

7 Learning by Doing

There are two training units within the Institute, the Educational Hotel “Pousada de Mong-Há” and the Educational Restaurant. Both units offer our students a unique opportunity of hands-on practical training guided by professionals in a real-life environment. The training units are open to the public, and government tax and service charges are not imposed.

POUSADA DE MONG-HÁ

Pousada de Mong-Há has been able to sustain its integral function as a training unit, with an ideal occupancy percentage, to maximise every training opportunity for our students. The Pousada serves as an ideal place for training, not only for IFT students, but also for those from overseas; interns come to Macao from sister schools in Hong Kong, Thailand, New Zealand and elsewhere. This year, we also added a new training area in Housekeeping, “Public Area”, to provide more comprehensive training in the Rooms Division area.

Continuing what had commenced last year, including the introduction of High Tea at Pousada de Mong-Há and launching of the IFT Training Units Newsletter “Temptations”, the Pousada steadily drew the attention of the leisure market. Three different summer packages were also introduced in July and August, targeting both leisure travelers and families. Additionally, in keeping with the ambiance of Macao’s cultural legacy as a World Heritage Site, the Pousada has been in cooperation with six of Macao’s leading museums, organising the “Treasure Hunt” activity since 2002. This tradition continues to provide great fun to our guests during their museum adventures.

The Pousada student trainees always show genuine interest in our guests. As a result, they are highly appreciated by many repeating guests, several of which are long-stay guests.



IFT EDUCATIONAL RESTAURANT

In the academic year 2005/06, IFT successfully featured a number of banquet functions for several government entities as well as private institutions and associations such as the Macau Government Tourist Office, German Consulate General, SKAL Club and Macau Hotel Association. Besides these functions, the Educational Restaurant carried out food promotions from Cape Verde and Switzerland, and several themed set meals, namely Valentine's dinner, St. Patrick's day dinner and a Champagne & Oyster dinner. All these functions and food promotions have helped students interact and learn with different cultures, widen their food and beverage knowledge and obtain unique working and serving experiences.

In the training aspect, several F&B staff members have attended and successfully completed both the Foundation and Advanced courses offered by the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET) of the United Kingdom. Through the collaboration with WSET, IFT continues to aspire to become a leading Wine Appreciation training centre in the region.



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