



Small family farms and rice paddies line the shore of the Thu Bon River near Hoi An.

Savoring life and the scent of coconut in
the verdant land

of
Ha Chi Minh

Impressions from Hanoi to the Mekong illuminate an emerging nation

Watercolors painted in Vietnam by Michael Killelea © 2012



Hanoi

This beautiful bridge painted on a misty day leads to a shrine in Hoan Kiem Lake. I discovered that spectators were holding umbrellas over me as I painted the scene.

A butcher in the Chau Long marketplace finally agreed to let me paint her in spite of the teasing she got from her fellow workers.





Hue The looming Citadel (above) trails brutal memories of the 1968 Tet offensive over Perfume River tour boats. Other city streets reflect a more tranquil reality.





The Thu Bon River (above) flows past ricefields and the ancient city of *Hoi An* in central Vietnam. Moderate temperatures in *Da Lat* (below) foster greenhouse industries in the central highlands.



Cam Ranh Bay

The Sandlewood Tower (right) suggests a lotus blooming out of the sea in the booming seaside city of Nha Trang.

On the other side of Cam Ranh Bay is Mieu (below), a quiet island of fishermen and stony outcrops.





In **SAIGON**, people, bicycles and motorbikes swirl past the Ben Thanh market in all directions at once, while in the city of **BANGKOK** the Chinese Pavilion in Lampini Park offers a welcome refuge from noisy traffic.



On a winter escape Mike & Kathy Killelea were able to savor the coconut in Vietnam and Thailand. He painted & she savored.