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WORK & PLAY



Super sequels

Sequels don't often surpass the original, but there are exceptions. From *The Empire Strikes Back* to the iPod Mini, sometimes it takes a sequel to elevate a product to iconic status. Will these select items go the same way?

Essential news for crackberry addicts

The BlackBerry has become the bane of friends and family alike. And now, its successor is on the market. The new 7100 series is the latest must-have edition for Berry-fanatics. Sleeker than its predecessors, it has quad-band network support so you can roam across North America, Europe and the Asia Pacific. www.blackberry.com HK\$2,888 for the 7100g.

A+ For looks and usability

A- For potentially turning romantic dinners into disasters

New curves in the bathtub

A bar spread over two levels with a lily pond on a drawbridge; the largest average room size in Hong Kong; and curvy, hourglass-shaped bathtubs. Here is a sneak preview of the new Landmark Mandarin Oriental hotel, the sequel to the 42-year old Mandarin Oriental on Connaught Road. We look forward to first-hand reviews this September. Starting from HK\$2,599, up to HK\$4,799 per night.

A One of Hong Kong's most widely anticipated sequels of 2005



The Phantom Menace

Golfing geeks know that Titleist is the preferred equipment manufacturer for many touring pros. Its putter range has won additional acclaim, under the brand name of renowned designer Scotty Cameron. In 2003, Titleist launched the spectacularly space-age Futura putter, which featured a trademark horseshoe bar to deliver extra balance. The sequel – an updated and re-weighted model in a matt black finish called the Phantom – comes with the option of a centered or offset shaft. So if putting remains the weak part of your game, get ready to turn the tables on your opponents. Until the next sequel, that is. Suggested retail by Titleist: HK\$2,220.

A+ Get ready to be Darth Vader on the green



Size matters

Casio kicked off the craze for slimline digital cameras in 2002. Now it's launched a super sequel to fend off the competition from the likes of Panasonic, Canon and Sony. Casio has gone through several reincarnations with its popular Exilim model and recently launched the Z57 with a 2.7-inch screen and 5.0 megapixels. That may seem pedestrian compared with the 7.0 overachievers. But it's currently the only model that allows you up to 400 shots on one charge of battery – and it keeps those file sizes manageable too. A snap at HK\$2100.

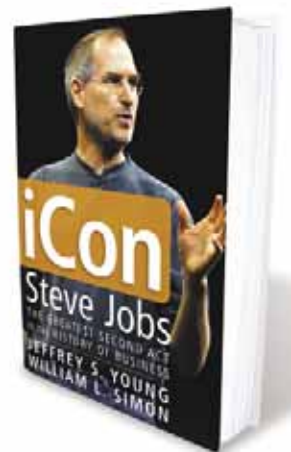


A Perfect for those of you who like to take ten pictures – only to delete nine

Steve Jobs, Act II

Steve Jobs is the posterboy for comeback kids. Once the leader of the fledgling IT world as co-founder of Apple, he was kicked out only to be re-instated and lead the company to a new brand of cool. In 1987, Jeffrey Young wrote the first unauthorized biography of Jobs. Now comes the sequel, *iCon*. We wonder, will Pixar buy the movie rights?

A+ For curiosity – are Jobs' temper tantrums only for publicity? Read on, dear reader...



Attitude and respect – on the road

Here's your chance to experience uncompromised driving pleasure, while still coming across as the respectable executive you are. Volkswagen's fifth generation Golf GTi looks good, has superb handling and improved performance. The key is its six-speed Direct Shift Gearbox, which allows for smoother, faster changes. It stays true to the original with a three-spoke steering wheel and a black honeycomb radiator grille framed in red. 30 years after the original, this looks like another cult classic in the making. Rev up to the \$298,000 VW Golf GTi at www.vwasia.com.

A+ Mark IV was a miss but the new GTi Mark V is a definite hit

