

80 Singapore

Capella



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20 Feng shui is no abstract concept in Singapore; it's a guiding principle of life that's visible in everything from the fortune-enhancing octagonal dollar coin to concave skyscrapers arranged to direct positive energy inwards. "It's why feng shui masters are some of the highest paid professionals in Singapore," says Yusri, a guide who explains how the ancient art harnesses invisible underground energy.

And there are few better ways to feel that energy than with the wind streaming past as you zip through traffic in the sidecar of a cherry-red Vespa. The Qi &

the City tour is one of many experiences designed to be a shortcut from Capella's flagship property on Sentosa Island (hotel.qantas.com.au/capella) into the heart of local culture. The sophisticated bar scene gets a nod with cocktail-making classes and a gin tasting that goes from an aromatic "Singapore dry" spiked with torch ginger flower to a soft coconut and pandan spirit that mimics the local dessert cendol.

If you prefer the ingredients fresh, follow a chef through Tiong Bahru's bustling wet market where stallholders hawk tropical fruits, orchid branches and seafood caught that morning. Then return with your haul for a feast of chilli crab before trading tactics with a mahjong master.

And if you want to do nothing at all, there's plenty of space to spread out on the 12-hectare grounds – a rare luxury in this densely populated nation. Thirty-eight spacious villas hidden in the manicured greenery reflect their surroundings with a combination of dark timber furnishings and sage-green walls, while floor-to-ceiling windows open out onto a roomy terrace with reclining daybeds and a plunge pool.

Behind the villas, the two 140-year-old colonial buildings at the centre of the resort are joined by a modern wing that curves around to form a figure 8. "Many numbers have meanings in feng shui," explains Yusri. "And eight is a very good sign; it's a chief symbol of prosperity."