

THE STRAND

HOTEL & CRUISE

CHRISTIAN MARTENA

EXECUTIVE CHEF, THE STRAND HOTEL & CRUISE



Christian Martena was raised in the Puglia region of Italy, and as a young child he would spend many an hour watching his family hard at work in the kitchen of their restaurant, and it is here that he discovered his passion for cooking. This determination and drive for a culinary life seemed to fit well with his love of travel, and he was quickly drawn to the myriad of cooking styles in the Mediterranean. The flair for learning new techniques in the art of cooking and preparing innovative food allowed him to travel further, and he enjoyed the experience of working in some of Europe's most famous kitchens, before finally settling in Paris. Christian's attention to detail and his desire to explore every avenue of gastronomical excellence drew the attention of the renowned food critic Francois Simon, and the worthy praise of some of the top chefs in Europe.

With his yearning for new travel opportunities and his love of cooking, Christian felt it was time to experience pastures new, and it was at this time that he settled in Asia, where he went on to spend many years as Executive Chef at the renowned Opus Wine Bar and restaurant in Bangkok, often playing host to the Thai Royal family. This wealth of experience and knowledge gained on both continents stood him in good stead, and together with his wife Clara, he turned his attention to his own restaurant, Sensi in Bangkok which went on to gain critical acclaim. This new venture allowed him free reign to express his love of cooking and to push the boundaries of more conventional restaurants, exploring an innovative cooking style influenced by his desire to produce a menu using only the

finest ingredients. This attention to detail and his love of the classic French and Italian dishes, finely balanced and finished with a modern twist will be reflected in his menu at the Strand hotel where Christian has now taken on the role of Executive Chef. The ever-changing culinary kaleidoscope on offer in Myanmar, paired with Christians' culinary expertise to produce only the finest dishes will surely be an added jewel in the crown of the newly renovated Strand hotel, Yangon.

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