

## Media

### Samui charting its own path

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### Property Market Overview

With its great weather, fine food and world-renowned beaches, Thailand continues to enter the sights of savvy property investors looking for new opportunities away from the traditional European and Caribbean markets.

### Eco-estates and Eco-design

An eco-estate adopts the strategy of eco-design by using principles from recent European eco-villages, where power, water, heat and sometimes food are supplied from within the estate. Neither isolated nor self-sufficient, an eco-estate exists in harmony with the natural environment.

### Conrad to manage luxury Koh Samui resort

Hilton Hotels Corporation announced it has signed an agreement with Thailand-based developer Hillcrest Development (Samui) Ltd., to manage the Conrad Koh Samui Resort and Spa.

### Asia's next boutique destination

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### Samui-Hong Kong Flights

Recent news from the airline will give property developers and brokers even more reasons to be cheerful in the coming months - from mid-2005 direct flights between Samui and Hong Kong will begin.

### W Hotels plans first Thai property for Samui

W Hotels, an international high-end hotel brand, has announced plans to open its first hotel/residences development in Thailand.

### Samui to become international hub

Following news that Thai Airways will now fly twice daily from Bangkok to Koh Samui airport, the island's main airline, Bangkok Airways, recently announced plans to make the island Thailand's second international air hub after Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport.

### CB Richard Ellis expands to Koh Samui

CB Richard Ellis recently announced the opening of a branch office on Koh Samui.

### Conrad launches Samui Residence

The demands and expectations of Hong Kong's affluent set are constantly increasing in Thailand and investors looking for luxury holiday homes now require sophisticated products.

### Minor International makes major plans

Listed firm Minor International PLC announced it is stepping into the luxury residential property market with two high-end developments - one in Bangkok and the other in Koh Samui.

### DSR positive on Thai prospects

David Stanley Redfern, a leading UK based property investment specialist, has released research suggesting that the future is bright for real estate investment in Thailand. The report points to 1st quarter growth up six percent on the same period last year, and up 5.7% on the last quarter of 2007.

### Samui Regatta a lively affair

The 2008 Koh Samui Regatta will be one to remembered for many reasons. While the winds were light (though not on all days), and the expected Lay Day become a Race Day, the parties were lively and the island hospitality well appreciated.

### Firefly Airlines links popular islands

Each are unique yet all four have similarities, not least their buoyant real estate markets. And now they are joined, not by land but by air, following the announcement of new services by Firefly Airlines.

### Koh Samui's luxury niche

Despite the global credit crunch and economic instability in Thailand, property experts say Koh Samui has managed to surmount its recent obstacles to become a thriving niche market based on solid market fundamentals - including

an increase in Thai investment.

#### Villa rental market shows growth

Executives are optimistic about the prospects of Thailand's young villa rental market as repeat tourists are increasingly looking to relax in a villa rather than stay at a five-star resort.

#### Samui welcomes the 'big dogs'

Before the turn of the millennium, the biggest brand on Koh Samui was probably Bob Marley, but massive economic growth and major developments in tourism have led to a significant increase in global interest and investment.

#### Middle East firm invests in W Samui

Middle East firm Istithmar Hotels FZE continues its South East Asian buying spree with the announcement it will partner with Thai developer Amburaya Resorts to build and operate the W Hotel & Residences – Koh Samui, a 70-room luxury hotel opening in late 2008.

#### Fractionally better?

Fractional ownership of property has been around for some 18 years, and since 1986 in aviation, so it is perhaps a little surprising that the concept has only just reached the shores of Thailand. But now it is getting going, with 'fracs' available or imminent for homes in Phuket, Samui, and Pattaya.

#### Orient-Express purchases luxury Samui property

Orient-Express Hotels said it acquired a 100% interest in Napasai, a luxury hotel and villa property located on Koh Samui.

#### Increased flights boost Thai market: CBRE

Thailand real estate firm CB Richard Ellis has reported soaring interest in holiday home investment, which it attributes to booming tourism and an increase in flight links.

#### Bangkok Airways voted region's best

Bangkok Airways has again been named the Best Regional Airline for Asia in this year's World Airline Awards poll conducted by Skytrax. The airline has now achieved the top position in the regional category for five consecutive years.

#### Eriksson banks on Koh Samui

In a further boost to Koh Samui's international profile, it was announced in September that ex-England manager Sven Goran Eriksson has invested there. Speaking exclusively to TPR he outlined the reasons behind his purchase in the Peregrina Bay development.

#### Savills scores celebrity 'hat trick'

Following closely on the heels of news world tennis super star Justine Henin has picked up a unit in Savills-represented project The Infinity in Koh Samui comes word another one of the agent's clients has snagged a sports celebrity.

#### Attention to detail, quality, services and lifestyle

As Koh Samui aims its sights ever higher in terms of residential resort property, the quality of design and construction has increased considerably. Paul Brailsford looks at some of the island's new high-end projects.

#### A market ready to come of age

As with the rest of the country, the prospect of political and legal change has been driving the Samui market towards a sustainable, long-term period of growth. Paul Brailsford looks at the island's current and future prospects.

#### Thailand still attracting major investors

Investment is continuing to pour into Thailand from overseas developers and property-fund managers with the hospitality industry in traditional holiday locations attracting the lion's share of foreign projects, according to a recent study carried out by The Nation.

#### Experts favour Asian real estate

According to a research report released during the Colliers International Asian Valuation and Advisory Conference, held in Bangkok on 11 April 2008, Thailand, China and India were singled out as the three most profitable Asian countries for foreign property investors.

#### Building in green

Currently, global attention is on all things 'green' and while buzzwords like carbon footprint and sustainable resources sound good, what do they mean exactly to the real estate industry? Jim Brown investigates.

#### Koh Samui land prices take off

An influx of money from developers has spurred demand on the island. Land prices in Koh Samui are expected to rise between 20 per cent and 30 per cent a year as a number of Property firms expand their investment in sectors such as

retail, residential-project developments, hotels and resorts, Thailand Estates Corporation (TEC)'s chief executive Chaiyagarn Sudamphanthorn said.

#### Property sector looks set to prosper in 2008

Market buoyed by profit potential, removal of 30% requirement. Foreign investors are expected to invest up to Bt70 billion in the Thai Property sector this year, following the lifting of the Bank of Thailand's 30-per-cent capital reserve requirement

#### Developers return to Koh samui

Builders to resume work on projects as government dispels uncertainty about FBA

The Koh Samui Property market is poised to stage a recovery this year, following the government's decision to relax the Foreign Business Act (FBA), says Property expert Pisarn Tangkasombat.

#### Massive Nordic boom set to hit resort towns

Scandinavian investors are expected to invest up to Bt16. 2 billion in residential developments in Thailand this year and the next. This money will flow into tourist destinations such as Rayong, Hua Hin, Koh Samui and Phuket, according to research by Colliers International (Thailand).

#### Samui expected to pass Phuket as most expensive resort destination

The 10 or so luxury resorts planned for Koh Samui over the next five years will make the island the most expensive destination in the Kingdom. The Mandarin Oriental, the world's top chain of luxury hotels, is considering building a resort on the island. It will be its third Property in Thailand, following Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

#### Big returns in Phuket, Samui

Investors who bought pool villas and other properties in residential resorts in Phuket and Koh Samui over the past two to four years have made a financial gain of 100 per cent when selling them, CB Richard Ellis Thailand chairman David Simister said yesterday.

#### Thai property attracts rush of foreign investment

Joint ventures with local firms planning to spend Bt20 billion next year, much of it in hotels and resorts. Foreign developers and Property-fund managers are continuing to expand their investments in Thailand's Property market, particularly in the hospitality industry that is clustered around the country's leading tourist destinations.

#### Spending time on Samui

A backpackers' paradise no longer, the island is booming and wooing higher-end travellers.

#### Hyatt to run Samui resort

Hyatt Hotels and Resorts has signed an agreement to manage a new luxury resort being developed by Proud Resorts Koh Samui, a joint venture between real estate and hospitality investment specialists First Oriental and the Liptapanlop Family.

#### High-end realty market buoyant

A Hong Kong real-estate developer talks to KI Woo about the niche high-end real-estate market in Thailand.

#### Real estate scores over bank deposits

Developer's research indicates higher returns even after factoring in inflation.