



Life & TIMES

ISSUE FOUR

Insights INTO THE WORLD OF ASIA'S Barefoot Luxury Pioneer

The President by AKARYN

Change is in the Air as Intuitive Luxury Comes to the 'Walled City of Sandalwood'

●● “NESTLED IN a curve of the Mekong River, Vientiane, Laos, is a place where monks in orange robes outnumber tourists, and French colonial roofs and gilded temples form the skyline. Polished Volkswagen bugs putter along dusty streets. And in the town centre, butterflies and birds flutter among the frangipanis.” *The New York Times*

When The President by AKARYN opens its doors to receive its first guests in the 3rd Quarter of 2016, this select coterie of fortunate travellers will be transported into the heart of a timeless, gracious and often overlooked city. Vientiane, the ‘Walled City of Sandalwood’, is a place as serene as its name suggests, where peace and quiet pervades, aromas of freshly-baked French bread and freshly-brewed coffee mingle with aromatic noodles, and echoes of the past whisper from crumbling colonial mansions and flit in the peripheral vision down broad, tree-lined avenues. Add to this paragon of peacefulness the new Asian avatar of elegance ... The President by AKARYN. Anchalika Kijkanakorn, the founder and managing director of AKARYN Hotel Group, said she was thrilled to be adding the group's first hotel in Laos, especially one that would immediately assume its rightful position as Laos' First Hotel'.

“The location is peerless,” Ms Kijkanakorn said. “The hotel enjoys a commanding position on the best piece of real estate in Vientiane — occupying the prime position on the city's first thoroughfare, Setthathirath Road, adjoining Parliament House where the Lao National Assembly convenes.”

Its stately, classic lines rise from an expansive plot of meticulously manicured lawns, serried hedges and English country garden mazes. Revive the lost art



“THE LOCATION IS PEERLESS. *The hotel enjoys a commanding position on the best piece of real estate in VIENTIANE.*”

of the promenade or let romance take you up the garden path.

Opposite the hotel, the vast Chou Anouvong Park meanders to the banks of the Mekong River. The President by AKARYN's other neighbour is Haw Phra Kaew, the venerable temple of the Emerald Buddha. Built in 1565, this elegant temple today is home to one of the finest collections of Laotian religious art in the country and remarkable for its two-metre thick walls and wooden carvings of nagas

and dancing apsaras inside, some hundreds of years old. Across the road, Wat Sisaket's frescos retell the story of Prince Pookkharabat, who defeated his enemies with a magic fan. Outside, 2000 silver and ceramic Buddha statues crowd the temple's cloister walls.

Ms Kijkanakorn said: “President by AKARYN now offers discerning travellers the Vientiane experience hitherto unavailable; accommodations of the most refined and luxurious style, redolent

of colonial times yet with every contemporary amenity and service, which is exemplified by your own personal butler-in-residence, who will be ever-present and summoned whenever guests need assistance.

“An individual butler is assigned to each room & suite, with a pantry and closet concealed next to each room. This makes possible butlering of the old school, an indispensable right hand man or woman who is always there when you need them, but never in the way.” *continued on page 03*



LIFE & TIMES

4th Issue

BY AKARYN HOTEL GROUP

www.akaryngroup.com

JUNE 2016

DINING

A New Gourmet Experience



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HEALTH & FITNESS

Beach Bootcamp



●● Wind up and wind down on Natai Beach. Move over beach bums, we bring you Beach Bootcamp. It's a different kind of beach slumming...a more active kind. *Page 05*

ADVENTURE

Roads Less Travelled



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HEAR & Say

GO TO www.akaryngroup.com for more information

A Few Words From Our Leader

TO OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

Issue 04 01.06.16

They say in business you can't stand still and that is certainly the mantra at AKARYN Hotel Group. It is something I take to heart every day as I manage the team, our growth, positioning and most importantly the unique experiences we offer guests.

I hope we are able to maintain this important point of difference. Our resorts are located in bold destinations, slightly off-the-beaten-track, offering guests a chance to really experience the authenticity of the destination away from the crowds while enjoying very personalised service.

We try to make a difference to the communities too. We work with them as our partners and offer this insight to our guests. For example, at Aleenta Hua Hin-Pranburi we run a fully fledged organic farm which not only stocks our kitchen with the freshest ingredients but we allow the local community to come and pick and eat for free as long as they spend some time replanting. Come and see it in action.

In Chiang Mai, we work closely with the art community encouraging them to display their work in our hotel – the all-suite akyra Manor Chiang Mai – while in the south at Aleenta Phuket-Phang Nga we nurture endangered species of leatherback turtles for release.

These stories and more are in these pages. I hope you enjoy our 4th issue of Life & Times.



Anchalika Kijkanakorn
*Founder of AKARYN Group
Chairman of the Board,
Small Luxury Hotels of the World*

*For any enquiries, please contact:
contact@ahmshotels.com*



Vientiane, Laos

MORE VOICES FROM THE AHG TEAM



“
These are exciting times at AHG as we grow outside of Thailand into neighbouring Laos.
”

MARK ELETR
Group General Manager



“
Come and write your own story at one of our boutique resorts.
”

CASSANDRA XU
Marketing Communications Manager



“
Locally sourced ingredients are at the heart of what we do at Italics.
”

KIPLAGAT LETING
Italics Bangkok Head Chef

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CONTACT US. FOLLOW US. STAY IN TOUCH.

Please check us out online and follow us!



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A LIFE & TIMES

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Special thanks to the AKARYN Hotel Group team and everyone involved behind the scenes of each of our fabulous resorts, who made this newspaper possible.

BEACHFRONT Villa Thrillers

Great Mates Escapes & Indulgent Family Breaks now a Reality as Aleenta Hua Hin adds 2 Lavish Villas

●● THAILAND'S PIONEERING

barefoot luxury boutique retreat, Aleenta Hua Hin-Pranburi, has added a world of intriguingly opulent escapes and rock star mini-breaks to the resort's possibilities with the addition of 2 sprawling, very private and ultra-luxurious new 3 and 4-bedroom villas.

The new 4-bedroom beachfront villa offers an exceptionally private 2-storey beach house with stunning outdoor spaces, a kitchenette, tastefully appointed furnishings and fittings, and a timeless chic neoclassical design that evokes the glamour of St Tropez and the French Riviera. The 3-bedroom 'Owner's Villa', meantime, adds another luxurious option to the resort, located about 10 minutes' drive from Aleenta Hua Hin-Pranburi in a very private gated community with access to the residents' facilities including a pool & gym.

Both villas will suit families looking for a private beach house for long lazy days, leisurely strolls on the beach, in-resort and in-room dining, and quality time with the people who matter most. The two new villas introduce the possibility of 'Great Mates' Escapes' in Hua Hin, extending the successful concept launched three years ago by AKARYN Hotel Group's other Aleenta property, Aleenta Phuket-Phang Nga, at Natai Beach - Phuket's 'Hamptons'.

'Great Mates Escapes' are based on the insight that while a rock star villa might be super-expensive for one couple to rent for their holiday, it suddenly becomes



much more do-able when the cost is split between three or four couples, a group of friends, or members of an extended family.

AKARYN Hotel Group founder and managing director Anchalika Kijkanakorn said she was delighted to announce the addition of the villa to the resort's inventory, and excited that 'Great Mates' Escapes' would now be extended to Pranburi as well as Greater Phuket.

"It's great to see the resort growing and improving and bringing new things to the table. These villas are for families and friends who really want to get away, and have their own high end version of a private beach house with as much or as little service as you want. This is a great new reason to discover Hua Hin, Pranburi and its environs while staying in a villa offering the sort of luxury you would be hard pressed to find elsewhere in the destination."



"This resort means the world to me. It's where the dream began, our original property and it was my family's beach weekender where we spent so much precious quality time as kids."



(cont'd from page 01) The hotel's design was created in a neo-classical style with Laotian accents representing the sine qua non of refined luxury. An aura of timeless style and elegance pervades each of the 32 guest rooms and suites of The President by AKARYN.

"The hotel will become the landmark of Vientiane, the place where diplomats come to meet & deals are done. The place where travelers, not tourists, travel back in time and experience the past & future of Laos' Golden Age."

"It's been awaiting the right time and the right management to begin hotel operations. That time is now, and I can assure you this will be a grand hotel of the kind you expect in the world's most refined destinations" Ms Kijkanakorn said. Soaring 4 metre ceilings lend guest rooms and public areas an expansiveness of spirit and a genuine grandeur, she said, while subtle Laotian accents are evidence of the uncommon attention to detail lavished on the hotel, such as its impressively with a restrained colour palette utilising mainly whites, creams, beiges, greys, golds and browns. "Lavish and authentic colonial-era decorative mouldings, from panelling, balustrades and wainscoting to touches like hardwood parquet floors, white marble bathroom counters and classic brass fixtures and fittings," she said.

The serene glow of quality, the burnished sheen of authentic craftsmanship, the precise lines of timeless style and the reassuring comfort and delicious thrill of settling into an environment of perfectly executed luxury. "These intangible yet unmistakable qualities are there in each guest room and suite at The President by AKARYN," she said. "It's a true gem.. glorious proportions, soaring spaces that feel welcoming with just the right touch of formality. The 126 sqm Presidential Suite stands alone as a paragon of timeless elegance, and the same level of refinement can be found in the Executive Suites, Deluxe Suites, and Garden Suites. The President by AKARYN, Vientiane, Laos puts this serene city of well-preserved colonial era architecture, glittering temples and expansive boulevards firmly on the map and demands immediate inclusion in the bucket lists of true romantics and those who take ultra-luxury travel seriously.

Eco-Farm Family Excursions

Aleenta Hops in Harmony With the Environment



Discover the joys of the farm and eco living at Aleenta Hua Hin. Roll up your sleeves, put on your wellies and dive into a world of organic food, cultivated lovingly on our own farm. It's perfect for the whole family and gets children away from their habitual digital distractions. Learn a little and love the land. Kids under six eat for free too. Hang out with the locals who are invited to come and pick and eat for free in the organic farm as long as they spend some time replanting.

"Guests have a ball here getting a little bit mucky in the process but loving getting close to the land and enjoying the fruits of their labours when it comes to tucking into a fresh feast at The Cellar afterwards," says Aleenta Hua Hin-Pranburi General Manager James Noble.

There are cooking classes, complimentary baby sitting and of course our Ayurah Wellness Centre adding to the relaxing mood of the experience. And when you're done, simply hang out at the Frangipani wing, just you and your gang, an infinity pool and the beach beyond.

A New Gourmet Experience

Italics Bangkok Unveils Its New Signature Dish and Secret Weapon

●● **ITALICS BANGKOK** has unveiled a new gourmet menu that contains the only reason you need to visit the recently opened purveyor of ‘Innovative Italian’ cuisine: Pumpkin & Ricotta Pizza with Sundried Tomatoes and Red Onion, cooked in Italics’ authentic Eucalyptus wood oven.

As healthy as it is delicious, this signature Italics pizza is already winning a loyal following of diners who can’t do without the combination of fresh pizza dough from an ancient recipe tossed by our chef live at your table, with the antioxidant-rich buttery sweet orange pumpkin and lycopene-packed sundried tomatoes offset by the sharp tang of perfect ricotta and the caramelised red onion’s soft sweetness.

There are other reasons to become part of Bangkok’s small but growing society of diners who have discovered Italics since the launch of this streamlined, pared back, intelligently put together and creatively inspired gourmet menu. They include Scallops & Truffle Tartare, Burrata Caprese salad, Duck Ravioli, and signature pizzas including Seafood with basil pesto, Parma Ham and mascapone with wild rocket and truffle oil, Air Dried Beef with Rocket, Lemon and Parmesan and Four Cheese.

Main dishes, each with a suggested wine pairing, include Slow Cooked Lamb Shoulder with Roasted Vegetables (3-4 diners to share) with a Castello De Fonterotuli from Tuscany, Seared Hokkaido Scallops with Pork Belly,



Sweet Corn and Basil Sauce, with a Colutta Pino Grigio, and Beef Butcher’s Cut with Wedge Potatoes, Roast Bone Marrow and Herb Butter, served with a Le Volte from Tuscany.

The buzz-worthy restaurant and deli breathes fresh life into much-loved dishes and new creations using the best of locally sourced ingredients and with quality as a watchword for Chef Kip.

Italics Bangkok boasts a prime location in Bangkok’s new ‘eat street’ Soi Ruamrudee, with the added benefit of sharing an address with the

new Balvenie Bar, a cigar and whisky bar and club with the best single malt selection in South East Asia and an impressive array of quality cigars in its humidor, making it a tempting after-dinner nightcap stop, or the place for a quick sharpener before a hearty Italics feast.

“Warm and welcoming staff with great wood-fired pizza. It’s not easy to find great western food in Bangkok but Italics has it all. Great value for money, attentive staff in a modern and fresh dining room. I will be back again and again,” said allybingally in a recent Trip Advisor review .

Ladymerryberry writes: “5 stars. Even better than before. This was our second visit to the ‘hidden gem’ with new Kenyan Chef Kip creating a gourmet menu with fewer bells and whistles, but quality at every turn. The Burrata Caprese has beauty to boot, with the brightness of cherry tomatoes adds a fiesta-like feel” while the Beef Butcher’s Cut was ‘a fine choice’.

AKARYN Hotel Group Founder and Managing Director Anchalika Kijkanakorn, which counts Italics in AHG’s luxury boutique hospitality portfolio, said the reaction to the new



“
Warm & welcoming staff with great wood-fired pizza.”



menu had been very positive. “We are still innovative Italian, but we also went back to basics a bit, keeping it simple and getting it right. It is gratifying that people really appreciate the new menu direction. If you haven’t tried Italics yet, now is the time to discover one of your new favourite restaurants in Bangkok.”

Italics takes its coffee as seriously as its food. From espressos to exotic gourmet blends, its coffee menu echoes the food menu: it has been built on a locally sourced, high quality ethos.

MAIN DISHES



Pork Prime Rib

Red Cabbage Purée | Burnt Baby Cos | Apple Mostarda

Dry Aged Beef Tenderloin

Bone Marrow | Herb Butter

MENU *Highlights*

ITALICS PIZZAS

From Our Eucalyptus Wood Oven

Parma Ham & Mascarpone: *Wild Rocket | Truffle Oil*

Pumpkin Ricotta: *Sundried Tomatoes | Red Onion*

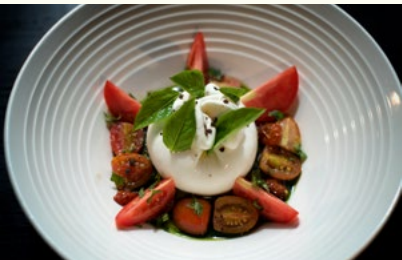
Spicy Diavola: *Spicy Salami | Italian Sausage | Olives*

Margherita: *Italics Tomato Sauce | Basil | Bocconcini*

INSALATA

Burrata Caprese

Burrata | Cherry Tomatoes | Pesto



YOUNG Love

Escape for a Whirlwind Romance at akyra Chura Samui

●● SNUGGLE AND CUDDLE

your way down to the northern end of Chaweng Beach on Koh Samui to the hippest adults only resort in Thailand. Just close enough to Chaweng's nightlife action but far enough away to retreat into each others arms and chill out at *akyra Chura Samui*, where our Ultimate Romance Experience awaits for you to test run.

Try four days and three nights in a Grand Deluxe Room, breakfast in bed, massage for two, romantic candles, scents and flower petals in room, a bottle of bubbly and private dinner. And then there's Anghong National Park, Thailand's pristine marine park to explore – especially organized for two. So dump the kids (if you have them) and head on over!



BEACH Bootcamp

Wind Up and Wind Down on Natai Beach

●● **MOVE OVER BEACH BUMS.** We bring you, Beach Bootcamp. It's a different kind of beach slumming – a more active kind and back by popular demand.

Come and compete in teams of three and run with sandbags, flip tires, even do a few sit ups for good measure. It's a great way to exercise and experience one of Thailand's best kept secrets – Natai Beach. And when the hard work is done jump into the ocean to cool down – or cool off in another way with an icy cocktail while the sun goes down.

Family teams are welcome. Lots of prizes are there to be won – from a full on private beach BBQ to exclusive treatments at Ayurah Wellness Centre. Come and stay for a few days and enjoy the fun.

To learn more, check out our website at www.aleenta.com, or get in touch via email at rsvn.aph@aleenta.com

Italics
INNOVATIVE ITALIAN

THAILAND
TATLER
BEST
RESTAURANTS 2016

*Dine at Italics Bangkok or Italics Chiang Mai
& get the chance to win a THB 2000 voucher!*

Share your photo on Facebook / Instagram, and tag us at:

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ROADS *Less Travelled*

Culinary Adventures, Artistic Endeavors & Barefoot Luxury

●● **EXPLORE THE MOST** beautiful areas of Thailand with AKARYN Hotel Group. Enjoy a Round Trip Thailand travel experience at the group’s four boutique resorts in picture-perfect settings to cover all compass points. Each resort is located along roads less travelled, offering barefoot luxury, indulgent wellness treatments & opportunities to discover local art & culture.



Aleenta Hua Hin - Pranburi

Aleenta Hua Hin Resort & Spa in Pranburi is situated in Pak Nampran Bay just 2.5 hours from Bangkok by road. Originally the family beach home of the founder of AKARYN Hotel Group, features 23 residences, most with a private pool offering commanding views of the Gulf of Thailand. The resort is 87% self-sustainable, with all ingredients sourced from its own organic farm or suppliers within a 30km radius. Enjoy a cooking class, or try kite-surfing for an adrenaline kick.



MAP OF THE HUMAN HEART: *Experience the amazing locations, innovative approaches to wellness, and barefoot luxury with a conscience that defines the world of AKARYN Hotel Group.*



akya Manor Chiang Mai

The new five star, 30-suite **akya** Manor Hotel in Chiang Mai is located in the heart of the vibrant Nimmanhaemin art district, brimming with galleries, cafes and shops. Perched on the roof is the pool and cocktail bar, Rise, while the hotel’s flagship dining experience, ITALICS, offers a clever interpretation of contemporary Italian and Northern Thai cuisine. While there, unleash the creative in you with photography walks, art classes with local artists at the hotel, and cooking experiences.



Aleenta Phuket - Phang Nga

Aleenta Phuket-Phang Nga offers a private and tranquil location away from the bustle of Phuket set on the pristine Natai Beach. An all-suite hideaway retreat, with private Pool Villas and suites only steps away from the private beach. The resort also offers beachfront fine-dining at The Edge Restaurant, and a revolutionary new results-driven Ayurah Wellness Centre that combines the best of Eastern and Western philosophies for a holistic experience. Take part in a Muay Thai bootcamp, or enjoy private yoga sessions in-villa.



akya Chura Samui

The **akya** Chura Samui is an ‘adults only’ beach resort located on the quieter northern end of the trendy Chaweng Beach in Koh Samui. The stylish suites & rooms offer a combination of Asian chic mixed with a natural outdoors ethos, in-keeping with the resort’s passionate, spirited style. The **akya** Kitchen offers authentic Thai cuisine, while The Club **akya** is the perfect setting to enjoy a cocktail and a Mediterranean & Thai inspired selection of tapas while the sun sets.



FAMILIES *First*

AHG Launches Children's Concierge with Range of Kids' Fun & Learning Activities Around Thailand

●● **CHILDREN CAN EAT, PLAY AND STAY** for free with AKARYN Hotel Group this year with new enhancements to the family programmes at its resorts around Thailand.

Take Aleenta Phuket-Phang Nga for example. Upon arrival via complimentary airport transfer, children are gifted a goody bag bursting with colouring books, painting sets and a guide to all activities taking place during their stay. Far from ordinary kid's clubs, young guests can enjoy a wealth of stimulating activities with AKARYN.

The 'A Explorers' Club' at Aleenta Phuket-Phang Nga has a range of gadget-free activities seven days a week for children aged six months to 10 years. The 'Learn and Discover' programme offers a variety of fun, educational activities for children aged from six months up to five years to develop toddlers' simple communication and friendship skills from finger paint art to counting in foreign languages.

Older children can join in a choice of age-appropriate and culturally relevant activities including Muay Thai, yoga, Thai dance, batik painting, chocolate making and educational visits to the resort's local turtle sanctuary.

At the Aleenta Hua Hin-Pranburi, children can try cupcake making and decorating classes, coconut beach petanque, kite making and flying and enjoy the opportunity to visit the local farm and meet its animals. Each carefully-considered activity is designed to entertain and introduce them to local culture, customs, nature and cuisine.

A new children's concierge at each resort is designed to ensure no need is left unmet, from organizing surfing lessons on the beach, to trips to the local markets. Maps by renowned cartographer Nancy Chandler highlight local attractions, easily reached by complimentary bicycle hire for the entire family to explore their surroundings, visiting local beaches, waterfalls and temples.

Meal times are made simple with children under six enjoying free dining throughout their stay. Foodie families can also try their hand at cooking lessons with the resorts' chefs. Shop at local markets and at Aleenta Hua Hin-Pranburi pick organically-grown produce from



“ *We hope that families will leave with memories that will last a LIFETIME.* ”



the resort's own farm, before learning to create well-loved and more unusual dishes, encouraging young cooks to explore new and different tastes.

Parents can also relax and unwind with the opportunity to enjoy complimentary babysitting when enjoying a meal in one of the resorts' restaurants or a transformative spa treatment at the on-site Ayurah Wellness Centre.

After an energetic day, unwind with movie afternoons and evenings before heading to bed with a glass of milk and freshly baked cookies. With a range of child-friendly accommodation at both resorts, families can enjoy the luxuries of a private pool, spacious bedrooms and living areas and plenty of outdoor space to enjoy.

Families heading north in Thailand are not forgotten either. akyra Manor Chiang Mai offers the perfect retreat, with child-friendly dining in Italics Restaurant, free bicycle hire and opportunities to visit local hill tribes and elephant sanctuaries for enriching cultural experiences.

Anchalika Kijkanakorn, founder and managing director of AKARYN Hotel Group, said: "As a mother myself, I understand how important it is to escape the hum-drum of everyday life and routines to be able to spend quality time together as a family. Encouraging children to laugh and learn is vital and we hope to offer opportunities to do just this in our resorts and hotels. We hope that families will leave with memories that will last a lifetime."

A Family First break at Aleenta Phuket-Phang Nga or Aleenta Hua Hin-Pranburi includes accommodation, daily breakfast, a children's concierge, unlimited babysitting services, kid's welcome activity packs and free dining for all children under the age of six. High chairs, baby cots and car seats are all available free of charge. Single adult families can enjoy a 15% discount.

Enjoy a seven night stay at the Aleenta Hua Hin-Pranburi from THB 69,611 or at the Aleenta Phuket-Phang Nga from THB 84,000 based on two adults and two children sharing.

For more information, visit www.aleenta.com or www.theakyra.com/chiangmai

Chiang Mai, Naturally

Hang Out with the Big Fellas for a Day

●● **TAKE TIME OUT** with your family or just the two of you and head for Thailand's northern capital where our recently opened art-inspired boutique resort akyra Manor Chiang Mai has specially curated a host of natural experiences for guests.

“How about hanging out with an elephant for a day?”

This is not a tourist trap but an opportunity to learn about the Asian elephant, how the owners manage them, take care of them and

gain their trust. Then hop to hidden forest temples and waterfalls.

Alternatively, thrill seekers should check out the Flight of the Gibbon zip-line ride and whizz through the rain forest canopy and view the pristine eco-system from above.

Come and stay with us a few days so you can experience true nature. Check out our deals online at: www.theakyra.com/chiang-mai

To book your stay, or for more details please contact: rsvn.akmc@theakyra.com



Points & VIEWS

akya Manor Chiang Mai - Team Interview

Meanwhile on SOCIAL MEDIA...

MS. KANLAYANEE WONGTONG (Nee)



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR JOB? I love to meet people from different countries and help them have a fantastic holiday.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN HOSPITALITY? Because of my personality! I love to talk and love to greet people with a smile, especially when the guests have any problems that I can solve for them.

Guest Service Agent
@akya Manor Chiang Mai

MR. PHURIWAT WICHAI (Kay)



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR JOB? As an engineer, my work is always faced with challenges. I love to solve any issues and make it done on time.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN HOSPITALITY? I like to meet people and provide great service to guests. I am always delighted to know that guests are happy & satisfied with our service.

Engineering Attendant
@akya Manor Chiang Mai

MS. TAWIPORN SAIJAN (Junior)



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR JOB? To welcome and take care of all guests who dine in the restaurant. I love to recommend the food and if guests want to have a friendly chat, I'm more than happy to!

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN HOSPITALITY? After graduating from university, my dream was to travel around the world while working in the hospitality industry.

Food & Beverage Attendant
@akya Manor Chiang Mai



NEW ADDITIONS *Coming Soon!*

