

# Hong Kong

## Pearl of the Orient

DISCOVER THE CHARM OF  
CHINA'S STATELY SAR

— WORDS PHILIP S KAY —

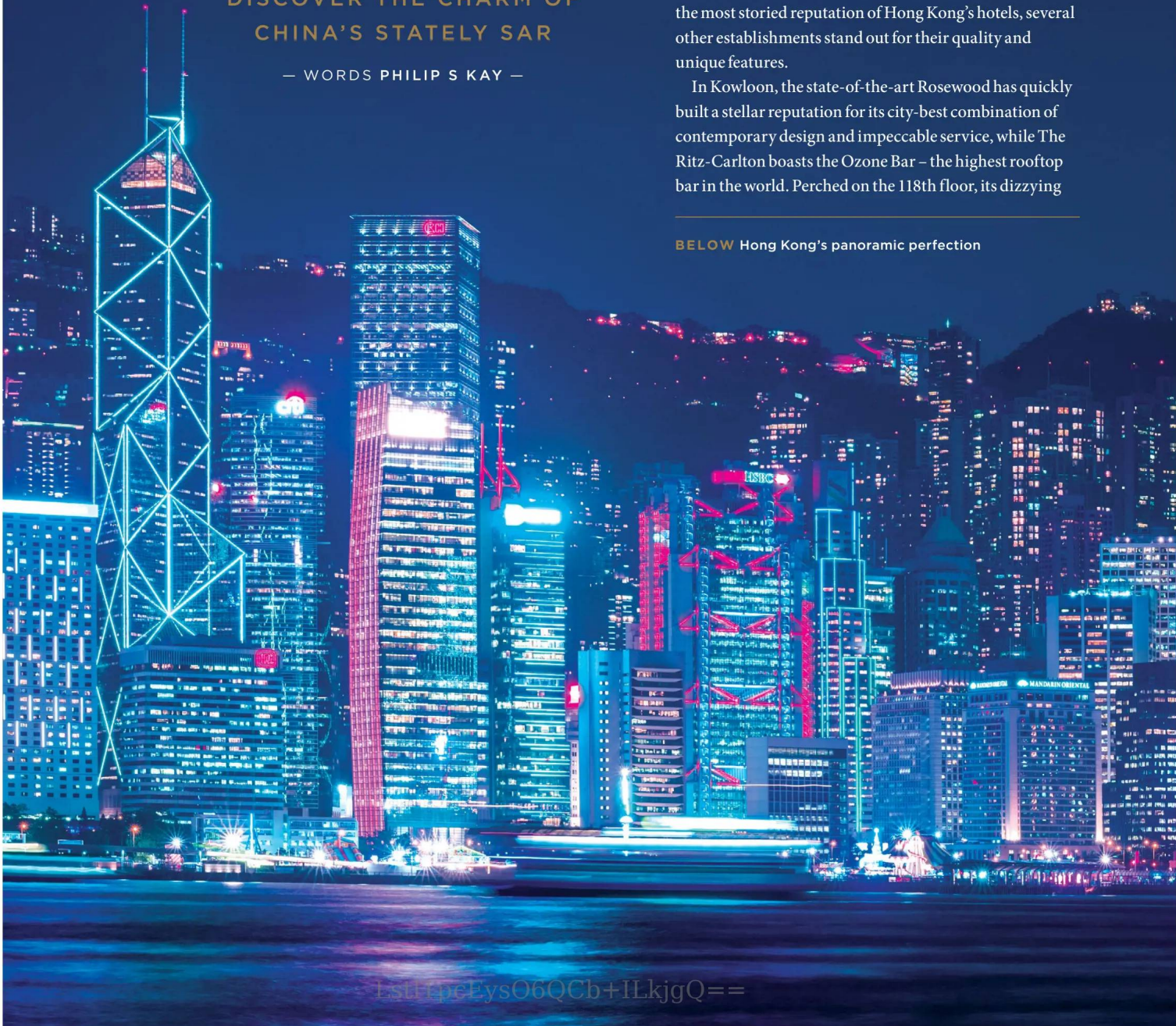
**H**ong Kong is a fantastic fusion of East and West, a place where tradition and modernity mix to create a beautiful and unique blend. One of the most densely populated places on the planet, the Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China overflows with affluence. The former British colony's role as a cosmopolitan port city and leading economic and financial hub has led to it becoming one of the most expensive and extravagant must-visit luxury holiday destinations in Asia. With the highest number of skyscrapers in the world and the most dramatic urban panoramas to be enjoyed anywhere, Hong Kong is nothing short of spectacular.

### FIRST-CLASS HOTEL EXPERIENCES

Although it is The Peninsula (see boxout) that possesses the most storied reputation of Hong Kong's hotels, several other establishments stand out for their quality and unique features.

In Kowloon, the state-of-the-art Rosewood has quickly built a stellar reputation for its city-best combination of contemporary design and impeccable service, while The Ritz-Carlton boasts the Ozone Bar – the highest rooftop bar in the world. Perched on the 118th floor, its dizzying

**BELOW** Hong Kong's panoramic perfection



elevation and vertigo-inducing vistas are just as likely to leave you with unsteady legs as its heavenly cocktails.

On Hong Kong Island, the Mandarin Oriental contains the remarkable Krug Room, where diners can enjoy feasting in an elegant recreation of a train carriage as they are served their choice of extraordinary champagne. For those wanting to sample the most sumptuous local cuisine, Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong is a must. For a start, it is the home of Lung King Heen, the first Chinese restaurant in the world to be awarded Michelin's elusive three-star rating.

### BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES

Despite its image as an urban phenomenon, Hong Kong offers more than just the high-rise havens of Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. The New Territories encompass a staggering number of hidden islets and natural wonders. Sailing the subtropical shores in a private pleasure craft opens up a world of exploration, with great opportunities for romantic day trips and peaceful hikes.

To get above and beyond the skyscrapers to view the city and its surroundings from even greater heights, a tour from one of The Peninsula's twin helipads is the way to go, and for high-rolling risk takers who really want to overindulge, the casino resorts of Macau are only a short distance away.

## THE PENINSULA HOTEL

### GET TO KNOW HONG KONG'S TIMELESS CLASSIC

A century after its construction, The Peninsula Hotel's nickname of 'Grand Dame of the Far East' is more accurate than ever. Over the years, several younger, more fashionable upstarts have tried to dethrone the venerable showpiece, but its prestige and pedigree have always shone through.

VIP visitors are granted access to the exclusive aviation-themed China Clipper lounge, where they can step back in time and immerse themselves in the elegance of travel from a bygone era.

A stay in The Marco Polo Suite allows guests to soak up more of the hotel's evocative historical atmosphere. Situated in the original heritage building and furnished with silk textiles and bespoke antiques, the suite's decadent opulence is complemented by the Rolls-Royce Phantom and chauffeur that is on call for guests' personal use.

For those seeking more romantic views of Hong Kong's harbour, the lavish Peninsula Suite, located on the top floor of the hotel's tower building, features floor-to-ceiling windows. The extravagance of the penthouse is highlighted by the inclusion of a grand piano and a private gym.

When it comes to gastronomical delights, The Peninsula's eclectic array of restaurants provides a tour de force of culinary excellence; they range from the exquisite Cantonese cuisine created at Spring Moon to the outstanding Michelin-starred French fare of Gaddi's. In addition to its superb dining facilities, the hotel also has a fashion arcade with high-brand retailers such as Chanel, Rolex and Tiffany & Co, offering visitors an unequalled level of luxury shopping without having to leave the hotel.

