



FUSION RESORT & VILLAS, DA NANG WELLNESS BEACHSIDE PARADISE

Review by Cate Mercer

Fusion Resort & Villas Da Nang (FR&VDN) is situated on Non Nuoc Beach in Da Nang in Central Vietnam, a coastal city bounded by the Hàn and Cu De rivers. It is only 30 minutes from the International Da Nang Airport with convenient access to world-class golf clubs and various tourist attractions including Son Tra Peninsula, Ba Na Hills and Marble Mountain. Da Nang is currently the fifth largest city in Vietnam with a population of approximately 1.1 million and is a city that is economically reliant on its large tourism, information technology and manufacturing sectors. Da Nang is a favoured tourist destination due to its close proximity to the UNESCO-listed Ancient Town of Hoi An (20 minutes from FR&VDN) which is globally famous for its custom tailoring and lantern-lit Thu Bon River. It is also about a 3-hour drive from Vietnam's former imperial capital and UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site, Hue.



MAIA SPA

Maia Spa is at the heart of Fusion Resort, and is a manifestation of the Fusion promise to elevate the holistic wellbeing of guests during their stay. Alongside the yoga room and fitness area, Maia Spa features 26 treatment rooms, with the wet area inclusive of an infrared sauna, steam room, indoor heated pool with massaging waterfalls, jacuzzi beds and built-in immersive banana lounges for restorative bathing.

The Maia Spa menu offers treatments that focus on relaxation, renewal and revitalization. Drawing inspiration from Eastern medicine while embracing the cutting-edge advancements of Western science. The approach for Maia Spa is a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation.



MY WELLNESS EXPERIENCE

Whilst I experienced a few excellent treatments during my stay at FR&VDN, the Maia Signature Journey was a standout. At 150 minutes duration, this treatment began with a Green Tea Body Scrub, followed by the Maia Signature Relaxing Massage, and concluded with the Harnn Signature Facial. It is certainly the most relaxed I have felt after any treatment, and a first to receive a scrub, massage, and facial altogether. It's a long time to be on the table, but it worked for me. Another treatment I hadn't come across before was the Maia Vietnamese

Massage which combines acupressure, deep tissue techniques and passive stretching. Private wellness sessions are also available with Wellness Master, Sanjay

Rawat. "It's always good to get professional feedback on your personal practice and routines, to get adjusted where necessary, and learn ways you can improve – thanks Sanjay."



Fusion Resort & Villas Da Nang has eighty-five private 1-5 bedroom pool villas, and 157 hotel suites, each space blending traditional charm with contemporary elegance.



With nearly three decades in the global hospitality industry, **Mario Mendis** has witnessed profound changes in the way people travel, work and seek connection. As General Manager of Fusion Resort & Villas Da Nang (FR&VDN), his leadership philosophy extends well beyond hotel operations. It is grounded in responsibility - to people, communities and the future of tourism in Vietnam. In this conversation with *The Art of Healing*, we spoke with Mario about modern leadership, the evolution of wellness in hospitality, and why authentic human connection remains the industry's greatest asset.

What does good leadership mean to you today?

For me, leadership begins with accountability. We each need to take responsibility for ourselves, out of respect to the people we work with, the industry we represent, and the communities in which we operate.

Leadership for me is also about using my voice to create positive change - whether that is mentoring the next generation, advocating for more sustainable and inclusive tourism, or contributing to the long-term development of our destinations.

"Ultimately, I believe effective leadership is measured by how clearly we define our purpose and how consistently we integrate that purpose into everything we do."

How did the COVID-19 pandemic change your perspective?

The pandemic fundamentally reshaped my understanding of leadership. Seeing colleagues, teams and local communities facing enormous uncertainty made me realise that contributing beyond the boundaries of my own property was no longer optional. It had become essential. From that point onwards, advocacy, collaboration and destination-level thinking became deeply personal commitments rather than simply professional responsibilities. Hospitality cannot exist in isolation; our success is closely tied to the wellbeing of the wider community.



What advice would you give young people considering a career in hospitality?

I would absolutely encourage them to pursue it. Hospitality offers an incredibly rewarding and diverse career path.

However I would also caution that lasting success depends on genuine passion for the work. The people who thrive in this industry are patient, naturally curious, and driven by a sincere desire to serve others. Hospitality is, at its heart, about empathy, care and meaningful human connection.

If I could leave young professionals with three guiding principles, they would be simple: passion, patience and perseverance. Those qualities will carry you further than any technical skills.

What does wellness mean to you personally, and how does it shape the strategic direction of Fusion Resort & Villas Da Nang?

I believe wellness is defined by how guests feel during their stay, extending beyond physical wellbeing to encompass emotional and mental restoration. At Fusion Resort & Villas Da Nang, wellness is not a standalone offering; it is integrated throughout the entire guest journey.

In our spa, for example, guests are invited to select an aromatherapy fragrance that reflects how they feel before their treatment begins, creating a more personalised experience.

Elsewhere, carefully curated soundscapes help shape different moods across the property.

Music in our dining venues is vibrant and energetic, while the playlists in guest elevators are intentionally calming, gently preparing guests to transition into a more relaxed state.

Whilst these subtle sensory experiences may seem small individually, together they create an environment that positively influences the mind as well as mood, emotion and overall wellbeing. Strategically, this creates long-term value because guests return not simply for a holiday, but for restoration, balance and a genuine sense of belonging.

I think our role as hospitality professionals is to create environments where guests can slow down and release any mental load they might have brought with them. Once their mind is calm, they are far more receptive to the experiences surrounding them.

Wellness is rapidly becoming a defining trend in hospitality. How do you see it influencing the industry's future?

There is certainly an element of what I would call 'wellness washing' out there, where organisations speak extensively about wellness without fully embedding it into their operations or guest experience.

That said, there is no question that demand for wellness travel is growing at

an extraordinary pace, both globally and here in Vietnam. Increasingly, travellers are seeking something deeper than luxury alone. They are looking for peace of mind. If they have taken the opportunity to step away from the pressures and constant stimulation of everyday life, which sometimes isn't easy, I see it as our responsibility to create experiences that genuinely support their needs during their stay with us.

So I am always interested in trying out new things. For example, earlier this year we partnered with professional BARRE instructors from Korea to host a three-day immersive wellness retreat that combined movement, mindfulness and community.

We also launched the Maia Wellness Club which is an extension of Maia Spa and brings together a mindful online community for people who embrace wellness as an ongoing lifestyle rather than an occasional escape.

Looking ahead, I believe hospitality has an opportunity to influence wellness well beyond the boundaries of the resort. By engaging local communities, embracing thoughtful technology and creating experiences that continue beyond the guest stay, we can help shape a healthier and more connected future for both travellers and residents alike.