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Sinister Mode

Cambodian Cooking

Carnival

Rio de Janeiro

SPACE AT BALI

Story: Bill Bredesen



An early evening massage, and all you can hear is the sound of water trickling over the edge of an infinity pool. Your private chef is off preparing something special for dinner. This is Bali as you always pictured it.

Actually, this is Space at Bali, an exclusive collection of six villas, tucked behind fashionable Seminyak Beach and within strolling distance of the island's best boutique shopping and restaurants.

No wonder the average guest stay at Space is 11 days. You could stay there 11 years – it's that comfortable. The luxury villas provide an abundance of privacy, ideal for couples and small gatherings of close friends. Tall white walls surrounding each property are lined with tropical greenery: small palm trees, ferns, big leafy greens and colorful flowers. The manicured lawn beckons bare feet.

The glossy swimming pool, built with tiles cut from local island stones, forms the centerpiece of the spacious yard and is complemented by lounge chairs, a garden waterfall

shower and a breezy gazebo. With a thatch roof, no walls and enough space to comfortably sleep six, the gazebo is a slumber party waiting to happen.

Each villa's layout is similar, with two enclosed bedrooms flanking an exposed living area. Island breezes are constant throughout the living and dining areas, as well as upstairs in the second floor Chill Space, where guests will find another gazebo and an alluring sofa.

Size, privacy and comfort are hallmarks of the property. The bathrooms, for instance, are about the size of a standard hotel room, while the dressing area, inside the villa, is large enough to host a small cocktail party. Technically outdoors, the bathroom is shielded from rain by a thatch overhanging, while a free-standing bathtub is set amidst a lush, green garden, and the waterfall shower is housed in its own little room.

The meticulously kept property embraces nature in every sense, but offers modern comforts precisely where guests expect them. The bedrooms are one such place. With tropi-

cal design elements, like wooden fan blades, and pampered comforts, like the flat-panel TVs built into the walls and the exquisitely soft bed sheets, the room strikes a perfect harmony between island style and luxurious comfort.

At night, the distinctive Balinese brand of lighting – always subtle and understated – illuminates the rich woodwork and sand-colored walls in the living space, creating an ideal environment for relaxing conversation over cocktails, for a quiet swim under the stars, for sinking into a pile of pillows on the oversized sofa.

An eager and helpful – but most importantly, friendly – staff helps arrange everything from the mini-necessities like electrical adaptors and wireless Internet to the downright impressive, like extravagant island-style dinner parties. A local florist can create a wide variety of stunning floral and lighting arrangements. An especially breathtaking set-up involves orange, pink and red flower petals set among floating candles in the pool. ●

Visit Space online at www.spaceatbali.com