

Spice Ceylon: Sri Lanka's First Spice Heritage Museum and Cultural Journey

Posted on

Sri Lanka's spice heritage comes alive in Matale with the launch of Spice Ceylon by Thema Collection, an immersive experience blending history, storytelling, and authentic cuisine.



L-R: D.P. Senadheera, Divisional Secretariat, Matale; Dr. Palitha Kohona, Former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to China; Patricia Wickramasinghe, Director, Thema Collection; Chandra Wickramasinghe, Chairman/Managing Director, Thema Collection; and Maxime Wickramasinghe, Director Marketing and Business Development Thema Collection.

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Patricia Wickramasinghe, Director, Thema Collection lighting the traditional oil lamp.

Spice Ceylon, a thoughtfully curated spice heritage experience conceptualized by Thema Collection, officially opens to visitors, offering an immersive journey into Sri Lanka's rich spice legacy, agricultural traditions, and cultural storytelling.

Drawing on Thema Collection's extensive experience in heritage-led hospitality and destination storytelling, Spice Ceylon has been designed to deliver a well-curated and professionally managed visitor experience that connects history, nature, and gastronomy in a meaningful way.

At the heart of the experience is the Spice Heritage Museum, the first of its kind in Sri Lanka, dedicated entirely to the island's spice history and its role in global trade.

"At Thema Collection, we continuously strive to introduce new and meaningful concepts to Sri Lanka's tourism landscape. Spice Ceylon is something truly different, an experience where guests can explore the history of Sri Lanka's spices through our dedicated museum, enjoy immersive guided tours, and conclude their journey with an authentic lunch inspired by Kandyan royal recipes," said Chandra Wickramasinghe, Chairman, Thema Collection.

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Dr. Palitha Kohona with Chandra Wickramasinghe, Chairman/Managing Director, Thema Collection, exploring locally crafted products.



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Guests engage in an immersive nature experience.



Guests enjoy a relaxed dining experience in a heritage-inspired setting.



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Visitors explore a curated selection of locally sourced spices and specialty products.

At the heart of the experience is the Spice Heritage Museum, the first of its kind in Sri Lanka, dedicated entirely to the island's spice history and its role in global trade. The museum traces Sri Lanka's centuries-old journey through spices, highlighting how cinnamon, pepper, and cloves have shaped the country's cultural identity and international relations.

Visitors explore spice gardens and nature trails with knowledgeable agricultural interpreters, gaining insights into traditional cultivation and sustainability. The experience is further enriched with a curated lunch at a historic Walauwa, featuring authentic Sri Lankan cuisine inspired by Kandyan royal recipes, offering guests a rare opportunity to connect culinary heritage with place and history.

Conveniently located in Matale along the Dambulla-Kandy road, in close proximity to the historic Aluvihare Rock Temple, Spice Ceylon is thoughtfully designed as a practical, time-efficient stop that seamlessly complements cultural and heritage-focused itineraries. By bringing together spice cultivation, immersive storytelling, and authentic Kandyan-inspired cuisine in a carefully curated setting, Spice Ceylon redefines how Sri Lanka's spice heritage is experienced.



D.P. Senadheera, Divisional Secretariat, Matale lighting the oil lamp.

The initiative reflects Thema Collection's commitment to creating meaningful visitor experiences that celebrate the island's history, culture, and living traditions, while setting a new standard for heritage-driven tourism in Sri Lanka.

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