

Empowering Cambodian Youth Through Art: Rosewood Phnom Penh and Phare Ponleu Selpak's Prestigious Fundraising Gala

Phare Ponleu Selpak, meaning "The Brightness of the Arts" in Khmer, has been a cornerstone of Cambodia's creative and educational landscape since its founding in 1994 by survivors of the Khmer Rouge. The organization provides free education, vocational training, and artistic development to over 1,200 students annually, transforming lives through the power of the arts.

MARCH 08, 2025



In a continued commitment to this mission, Rosewood Phnom Penh and Phare Ponleu Selpak hosted the fifth annual Phare Ponleu Selpak Fundraising Gala Dinner on Saturday, March 8, 2025. This prestigious event, recognized as one of Phnom Penh's most anticipated philanthropic evenings, raised up to USD40,000 to support young Cambodian artists and provide vital social services to children and communities in need. Over five years, the collaboration has raised more than USD150,000, making a lasting impact on Cambodia's cultural and artistic future.

This year's gala dinner was an exquisite showcase of fine dining, philanthropy, and live entertainment. Guests indulged in an exclusive four-course menu and a lavish dessert buffet meticulously crafted by four distinguished chefs:

- Cristia Nou Picart – Executive Sous Chef, Rosewood Phnom Penh
- Jorge Chen – Chef & Owner of Fat Passion, Young Chef of the Year by Cathay Pacific
- Sao Sopheak – Executive Chef of Villa 5 Cuisine, IBA Best Master Chef Award 2024
- Sonara Sieng – Executive Pastry Chef, Rosewood Phnom Penh

Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed electrifying live circus performances by Phare artists, embodying the spirit of resilience and creativity that defines the organization. The atmosphere was further elevated by a thrilling live auction featuring 16 exclusive items, a silent auction showcasing 21 remarkable art pieces, and an exciting lucky draw.

A highlight of the event was the generous support from esteemed sponsors and partners, whose contributions played a pivotal role in the evening's success. Food sponsors included Indoguna Cambodia, Répertoire Culinaire, and Mekong Fine Foods. The prizes for both the auction and lucky draw were generously provided by AND, Ambre, Awesome Pick, Brasserie Louis, Chhivtimx Group, Cuts, Full Moon Island Resort, Il Nodo, Iza, Pedi:Mani:Cure Studio by Bastien Gonzalez, Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Rosewood Bangkok, Rosewood Phnom Penh, Seekers, Sense, A Rosewood Spa, Shinta Mani Angkor, Shinta Mani Wild, Sleuk Chhouk, Sora, Space Villas Bali, The Royal Sands, Villa des Palmes, Zhan Liang.

Daniel Simon, Managing Director of Rosewood Phnom Penh, remarked, "Phare Ponleu Selpak is an inspiring organization that nurtures young Cambodian artists and provides them with opportunities for a brighter future. We are honored to be part of this initiative and look forward to continuing our collaboration to support their remarkable work."

Osman Khawaja, Executive Director of Phare Ponleu Selpak, added, "This gala is a powerful reminder of how art has the ability to transform lives. The support we receive tonight ensures that we can continue offering young Cambodians the opportunity to harness their creativity, build their futures, and contribute to Cambodia's cultural renaissance."

The Phare Ponleu Selpak Fundraising Gala Dinner stands as a testament to the power of art, culture, and community coming together to create lasting change. Rosewood Phnom Penh and Phare Ponleu Selpak remain committed to fostering artistic talent and empowering Cambodia's next generation through education and creativity.

About Rosewood Phnom Penh

Elevating ultra-luxury hospitality in the Cambodian capital, Rosewood Phnom Penh occupies the top 14 floors of Vattanac Capital Tower, offering breathtaking views of the city skyline and the legendary Mekong River. Embracing Rosewood Hotels & Resorts®' A Sense of Place® philosophy, the hotel reflects the location's rich history, culture, and character.

Rosewood Phnom Penh features 175 sophisticated rooms and suites, six distinctive dining venues—including Sora, the iconic sky bar with a cantilevered terrace—Sense, A Rosewood Spa, a state-of-the-art fitness center, a 22-meter indoor lap pool, and elegant event spaces, including The Pavilion, a residential-style venue.

For more information or reservations, please contact phnompenh.reservations@rosewoodhotels.com or call +855 23 936 888.

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