



The view from one of Shangri-La Mactan's suites. Shangri-La Boracay Resort & Spa is the brand's second beachfront resort in the country.

## Bubbling Up

A few of the notable up-and-coming hotels and resorts set to make a splash in the country

### ■ **Shangri-La's Boracay Resort & Spa** Boracay Island, Aklan

This Asia-based luxury hotel group finally has a presence in the nation's beach party capital. There are 219 rooms done in ethnic décor and native materials, which includes 43 villas and suites. Villas have private lap pools, outdoor showers, day beds for massages, and even a pergola for al fresco dining. The property will also house its own Chi The Spa branch, a marine center, and water sports pavilion. There are also no less than seven food and beverage outlets, including seafood, Italian, and various bars.

**Location:** On the northern part of Boracay Island—a slightly more secluded area—the resort enjoys a white, sandy beachfront that's 350 meters long. The grounds stretch around 12 hectares.

**Approximate completion date:** Late 2008

**For more information:** Visit [www.shangri-la.com/en/property/boracay/boracayresort](http://www.shangri-la.com/en/property/boracay/boracayresort)

### ■ **Raffles Manila** Makati City

At the heart of the retail district and CBD of Makati City will rise a 30-story glass tower that will include the 30-suite Raffles Hotel and 189 luxury residence units. Designed by architectural firm Arquitectonica with sleek interiors by Bent Severin, Raffles Manila is set to have a fitness center, Mediterranean and Japanese restaurants, and a private owners' lounge. Its standout feature: The Long Bar, said to be "a contemporary interpretation of The Long Bar at the flagship Raffles Hotel in Singapore"—birthplace of the now-famous drink, the Singapore Sling.

**Location:** The 7,377-square-meter site sits at the corner of Makati and Arnaiz Avenues (formerly the area of Park Square 2, Ayala Center). This puts the complex right in the middle of three major malls and within access to the CBD.

**Approximate completion date:** Late 2010

**For more information:** Visit [manila.affles.com](http://manila.affles.com)

The majestic façade of Raffles Singapore. Raffles Manila will be a tall glass tower, a standout among its neighboring buildings in Makati City's CBD



■ **Banyan Tree** Coron, Palawan

The brand known for its luxurious spas throughout Asia Pacific is set to open in one of the country's most beautiful islands. Singapore-based firm Banyan Tree Holdings Ltd. plans to establish two resorts in Palawan. Banyan Tree Resort will have 70 of its signature pool villas and, yes, a branch of its multi-awarded spa. Its sister brand Angsana will put up an Angsana Resort & Spa with 150 rooms. Expected cost of the project is US\$70 million.

**Location:** Both will be in the uninhabited island of Dinaran. The area spans 55 hectares with stretches of white sandy beaches. Dinaran is only 15 minutes away by speedboat from the town of Coron in Palawan.

**Approximate completion date:** 2010

**For more information:** Visit [www.banyantree.com](http://www.banyantree.com)

■ **The Regency Lagoon** Boracay Island, Aklan

Also planned to open in a more secluded spot on this party island is another resort from the group that brought us Boracay Regency, one of the grand dames of Boracay's resorts. Most of the 120 rooms and suites will provide direct access to its massive 1,200-square-meter pool—planned to be the biggest in the entire island. The resort will be set by an outdoor manmade beach and will also have different function rooms for its clients.

**Location:** On a 7,800-square-meter lot in Station 2, along Boracay's main road

**Approximate completion date:** November 2009

**For more information:** Call tel (36) 288-6111, (2) 523-1234

■ **Sofitel Cebu** Cebu City

A P2.8-billion project of the SM Investments Corporation and Accor Asia Pacific (a unit of a leading European hotel management firm), work began on the hotel in 1997 but was discontinued in the wake of the Asian Financial Crisis. It will have 400 rooms; other planned features will be its LeSpa spa and Le Notre restaurant, both unique to the Sofitel brand.

**Location:** Right beside SM Cebu in the north reclamation area, Mabolo, Cebu City

**Approximate completion date:** December 2008

**For more information:** [www.sofitel.com](http://www.sofitel.com)

■ **Imperial Palace Waterpark Resort & Spa** Mactan Island, Cebu

The resort will boast 549 studio and one- to two-bedroom suites, all with ocean views and luxuriously furnished for long- or short-term residents. Its centerpiece will be several themed pools of varying sizes—from a kiddie pool to a tube slide or bowl-shaped pool. There will also be "pool villas" with their own Jacuzzis. Other amenities include: restaurants with Filipino, Korean, Italian, and other cuisines; a fitness club; and an 18-hole golf course.

**Location:** On a 7.5-hectare property in Maribago, Mactan Island. There is a 180-meter-wide private beach and the resort is 30 minutes away from Cebu City

**Approximate completion date:** End of 2008

**For more information:** Visit [www.imperialcebu.com/eng](http://www.imperialcebu.com/eng)

—Kaye Tolentino