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May 29th 97

Ms Jenny Chua General Mgr., RAFFLES Hotel 1 Beach Road Singapore 189673

Dear Ms Chua,

I refer to my recent visit to your esteemed establishment in April last.

Having read much about the extraordinary reputation of Raffles for many years, I was somewhat guarded in my confidence that such prior expectations would be met. As in all things, reported satisfaction and personal experience are often at odds and it was with a slightly sardonic attitude that I entered the hotel's portals.

Please now be assured that, since my recent visit, I do look back on those prior reports of Raffles but only to chide them and wonder at their inadequacy in describing the sheer professionalism, charm and perfection that is your supreme hotel.

Our evening at Raffles took us to The Grill where the quality of the cuisine was matched only by the sophistication of the waiting staff. Extraordinary cooking offset by perfect service and delightful surroundings; a rare enough treat in days of disposable standards. Following Dinner my wife and I retired to The Bar and Billiard Room where we were treated to the excellence and virtuosity of a Mr Chako and his Jazz Trio. This latter experience was the crowning of a perfect evening as the mellow and sophisticated music of this excellent band matched perfectly the solid and classical surroundings of a space that is somehow timeless yet always evokes a sense of elegant relaxation. Pondering my good fortune over a well-decanted Port I thoroughly enjoyed the music of Mr. Chako and his associates and welcomed the opportunity to enjoy a little live music (so often hard to find these days). In truth Mr. Chako and friends are central to the ambience of the Billiard Room and indeed the entire experience that is Railles. I will visit Raffles again soon and look forward to rounding off another night's over-indulgence with his music.

In conclusion may I wish you continued success with Raffles Hotel. It is an oasis of sublime sophistication and I for one salute yours and your associates' excellent efforts.

Kindest Regards

Damian G. Fannin