



N NEW BORACAY BLING

Tides Hotel Boracay, a huge building block of a hotel housing 60 designer guest rooms, opened on the island on September 28, upping the competition for ritzy hotels. Although this one is not part of an internationally known hotel chain, one of the owners, Erik Cua, runs the hip bar Embassy frequented by celebrities in Manila, so one assumes Tides may just as well be a magnet for the hip crowd.

Designwise, the resort is not your idea of a tropical island property. Its modern architecture can easily be lifted and put right smack in the middle of Makati and wont be out of place. Its infinity pool, row upon row of white partitioned cabana space, and row of wooden lounge chairs, reminds one of the deck of a cruise ship. It can pass off as one of the sections of a refurbished Queen Elizabeth 2 or Cunard Cruise line. But no, this one is a hotel and is located in the heart of Boracay's D'Mall area in boat station 2.

Rooms have plasma TV with cable connection, wifi connection, and all the trappings of luxury.

Rates at the Tides start at US \$120 (about P5,000). For reservations, call 02/ 726 6165 or 725 3411, or email tidesreservation@gmail.com. Visit www.tidesboracay.com.



D DELUXE ROOMS AT KIKKO'S

The 30-room Kikko's Boracay Beach resort opened on March 16, 2007 at the northern end of Boracay. It's set on a hill but just a two minute walk from the White Beach. Its deluxe rooms, two of which are family rooms, have poolside access and private porch with fantastic view of the beach, full split-type air-conditioning system, hot and cold shower, minibar, electronic safety deposit box, cable TV, and in-room NDD and IDD telephone access. The resort is a one-minute walk to the White Beach and nearby restaurants and shops.

Rates at Kikko's start at P3,500. For reservations, call 036/ 288 4567 or email kikkos_boracay@yahoo.com.

T THE STRAND'S BOUTIQUE LIVING

The Strand, a boutique garden resort atop a hill in "boat station 1, has just celebrated its first year in Boracay. Strand sits on a one hectare property at the northern tip of White Beach and offers nine 60sqm one-bedroom suites, a 100sqm two-bedroom penthouse, 70sqm family suite, and two 40sqm standard rooms. Rooms are equipped with flat screen TV, refrigerator, and hot and cold shower, among other things. It has several swimming pools, including a saltwater pool, the only one on the island. Homey and designed in harmony with the tropical resort, Strand is perfect for couples, families, and holidaying groups.

For more information and bookings at The Strand, call 02/ 843 8888 or 036/ 258 6900, or email info@boracaystrand.com or www.boracaystrand.com.



H HILLTOP RESORT ANYONE?

The 41-room Grand Vista resort & spa, located on the hilltop of Hagdan Yapak, opened on the island in early June. The hilltop resort is Korean owned and caters largely to a Korean clientele. Its rooms have individual balconies and access to your own private swimming pool. All rooms are air-conditioned and are equipped with flat screen TV with cable, NDD and IDD telephone service, minibar, bath with hot and cold shower, among others. Rates start from \$265 per room per night.

For more details and bookings, call 02/ 521 3166 local 148 or email grandvista@vistagrandvista.com. Visit www.egrandvista.com.