

# Project St. Regis Sanya Yalong Bay Resort



## Full Speed Ahead

DiLeonardo takes cues from a grand ocean liner for a St. Regis in Sanya

By Stacy Rauen

For DiLeonardo's first hotel with the St. Regis brand, the St. Regis Sanya Yalong Bay Resort in Sanya, China, the firm was charged with "creating a new level of luxury. We worked closely with both the owner and St. Regis early on in the project to establish the design direction that would celebrate the natural beauty of its location, complement the contemporary architecture, exemplify the St. Regis brand, and tastefully speak to the Chinese culture," says partner Giana DiLeonardo.



This page, clockwise from top left: The St. Regis Sanya Yalong Bay Resort's dramatic entrance; the bar at the Drawing Room; and the prefunction space's grand staircase.





“The resort is located on the pristine coastline of Yalong Bay in south China and surrounded by a wetland sanctuary and lush mangrove forest; it is truly stunning.”

Giana DiLeonardo  
Partner, DiLeonardo



The hotel was no small undertaking: DiLeonardo and her team worked on the hotel’s 401 guestrooms and suites, 28 beachfront villas, public space, meeting and ballroom space, the Iridium Spa, sellable villas, and all F&B outlets including Social, the all-day dining restaurant; Decanter, the wine bar; Ming Xuan, the upscale Chinese restaurant; and Driftwood, the beachfront restaurant.

Says DiLeonardo: “A key component of the design was to take the voluminous space and create bespoke moments that allow the guests a feeling of intimacy and prestige. We were inspired by a combination of factors such as the location itself—the resort is located on the pristine coastline of Yalong Bay in south China and surrounded by a wetland sanctuary and lush mangrove forest; it is truly stunning.”

Envisioning a grand ocean liner, the designers infused the spaces with finely finished woodwork, polished metal contrasts, and rough-cut stonework. Imagining the Astors traveling the world, they curated an eclectic collection of art, artifacts, and furniture from their travels, and whimsical nautical details complement the clean-lined spaces.



This page, clockwise from top left: A Lagoon guestroom, which boasts its own pool; interiors, like the lobby, are meant to evoke a luxury ocean liner; and dining al fresco at Social Restaurant.

DiLeonardo points to the guestrooms as a standout, as a sanctuary of relaxation, with heady views. “My personal favorite is the bathroom experience,” she says. “The layout of the room allows for a generously sized bathroom, walk-in shower, and soaking tub that provide stunning views and is designed with state-of-the-art fixtures, and technology that are readily, yet discreetly available. The materials used—indigenous ‘woven’ stone tiles, onyx vanity tops, and Macore wood—are local to the region and support the clean-lined design of the guestroom. Its open layout is very refreshing and creates a spa-like experience that I did not want to leave!”

Next up for DiLeonardo: a St. Regis in Chengdu. )))



# St. Regis Sanya Yalong Bay Resort Sanya, Hainan Island, China

Continued from p. 51



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Clockwise from above: Decanter Wine Bar is housed in a wine cellar; striking architecture gestures are found throughout, like at reception; and luxury finishes define a premium bathroom and Marina View guestroom.

Developer: Yalong Development Co., Ltd.  
 Architecture Firm: BBG-BBGM, New York  
 Interior Design Firm: DiLeonardo, Warwick, Rhode Island  
 Interior Design Project Team: Giana DiLeonardo, George Cucitrone, Bob Macaruso, Cintia Hayashi, Jose Olivares, Ernesto Corong, Meng Yan, Simon Zeng, and Alex Ho  
 General Contractor/Purchasing Agent: The Third Construction Co., Ltd of China Construction Third Engineering Bureau  
 Lighting Designer: Brandston Partnership, Inc.  
 Fabric and Drapery: Yuanzhicheng Home Textile (Guangzhou) Co., Ltd.  
 Furniture: Gold Phoenix Furniture and Sengyuan Furniture Group  
 Decorative Lighting: Diamond Life Lighting Co. Ltd.  
 Stone: Dong Cheng Stone Co. Ltd.  
 Wood: Zhongshan Old To New Fire Retardant Woodwork Co., Ltd.  
 Carpet: Shanhua and International Carpet Company |||

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