:

- **Lack of Local Evidence in Myanmar:** Researchers who traveled to Mawlamyine found no records or memory of Ma Mya—not among elderly locals who lived through that era, nor among local cigarette vendors who shared her alleged trade.

- **Royal Oral Accounts:** In an interview, Chao Duangduen Na Chiangmai recalled stories from Chao Kaew Nawarat: "He was sent to study, but didn't study—he fell for a girl instead. If they had children, what would we do? He was supposed to succeed the throne. So he was ordered to return. But he brought back two people; the one disguised as a man was named Ma Mya. They were told they couldn't stay together and she was sent back."

- **Dismissal of Political Motives:** Claims that the separation was politically motivated because Ma Mya was a British subject were dismissed by scholars, as other Chiang Mai royals had married Burmese subjects without incident.

- **Silence in Personal & Foreign Records:** Daughters of U Po Doong, a wealthy Burmese timber merchant and close friend of Chao Kaew Nawarat, had never heard of Ma Mya. Additionally, no foreign records from the era mention the incident. Because of these inconsistencies, historians continue to debate whether Ma Mya's story is genuine history or historical fiction.

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Sukasem and Chao Bua Choom his Consort



Academic Panel Discussion on the Ma Mya Story



The Stupa in which the ashes of Chao Noi Sukasem is kept

ตำนานรัก มะเมียะ กับ เจ้าน้อยศุขเกษม

โดย ทรงพล ศิริวรรณเลิศ

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หลายท่านคงเคยได้ยินได้ฟังเพลงโพล์คของคำเมือง ชื่อ มะเมียะ มาบ้างแล้ว เนื้อเพลงมีอยู่ว่า “เรื่องมันแปดสิบปีมาแล้ว เจ้าน้อยศุขเกษมอายุได้สิบห้าปี เจ้าพ่อก็ส่งไปเรียนหนังสือที่เมืองมะละแหม่ง โน้น ก็เลยเป็นเรื่องราวของกรรม ของเวรเขา มะเมียะ เป็นสาวแม่ค้า คนพม่าเมืองมะละแหม่ง งามล้ำเหมือนเดือน สองแสง คนมาแย่งหลงรักสาว มะเมียะบ่ยอมฮักไผ มอบใจที่ฮักหนุ่มเชื้อเจ้า เป็นลูกอุปราช ท้าวเชียงใหม่ แต่เมื่อเจ้าชายจบการศึกษา จำต้องลาจากมะเมียะไป เหมือนโดนมีดสับ คาบฟันหัวใจ ปลอมเป็นผู้ชายหนีตามมา เจ้าชายเป็นราชบุตร แต่สุดท้ายก็รักเป็นพม่า ผิดประเพณีสืบมา ต้องร้างราแยกทาง ไ้อ์ ไ้อ์ ก็เมื่อวันนั้น วันที่ต้องส่งคืนบ้านนาง เจ้าชายก็จัดขบวนช้าง ไปส่งนางคืนทั้งน้ำตา มะเมียะตรอมใจ อาลัยขึ้นชม ถวายบังคมทูลลา สยายผมลง เช็ดบาท บาทา ขอลาไปก่อนแล้วชาตินี้ เจ้าชายก็ตรอมใจตาย มะเมียะเลยไปบวชชี ความรักมักเป็นเช่นนี้ แล เฮย...” (เนื้อเพลงโดย จรัส มะโนเพชร)



เจ้าน้อยศุขเกษม

เนื้อเพลงมะเมียะ นับว่าเป็นบทคัดย่อเรื่องราวทั้งหมดอย่างเห็นภาพ ต่อไปนี้ จะได้ กล่าวถึงเนื้อเรื่องตามบันทึกประวัติศาสตร์ เป็นดังนี้ ร้อยตรี อำมาตย์ตรี เจ้าอุตรการโกศล (ศุขเกษม ณ เชียงใหม่) มีนามเดิมว่า เจ้าน้อยศุขเกษม ราชโอรสองค์ใหญ่ในเจ้าแก้วนารัฐ กับ เจ้าจามรวิวงศ์ แห่งราชวงศ์ทิพย์จักร ประสูติเมื่อปี พ.ศ.2423 เมื่อถึงวัย 15 ปี ได้ถูกส่งตัวไปศึกษายังโรงเรียนเซ็นต์แพททริก ในเมืองมะละแหม่ง ของพม่า แล้วได้พบรักกับแม่ค้าสาวชาวพม่า ในปี 2445 และได้ใช้ชีวิตฉันทาภิรมย์ เมื่อเรื่องเจ้าน้อยศุขเกษมรู้ถึงคัมเชียงใหม่ จึงถูกเรียกตัวกลับเมื่อปี 2446 โดยมะเมียะ ปลอมตัวเป็นผู้ชายติดตามขบวนมาด้วย และให้คนสนิทปิดเป็นความลับ ในที่สุดเรื่องก็แดงขึ้น ทางคัมเชียงใหม่จึงบีบบังคับให้มะเมียะแยกทางจากเจ้าน้อยศุขเกษมโดยเด็ดขาดพร้อมทั้งส่งตัวนางกลับพม่า ด้วยเหตุที่ต่างฐานะกันมากเกินไป อีกทั้งเจ้าน้อยศุขเกษมต้องขึ้นเป็นเจ้าผู้ครองนครเชียงใหม่ คนต่อไป จากนั้นก็ถูกบังคับให้อภิเษกสมรสกับเจ้าบัวชุม ณ เชียงใหม่ ด้วยความไม่เต็มใจ ด้วยการที่ต้องพลัดพรากจากผู้เป็นที่รัก ทำให้เจ้าน้อยศุขเกษมติดสุราอย่างหนักจนเป็นโรคพิษสุราเรื้อรัง ในที่สุด ถึงแก่กรรมเมื่อวันที่ 20 มีนาคม 2457 สิริรวมอายุได้ 33 ปี



วิเคราะห์ข้อมูลในแง่ประวัติศาสตร์ มีคำถามหลายอย่างที่เกี่ยวกับมะเมียะว่ามีตัวตนอยู่จริงหรือไม่ ได้มีการสืบค้นข้อมูลเพื่อหาความจริงเรื่องนี้ แล้วนำมาเสวนากันในงานสัปดาห์ศิลปวัฒนธรรมเสวนา หัวข้อ “เบื้องหลังรักของมะเมียะ” เมื่อวันที่ 22 สิงหาคม 2562 ที่ห้องโถงมติชนคาเดมี มีสิ่งที่ย้อนแย้งกันหลายจุด จึงได้ยกเรื่องราวการสืบค้นตัวจริงของมะเมียะ เมื่อครั้งที่ผู้เสวนาได้ไปสืบหาหลักฐานที่ฝั่งพม่าที่เมืองมะละแหม่ง ไม่มีใครรู้จักมะเมียะเลย แม้แต่คนที่เกิดทันอยู่ในเหตุการณ์ยุคนั้น แม้แต่แม่ค้าบุตรีที่มีอาชีพเดียวกับมะเมียะด้วยก็ยังไม่รู้จัก จากการให้สัมภาษณ์ของเจ้าดวงเดือน ณ เชียงใหม่ ซึ่งเคยฟังคำบอกเล่าจากเจ้าแก้วนารัฐ สรุปความได้ว่า “ส่งไปเรียนแต่ไม่เรียน กลับไปหลงสาว ถ้าเกิดมีลูกมีเต้าขึ้นมาจะทำอย่างไร เพราะเขาต้องเป็นผู้สืบทอดตำแหน่งต่อ จึงให้ส่งตัวกลับมา แต่กลับมาสองคน คนปลอมตัวเป็นผู้ชายชื่อมะเมียะ เลียบบอกว่าอยู่ด้วยกันไม่ได้ แล้วสั่งให้ส่งตัวกลับ” ยังมีข้อมูลบางกระแสบอกว่าเหตุผลทางการเมือง เพราะมะเมียะเป็นคนพม่า ในบังคับของอังกฤษ นักวิชาการค้นคว้าแล้ว ไม่มีมูล เพราะเจ้าองค์อื่นก็แต่งงานกับพม่าได้โดยไม่มีปัญหา อีกประเด็นหนึ่ง จากการสัมภาษณ์บุตรสาวสองคนของ อุโพธิ์ทอง เศรษฐีคำไม้วพม่า สหายสนิทของ เจ้าแก้วนารัฐ กลับไม่รู้จักมะเมียะเลย ทั้งๆที่เรื่องนี้เป็นเรื่องใหญ่ กลับไม่มีใครกล่าวถึง แม้แต่บันทึก ของชาวต่างประเทศ ก็ไม่ปรากฏว่ามีใครเขียนไว้ จึงยังเป็นที่ถกเถียงกันว่า มะเมียะ เป็นเรื่องจริง หรือ นวนิยายอิงประวัติศาสตร์

ข้อมูลอ้างอิง: นิตยสารศิลปวัฒนธรรม เผยแพร่ออนไลน์ครั้งแรก วันที่ 22 สิงหาคม 2562

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วิกิพีเดีย

What's on The Small Screen



Florence Pugh, Cathy Ames, Mike Faist

Multi-generational family saga set in California's Salinas Valley. The series explores inheritance, moral tension, and the eternal struggle between good and evil, centering on the turbulent rivalries of the Trask family.



Carrie (Season 1)

Summer H. Howell, Samantha Sloyan, Alison Thornton

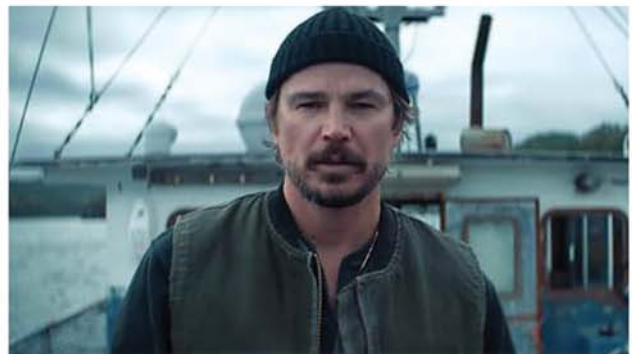
Carrie White a sheltered teenager who has spent her life in seclusion with her mother, Margaret must navigate a viral bullying scandal.



Lupin (Season 4)

Omar Sy, Ludivine Sagnier, Soufiane Guerrab

Master thief Assane Diop finds himself behind bars after turning himself in to protect his family.



Below

Josh Hartnett, Stephen Oates, Josh Cruddas,

A hard-bitten fisherman and his family fight to protect their close-knit Newfoundland community.



Nocturne (Apple TV)

Liev Schreiber, Zazie Beetz, Stephen Graham

Former homicide detective seeking a quiet life in rural Pennsylvania is dragged back into a nightmare.

What's on The Big Screen



Digger

Tom Cruise, Riz Ahmed, John Goodman

An ultra-wealthy drilling tycoon accidentally triggers a massive global ecological disaster and must embark on a frantic, high-stakes mission to reverse the damage and prove himself humanity's savior before catastrophe destroys everything.



Verity

Anne Hathaway, Dakota Johnson, Josh Hartnett

Struggling writer Lowen Ashleigh is hired to complete the book series of incapacitated bestselling author Verity Crawford.



Whalefall

Josh Brolin, Austin Abrams, Jane Levy

A scuba diver searching for his late father's remains off the California coast is swallowed alive by an 80-foot sperm whale.



Street Fighter

Jason Momoa, Noah Centineo · Ken Masters ; Olivier Richters

Set in 1993, estranged fighters Ryu and Ken Masters are recruited by Chun-Li for the World Warrior Tournament .



Clayface

Eddie Marsan, Naomi Ackie, Max Minghella

Matt Hagen, a rising Hollywood actors career and face get ruined by a brutal disfigurement.

TECH LIVING

SMART. CONNECTED. INNOVATIVE.

Gadgets, Gizmos, and Good Times: What's Dropping This October

If your idea of high-tech research usually involves figuring out why the Wi-Fi at your favorite Soi Bukhao hangout is acting up, or trying to remember where you left your phone charger after a late night on Walking Street, take a breather. October is here, and the global gadget machine is spitting out a whole fresh batch of shiny toys that might actually make life under the Thai sun a bit more fun. Whether you're a retired expat looking to upgrade your digital lounge setup or a laptop-toting remote worker dodging afternoon tropical downpours, here are four standout gadgets hitting the shelves this month that are worth a look.

The Action Cam That Thinks It's Hollywood: GoPro Mission One Pro

Let's face it, your weekend adventures—whether it's a scenic scooter ride down to Jomtien or a weekend boat trip out to Koh Larn—deserve better than shaky, washed-out phone footage. GoPro decided to skip the traditional upgrade cycle this season and rolled out the brand-new Mission One Pro, bridging the gap between rugged action cams and cinema-grade gear. It's got a massive new sensor and processing engine that handles low-light beach sunsets and blinding midday glare like an absolute champ. If you want to document your local exploits without making your viewers seasick, this is the ticket.



Your Personal IMAX on the Sand: XREAL 1S AR Glasses

Carrying a massive laptop or tablet around when you just want to binge-watch your favorite shows at a beachfront café can be a pain in the neck. Enter the XREAL 1S AR Glasses, dropping this autumn with a virtual screen experience that feels like strapping a massive home theater right to your face. They've packed a wider field of view and crisp optics into a frame that looks surprisingly normal—well, normal enough that people at the local night market might only stare a little bit. Powered by USB-C, you can hook them up to your phone and enjoy your media in high definition while keeping an eye on your iced coffee.



The Scooter Soundtrack: Shokz Openfit Pro Earbuds

Cruising around town on a trusty motorbike is a quintessential part of the expat routine, but wearing traditional noise-canceling earbuds while navigating local traffic is a recipe for disaster. The new Shokz Openfit Pro solves this brilliantly with an open-ear design that pumps rich, clean audio directly into your ears while leaving your ear canals totally open to the outside world. Plus, they've added a clever low-profile noise-reduction filter. You get your favorite playlist thumping loud and clear, but you can still hear that truck cutting you off on the inside lane before it happens. Safety and sound, hand in hand.



The Tiny Power Brick That Fits in Your Palm: Rolling Square Supertiny 65W GaN Charger

We've all been there: you're packing your backpack for an afternoon work session at an air-conditioned local coffee shop, and your bag is weighed down by a brick-sized laptop charger that looks like it belongs on a spaceship. The Rolling Square Supertiny 65W GaN charger shrinks that heavy-duty power source down to roughly the size of a large postage stamp. Using advanced gallium nitride tech, it pumps out a full 65 watts of juice without turning into a miniature stove top. It fits comfortably in your pocket, handles your laptop, phone, or tablet with zero fuss, and ensures you'll never have to wrestle with bulky adapters again.



So, whether you're looking to capture your weekend island hops, upgrade your mobile workstation setup, or just enjoy some tunes on two wheels without losing touch with reality, October's tech lineup has got you covered. Time to check those savings accounts and see which of these toys makes it into your shopping cart before the high season rush begins.

CINEMATIC FILMING - Barry Upton

Recently I decided to upgrade my camera to provide a more cinematic feel to my music videos. After a lot of researching, I settled on an amazing new piece of technology, the DJI Osmo Pocket 4P.

The versatile 4P pushes the boundaries of what a truly pocket-sized camera can achieve. Weighing just 230g, it combines a 1 inch sensor, an impressive 17 stops of dynamic range and 10-bit D-Log 2, giving filmmakers exceptional detail, colour and flexibility for professional grading. Its dual-camera system adds a 60mm f/1.8 lens for beautifully compressed portraits and natural background separation. Add 3-axis mechanical stabilisation, intelligent subject tracking and 4K/240fps slow motion, and it becomes a remarkably complete film making tool.

One day after getting this equipment into my grubby little hands, I travelled up to Bangkok, together with Discover Pattaya's very own Rick Click, to the former 'Dot Property Awards', now renamed 'The Thailand Real Estate Awards' at the prestigious riverside Four Seasons Hotel. Gloria couldn't join us as she was still galavanting around the U.K., so I went out on a limb and used my new camera to capture the spirit and fun always associated with these events. The food was, as expected, superb and the awards show was spectacular with fab sound and lights plus a surprise appearance from a Thai pop superstar. The evening ended with sensational fireworks over the Chao Phraya River. The resulting footage can be seen on YouTube ... 'Thailand Real Estate Awards in Bangkok – August 2026'.

Next morning, I swiftly edited the feature in record time, easily beating the other camera teams present on the evening.

'Event Director' Adam Sutcliffe, messaged me with 'Fantastic Barry ... first off the mark as always. Your video feature really is an excellent summary of the night. The speed of 'event to feature' can be attributed to two things: ease of filming utilising a truly portable camera with incredible film quality followed by state-of-the-art editing software. I'm now using the latest desktop version of 'CapCut' in preference to 'Da Vinci' for editing although, once you've got to grips with them, both are extremely fast for realizing your creative goals.

So, now it was the turn of my own music videos to get an upgrade in look and presentation. So, I chose an appropriate song and set about filming on the Bangkok to Sattahip train (ticket from Pattaya ... 9 baht) which has a kinda retro feel about it. This gave me a chance to try out the DJI suggested cinematic settings and the results were truly satisfying with film like tones and movement. Check out 'THE GIRL – Barry Upton' on YouTube

For many years, creative artists, like myself, have had the desire to make content like this so that YouTube features can look expensive whilst on a budget. Today's technology has put Hollywood into the hands of everyone and I intend to take the given possibilities for the benefit of my creative output. Writing songs for me has always been fun. Then, taking them to another level by, firstly, producing a radio friendly finished audio track plus adding visuals to compliment, is an uplifting experience and means I could never be bored.

All my music videos can be accessed on YouTube at my channel 'FAB BAZ MUSIC TV', or just type in my name and see what comes up. Also, check out the features we produce for Discover Pattaya on pattayatrader.com which are not only entertaining, but informative. 'Action' 'Cut!'



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END POLIO BEACH RUN 2026

RUN FOR HOPE • RUN TO END POLIO

Join us for a charity beach run at Pattaya Beach as we run together and share hope for a polio-free world.



Rotary End Polio Now
Let's work together to
and polio for good.



Celebrating 35 Years
of commitment, dedication and
partnership in creating lasting
impact by Rotary District 3340.



DATE

Saturday
24 OCTOBER 2026



TIME

5:00 PM (17:00)



LOCATION

Pattaya Beach
Chonburi, Thailand



ORGANIZED BY

Rotary International
District 3340

PATTAYA city



Every step you take brings us closer to a polio-free world.

Runners, Rotarians, families, youth and friends—everyone is welcome!



RUN BY THE SEA
Enjoy the scenic
Pattaya sunset.



CONNECT & SHARE
Make new friends
and build community.



**BE PART OF
THE CHANGE**
Your steps
create lasting impact.



**TOGETHER,
WE END POLIO**
A polio-free world
is within reach.

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Together, We Run. Together, We End Polio.

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Great to see our Magazines on Display at the Brand New Qulture Bangkok



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PATTAYA
& Beyond.....

In Bangkok

Monkey & Macchiato - House of Espresso

By Gloria Jones



If you have read any of my articles about travels in Vietnam (and don't forget they are still available to view on our website pattayatrader.com) you'll know how much I love Vietnamese coffee. From Danang's Salt coffee to the rich, creamy egg coffee of Hanoi it is a delight and this is a sentiment shared by my dear friends Carlos and Mike. They fell in love with Vietnam and Vietnamese coffee during their time living in Hoi An and when they returned to Bangkok were amazed that it was so difficult to find. So they decided to bring some of that Vietnamese magic to the Sathorn district within their creation of Monkey & Macchiato - House of Espresso.

There is a playful character to Monkey & Macchiato, but behind the fun name is a genuine passion not only for unusual coffee options but for good espresso and quality coffee generally. Working with coffee growers to get the very best beans the company has also launched the brand Rebel Roast which is also available for wholesale customers.

Recently opened, we visited Monkey & Macchiato and were proud to be their guinea pigs and try some really exciting coffee options. The first thing to entice us was a cold press taste testing to see whether we preferred natural coffee, coffee with coconut or coffee with orange. On a hot Bangkok afternoon the orange coffee was our firm favourite, so refreshing with just the right kick to get our day started.



Then I had to have some coconut coffee but greedily couldn't choose between that and the salt coffee - so of course I had to sample both! Caffeine intake duly at full throttle it was time to try some food and delicious slices of pizza did the job perfectly.

It is good to note that there are new and exciting food options happening all the time at Monkey & Macchiato and I've recently seen they have added a really great looking cooked full breakfast - with Argentinian sausages (to give Carlos fond memories of his homeland). Something to try for my next visit I think. In fact when I do this I will probably take my food and my laptop up to the next floor which has a more relaxed vibe than the busy walk in ground floor space. Decked out with some interesting musical influences, serious 80s memorabilia, great decor and excellent WiFi, it's a wonderful place to retreat to for a couple of hours.

Everything at Monkey & Macchiato has been carefully and lovingly considered before being presented. Downstairs is a hub of energy with take away and sit in service all a go, whereas upstairs is a really great place to take your time. In a city as busy and sometimes wonderfully chaotic as Bangkok it's a real treasure to find a comfortable spot where you can enjoy a coffee, catch up with friends, or just chill and take some time for yourself.

Thailand's ever growing coffee scene is about so much more than just the usual international chains. Independent cafés and specialist coffee houses continue to bring their own personalities and ideas to the city, giving coffee lovers plenty to discover. So if you're serious about your coffee Monkey & Macchiato – House of Espresso is a place to try. Come for the coffee, stay for the atmosphere – and leave with a new favourite Bangkok coffee spot.



Find them at 488 Thanon Suan Phlu, Bangkok, 10120
 Facebook Monkey & Macchiato – House of Espresso
 Instagram monkeymacchiato +66 65 969 2288





Bangkok National Museum: Thailand`s History Under One Roof

Situated on Na Phra That Road in Bangkok's historic Phra Nakhon district is the Bangkok National Museum. One of the largest and most important museums in Thailand. If you want to get a broad understanding of the country's history, art, religion and royal traditions all in one place, then this museum provides an invaluable introduction. It also has another important distinction in that it stands on the site of the former Front Palace, the residence of the Uparaja, often translated as the Vice King or Second King, for much of the early Rattanakosin period. Its Khachakamprawet Pavilion was built on the occasion of the celebration of King Pinklao's coronation as the Second King at the behest of King Mongkut (Rama IV). The term Khachakamprawet coming from the Sanskrit compound "gajakarmapraveshana" which means "the way to an elephant". This is because in the past it had a platform for mounting an elephant and later in the reign of Khin Chulalongkorn the Great (Rama V) it was used as a ritual venue for the Royal Ploughing Ceremony.

King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) also established the museum itself in 1874 to display royal antiquities and objects collected by his father, King Mongkut (Rama IV). The original museum was located within the Grand Palace before the collection was transferred to the former Front Palace. Later in 1926 the institution was renamed the Bangkok Museum, finally becoming the Bangkok National Museum in 1934. Today, the museum is administered by Thailand's Fine Arts Department, under the Ministry of Culture. Its role goes beyond simply displaying historic objects. It is responsible for preserving, researching and interpreting important examples of Thailand's archaeological and artistic heritage.



When you walk around this impressively large site you will see that rather than everything being housed in a single modern building the collections are spread across a group of historic structures. Among these are the Siwamokkhaphiman Hall, Buddhaisawan Chapel and Issara Winitchai Throne Hall, each with its own architectural and historical significance. The collections housed therein cover an exceptionally broad period. From archaeological displays of prehistoric communities through the various cultures and kingdoms that influenced the development of Thai civilization. Important collections relating to the Dvaravati, Khmer, Sukhothai, Ayutthaya and Rattanakosin periods show how artistic styles, religious beliefs, political structures and international influence changed over many centuries.

The Buddhist art collection is particularly significant as the museum contains many Buddha images and religious objects that provide an opportunity to see how the representation of the Buddha evolved over time, from early Indian-influenced forms through to distinctive Thai styles.



The museum also helps visitors understand the importance of Ayutthaya, which was the capital of the Siamese kingdom from 1350 until its destruction by Burmese forces in 1767. Visitors can also see royal regalia, ceremonial objects, weapons, clothing, furniture and other exhibits that provide an insight into the ceremonies and traditions associated with the royal court.

Another important aspect of the museum is its role in preserving traditional Thai craftsmanship with collections of ceramics, lacquerware, textiles, wood carving, weapons, musical instruments and decorative arts. Working on several levels it is an archaeological museum, an art museum, a museum of royal history and a centre for the preservation of Thailand's cultural heritage. Therefore, extremely useful for visitors coming to appreciate all these subjects in one historic location. However, before planning a trip it is important to check the museum's opening times, currently;

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 8.30am to 4.00pm and closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. At 4 Na Phra That Road, Phra Borom Maha Ratchawang, Phra Nakhon, Bangkok.

<http://www.virtualmuseum.finearts.go.th/bangkoknationalmuseums/index.php/th/>
An important museum for anyone interested in discovering how the modern Kingdom of Thailand developed from its prehistoric roots, through Sukhothai and Ayutthaya, to the Bangkok era, it is one of the city's essential cultural institutions.



Ever thought about flying to Kazakhstan? It seems to be one of the most misunderstood countries. There is a famous movie character, which everyone around the world thinks of when they hear about Kazakhstan, but you never refer to that film or say the B word when you're visiting. At "Master Coffee Shop" in the center of Almaty, a cute barista girl made a point of telling us – "we are nothing like that movie!" and she is right. The Republic of Kazakhstan is a huge country, 9th largest in the world, bordering Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and parts of Eastern Europe. Bangkok has direct flights to the largest city Almaty, which we had reason to visit when we were invited to attend the TBEX Asia 2026. Held at The Ritz-Carlton Almaty, we joined 300 other travel bloggers from around the world to learn more about one of the world's most misunderstood countries.

Some of the other bloggers recommended trying a free city walking tour with GuruWalk.com. The meeting spot was at Panfilov Park, one of the oldest of the many beautiful parks in tree-lined Almaty and the weather was summer perfect! The 28 Panfilov Guardsmen Park also includes Ascension Cathedral, a Russian Orthodox Church built entirely without nails in 1907 and made with solid Tian Shan Spruce. Christianity has a sizeable number in the country, even though the vast majority are of the Islamic faith.



Panfilov Park also includes the Museum of Folk Musical Instruments. It shows instruments from renowned Kazakh performers and composers with names such as Abay, Birzhan-sala Kozhagululy, and Dina Nurpeisova.

The Memorial of Glory is also very impressive. We saw an eternal flame and massive sculptures honoring the 28 Red Army soldiers from Almaty who fought and died during World War II defending Moscow in the Battle of Moscow in 1941. Named after Soviet General Ivan Panfilov, they are remembered for delaying the German advance into Moscow.

After a few more hours of walking, we ended up in the vibrant Arbat area where we enjoyed several meals that stand out in our memory. One at Yurta provided an eye-opening taste of Kazakh cuisine where we were offered a choice of ice cream made with either horse or camel milk.

Two days of sightseeing tours of the breathtaking nature in the Almaty Region followed. The first took us to Charyn Canyon National Park, not far from the China border. A 154-kilometer canyon carved by the Charyn River, it reminded us a lot of the Grand Canyon in the USA. A drive to Kolsay Lake finished up our day.



Jason at Navat

We further learned that one of the best views of Almaty is on the 30th floor lobby of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel and recommend going there for happy hour for the views and service. The metropolis city is magnificent against the mountain backdrop. Kok Tobe hill is another top viewpoint.

Our first four days in Kazakhstan overwhelmed us with wonderful people, fabulous food culture, and nature. "We have fallen in love with Kazakhstan," said Rick Calvert, the president of our TBEXcon.com organization. Much thanks to the Kazakhstan Tourism Board and VisitAlmaty.kz.

Carla Marie Rupp and Jason Rupp are freelance travel journalists and run several YouTube travel channels. Their emails are carlaruppy@gmail.com and jasonruppy@gmail.com



Sandyq server

The next day's tour was to Bizdin Ayul, a working farm where we bought some fermented horse milk (a standard traditional drink) and some just-picked strawberries, so yummy! Opening conference night at Ritz-Carlton Almaty then featured more delicious Kazakh food, hospitality, musical and dance performances. We were in a great mood to enjoy more of Kazakhstan.

The musical groups who entertained us included: Alatu-Serileri, a folk rock band of extraordinarily-talented men who got us up dancing with them and three female musicians in a group with violins.





Discover Pattaya was delighted to yet again be media partners for Dot Property at the very glamorous Four Seasons Hotel in Bangkok. Celebrating 10 years of ceremonies in great style Dot Property launched its rebranding, entitled "10 Years New Era Thailand Real Estate Awards". As usual the presentations, hospitality and entertainment were all faultless with a surprise appearance this year by Thai Superstar Ice Saranyu

Winners from all over Thailand came together to celebrate and these included, from our own Eastern Seaboard Area: SLR Development, Sirisa Gold Estate, and Chaithanin Co with Global Top Group for Lumina Luzury Pool Villas.

Currently reaching over 15 million property seekers per month across South East Asia Dot Property are continuing to grow from strength to strength and we wish them every success with the next 10 years!





The New Norm for Foreign Property Buyers in Thailand.

Part 2 Selling During the Lease Period

By Gloria Jones



Last month we began our series of interviews with Gavin Perfect and if you missed this you can still read it on our website: pattayatrader.com. Since our interview Gavin has held a meeting at the Marriott Courtyard to discuss the matter with industry professionals. It was very well attended, many property agents were keen to find out how to keep their clients from being alarmed by recent news especially when mis reported on social media. One of the most popular topics for discussion was how to advise a Foreign property owner wishing to sell during the period of the lease. So please now read part 2 of our series where we delve further into what this entails:

Selling During the Lease

One of the biggest concerns for buyers must be what will happen if they decide to sell their property, with your proposed lease structure, how will that work?



Gavin: That's one of the strongest features of this structure. If you as a foreign leasee decide to sell during the lease term, your 30 years registered lease is a 'sellable' asset. So you can transfer the right of the lease during the term of the registered lease agreement at any time. For example you purchase a house in 2026 for 10 million baht. Under the terms of your SPA the land value is registered at 2.5 million and the house 7.5 million. In 2036 you decide to sell your lease rights for a value of 15 million baht. The process here is that you present your new SPA to the leasing company showing you have an agreement in place to sell. Both you as the leasee and the lessor agree a date to be at the land office with your new buyer. The current lease agreement with a remaining 15 years is cancelled by agreement of the current leasee and the lessor or the leasing company. The buyer pays you your 15 million and the land office their relevant fees to register the lease. The new buyer then has a new 30 years registered lease agreement with the leasing company.

Are there any fees from the leasing company when doing this?

Gavin: Yes. When the sale takes place the leasing company charges 1% of the sale value of the house (not the lease value), and there is a 50,000 baht administration fee. The existing lease is cancelled, a new lease is prepared in the buyer's name, and it's registered at the Land Office for a new 30-year term.

Transferring During the Lease

How about transferring? What is the difference between selling and transferring?

Gavin: Selling refers to transferring the lease from one foreign buyer to another. Transferring is different. Let's say the purchaser is a Thai national who can legally own the land. In that situation, the leased land and the house can be transferred out of the leasing company, allowing the Thai buyer to own the property directly. You being the leasee can terminate the lease agreement and request to transfer the land from the leasing companies rights to the Thai national wanting to purchase.

Should the government change the rights for Foreigners to own land during the term of the 30 years lease, this clause also allows the leasee being a foreigner the rights to transfer the land to themselves. Any and all transfer taxes at the land office would be paid by the buyer/seller parties as per their SPA.

Are there any fees involved from the leasing company for that process?

Gavin: Yes. The leasing company charges: 1% of the registered sales value, and a 50,000 baht administration fee. The lease is terminated and ownership is transferred through the Land Office.



FOLLOW FOR MORE

Next month we will continue this series by discussing the issue of Inheritance, but in the meantime, if anyone would like to learn more about the structure or discuss how it may apply to their own property purchase contact WWW.ESS DEVELOPMENTS.COM



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An Interview with Joe and Nee: Defining the Next Custodian of ESP Steco

Over our recent issues, we've explored the rich history and enduring legacy of ESP Steco. For years, Jo and Nee have stood as trusted confidants, estate managers, and problem-solvers for Pattaya's expatriate community. Now, as they look toward the future, the search for the right individual to take the helm is officially underway. We sat down with Jo to discuss exactly what it will take to step into this unique role and how they plan to ensure a seamless transition for their loyal clientele.

You've built a deeply personal business. What precise profile defines your ideal successor?

Jo: Because 95% of our client base consists of foreigners, we are ideally looking for a mature male expatriate with strong language skills. Beyond that, the successor must be a good listener with the ability to calmly analyze situations and given circumstances. Our business was built on a very small, dedicated circle of supporters who appreciated our personal care taking. A new foreign face needs to be present in the office to fulfill that same confidence-building role and carry our successful routines into the future.



Does this person need a strict background in Thai real estate or corporate law?

Jo: Not necessarily. We believe anyone with good morals and ethical understanding can qualify, provided they have a strong background in the service industry. Nee gathered her professional experience over many years in the restaurant business across Thailand. I started in the elevated hotel business in 1974, eventually becoming a General Manager and moving to Southeast Asia in 1995. It was that hospitality background—managing View Talay Villas as Estate Manager—that helped me connect with influential people in Pattaya. If you bring the foundational skills of high-level service, you can learn the rest.

How critical is the ability to bridge Western client expectations with Thai administrative realities?

Jo: It is absolutely imperative. Our existing, dedicated team already possesses deep, comprehensive knowledge of Thai administrative demands across all the services our company covers. The new owner's primary job is to explain these processes to our clients in a credible, confidence-building way. That cross-cultural diplomacy was always my main justification for being in the office.

For clients who view you as their personal "key holder," how will you manage the transition?

Jo: Transferring that credibility will take time. This cannot be rushed; it must be a carefully and emotionally conducted handover. We want all the trust that our clients have placed in us to be securely passed on to our successor. To achieve this, the new owner should be available as a full-time member of the team during office hours. To guarantee a successful transition, we are offering to keep Nee on as a company employee for a year, or whatever length is desired, and I will be fully available to offer my support as a consultant.

From a commercial perspective, how are you structuring this acquisition?

Jo: We are open to all options, including renting the business to a qualified candidate. Our primary aim is not financial gain. We are fiercely committed to guaranteeing the agreements we have with our clients and protecting our commitments—most notably, our appointments as executors for the testaments of some of our clients.

The business's existing legal platform is fully set up to apply for a working visa and a work permit, which I can transfer to the successor. Ultimately, we require a financial commitment based on fair negotiations, but our true goal is to create a win-win-win situation: a win for our clients, a win for the successor, and a win for us in seeing our legacy protected.

(Serious inquiries regarding the ESP Steco transition can be directed to jo@exclusive-service-partners.com +66 3825 1520 or +66 3825 1519 for a confidential discussion.)

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