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Room Upgrades

A roundup of the region's hottest hotels

food 2010's best books
motors Petite power at Motorexpo
travel Gear for the great outdoors



The Hen



De Lanna



Ping Nakara

THE HEN

Hua Hin, Prachuab Khirikhan

While several new Hua Hin resorts have a King Rama 6-7 architectural style to go with the new vintage trend, The Hen is the real deal. The former beach house belonging to relations of the royal family, has been transformed (by the same family) into a small, six-room boutique hotel right on Hua Hin beachfront. Attentive service and a wide selection of local food close to the hotel are added bonuses.

Trippin': Le Chapon, its beachfront tea room, is perfect for romantic afternoon tea.

Rates start from B6,990. 032-531-331, www.thehenhuahin.com

NEW

PING NAKARA

Chiang Mai

A latecomer to the revived Rama 7 trend, Ping Nakara is a faux-vintage hotel in Chiang Mai. A three-story all-white building is home to 19 exquisite rooms decked out as though you're sleeping in a royal guestroom.

Trippin': Nakara Spa promises high-class ayurvedic spa treatments created by a holistic expert who also works for the Mandarin Oriental.

Rates are from B4,163. 053-252-999, www.pingnakara.com

NEW

DE LANNA

Chiang Mai

As Chiang Mai's latest mid-size hotel in the outer quarter, De Lanna is not a super luxurious nor an uber-stylish boutique accommodation. Instead the hotel blends its contemporary Lanna design into the existing neighborhood of old houses and temples. With a location close to the Sunday Walking Street but not actually on the walking street itself, you can be sure of your privacy as well as easy access to the center of town.

Trippin': The location gives you best of both worlds: shopping streets and a historical temple. The hotel cafe is also a good spot to escape from the busy Sunday walking street and enjoy the view of busy street instead.

Rates start from B2,750. 053-326-278/9, www.delannahotel.com ■

