

# THE PENINSULA

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HONG KONG

1<sup>st</sup> August 2008

## MOONCAKES GO SKY HIGH AT THE PENINSULA HONG KONG!

Executive Chef Lau Ping Lui Paul and Dim Sum Chef Yip Wing Wah of The Peninsula's Spring Moon Chinese restaurant are now in training for the annual mooncake marathon. The Spring Moon team will produce 400,000 mooncakes this year from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 till 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008, using 110,000 eggs!

Laid side by side, all these Spring Moon mooncakes will not stretch quite to the moon, but well on the way to it, extending one and a half times the cruising height of a jumbo jet, or just over one and a half times the height of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world! In Hong Kong terms, that's nearly half way to the airport from the hotel, 33 times the height of International Finance Centre II (Hong Kong's tallest building), 32 times the height of The Peak, or 150 times the height of The Peninsula's tower!

At the height of production, 27 staff produce 12,000 of the hand-made cakes per day. Even this is not enough to satisfy demand, explains by Chef Yip, "If we could make twice as many, we could sell them."

The Peninsula's mooncakes have become a traditional favourite in Hong Kong and are sold at the Spring Moon Chinese restaurant on the first floor of The Peninsula.

The trick, according to Chef Yip, is to get the pastry skin right. It should be delicate but strong enough to withstand the baking process. He keeps to himself the exact proportions and nature of the ingredients he uses for the filling, admitting only that he follows a traditional recipe using duck eggs to produce the very best quality and flavour.

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## MOONCAKES SKY HIGH AT THE PENINSULA HONG KONG – 2

The Mid-Autumn festival falls on 14<sup>th</sup> September this year when Hong Kong's residents will venture out in family groups and with friends to admire the full moon and to celebrate the unity and good fortune that it represents. Mooncakes are eaten throughout the festival and are usually served after a meal with tea.

The mooncake tradition stems from the mid 14th century Yuan Dynasty when General Zhu Yuan-Chang signalled the start of an uprising by hiding messages in the mooncakes and distributing them to his supporters. General Zhu went on to lead the ensuing riot and found the Ming Dynasty.

Available from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 till 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008, the Spring Moon mooncakes sell in boxes of eight for HK\$ 198. For each box of mooncakes sold, The Peninsula will donate HK\$ 10 to charity. This fund raising effort is part of The Peninsula's 80th Anniversary celebration initiative in giving back to the Hong Kong community. The three beneficiaries are Make-A-Wish®, which grants the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses; Mary Rose School, which provides schooling for children with mental disabilities and St. James' Settlement Funeral Navigation Service, which assists the elderly with funeral preparations.

For enquiries and orders, please contact the Spring Moon restaurant on tel : (852) 2315 3160. In addition, a special dinner menu featuring traditional specialities will be served at Spring Moon on 13th and 14th September, priced at HK\$ 888 per person (plus 10% service charge).

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## MOONCAKES SKY HIGH AT THE PENINSULA HONG KONG – 3

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