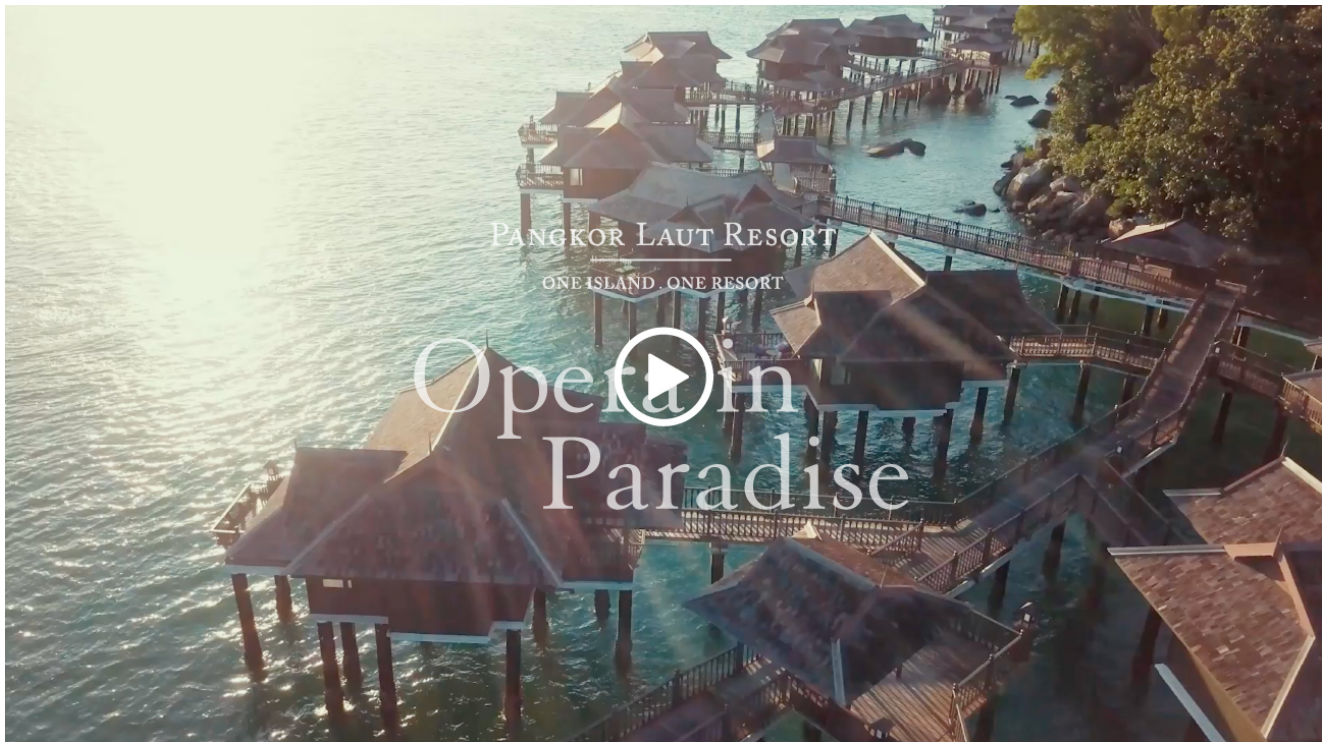


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Opera in Paradise](#)

**A SYMPHONIC TAPESTRY
OPERA IN PARADISE RETURNS TO PANGKOR LAUT RESORT**

“This place is enchanting, it is paradise. This morning when I wake up, I went out, and I was really moved, almost crying to see how beautiful thing has done God. Because this is really, really paradise.”

— Luciano Pavarotti, 1994

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 8 April, 2026 – Pangkor Laut Resort is delighted to announce the return of its celebrated Opera in Paradise, set to take place from 23 to 25 October 2026. This fourth edition weaves a rich symphonic tapestry of exceptional vocal talent against the breathtaking backdrop of the resort’s two-million-year-old rainforest and the tranquil emerald sea.

The late maestro’s words still echo across the shores of Pangkor Laut Resort, a timeless tribute to the island’s serene beauty. Each year, Opera in Paradise honours his legacy by gathering world-class musicians in the very landscape that stirred his soul. For our fourth edition, we are delighted to uphold this cherished tradition, welcoming back the celebrated Laura Wright, Clarissa Spata and Gaetano Bonfante, and introducing the distinguished British baritone Sam Young to our One Island, One Resort sanctuary.

This year’s weekend beckons you into an immersive escape where musical excellence finds its most extraordinary setting. Beneath canopies older than history and beside waters that have inspired generations, our artists will conjure an unforgettable tapestry of song and splendour—a sublime harmony between human creativity and paradise itself.



Extraordinary Performers, Treasured Moments

Returning as Musical Director is the world renowned flautist **Andrea Griminelli**, whose illustrious 35-year career has earned him international acclaim, a Grammy, and an Italian Knighthood. A student of the legendary Jean-Pierre Rampal, he has performed on the world's most prestigious stages, from La Scala to Carnegie Hall, captivating audiences with his breathtaking technique and profound musicality. His performance pays tribute to Pavarotti's historic concert on the island— a deeply personal homage to his dear friend and mentor, Pavarotti—who first recognised the young flautist as his protégé. Together, his artistry and connection to this sacred place promise to evoke emotion and awe in equal measure.

The renowned mezzo-soprano **Laura Wright** has graced high-profile events worldwide, including performances for Her Majesty the late Queen Elizabeth II. Notable for composing the anthem "Invictus" for The Invictus Games, she has performed it at numerous prestigious ceremonies. Since winning BBC Chorister of the Year at the age of 15, Laura has become one of the decade's top-selling artists and is currently working on her seventh album.



Award-winning soprano **Clarissa Spata** is known for her versatility and principal roles with Opera Australia, such as Frasquita in Carmen, Papagena and First Lady in The Magic Flute, and Rosina in The Barber of Seville. She has toured China with Australian International Productions in Aida and Die Zauberflöte, and starred in a Music Theatre Highlights Tour. Her accolades include the Lady Fairfax New York Award and the Dame Joan Sutherland Encouragement Award. Clarissa was a quarter-finalist on The Voice Australia and regularly performs with The Australian Tenors and The Italian Tenors.

Sydney-born tenor **Gaetano Bonfante** has graced the classical concert stage for years, with a career highlighted by 15 productions for Opera Australia and a tour of *La Traviata* (as Alfredo) across 18 cities in China. A finalist on ABC's *Operatunity Oz* and recipient of the Alice Amy MacDonald Scholarship, he has represented Australia in the iSing opera program in China and performed with the Arma Dei Carabinieri Orchestra in Venice. Gaetano has also written and performed cabaret shows on prestigious cruise ships. Known for his rich tenor voice and storytelling, he captivates audiences with his passion for music.



British baritone **Sam Young** is praised for his warm voice and compelling stage presence. His early career includes being a Young Artist with Opera Prelude and an Emerging Artist at Longborough Festival Opera. In 2026, he debuted at Garsington Opera as an Alvarez Young Artist, performing Marchese d'Obigny in *La Traviata*. His versatile roles range from Figaro and Don Giovanni to Nick Shadow in *The Rake's Progress*. An accomplished concert artist, his oratorio work includes the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and solos in Handel's *Messiah*, with notable appearances at London's Bechstein Hall and Highclere Castle. He trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he won the Chartered Surveyors Vocal Prize.

An Unforgettable Escape

Set within the exclusive sanctuary of One Island, One Resort, guests will experience performances that transcend the traditional concert hall. Under ancient canopies and beside waters that have inspired generations, this gathering offers a rare opportunity to witness musical brilliance in one of the world's most enchanting locations.

As the sun sets over this timeless island and the first notes rise into the evening air, something unforgettable will unfold. Be there to experience it.

This exclusive package—starting from MYR6,7500++ for two—includes welcome cocktails, a gala dinner, daily meals at select restaurants, and speedboat transfers from Marina Island Pangkor. More than just an event, it is a rare opportunity to immerse yourself in nature's majesty while enjoying exceptional musical artistry. With limited availability, this is your invitation to create unforgettable memories where pristine wilderness meets operatic brilliance.

To make reservations or for inquiries, kindly reach out to YTL Travel Centre via phone at +60 3 2783 1000, email travelcentre@ytlhotels.com, visit www.pangkorlautresort.com or [book now](#) directly.

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About Pangkor Laut Resort

Nestled in a two-million-year-old rainforest on a private island, Pangkor Laut Resort is a serene sanctuary of luxury. Set in the Straits of Malacca, three miles off Malaysia's west coast, the resort occupies a small part of the 300-acre island, ensuring an intimate escape. It features elegant sea and hill villas, along with private estates, all designed for breathtaking views and comfort.

Declared as 'Paradise' by the late Luciano Pavarotti and voted 'Number One in the World' by Condé Nast Traveller, the resort's philosophy of deep respect and reverence for the natural world rewards guests with a profound sense of peace and harmony with nature. Visitors can indulge in world-class dining at venues, and rejuvenate at the award-winning Spa Village Pangkor Laut, which draws on ancient Malay, Chinese and Indian healing traditions. Embodying YTL Hotels' ethos of Treasured Places, Treasured Moments, please visit www.pangkorlautresort.com to explore more personalised moments, of this treasured place.

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About YTL Hotels

YTL Hotels curates a prestigious portfolio of over 35 award-winning resorts, hotels, and boutique villas and more than 8,000 rooms; across Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, the United Kingdom, Europe, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand. The group is dedicated to redefining luxury through authentic experiences, bringing its promise of "Treasured Places, Treasured Moments" to life by embracing the culture, character, and tradition of its surroundings; including through its renowned Spa Village, found across select destinations across the globe.

Its collection features some of the world's most acclaimed destinations. The iconic Pangkor Laut Resort—once voted the 'World's Best Resort' by Condé Nast Traveller UK—is now ranked among the Top 15 Resorts in Asia in the 2025 Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards. It is joined by The Gainsborough Bath Spa, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, which was listed among the top 15 Hotels in the UK. Further cementing this prestige, both The Gainsborough Bath Spa and Japan's Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, have been consecutively awarded the prestigious Michelin Key in 2024 and 2025.

The accolades continue with The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui, which was not only placed among the Top 15 Best Resorts in Thailand by Condé Nast Traveller but was also voted the 'Best Resort in Thailand' in the DestinAsian 2025 Readers' Choice Awards. Adding to this impressive record, Monkey Island Estate, Gaya Island Resort, and The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui have all been distinguished by their inclusion in the 2025 edition of Fodor's Finest.

YTL Hotels' global footprint is powered by key international partnerships. A long-standing alliance with Marriott International encompasses the ownership and management of distinguished city properties, including The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur; JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur; The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, Autograph Collection; Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur, Autograph Collection; Moxy Hotels and AC Hotels. This partnership also extends to marquee luxury resorts such as The Ritz-Carlton Reserve in Niseko Village and The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui.

YTL Hotels further solidifies its legacy through a major partnership with Hilton, anchoring its presence in the world-class ski destination of Niseko Village. This alliance is represented by three distinct properties: Hilton Niseko Village, The Greenleaf Niseko Village as part of the Tapestry Collection by Hilton, and Hinode Hills Niseko Village from the Curio Collection by Hilton. The group's collaboration with IHG extends its offering in New Zealand with Hotel Indigo Auckland. In a move that diversifies its urban holdings, YTL Hotels, in partnership with BlackRock Investment, has reimaged Singapore's Oakwood Premier Raffles Place, joining the Ascot Hospitality Group portfolio.

YTL Hotels is the hospitality arm of YTL Corporation Berhad. For more information, visit ytlhotels.com or follow #YTLTravels.

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