

# Booming Hotel Business

Find out what new hotels are set to open in the Philippines. BY VICTOR FABREGAS ALCUAZ

## BELLEVUE'S IMPRESSIVE PLANS

Respected hotelier **Carlo Gomez** is preparing for yet another hotel opening, his seventh! The **Bellevue Bohol** in Panglao Island, a five-star deluxe resort, is expected to open in June 2012.

Phase one of the resort will consist of 159 rooms, convention facilities that will be able to accommodate over 300 people, three food & beverage outlets including two bars, a Thai-inspired spa, a children's play center, and a gym. Majority of the hotel rooms are 40 square meters big and will be facing the ocean, each with an outdoor Jacuzzi.

The coffee shop, overlooking the ocean with an open kitchen, will be serving international cuisine, including Chinese and Japanese. There will also be a fine dining restaurant that will fuse European and Asian cuisines. Gomez is deep in his research about the delicacies and food history of Bohol, hoping to include these in the resort's final menu offerings.

The second phase of this development, which they hope to complete before the end of 2012, will consist of 60 premium suites and 129 deluxe rooms, all within this two-hectare prime beachfront property. The Bellevue Bohol has 250 meters of sea frontage, a definite advantage versus many of the existing resorts in the area. The over-all design concept of the resort is Asian minimalist.

The Bellevue Bohol belongs to the **Bellevue Group of Hotels Inc.**, owner and operator of the five-star **The Bellevue Alabang**, which opened in 2003. The property has 456 rooms and the biggest convention facility south of Makati. The group also recently opened their second brand called **B Hotels**, located in the central business district in Alabang with 152 rooms. The B Hotel is a three-star boutique property, which the group plants to expand to Quezon City and Cagayan de Oro City within the next few years. By mid-2012, the group will have close to 750 rooms in their inventory and over 1,000 in a couple of years.

## SET TO SOAR IN QUEZON CITY

Another hotel that is ready to open in the first half of 2012 is the **Luxent Hotel** located in Timog Avenue. The hotel, owned by the prominent Siy family, will consist of 180 rooms, convention and banquet facilities for about 500 people, and a themed restaurant concept that hopes to equal the popularity of many of the free-standing restaurants in the booming entertainment district in Quezon City.

**Wesley Siy**, the very young entrepreneur in charge of the project, envisions this hotel to be hip and trendy, attracting the young and successful crowd in the district that includes executives and artists from television giants, GMA and ABS-CBN. I will provide more information on Luxent Hotel in my future columns. ■



An impressive view for Bellevue Bohol's lobby



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