

PolÃ¨ne Marina Bay Sands boutique: the French bag labelâ??s first Singapore store, with a leather-cutting installation

Description

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The PolÃ¨ne Marina Bay Sands boutique is the French handbag labelâ??s first physical store in Singapore, and it is worth a walk-through even if you are not buying. It sits at B2-108A, The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands, 2 Bayfront Avenue, and the 84 square metre space is more of an installation than a shop. PolÃ¨ne has not put Singapore prices on its store page, so check the Singapore site or ask in store before you plan a budget.

Until now, Singaporean fans of the brandâ??s soft, sculpted leather bags had to order online or shop on holiday. This boutique changes that, with the full range of bags and small leather goods under one roof.

What the PolÃ¨ne Marina Bay Sands boutique looks like

The interior was designed by Moshe Safdie, the architect behind Marina Bay Sands itself. According to PolÃ¨ne, the idea comes from the fishing huts that once lined Singaporeâ??s coastline. Above your head, a canopy of hand-woven full-grain leather panels filters the light, and some of the panels are translucent.

The rest of the room is kept quiet on purpose. The floor is light mineral tile, the furniture is dark walnut, and a modular table appears to float in the middle of the store. Even the ceiling panels echo the curved lines of the brandâ??s SolÃ© bag.


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Source: PolÃ¨ne

Craft at Work: watch a Mokki bag being cut

The star attraction for curious shoppers is an installation called Craft at Work â?? A Puzzle of Leather. It shows how a cutting die slices the 36 separate leather pieces that make up one Mokki bag. Inside Retail reports that the machine was built specially for this store, and the finished Mokki bags are assembled by artisans in Ubrique, Spain.

It is a clever way to explain why a leather bag costs what it does. You see the pieces laid out before they are stitched together, which makes the construction easier to appreciate than any product page.

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Source: PolÃ¨ne

Visiting: address, hours and getting there

- Address: B2-108A, The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands, 2 Bayfront Avenue, Singapore 018972
- Sunday to Thursday: 10.30am to 10pm
- Friday and Saturday: 10.30am to 11pm
- Nearest MRT: Bayfront, which links to the mall through an underground walkway

Weekday afternoons are usually calmer inside the mall, so that is the easier time to browse the shelves and the Craft at Work display. Weekend evenings at Marina Bay Sands tend to be busy, especially near the Christmas season.

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Source: PolÃ¨ne

Making a trip of it

The store is a short walk from the rest of the mall, so you can pair it with other shopping at the same trip. If you are still hunting for Christmas gifts at a lower budget, our guide to the Boutiques Singapore Gifting Edition covers 300 local brands at the F1 Pit Building from 20 to 22 November. For something a little more personal, LUAH at ION Orchard is another new label that has just set up its first Singapore shop.

Beauty shoppers heading east can also look at the new Tampines Mall beauty cluster, which comes with S$35 vouchers.

For opening hours or any changes, PolÃ¨ne lists the store details on its official Singapore boutique page. Do check it before you go, as mall hours can shift around public holidays.

Allow about 30 minutes if you want to browse properly and see the installation. It is a pleasant stop between meals or after a show at the nearby theatre.

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If you only want one thing from the visit, make it the Craft at Work corner. It is free to look at, takes five minutes, and gives you a better sense of the brand than a rack of handbags ever could. Shiok for anyone who likes seeing how things are made.

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