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# STAR happenings

**S**hangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort and Spa (STAR), Kota Kinabalu celebrated Deepavali or "Festival of Light" with a sumptuous buffet dinner at Café TATU, recently. The café celebrated the significance of Deepavali which celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

Café TATU was decorated with banana leaves and trunks, jasmine thali, lamps, and kolam made of colourful rice on the floor near the restaurant's entrance.

About 200 guests came to dine and experience the unique culture of the Indian community.

Diners had sumptuous choices of traditional Indian dishes at the buffet dinner included which included Goa-style Fish Curry, Indian Lamb Rogan Josh, Prawn Jingha Masala and Nauratan Korma.

There were also Chicken Piccata, Black Lentil Dhal, Briyani and Tomato Rice.

Guests had the opportunity to try one of the favourite Indian drinks, Pineapple Lassi. The highlight

of the celebration was a stunning Indian dance performance which kept the guests entertained while enjoying their dinner.

Meanwhile, Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort and Spa (STAR), Kota Kinabalu, is pleased to announce the appointment of Denis Vecchiato as the resort's new executive chef.

Hailing from Venice, Italy, Denis Vecchiato joins the resort from his previous posting as the executive chef for The Regent Hotel, Shanghai. Denis studied at the Professional Institute "Elena Cornaro" where he majored in culinary and specialised in hotel management, and started his career in 1996 as a commis entremetier at Italy's Westin Excelsior hotel in Venice. He has worked in several international hotels, including the Le Meridien, The Luxury Collection and Hotel Danieli in Venice, Italy. Denis was the Italian executive chef at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa, Cebu in the Philippines from 2002 to 2004.

In his new role at STAR Kota Kinabalu, Denis will be reporting directly to the general manager. He is responsible to oversee the operations of the resort's overall kitchens, managing 126 staff to serve over 1,000 guests each day, ensuring a quality product for the guests and secure profit margins while maintaining the image of the resort at all times.

Denis joins STAR with 11 years' experience in the culinary industry.

By ANNA VIVIENNE



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