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Guest Newsletter

Spring 2008

A MESSAGE FROM YASUYUKI KOJIMA, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

Our spring newsletter brings with it many new updates and changes. One of the most significant changes that has taken place this year is after 30 years in the hospitality industry, my esteemed colleague Hans Basse has announced his retirement from the position of General Manager at The Kitano New York.



Throughout his four-year tenure at the hotel, Mr. Basse successfully oversaw all aspects of the hotel's operations and further extended the hotel's high standard of service excellence by incorporating Eastern traditions of discipline, precision and attention to detail inherent throughout the Japanese culture. He also helped to establish The Kitano New York's Bar Lounge as one of the city's leading jazz venues, hosting some of jazz music's most prolific musicians including Cecil Payne, Joe Locke, Don Friedman and Harold Mayburn. The hotel staff and I wish Mr. Basse a great retirement.

On February 1, I assumed the role of Acting General Manager and will oversee all hotel operations including food & beverage operations and sales & marketing. With more than 20 years experience in the hotel industry, I have worked in countries around the world including Australia, the Asia Pacific region and the United States. Further, at The Kitano New York, I served as a Project Manager for the hotel's 1993 renovation, Chief Concierge, in which I was awarded the distinguished "Chief Concierge in the Metropolitan Area" in 1998, and Executive Assistant General Manager prior to this appointment.

Over the past years, I have helped to create and develop the longstanding tradition for what The Kitano New York is known for today a commitment to service excellence firmly rooted in the rich culture of Japan. I look forward to continuing to build upon the programs and services that the hotel has built its reputation upon. In this newsletter you will find information on our new packages, upcoming events both at our hotel and in New York, and promotions that feature our acclaimed dining options. Additionally, starting this issue, we will share unique and historic facts showcasing the hotel's celebrated history through an informational segment each issue.

Sincerely,

Yasuyuki Kojima, Acting General Manager

THE KITANO NEW YORK INVITES "AMERICAN GIRL" FANS TO WIN MIA, THE 2008 DOLL OF THE YEAR, AND ENJOY A CITY ADVENTURE WITH SPECIAL PACKAGE CENTERED ON DOLL



As one of the most beloved icons for young girls throughout the country, many travel far and wide to visit the flagship American Girl Place in New York City. The Kitano New York now makes this pilgrimage even more memorable with its unique **American Girl Place Package**, available now through December 31, 2008. The package is valid Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights with rates starting at \$345 per night with a two-night minimum stay. The special American Girl Place Package includes **deluxe accommodations, a complimentary take home American Girl doll bed, American Girl Place activity booklets and a certificate to obtain a complimentary gift at the store's concierge, a Kitano Kids Club Card, a take home souvenir to be used for unlimited milk and cookies in the Garden Café, and a 10 percent discount at The Boutique at The Kitano New York.** The highlight of the package will be the look on each child's face as they are whisked away from The Kitano New York in **one-way sedan transfer to the American Girl Place** on the famed Fifth Avenue. There, they can explore the world of their favorite character, dine with their doll, enjoy hands-on workshops or performances, stock up on all the latest accessories and even take their doll to the hospital for a check-up, if necessary.



The hotel will also be holding a special quarterly drawing this year with the first on March 31, 2008, where one lucky participant will have the opportunity to win the limited-edition American Girl Doll, Mia, which is currently on display in the hotel's lobby. Mia is the 2008 "Girl of the Year" who dreams of being a figure skater. Participants do not have to be a guest of The Kitano New York to participate in contest.

For more information or to book the American Girl Place Package, call **1-800-548-2666** or log onto <http://www.kitano.com/>.

POPULAR ROOFTOP BARBECUE PACKAGE RETURNS TO THE KITANO NEW YORK THIS SUMMER

A longstanding New York tradition of summer rooftop relaxation will soon return to The Kitano New York with the hotel's special rooftop barbecue packages. With its breathtaking backdrop of the Empire State, MetLife and Chrysler buildings, and the historic Murray Hill area of New York, The Kitano New York's outdoor rooftop space offers one of the most sought after views in the city. From Memorial Day through Labor Day 2008, The Kitano is offering two barbecue meal options for summer entertaining, the "Rooftop Barbecue Burgers" and the "Rooftop Manhattan Clam

THE KITANO NEW YORK'S NEWS OF NOTE:

- **The Kitano New York Introduces The American Girl Place Package:** The Kitano New York is proud to offer the special American Girl Place Package inviting families to enjoy a trip to the big city centered on the beloved doll. The Kitano New York will also hold a special drawing in which it will give away Mia, the 2008 American Girl Doll of the Year, on **March 31**.
- **Special Tribute Held in Honor of Jazz Legend:** To celebrate the life and accomplishments of the renowned musician, Cecil Payne, The Kitano New York recently hosted a tribute performance.
- **Hakubai Restaurant's Early Bird Special Dinner Returns:** March 15-April 27, 2008
- **New Spring Items at The Boutique at The Kitano New York:** With its special seasonal items, the Boutique at The Kitano New York is an ideal spot for your spring shopping.
- **Jazz Night Package:** Enjoy a night of jazz at The Kitano New York with the hotel's special guest package.
- **Family Weekend Package:** The Kitano New York now offers a special weekend package and rate for families traveling to the Big Apple.
- **Rooftop Barbecues Return to The Kitano New York This Summer:** From Memorial Day through Labor Day the hotel will again offer its popular rooftop barbecue series for special events.

The above stories can be found on the following pages.

KITANO NEW YORK TRIVIA

Question: What is the significance of the Kitano New York's logo featured throughout the hotel?



Answer: The Kitano New York's logo, which is featured prominently on the main entrance to the hotel, is an image of the Archangel Michael, considered to be highest messenger, holding a sword across his chest. In this image, which is yellow with a green outline, the sword signifies security while and the angel is the heavenly being which denotes comfort.

The Kitano New York selected this image to represent the hotel as security and comfort are signature traits in which the hotel prides itself in possessing. In addition, the green outline of the logo signifies the Kitano New York's corporate color and the overall shape of the image resembles the letter "K", the first initial for The Kitano New York.

JAZZ LEGEND CECIL PAYNE HONORED WITH SPECIAL TRIBUTE AT THE KITANO NEW YORK

Known for his exquisite mastery of the baritone saxophone, Cecil Payne was one of the most prolific musicians in modern jazz. To celebrate the many accomplishments of this legendary performer, who passed away on November 27, 2007, The Kitano New York recently hosted a **Cecil Payne Tribute** performance on Friday, February 29 and Saturday, March 1, as he performed frequently at the hotel, playing his last show on May 6, 2006. During the special tribute, the Gary Smulyan Quintet featuring Gary Smulyan, Joe Temperley and Scott Robinson on baritone sax, Don Friedman on piano, Chip Jackson on bass and Tony Jefferson on drums, paid homage to Payne through music and provided a touching remembrance.



The Kitano New York's intimate Bar Lounge is dedicated to providing the best in jazz music, showcasing legendary performers from around the world including Mel Martin, Don Friedman and Joe Locke as well as contemporary, up-and-coming artists featuring different styles of jazz. For more information, including a performance schedule, visit <http://www.kitano.com/>.

THE KITANO NEW YORK OFFERS TWO SPECIAL PACKAGES TO ENJOY AN ESCAPE TO THE CITY

The Kitano New York is continuing to offer two special packages, the **Jazz Night Package** and the **Family Escape Package**, to make a visit to New York more memorable. Considered by many as one of the city's top venues for live jazz performances, The Kitano New York invites jazz connoisseurs to enjoy luxurious accommodations and experience a memorable live performance with its special **Jazz Night Package**, valid each Friday and Saturday evening. With rates starting at \$340 per night, plus tax, guests will enjoy superior accommodations, complimentary access to the Bar Lounge for nightly performances (\$15 food & beverage charge not included), breakfast for two at The Garden Café, a late check out at 1 p.m. and a complimentary jazz CD featuring the sounds of the renowned Don Friedman Quartet, while supplies last.

Bake." The " Rooftop Barbecue Burgers" menu features a selection of items including Certified Black Angus beef burgers, lamb chops and roasted corn on the cob, while the " Rooftop Manhattan Clam Bake" offers items such as fresh littleneck clams, Blue Point oysters and whole Maine lobster. Both barbecue packages also offer a variety of salads and sides, condiments and a choice of beverages, including alcoholic beverages such as bottled beer and red and white sangria. The barbecue package rates begin at \$75 per person, with a minimum of 25 guests, and include food and beverage costs.

For more information including a complete menu for Rooftop Summer Barbecue packages, please contact Thanya Phanpinyo at 212-885-7017 or email phanpinyo@kitano.com. Reservations are limited and events should be booked early as they often sell out.



NEW SPRING ITEMS AVAILABLE AT THE KITANO BOUTIQUE

This spring, The Boutique at The Kitano New York invites patrons to peruse through its new items available for purchase, including the adorable baby maracas for \$16 each, colorful umbrellas for \$30 each and floral thermos for \$36-\$46 each, depending on size.

In addition to the Boutique's new summer specialty items, the shop will continue to offer its signature goods such as the collection of pens and business card cases designed by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Chrysler and Empire State Building wire ornaments, available for \$42 each.

As one of Park Avenue's best kept shopping secrets offering totally unique items from all over the world, the shop offers gift ideas and the perfect memento to remember your visit to The Kitano New York and the city.



The gift shop is located on Park Avenue and 38th Street, and is open Tuesday - Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. To contact the Boutique at The Kitano New York directly, please call (212) 885-7130.

SEND TO A FRIEND

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JOIN US

If you would like to receive copies of our quarterly newsletter, please sign-up on our website at www.kitano.com to be among the first to receive the latest offers and news.

New York also provides families with an adventure of a lifetime. The Kitano New York is now inviting families to experience all that the city has to offer with its **Family Weekend Package**, available each weekend for rates starting at \$340 per night plus tax.

This cost saving package features complimentary breakfast in The Garden Café, cookies and milk delivered to the kids, a keepsake rubber duck, late check-out at 1 p.m., and no extra fees for a third person or extra bed. With its spacious guestrooms and family-friendly amenities, The Kitano New York provides the perfect hotel for a family getaway. For more information to or to book these packages, call **1-800-548-2666** or log onto <http://www.kitano.com/>.

CELEBRATE SPRING' S ARRIVAL WITH NEW YORK'S SPECIAL EVENTS

Upcoming Events & Exhibitions:

Jazz at The Kitano New York: Every Wednesday through Saturday night The Kitano New York offers two sets of live jazz starting at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Throughout the upcoming months, The Bar Lounge will host acts including the Nilson Matta-Brazilian Voyage on March 28 & 29.

The Morgan Library Exhibitions: Michelangelo, Vasari, and Their Contemporaries Drawings from the Uffizi now through April 20, 2008.

The New York Botanical Gardens: Annual Orchid Show now through April 6, 2008.

Easter Weekend: March 21-23, 2008

Easter Parade & Easter Bonnet Festival: Sunday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. along 5th Avenue.

Tribeca Film Festival: April 23-May 4, 2008

Golden Week: The period in Japan noted for its public holidays will be from April 29-May 5, 2008.

Asian Heritage Month: May 1-31, 2008

Major League Baseball's All Star Game: Do not miss this year's Major League Baseball All Star Game played at Yankee Stadium on **July 15, 2008**, signifying the final season of play at the historic stadium.

THE KITANO NEW YORK'S MICHELIN-RATED HAKUBAI RESTAURANT NOW OFFERING SPRING TIME EARLY BIRD MENU

This spring, The Kitano Michelin-rated Hakubai Restaurant invites guests to experience some of the country's most authentic Japanese cuisine with special offerings including the " Spring Time Early Bird Special, available March 15 through April 27, 2008.

Throughout Hakubai's special event, restaurant patrons will experience a traditional Japanese meal for a special rate of just \$58 per person, taxes and gratuities not included. This authentic menu, created by Hakubai's Executive Chef Yukihiro Sato, is available each evening for orders placed from 6 – 6:30 p.m., and seating is available until 8 p.m.

The special Early Bird Special Dinner will start with a *Soy Milk Tofu topped with Steamed Sea Urchin and Wasabi*. Guests can then select cuisine such as *Grilled Alaskan King Crab topped with Spinach Paste* or *Conger Eel's Fry with Lemon Vinegar* for the first course followed by *Assorted Sashimi* or *Steamed Tile Fish with Bamboo Shoots topped with Original Sauce and Peas* for the second course. Main course entrees include *Assorted Sushi with Red Soy Bean Miso Soup* or *Inaniwa Udon* (served hot or cold) and a *Shrimp Tempura Roll*, and the meal will be topped up with a delectable dessert.

Hakubai Restaurant offers seating for 48 people in the main dining area. In addition, the restaurant also features three Tatami private rooms. Hakubai serves traditional Japanese favorites at lunch, and during dinner hours, the distinctive Kaiseki cuisine is served. Hakubai is open daily from 11:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. for lunch and from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. for dinner. Reservations can be made by calling (212) 885-7111.

"Service is as much a part of Japanese culture as sushi. Enjoy both at the Kitano."



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