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Four-star resort opens in Palau

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BY BERNADETTE H. CARREON

Palau Correspondent

KOROR, Palau — Cove Resort Palau opened on July 1 under the management of Wild Orchid Group of Australia, a new investment partner for Palau.

Located on the island of Malakal in the state of Koror, the three-story, 74-room resort is the latest investment toward the country's aim to be known as a high-end tourism destination. Built by Neco Construction, the resort sits on previously unused land between the Drop-Off Bar & Grill and the Palau Royal Resort. The corporation has invested at least $12 million in the establishment of the hotel.

The approximately four-acre property is subleased from the Neco group, which includes Drop-Off Bar & Grill, Neco Marine, Neco Marine Diveshop, Neco Construction, the Cliffside Hotel, the Splash Diveshop and the Etpison Museum.

The owners are Australian businessmen who fell in love with Palau having spent years working and vacationing in the island nation in the past. They have more than two decades of experience in the hotel business and successfully run two resorts in the Philippines, including the Wild Orchid Resort in Angeles City and the Wild Orchid Beach Resort in Subic.

Nigel Wakley, one of the owners, said Palau is one of the only countries in the world that takes care of its environment.

Wakley said the Cove is a "fun, four-star hotel," which offers guests a place to relax and enjoy the island life.

The resort makes use of marine antiques to decorate its rooms and restaurants. Each room has its own unique décor. The hallways to the rooms are equipped with automatic doors, and windows are made to minimize noise.

The resort is offering special rates for the first days of its opening. Mbj

Cove Resort Palau, situated on four acres of property on Malakal Island, opened for business on July 1.

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