GETAWAY In Leisure And Comfort

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The elegant facade of Hotel Clarion

The trimly manicured greenery surrounds a large water fountain ornamented with neoclassical statues that speak of elegance. The unique architecture of the building embodies sophistication and style. In contrast to the busy streets of the Colombo-Kandy main road, Hotel Clarion is a perfect getaway.

Words Himansa Herath **Photographs** Damith Wickramasinghe

A drive along the Colombo-Kandy main road, one of the busiest streets of Sri Lanka will bring you to Hotel Clarion that marks a proud presence as a three-star hotel. The entrance to the hotel is beautified with a lacquered bullock cart and within the hallway, one encounters another set of intricately crafted neoclassical statues. Further along, a creative sculpture of three crane birds made of cornflour and glue captures one's attention. The hallway also accommodates a mini restaurant offering sweets and cakes if you fancy a treat early in your visit. Beyond lies an inviting, mango-shaped outdoor swimming pool, which is a much favoured area for leisure and amusement.

Hotel Clarion has eight outlets, The Tulips, Vibes, 180, Pool Terrace, Mahogany, Serenade, Pharaohs and Uncafé within its premises that allow guests and visitors to relish in a myriad of leisure and entertainment activities. The latest addition, Pharaohs Music Lounge is specially dedicated to unwind to the soothing rhythms of live music including a fusion of Eastern and Western music.

Mahogany is one of the most exquisitely designed dining restaurants of the hotel. Hotel Clarion is set to re-launch Mahogany complete with innovative and alluring design and dining concepts. Incidentally the Mahogany restaurant gives the first batch of hotel school students the opportunity to operate the restaurant under a supervisory level. Thus the hotel management paves way for students to gain experience and fulfill their hearts desire.

Delicious varieties of cuisine served on sizzling platters and preparations of flambé dishes complement the mahogany furniture and spacious interior makes for an elegant dining experience.

The warmth, simplicity and bright atmosphere together with serene vistas of the surroundings provide the ideal ambience for family gatherings and entertainment at Tulips. Dedicated particularly as a family restaurant, it offers a menu of Thai, Chinese, Sri Lankan and other varieties of cuisine. Single units for private family gatherings and functions are also available within the Tulips. The roof top restaurant—180 offers a distinctive dining experience as you indulge within the picturesque vistas of the city. 180 carries special theme nights specially during weekends and the open environment is relaxing and unwinding.

Hotel Clarion extends all eight outlets for resident guests to patronize to their hearts content. Free use of the well-equipped gym and the extensive range of health club facilities are some of the highlighted features at Hotel Clarion. May it be a city tour

to Negombo, an excursion to Colombo or White Water Rafting, Clarion Travels undertakes provision of transport and guidance to wherever you please to go. It is truly a value addition to the in-house guests.

Hotel Clarion accommodates 30 luxurious rooms separated as six Deluxe and 24 Superiors. Three rooms are to be upgraded into super deluxe rooms. Pleasing hues and refined arrangements are noteworthy traits of the rooms. Special touches of beauty and hospitality are offered for Honeymoon occasions together with soothing music. The Hotel’s Diamond banquet hall is exemplary of convenience and aesthetic appeal. The spacious interior accommodates up to 550 guests. The impressive feature of Diamond is its lighting system that adds a touch of glamour to the event according to the moods and preferences of the guests. A vast variety of charming hues, a buffet of fresh and delectable array of food and friendly service make the banquet popular among many.

The friendly staff of 160 members is an assurance to all guests at Hotel Clarion that they will receive a value added service. “Our main strength is being a family hotel. Being a small hotel you get to talk to every customer and provide a customised service. The warm and fuzzy feeling is there when you enter the hotel and you can say that it has soul,” says Dhanuja Pathirana, Managing Director—Hotel Clarion.

With future hopes of adding 30 more rooms, Hotel Clarion is gearing up to cater to a wider clientele. The charming ambience, extensive range of facilities, scrumptious cuisine, tasteful design and creativity thus makes Hotel Clarion a definitive example of hospitality.

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