

## THE JURADE DE SAINT-EMILION SINGAPORE INDUCTION



Melvin Choo during his induction as Chancellor of the Singapore Chapter.

The Jurade de Saint-Emilion, the oldest wine brotherhood in the world, is launching a new chapter in Singapore that will be inaugurated on Thursday at its first gala dinner.

This will mark the first time the Jurade has established a Chancellerie in Southeast Asia and will be presided by Melvin Choo, Chancellor of the Singapore chapter of the Jurade de Saint-Emilion.

Counting as many as 3,000 members worldwide, including luminaries such as international music star Sting and Chinese actress Vicky Zhao, the Jurade's main interest is in promoting the wines of Saint-Emilion.

The event, held at Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Hall, will feature an evening of cross-cultural jazz performance, a special five-course menu by db Bistro & Oyster Bar that is paired with 10 different wines from the region of Saint-Emilion, as well as an official ceremony to induct the pioneering members of the chapter.

While the region is associated with fine, expensive wines, the 10 wines of the dinner will vary progressively from Puisseguin Saint-Emilion to the highest classification of all, the Saint-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé.

To commemorate this occasion, 10 winery owners from Saint-Emilion have flown in from France to attend the dinner and to be part of the historic evening, including Hubert de Boüard, owner of Chateau Angelus, and Premier Jurat, the head of the Jurats.

Furthermore, there will be a silent auction of fine art photography entitled "Nouveaux Yeux", and profits raised from the sale of the photographs will go to VIVA Foundation for children with cancer.

Priced at \$398 per person, the gala event will take place from 6pm to 10pm, beginning with a champagne reception. Interested parties may contact chancellor@jurade.sg.

• For more information, visit [www.jurade.sg](http://www.jurade.sg).

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BY BENNY TEO



## KN GOLF LINKS IN VIETNAM'S SOUTH CENTRAL COAST

Vietnam has a unique attribute. The fast developing Southeast Asian country is geographically long and thin and has an eastern coast that stretches to more than 3,200 kilometres, making it perfect for setting up stretches of wonderful beach fronting tourism spots.

Golf is one sport that has taken the country by storm. With an influx of tourists from traditional centres of China and Russia now accompanied by visitors from other parts of the world, golf has become an important tourist attraction for the well-heeled international traveller.

The recently opened 18-hole Links Course at KN Golf Links in Cam Ranh is a case in point. Designed by former world No. 1 and two-time Open champion Greg Norman, this is his third golf course design project in the country, following the footsteps of his other two hugely successful links-styled design at Danang and Ho Tram.

Resting on a site that is eight kilometres of beachfront land, KN Golf Links will be a 27-hole golf course along this fast growing city that, in June, renovated its international airport to the tune of US\$163 million, which will allow it to handle as many as eight million visitors a year.

"It's not an Irish-style golf course. It's not an Australian-style golf course. It's not a Scottish-style golf course. It's just a damn good links golf course," said Norman, who won his two Majors – the 1986 Open Championship and 1993 Open Championship – on links courses.

"If this quality of course keeps coming online (in Vietnam), I think you are going to see people salivating at the prospect of coming here to play," he predicted.

KN Golf Links occupies 90 of the 800 hectares slated to be developed at KN Paradise, an ambitious integrated resort that will also feature at least three 5-star hotels, an array of luxury real

estate opportunities, a marina, and a beach club among other entertainment facilities.

Breaking ground at the launch is the 9-hole Oasis Course, also to be built by Norman, which when completed, will run inland as a more traditional parkland layout with water features. However, it is the Links Course that takes centre stage now.

Boasting firm and fast fairways with rolling contours and elevations, the ball will run and fly here. Sand dunes cover the surface as much as shrubbery to punish wayward shots but the course is fair and will reward clever play with good scores.

Another key feature is having ample run-off areas around the greens and massive boulders surrounding the course, some of which form a striking backdrop, such as at the par-5, 17th hole.

"I would put KN Golf Links up there in the top 10 in terms of unique properties I've ever been able to work with," said Norman, who has over 100 designs to his name.

"I'm looking forward to the world actually getting to experience playing this fantastic golf course."

Indeed, over the last couple of years, more than 30 hospitality projects have either gone up or broken ground along Long Beach, the southernmost end of which is the only real estate that sits between KN Golf Links and the ocean.

"The goal is to set a standard here by which all other projects to come will be measured by," said Le Van Kiem,

chairman of KN Cam Ranh Company Limited, the course's developer, whose company also owns Long Thanh Golf Club, an award-winning, 36-hole venture on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City.

"Having 27 holes in Cam Ranh by one of the game's all-time greats is a major step in that direction," he continued.

Located less than an hour by air from Ho Chi Minh City and a five-minute drive from Cam Ranh International Airport, KN Golf Links is the first golf course in Cam Ranh and the third in the greater Nha Trang area.



### THE ANAM

KN Golf Links is working closely with The Anam – a lush 12-hectare resort overlooking 300 metres of Long Beach – to unveil sublime golf and

accommodation packages that make the most of scenic Cam Ranh, which averages more than 300 sunny days a year.

An independently owned and operated resort featuring 77 villas and 136 suites and rooms, as well as four restaurants, two bars, a 10-treatment room spa, three capacious pools, a ballroom, conference rooms and more, The Anam helped spearhead the tourism boom along Long Beach when it celebrated its grand opening in April last year.