

Successful debut novel for Sanctum co-founder

A FRENCH publisher has picked up the debut novel by former Byron Bay local and co-founder of Sanctum, Judy Chapman.

The author of four best-selling non-fiction titles penned *My Singapore Lover* while travelling the world as an international spa consultant.

"I wrote this novel from luxury hotels around the world – hence the Four Seasons Hotel backdrop – over a 12-month period from Singapore, Bali and India, with the final touches done in the Middle East and Melbourne," Judy said.

Described as a modern love story, the novel, which is published by Monsoon Books and distributed by Pan Macmillan Australia, centres on a newly arrived expat called Sara who finds herself embroiled in a forbidden affair with a charismatic Chinese

hotelier. "It explores the challenges of retaining one's grace within a corporate structure and the consequences of not listening to your inner voice," Judy said.

"I have personally experienced and feel very passionate about some of the challenges the main character faces – in particular, her struggle with perceiving losing parts of herself, her femininity and grace within the power trips of corporate life – and Sara's struggle between intuition and instinct is very close to home and a theme that is still unresolved for me."

Judy describes her alternative upbringing in the late 1970s around Byron Bay as "very colourful".

My Singapore Lover will be available in bookstores throughout Australia from November 4.



NEW NOVEL: Judy Chapman with her debut novel, *My Singapore Lover*. PHOTO: CONTE