

**VENUES** A silent revolution has been taking place in the hotel industry over the last few years. Seasoned travellers are finally starting to tire of the repetitive in-room control panel setup and leading hotel groups are now trying to out-do each other with more expedient, integrated and interconnected gadgetry available than ever before. *Executive PA Magazine* picks our favourite high tech hotels in Asia  
by **Billy Clarke**

# TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION



## Sofitel So Bangkok

Apple has been leading technology stocks for quite some time now and an article about hotel technology would not be complete without some reference to it. Hotels have taken Apple to heart just as well as the stock market has, but none so much as Sofitel So Bangkok which is Asia's first hotel to offer complete Apple-based digital solutions. In other words all of the hotel's 238 rooms come equipped with an Apple Mac mini computer (suites have an iPad as well), together with high-definition LCD television, wireless keyboard, trackpad, free high-speed Internet access, and a full range of office software. As well as functioning as a multimedia centre, guests can also plug their USB drives into the system, and the hotel directory, in-room service menu and panoramic webcam views are available as well.

**INFO** +66 2 6240000; [www.sofitel.com](http://www.sofitel.com)



## Aloft Bangkok, Bangkok, Thailand

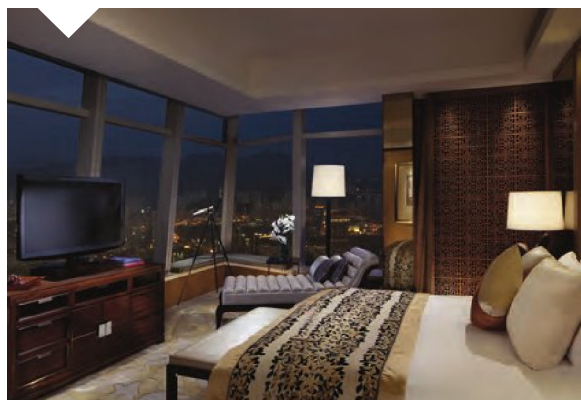
Opening its doors at the end of last year, Aloft is the latest brand from Starwood Hotels & Resorts and Aloft Bangkok is the brand's first entry in Southeast Asia. Aloft hotels are forward-thinking destination hotels, and this trendy upcoming Bangkok property is sure to make the heart of Thailand beat a little bit faster. Located in the center of Bangkok's entertainment district the hotel comes with easy access to the main business district, and the loft-inspired rooms feature modern conveniences like iPod docks, free WiFi, mood-lighting controls, and plug n' play connectivity stations for charging electronics.

**INFO** +66 2 207 7000; [www.alofthotels.com/bangkoksukhumvit11](http://www.alofthotels.com/bangkoksukhumvit11)

## Ritz Carlton, Hong Kong

The world's highest hotel would not be complete without some first-rate technology and, unsurprisingly, the new Ritz Carlton Hong Kong does not disappoint in this area. Slick, sleek and stylish from the get-go, this cutting-edge hotel is rife with novelties. It is a place where elevators zoom guests up at ear-popping speeds of nine metres per second (compared to your average two) and where public toilets flush with a satisfying beep – all this at skyscraping heights of 490-metres. Some other original touches around the property include the glass-enclosed infinity pool complete with a ceiling made up of 144 LED screens, a Technogym-equipped fitness centre with machines wired to the internet, plus B&O BeoSound 8 speakers in all the suites. iPads are also available to Club Lounge and meeting room guests, and all of the 312 guestrooms come with Blu-ray DVD players, iPod docks, Nespresso machines plus flat-screen LCD televisions (42-inch in the bedrooms and 17-inch in the bathrooms).

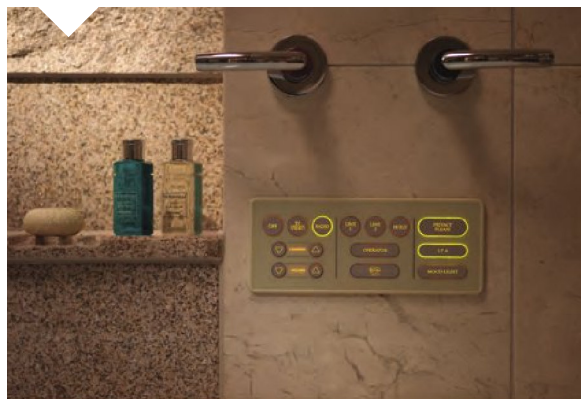
**INFO** +852 2263 2263; [www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/HongKong](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/HongKong)



## The Peninsula Tokyo

The Peninsula Hotels Group knows more than its fair share about hotel technology – the group claims to have pioneered in-room satellite TV and a nifty in-built bathtub 'telephone' (a keypad accessible from the bathtub with a microphone embedded in the bathroom ceiling that silences music when calls are taken) at its long-standing Hong Kong property. The Peninsula in Tokyo takes things to another level, with the forward-looking property having embraced new technologies quicker than nerds at a tech conference. The 314 liberally-appointed rooms boast features such as wireless phones with Skype; three-in-one fax/copy/print machines that can print photos for free; an in-room nail-dryer; a wireless bedside electronic panel; dimmable Lutron lights that considerably fade into darkness at night; plus 3,000-station internet radio and plasma screen televisions.

**INFO** +81 3 6270-2888; [www.peninsula.com/Tokyo](http://www.peninsula.com/Tokyo)



## W Seoul-Walkerhill, Seoul, Korea

Korea is home to some of the most technology-savvy people on the planet and when W Hotels ventured into the market in 2004 (the brand's first Asian foray) it took this to heart and created a hotel that is still advanced today. Features include 50-inch plasma screens onto which guests' own self-created art and images can be projected; hotel-wide Bose CD players; a suite with a flowing waterfall and a dining room with illuminated colour-changing flooring; plus an interactive media centre complete with videos games, pre-programmed music and movies in all rooms. However, the public areas are where the hotel shines. There are LED lights embedded in the lobby floor, digital graphics projected onto walls around the bar, and interactive artwork including a shape-shifting sculpture that detects and reflects external movement and one that creates visual depictions of the subjects in front of it.

**INFO** +82 2 465 2222; [www.starwoodhotels.com/whotels/seoul](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/whotels/seoul)



## The Mandarin Oriental, Macau

At two years old, this beauty of a property remains to be one of the more unique hotels in Macau largely because, as the only non-gaming, five-star hotel on the Macau Peninsula, the Mandarin Oriental Macau places its focus on areas other than gambling. Thus, guests here are presented with a top spa, exclusive meeting and conference facilities, plus some fine dining options and 213 super-equipped guestrooms as well. Guestroom technological comforts include over 100 on-demand HD movies, internet on the television, an iPod dock, plus hydro massage-equipped showers, television-side bathtubs, and Nespresso coffee machines. The on-property gym is also the first to have a Technogym Wellness System in Macau, which provides guests with the Technogym Key System that can record and monitor their workout sessions each visit.

**INFO** +853 8805 8888; [www.mandarinoriental.com/macau](http://www.mandarinoriental.com/macau)