

Parc Sindibad

Walbi comes to Casablanca

Unveiled earlier this year in Casablanca, the new look Sindibad park revives an amusement venue that originally entertained guests in the early "noughties". Now rebranded Sindibad by Walibi, the parks owners have partnered with the French operator Compagnie des Alpes and brought in new attractions including a Euro-Fighter coaster by Gerstlauer called the Serpent, a tower ride and an Aerobar by the French balloon specialist Aerophile.

Responsible for theming throughout the park is the German company TAA (Theming & Animatronic Industries). Its work included the creation of a "Residence of Sindibad the Sailor" where guests can see all the treasures, which Sindibad amassed on his adventures. A main attraction is the palace that stands over the entrance to the park, offering an impressive welcome to voyagers large and small.

Sindibad by Walibi forms part of the wider Sindibad Beach Resort, which also includes various deluxe apartments etc. More to come in a future issue of *Park World*.

sindibad.ma



The themed entrance by TAA, as seen from inside the park

GOLDEN REEL OPENS IN MACAU

Perhaps the most eye-catching feature of the new Studio City Macau casino resort, which opened last month in the Special Administrative Region of China (close to Hong Kong) is the "Golden Reel". This, the world's first figure 8 Ferris Wheel stands 130m (427ft) tall, sandwiched between the resort's twin hotel towers.

Engineered by Intamin with pods by the French company POMA (which supplied the capsules on the London Eye, Las Vegas High Roller), the Golden Reel's glass and steel tower structure forms a major design statement at the centre of the building and also provides constant movement and colour. Unlike a convention Ferris Wheel, the pods move inside a track rather than on the outside of the wheel.

Not lost on Studio City's creators (the resort was designed by the Goddard Group) is the fact that the number eight is an incredibly auspicious symbol in Chinese culture, signalling good fortune, good health and prosperity. With gaming revenues taking a hit recently in Macau, the resort's owners will be hoping this unusual amusement ride, together with other family attractions like a Batman flying theatre, will broaden its appeal compared to other casino offerings on Macau's Cotai Strip.

