

Life

MAD ABOUT MADRID –
FROM TAPAS TO TABLAOS
TRAVEL, C7

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C5

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check in

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On the move Global tourism is increasing rapidly, with worldwide arrivals rising 12 per cent, to about 526 million in the first eight months of this year, compared to the same period last year. World Travel Market Global Report figures reveal all areas benefited from the trend, with the Asia-Pacific region recording the most impressive growth: up 37 per cent on last year to 99 million arrivals. The Middle East, which followed up a three per cent rise last year, eclipsed that with 24 per cent growth to register 23 million arrivals.

International arrivals to the US rose by 12 per cent to 85 million after two years of decline, while arrivals to Africa rose nine per cent to two million. Europe had modest growth of three per cent to 296 million.

Roxy's manifesto The Grand Mercure Roxy Hotel, Singapore, close to Changi airport and the city centre, is offering a superior-room weekend package for S\$125 (\$590) a night, excluding tax. Buffet breakfasts for two, free accommodation for children up to 16 sharing the room with their guardians, complimentary car parking and 20 per cent off hotel restaurant bills are also included. The package will be available



Luxury villas at Cape Yamu will feature the Philippe Starck touch

until December 31. To book, e-mail resvsn@grandmercuroxy.com.sg, or call (65) 6345 4922.

Starck choice Almost every week seems to bring news of another "chic, ultimate, designer, cosmic" resort opening soon in Southeast Asia, and this week it's the turn of Phuket's Philippe Starck-designed Cape Yamu.

The developers, who've promised a "modern masterpiece", teamed Starck, through company Yoo by Starck, with international architect Jean Michel Gathy, the man behind the famed Aman Resorts.

The first stage of the beachfront complex, on a private peninsula on Phuket's northeast coast, will not be finished until

2007. But that hasn't deterred investors: most of its 38 luxury villas have been sold off-plan for US\$1 million to US\$2 million. Eventually, say the developers, the project will have a "beyond stars" boutique hotel with a spa and other resort facilities.

Nestled around 3km of beaches and coves, the resort's villas, from 350 to 600 square metres, will "retain elements of Thai traditional architecture, yet offer fresh and inspiring spatial and visual approaches to ocean-front living", says Starck. So there. Call Cape Yamu's local representative office on 2529 1947 for further details.

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