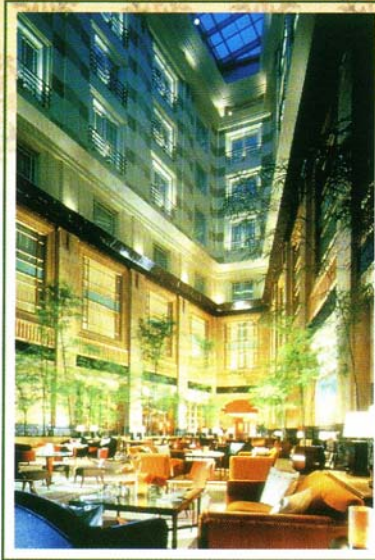


Now you would wonder why a luxury hotel with 400 rooms would qualify as a secret escape. As you drive past the century-old Raffles Singapore, and reach the city's hottest new spot, the Esplanade, you cannot fail to notice a beautiful neo-classical colonial building with its distinguished tall Doric columns, standing tall among the skyscrapers of Singapore's business district. There is a newcomer on the block and it is taking Singapore by storm - the Fullerton.



The Fullerton Building has an illustrious history - the site was previously occupied by Fort Fullerton, built in 1829 to defend the town of Singapore. The building itself was commissioned in 1928 to house the General Post Office, which stayed on until 1996. In the 1950s the Fullerton was the site of many pre-independence rallies that eventually saw the birth of a new nation. In 1996 the crumbling edifice passed into private hands and received a S\$400 million makeover to become an award-winning grand luxury hotel - combining old world charm and new Asian elegance.

The hotel itself is an oasis of calm within the frenetic pace of Singapore life. The interiors have been built using Feng Shui, and the décor is contemporary and stylish. The rooms and suites, on just five floors, are spacious with spectacular views of the city skyline and marina. But the highlight is a gentle reminder of the building's former avatar - mail and packages are delivered through a specially designed pigeonhole in the wardrobe closet!

Dining choices abound at the Fullerton - a choice recommenda-

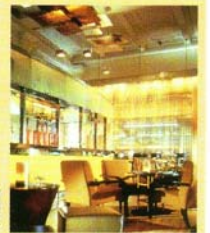
tion would be the Post Bar that retains the old ceiling and atmosphere of its earlier occupant. For the incurably romantic, the place to be is the intimate Lighthouse Restaurant perched at the very top of the building in what used to be the Fullerton Lighthouse that guided ships into Singapore Harbour until as recently as 1978. But the most fascinating place at the Fullerton is the wine lounge at the Straits Club where you can feast your eyes on the most valuable wine collection in the Eastern Hemisphere (valued at S\$6 million).

The Fullerton is located in the heart of the Civic District and is in close proximity to the cultural centres of the Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay, and the Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall. The malls of Suntec City and the Marina are just minutes from the hotel and its proximity to the MRT give easy access to other locations in

Singapore. With the onset of Hari Raya and the continuing festivities through Christmas and New Year's Eve, the Fullerton may be just the right place for a much needed luxurious pampering.

About the author: Ashish Gupta runs his own travel company, Milesworth Holidays, an American Express Travel office in Chennai. He specializes in customized tours to popular and exotic destinations in India and overseas.

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