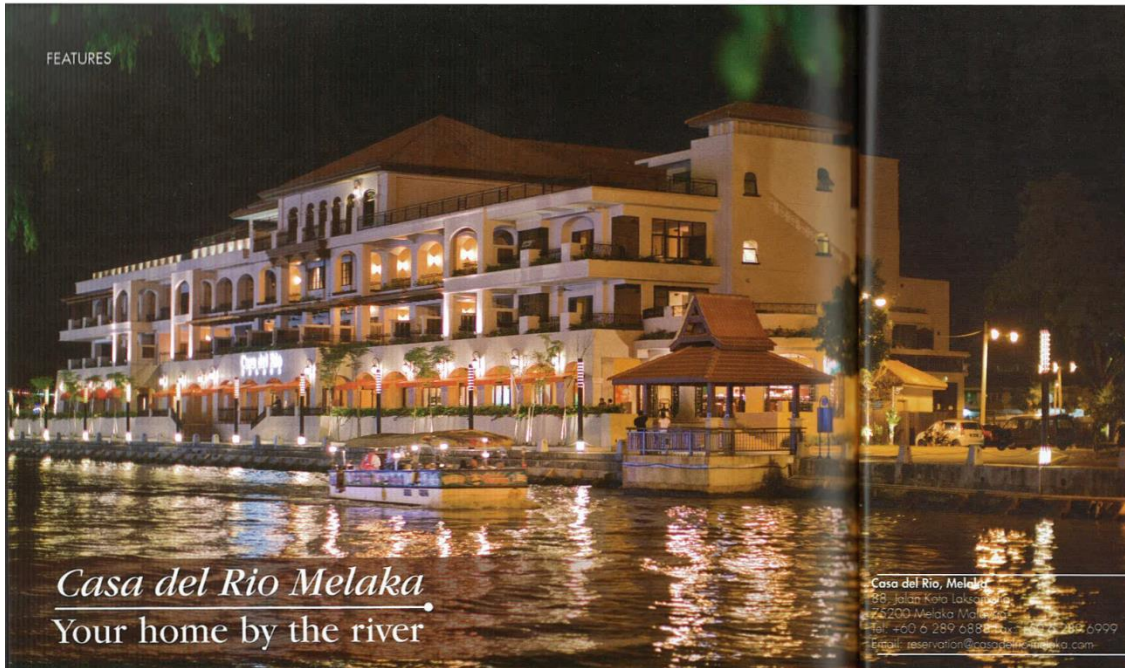


FEATURES



Casa del Rio Melaka
Your home by the river

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Living up to its name, Casa del Rio makes the perfect home away from home, sitting gloriously by the mouth of Melaka's celebrated river and just a few minutes' walk to tourist attractions, including Jonker Walk and the many historical sites. The quaint 66-room hotel is the boutique collection of HPL Hotels and resorts product portfolio.

Paying tribute to the Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, Dutch, English and Japanese who left their mark in the historical city of Melaka over the last six centuries, the hotel's architecture carries a bit of an influence from every culture. All the rooms at Casa del Rio are decorated and designed, blending Mediterranean style with Peranakan touches.

Checking into the Deluxe River Room, I was amazed by the size of it. With a walk-in closet, a bathroom twice the size of my storage room back home, which is equipped with a couple's bathtub and a separate shower, as well as a kingsized bed with comfy sheets for you to cuddle in all day, it was definitely not what I was expecting the room to be.

Little touches in the room like a little rubber duck by the bathtub, a ceramic aromatherapy tea light diffuser and a light snack featuring the traditional delicacies of Melaka in the evening just add to a memorable stay.

When it comes to dining, choices are abundant at Casa del Rio. A semi-buffet breakfast is served at The River Grill and you can even have a classic dining experience for lunch and dinner here. At The River Grill, great steaks are served with an impressive selection of wine. For light snacks, thin-crust pizzas and nightly steamboats, you can head to the River Café. You can also chill out at the Pool Bar or Bar Rio with choices of tapas and cocktails.



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During my stay, I tried the Peranakan "Tingkat" Set Lunch by Casa del Rio's chef, Baba William. When visiting Melaka, it is a must to have Peranakan cuisine and the set lunch features different sets of dishes from Monday to Saturday. Lunch begins with a tasty appetiser, the kerabu ong lai (pineapple and cucumber salad) followed by a serving of otak-otak, ikan masak lemak nenas and terung tempura Nyonya-style.

For gym addicts who can't miss a workout, the hotel has a gym as well as an infinity pool where you can do some laps while enjoying the stunning view of the Straits of Melaka. But if

working out is not part of your agenda, check out the Salkara Spa for a quick rejuvenating session.

From the many treatments and massages that are available, I chose to have a relaxing traditional Malay massage, which is based on age-old massage techniques designed to harmonise body, mind and spirit. My therapist expertly combined long strokes, kneading and pressure point techniques to put me into deep relaxation – exactly what I needed to complete my quick weekend getaway.



Deluxe River Room



Hotel facade