



BANYAN TREE  
HOTELS & RESORTS

## PRESS RELEASE

### AWARDS AND ACCOLADES BOOST BANYAN TREE'S 2009 LIST OF HONOURS

**Singapore, December 2009** – Banyan Tree Group garnered some 100 international awards and accolades this year, far surpassing the number of awards won in 2008 and increasing the total number of awards received to well over 500 since the first Banyan Tree property opened its doors 15 years ago. With about 40 resorts in the pipeline, the awards and international recognition reflect Banyan Tree's sustainable growth and expansion as a leading manager and developer of premium resorts, hotels and spas in the Asia Pacific and beyond.

The Group's flagship property, **Banyan Tree Phuket** continues its trailblazing streak on the awards front, bagging five prestigious awards and accolades this quarter. On top of being voted Favourite Resort/ Hotel Spa – Southeast Asia in *Silver Sage Readers' Choice Awards*, it also clinched three *Conde Nast Traveller UK Readers' Travel Awards*, coming in fourth for Spa in Overseas Hotels as well as taking the 97<sup>th</sup> position in the Top 100 category, and 17<sup>th</sup> position for the Top 25 Asia Resorts category, reaffirming the reputation of this much-lauded resort as one of the best spa and resort destinations in the world.

This year, the multi-award-winning **Banyan Tree Spa** is again the proud recipient of the coveted Best Spa Operator award at the *TTG Travel Awards 2009*. The award, which it has received for five consecutive years, is testament to Banyan Tree Spa's consistently high standards and expertise in this area. It was also recognised as Spa Academy of the Year at the *AsiaSpa Awards 2009*. The Group's five-star all-villa oasis in Bahrain, **Banyan Tree Spa Al Areen**, also won three awards at the *Resorts Magazine Hospitality Awards* – coming in top for Top Ten Spa Resorts in The World, and securing second and third places respectively for Top Desert Resort and Top 100 Resorts in the World.



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In China, **Banyan Tree Lijiang** and **Banyan Tree Ringha** continue to be favourites, with both properties voted by *Travel + Leisure China* as one of the Top 100 Best Hotels in China. Banyan Tree Lijiang has also since upped the ante, topping this prestigious accolade with three spa and design-related awards - Best Spa Award, Asia's Top 10 Sustainable Spas and Design Hotel of the Year, while relative newcomer **Banyan Tree Sanya** secured the Best New Hotels award. In addition, **Banyan Tree Hangzhou**, the Group's fifth resort in China scheduled to open later this month, has managed the unusual feat of obtaining an award prior to being officially opened for business, claiming the top spot in the Hotels and Tourism category at the recent MIPIM awards held in Hong Kong.

These awards and accolades further boost Banyan Tree's growing presence in China, and is a sign of its success in having pioneered and delivered unique travel and resort experiences. The Group is growing at a phenomenal pace in China, with a dozen or so projects slated to open by 2012, in tandem with its pipeline of spas under the Banyan Tree and Angsana brands.

Not to be outdone, **Museum Shop by Banyan Tree** won in the Best Shopping Experience category in the inaugural *Singapore Experience Awards 2009*. Housed under the auspices of the Singapore Tourism Board, this prestigious award recognises organisations with the best products and service delivery which has contributed to a distinctive and compelling Singapore shopping experience.

On the CSR front, the Group's four resorts in the Maldives have been awarded the inaugural EC3 Seed Award. Launched this year, the brainchild of EC3 Global, an internationally recognised advisory group which prides itself on providing sustainability solutions for the travel and tourism industry, aims to bring to the fore organisations which have taken significant steps to further their commitment towards creating a sustainable environment. Banyan Tree's Maldivian resorts gained recognition for instigating and implementing an innovative and collective approach towards the conservation of coral reefs which involved the active participation of resort guests.

On a corporate level, **Banyan Tree Holdings Limited** has been awarded the *Most Transparent Company - Hotels & Restaurants* in the 2009 Investors' Choice Awards organised by the Securities Investors Association of Singapore (SIAS).

Following the awards announced in September this year, Banyan Tree Group has since received the following commendations:

**Travel**  
**"Top 25 Asia Resorts – 17<sup>th</sup> Place"**  
~ Conde Nast Traveler USA Readers' Choice Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Phuket*



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**“Australasia and the South Pacific – 12<sup>th</sup> Place”**

~ Conde Nast Traveller USA Readers’ Choice Awards 2009  
*Angsana Great Barrier Reef*

**“Best 100 Hotels in China – 98<sup>th</sup> Place”**

~ Travel + Leisure 2009 China Travel Awards  
*Banyan Tree Lijiang*

**“Best 100 Hotels in China – 99<sup>th</sup> Place”**

~ Travel + Leisure 2009 China Travel Awards  
*Banyan Tree Ringha*

**“Best New Hotels”**

~ Travel + Leisure 2009 China Travel Awards  
*Banyan Tree Sanya*

**“Best Hotels and Tourism Resorts”**

~ MIPIM Asia Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Hangzhou*

**“Favourite Resort/ Hotel Spa – Southeast Asia”**

~ Silver Sage Readers’ Choice Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Phuket*

**“Resort/ Hotel Spa Asian Subcontinent”**

~ Silver Sage Readers’ Choice Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru*

**“Top 100 Resorts in the World – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place”**

~ Resorts Magazine Hospitality Awards  
*Banyan Tree Al Areen*

**“Top 10 Resorts in Mexico”**

~ Mexico’s 10 Best Seaside Hideaways  
*Banyan Tree Mayakoba*

**“Design Hotel of the Year”**

~ Best Design Hotels Award  
*Banyan Tree Lijiang*

**“Best Culture Hotel Award”**

~ Best Design Hotels Award  
*Banyan Tree Ringha*

**“Favourite Resorts/ Hotels/ Spas Asian Subcontinent”**

~ Spa Travel Readers’ Choice  
*Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru*

**“Favourite Resorts/ Hotels/ Spas Southeast Asia”**

~ Spa Travel Readers’ Choice  
*Banyan Tree Phuket*

**“Asia’s Leading Green Hotel”**

~ World Travel Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Bangkok*

**“Indian Ocean’s Leading Green Hotel”**

~ World Travel Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru*



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**“Indian Ocean’s Leading Hotel Brand”**

~ World Travel Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts*

**“Seychelles’ Leading Hotel”**

~ World Travel Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Seychelles*

**Spa**

**“Spa Academy of the Year”**

~ AsiaSpa Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Spa Academy*

**“Best Spa Operator”**

~ TTG Travel Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Spa*

**“Spa in Overseas Hotel – 4<sup>th</sup> Place”**

~ Conde Nast Traveller UK Readers’ Travel Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Phuket*

**“Top 100 – 97<sup>th</sup> Place”**

~ Conde Nast Traveller UK Readers’ Travel Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Phuket*

**“Top Ten Spa Resorts in the World – 1<sup>st</sup> Place”**

~ Resorts Magazine Hospitality Awards  
*Banyan Tree Al Areen*

**“Top Desert Resort – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place”**

~ Resorts Magazine Hospitality Awards  
*Banyan Tree Al Areen*

**“Top Ten Sustainable Spas”**

~ Asia Spa Awards  
*Banyan Tree Lijiang*

**“Best Spa Award”**

~ Travel + Leisure 2009 China Travel Awards  
*Banyan Tree Lijiang*

**“China’s Leading Spa Resort”**

~ World Travel Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Shanghai*

**CSR**

**“Singapore Compact CSR Recognition Award”**

~ Singapore Compact CSR Recognition Award 2009  
*Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts*

**“Singapore Compact CSR Recognition Award”**

~ Singapore Compact CSR Recognition Award 2009  
*Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru, Banyan Tree Madivaru, Angsana Velavaru, Angsana Ihuru*

**Gallery**

**“Best Shopping Experience”**

~ Singapore Experience Award 2009  
*Museum Shop by Banyan Tree*

**Corporate**



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**“Most Transparent Company”**  
~ SIAS Investors’ Choice Awards 2009  
*Banyan Tree Holdings Limited*

**“Excellence in Leadership”**  
~ Frost & Sullivan 2009 Annual Growth Excellence Awards  
*Ho KwonPing*

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#### **About Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts**

The leading international operator in the boutique resort, residences and spa industry, **Banyan Tree** offers a signature blend of romance and travel with a green conscience. The philosophy behind the hotels, resorts, residences, spas, retail galleries and destination club is based on rejuvenation of the body, mind and soul – a Sanctuary for the Senses. **Angsana Hotels and Resorts** is the ideal complement to Banyan Tree, comprising contemporary, chic and ecologically sensitive retreats. Based in areas of outstanding natural beauty and exciting city hubs, Angsana hotels, resorts, residences, spas and retail galleries reflect the spirit and communities of its environment.

**To date, the Banyan Tree Group manages and/or has ownership interests in over 20 resorts and hotels, over 60 spas, in excess of 60 retail galleries; as well as two golf courses.**

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