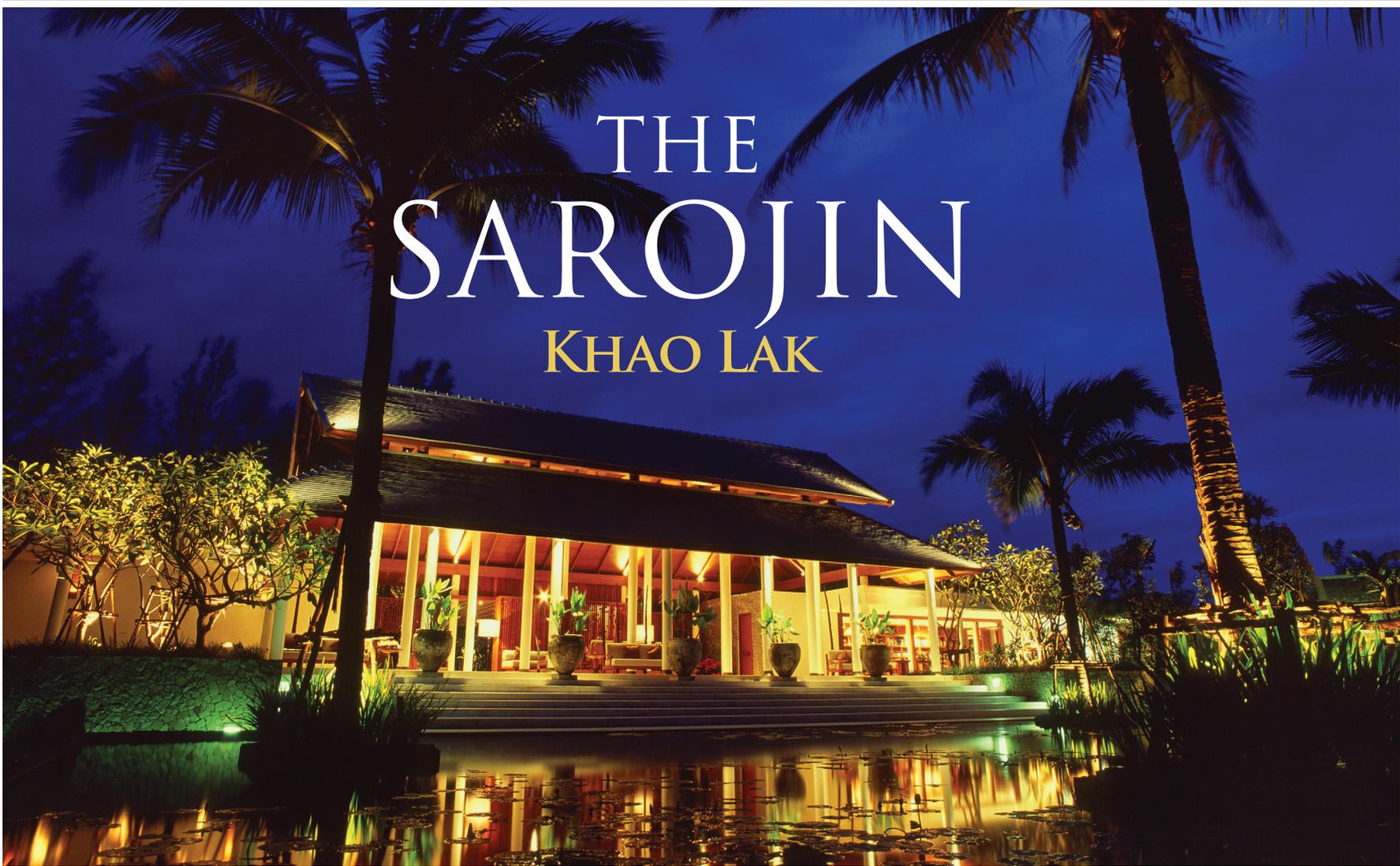


THE SAROJIN KHAO LAK



Charmingly ensconced within acres of lush tropical gardens by the crystalline waters of the Andaman sea, The Sarojin is a five star luxury boutique resort in Khao Lak

Tucked away in Khao Lak in the Phang Nga province of Thailand lays the Sarojin boutique resort. Surrounded by luscious tropical gardens, the seven separate two-storey buildings housing 56 residences are set in 10 acres of grounds with private access to expansive white beaches and the tranquil waters of the Andaman Sea.

The Sarojin gets its name from Lady Sarojin, the eldest daughter of a prominent Thai nobleman, who became mistress of the

residence after her mother's accession. She was responsible for not only the upkeep and running of the house and grounds, but also the comfort of her father's guests. The resort continues to live up to these standards today.

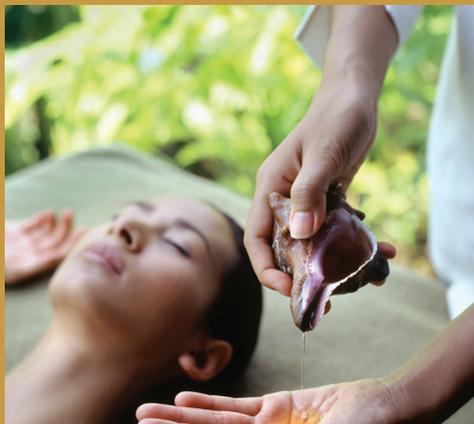
When we arrived at the Sarojin we were immediately impressed by the magnificent lotus pool and lights around the outside lobby. The spiritual heart of the resort is an age old ficus tree which gives name to one of the resort's restaurants. The inside lobby was very contemporary, with vaulted ceilings, cream pillars, low couches and wooden coffee tables. We were greeted by our hosts Paul and David, Director of Sales, and were given cool towels and fruit juice before being shown to our suite.

Each guest residence is privately entered by crossing a stream via the grounds and through a private garden terrace. We stayed in one of the Sarojin suites which had its own outdoor stone relaxation pool garden sun terrace. The suite was spacious with cream and dark wood

décor, a huge bed, walk in wardrobes and a contemporary open-plan bathroom complete with free standing egg-shaped bath surrounded by stone pebbles and a separate rainfall shower.

After unpacking we decided to relax around the sumptuous infinity pool which was complete with four-poster, white draped platforms in the pool itself on which stood sun loungers and umbrellas. We spent a lazy afternoon sunbathing whilst sipping Pina Coladas.





Dining at the Sarojin comprised of three options, The Ficus, The Edge and The Cellar. That evening we chose to dine at The Ficus, sitting among the hanging roots and canopy of the 100 year old Ficus tree beside the locus pool whilst sampling traditional and contemporary Mediterranean cuisine. I decided to have a change from all the fish dishes I had consumed and selected a delicious mushroom ravioli whilst my husband went for the Australian beef tenderloin.

After a fantastic night's sleep followed by an a la carte breakfast which is served all day, we took a boat trip with the hotel's event organiser Justin. The boat took us through the jungle where we were awed by the amazing scenery and huge Banyon trees of over 50 years old which stood like giants at the water's edge. We even saw a few snakes on the way – thankfully they were on land and not on the boat with us (Bear Grylls eat your heart out).

The Sarojin has an inspired 'imagineer' called David, the ultimate personal concierge who delights in creating personalised adventures just for two. David has been fortunate enough to work with some of the best chefs and manage the best restaurants in the world. A born host, creator and dream maker, David can arrange any venture you want; this can include anything from our recommended jungle adventure, to a private charter on

the luxury boat Lady Sarojin or even a Thai cooking class with lunch by a waterfall.

Back at the hotel that afternoon we had to have a quick visit to the spa to unwind before dinner. The Pathways Spa is a secluded floating heaven over the main estuary hidden from view by mangroves and looking out over a deserted coconut grove. Privately entered by a meandering boardwalk, the spa blends ancient physical and spiritual healing with modern comforts and has two double and two single treatment pavilions, outdoor tree showers and couples baths. I indulged in the resort's signature massage treatment 1 hour 30 minutes, which left me feeling very relaxed for our evening ahead.

For dinner we chose to dine at The Edge. This restaurant is an open air timber pavilion where you can create your own combinations of fresh international Thai seafood delicacies. This ranges from Thai food, to barbeque, to salads to sushi and fish, all prepared for you as you like it. We shared a selection of fantastic seafood with steamed vegetables and after dinner enjoyed the entertainment of traditional Thai band complete with Thai dancers.

After three nights stay it was time to leave the Sarojin for our next destination. The resort is said to be reminiscent of 'staying as a guest at a friend's private estate', and this is certainly

an apt way of describing our stay. Relaxing and inspirational, the Sarojin imparts unique revitalising experiences that last for a life time.

For more information or to book flights with Emirates Tours please call 020 7590 1476 or visit www.emiratestours.co.uk



THE SAROJIN LUXURY PROMOTIONS

1 – 30 November 2011

(20% savings on all rooms)

Prices start from THB 13,500/approximately GBP 270 per room per night and are based on two people sharing, inclusive of all day a la carte breakfast with sparkling wine and all taxes subject to availability

Christmas Special

1 – 26 December 2011

(20% savings on all rooms)

Stay 6 nights pay for 5 nights
Prices start from THB 13,500/approximately GBP 270 per room per night and are based on two people sharing, inclusive of all day a la carte breakfast with sparkling wine and all taxes subject to availability

11 – 31 January 2012

(Stay 6 nights pay for 5 nights)

Prices start from THB 16,099/approximately GBP 340 per room per night and are based on two people sharing, inclusive of all day a la carte breakfast with sparkling wine and all taxes subject to availability