

# THEIR CASA, SU CASA

Come home to Mediterranean comfort in Melaka at the Casa Del Rio. — Celeste Goh



If you have been feeling a little out of place, even in your own home, that is because your heart is not at the home where you're meant to be. Our guess is that it is snuggled comfortably in the folds of the queen-sized bed of Casa Del Rio Melaka.

The first hotel situated directly on the riverfront of Melaka River, Casa Del Rio Melaka is an old grandeur beauty of a well-preserved century-old mansion with a few touches of Arabic, Chinese and Dutch influences. Walk into an open concept lobby foyer with its Mediterranean architecture and a pianist greets you with tunes of yesteryear, transporting you back to simpler times when government employees, living like kings, would reside in their vacation homes during the holidays.

Situated at the heart of the hotel compound is the majestic courtyard Lago, surrounded by private cabanas decorated with cosy Mediterranean-style drapes and plush cushions, and long corridors with low romantic orange lamps hanging overhead, leading you to your temporary abode for the night.

Hear that soft click of the door? It is unlocking the passage to your weekend sojourn, one of the 66 luxury guest rooms and suites available, each decorated uniquely with Mediterranean

and Peranakan influences, and equipped with a walk-in dressing area that links to a spacious four-point bathroom with full amenities, inclusive of a bathtub and a shower area. The split-level bedroom also opens up to a private balcony that overlooks either Lago, or the peaceful Melaka River.

Whilst good food abound in this historical state – heck, Jonker Walk is just a literal two-minute walk from the hotel – save some space in your tummy for the signature meat grills at The River Grill, one of the three F&B outlets at Casa Del Rio. As the name suggests, it is located by the riverside, where in the morning, a selection of a la Carte breakfast, with steamy eggs straight from the kitchen cooked just the way you like it, and coffee, tea or juices to start off your day await. While at night, toast your glass of wine with a dinner date, as the river reflects romantic colourful lights strung alongside the docks. Also, make sure to order the Black Angus Beef, imported from Australia, renowned for its meat to fat ratio, and served with your choice of homemade béarnaise, black pepper, mushroom, soy-miso mustard, or barbecue sauces.

Other F&B outlets include Bar Rio and The River Café, for breakfast takeaways, light blackboard lunches and

sports updates on the screens over a few pints of beers. For further relaxation, Casa Del Rio Melaka's rooftop amenities are enough to whisk you away to your happy place. Satkara Spa has a house of Bali-trained masseuses with a range of world-class treatments, including the must-try Satkara Signature Massage, an hour and 30 minutes long session fusing Shiatsu, Lomi Lomi, Swedish, Thai and Balinese techniques that employs medium pressure and stretching to loosen tight muscles and relieve stress and tension. The hotel is also equipped with a 25-meter infinity pool that overlooks the historic skyline of the city.

But dare to untangle yourself from the cosiness of Casa Del Rio if you can because Melaka really has plenty to offer. Jonker Walk is a tourist-must, with its antique shops, Chicken Rice Balls and Durian Cendol. Then there are all the UNESCO Heritage sites to visit (A Famosa, The Stadhuys, Portuguese Settlement), which you can do so via the hotel's chartered service.

And after all that is said and done, you can return to your second home and turn in for a night of blissful rest by the Melaka River.

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**Top left**  
Splendour night view of Casa Del Rio Melaka by the river.

**Right**  
Put your feet up at the private balcony, and enjoy the breeze and sight of the Melaka River and beyond.

