

SEPTEMBER 2011: Volume 1 Issue 6

h a r d

THE GLOBAL RESOURCE FOR HOSPITALITY ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

desert design
all of the lights
roundtable rewind

USD 7
HKD 54
SGD 9
AED 26
RMB 46
EUR 5



Hotels ▪ Hotel Fort Canning Singapore ▶ Le Méridien Chiang Rai ▶ Casa de la Flora Khao Lak
Ellenborough Park Cheltenham ▶ Park Hyatt Marrakech ▶ Hotel Paracas Peru

Nightlife ▪ Macallan Whisky Bar Macau ▶ Jardin de Jade Hangzhou

Products ▪ Casegoods

HospitalityWorldNetwork.com
h a r d

By Tony Smyth

macallan whisky bar macau

AMIDST THE GLITZ, GLAM AND PINBALL JINGLES of Macau's latest casino resort venture, there has been dropped a delectable sip of old world charm in the form of the world's first Macallan Whisky Bar. It's as if the waters of life that it carries (and those in some abundance) has created a backwater of Caledonian calm whose hushed tones evoke the gentlemen's clubs of yore juxtaposed within the frenetic 24/7 sights and sounds of the 2,200-room Galaxy Macau Resort.

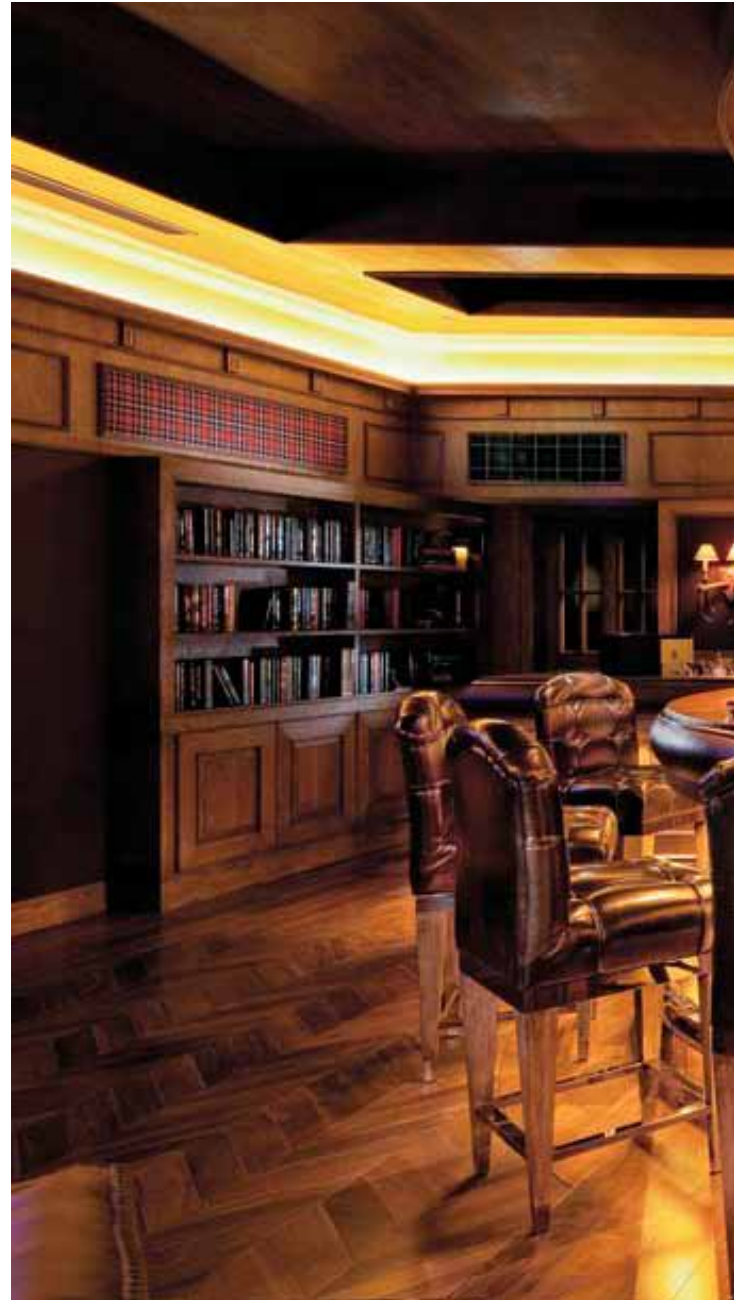
Approximately 360 different types of whiskies make the collection one of Asia's largest, with priceless collectables that include a 1936 Macallan as well as limited edition royal wedding bottles.

The venerable Speyside distiller came up with the idea of having their own bar over a dram or two, in a manner wholly befitting the circumstances, and they began their search for appropriate premises in Asia. The bar's inspiration and drive got the attention of Galaxy's billionaire owner Francis Lui, who just happened to be a big fan of the single malt and of Macallan in particular.

Lui then promptly handed over the interior design reins to Lorraine Reimann, managing director of Hong Kong-based LRIHK, who had worked with Lui on previous projects. The two worked closely to design the bar in the baronial style of a Scottish manor, harking back to the 17th century Jacobean age of King James I, who was also James VI of Scotland.

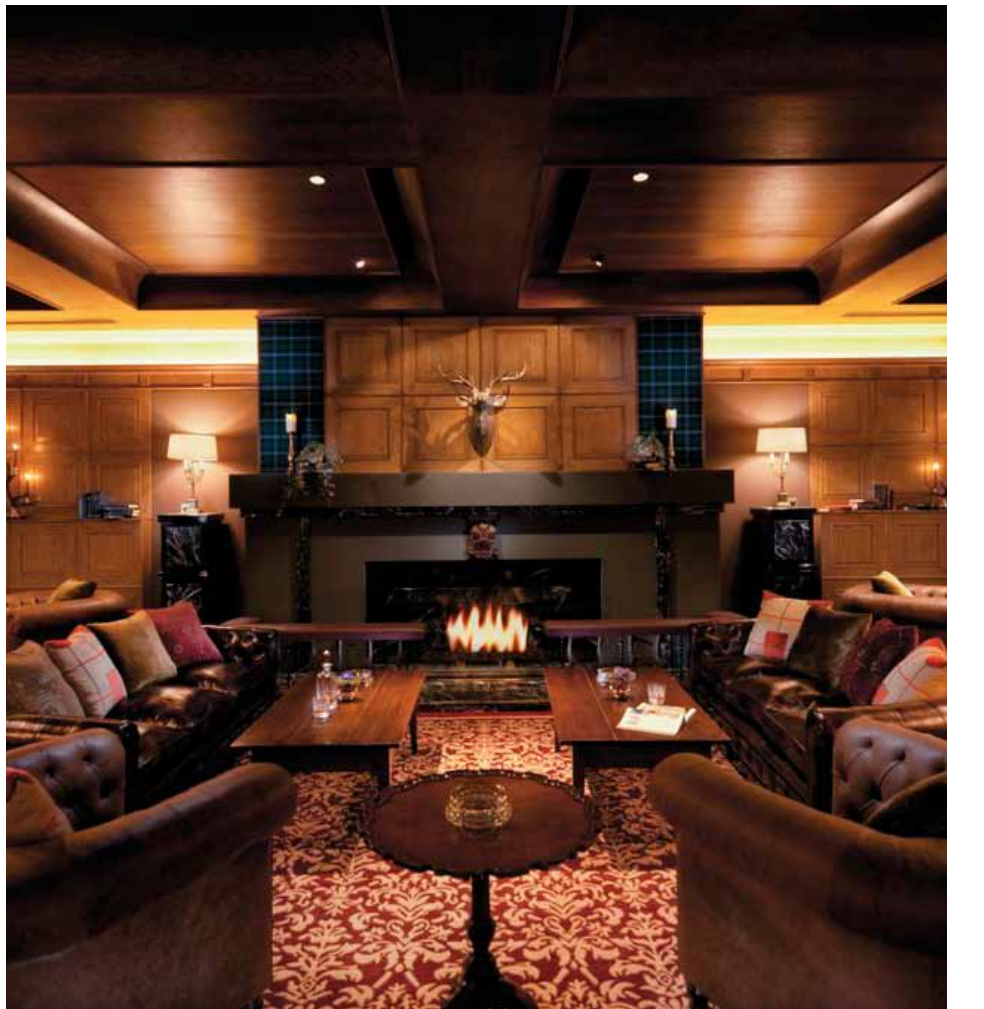
"The brief was to design a prestigious environment for the discerning classic whisky drinker," says Reimann. "With the focus to be from the Jacobean age we could add a Scottish infusion for the brand Macallan, especially with this being the first bar of its kind in the world." ▶

Name of Project: Macallan Whisky Bar **Project Owner/Client:** Galaxy Entertainment Group **Owner's Representative:** Gordon Fraser **Interior Designer:** LRI Hong Kong Ltd. **Carpet:** Tai Ping **Wallcoverings:** Maharam **A/V & Electrical:** WSP **Custom Furnishings:** Arthur and Co. **Upholstery:** Thicas Interiors **Dining Chairs:** Interna Asia **Art Consultant:** MFA Asia **Lamps:** Lumen-8



*Above and opposite clockwise:
Bar area;
Looking out on Macallan from bar;
Bar entrance.*







Macallan wanted this style to predominate and Reimann was careful to keep the design touches and motifs as authentic as possible while providing the 19th century gentleman's club feel to the overall décor. Heavy oak panels dress the walls throughout, matched by herringbone timber flooring, stag antler chandeliers and Jacobean rugs. In addition, no club would be complete without the ubiquitous Chesterfield sofas swathed with faux fur throws to ward off those chilly castle drafts helpfully supplied by 21st century air-conditioning.

"We were extremely mindful when choosing the tartans," says Reimann. "We had to ensure they were related to the correct clan of Macallan to ensure that no Scottish visitors' pride would be offended."

All the tartans were sourced and brought from Scotland and made of pure wool off the loom.

With such a prestigious and recognized brand as Macallan, Reimann was aware of its heritage and the many trusty followers it has garnered over the years. Therefore, she needed to incorporate only top-of-the-market materials and furnishings from Europe to achieve a comfortable and cozy candle-lit ambience.

It was important that the bar be a place that both gents and ladies would feel welcome and stay a while to imbibe on the best of what Macallan had to offer; it also had to have a certain masculinity, which was softened by the use of leathers treated to appear lived in. Reds were introduced to the palette underlying the Jacobean theme to add warmth throughout.

"We wanted this old lived-in feel so we kept the down lights to a minimum, relying on wall sconces and table lamps similar to that of a private castle rather than a bar," Reimann says. "The stag-horn chandeliers were shipped from Scotland to embellish the Scottish theme." Reimann is quick to add that the antlers are also environmentally friendly, as the stags shed them every year and that no animal was harmed in the making of this production.

Reimann insisted on using only original pieces of furniture befitting a nobleman's demesne and so no copies were used. Thick Venetian silk velvet was used for the drapes and tying the whole concept together is the grand fireplace that Reimann regales as "almost as tall as a person and as big as a castle." This impressive focal point is surrounded by a stag-horn balustrade topped with red leather cushions.

The space is divided into the main bar, lounge and a separate cigar lounge, which can be reserved for private meetings.



Clockwise from opposite top left:
Seating area;
Private room;
Antler-flavored wall sconces;
Fireplace;
Mirror.