

## Message from the Ambassador of France

I am particularly proud to once again raise the curtain on *Voilà! French Festival Singapore 2009*, and to find France united under a single banner bearing the colors of the French spring blossoming in Singapore, as elsewhere in Asia. In 2007, the first edition of *Voilà, French Festival Singapore*, organized by the French Chamber of Commerce in Singapore in close association with the French Embassy, scored a great success. This year part and curtain-raiser of *Encore! The European Season in Singapore*, spanning from mid-March to mid-April, *Voilà* will be launched, together with *Encore !* at the opening of the Christian Lacroix stage costumes exhibition at the National Museum.

A French storm – comprising a rich array of events featuring France’s many facets – is about to reach Singapore. Besides the **Christian Lacroix** exhibition at the National Museum, we are pleased to invite Singaporean audiences to the Asia première of Jacques Offenbach’s opera “**Les Contes d’Hoffmann**”, hailing from the *Opéra de Nice*, at the Esplanade Theatre, to a photo exhibition by **Isabelle Delcourt**, to a celebration of the “**Francophonie**” at the Alliance Française, to a concert by **Melanie Pain**, part of the Mosaic Music Festival at the Esplanade, to the Singapore premières of the movie **Magic**, by Philippe Muyl, in the presence of the director, to the première of **Taken**, a film by Pierre Morel, to different screenings including “**Les Choristes**” by Christophe Baratier and two very successful animations movies, “**The Fox and the Child**” and “**March of the Penguins**” by Luc Jacquet, to an **Amos Gitai retrospective** at the Singapore International Film Festival, in the presence of the director, to a lyrical concert featuring works by **Pergolese** and **Monteverdi** with German conductor Volker Hartung, French singer Clementine Margaine and Singaporean Nancy Yuen, to **Members Only**, a play by the French writer Fabrice Roger-Lacan, directed by Tracie Pang and produced by Nathalie Ribette, at DBS Arts Centre, and last but not least, to the **Festival de la Gastronomie**, intended to send tastebuds into raptures with a fortnight of French gastronomic experiences at top-end restaurants featuring an incredible three-course menu at a fixed price of S\$ 30. While enjoying the feast, you may turn out to be the lucky winner of a gastronomic journey for two to the legendary - but very real – Burgundy. This list is not exhaustive. Please check regularly on our website.

Connecting France and Singapore, and offering, in these times of duress, some cheer and comfort through beauty, art and flavor, is what we aim to achieve. I would like to convey my appreciation to all the sponsors who have helped us reach out to our Singaporean friends with this second edition of *Voilà !* I wish each and everyone a sweet French Spring in Singapore.

Pierre Buhler  
Ambassador of France to Singapore