

Have Disguise, Will Spy at Shangri-La Soiree

Text by Astra C Alegre

The mission? To come in your best spy inspired outfit and gather secrets from your fellow spies. The agents? Media from different platforms. With the theme The London Calling, “spies” heeded the call and partied the night away during the recent media appreciation party held at the Manila Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La.

As each “spy” entered the ballroom, they were given a code to crack in order to qualify for the top mission of the night: a trip to London.

Embodying the spirit of the event were Makati Shangri-La’s Area Manager/ General Manager Reto Klauser, who came as James Bond. EDSA Shangri-La’s general manager Patrick Schaub came disguised as Mission Impossible’s Ethan Hunt. Shangri-La’s Boracay Resort and Spa’s Amit Oberoi made an appearance dressed as Sherlock Holmes, while Traders Hotel Manila’s general manager Gordon Aeria channeled the zany Austin Powers.

Like any globe-trotting spy worth his salt, guests got to travel the world through Executive Chef Paul Lenz’s various food stations inspired by the James Bond film *Skyfall*. They had their fill of bread and cheeses at the Paris station; sushi and sashimi at the Hashimi Island station; roast rib prime

beef, baked potato and Yorkshire pudding at the London station; Shanghainese noodles at the Shanghai station, Turkish shawarma at the Istanbul station; and asparagus risotto and pasta ravioli at the Venice station. Executive Pastry Chef Romain Renard prepared an assortment of sweet concoctions at the Monaco station.

Orchestrating the whole operation for the night was the evening’s host, Eric Neeman. Entertainment was provided by The Executives band.

What’s a good operation without some spoils for the victors? A total of 43 prizes were raffled off. A lucky guest who cracked the code won two business class round trip tickets to London courtesy of Philippine Airlines (PAL) and a two-night stay at Shangri-La Hotel at the Shard, London.

And like all good mysteries, an unexpected surprise came in the form of another round trip ticket, economy class, again courtesy of PAL. The winner also got a three-night stay at Shangri-La Hotel Qaryat al Beri in Abu Dhabi.

It was one party that spies from all over the world would have surely taken time out for. Anna Chapman would have definitely enjoyed the night. ☑



1 Princes Anderle, Mildred Amon, Maurice Arcache, Patti Javier, Lesley Tan and Ouie Badelles



2 Patrick Schaub, Reto Klauser, Ismael Gozon, Amit Oberoi and Gordon Aeria

3 Chocolate sculptures of spy characters James Bond and Mission Impossible’s Ethan Hunt

4 Part of the Hashimi Island Station featuring lots of sushi and sashimi

5 Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts in the Philippines team (L-R) Eric Neeman, Paco Baron, Jen Bagus, Neil Rumbaoa, Mellissa Ledesma, Amit Oberoi, Patrick Schaub, Patti Javier, Mildred Amon, Ouie Badelles, Cecile Weber, Rubi de Vera, Margaux Hontiveros, Princes Anderle and Lesley Tan

