

SINGAPORE'S DEFINITIVE MEN'S JOURNAL **THE EPICUREAN ISSUE**

AUGUST

MAN

SUBSTANCE / STYLE / SUCCESS

LIONEL MESSI

AS YOU'VE NEVER
SEEN HIM BEFORE



PLUS

RENAISSANCE OF TASTE
WHAT YOUR FINE-DINING HABITS
SAY ABOUT YOU

FOOD SNOBBERY
BOUTIQUE BARS &
RESTAURANT AWARDS

AUGUST MAN A-LISTERS
OUR EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW
OF THE TOP 24

THE BEST HAUNTS IN... HUE

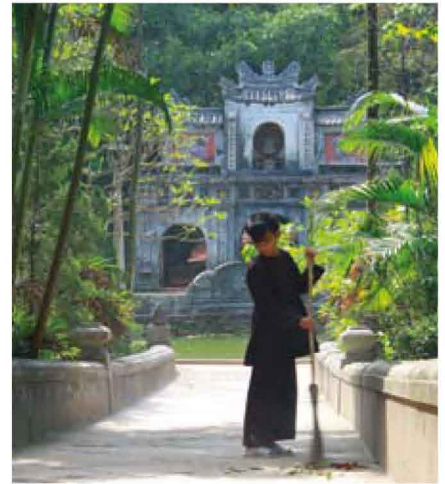
Mandarin Media's Huong Lan takes you through her beloved hometown that was the imperial capital of Vietnam



LA RESIDENCE HOTEL & SPA, HUE

5 Lê Lợi Street, tel: +84 54 383 7475. www.la-residence-hue.com

The art décor ambience is reason this hotel ranks as the city's finest. Built in 1930, it won fame in 2007 when it made *Conde Nast Traveler's* prestigious Hot List. Enjoy breakfast on the terrace of its Le Parfum restaurant, or sip cocktails by the swimming pool in the verdant garden overlooking the iconic Truong Tien Bridge and Hue Imperial City. Meanwhile, the river life courses by as the sampans beat up and down the fabled Huong River.



TU HIEU PAGODA

Thủy Xuân Commune, about 6km away from the city centre

If you want to live deeply, you have to live slowly, taking a contemplative journey through life. At Tu Hieu Pagoda and its serene gardens, Vietnamese Zen master Thích Nhất Hạnh urges you to mind every footstep you make, so as to feel the state of "peace in every step". Walking meditation takes place every morning in the pagoda's courtyard.

DÔNG BA MARKET

Trần Hưng Đạo Street

Go local by riding an engine boat from Dap Đá (Stone Dam) across Huong River to Đông Ba Market, the most bustling, traditional market in Hue. You can find everything here – from a needle to an elephant. After challenging your bargaining skills with the persuasive sellers, why not sit down on a low plastic stool to try some chè, bánh or a delicious bowl of bun bo hue – while the colourful chaos swirls on around you.



THE CITADEL

On the northern bank of the Hương River

Also called the Purple Forbidden City, this had impressive buildings, courtyards and moats built by forced peasant labour at the start of the 19th century. Between French, Vietcong and American attacks on the city, much of its structure was destroyed. The Citadel lay in dismal neglect until 1993 when Hue was made a Unesco site. Painstaking restoration thus began, and most of the destroyed buildings have been successfully reconstructed, making it possible to marvel at the former grandeur of ancient Hue.



TAM GIANG-CAU HAI LAGOONS

The nearest point, Tam Giang Lagoon, is about 20km from the city centre

These form the largest lagoon system in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Fishermen harvest brackish water shrimp and fish from the ample lagoons, while pristine barrier beaches beckon the leisure set. There are ruins of the Champa Kingdom at Phú Diên Tower by the coast, and three-hundred-year-old Thánh Duyên Pagoda on Mount Túy Vân, overlooking Cau Hai. The spectacular views make this well worth a day trip out of town.

AS TOLD TO JULIANA CHAN