

# *Be Kind, Unwind*



# Things To Be Grateful For

I'm sitting in my bedroom, one in the morning, thinking of what I should write as the opening message for our first ever newsletter.

It's just 12 days before 2020 comes to an end. I imagine all the articles being written about how no one will miss 2020, and that 2021 will be a gradual wake up from this bad dream.

This year has been the single toughest year I've been through as a business owner. By now, a lot of you would have heard the story about how we opened our doors in March, literally two weeks before the government announced the first lockdown. Since then, it's been a roller coaster ride. But was there truly nothing to be grateful for this year?

For me, despite the overall bleakness, there 's been a lot...

I 'm grateful to discover that I am surrounded by amazing, dedicated people at work. When the lockdown happened, I actually fell into a slight depression. I didn't know how I was going to motivate people if I felt so low myself. But I watched as my team rallied around, dug in their heels and got to work without asking for anything in return. In the end, it was the team that motivated me.

I'm grateful that Kloe is a hotel people want to experience. When the first lockdown was lifted in May, we didn't know if people were going to venture out of their homes. Quickly, people came to hang out, eat, have coffee, or just to take some good instagram pictures. What's cooler is that they booked rooms and stayed! KLites booking to stay in a KL hotel! All our doubts about whether people would respond to an intimate



hotel championing slow living - all that quickly disappeared.

I'm grateful for the time I got to spend with family. I realised that I actually love their company. It sounds weird, but it's a revelation to me! You get to see more of this in the feature "In Pursuit of Tablescaping" by my lovely wife, Cheryl.

A few weeks back, I visited Dignity, the organization that does so much to help children from under-privileged families get a decent education to have a chance at a brighter future.

I came away from the visit humbled and inspired. Dignity isn't a charity — it's an incredibly well-run organisation with a clear direction and long term sustainable goals. I saw first hand how the children were not just given any education, but an international standard GSCE education.

I saw how the youth weren't judged on how well they could do academically, and were also taught practical skills. Most of all, I saw how much kindness and compassion there was in everyone working there.

One thing stood out from the whole meeting. Renee, who was bringing us around told me how it was difficult to do online classes because children either didn't have computers, or even if they had, didn't have access to the internet. Suddenly, all the problems the hotel was facing paled in comparison to this simple statement.

Next year, a portion of proceeds from every room sold will go towards empowering a Dignity classroom. This is just a tiny gesture to help support and the good work that they do.

So as we come to the end of 2020, I'd like to remind all of us to be grateful for what we have, and mindful of others who don't.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

**Ping**  
Founder

*Be Kind to Strangers*

*Ng Ping Ho is the founder of Kloé Hotel.*

---

*“ Next year, a portion of proceeds from every room sold will go towards empowering a Dignity classroom. This is just a tiny gesture to help support the good work that they do.”*

---



# Kloe's Guide to Shopping Small

*Take the spirit of giving one step further this festive season by supporting local enterprises and charities.*

*“We live in strange times. We also live in strange places: each in a universe of our own. The people with whom we populate our universes are the shadows of whole other universes intersecting with our own.”*

— Douglas Adams (2009).

We live in strange times. Like so many people, we here at KLoé can't wait to draw this year to a close and celebrate with our loved ones. But strange times also call for us to be aware that being able to bond with friends and family over good food and wine is not a privilege everyone has.

So this Christmas, we hope to be mindful of the other universes that intersect with our own.

We asked a few Friends of KLoé to share their Christmas gift lists — from jewellery, stationery, fashion staples and art — all sourced from local artisans and enterprises.

So make a difference this Christmas and shop small. Your contribution may just help a local business turn the corner. Merry Christmas!



# Marvin's

*Marvin Bosveld is the General Manager of Kindness of Strangers, the hospitality group behind Kloé Hotel.*



**Christmas is approaching!  
How did you grow up celebrating it?**

I was born and raised in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Growing up, St Nicholas Day was a celebration more important for kids than Christmas Day because we were given more presents! Christmas itself is a family affair and in my family, that starts with a Christmas breakfast. The “Kerst Stol” — a type of bread with raisins, dried fruits and almond paste — it’s a must!

**We’d like to give to charity.  
Who should we support?**

A charity that is close to my heart is the Dignity For Children Foundation, that provides education to children who would otherwise not have access. As a trained history teacher, education to me is the most important thing in the world. It is a basic human need, like clean drinking water. That’s why, next year a percentage of the Kloé Hotel’s revenue will be donated to Dignity for this cause.



Nala Black Ginkgo 50's skirt. Photo courtesy of Nala Designs

## NALA DESIGNS

Nala is a lifestyle brand that specialises in pattern design inspired by Asian culture and heritage. You’ll find her iconic cushions strewn stylishly around Kloé.



Hill to Street men’s collection. Photo courtesy of Hill To Street.

## HILL TO STREET

Sparked by the love of tribal jewellery, Hill to Street’s locally designed dramatic collections for men and women are the works of exceptional artisans from parts of Asia.

# Ying's

*Ooi Ying Nee is the Managing Director of Commas PR, KLoé Hotel's public relations & marketing agency.*



**With everything that's been going on this year, what's your advice on upholding the Christmas spirit?**

I hope to bring Christmas cheer to my friends and family by making sure I give them my undivided attention and making sure I maintain eye contact, listen and not just wait my turn to speak. We've spent most of the year in isolation. We're not evolved for that. Everyone needs to be lavished with love, attention, food cooked with love — and a few cheeky glasses of wine.

**Who would get your gift of charity this festive season?**

Feed the hungry, not the landfill! The Lost Food Project, is a Malaysian not-for-profit organisation dedicated to a sustainable future by rescuing excess produce from wholesalers and farmers and other essential items, that are then redistributed to those in need. In Malaysia, 99.7% of children in low cost flats (PPR) live in relative poverty. This means they are hungry or undernourished. They need our help now, more than ever.



Christmas sweets. Photo courtesy of Platter People.

## PLATTER PEOPLE

The Platter People delivers bespoke, artisanal platters & grazing tables. Slide into their DMs if you'd like to order from this homegrown business. Christmas isn't complete without their Christmas Wonderland Platter.



Shake well before use for lovely shimmer. Photo courtesy of Wunderbath.

## WUNDERBATH

Driven by passion for art and science, Wunderbath's products are designed to inject fun and humour into daily bath routines. Ying may personally drain their stock of their Magical Mistletoe Holographic Hand Sanitiser.

# Liza's

*Liza Ho, is the co-founder of the contemporary art platform OUR ArtProjects, curated the artworks in Kloé's spaces.*



Custom notebooks of all kinds. Photo by ana tomy

## **ana tomy**

Custom notebooks from ana tomy is the brainchild of The Alphabet Press. The people behind ana tomy say they encourage “weirdness” because “weird is who we are, the best parts, not perfect, not trying — just ourselves.” Valid reasons to splurge on their personalised notebooks.

**Liza, you were born and raised in Guatemala. How did you celebrate Christmas back home and what do you miss about it?**

Yes, I was born and raised in Guatemala and of course, I miss Christmas at home – full of joy and Christmas decorations everywhere. We get together with my uncles, aunties and cousins, have a big dinner on Christmas Eve and we'll wait until midnight to open all the gifts. I guess where I come from, Christmas is the main event of the year, and here not so much.

**What is your favourite memory?**

Waiting until midnight (on Christmas Eve), of course!

**Who would you rather give the gift of charity this festive season?**

For any season, I will support Medecins Sans Frontieres for their humanitarian job they do around the world.



All Purpose Flower: MCO Day 59” by Nadirah Zakariya.”  
Photo courtesy of The Back Room.

## **THE BACK ROOM**

The Back Room is a gallery that exhibits the works of emerging and alternative artists in the Zhongshan Building — the beautifully restored creative enclave that Liza and her husband Rob own and manage. There is never a bad time to collect art.

# Shan Shan's

*Shan Shan Lim is a multidisciplinary artist with a focus in textile and surface design. Her magnificent tapestry greets you when you check into KLoé.*



**Shan Shan, growing up you spent most of your time abroad in India and London. What is your favourite tradition during the festive season?**

When I was studying in India, at a boarding school, every Christmas was made special by returning home to my family for a three-month long holiday. My late mother used to set up a huge Christmas tree wrapped with fairy lights and beautiful ornaments.

When I was in London, every Christmas was spent in a different friend's family home — 2013 in France, 2014 in London, 2015 in New York and 2016 in Como. It was really nice to see how different cultures celebrated Christmas. The one tradition that they all had in common is gift-giving, which I absolutely love!



Rising Signet Ring. Photo Courtesy of of Kushan Earth

## **KUSHAN.EARTH**

Founded in 2018, Kushan is the purveyor of artisanal goods for the body & home. Shan Shan recommends the Rising Signet Ring that bears the mark of ascent and should be worn by those hoping to grow out of old habits and begin anew.



Mini dessert spoon. Photo Courtesy of of Unplug

## **UNPLUG**

Like us here at KLoé, Unplug believes in slow living and offers a wide range of ethical and sustainable apparel, make-up as well as home essential items from local businesses.

# Wei Ming's

*Founder of Aureole Design, Wei Ming's passion for furniture and lighting design is manifested in the Instagram-worthy mirrors you've seen around KLoé.*



**As an owner of an artisanal business, tell us how our community can support local makers, artisans and businesses.**

Firstly, by switching to purchase locally, we will definitely support and promote growth for our local makers, artisans and businesses. And having the proper platform or channel to reach to these local artisans are just as important.

Secondly, NGOs working with community initiative projects are also very helpful in assisting with different forms of support – from finance, craft development to sustainable

**We'd like to give to charity. Who should we support?**

Shepherd Centre Foundation

The foster home centre reaches out to the rejected and neglected children as a family.



A beautiful letter press business card. Photo courtesy of The Alphabet Press.

## THE ALPHABET PRESS

A dedicated bespoke letterpress stationery company with a distinct passion in reviving the fading art of letterpress printing in Malaysia.



## ILAIKA

A local cafe and speciality store that sells trinkets from local creators.

Photo courtesy by ilaika

# In Pursuit of Tablescaping

*Setting your table mindfully can bring intimacy and interaction to your compact communal gatherings this festive season*

Our social lives may have taken a backseat this year, but there is no reason why we can't celebrate the start of a better year ahead with our loved ones.

Tablescaping, or the ritual of table setting, can make any party, big or small, feel a bit more convivial.

But before you start thinking about whether you should count the forks from the outside in or vice versa — put your mind at ease. Just like KLoé's spaces, we'd like to share tips for a table that is not judged just by the way it looks, but also how it will make its diners feel. A table that is intimate; not intimidating.

For this, we turned to Cheryl Samad, actress, television host — to share her tried and tested approach. Cheryl has cultivated this artistic pursuit since she started hosting dinner parties in the Kuala Lumpur home she shares with her husband Ping, the founder of KLoé Hotel, and their two girls Stella and Kate, ages 7 and 4. She took over the reins from her mother, and maternal aunts and uncles — all 11 of them now in their 70s and 80s.

"Once a year, I want to create a sense of occasion, make them feel special like they're going to a big party where they can really dress up, wear their favourite things — things they keep in the cupboard all year long with nowhere to go. One of my aunts who's 81 this year, told me she buys her outfits for my parties in July. That's amazing," Cheryl says.

So if you have unearthed new isolation hobbies during the lockdown, like baking banana bread to terraforming your balcony into a verdant hanging garden — tablescaping might just be another classic pursuit you can put your effort towards.



KLoé's first family will be tucking in on their own intimate family celebration in their home this Christmas.

## Start with a clean solid canvas

Cheryl prefers a sturdy white table linen or runner instead of ornate festive patterns. It helps keep things versatile. “Also, the beauty about getting just white linen is you can bleach any stains out and not worry about the colours running,” she adds.

For this welcoming tablescape, she chose to lay down a hessian table runner woven with subtle gold threads.



These woodland animals are food-safe cake decorations recycled from a birthday party.

## Keep it natural

Create a verdant runway of leaves and ornaments. Here, Cheryl uses pine needles and her collection of pinecones — some plain, some sprayed with a touch of gold or bronze.

Her collection of decor has been steadily gathered over the years. Objects that she recycle regularly to change up her annual soirees. The principle of less is more, can definitely apply to tablescapes. Cheryl admits that, “Actually, just leaves and candles are enough.

I know a lot of people who like luxurious tablescapes. But, I don't like it to be too ornate. You don't want to intimidate your guests, you know?”



A rare Christmas tchotchke makes it to the top of the quiche.

## Layer, layer, layer.

Flatlays might work for Instagram, but for the table, place your dishes at different heights to create an ‘Ottolenghi’-style tableau. “At the end of the day, it’s about the food. Layering them just makes the table feel full and bountiful,” Cheryl says. “You have to make sure everything is visually interesting — everything is at different heights. Nothing is too symmetrical, or flat.”

## Introduce interactivity

For this family-friendly table, Cheryl has asked her daughters to help place little woodland animals between the sprigs of pine.

The little ceramic houses lit with LED tea lights are not only a whimsical addition to the decor, but also serve as a blank canvas for Stella and Kate to colour with the pencils tucked neatly on the napkins.



### Clockwise from the top:

1. Playtime at the dinner table shouldn't be unorthodox;
2. Tablescaping can create a sense of occasion in even the smallest of social gatherings;
3. The woodland animals figurines in this setting gives the table a touch of whimsy;
4. Stella and Kate decorate the roofs of these washable little tea light holders and;
5. Cheryl and Kate enjoy hiding bunnies in the woods.

All Photos by Funky Dali

Giving the little ones an activity at the table creates an opportunity for the adults to downshift and enjoy slow, intimate dinner parties. It might be a welcome change from screens and devices — at least for a while!

### **Be Mindful**

Don't feel the need to overdress the table before dinner. Tablescaping can be a mindful, solo pursuit. But it is an equally engaging pre-dinner activity for guests — including children — as they start to gather around the table.

“Stella and Kate know that if I let them come and help me, that it's a big responsibility. So yes, they put the placemats and plates down for me. They feel very grown up and when I let

them use the nice napkins and cutlery to decorate,” Cheryl says.

When asked if she was going for a particular style for the KLoé tablescape, Cheryl simply says “there's a scavenger foraging thing happening here,” — and it works! The reality is, there is no wrong or right way to tableescape. Just let inspiration strike.

The art of tablescaping can be accessible and democratic. Find a style that suits your ethos.

We'd love for you to share your tablescapes with us. Tag us at #kloehotel and @kloehotel. Good luck and happy holidays!



Straight or senget, you decide. You don't have to arrange your candles in a linear fashion.



# Empower A Classroom with Every Stay At KLoé Hotel

*This season of giving, KLoé pledges its year-long support for Dignity for Children Foundation to Empower-A-Classroom*



“Education is the basic right of all children. Dignity believes that no child should be left behind regardless of their socio-economic standing.”

— PETRINA SATVINDER,  
CO-FOUNDER, CCO AND PRINCIPAL OF  
DIGNITY FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION

We are pleased to announce that KLoé is partnering with Dignity for Children Foundation (Dignity) to help underprivileged students have continued access to education in 2021.

For every hotel room booked, KLoé will donate a portion of its proceeds to sponsor a Dignity classroom of 15 primary school students. The donations will pay for education fees, nutritious meals, health and hygiene care, sports and physical development.

“As we draw a very challenging 2020 to a close in celebrations with our friends and loved ones, I know many of the challenges will continue into the new year. That is why we here at KLoé would like to take this opportunity to support a foundation that is tirelessly

transforming the lives of underprivileged children,” said Ng Ping Ho, founder of KLoé Hotel.

According to Dignity, the closure of schools in the wake of the global COVID-19 outbreak, is disrupting the education, health, safety, and well-being of urban poor and underprivileged children.

These children, many of whom are from Myanmar Muslims and Rohingya refugee families, are at the greatest risk of dropping out of schools because they are unable to afford fees, or are forced to seek employment to make-up for their parents’ loss of income in light of the pandemic.

“I want to thank KLoé Hotel for their foresight in helping to fund a classroom project in these

trying times. Indeed, we are in this together and together we can give children a better tomorrow,” said Petrina Satvinder, Co-founder, CEO and Principal of Dignity for Children Foundation

As of November 2020, Dignity has provided 2,200 groceries and essential packs, with over 12,000 beneficiaries which includes refugees, migrants, B40 families and other community members. Dignity is also providing SIM cards and gadgets for online learning, welfare support, to make sure no child is left behind.

For more information, please visit [kloehotel.com](http://kloehotel.com). Find out how you can **Empower-A-Child** at [dignityforchildren.org](http://dignityforchildren.org)



# The B.est Tips for the B.est Holiday

*Self-care activities you can do at home or at the serene, pool-side B.est Mind & Body studio at KLoé Hotel*



The holiday season is a time to be thankful, socialise with family and friends and look forward to ringing in the New Year, but it can also bring anxiety and stress in our endeavor to make everything perfect.

The events of 2020 will also add to our feelings of despair and uncertainty, bringing more disharmony into our lives. Too many errands, “to-do” lists and social obligations can impact heavily on our well-being, and often being short of time, we neglect to look after ourselves both mentally and physically.

It is important to take time out for yourself, which can be locking yourself away with a good book, a session of sound healing, or a gentle yin yoga class, to nurture and restore your immune system.

This can be done in the comfort of your own home or a chance to socialize in the serene B.est Mind & Body studio, surrounded by beautiful greenery and a glittering pool.

### Tip #1: Eat

The temptation to overeat during the festive season is inevitable, but remember moderation is the key.

Make sure to consume good quantities of healthy proteins; fish, dairy, poultry, nuts and seeds, mixed with an ample amount of complex carbohydrates, including brown rice, legumes and vegetables.

This will support your 'gut' health and alleviate the guilt or feelings of ill-health from overindulgence



### Tip #2: Drink

Keep hydrated at all times and drink lots of water and other healthy fluids. Watch your alcohol intake and drink a glass of water between each alcoholic drink — your head will thank you the next morning.

Add interesting flavours to mineral water, sprigs of basil, fresh mint, freshly squeezed lime juice, or get creative adding fruits and home made natural syrups to brighten up the humble glass of water, and so much better for you than sugar-laden cordials.

### Tip #3: Be Present

Be in the moment with the people around you. Seriously. Maximise your time away from work.



Spend the holidays with the people you love, enjoying the things you like doing together. Take an introspective view of your life, and reflect on all the good things you have achieved and the challenges you have overcome. Laugh and share heart-warming stories with your family. Sometimes we forget to share our emotions with the people we love the most.

### Tip #4: Rest

We are all guilty of trying to fit too much into one day, but the best medicine for the mind and body is sleep.

If you know you will be out extra late, try to have a short nap in the afternoon, it does wonders for boosting your energy levels.

Sometimes your mind will be overactive and you may have trouble sleeping or getting back off to sleep, so incorporate some gentle breathing exercises into your routine.

### Tip #5: Breathe

Conscious breathing is a very simple and natural way to alleviate stress and help you unwind.

Be mindful of your breath and practice the ancient yoga technique, the 4-7-8 (relaxing breath) exercise.

1. Exhale completely through your mouth making a whoosh sound.
2. Close your mouth and inhale gently through your nose to a mental count of 4.
3. Hold your breath for a count of 7.
4. Exhale completely through your mouth, making a whoosh sound to the count of 8
5. This is one breath. Repeat this cycle 3 more times.

You will be amazed how quickly you will become calm and your thoughts more lucid.

### Tip #6: Move

Move your body — especially if your eating has gone a bit over the top, moving our bodies will help keep our blood moving and make our bodies more resilient.

Even a gentle walk early in the morning or later in the day can do wonders and a quick blast of Vitamin D from the early morning sun, not only lifts your mood but increases our calcium levels.

### Tip #7: Unplug

Take a tech detox from your phone and other electronic gadgets. The world is not going to end without your updated status.

Get back to basics, dig out that book you have always wanted to read: look through old family photographs and reminisce on the special times you have enjoyed together and unplug from the rest of the world and plug into the people around you. You will be glad you did - and so will they.

Remember to love yourself and then you can truly love others.

B.est mind & body is a beautifully appointed studio located in KLoé Hotel in Bukit Bintang offering an holistic approach to nurturing mind and body.

It offers its members specially designed classes such as Yoga, Qi Gong, core work, mindfulness and sound healing. Professionally delivered by their highly trained coaches, B.est mind & body sessions restore and refresh the entire mind and body.





KLOÉ