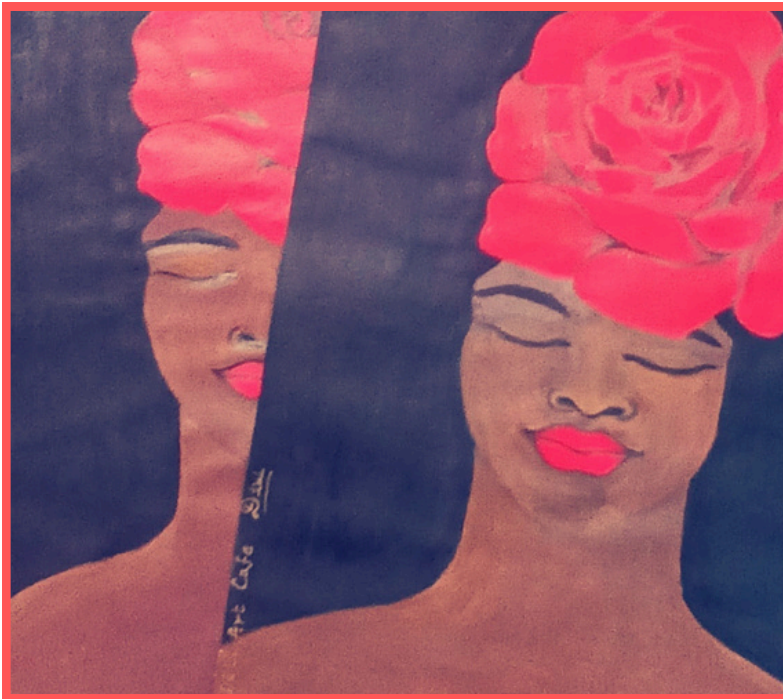


The

Flame Tree Herald & Observer

THE LATEST NEWS & STORIES FROM THE JUNGLE

SEPTEMBER 2024



Flower Girl Takes Off

The Flower Girl, a stunning stylised portrait by Sri Lankan artist Dilini Paragahawaththa, has exceeded all jungle records as the most sought after painting sold at The Flame Tree Estate & Hotel. A massive red flower sits atop her head, a crown, its colour reflected in her lipstick. Her dreamy eyes are closed. Gazing into her face, you encounter one of those magical moments of cultural fusion – in this case, a young Audrey Hepburn meets Gauguin meets a latter day Queen Venkata Rangammal, wife of one of the last of the kings of Kandy.

The Hotel has established a gallery for contemporary Sri Lankan artists to sell their works directly to travellers from abroad eager to take home something more memorable than a batik shirt; and this ageless Sri Lankan beauty speaks eloquently of the world class standards of the artists working on the island today.

Insider Revelations

The Truth
about
Cinnemon

The Hunt
for the
Devil Bird

Shamalee's
Coconuts

The Latest
Reviews



THE TRUTH ABOUT CINNEMON

Most of what passes as cinnamon sold worldwide is as counterfeit as a North Korean election. True cinnamon, or *Cinnamomum Zeylanicum*, comes almost wholly from Sri Lanka. Its phony forger, *Chinese Cassia Cinnamon*, has a thick, rough bark and a harsh, crude flavour, at odds with any kind of foodie rapture. Here at the hotel, Ananda and his gardening team, in a fever of self-sufficiency, have just added another 1208 new cinnamon bushes to the 1,300 already planted. The plants will grow as 10 foot bushes, their inner branches peeled and harvested after 3 years. Come taste.

THE HUNT FOR THE DEVIL BIRD



The hotel's hunt to record the midnight call of the Devil Bird continues, following reports of its appearance and bloodcurdling shrieks. Of the many candidates claiming responsibility, ornithologists believe the perp is a hungry spot-bellied eagle-owl, whose massive eyebrows give it the learned look of Yoda, Star Wars' legendary Jedi Master. Night in the jungle is often the nosiest time of day, with scores of secretive creatures assembling for dinner parties – from mouse deer, flying squirrels, hares, civets and lorises to wild boar, pangolins, porcupine, bats, bandicoots and choirs of painted frogs.

SHAYMALEE'S COCONUT



Statistical pundits report that 150 people die annually from falling coconuts worldwide. It is an irksome - if environmentally positive - way to depart this earth; and most escape with just a few bruises – like Shyamalee, our Head Housekeeper last week. “I heard a whoosh from above as I headed for my tuktuk at home, and luckily turned my head. The coconut stuck my shoulder instead.” The island produces over 3 million nuts a year – but consumes almost 5 million, so planting new saplings is an act of gastronomic patriotism. The Hotel's hundreds of hundred-year-old coconut trees, are key to making its sambals and drinks. And, you may be glad to hear, safely cropped regularly by the same family that has tended them for over 4 generations.

News In Brief

*“Bought marmalade?
Oh dear, I call that
very feeble.”*

JULIAN FELLOWES

Given that a day that fails to start with proper marmalade is like a day in hell, the hotel’s chefs have evolved a luscious new recipe to better hone its bitter sweet chunky taste. Expect hints of heaven.

Bookies Best

A new guide to the best of Sri Lankan writing in English has been published by The Ceylon Press and is available for free download at www.theceylonpress.com/tinyguides



DALLY DIGITAL

The hotel’s new website, www.flametreeestate.com is live.



FLY THE COOP

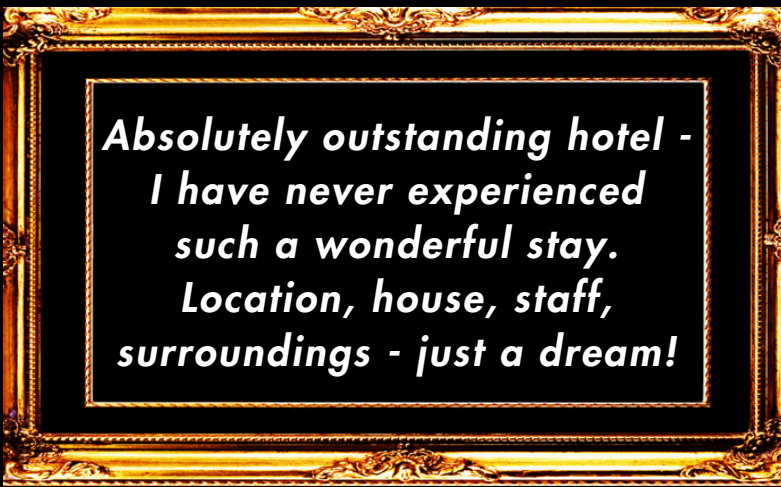
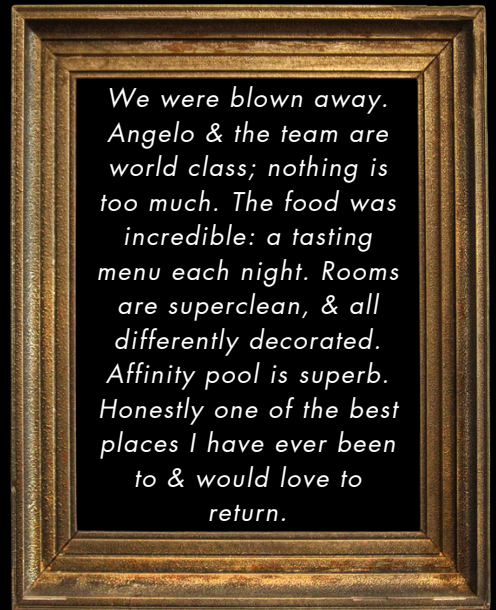
A new Mindful Pavilion is being constructed at the hotel where yoga, massage and meditation can be shamelessly enjoyed overlooking jungle.

WHERE ROADIES ROAM

A new road, lined with Palmyra Palms has been cut to take hotel guests through plantations of coffee and lemon grass .

Drama Queens

Two hundred new crotons, the Miles van de Roche of the ornamental plant world, have been added in shades of red, green, yellow, purple and acid peach to the Hotel’s fecund & burgeoning Main Driveway.



Come - and find peace

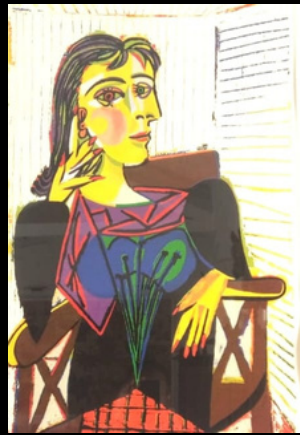
At The Flame Tree Estate & Hotel

UTTERLY PRIVATE



FINE FOOD

KICK BACK



THE BEST SIGHTS

SPA & MASSAGE



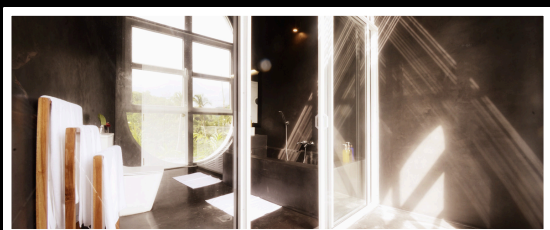
ART



GLORY



DAWDLE



MARTINI

INFINITY

Thank you for reading our jungle tales!



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