

► **MISS UNIVERSE AND THE SWANS**

Between Jun. 17 and 20, Ho Chi Minh City was blessed with the arrival of 81 beauty queens from around the world, here to take part in Miss Universe 2008. The hopefuls were put up in The New World Hotel and spent the week in Ho Chi Minh City taking in the sights and attending numerous events. The public was offered a chance to mingle with contestants at a red carpet extravaganza at the Sheraton on Jun.21, with all proceeds going to charity.

Three days later, the participants all donned *ao dai* dresses specially made by four local designers. Despite tripping up in the unfamiliar attire, Miss Venezuela Dayana Mendoza took the title for best *ao dai*. The event raised US\$23,000.

Local sports teams were also in on the act and Vietnam's Australian Rules national team, the **Vietnam Swans**, managed to arrange a photo shoot at the New World with Miss Australia, Laura Dundovic, in their new football strip.

The Swans are part of a growing South-East Asian interest in this most Australian of sports. The team made their international debut at the Asian Championships last year in Bangkok and more recently played an international against the Singapore Wombats in Hanoi. Their next fixture is both home and away against the Lao Elephants and this year's Asian Championships will start in Singapore on Sep.6.

For further information on Miss Universe go to [missuniverse.com](http://missuniverse.com). The Vietnam Swans can be found online at [vietnamswans.com](http://vietnamswans.com).



ALL PHOTOS BY RICO GONZALES



**Dynasty Restaurant**

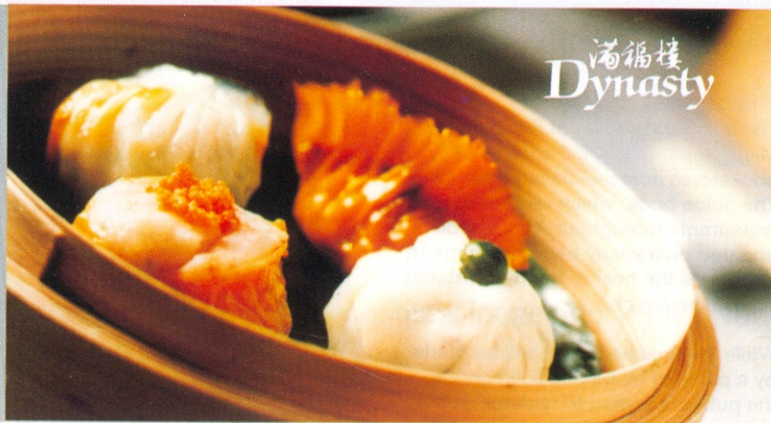
**DIM SUM BREAKFAST**  
**VND 110,000++ / person**  
**All the Dim Sum you can eat**

Every Saturday and Sunday  
 From 7:00am - 11:00am

The Cantonese phrase *dim sum* (點心) means literally "touch the heart" or "order to your heart's content". Every Saturday and Sunday you have the chance to do this by choosing from more than 40 dishes including different types of buns and rice noodle rolls.

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