



Reports by **Lezima Gomes**
For events and press releases email
Chillout.q@gmail.com or
call (974) 44422077



Soak in Fado, the music of Portugal

Maria Ana Bobone

The embassy of Portugal in Qatar will be bringing the experience of Fado to Qatar with Portuguese singer Maria Ana Bobone set to perform at Qatar National Convention Centre Auditorium in Doha on March 17



FADO is a form of Portuguese singing that is often associated with pubs, cafes and restaurants. This genre of music has its origins generally placed around the 1820's in Portugal.

Fado is generally known for its expressive nature, as well as for being profoundly melancholic. Generally, in Fado music, the singer will sing about the realities of daily life, balancing both resignation and hope and expecting a solution to the torments. This can be described by using the Portuguese word 'saudade', which means 'longing' and stands for a feeling of loss.

The Embassy of Portugal in Qatar will be bringing the experience of Fado to Qatar on March 17 at the Qatar National Convention Centre Auditorium 3 with Portuguese Fado singer Maria Ana Bobone. Bobone is recognised as one of the best voices of her generation.

Bobone made her debut singing Fado at the age of 16, having subsequently completed the piano and singing courses at the National Conservatory of Music in Lisbon.

Her first album entitled 'Alma Nova', recorded in partnership with two other Fado singers, was the beginning of a brilliant career. She recorded two albums for the American label MA Recordings: 'Luz Destino' and 'Senhora da Lapa', both of an exquisite musical taste and where new instruments are masterfully welcomed (harpsichord and saxophone) in addition to the usual presence of the Portuguese guitar.

She later recorded 'Nome de Mar', a work that brought her well-deserved public recognition.

Bobone's excellent talent led her to participate in several musical projects, constantly involving successful partnerships. In the past, she has sung at various concerts and important festivals and halls around the world, dignifying the name of Fado and Portugal.

She has sung in countries like England, US, Brazil, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Switzerland, France, Mexico, Italy, Morocco, Malta and the Netherlands stand and will soon be heard in Qatar.

Speaking about the upcoming event, Ambassador of Portugal to Qatar HE Antonio Tãnger, said, "I am very happy to have the excellent Portuguese Fado singer Maria Ana Bobone for the second time in Qatar, to perform with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. I'm sure it will be a great success once again."



General Manager Gilles Longuet

Gilles Longuet appointed InterContinental Doha-The City GM

INTERCONTINENTAL Doha-The City recently welcomed new General Manager Gilles Longuet. Longuet brings with him experience from Djibouti Palace Kempinski, and prior to that role, he has also held the position of General Manager at Melia Hotel in Dubai, as well as the Sofitel Dubai Jumeirah Beach.

Longuet will be working with a team of more than 330 people to maintain the service excellence synonymous with the InterContinental brand. Longuet brings with him a wealth of international leadership experience in the hos-

pitality industry with more than 35 years of experience, 15 years of which were spent in GCC region.

Longuet, a French national, said his first posting outside France was at the Hotel Ivoire InterContinental in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and since then he has spent over three decades working in 15 countries around the world in award-winning hotels.

Describing himself as a performance-driven individual who has set a standard for service excellence, he said, "It is an honour to be joining such a prestigious brand and to lead an impressive team. The InterContinental

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It is also a privilege to be working alongside Ahmed al Kur-

baisi, owner of InterContinental Doha-The City, towards a common goal to achieve excellence," Longuet added.

Passionate about culinary arts, Longuet started his career in the culinary department and was guided by renowned Chef Joël Robuchon for three years while

attending the Ecole Hôtelière de Paris - Lycée Jean Drouault.

This is not Longuet's first posting in the country as he worked in Doha from 2004 to 2007 in a previous post, and he is pleased to be back.

"I enjoyed my previous experience in Qatar and am happy to be back in the country. So much has changed since I was last here, and it is a pleasure to see how Qatar has grown, especially in the hospitality industry. It is truly a dynamic city, always on the move with ongoing projects, and it is fantastic to be part of the country's vision moving forward."