In Loving Memory

KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

December 5, 1927 – October 13, 2016

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Saturday, October 28 – Thursday, November 2, 2017 | Since 2011 / Volume VII / No. 43 | 20 Baht

Masked dancers practice a presentation around the pavilion where the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej was cremated on Thursday (Oct 26). The kingdom had been preparing for the Royal Funeral since King Bhumibol died on October 13, 2016. *Photo: Roberto Schmidt / AFP*

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It was a day that the Kingdom had been preparing itself for since a little over one year ago, and it will be a day that will be remembered by the generation who witnessed it for the rest of their lives, and its memory will be passed down to the many generations to follow.

On Thursday (Oct 26), the people of Thailand gathered en masse in their respective provinces to bid a final farewell to the "Father of the Nation", the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej who passed away at 3:52pm on Thursday Oct 13, 2016.

Thursday's Royal Cremation ceremony began at 7am when the Royal Urn was taken from the Dusit Maha Prasart Throne Hall within the Grand Palace to the Great Victory Chariot in front of Wat Phra Chetuphon, and then on to the ceremonial ground at Sanam Luang – the location of the ornate Royal Crematorium.

Gilded chariots, horses and columns of military personnel in bright costumes swept through Bangkok's old quarter in a meticulously-planned spectacle of devotion to a King who was loved, adored and revered by so many.

Guided by long-standing Buddhist ritual and Royal Palace protocol, the elaborate Royal Cremation ceremony was befitting of a King who commanded the unwavering devotion of his subjects during his 70-year reign.

The ceremony featured mass parades, cultural performances and Buddhist ceremonies centred around the gleaming funeral complex that has been erected outside Bangkok's Grand Palace according to Royal traditions dating back hundreds of years.

Onlookers marvelled at the rich array of ceremonial uniforms on display – from puffy blue helmets to embroidered red caps and pointy white hats – as marchers beating drums and bearing tiered umbrellas strode solemnly through Bangkok's historic heart.

"Officials had to study and work very hard to manage this event,...

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Bringing Europe to Phuket

Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous shines on show in Monaco

MARINE LIFESTYLE

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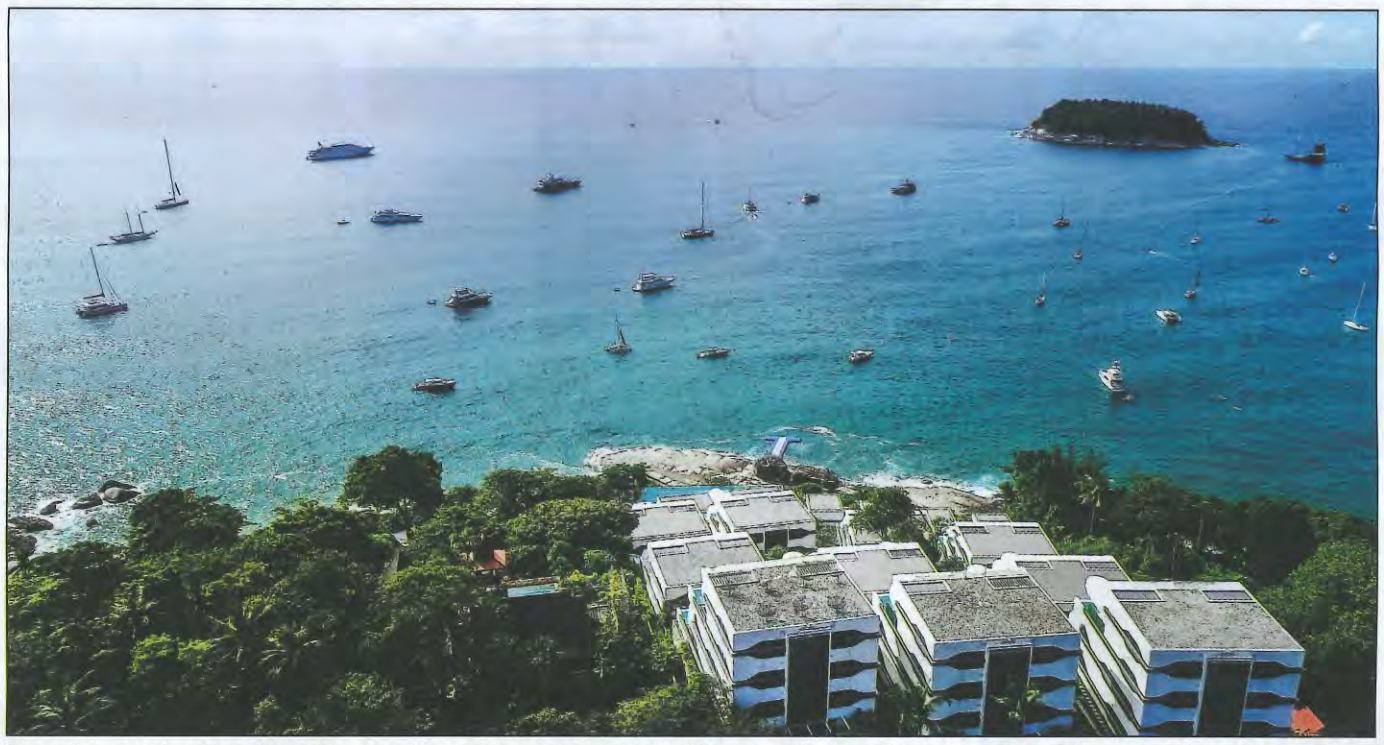

The view overlooking Kata Rocks villas with superyachts taking part in the KRSR hovering offshore. *Photo: Kata Rocks*

The Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous (KRSR) team returned from its successful trip to the Monaco Yacht Show, the world's leading superyacht event, highly motivated by the amazing feedback from the media and the superyacht industry.

The KRSR team handled a busy schedule of meetings with owners, builders, designers, brokers, luxury goods brands plus yachting and luxury lifestyle media in grand style as the countdown to the second KRSR event begins.

"The response at Monaco was fantastic as it gives us valuable momentum in the leadup to December. I am very proud of the entire team, in just two years they have helped establish KRSR as the must-attend superyacht event in Asia," said Richard Pope CEO Infinite Luxury.

"It already is known as the most exclusive invitation-only superyacht happening in the region, welcoming superyacht owners, Kata Rocks villa owners and the Asian glitterati."

Mr Pope said that Benetti and VistaJet are excited to host an exclusive VIP owner's dinner, leveraging a dream pairing of superyachts and private jet charters.

Together with famed Dutch superyacht builder Feadship, whose roots date back to 1847, the companies bring a distinct European flair to Phuket and the KRSR.

Based in Italy and with over 144 years of history, Benetti epitomises the finest craftsmanship and a refined sense of Italian design while Zurich-based VistaJet delivers bespoke flight experiences with operations in over 187 countries worldwide.

The Benetti and VistaJet owner's dinner is expected to prove the perfect complement to the Feadship owner's dinner, a truly prestigious gathering attended by Kata Rocks Villa owners, superyacht owners and discerning guests.

According to Bas Nederpelt, Feadship Commercial Director, the company is pleased to increase its involvement in the 2017 event as a co-sponsor while hosting the exclusive superyacht owner's dinner for a second consecutive year.

"Following the huge success of last year's KRSR, Feadship is again delighted to be taking a leading role this year and to host the Feadship Owner's Dinner once again. The KRSR is helping Phuket become Asia's top yachting destination," Mr Nederpelt said.

Media participation at the 2017 KRSR is expected to reach new heights with the addition of Boat International, the global media authority in superyachting.

Stewart Campbell, Editor of Boat International, said: "The KRSR really set the bar last year and we had some great conversations with owners at Monaco about attending the event this year, as the perfect way to kick off the Asian charter season.

"It is already established as the leading luxury superyacht event in Asia as owners look for alternative cruising grounds and new charter opportunities."

The team is also pleased to confirm that even more superyacht brands are queueing up to come to Phuket and attend what is now widely recognised as Asia's leading superyacht event.

On December 9-10, the invitation-only rendezvous will feature a series of bespoke activities, glamorous parties and social events that effortlessly mix networking and socialising in a relaxed and luxurious environment.

Highlights from this year's fun-filled programme include a welcome reception on a superyacht plus a cruise with the fleet to a secluded beach for a gourmet BBQ at The Surin Phuket. There are also numerous private cocktail parties, superyacht owner's dinners, a "yacht hop" and "big boy's toys" presented by Sea-Doo and much more.

Jason Beavan, General Manager of Class Act Media, the publisher of *The Phuket News*, said: "We are delighted to support the KRSR again and promote brand Phuket worldwide."

The Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous (KRSR) continues its mission to elevate Phuket to elite destination status. The event empowers Phuket and elevates the island, as the region's superyacht hotspot, capturing the interest and imagination of Ultra High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWI).

The event appeals to yachting's sophisticated superyacht elite and UHNWIs by enticing them to sample a multitude of new and exciting, emotionally-resonating experiences and the pristine beauty of Thailand's Andaman Sea.

The KRSR remains the region's marquee attraction, with its relatively unexplored waters, where less than 10% of all superyachts have ever dropped anchor. KRSR has put Phuket firmly on the global yachting map as the hub of the Asia-Pacific region, which altogether offers a vast, multicultural cruising ground that is more than five times the size of traditional superyacht playgrounds like the Caribbean islands. (See KataRocksSuperyachtRendezvous.com.)

The Phuket News and Class Act Media is a proud media partner of the Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous.

Thailand's September tourist arrivals positive

TOURISM

This September's performance strengthened mainly due to robust travel bookings from China, South Korea, Hong Kong and Cambodia. *Photo: TTR Weekly*

THAILAND REGISTERED 26,100,782 tourist arrivals, January to September, ensuring it remains on course to hit the 35 million mark by year-end.

The first nine months saw an increase in arrivals of 5.40% year to date.

Ministry of Tourism and Sports data, released last week, confirmed a relatively strong September performance with 255,689 arrivals up 5.75% year on year.

September, traditionally marks the lowest point of all the off peak months, but this year performance strengthened mainly due to robust travel bookings from China, South Korea, Hong Kong and Cambodia.

Since January, the monthly performance dipped below the 3mn mark for just four months; April, May, June and September. Based on rough estimates if the remaining three months attract around 3.3mn arrivals the country will surpass 35mn by the end of the year.

The ministry's figures are provisional and none more so than its revenue estimates for the first nine months that suggest tourism generated an income of B1.33 trillion, up 7.91% year to date.

In September, the top 10 supply markets for arrivals remained the same as August:

- China, 761,000, +15.49%
- Malaysia, 236,000, -21.49%
- South Korea, 134,000, +24.63%
- Japan, 133,000, +4.14%
- Laos, 125,000 +0.46%
- India, 116,000, +18.14%
- Singapore, 84,000, +5.10%
- Cambodia, 81,000, +31.63%
- Australia, 73,000, +4.10%
- Hong Kong, 70,000, +17.18%

Representing 1,813,000 arrivals, the top 10 countries supplied 71% of the September total.

September's growth by region showed the continued shift to East Asian supply markets, which grew 4.7% compared with a minus 0.1% for Europe, plus 1.0% for South Asia and a minus 0.3% for the Middle East

East Asia delivered tourism related revenue of B84.25 billion and the second highest source, Europe, delivered B22.52bn.

TTR Weekly