

# Pattaya City Expats Club



Over 10 years of Expats helping Expats

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February 6, 2012

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### **Club Announcements**

The latest announcements of interest to members and Expats living in Thailand including any recent reports of interest from the Chonburi (Pattaya) Thai Immigration Office

### **Upcoming Special & Club Events**

A list of upcoming Club and other events of special interest – for an overall list of upcoming events in and around Pattaya, see the latest [Club Newsletter](#)

### **Information of Interest from the Open Forum and Other Sources**

Information of interest is often announced by fellow expats at the Open Forum session during the Club's Sunday Meeting. Items of continuing interest are included here until they are incorporated into the appropriate section of the Club's website.

### **Government Holidays During 2012**

These are the dates that Government Offices and Bank Branch Offices will be closed

## Club Announcements

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### CHONBURI (PATTAYA) THAI IMMIGRATION NEWS

We have not received reports of any recent changes at Chonburi Immigration. To the best of our knowledge, our documents checklist for an extension or renewal of extension to stay in Thailand for retirement is up to date:

<http://www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com/expats/docs/retirementvisachecklist.pdf>.

Also, we have a web page with immigration matters of interest:

<http://www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com/expats/docs/Immigration.pdf>. Also, if we receive reports of any recent changes at Chonburi Immigration, we publish it in the Club's weekly Newsletter for about a 3 week period.

If you have any questions about the information posted on the website or have a different experience from the information posted, please let us know by contacting [Darrel-pcec@inbox.com](mailto:Darrel-pcec@inbox.com).

### THE CLUB HAS TWO GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES AVAILABLE

The Club now offers two Group Health Insurance Policies. AA Brokers is the agent for the Thai Life Group Insurance policy which is available for those up to 59 ½ years of age. Kuhn Neng is the broker for AXA insurance policy which is available up to age 65. Both are usually available at the Sunday meeting. Information on coverage and premiums for both policies is available on our [Group Health Insurance](#) webpage.

### HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH YOUR FELLOW EXPATS?

Often at the Sunday meeting during the Open Forum, announcements are made about events, new restaurants, etc. This information is much appreciated by the one hundred plus attendees – but what about those that are not at the meeting. Why not share with them. Our weekly Newsletter is distributed to over 1,500 people living here in Thailand and the rest of the world. Just send an email with the usual who, what, when, where information to [darrel-pcec@inbox.com](mailto:darrel-pcec@inbox.com) or [newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:newsletter@pattayacityexpatsclub.com).

### LIVING WILL FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Living Will forms are now on the Club's Website – the section will have some information followed by the forms - in Thai and English (2 pages each) – go to:

<http://www.pattayacityexpatsclub.com/expats/docs/living%20will%20form.pdf>.

Also, Sally will usually have some of the printed forms available at the Sunday meeting.

## **WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOK OUT FOR INTERESTING SPEAKERS**

The Club endeavors to obtain interesting speakers for the Club's Sunday meetings. This can sometimes be a daunting task as we have 52 meetings a year. If you know of someone with an interesting topic, please let us know along with how to contact them. If you don't know a particular speaker, but have a topic you think will be interesting, then pass it on; we will then try to find a knowledgeable speaker for the topic. To make suggestions for speakers or topics, please email [speakers@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:speakers@pattayacityexpatsclub.com).

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## Upcoming Special & Club Events

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### CLUB EVENTS

#### NEXT CLUB DINNER WILL BE ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT SCANDINAVIA BEACH CLUB

The Scandinavia Beach Club is located on Beach Road between Soi 5 and Soi 6. Every Thursday a Swedish “smorgasbord” is on offer. It is an extensive buffet comprising appetizers, leg of lamb, salmon, various dishes of beef, pork, chicken followed by cheese, fruits and desserts for the relatively modest price of 420 Baht. The club held a well attended dinner there several years ago. It will start at the usual hour of 7pm. There is parking space up a small soi leading to the new Selection Hotel which is just behind the restaurant. [Click here](#) for map.

#### TRIP TO CHIANG MAI IS BEING ORGANIZED FOR FEBRUARY 27 – 6 DAYS & 5 NIGHTS – IF ENOUGH PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED

Judith Edmonds announced at last Sunday’s meeting that a trip to Chiang Mai is in process of being organized provided there is enough interest. The plan is to fly from Utapao Airport (just outside Pattaya) to Chiang Mai, spending about 3 nights in Chiang Mai with a visit to the International Horticultural Exposition and other sights. Then the group will return by tour bus with a couple of stops along the way for more sightseeing in Northern Thailand. Khun Sermsakdi is involved in making the arrangements and announced that he hopes the cost can be limited to about 10,000 Baht per person inclusive of transportation, hotels, tours, and most if not all meals. To determine if there is sufficient interest, there will be a sign up sheet at Sunday’s meeting – putting your name on the list only indicates that you would be interested in going on the trip, but is not a commitment to go. If enough interest is shown, Khun Sermsakdi will proceed with making arrangements. We will publicize more about the organization of this trip as they progress.

### EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### PATTAYA PLAYER’S “DEAD TO THE LAST DROP” PERFORMANCES ON FEBRUARY 10 – 11

Tickets are now on sale for the next Pattaya Player’s production to be performed at the Eastern Grand Palace Hotel. The play is a hilarious interactive whodunit that takes place in a coffeehouse bookstore called “Café Caffeine.” Tickets are 1,000 Baht per person and include an all-you-can-eat buffet along with the show. Dinner service will begin at 6:00pm and the show will commence immediately at 7:30pm. For tickets and more information, email [pattayaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:pattayaplayers@gmail.com). Visit Pattaya Player’s website at [www.pattayaplayers.org](http://www.pattayaplayers.org).



Members of the audience will be led by the play's crazy cast of characters through a maze of funny twists and turns. "Dead to the Last Drop" offers a chance for everyone to play a Law & Order/CSI Investigator and question all of the suspects as they perform on stage. Opportunities for audience and cast interaction reach a peak when the audience is allowed to vote on the ending that they want to see! Each night will potentially offer a whole new ending and therefore a completely different story than the night before!

## MANTRA'S GRANDI VINI D'ITALIA WINE DINNER ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Traditional Italian wines will be hand selected and presented by Mr. Giovanni Oliva, specialist and brand ambassador for Italian wines. Chef Kai Uwe Klenz will have a 6 course Italian gourmet dinner matching with the presented wines. Book early as the Dinner is limited to 40 seats and will be held in the private area of the restaurant. Cocktail at 7:15pm and Dinner at 8pm. The price is 2.950 Baht+ per person. PCEC members will receive a 15% discount. For reservations, telephone 038-429-591 or email mantra-pattaya.com.

[Click here for the menu.](#)



17 FEBRUARY 2012

**Mantra**  
RESTAURANT & BAR

**GRANDI VINI D'ITALIA**  
WINE DINNER

Enjoy some of the finest Italian wines from the famous regions Italy including Piemonte, Veneto, Friuli, Marche, Emilia Romagna and of course Tuscany.

On the 17th of February, The Mantra and Grandi Vini D'Italia group will present a special one-night-only wine dinner. Traditional Italian wines will be hand selected and presented by the guest of honor, Mr. Giovanni Oliva, specialist and brand ambassador for Italian wines. To accompany the wines, Chef Kai Uwe Klenz will prepare a 6-course Italian gourmet dinner matching with the presented wines.

Get ready to try out a handpicked selection of wines from Italy such as: Umberto Casali "Lano" 2008, Garofalo Vecchio "Provan" 2009, Vini Grandi Antenne 2007, Carpineto Vini Nobile di Montepulciano 2005, Michele Chiaro Gavi di Gavi "Rovereto" which Mr. Oliva selected for this dinner.

Please book today to avoid disappointment as this event is limited to 40 seats. The evening will be held in the private area of the restaurant with both the wine maker and Mantra Chef, Kai Uwe Klenz introducing the wines and food of the evening.

**COCKTAIL @ 7.15PM**  
**6 COURSE DINNER @ 8.00PM**  
**BAHT 2.950+ PER PERSON**

Mantra Restaurant & bar Pattaya Beach Road 20150, Thailand  
T: +66 (0) 3842 9591 F: +66 (0) 3842 8165 E: email.mantra-pattaya.com W: www.mantra-pattaya.com

## US EMBASSY OUTREACH VISIT IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 29

The American Citizen Service (ACS) unit of the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok makes periodic outreach visits to other cities in Thailand to provide services to their citizens. We have been advised that the next visit to Pattaya will be on February 29. The ACS usually provides notice of the time and location about 2 weeks before the visit. We will announce that information when we receive it. Also, unlike visits to the ACS in Bangkok, no appointments are needed for the Outreach visits. We will announce the details here and in the Newsletter when they become available.

## NOW TO MARCH 14, WEDNESDAY – CHIANG MAI INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL EXPOSITION

This Royal Flora Tatchaphruek 2011 event is being held in Chiangmai. This is a very popular event held each year in Chiang Mai. For information in English go to website:

[http://www.royalflora2011.com/2011\\_en/](http://www.royalflora2011.com/2011_en/)

or

<http://www.royalparkrajapruek.org/main3/eng/index.php> or call

02-539-7791 or 053-114-110/5.



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## Information of Interest from the Open Forum and Other Sources

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**WEBSITE FOR US CITIZENS/RESIDENTS RESIDING OUTSIDE USA TO VIEW TV PROGRAMS IN USA** – “USTV Now” provides regular TV programming from the USA over the Internet free of charge. They require that you register by confirming you are a US Citizen or Resident currently residing outside of the USA and then providing your email address and a password you want to use. Go to <http://www.ustvnow.com/index.php> and click on the Sign Up for Free button – the registration process is self explanatory. After you are registered, you can go the same URL and Log in with your email address and password. They do offer some cable channels and other services for a fee; but most broadcast programs are available, e.g., ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, and others.

**ANNUAL CAR REGISTRATION IN PATTAYA** – Many car owners trek to the Land Transport Office off of Highway 36 to pay their annual tax and get a current “sticker” to place on their windshield (windscreen). But, it isn’t necessary. Every Saturday from 10am to 4pm, they have staff available at Big C South (Sukhumvit Road) to do the registration. They are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor near Customer Service counter. But, if your car is 7 or more years old, you will need to have it inspected before you can register it at Big C or the Land Transport Office. This can be done on Sukhumvit Road about 200 meters north of Pattaya Orphanage. This establishment will also handle the annual registration for you – pick up the registration and new sticker a couple of days later. If anyone can provide the name or better directions to its location, please email this information to: [info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@pattayacityexpatsclub.com).

**THAILAND HOUSE PLANS AVAILABLE ONLINE** – At a recent meeting, it was announced that there were websites where house plans for Thailand can be downloaded for free. The following links were subsequently provided for publication in the Newsletter: : [www.crossy.co.uk/Thai\\_House\\_Plans/](http://www.crossy.co.uk/Thai_House_Plans/), [www.docstoc.com](http://www.docstoc.com), [www.cad-design-drafting-services.com](http://www.cad-design-drafting-services.com), [www.coolthaihouse.com](http://www.coolthaihouse.com), and [www.plancivil.com](http://www.plancivil.com)

**PROCESS TO OBTAIN AN INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS PERMIT IN CHONBURI PROVINCE -**  
There are existing instructions on the PCEC website to get an international Permit in Bangkok. If you prefer doing this in Chonburi Province, a Club Member provides the following on how to obtain one at the Chonburi Land Transport Office, Hwy. 3 Nong Mai Daeng, Muang Chonburi, Chonburi 20000.

The first step is to get a Residence Certificate from any Thai Immigration Office. Have the following with you:

- 1) Original Passport with a copy of the face page and your most recent visa.
- 2) Completed Application
- 3) 1 Passport size photo
- 4) One copy of your Proof Of Residence which may in the form of your Housebook, Title Deed, Lease, Rental Agreement plus property ownership info.
- 5) 300 Baht

Proceed to the Chonburi Land Transport Office - Present all your documents at the information desk on the Ground Floor and fill out an Application. They will give you a number and, when called, go the indicated window.  
Have following with you:

- 1) Completed Application
- 2) Original Passport with a copy of the face page, your most recent visa and the Immigration Arrival Stamp from your last reentry.
- 3) 2 Passport size photos
- 4) Original Residence Certificate
- 5) 505 Baht

After verification and payment, the clerk at the window will tell you how long to wait---usually 30-60 minutes. In my case, it was 1 hour. Tip---this building is not air conditioned. Go to the building directly across (Auto Registrations) and wait in the lobby. To the side of this other building, there's a Xerox copy place and a food and drinks store.

Directions To Land Office – I live north of Sri Racha so the directions start at the Sriracha Mall on Sukhumvit (Robinson's Dept. Store). Go about 20 kms. on Sukhumvit. Eventually, you will see Carrefour and Big C on your right. From Big C go 1.2 kms. and bear left at the sign that says Chonburi Bypass. Go about 2 kms. and bear left at the sign that says Bangkok 361. Continue about 11 kms. and bear left at the Chonburi 3 sign (Sukhumvit Rd.) The Chonburi 3 sign is just past a Shell station on the left. Continue about 2 kms. (1.2 kms. from a tall white office building on the right) to the Land Transport Office on the left. At the entrance, there is a pedestrian walkway over Sukhumvit from which a blue sign in Thai with a left arrow is hung. Drive into the entrance and ahead of you will be the "Drive Thru For Tax" lanes.. When you reach the "Drive Thru" area make a left and then the License Building is immediately in front of you.

If you want to use the Motorway and know how to get to Bangkok 361, the trip will take quite a bit less time. For the return trip to Pattaya, exit left onto Sukhumvit and make an immediate u-turn. Then, in 1-2 kms., follow the sign for Bangkok 361 and then watch for signs to Pattaya/Rayong. If you have a Garmin GPS, on the menu, go to "Community", then Government Office and then spell "Chon Buri Land Transport". On my Garmin model, I only found the Land Transport Office when the word Chonburi is spelled as 2 words---Chon Buri.

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## Government Holidays in Thailand 2012

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The source of the information is from the website of the Bank of Thailand, which lists all public holidays when main bank branches and government offices will be closed. Note, although Bank Branch offices are closed, the bank counters in the major shopping centers may be open. Advice on the dates that no alcohol is served was provided by a Pattaya bar proprietor.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
January 1	Sunday	New Year's Day
January 2	Monday	Substitution for New Year's
March 7	Wednesday	Makha Bucha Day – Buddhist Religious Day
April 6	Friday	Chakri Day – Commemorates the Chakri Dynasty
April 13	Friday	Songkran Festival in most of Thailand
April 16	Monday	Substitution day for Songkran Festival
May 1	Tuesday	National Labor Day
May 5	Saturday	Coronation Day
May 7	Monday	Substitution day for Coronation Day
June 4	Monday	Wisakha Bucha Day – Buddhist Religious Day
August 2	Thursday	Asarnha Bucha Day - Religious Day
August 12	Sunday	Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday (Mother's Day)
August 13	Monday	Substitution day for HM the Queen's Birthday
October 23	Tuesday	Chulalongkorn Day
December 5	Wednesday	HM the King's Birthday (Father's Day)
December 10	Monday	Constitution Day
December 31	Monday	New Year's Eve

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**GRANDI VINI D'ITALIA wine dinner @ Mantra**  
**On 17<sup>th</sup> of February**

**in the presence of Mr. Giovanni Oliva, brand ambassador of Italian wines**

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Canapés pass a round at the Bar

**Bisol Jeio Prosecco, Extra Dry, NV**

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Tart of turbot, avocado & tuna  
with balsamic – wasabi reduction

**Michele Chiarlo Gavi di Gavi, “Rovereto” 2011**

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Crème soup of lentils perfumed with truffle

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Pan fried breast of baby chicken on thyme jus  
Accompanied with small Mediterranean vegetables

**Garofoli Verdicchio “Podium” Dei Castelli Di Jesi Doc  
Classico Superiore 2009**

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Cherry granite

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Filet of deer glazed with morel crust  
Apple – rosemary mash & red cabbage

**Umberto Cesari “Liano”2008**

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4 different aged cheeses  
with dried fruits, grapes & salted biscuits

**Carpineto Vino Nobile Di Montepulciano – Riserva DOCG 2005&  
Villa Girardi Amarone 2007**

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Mousse of Cantaloupe melon  
Served with chocolate Ice cream & marinated Strawberries

**Michele Chiarlo Moscato “Nivole”2010**

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Freshly brewed Coffee & assortment of Tea,  
selected digestive & pralines