



FEBRUARY

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# marie claire

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GLAMOUR & STYLE

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# A SHOPPING PURSUIT

Marie Claire heads south to shopping haven Johor Premium Outlets with our readers to uncover plenty of style offerings for less TEXT TAN SIOK HOON

Shopping is a universal love shared by women of all cultures, in a kind of shopping sisters in solidarity, so to speak. So when Marie Claire offered an amazing invitation to our readers for a great shopping trip to Johor Premium Outlets, with complimentary accommodation courtesy of our main sponsor, Johor Premium Outlets, we were flooded with registrations. From that, we drew fifteen names and those lucky winners got to bring along a friend for a shopping trip of the season.

Watching the chick flick, *The Devil Wears Prada*, made for an entertaining affair on the way to the Pulai Springs Resorts. A quick post-lunch freshening

up later and we were off to our shopping destination for a welcome briefing and short line-up of activities at firstly, City Chain. Welcome drinks and a delicious tea-time spread awaited us at the watch store, after which our shopping trip participants were invited to strike their best pose for the camera, wearing a Titus watch. Ng Chau Hooi and Nurhadina Jamir, our budding models in residence, were awarded a Titus watch of their choice for their 'most outstanding modelling poses'.

Next up were Royal Selangor and the School of Hard Knocks workshop, where participants rolled up their shirt sleeves for some serious knocking to customise their own pewter bowl

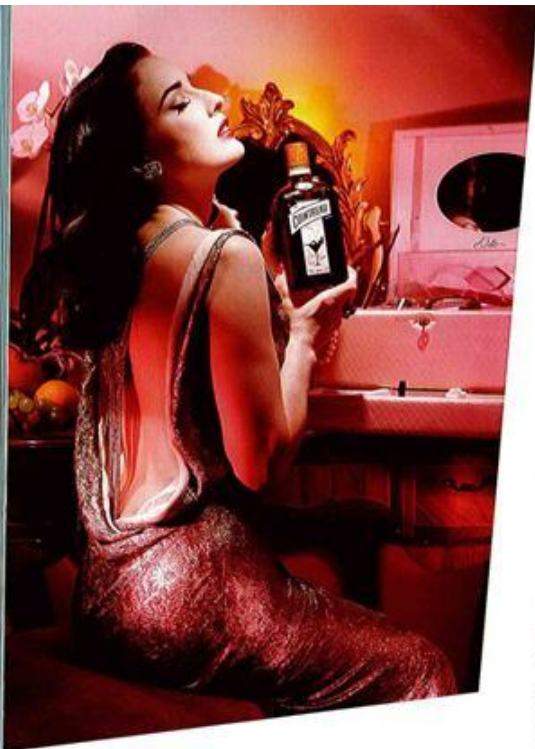


to bring home, along with a certificate. Finally on the agenda was what we had all been eagerly waiting for, and yes, it was time to hit the stores! With a choice of 80 designer and branded stores offering savings of 25% to 65% every day at the fully-tenanted Johor Premium Outlets, we geared up for serious retail therapy, with some pretty amazing cost-savings benefits.

And shopped our participants did, as evident from the many big shopping bags they toted back to the coach, waiting to whisk them back to the

resort for a steamboat and barbecue dinner. A restful night and nourishing breakfast the morning after at the resort's Ciria Terrace concluded the memorable shopping trip. As one participant pointed out in a post on the Marie Claire Facebook page that 'they had enjoyed the trip so much with great shopping bargains, good food, fun movies, nice goodie bags, delicious sandwiches and a luxury stay at the Pulai Springs Resorts', this was certainly one of Marie Claire's most fun-filled events and we're already looking forward to the next one! **mc**





## TASTELISE

Amongst a sea of tanned, sunshine-blond and diet-skinny Hollywood girls, Dita has maintained her unique look – a vintage-style, retro glamour that harkens back to a more graceful age before reality television did its damage, when stars carried a certain impenetrable mystique with them. I imagine it must have taken strong resolve not to conform, and ask her if anyone ever tried to pressure her into being a cardboard cut-out L.A. girl. “There were definitely moments along the way when I was ill-advised, but I never paid attention to any of it. In the last ten years, I think people understood what I did and respected what I do.”

Even more admirable is her hands-on approach to glamour – Dita does her hair and makeup herself, making her style all the more special for its flawlessness, yet attainable because it’s the product of her own skill rather than airbrushing. “I try to encourage women to do it themselves, because I don’t travel with a bunch of people that style me and I’m not doing anything magical – it’s just practise. If you want to achieve glamour, you can do it too. You just have to block out the time and not give up.”

It’s little wonder, then, that Cointreau have chosen such an original ambassador, who is the embodiment of everything that the multiple award-winning French triple-sec stands for: she’s influential, inspirational, and not at all afraid to be daring for the sake of creativity. “Cointreau has the same kind of approach to glamour, beauty and artistry,” Dita tells me. “They’re a French brand, so they understand a lot of my references and things that I love. All of our projects together have a great feel to them – we have a great synergy.”

The next evening at The Peninsula, which grazes the curve of the Chao Praya River, Dita takes to the stage for her “Be Cointreaversal” show. Dressed (originally) in a glittering jewelled dress, she slowly, artfully removes layer after layer before hiding behind two giant feather fans, then climbs effortlessly into her famous martini glass, enthralled and delighting the *crème de la crème* of Bangkok’s celebrity socialite crowd as she splashes about. To the crowd’s delight, she loses a nipple pastie, but covers it with such aplomb that there’s no mistaking why Dita is the consummate burlesque performer of today.

Whoever could call striptease tasteless after watching “Be Cointreaversal”? Thanks to Dita von Teese and Cointreau, I’d argue that it’s a very tasty act indeed. **119**

she’s a performer on a mission to change people’s minds about striptease. “When people think of striptease, they obviously think of lap dancing and pole dancing, which is fine, but there are lots of negative connotations around that. I’m not saying it’s trashy, because I’m open to all of it, but I want to show people that being a stripper is not a bad thing, like what we’ve usually used to seeing in a strip club or in modern depictions of stripping. There’s a real history to it – there were other striptease stars besides me who presented it in a beautiful way.”

Does she enjoy courting the controversy that stripping can stir up? “I’m fine with it, but I’m not trying to be provocative. I want them to see my show and have a different point of view after they see it, and say, ‘Oh, I didn’t think I could like striptease, but now I do.’ I don’t want them to walk away feeling that what they saw was too racy. I’m trying to confuse them, in a way, and show them something considered taboo or risqué in a highly sophisticated way, so they can see it in a different light.”

## marie claire LIFESTYLE



Travelers seeking luxurious respite and some serious relaxation and pampering will be in for a real treat at Pulai Springs Resort. Perched on the foothills of the majestic peak of Mount Pulai in Johor, Pulai Springs Resort seamlessly blends luxury and exclusivity with an appreciation for nature. Hidden away from the bustling world and cocooned by lush greenery, this award-winning resort boasts luxurious accommodations of a 313 full-serviced Citra Ayu Resort Apartments and 22 suites lodge-style Boutique Hotel, The Anugraha. Featuring a stunning contemporary design with modern Balinese décor, the majestic resort is designed to reflect the traditional elegance of an ancient royal Malay palace. With rooms overlooking the Melaka golf course, prepare to be greeted by breathtaking views of lush green flora and rolling golf hills from your personal suite.

For leisure activities, delight in a round of golf at its two professional 18-hole championship USGA Class Golf Courses, The Pulai and Melaka Courses, or bask in the warmth of the waters of the resort’s three pools. As the sun sets, wind down your day with a scrumptious dinner at The Qing Palace Chinese Restaurant, famed for its authentic Szechuan cuisine. To sample even more delights, head over to The Gleneagles Terrace which serves an inviting array of delectable Asian and Western cuisine.

There’s no better way to end the day than with a relaxing massage at The Pulai Spa. The spa’s variety of treatments, tailored to match each individual’s tastes and preferences is sure to pamper you from head to toe, leaving you in a state of utter bliss. This is what we class as a perfect getaway, one that offers secluded sophistication and brings the best of both luxury and pleasure. **119**

# PERFECT ESCAPE

Spend the weekend at the world-class Pulai Springs Resort, where solitude meets uncompromised luxury