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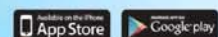


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FIRST 18 ALL PAR-3 HOLES GOLF COURSE, NEW ADDITION TO BALI

WORDS BY RIYADI SUPARNO

Bali has a new menu on offer for tourists – the newly-launched Bukit Pandawa Golf & Country Club, the fifth golf venue on the island and the first 18-hole par-3 championship course in Indonesia.

Located in South Kuta, Bukit Pandawa golf course is the first phase of the hospitality project taking place on Bali's southern coastline, where its developer, PT Bali Ragawisata, plans to add five-star hotels and residences managed by global brands Mandarin Oriental, Waldorf Astoria and Swissotel.

"The ultimate aim for this project is to attract more tourists to visit Bali and Indonesia," said Djie Tjian An, president director of PT Bali Ragawisata, during the launching of the golf course on Oct. 8.

Designed by Bob Moore of the California-based JMP Golf Design Group, Bukit Pandawa is managed by AccorHotels, which also runs 16 other golf courses around the world. Members of those golf courses would have incentives to play at Bukit Pandawa.

Located on a limestone cliff-top overlooking the surf breaks of Bukit Peninsula, some holes at Bukit Pandawa have a backdrop of the Indian Ocean. Although all holes are par-3, their length ranges from 90 meters to 230.

Partnering with automaker BMW, Bukit Pandawa organized a grand opening tournament for 160 invited players, with

each of them having had 18 chances to win a range of BMW or MINI Coopers for a hole-in-one prize. No one, however, made it.

"I'm not sure there's ever been a tournament where at each hole you could win a car – let alone a premium car – with an ace," said Tjian An.

The tournament was followed by the unveiling of the futuristic hybrid BMW i8 and a champagne toast by French luxury goods giant LVMH.

Former tourism minister Mari E. Pangestu, who joined the course's opening tournament, said the new course would add value to

tourism because of its unique proposition of all par-3 holes and its concept of sustainability.

To support the environment, Tjian An said, the golf course replanted 90 percent of the trees from the site when the course was developed. He added that the course uses special grass imported from Florida, the US, that grows with brackish water.

In addition, PT Ragawisata is developing a reverse osmosis water purification facility to produce fresh water from seawater to meet the needs of all its properties to be developed around the golf course.



Amateur golf players before teeing off at the grand opening tournament of Bukit Pandawa

Former tourism minister Mari E. Pangestu and her husband Adi Harsono



Irene Hoff exhibition at Pullman Legian

The Pullman Bali Legian Nirwana is currently hosting an exhibition showcasing the surreal paintings and artistic collages of Dutch artist Irene Hoff.

Running until Dec. 11, the exhibition, titled "Dreamworld", is part of the Pullman's new "Artist Playground" exhibition concept that mixes art, fashion and food. It sees Hoff blending collage-style pop art with modern and traditional Asian and World imagery and symbolism.

The creations on display are designed to challenge perceptions of what is and isn't real. They also stimulate new ways of thinking as they were designed through collaboration between Hoff and local talents in Bali.



Prego celebrates 3rd anniversary



The Westin Resort Nusa Dua's lively Italian restaurant, Prego, recently marked its third anniversary with a special edition of its award-winning FunDay Family Brunch.

The Oct. 9 celebration was filled with great food and colorful entertainment. Guests were served a semi la carte menu in which select dishes were prepared to order in an open-plan kitchen.

Dishes included antipasti, salad, pasta, pizza and a total of 50 different dishes. A dedicated dessert station served up sweet delights such as crepes, cotton candy and cake.

Kids at the event got to enjoy a pizza pinata filled with treats, as well as balloon art, a show by the resort's resident magician and fun cooking activities.