HOSPITALITY REPORT

VIEW FROM THE DECK

Taking advantage of its location and pairing it with great food, Sky Deck View Bar at The Bay Leaf Intramuros has captivated its guests with this combination.





ntramuros—a name that literally means within the walls—has always held an important role as Manila's historic center and oldest district. The Walled City has been declared a National Historic Monument, although there are also fears that it may be on the verge of irreparable loss and destruction, according to the *Global Heritage Fund*. And in recent years, it may have been overlooked as a dining spot, given its location.

It is fortunate that within the three mile-circuit of these protective walls, a new boutique hotel arose in November 2011 that promised to provide a restful experience for its guests. **The Bay Leaf Intramuros (The Bay Leaf)** has already won *Trip Advisor's Travelers Choice Award for 2013* and *Agoda's prestigious 2012 Gold Award* since it opened.

ADDING A DIFFERENT HOTEL DINING EXPERIENCE

Of course, it has been important for The Bay Leaf Is to take advantage of its unique location while creating a different dining experience for its guests. The hotel, in fact, boasts to its guests that no visit to the hotel will be complete with out a visit to the **Sky Deck View Bar**, with its 3600 views of the old and the new Manila, plus our world famous Manila bay sunset. The hotel's young and dynamic

General Manager Ed Vitug, together with Executive Chef Carlo Santiago, designed a bar menu that will make you return again and again. These dishes include Kanji Beef Salad, Fried Hainanese Chicken Rice, an array of tapas and pizzas. The Sky Deck's signature ice tea should not be missed. On weekends, the Sky Deck offers a mouth watering buffet and live music.

THE SUCCESS OF BAY LEAF

The success of The Bay Leaf in terms of both their rooms and food business is very encouraging, specially because this first class boutique hotel is 100% Filipino in concept, management style and operations.



The Bay Leaf will soon be opening a Trattoria in their huge terrazzo on the third floor, directly facing the old walls of Intramuros. Their culinary offerings here will specialize on 'wood fired' dishes.

For this hotel that has been experiencing occupancies in the very high 90s, what else might they whip up next?



The guest comments about the Sky Deck on Trip Advisor speak for itself.

"An absolute highlight is the rooftop bar with a beautiful view over Intramuros and the rest of Manila. Intramuros is also one of the better places to be in Manila."

TobsenBo, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

"Breath taking view from the Sky Deck View Bar: 360 degree Panorama of Manila- great place for the sunset. And all this for a very reasonable price." *Coron1977,Augsburg, Germany*

"Above 9 Spoons is the Sky Deck View Bar, which is my favorite spot. The restaurant opens at 6 p.m. in time for the famous Manila Bay sunset. But it is when night falls that the place becomes more romantic . as Metro Manila skyline comes alive. This is an open-air venue with good ambiance. My dinner date with my wife just got more romantic. Food was great. Be sure not to miss Quesong Puti Fondue for appetizer, Bagnet Binagoongan for the main course and The Chocolate Wall for dessert. I can't wait to go back to try other food in their menu. I simply can't get enough of this place.

Majicka, Tokyo, Japan

"The absolute killer argument for this hotel is the great roof deck, right above the restaurant. You shouldn't miss out on this panoramic view over the whole of Manila. Great for cocktails while watching the Manila sun set behind the pier." J.M. Suliban, Switzerland

"REALLY GREAT restaurant, great rooftop bar with cool breezes, and close proximity to a shopping mall. One last thing, I have had Calamansi juice drink everywhere in the Philippines, but they have the absolute BEST recipe. I had 5 of them one afternoon on the rooftop. It looks like it is currently rated #1 and with good reason." PNJ Time, Bay Area

VIC ALCUAZ is President of NARRA HOTELS and a hospitality headhunter (www.vicalcuaz.com). He is President of the AHRM, the Association of Human Resources Managers in the Hospitality Industry (www.ahrmhospitality.com).