

information

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THE UNIQUE FAN OF MANDARIN ORIENTAL, DOHA

Designed locally and handcrafted by French fan specialist, Maison Duvelleroy, Mandarin Oriental, Doha's fan is a celebration of Qatari identity, with a mix of Middle Eastern inspired design elements. The burgundy tone and patterns on each of the nine fan blades depict a series of connected symbols that are intrinsic to Doha, while the tassel is a beautiful reminder of the significance of pearling to the heritage of the city.

Featured on the fan blades are wonderful landscapes that make up this great city – paying homage to its distinctive architecture, tradition, hospitality and heritage. The dhow boat on the fan blade symbolises pearl trading in the region with designs inspired by beautiful calligraphy and charming hospitality.

Landscape – Sand Grains

Inspired by one of Qatar's finest treasures, the Khawr al Udayd desert, a breathtaking area with large golden sand dunes that offer stunning views. The sand dunes in the Khawr al Udayd desert take on an almost mystical quality under the glow of a full moon when the 'sabkha' (salt flats) sparkle in the gaps between the sand.

Flora – The Date Palm Tree

Qatari's have historically engaged in the trading of pearls and date palms. Dates have been a staple food of the Gulf and Qatar for thousands of years and the palm tree is considered a tree of life. As a love symbol, the palm is a symbol of fertility; it is a symbol of longevity as it produces fruit for many years. On the official emblem of The State of Qatar, between two swords there is a sailing ship beside an island with two palm trees.

Fauna – The Oryx

The Arabian Oryx is a native to the desert and steppe areas of the Qatari landscape. The Qataris have long admired the Oryx and the animal is a symbol of power, dignity and pride.

Hospitality – The Dallah

Arabic coffee is a symbol of generosity in Qatar and the Gulf – The Dallah is what it is poured with. This Arabic coffee pot has been used for centuries to brew and serve coffee. The Dallah is an important fixture of Qatari society and is seen at the airport, city souvenir shops, markets and souqs around town. Not to forget the famous Dallah sculpture that graces the Corniche Street in Doha.

Antiquity – Pearl Diving

Since ancient times, the sea has played a vital role in the daily life of the citizens of Qatar and pearl diving is one of their oldest professions. Qatar often reminisces about the country's pearl diving origins and it is still possible to purchase local pearls today.

Trade – Dhow (traditional boat)

Meaning 'mother of abundance', Umm Al Hanaya is the name of a famous Qatari folk tale about a trading ship. To some she was a great 19th century trading ship, to others a pearling vessel – but everyone agrees that her annual return from her travels was an occasion of great joy and celebration as she brought in pearls, opened trade opportunities as well as the endless stories and experiences from faraway lands.

Culture – Arabic Calligraphy

Calligraphy was highly regarded in Qatari Bedouin traditions and has played a significant role in the country's culture. As one of the most intricate and noteworthy forms of visual art, Arabic calligraphy is considered to be an essential component of Arab Islamic civilization. Qatar has long hosted calligraphy and art exhibitions that aim to promote a greater understanding of the cultural, religious and artistic significance of this art form.

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Wealth – Discovery of oil

In January 1940, Qatar joined the Middle East's oil club with the discovery of the onshore Dukhan oil field. The discovery of oil has brought prosperity, immigration, social progress and the beginnings of the country's modern history.

Art – Desert sand dunes

Inspired by the conceptual understanding of the David Collins studio, Mandarin Oriental Doha have chosen the pattern created to represent the sand dunes.

Photography of Mandarin Oriental is available to download in the [Photo Library](#) of our [Media](#) section, at www.mandarinoriental.com. Further information is also available on our [Social Media](#) channels.

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