

**NO VENDORS ALLOWED ON SURIN BEACH > PAGE 3**

# WORTH SAVING

Tourists kayak through the iconic limestone karsts of Phang Nga Bay, which officials hope will be included as part of a new Unesco World Heritage Site. Photo: Courtesy of Willy Thau / Phuket101.net

## OFFICIALS PREPARE PROPOSAL FOR ANDAMAN SEA ZONE TO BECOME UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

**Tanyaluk Sakoot**  
reporter2@classactmedia.co.th

A revived effort is underway to have Phang Nga Bay and parts of the Andaman Sea and its coastlines surrounding Phuket, and possibly as far south as the Malaysian border, listed as a Unesco World Heritage Site.

Dr Chamniern Vorratnchaianan, a senior advisor for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Southeast Asia regional office in Bangkok, told the *The*

*Phuket News* on Wednesday (Dec 6) that he was in the early stages of gathering information and support for a renewed proposal.

“Thailand is starting to gather updated information, with the hope that Unesco will consider listing the Andaman coast region as a World Heritage Site.

“We have only just started updating our information on Phang Nga Bay and the surrounding areas, including Phuket’s western offshore region and nearby tourism areas,” Dr Chamniern said.

The current effort follows attempts in late 2014 and early 2015 that failed to gain support. A similar proposal was tabled as far back as 2004, where it sat on Thailand’s World Heritage Site Tentative List until December 2014. Then, despite the then National Reform Council (NRC) voting overwhelmingly in 2014 to push for the Unesco listing, the proposal disappeared from the nation’s political radar and sank without a trace.

“The proposal process takes a long time, sometimes years, but we are starting to prepare the required

information again, as unfortunately, the information gathered in 2014 is now too old to be considered for the region’s placement on Thailand’s Tentative List,” Dr Chamniern explained to *The Phuket News* in an exclusive interview.

“We submitted our proposal for consideration in 2014, but sadly we did not satisfy the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) criteria required by Unesco,” he added.

To be considered for listing as a World Heritage Site, an area must be of “outstanding universal value” and...

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**NEWS** PAGE 5

New tech leads to reduction in road deaths



**LIFE** PAGE 15

The man behind some worthy local charities



**SPORT** PAGE 32

With new team set up, will fans return to cheer?



9 772228 973015

  
**2017**  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
**A PROHIBITION PARTY**



MARRIOTT  
MERLIN BEACH  
PHUKET

**THE 1920'S FOR A NIGHT OF JAZZ 31 DECEMBER 2017**

THE COCKTAIL HOURS THE MUSIC CHANGES  
Phuket Marriott Resort and Spa, Merlin Beach P +66 76 335300 | E Matchima.donphan@marriott.com

# Historic Contest arrives

## Iconic Contest Yachts stage Asia launch in Phuket

**MARINE**

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Contest Yachts, an iconic leader in custom-built sailing yachts, this week launched its brand in Asia in Phuket. The launch came yesterday (Dec 7), one day before the Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous (KRSR).

The launch is part of the brand's international expansion in Asia and timed to coincide with the KRSR and the Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

Owned and operated by Holland's Conijn family for over three generations, Contest Yachts shines in the sailing world with its distinguished history of combining traditional craftsmanship with ultra-modern technologies and innovative solutions.

"We are delighted to launch our brand in Asia in close cooperation with our partner Northrop & Johnson Asia. The Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous, combined with Phuket's future yachting



The Contest 72CS is just one of the supreme yachts being brought to Asia following Contest Yachts' Asia launch in Phuket this week.

growth potential, provides an excellent opportunity to showcase Contest Yachts to the right audience," said Contest Yachts CEO Arjen Conijn.

"We look forward to bringing our specialised brand of high-end European sailboats to the region, as the timing and event platform of the KRSR is a perfect fit," he added.

Contest Yachts has always built and fitted yachts to the highest of standards in close cooperation with the exterior

design team of Judel / Vrolijk & co and interior designers of Wetzels Brown Partners. Every Contest yacht offers inspiring modern designs and detailing with an exacting attention to detail to appeal to Asia's sailing elite. Supreme examples are found in the bluewater "game-changer" Contest 67CS, the press-acclaimed Contest 72CS and the new flagship, the Contest 85CS, which sits at the head of a range of eight yachts

from 13m/42ft to 26m/85ft, including the 16m Contest 52MC motor cruiser.

Richard Pope, CEO of Infinite Luxury and Kata Rocks, notes that the launch comes as the yachting scene in Asia is growing year on year. "We are thrilled that such a well-established brand like Contest Yachts chose the ultra-modern Kata Rocks to pave their way in Asia," he said.

Mr Conijn told *The Phuket News*, "We are delighted to

make our debut in the Asia Pacific yachting marketplace. With many owners of Contest yachts enjoying their bluewater world sailing, for many years our hand-built luxury yachts have visited the exciting seas and countless, wonderful destinations of the region.

"In these years we have seen the Asia-Pacific market open its arms to European, luxury-brand yachting. As Contest Yachts represents the very best standards of Dutch yacht design and construction, and it is definitely time we were here... and we are now truly pleased to be here in Asia, and look forward to meeting and working with the region's exciting and growing and exciting yachting community," he said.

In making the expansion into Asia a reality, Mr Conijn noted, "To explore and grow opportunity in a new region it is important to arrive not just with excellent yachts but with the right marketing partner. A partner who knows the market intimately. And to achieve that across the huge

Asia Pacific market requires a very special partner, one with effective local presence across the entire region. So we are delighted to be working with Northrop & Johnson, headquartered in Hong Kong and with local national offices in Thailand, China, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. We couldn't be better placed."

The launch in Phuket specifically to coincide with KRSR was a clear statement. "We have watched the growth in luxury yachting here in the region for a long while and have always been very impressed with the increasing significance of the KRSR," Mr Conijn noted.

"It has quickly proven itself as an important event on the yachting calendar, attracting high-quality contributors and visitors – a terrific audience, highly representative of the high end of yachting potential in the region. We are pleased to be a part of this year's KRSR, and we look forward to introducing visitors to Contest Yachts," he said.

## Boathouse completes refit, re-opens

**HOSPITALITY**

THE BOATHOUSE Phuket at Kata Beach has re-opened its doors after a five-month refurbishment.

The makeover, completed to designs by Singapore-based interior design firm LAANK in time for the hotel to welcome back guests from Nov 1, saw all 39 guestrooms and suites refurbished and updated with a "modern, elegant puristic atmosphere", noted a release issued last week.

"The new look has been



The Boathouse Phuket at Kata Beach has re-opened its doors after a five-month refurbishment.

integrated with the beachfront location and maritime theme, which is consistent with the brand," the release added.

The latest addition to The

Boutique Collection brand, The Boathouse Phuket is managed by hospitality management company HPL Hotels & Resorts based in Singapore.

HPL Hotels & Resorts currently manages the activities of 11 hotels and resorts in Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean, including Concorde hotels in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur; Hard Rock hotels in Bali, Pattaya and Penang; Casa del Mar, Langkawi; The Lakehouse, Cameron Highlands; Casa del Rio, Melaka; and The Boathouse, Phuket.

*The Phuket News*

**CELEBRATE 2017 FESTIVE SEASON ANGSANA LAGUNA PHUKET**

SCAN HERE TO DISCOVER

ANGSANA LAGUNA PHUKET

SENSING THE MOMENT ANGSA.COM

**Let's enjoy Thailand with Bangkok Bank ATM**

Get a special discount of 15% for Siam Niramit Show tickets in Phuket when you make a cash withdrawal at any Bangkok Bank ATM in Phuket.

15% off

Today - 28 Feb 2018

For more information, please call Bualuang Phone 1333. Terms and conditions apply.



From left: Arnie, Kane and Tom cut Hard Rock Cafe Phuket's 8th birthday cake.



The final five Southeast Asian 'Barocker' competitors. From left back row: Huu Ti Nguyen from Vietnam, Piseth Chhun from Cambodia and Adam Hafiz from Malaysia. From left front row: Chanchai "Tony" Prasit from Thailand, Vanantius Sosa from Indonesia, and a former champ.



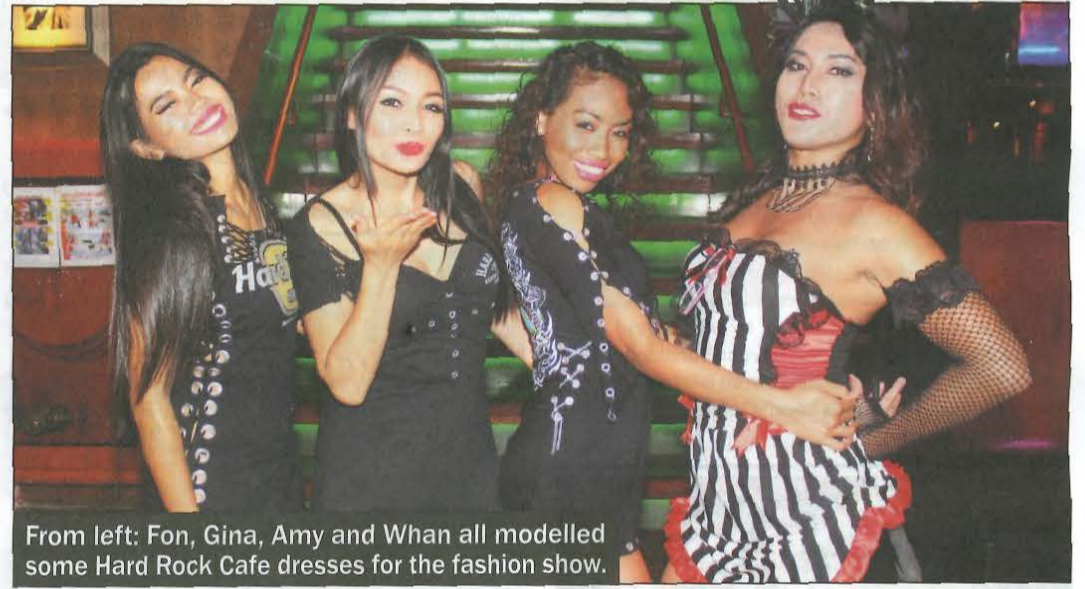
Hard Rock Cafe staff dressed in style for the birthday celebrations.

## NON-STOP ACTION AT HARD ROCK CAFE'S REGIONAL 'BAROCKER' FINALS

Last Wednesday night (Nov 29) five of the best Hard Rock Cafe bartenders from Southeast Asia fought it out for a ticket to the final "Barocker" round to be held in the USA. Each contestant performed a bartending flair show for the judges, there was also a racy fashion show, and of course, plenty of rockin' live music. The night also marked Hard Rock Cafe Phuket's eighth birthday with a huge cake shared out with the audience. Phuket's own Chanchai "Tony" Prasit wowed the judges with his skills and flairs and won the chance to represent Thailand in the "Barocker" finals in America.



From left: Judges Phil, Danny and Trin.



From left: Fon, Gina, Amy and Whan all modelled some Hard Rock Cafe dresses for the fashion show.

## MARRIOTT HEADS 'INTO THE BLUE' IN PHUKET TO THANK ITS CUSTOMERS

Seven Marriott Hotels said "thank you" to the Thai travel trade and media with a special blue-themed party last Friday (Dec 1). As part of Marriott International's annual Global Customer Appreciation Week, 200 travel agents and members of the media were invited to Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort for a fun and relaxing night. Seven Marriott hotels on Phuket represented on the night were showcased at the event.



Seven Marriott hotels on Phuket were represented by their respective general managers, who were joined by staff, guests and local media at the 'Into the Blue' event.



The management team of Infinite Luxury and Kata Rocks welcomed esteemed guests, patrons and villa owners at Kata Rocks' third Anniversary party.



The Kaanda Angels showcasing the limited edition Kata Rocks collection along with the exciting 2018 Kaanda Beach Life range.

## KATA ROCKS CELEBRATES 3RD ANNIVERSARY WITH BRUNCH, FASHION SHOW

Kata Rocks celebrated its third anniversary last Saturday (Dec 2) with a "Louis Roederer Brunch of the Year". Highlights from the pool party included a fashion show from Kaanda, who launched an exclusive Kata Rocks bikini line, and guests enjoyed funk, disco and boogie entertainment from famed Bangkok DJ duo, Slum Disco Soundsystem.