

leisure

AT YOUR SERVICE

Set in a secluded portion of Mactan is a boutique hotel willing to take you to newer and higher levels of style and taste.

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Unlike most hotels where guests go down to the coffee shop for breakfast, guests at the Abaca wake up to a beach view from their rooms and breakfast in bed after an excellent night's sleep. Breakfast is ordered through your personal butler and he takes care of the follow through. Again, this personalized service is very much a part of Jason's vision for Abaca.

During the day, the guests can enjoy a swim at the 'infinity' pool or just relax at the cabanas beside it. The infinity pool, designed and built by Kathy Melgo of Katco Pools in Cebu, is twenty meters long and eight and a half meters wide. Amidst the moonlight's sparkle, Abaca is transformed. Walkways are lit with candle lights and the whole place becomes a dazzling beauty. The spa, though not yet complete, will have two rooms. Of course, guests may also opt to have their massage in the convenience of their own rooms.

Six months ago, Abaca the restaurant, opened its doors to the public and was welcomed with grand applause. Almost always fully booked, the restaurant serves California-Mediterranean dishes, which, according to Jason, "uses the best quality ingredients available." Pizzas, pastas and grilled meats are cooked to perfection to the delight of the diners. "I want to bring cuisine and service to a different level," says Jason.

Clearly a no-nonsense guy in his management style, Jason is likewise a no-nonsense guy where his own work ethics are concerned. He starts his day at six in the morning and finishes around midnight. "The difference between mediocre and fantastic is a very, very thin line," he says. "And to get across that line is very difficult. You have to work non-stop. I am a difficult person to work with because my standards are very high, but I see to it that I de-





liver only the best. This is the kind of standard he has set for himself and for his people.

And quite appropriately too, Jason has worked as an expatriate chef based in Hong Kong for six years. American by descent and originally from Los Angeles, Jason met his wife Anna in Hong Kong and decided to reside in Cebu two years ago. Formerly a simple rest house owned by his Aunt and Uncle, Jason Hyatt and his partners had a vision to transform the place and give Cebu the boutique hotel and dining experience. With firm determination, they pressed on.

Today, he is clearly reaping his rewards. Abaca has received excellent reviews from Cebu's food connoisseurs and has diners nodding in unquestionable approval. "Cebu is changing a lot," he adds, "the children of older generations are coming back after being educated in Europe and the US. They want something more."

And so, for Jason Hyatt and his partners Anna Hyatt, Marc Compagnon and Jeni Compagnon, the future is something to look forward to. As we all know, the road to success is a hardship-laden path. It needs the perfect mix of personality, skill and passion—a mix that they have executed with style. ■



PREVIOUS SPREAD Private cabanas for the exclusive use of their overnight guests; spend your time reading on the extensive uses of abaca **OPPOSITE PAGE TOP** Breathtaking views of the outlying islands and horizon from your beach-front terrace; local shells decorate every corner of the abaca property **THIS PAGE TOP** Lounge on the romantic daybeds on the beach-front; handmade pillows and accessories feature the multiple uses of abaca; spa styled bathrooms by internationally acclaimed Blu Bathworks



In as much as we are taken by the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, a “relax and pamper” experience is and will always be a welcomed change. If we put ourselves in the keeping of a hotel for just a night or so—to get away from it all, it would be just as well that we choose a place which would leave us to say that it was worth it all.

Along the Mactan area, Abaca resort, the first boutique hotel in the isle of Cebu, stands proud. According to owner Jason Hyatt, “the concept was to put up a hotel that was really private and exclusive, where exceeding the customers’ expectations are the only known standards”. Emphasizing extraordinary service and first class amenities, the hotel has nine rooms that are set to impress. Asian contemporary with walnut parquet flooring and granite tiled

showers, the rooms sport flat screen TV’s, plush pillows, modern dropped bedside lights and for some rooms, nothing less than the great Kenneth Cobonpue’s furniture. Each room comes with a bathtub that looks out through the window to a view of the magnificent sea below. The rooms are large and range from fifty-five to one hundred square meters, designed by Canadian Architect Mike Gottschalk and Cebu’s own Colwyn Gaviola.

“Each room has his own private butler.” Jason says. “He is the one responsible from beginning to end—from the cleanliness of the room, to the ordering of food, the serving, the need for extra towels, etc.” This is to insure that the guests are taken care of every minute of their stay.