

BEAU MONDE GATHERS AT HÔTEL DES ARTS SAIGON



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Hotel Intel

If Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam has an A-list of glitterati, I am certain they are all regulars at the sumptuous Hôtel Des Arts Saigon.

This very-in-vogue establishment radiates the glamour and mystique of the long-ago era of French Indochina, yet today's beautiful people — fashionistas, Instagram influencers and young entrepreneurs — are making the scene. Hôtel Des Arts Saigon is a socially-charged world that will peak with a late night of revelry during Tet, the Vietnamese new year, Jan. 22.

Ho Chi Minh City has become an international crossroads, drawing nearly 10 million foreign business and leisure travellers a year, many of them seeking the tinselled, cosmopolitan experiences that they have enjoyed in Paris, Singapore or New York.

Hôtel des Arts Saigon delivers all that, plus the excitement, romance and exotic allure that prevails when East meets West. Named both Asia's Leading Life-style and Business Hotel at the World Travel Awards, it is hyper-chic, with the exclusive air of a boutique charmer, but honoured for its substantial hospitality fac-

ets — exquisite French-inspired interiors, intuitive service, a daz-zling rooftop pool, superlative cuisine and extreme mixology. **The style:** Hôtel des Arts Saigon is part of the MGallery Collec-tion, an Accor brand of more than 100 properties worldwide that embody local culture and history.

Besides its own Franco-Indo-chinese influence, the hotel is in the most vibrant area of Ho Chi Minh City, near elaborate architectural landmarks such as Notre Dame Cathedral, the Opera House and the Saigon Central Post Office, an 1890s beauty that blends neoclassical European architecture and Asian ornamentation.

Hôtel des Arts itself is a time-less museum-like treasure. It's graced with art nouveau, art deco and Asian decor, as well as Chinoiserie and hundreds of paintings, and antiques from the owner's collection, plus fine furnishings and craftsmanship by Vietnamese artisans. **Food and drink:** Executive chef Ivan Barone delivers thrilling cuisine in four venues, each with a different personality and look. The Social Club Restaurant (23rd floor) is a design and culi-nary sensation that is the hottest table in Ho Chi Minh City. It has a funky, cool vibe of a lounge with low-rise tables and the whimsy of unmatched dining chairs. A private dining area is set up like a library in a gentlemen's club.

The Social Club has a decidedly euro focus, serving foie gras, pork terrine, lobster cocotte, duck and



Serenity is a hallmark of the chic guest rooms and suites at Hôtel des Arts Saigon in Ho Chi Minh City. The elegant hotel features stunning views of the skyline. *HÔTEL DES ARTS SAIGON/MGALLERY COLLECTION*

bouillabaisse, plus truffle pasta, burrata and tomatoes, as well as international riffs on lamb, cod, quail and sides like mushrooms with yuzu. The grill produces luscious Tomahawk steaks, rack of lamb, ribeyes and Wagyu striploins, all heightened with grilled bone marrow, garlic confit and salsa. It's gastronomy in a buzzy, upscale setting, with most main courses priced at about \$32 to \$48, and lobster and choice steaks about \$65 to \$75.

One floor up is the Social Club Rooftop Bar, where the city's beau monde alights for lychee martinis and spring rolls, or champagne and oysters. The skyline is captivating at sunset and also after dark when the city lights twinkle.

Saigon Kitchen is casual, sporting an upbeat design of ceramic walls and colourful chairs, all inspired by street food markets. There is a huge à la carte menu, but Saigon Kitchen is known for amazing buffets with western and Asian delica-cies for breakfast and lunch dai-

ly, plus on Fridays and Saturday evenings, the famous seafood extravaganza.

Sunday brunch is a major event — both social and culinary, and you can opt for unlimited wine or unlimited champagne, with some party packages revel-ling on from noon until 5 p.m.

Café des Beaux Arts is an ele-gant salon with French-inspired décor of pearl velvet club chairs and antique furniture. This is the place for sophisticated lunches, all-day drinks and dining, and afternoon tea or coffee, serenad-ed by a pianist.

The guest rooms are bathed in colours of rich cream with shim-mering sheer curtains, curved windows and carved ceilings. Fancy details include gilt-edge mirror frames and lamps. It's all meant to evoke a more formal time, euro-style.

On the totally modern front, all 168 rooms and suites have 50-inch TVs with streaming, extra telephones in the bath-rooms, fancy writing desks, bottled water and a choice of

IF YOU GO

Hotel des Arts, Saigon: 84-28-3989-8888, hoteldesarts-saigon.com; 76-78 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, District 3, 70000 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. **Price:** Rooms from \$200, suites from \$450, (holidays can be higher) — including rooftop pool, Wi-Fi, bathrobes, bottled water, fitness centre, in-room Nespresso. **Vietnam tourism:** vietnam.travel. Canadians require a visa.

pillows. The bathrooms are all Kohler, with glass rain showers and bidets, and some with claw-foot soaking tubs. Some upgraded rooms have access to the Sky Lounge, which has a private concierge and check-in desk, computers, com-plimentary afternoon tea, with sweet and savoury treats, and cocktail hour drinks and artful-ly-presented canapés like sushi and shrimp chips.

TV TIMES TONIGHT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 21											MOVIES	SPORTS	TALK
	B	W	E	V	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	
2 SRC	10	4	4	2	En direct de l'univers (N)		Il était une forêt Le bois (N)		Ridley Road (N)		Le téléjournal (N)	Doc humanité (N)	
3 CBS	282	21	21	87	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced				
5 NBC	280	23	18	84	4:30 NFL Football		Night Court		Night Court		Dateline NBC		
6 CBC	206	13	13	6	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Montreal Canadiens (N)						Saturday Night Live		
8 CJOH	229	-	-	10	4:30 NFL Football (N)		The NFL Today (N)		NFL Football Jacksonville Jaguars at Kansas City Chiefs (N)		NHL Hockey		
9 MATV	-	9	9	9	Cap sur 2030		Mon île, mon		Zone familiale		Endorphine	Compétition	
10 TVA	115	7	7	4	6:30 📺 *** Mégalodon ('18, Sci-Fi) Li Bingbing, Jason Statham.		:45 📺 *** Dangereux 7 ('15, Act) Paul Walker, Vin Diesel.				Paroles d'auteurs	Pas	
12 CTV	70	11	11	7	4:30 NFL Football (N)		The NFL Today (N)		NFL Football Jacksonville Jaguars at Kansas City Chiefs (N)				
17 TQc	138	8	8	3	6:00 Les enquêtes de Morse		Cette année-là (N)		Belle et Bum (N)		:05 📺 *** Le homard ('15) Colin Farrell.		
22 ABC	281	22	22	86	Extra (N)		UFC 283: Teixeira vs. Hill - Prelims (N)				Shark Tank		
33 PBS	-	57	-	88	Still Open All Hours		My Hero		Father Brown		Death in Paradise		
35 Noovo	114	5	5	5	6:30 📺 * Jouer avec le feu ('19, Com) Judy Greer, John Cena. (P)		📺 Poursuite blindée ('13, Act) Liam Hemsworth, Dwayne Johnson.				Le Real McCoy	📺 ** Le refuge ('12)	
44 FOX	283	46	36	85	4:30 TBA		Postgame		Special Forces: World's Toughest Test		Special Forces: World's Toughest Test	FOX44 News at 10	
46 GBL	234	3	3	8	The New Reality (N)		Border Security		Private Eyes		Nurses		
57 PBS	-	24	40	89	Mountain Lake		New York Now		Midsomer Murders		Lucy Worsley Investigates		
62 CITY	207	14	14	14	NHL Hockey Winnipeg Jets at Ottawa Senators (N)						Hudson & Rex		
A&E	615	39	-	90	5:30 📺 *** Deepwater Horizon ('16)		📺 ** The Magnificent Seven ('16, West) Chris Pratt, Denzel Washington.						
AMC	293	-	-	209	6:15 📺 ** Revenge of the Nerds ('84)		:15 📺 *** The Goonies ('85, Child) Josh Brolin, Sean Astin.				:45 📺 ** Uncle Buck		
APTN	23	10	58	16	Yukon Harvest		Merchants-Wild		Nations at War		Bears' Lair		
CBCNN	502	48	48	18	The Fifth Estate		The Nature of Things Science & Cannabis		CBC News Live (N)		Marketplace	The Nature of Things Science & Cannabis	
CD	129	20	20	36	Gold Rush: sprint hivernal		Les trésors de la WWE (N)		Les trésors de la WWE (N)		📺 ** Elvis Gratton II: miracle à Memphis		
CNN	500	36	27	81	CNN Newsroom With Pamela Brown (N)		CNN Newsroom With Pamela Brown (N)		📺 Dionne Warwick: Don't Make Me Over ('21)				
CRVM1	300	-	-	211	6:50 📺 ** Black Adam ('22, Act) Aldis Hodge, Dwayne Johnson.				📺 ** Ambulance ('22, Act) Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Jake Gyllenhaal. (P)				
CTVDR	30	34	-	92	Bones		Bones		Bones		SIGN OFF		
CTVSc	90	32	-	101	5:30 📺 Indiana Jones & the Kingdom of t...		📺 **** Raiders of the Lost Ark ('81, Adv) Karen Allen, Harrison Ford.					Movie	
CV	135	44	35	44	Appelez l'experte		Tous pour un chalet		J'ai dit oui à la robe		17 ans et maman 2		
DISC	636	37	37	102	6:00 BattleBots		BattleBots				BattleBots		
FAM	556	-	-	64	:10 Life With Derek		Life With Derek		Domino Masters		📺 ** Martian Child ('07, Child) Amanda Peet, John Cusack.		
HBO1	306	-	-	215	5:50 📺 Cinema Verite		:25 Kareem: Minority of One		Gossip Girl (N)		Velma (N)	Velma (N)	
HGTV	83	29	-	97	Property Brothers: Forever Home		Home Town		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		
HIST	84	47	-	107	NCIS: Los Angeles		NCIS: Los Angeles		Shadowland They Need to Hang (N) (P)		Shadowland (N)		
MAX	142	48	32	32	6:00 📺 Rivière ('15) Rossif Sutherland.		📺 ** Revanche ('90, Act) Anthony Quinn, Kevin Costner.				:15 📺 ** Traquée ('87) Tom Berenger.		
MUCH	570	35	-	112	6:45 📺 ** XXX: State of the Union ('05, Act) Willem Dafoe, Ice Cube.				The Simpsons		The Simpsons	The Simpsons	
OWN	526	-	-	94	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Love & Marriage: Huntsville		Ready to Love		The Oprah Winfrey Show		
PEACH	294	-	-	218	Atlanta Eats		Big Bang		Big Bang		Atlanta News First Saturday at 9pm (N)		
RDI	126	19	19	19	6:30 Découverte (N)		Le national (N)		G. reportages Au-delà des médailles: la vie		Le téléjournal (N)		
RDS	123	33	33	25	4:30 Football NFL		Blitz: avant-match / :15 Football NFL Éliminatoires: équipes à communiquer (N)		Le téléjournal (N)		La facture (N)	Le téléjournal (N)	
SC	73	205	205	205	6:35 📺 The Conductor ('18, Hist) Benjamin Wainwright, Christanne de Bruijn.				📺 Stanleyville ('21, Com) Cara Ricketts, Susanne Wuest. (P)		📺 Swallow ('19)		
SE	180	-	-	201	Cinéma		:25 📺 Les assassins ('22, Act) James King, Antonio Banderas.		📺 ** Ambulance ('22, Act) Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Jake Gyllenhaal. (P)				
SHOW	616	40	-	105	6:00 📺 ** The Accountant ('16, Thril) Anna Kendrick, Ben Affleck.				📺 *** Ocean's Eleven ('01) Matt Damon, George Clooney.				
SLICE	27	-	-	99	6:30 📺 * Fool's Gold ('08, Act) Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey.				📺 *** Trainwreck ('15, Rom) Bill Hader, Amy Schumer.				
SN1	418	-	-	184	NHL Hockey Winnipeg Jets at Ottawa Senators (N)						NHL Hockey		
SNE	406	38	38	179	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Montreal Canadiens (N)						NHL Hockey		
STARZ1	304	55	-	216	:55 📺 * The Divergent Series: Allegiant ('16, Sci-Fi) Theo James, Shailene Woodley.		📺 * The King's Daughter ('22) Pierce Brosnan. (P)					Movie	
TCM	292	-	-	219	5:45 📺 *** Running on Empty ('88)		📺 ** Reckless ('35, Mus) William Powell, Jean Harlow.				📺 **** Libeled Lady ('36) Jean Harlow.		
TLC	521	27	39	91	Darcey & Stacey		90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?		90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?		90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?		
TLN	700	-	-	250	Cook Like an Italian Mexican		David Rocco's		Mangia Quebec		📺 * A Little Bit of Heaven ('11, Rom) Gael García Bernal, Kate Hudson.		
TOONE	85	49	-	57	📺 ** Space Jam ('96, Child) Wayne Knight,				Batman: Animated		Superman: The	Justice League	
TOONF	87	45	34	53	Teen / :15 Teen		Teen / :45 Teen		American Dad		Family Guy	Young Justice	
TSN2	401	-	-	187	6:30 Sports		NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Cleveland Cavaliers (N)				SC Top 100 Plays of the Year		
TSN5	404	28	28	190	5:00 NBA Basketball		SportsCentre (N)		UFC 283: Teixeira vs. Hill - Prelims (N)		SportsCentre (N)		
TV5	145	15	15	29	Sam (N)		My Tiny Restaurant (N)				:35 Ça roule	:05 Skate le monde Canada, côte Est	
TVAS	193	-	-	23	Hockey LNH Maple Leafs de Toronto c. Canadiens de Montréal (N)						:45 L'après-match LNH (N)	:45 Avant-match	
TVO	22	-	-	71	Into the Blue (N)		:50 Ontario Hubs		World's Most		:50 TVO Arts	📺 Firestarter - The Story of Bangarra ('21)	
VISN	65	-	-	159	6:00 Endeavour		Sardari		Aikam		Journey of Healing		
WGN	295	-	-	222	Paid Programming		Paid Programming		Friends		Friends	WGN Weekend News at Nine (N)	
WSBK	296	-	-	223	Big Bang		Big Bang		📺 *** Stuart Little 2 ('02, Child) Hugh Laurie, Geena Davis.		CBS News Boston Now on TV38 (N)		
YTV	25	-	-	65	6:00 📺 ** Turbo ('13, Ani)				📺 ** Turbo ('13, Ani)		The Hardy Boys		
B – Bell TV; W – Vidéotron West Montréal; E – Vidéotron East Montréal; V – Vidéotron Illico													