

Finding Macau's Inner Magic

Text Patsy Yang



Pamela is a locally born Macanese who began her 14-year career in hospitality and worked for luxury hotels and entertainment industries. She hasn't stepped abroad for over six months, and therefore she has a strong connection with this legendary city, which has now been transformed into a metropolitan after years of robust economic growth. She is now senior marketing manager at Taipa Village Destination Limited.

What's the city's must-see?

What makes Macau so special for me is the sustainable heritage that can be discovered in Taipa Village – a perfect alternative to the glitz and glamour of the city's casino resorts. This intriguing destination showcases a contemporary selection of dining and retail concept offerings on top of the existing traditional eateries, as well as a diverse range of art, cultural and entertainment scenes. Taipa Village Art Space, which opened in 2016, is one of the hot spots in town. Regular exhibitions are held in this cozy, trend-setting venue to showcase the creative works from local artists. You can also explore around the tranquil lanes and alleys in Taipa Village, treat yourself to heaps of surprises in new shops selling boutique items, accessories, souvenirs, wines, coffee, desserts, snacks and more. A feast for the eyes with beautiful scenery, don't forget to visit the Taipa Houses-museum which is one of the eight iconic attractions in Macau, including Our Lady of Carmo Church and Carmo Garden. Visit Pak Tai Temple to conclude your journey with something "ancient" and historical.



Best time to go?

Macau is good to visit all year round since it features four distinctive seasons and stable weather. It is an accessible city full of events and festivals at any time.

Where do you shop for fashion in town?

Fashion shopping in Macau is a bit challenging – there are not many choices. However, for convenience, I am inclined to shop in the malls inside the integrated casino resorts owing to the all-in-one-roof environment that accommodates me for shopping, dining and leisure, or even spa.

What's the top experience in Macau?

The panoramic view of Taipa Village juxtaposed with the glittering Cotai Strip is one of the top experiences in Macau. These two contradictory dimensions complement each other, nestled peacefully in the landscape side by side. Customers from casino resorts also find this neighborhood an amazing place to visit when they are pursuing some natural, traditional and authentic local experience.

What's your typical night out?

I like hanging out with an intimate group of friends (three to five), nestled in a sofa of a cozy bar lounge inside a five-star hotel, overseeing the panoramic night view of the city. A nice acoustic live band adds appeal to my night.

What makes Macau special in your eyes?

Macau is a charming city that unfolds a distinctive blend of the East and West in art, culture, education, religion, architecture, heritage and social behavior. The prominent discovery can be seen in the preservation of the city's colorful history and unique heritage – a legacy from the 400-year Portuguese colonial era. Well-preserved European-styled buildings are everywhere in town, amid traditional ancient temples in an intriguing cross-cultural scene. I can say, this is Taipa Village – one of the well-preserved historical destinations in the south of Taipa Island, Macau.

How do you spend a day in Macau like a local?

I am keen on spending my day in a "lifestyle" way. Picking nice cafes with refined coffee is not a problem in today's Macau, where different price ranges, settings and coffee beans. Start your day with a cup of refreshing coffee to pair with a slice of cake, followed by a spontaneous visit to any of the art galleries and exhibition centers around you that feature amazing artworks from local and international artists. This is enough to fill your day.



What's the best-kept secret away from tourist trail?

My latest great “find” in the city is a groundbreaking exhibition in town presented by a talented Portuguese visual artist Alexandre Farto aka Vhils. The exhibition (named Debris), is currently held in Navy Yard No. 1 Contemporary Art Center near the Macau Maritime Museum, and is the headline show of the Macao Arts Festival this year, showcasing Vhils’ wide array of works on wall carving, stencil painting, multimedia installations and more. The purpose of this exhibition is to establish a connection between the body of works presented in the indoor exhibition venue and a series of art interventions in the territory’s public space with outdoor murals, including one rustic wall in Taipa Village Macau.

Which restaurant is your personal favorite?

I like Portugália – a contemporary Portuguese restaurant located in the epicenter of Taipa Village, serving both traditional and innovative Portuguese cuisine with good quality standards. It originated from the beerhouse ‘Portugália’ in Lisbon, Portugal which was opened in 1925. The beerhouse legend was extended to Macau in 2015, offering the signature Steak “à Portugália” and other delectable dishes. Fado nights are also held regularly in this restaurant to inject the Portuguese festive vibe and traditions.

Wine and Dine at Macau's Finest

Text Feng Shuangqing

Macau, located on the southeast coast of China, is a special administrative region of the country. Being Asia’s well-known gambling Mecca, it is a place to find traditional Chinese culture while enjoying exotic Portuguese architecture. Wandering on foot is the best way to explore the city’s numerous historical and cultural heritages. Known as the ‘Oriental Las Vegas’, the gambling industry in Macau is booming and has already become an important feature of the local economy. The city is also a paradise for gourmands with a wide range of delicious cuisines from all over the world, including unique Macau-style Portuguese cuisine.



Drinks worth sipping

The Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge

Looking for a place where daytime dining and nightlife blend seamlessly in Macau? When the sun rises over Macau, The Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge is flooded with natural light, offering a serene setting for daytime dining. As the day progresses and the city blushes under the sun, afternoon tea arrives on an exquisite afternoon tea stand. When the city skyline twinkles under the night sky, the venue is enlivened with pop-up parties and an interactive bar serving comfort food, classic cocktails and a signature gin-and-tonic menu.

Address

51/F, The Ritz-Carlton, Macau, Galaxy Macau, Estrada da Baia da Nossa Senhora da Esperanca, Macau

Opening hours

Sunday to Thursday 12 p.m.-1 a.m., Friday to Saturday 12 p.m.-2 a.m.

Food for thought

Vida Rica Restaurant

Located on the second floor of the hotel with panoramic views of the South China Sea and Nam Van Lake, the culinary team at the 108-seat Vida Rica Restaurant have highlighted classic French cuisine with a modern twist. Various dim sum, Chinese specialties and Portuguese delicacies made of the freshest and finest ingredients are also served to delight. Guests can choose to sit in the main dining area or in one of the four semi-private rooms, ideal for intimate gatherings of up to 12 people. For guests requiring a more exclusive venue, the chef’s table provides a fully private option.

Address

2/F, Mandarin Oriental, Macau. n. 0945, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Macau

Opening Hours

Breakfast 6:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., Lunch 12 p.m.-3 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.



Venues worth visiting

Fisherman’s Wharf

Fisherman’s Wharf is a 111,500-square-meter theme park, with various port “towns” — among them New Orleans, Amsterdam, Lisbon and Cape Town. The area, within walking distance of the ferry terminal features shops, restaurants, nightlife, an amusement park and an amphitheater. The vast assortment of shops at Fisherman’s Wharf rivals any of the world’s shopping capitals. The first large-scale addition to Macau’s shopping scene beyond the casinos, it features more than 150 stores and making your way around them all can take some time. Once a peaceful fishing community, Fisherman’s Wharf nowadays is anything but, and is on the list of worldwide one-stop entertainment destinations.

Address

Outer Harbor, Macau

Opening Hours

All day

