



CAPELLA

SYDNEY

PRESS RELEASE

## CAPELLA SYDNEY CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE WITH EXCLUSIVE LUNAR NEW YEAR PROGRAMME

**THE AUSTRALIAN HOTEL OF THE YEAR LEADS SYDNEY'S LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS WITH A PUBLIC EYE-DOTTING AND LION DANCE CEREMONY ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE, 28 JANUARY**

**SYDNEY, Australia, 14 January, 2025** – Capella Sydney is delighted to unveil its 2025 Lunar New Year programme, offering guests an immersive cultural experience that blends rich traditions with the hotel's signature luxury and unique crafted hospitality. At the AHA Awards, held on November 25 in Brisbane before an audience of over 700 industry leaders, Capella Sydney was named the Best Deluxe Accommodation in Australia, following its earlier success as Metropolitan Deluxe Hotel of the Year at the 2024 NSW Accommodation Awards for Excellence. Additionally, Jonathan Fambart, Capella Sydney's Chief Culturist, was awarded Front of House Employee of the Year (Accommodation Division), recognising his exceptional service and leadership in elevating the hotel's guest experience.

The festivities will commence on 28 January with a public Eye-Dotting and Lion Dance Ceremony, heralding the arrival of the Year of the Snake. This vibrant event, taking place at Farrer Place at 11.00am, is open to the public with Sydney residents and visitors invited to partake in the jubilant occasion. The Eye-Dotting Ceremony, an ancient tradition designed to "awaken" the lion dancers, will be performed by Jin Wu Koon, one of Australia's oldest and most revered Dragon & Lion Dance associations, adding energy and vibrancy to the celebration.

Throughout the Lunar New Year celebrations, hotel guests will enjoy an exclusive array of cultural experiences as part of the Capella Moments programme. Signature offerings include a traditional tea ceremony and calligraphy masterclass led by Master Raymond Leung of Zensation Tea House. A revered figure in Sydney's Chinese cultural scene, Master Leung has dedicated nearly 40 years to promoting Chinese traditions and was instrumental in the founding of Sydney's original Chinese New Year Festival.

Guests can also partake in Tai Chi classes with Grandmaster Gary Khor, a martial arts icon featured in the series Limitless with Chris Hemsworth. Known for his work with legends like Jet Li, Khor's classes are designed to promote balance and wellness, offering a meditative practice that cultivates harmony between body and mind.



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For art aficionados, a guided tour of the Cao Fei: My City is Yours exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW (Naala Badu), led by art expert Fiona McIntosh will be a highlight of the programme. Guests will have the opportunity to explore the work of Cao Fei, one of the most influential contemporary Chinese artists and delve into the world of modern Chinese art.

Capella Sydney's youngest guests will also have their own Lunar New Year adventures with the Little Stars Programme, which introduces children to ancient traditions through engaging workshops. These include crafting movable snake costumes adorned with watercolour eyes and metallic scales under the guidance of artist Anney Bounpraseuth, along with fun activities like baby lion dancing, snake collages, and fortune cookie-making — ensuring that little ones can experience the enchantment of the Lunar New Year.

Aperture, the ideal setting for Lunar New Year celebrations, invites guests to indulge in an exclusive Lunar New Year Afternoon Tea, expertly crafted by Head Pastry Chef Arthur Carré. This bespoke menu features a delectable selection of delicacies, including Capella Kaluga Caviar, sesame prawn toast, Peking duck pancake roll cornetto, fried pork dumplings, and pandan and mandarin lamingtons. The experience is complemented by the delicate notes of white rabbit jasmine tea from Zensation Tea House, with an optional upgrade to a glass of Louis Roederer Champagne for a truly indulgent experience. Available daily from 28 January to 16 February, the afternoon tea is priced at \$125 per person, with the champagne upgrade available for \$25.

Marc von Arnim, General Manager of Capella Sydney, shared, "The Lunar New Year marks a fresh beginning, a time to reflect on the past and embrace the prosperity, health, and good fortune that lie ahead. We are deeply honoured to celebrate this enchanting time at Capella Sydney, and we invite both our esteemed guests and our Sydney community to join us in celebrating the Year of the Snake, a symbol of wisdom, grace, transformation, and elegance."

To mark the occasion of the Lunar New Year, Capella Sydney is delighted to offer an exclusive **Lunar New Year Celebration Package priced from \$1,190 per night for a Deluxe Room.**

This special experience includes luxurious overnight accommodation, a daily breakfast at Brasserie 1930 for two, and a thoughtful welcome amenity featuring an exclusive Capella Sydney Lunar New Year Tea Blend (for room bookings) or Capella Kaluga Queen Caviar (for suite bookings). Guests will also enjoy access to the hotel's curated Lunar New Year programming and complimentary non-alcoholic beverages from the personal bar. To learn more and make a reservation, [please click here.](#)

For more information about Lunar New Year at Capella Sydney visit [capellahotels.com/sydney](https://capellahotels.com/sydney)



Imagery and media assets

Selected hi-res imagery available [here](#)

For media enquiries please contact:

Florence Rocca

Director of Marketing and Communications

Capella Sydney

[florence.rocca@capellahotels.com](mailto:florence.rocca@capellahotels.com)

#### ABOUT CAPELLA SYDNEY

For generations, the Department of Education building in Sydney's Sandstone Precinct stood quietly, its golden facade forming an unassuming backdrop to the rhythm of the city. Reawakening as Capella Sydney in March 2023, the heritage-listed icon welcomed guests inside its walls for the very first time, setting a global benchmark for luxury accommodation, cuisine and cultural immersion. Embedding visitors in the beating heart of the city's commercial, cultural and hospitality precinct, Capella Sydney also marks the first property under the Capella Hotels and Resorts constellation to open in Australia.

Balancing storied architectural features with a contemporary design aesthetic, Capella Sydney celebrates the Australian panorama through its interiors, location and experiences. 192 spacious guestrooms and suites and an unsurpassed wellness offering are anchored by three ground-level food and beverage outlets and a collection of bespoke function spaces. Original characteristics are celebrated throughout the hotel, with reimagined interiors unfurling to reveal commissioned and collected artworks, sophisticated furnishings and intriguing objet d'art– all within footsteps of the glistening harbour foreshore, the famed Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

For more information, visit [capellahotels.com/sydney](https://capellahotels.com/sydney) | IG: capellasydney FB: capellasydney



#### ABOUT CAPELLA HOTEL GROUP

Capella Hotel Group is a leading hospitality management company specialising in luxury hotels, resorts, and serviced residences. Based in Singapore, the rapidly expanding group has two brands under its portfolio and properties across eight destinations. The award-winning Capella Hotels and Resorts is renowned for its service excellence, crafted luxury design and immersive experiences celebrating the locale, while Patina Hotels & Resorts is the group's transformative luxury brand pioneering a fresh perspective in luxury hospitality.

Capella Hotels and Resorts was named the #1 Best Hotel Brand in the world in Travel + Leisure's 2023 and 2024 World's Best Awards.

For more information, visit [www.capellahotelgroup.com](http://www.capellahotelgroup.com).

#### ABOUT CAPELLA HOTELS AND RESORTS

The Capella Hotels and Resorts constellation consists of properties located in Singapore, Sydney, Ubud, Bangkok, Hanoi, Shanghai, and Hainan. Future openings include exciting destinations such as Taipei, Kyoto, Riyadh, Nanjing, Shenzhen and South Korea. The exceptional hospitality brand, taking its name from the brightest star of the Auriga constellation, shines a spotlight on local heritage, culture and community whilst crafting authentic guest experiences with the highest level of personalised service and combining a legacy of thoughtful design.

Capella was named Best Hotel Brand in Travel + Leisure's "World's Best Awards" in 2023 and 2024. Capella Bangkok and Capella Singapore earned the distinction of being included in The World's 50 Best Hotels in 2023 and 2024, with Capella Bangkok being named The World's Best Hotel and Asia's Best Hotel in 2024, with Côte by Mauro Colagreco elevated to Two MICHELIN Stars for 2025.

Capella Hotels and Resorts is a member of GHA DISCOVERY, a multi-brand loyalty programme representing a collection of 40 independent hotel brands over 100 countries worldwide.

For more information, visit [capellahotels.com](http://capellahotels.com) | Instagram [@capellahotels](https://www.instagram.com/capellahotels) | LinkedIn [@capellahotels](https://www.linkedin.com/company/capellahotels)