

# news release

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## **MANDARIN ORIENTAL, BANGKOK'S CHEF NORBERT KOSTNER GRANTED**

***“Cavaliere dell’ Ordine della Stella d’Italia”***

**Hong Kong, 28 March, 2013** -- Under the ordinance of H.E. Ambassador Michelangelo Pipan, Ambassador of Italy to Thailand, the President of the Republic of Italy, Mr. Giorgio Napolitano has conferred the decoration *Cavaliere dell’ Ordine della Stella d’ Italia* upon Norbert Kostner who has been Executive Chef of [Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok](#) for the past 38 years.

H.E. Mr. Michelangelo Pipan presented the award of “Cavaliere” (or Knight) to Chef Norbert Kostner, Culinary Director of Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok, during a private ceremony at the Ambassador’s residence recently. The accolade was bestowed in recognition of Chef Norbert’s contribution to the promotion of the Italian image and the relation between Italian and Thai people through his work. “Chef Norbert’s dedication to the art of his profession has earned him an excellent reputation amongst the general public and media alike, thus helping to promote closer relations between Thailand and Italy” said Ambassador Pipan.

The *Ordine della Stella d’Italia* (“Order of the Star of Italy”) was originally instituted in 1947 as the Star of Italian Solidarity, to recognize expatriates and foreigners who made an outstanding contribution to the reconstruction of Italy after World War II. The badge bears the inscription *Solidarietà Italiana* encircling a depiction of the Good Samaritan. The order is bestowed by decree of the President of the Republic, on the recommendation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 2011, it was reformed and the emphasis shifted to the preservation and promotion of national prestige abroad.

“Chef Norbert is a well loved and deeply respected member of the Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok team, and we are delighted and so very proud that he has been honoured with this well-deserved achievement,” said Amanda Hyndman, General Manager.

Chef Norbert’s culinary expertise has long been sought after in Thailand. He is Advisor to the agricultural Royal Projects in Chiang Mai, Thailand; and under his patronage and the

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experienced eye of Chef Luca Casini, is also now responsible for Mandarin Oriental Bangkok's newest Italian offering, **Ciao**, which offers guests the chance to sample a range of Italian dining, from classics to imaginative dishes.

Lying on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, Ciao's al fresco setting helps create a relaxed, yet sophisticated, ambience. To one side of the restaurant lies Ciao's chic cocktail bar, serving a selection of fine Italian wines and cocktails, spuntino, and one of the greatest selections of sparkling and wine-based cocktails in Southeast Asia.

For an extra special experience, guests can book in advance an exclusive Chef's Counter with seating for up to eight diners to enjoy an eight-course tasting menu accompanied by wines chosen by the hotel's award winning sommelier.

For reservations, please visit [www.mandarinoriental.com/Bangkok](http://www.mandarinoriental.com/Bangkok), contact Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok at +66 (2) 659 9000 ext. Reservations or email: [mobkk-reservations@mohg.com](mailto:mobkk-reservations@mohg.com).

### **About Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok**

Built in 1876 and ideally located on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, [Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok](#), has been an inspiration to a host of world-renowned writers from Joseph Conrad, Somerset Maugham to Wilbur Smith and John Le Carre. Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok boasts an international reputation for splendid service, style and grace and facilities including eight restaurants. The hotel's private teakwood shuttle boats provide daily access to the world famous Thai Cooking School, the hotel's Thai restaurant, the award-winning Oriental Spa and Health Centre located across the River; as well as the nearest skytrain station (SaphanTaksin) and River City Shopping Centre.



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**Caption:**

Pictured (from left) are: Christian Johann JadpraditKostner; Amanda Hyndman, General Manager of Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok; NijapornCharanachitta, Chairperson of The Oriental Hotel Public Co., Ltd.; H.E. Ambassador Michelangelo Pipan; Cavaliere Norbert; LailaPipan; and RamoneJadpraditKostner.

**About Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group**

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group is the award-winning owner and operator of some of the world's most prestigious hotels and resorts. The Group now operates, or has under development, 44 hotels representing over 11,000 rooms in 27 countries, with 19 hotels in Asia, 12 in The Americas and 13 in Europe, Middle East and North Africa. In addition, the Group operates, or has under development, 14 *Residences at Mandarin Oriental* connected to its properties.

Photography of Mandarin Oriental is available to download, in high and low resolution, in the [Photo Library](#) of our *Media* section, at [www.mandarinoriental.com](http://www.mandarinoriental.com). Please join us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/MandarinOriental](http://www.facebook.com/MandarinOriental)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/mo\\_hotels](http://www.twitter.com/mo_hotels))

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