

# Do you know?

By Anna Vivienne

## WHERE TO STAY

# AMBARELLA



“Ambarella” sounds like a nice moniker, but don’t rush to name your child that—it is actually plain old Kedondong.

Botanically called *Spondias cytherea*, this fruit is also known variously as Tahitian quince, Jamaica plum, golden apple and wi.

It is believed to be indigenous to Polynesia, but it grows in most of Asia’s tropical zones.

The ambarella tree grows tall and can reach up to 50 feet high. The fruit is plum shaped, sweet-sour and eaten at all stages of ripeness.

Its distinguishing feature is its spiny seed. The spines toughen as the fruit matures, so that when eating preserves made from the almost-ripe fruit, the sweet flesh should be carefully sucked from the seed to avoid an unsolicited lip-piercing or a tough fibre stuck between the teeth.

In the unripe stages the green skin is peeled with a knife, and slices of the firm, pale flesh dipped in chilli powder and salt before being relished by street-side snackers or school children.

As the fruit ripens, it goes from yellow to orange in colour and becomes more fragrant and sweet, though still with a good percentage of acidity. It has been described as having a flavour like pineapple although some people say it tastes more like ripe areca nut skin.

If you want to buy kedondong, buy hard greenish fruit, especially if you want to eat it as a sour snack. Ambarellas are available at most traditional local market (tamu).

**Winner Hotel**  
Phone: 60 088 243222  
Fax: 60 088 217345

**Hotel Deleton**  
Phone: 60 088 252222  
Fax: 60 088 267999

**Kinabalu Daya Hotel**  
Phone: 60 088 240000  
Fax: 60 088 263909

**Berjaya Palace Hotel**  
Phone: 60 088 211911  
Fax: 60 088 211600

**Hotel Shangri-La**  
Phone: 60 088 212800  
Fax: 60 088 212078

**Likas Square Business Suites**  
Phone: 60 088 252233  
Fax: 60 088 251122

**Tang Dynasty Hotel**  
Phone: 60 088 263389 / 251155  
Fax: 60 088 263989 / 265566

**Beverly Hotel**  
Phone: 60 088 258998  
Fax: 60 088 258778

**Promenade Hotel**  
Phone: 60 088 265555  
Fax: 60 088 246666 / 253980

**Hyatt Regency Kinabalu**  
Phone: 60 088 221234  
Fax: 60 088 225972

**Le Meridien Kota Kinabalu**  
Phone: 60 088 322222  
Fax: 60 088 322223

**Nexus Resort Karambunai**  
Phone: 6 088 411222 / 411030  
Fax: 6 088 411020 / 412028

**Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort**  
Phone: 60 088 225800 / 241800 / 293306 (Reserv)  
Fax: 60 088 244871 / 217155

**Sutera Harbour Resort - Magellan Sutera**  
Phone: 6 088 318 888  
Fax: 6 088 317 777

**Sutera Harbour Resort - Pacific Sutera**  
Phone: 60 088 318888  
Fax: 60 088 317777

**Beringgis Beach Resort, Papar**  
Phone: 6 088 752 333  
Fax: 6 088 752 999  
E mail: bbrpapar@tm.net.my

## MAY EVENTS

### Tabin Wildlife Photo Hut

Date : May to July 2006  
Organiser : Tabin Wildlife S/B/Intra Travel Service Sdn Bhd  
Venue : Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Lahad Datu  
Further Info : Alixon Ho  
Tel : : 088 260558 / 262558, Fax : 088 267558  
Email : enquiry@tabinwildlife.com.my

### Crafts Exotica

Date : 02 - 27 May 2006  
Organiser : Sabah Museum  
Venue : Sabah Museum, Kota Kinabalu  
Further Info : Datuk Joseph Pounis Gun-tavid  
Tel : 088 253199, Fax : 088 240230  
Email : Muzium.Sabah@sabah.gov.my

### Patterns and Colours of Sabah

Date : 11 May - 05 June 2006  
Organiser : Sabah Art Gallery  
Venue : Sabah Art Gallery, Kota Kinabalu  
Further Info : Datuk Yaman Mus  
Tel : 088 268875  
Fax : 088 210040  
Email : gallery\_9@msn.com

Tel : 088 232121  
Fax : 088 265540  
Email : shahira@sabahtourism.com  
Website :  
http://www.sabahtourism.com/event/kkso

### Harvest Festival Celebration

Date : 15 - 31 May 2006  
Organiser : Hyatt Regency Kinabalu  
Venue : Tanjung Ria Café, Hyatt Regency Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu  
Further Info : Food & Beverage Department  
Tel : 088 221234  
Fax : 088 254315  
Email : hyatt.kinabalu@hyattintl.com

### Sabah World Museum Day 2006

Date : 18 - 23 May 2006  
Organiser : Sabah Museum  
Venue : Sabah Museum, Kota Kinabalu  
Further Info : Datuk Joseph Pounis Gun-tavid  
Tel : 088 253199  
Fax : : 088 240230  
Email : Muzium.Sabah@sabah.gov.my

### Harvest Festival (Sandakan)

Date : 20 May 2006  
Organiser : Sandakan Municipal Council  
Venue : Sandakan, Sabah  
Further Info : Yeo Boon Hai  
Tel : 089 275400 / 272439/272460  
Fax : 089 727112  
Email : Yeo.BoonHai@sabah.gov.my

### Harvest Festival Regatta

Date : 27 - 28 May 2006  
Organiser : Kinabalu Yacht Club  
Venue : (Not Stated)  
Further Info : Mr. Christopher Chin  
Tel : 088 240070 / 243070  
Fax : 088 243007

### Grand Finale – Tadau Kaamatan Celebrations

Date : 30 - 31 May 2006  
Organiser : Kadazandusun Cultural Association (KDCA)  
Venue : KDCA Hall Penampang  
Further Info : (Not Stated)  
Tel : 088 713696  
Fax : 088 713350  
Email : bovis@asia.com

## Weekly TAMU (Open Market) in Sabah

■ Tamus are held in almost every town/district in Sabah. Most local traders gather to buy, sell or barter their farm produce, handicrafts, traditional ware, musical instruments, etc.

**SUNDAY 6am - 2pm**  
Kota Belud, Tuaran, Putatan, Papar, Babagon, Tambunan, Tenom, Membakut, Kota Marudu, Sikuati, Gaya Street Fair (Kota Kinabalu)

**MONDAY 6am - 2pm**  
Tandek

**TUESDAY 6am - 2pm**  
Kiulu

**WEDNESDAY 6am - 2pm**  
Pinggan-pinggan, Tamparuli & Kudat

**THURSDAY 6am - 2pm**  
Donggongan, Telipok, Tenghilan, Pekan Nabal, Sipitang, Tambunan, Keningau

**FRIDAY 6am - 2pm**  
Donggongan, Sunsuron, Weston, Mesapol, Kanibangan

**SATURDAY 6am - 2pm**  
Kinarut, Beaufort, Sindumin, Matunggong, Pekan Pitas

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