

SOFITEL WANDA NINGBO THE NEW FRENCH FLAGSHIP

Paris, 15 January 2009 - Sofitel unveiled the latest addition to its luxury network in China today, opening the doors to the 22nd Sofitel in China - Sofitel Wanda Ningbo. Situated in Ningbo, China's second largest seaport located 240 kilometres from Shanghai, the new hotel enjoys a prestigious address in the picturesque Yinzhou district, a popular corporate destination just 15 minutes from downtown Ningbo.

The hotel's key location affords guests easy airport access and a convenient location next to the Wanda Plaza Shopping Mall, which offers a wide range of upscale shopping, dining and entertainment options.

Sofitel Wanda Ningbo has been constructed to meet China's exacting 5 star Platinum standards and boasts an elegant and grand interior design that blends the exoticism of oriental China with modern French style and features.

The very first five-star hotel to open its doors in Yinzhou, the Sofitel Wanda Ningbo creates striking ambiance courtesy of its breathtaking Sino-French style. For relaxation, the hotel offers the 'Touch Spa' comprising private treatment rooms, a sauna and steam room, for indulgent massages, body treatments and facials adapted from natural beauty elixirs. A fitness centre and a magnificent indoor swimming pool is also exclusive to guests.

Sofitel's 290 guest rooms and suites offer a choice of a city or garden view and feature an indulgent Sofitel Mybed and pillow menu, separate rain shower, 37" plasma TVs, and free internet connectivity.

Club Millésime rooms and suites include access to Sofitel's prestigious Club Millésime lounge, open from 7am until 10pm and offering an exclusive 'hotel within a hotel' experience. Personalised Club Millésime services include private check in and check out, complimentary drinks and breakfast, premium amenities, business and concierge services and more.

China's latest Sofitel has a strong focus on the needs of business and corporate clientele. Extensive conference facilities include a lavish Grand Ballroom accommodating up to 600 people and four function rooms equipped with the latest technology and dedicated events team.

The hotel serves up four different restaurants: Mediterranean themed Lavish with lush, sophisticated décor for lunch and dinner; International style Le Bistrrot open all day; Wan boasting one of China's top ten Master Chefs and an exquisite menu of Chekiang dishes



and renowned Ningbo seafood and produce; and Koko blending the best of modern and traditional Japanese cuisine.

Two bars are also available: the Lobby Bar, ideal for informal business meetings, and Le Club Wines and Cigars Bar – the first wine and cigar bar in Ningbo serving a selection of delicious tapas and an extensive wine list.

Sofitel Wanda Ningbo General Manager Pat Phanekham said the highly anticipated hotel represents a new chapter for the Yinzhou district which, in ancient times, was the starting point of the "Silk Road" and "road of china".

"Ningbo has played an important role in China's history – as far back as the Ming Dynasty and Silk Road, and in more modern times to grow and become a key business centre for the nation," he said. "Now, Sofitel has an opportunity to play its own pivotal role in the city's history, becoming Ningbo's first ever contemporary five-star hotel – a truly important tourism milestone."

Mr Phanekham said the hotel would provide a much needed luxury accommodation and venue option for the dynamic corporate community of the Yinzhou district.

The scenic location near Dongqian Lake - the biggest freshwater lake in Zhejiang province - complements Sofitel's world-class outlets, facilities and focus on delivering the perfect guest experience. This clever combination will appeal to both international and domestic visitors travelling to Ningbo on business, as well as to local and mainland China holidaymakers seeking a stunning leisure destination.

Sofitel Wanda Ningbo comes after the highly successful launch of Sofitel Wanda Beijing in 2007 and Sofitel Macau At Ponte 16 in 2008. Sofitel hotels and resorts are to be found in China's most important commercial and resort destinations including Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Xi'an, Xiamen and Hangzhou

Opening rates for Sofitel Wanda Ningbo start from CNY900++ for a Superior Room.
Reservation: www.sofitel.com or email info@sofitelwandaanb.com

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Sofitel is the only french luxury hotels brand with a presence on five continents, in more than 50 countries. Sofitel proposes contemporary hotels and resorts adapted to today's more demanding and more versatile consumers who expect and appreciate beauty, quality and excellence. Whether situated in the heart of a major city like Paris, New York or Bangkok, or nestled away in a country landscape in French Polynesia or Brazil, each Sofitel property offers a genuine experience of the French art de vivre.

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Images on request

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