

H4 HORIZONS

PHUKET HIP DINING

Hot, exciting and defined

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SERENDIPITY DESIGNS

Fine dining restaurants are part of Phuket's charms.



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Hip, chic and sophisticated illustrate Phuket, one of Southeast Asia's most celebrated islands. This ever-transforming atmosphere constantly astounds me, even after living here for nearly eleven years. What's hot and new reaches into the culture and cuisine contouring the island — in its own definitive way.

The west coast of Phuket, particularly from the Bang Thao area down to Nai Harn Beach, has become fixated on fun, fusion and food — world cuisine and exceptional venues. The Red Room Restaurant and Lounge, in Cherng Talay, for example, offers chic dining with an arousing atmosphere and menu full of fusing flavours, freshness and imagination — uniquely prepared in a French/Asian/International style. Meet locals and visitors while enjoying an evening of fine dining at one of the live jazz, hip hop or 70's nights. For sports gazers, the big screen is perfect in the laid-back lounge.

“Sexy” expresses the atmosphere at some of the island's most fashionable eateries. One of them is the Oriental Spoon Restaurant & Oyster-Bar, at Twinpalms Phuket Resort & Spa on Surin Beach. Here, you can indulge with scintillating cuisine, like fresh oysters piled high on ice and selections of cheese and chocolate specialities.

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Here, you'll find the Silk Restaurant and Bar, which is the latest venue from Hong Kong's acclaimed Lan Kwai Fong Entertainments Group. Marrying the classic and contemporary decor styles of Thailand, top Thai cuisine (the fabulous female chef makes every dish a delight); alfresco lounges, inviting bar and imaginative drinks are all an expected class act.

The choices are endlessly exotic. In a league all their own, consider a beach front breakfast at Trisara's signature, The Restaurant, overlooking the Andaman Sea. Evenings, too, are a special time at The Bar encountering magical sunsets. Matched with the finest wine selection, experience a new level of dining created by their legendary team of chefs.

Another top treat by the sea displays a show kitchen and working bakery, bar and modern bistro — Malina's and Columns Restaurants at

the new Aspasia in Kata where cuisine meets art. Delectable coastal Mediterranean and traditional Thai dishes set in contemporary spaces elegantly allow the fusion of taste and view. If it's meat and great wines you crave, a hardy find is the Argentinean style grill restaurant, Locanda Wine & Grill, one of the better open BBQ's for fine grain fed beef and fresh seafood.

Take in the Friday Night Happy Hour — “something of an institution”, as one reviewer wrote of Watermark Bar Restaurant. Situated dockside at the prestigious Boat Lagoon Marina overlooking a fleet of some of the world's most luxurious yachts, patrons are treated to modern Australian cuisine and contemporary Thai fare. Renowned on the island for delicious cocktail menu, the bar is a destination in itself. Home to Punchline Comedy Club, live music dates and now catering to yachts, villas, events and private exotic locations, you may want this in your repertoire.

Well, Phuket sure has more to offer than the sun, sand and sea. These eateries with attitude also make Phuket new, hot and definitive in an exclusive class open for discovery. ART & CULTURE PHUKET