

SQUARE MEAL
VENUES & EVENTS
AUTUMN 11

October 28, 2011



MAKING A MARK

MANHATTAN landmark The Mark (tel: 001 212 744 4300) has been completely redesigned. The beautiful 1920s building on the corner of 77th Street and Madison Avenue now features modern furnishings and up-to-date technology. Two meeting rooms spread across 850sq ft and come with free Wi-Fi and an iButler to keep the tech side of things running smoothly. The Mark Restaurant by Jean-Georges has a private dining room for up to 18 guests, while the Mark Suites, many of which feature views of Central Park, can be used for small gatherings. If you do book a suite, you'll also be given free use of a chauffeured town car for six hours a day.



Melia steps into the sand

ANOTHER new addition to Dubai's hotel scene is the **Melia** (tel: 00971 4 902 144 444), the first opening in the region by Spain's Sol Melia group. The stylish 164-room hotel has a great location in Bur Dubai, a few minutes' walk from the Heritage Village. Function spaces include a 200 sq m ballroom for up to 150 guests and two meeting rooms with top technology, each for up to 15 delegates. The food should be good, too – there's a restaurant by Marco Pierre White.



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The circus comes to Delhi

THE FAMED restaurant **Le Cirque**, a New York City institution for more than three decades, has just opened an outpost on the 10th floor of the luxurious **Leela Palace New Delhi** (tel: 0091 113 933 1390). Founder Sirio Maccioni promises it will serve up the best food in town and knock top dog threesixtyone at the new Oberoi Gurgaon off its perch. Event planners take note: the 144-cover restaurant has three private dining rooms, each with a show kitchen, plus a chef's table with a 5-course tasting menu.



LEARNING CURVE

HONG KONG'S brand new 262-bed **Hotel Icon** (tel: 00852 3400 1000) has interiors by Terence Conran and William Lim as well as Asia's largest garden wall, a pool with amazing city views and an impressive ballroom for up to 500, topped with a lattice-work of crystal. The catch? It's staffed by students from the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Prices reflect this, though, so check it out.

Grace odyssey

THE AWARD-WINNING **Grace Hotels** group has taken over one of Beijing's few boutique hotels, the **Yi House Hotel** in the city's 798 Art District. Renamed **Grace Beijing** (tel: 0086 106 436 1818), the 30-bedroom hotel has two conference rooms, one for up to 18 delegates and one for up to 12, and next year a new rooftop terrace will open for larger events.

