

Thursday, 3rd April 2014

Dear Mustafa,

I am in the former Portuguese colony of Macau, now in Chinese hands. This is my first trip here and my expectations were high. My friend I am visiting had said that Macau is really impossible to describe; I could not understand this, however, I now find myself in the same predicament.

The hotels are vast hallways of marble, with elegant mosaics, sculptures and works of art. The service elevators at the back of any Macau hotel would be the envy of every European hotel's lobby. Bling, quality and craftsmanship are everywhere.

Macau is all about the gambling, and the figures speak for themselves. In two months Macau makes more money than Las Vegas makes in twelve, and this is just the declared revenue. March, a traditionally slow month, saw revenues

Mustafa Zaidi
Clarmond House
1 Holbein Place
London, SW1W 8NS



in excess of \$4bn, with middle class gamblers making up more of that number than the 'high rollers'. The Chinese love to speculate.

Macau, under the Chinese, is real and here to stay and I expect in 100 years time, when people go to visit the Grand Canyon in the US the guide books will tell tourists to take a brief detour to look at the museum town of Las Vegas. Now time to take a spin...

I look forward to catching up before Easter,

Chris