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Pangu Seven Star Hotel, one of Beijing's most extravagant hotels, is housed in the dragon-shaped Pangu Plaza, just next to the Bird's Nest.

HOTEL PROFILE | BEIJING

Lofty luxury at the Pangu Hotel Beijing

Xu Xiao finds soaring amenities overlooking the legendary 2008 Olympic venue.

Overlooking the site where legends were made at the 2008 Olympics, the Pangu Seven Star Hotel Beijing might be a relative newcomer to the ultra-luxury hospitality industry in the capital, but it is among the city's most extravagant new landmarks.

And to resident manager Zeki Ozal, its service is as unique as its design.

Part of the Pangu Plaza complex built by the Beijing investment firm Pangushi Co, the hotel was designed by renowned architect C.Y. Lee, the man behind Taipei 101, one of the world's tallest buildings.

Ozal said the hotel stands out for its 12 breathtakingly opulent rooftop "Sky Courtyards", each created by a distinctive international designer.

More than 85 meters above the ground, the courtyards challenge the imagination and the limits of extravagance. Each has a retractable transparent sunroof. Stairs are made of redwood imported from Africa.

A blend of Chinese and Western accoutrements include hand-made Italian sofas beside a redwood side table, while an old-fashioned square dining table for eight sits below a chandelier.

Ozal said such a meld of design style is found everywhere in the Pangu, especially in its meeting venues.

The hotel has two meeting halls, one on the third floor called the Pandu Ballroom, and the other on the floor above named the Lotus.

Both have 15-meter-high ceilings and no pillars. The size and spaciousness make them outstanding, according to Ozal.

The hotel's LED screen is among the biggest in Asia, provided free of charge when a company rents a meeting room.

Marble carvings and paintings of the phoenix and the dragon showcase traditional Chinese aesthetics, even as the glass walls of each ballroom offer a panorama of the modern metropolis outside.

But it is exclusive. "Luxury comes with privacy," said Ozal. "We don't want two to three different groups of guests mingle."

The manager said companies such as Tencent, Samsung, Shell, ABB, Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen have all held major events. New movies have also been launched in the spacious rooms.

The ballrooms are also open for weddings. "If you have the chance to join one of the weddings here, you will have a strong willingness to get married at once," Ozal said.

The Pangu Seven Star is also fast becoming a trendy epicurean epicenter due to its 26 individually styled private dining rooms at the Wenqi Restaurant, where people meet to savor superb Chui Chow and Cantonese cuisine in a setting of exceptional exclusivity.

For expansive evening views one can choose the Happiness Lounge, or indulge in high tea at the elegant lobby-side Karma Lounge, or experience world-class all-day buffets at the Auspicious Garden, which has gained a reputation among Beijing's gourmets for its fresh lobsters, view of the Water Cube and service.

As well, you can delight your senses at Kaden Minokichi, the first international branch of the

300-year-old Kyoto establishment that once served Japanese emperors. All its chefs and ingredients are direct from Japan.

"Guest satisfaction comes first," Ozal said, noting that 50 percent of the clients are repeat guests.

"I've never seen such a loyal guest group during my 20 years of work experience in the industry."

Before his seven years in the hospitality industry in Beijing, Ozal worked at high-end hotels in Turkey and Russia and Saudi Arabia.

He found that Beijing offers abundant opportunities as "more and more Chinese travel abroad and know the world's top level hotels."

"When they come back to China, they have increased demands for domestically rooted high-end hotels," he said.

"We know the trends in the world, and we have our way to combine both international and local service, so I believe we'll have a bright future," Ozal said.

In addition to the Pangu Seven Star Hotel, the Pangu Plaza complex has a luxury office building, three international apartment buildings and a 411-meter long commercial hallway called the "Dragon Corridor".

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Zeki Ozal, resident manager of Pangu Seven Star Hotel Beijing.

hotellistings

BEIJING Creative gift ideas

Sheraton Beijing Dongcheng Hotel presents some great moon cake gift ideas to celebrate this year's Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on Sept 30. The creative gift boxes are suitable for personal consumption or as giveaways to family, friends and business partners. Free delivery within Beijing's fifth ring road for purchases above 30 boxes. Gift boxes cost from 168-368 yuan each.

010-5798-8989.

Handmade cakes

The St. Regis Beijing has prepared a limited quantity of handmade moon cakes with special designs and elegant packaging. The deluxe moon cake gift box is priced at 468 yuan a box, family reunion gift box at 268 yuan per box, and Western collection gift box at 228 yuan each.

010-6460-6688.

Good fortune designs

In celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival, Regent Beijing presents a mixture of both classic and innovative moon cake flavors, in exquisite and elegant gift boxes. The hotel has introduced three unique new flavors. The design of the box, which signifies good fortune, is inspired by golden classical furniture from the Sandalwood Museum. Gift box costs 388 yuan each.

010-8522-1888.

Love buffet

To show your appreciation to your loved ones during the upcoming Qixi or Chinese Valentine's Day, Senses Signature Restaurant at Westin Beijing Financial Street offers a bountiful evening buffet overflowing with a sumptuous array of international cuisines. Dinner is priced at 788 yuan per couple and subject to 15 percent surcharge, including a bottle of house wine.

010-6629-7810.

Under the sea

The best time of the year to enjoy Alaskan sea cucumbers is in August, when they are delicate and succulent. Summer Palace, China World Hotel has prepared a selection of the delicacy, which includes sea cucumber with wasabi, fried sea cucumber with ginger and onion, and boiled sea cucumber with nostoc.

010-6505-2266 Ext 34.

SHANGHAI Mandarin mooncakes

Mid-Autumn Festival, one of the most important traditional holidays in the lunar calendar, is around the corner. It's the perfect time for family reunion over some tasteful moon cakes and tea. Shanghai JC Mandarin has designed some special moon cake varieties, including Cantonese style and snow skin with an assortment of flavors, packed in well-chosen and classic materials.

021-6279-1888 Ext 5101.

Moon cakes under the moonlight

During the Mid-Autumn Festival, Chinese people have the tradition of enjoying their mooncakes while admiring the full moon. The Okura Garden Hotel Shanghai has prepared some delicious homemade moon cakes packed in luxury gift boxes.

021-6415-1111.

Aloha food festival



A Hawaiian-style food festival was held at the X-Sensation restaurant in Double Tree by Hilton Shanghai-Pudong Hotel on July 29, 2012. Guests also had the chance to win lucky draw prizes, which included two round-trip air tickets to Hawaii from Shanghai and a five-night stay at the Doubletree by Hilton Alana Waikiki.

021-5050-4888.

Icy energy-boosting drinks

Swissotel Grand Shanghai has introduced a variety of unique cold energy-boosting drinks this summer. The drinks are made with natural ingredients including mango puree with honey and yogurt, mint lemonade made of fresh lemon juice with fresh mint leaves and sugar syrup.

021-5355-9898 Ext 6361.

who'swho



Gino Tan (left), general manager of Grand Millennium Beijing, welcomes Singaporean Minister of National Development **Khaw Boon Wan** (right) during his recent stay at the hotel.



Yerzhan Kazykhanov (left), foreign minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, shakes hands with **Merlin Wilson**, manager of the Westin Beijing Financial Street.



Martin Dahinden (left), Swiss Minister of State for Development and Technology, receives a warm welcome from **Jan Chovanec** (right), general manager of Swissotel Beijing.



Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari (left) poses with **Christian Westbeld**, resident manager of the Raffles Beijing Hotel.



Wai Meng Cheong (lower left corner), the area director of human resources at Grand Hyatt Shanghai, shares a joyful moment with the participants of the 2012 East China Hyatt Hotels Games.



Li Guangjie (middle) and **Tong Liya** (right), the hero and heroine of TV series *My Economy*, hold a news conference with other actors at the Grand Central Hotel Shanghai.



Gerd Knaut (left), the general manager of Hilton Shanghai warmly welcomes **Huang Haibing** (right), a popular China actor.



Akram Touma (middle), the regional vice president of Jumeirah Group and the general manager of Jumeirah Himalayas Shanghai welcomes **Megumi Noda** (second left), 2012 Miss Earth Japan.