

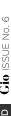
Five picture-perfect Indonesian resorts beckon visitors to the Island of the Gods for a vacation never to be forgotten.

WRITTEN BY { BETH WEITZMAN & MISTY MILIOTO



With forested volcanic mountains, iconic rice paddies, sprawling beaches and coral reefs, the Indonesian island of Bali boasts diverse topography from north to south and east to west. Warm, friendly and hospitable residents make it easy to fall in love with this special, spiritual place. Balinese Hinduism, practiced by the majority of the population, is woven into daily life, as evidenced by ritual offerings and the many temples and religious sites throughout the island. Its vibrant and inviting culture-plus its tropical sunshine, top diving, killer surfing, authentic wellness experiences, outstanding cuisine and luxury resorts-provide a vacation destination like no other. We should also add that sans alcohol, prices are reasonable, from meals to accommodations (even at the luxury level, you get amazing value). Here's a look at a trip of a lifetime, one snapshot at a time.











The architecture and interior design work in harmony with the resort's surrounds, creating a strong sense of place and constant sense of awe.











# the design

Gorgoeus Balinese design sets the stage for an authentic luxury experience with a true sense of place. Traditional yet contemporary Balinese interiors by Jeffrey Wilkes and renowned Asiabased DESIGNWILKES are designed to embrace the surrounding tropical landscape, including an historic temple and large rice terrace on the property. Inspired by the mandapas (Sanskrit for temples) of Ubud, the interiors act as a sacred space to rest the body, mind and soul. Once here, you won't want to leave. Eye-catching textiles and patterns are contemporary, yet are derived from local historical references.





mandapa oners its guests an authentic Balinese experience with gracious hospitality, body healers, historic temple and large rice terrace on the property, and so much more.



The architecture pays homage to the village atmosphere of Ubud, thanks to a collection of buildings connected by pathways, temples and gardens. Natural materials throughout the resort include soft leather finishes, marble stone walkways, textured glass and woven ceiling panels—all boasting a welcoming and zen vibe. The earth-tone palette reflects the surrounding landscape and river, while accents of fuchsia, marigold and green provide pops of color.











# the accommodations

With 35 suites in the main building and 25 private pool villas along the edge of the rice paddies overlooking the river and rainforest, this exclusive enclave is simply surreal. Suites in the main building boast a private patio, spacious bedroom, inviting living space and beautiful views. Two suite types are on offer, including the 1,075-square-foot Reserve Suite with a daybed for lounging, and epic views of the rainforest and rice paddies; and the 1,560-square-foot Mandapa Suite with large veranda daybed, living area, guest and master bathrooms, and rainforest views. Meanwhile, the estate-like villas (which we highly recommend) offer a most memorable private piece of paradise. Each combines a Balinese-style main house comprised of a super-spacious and luxurious bedroom, bathroom and dressing area; and private outdoor spaces, including a pool, garden, dining and lounge area; as well as a separate enclosed living room. The one-bedroom villas (either pool or riverfront facing) boast a total of 4,630 square feet. For a family, group of friends or sets of couples, the 10,710-square-foot Reserve two-bedroom pool villa and the 21,530-squarefoot Mandapa three-bedroom pool villa are great options. The villas are especially magnificent. You won't need or want to leave, but the restaurants, spa and menu of activities may compel you to do otherwise. An added perk? All guests have a 24-hour certified patih (butler). The overall service is absolutely divine!

### the dining

The verdant rice paddies surrounding Mandapa serve as the foundation for nearly every meal, accompanied by fragrant spices, colorful vegetables, tender meats and local fish. Mandapa offers four unique dining concepts that celebrate Indonesian cuisine alongside international dishes, plus exclusive "dining beyond" experiences within the Reserve.

The signature, jaw-dropping Kubu restaurant sets a unique, romantic scene along the Ayung River, surrounded by bamboo and cooled by tropical breezes, where diners can savor Mediterranean-European cuisine. Nine private dining cocoons are inspired by *kubu*, the bamboo huts in which Balinese farmers store their annual rice harvest. The signature six- to eight-course degustation menus are a must. Delectable dishes include cold almond soup, cherry tomato crispy tart, lobster cocktail, grilled black cod and grilled Wagyu rib-eye. Desserts include berry frappe, chocolate cappuccino and petits fours. A meal here is truly one to remember.

At Sawah Terrace, an all-day dining restaurant overlooking the Ayung River and tropical forest, a true Indonesian culinary journey highlights the distinctive flavors of the archipelago. The menu brims with flavorful Balinese dishes, Asian cuisine, healthy delicacies and farm-to-table concepts directly from the chef's on-property organic garden. While all dishes are delicious, the Rendang Pipi Sapi (slow cooked beef cheek in coconut and tamarind scented rending curry) is not to be missed.

The Pool Bar, meanwhile, spotlights wellness with a menu of salads, soups, sushi, smoothies, juices and teas (as well as cocktails for those so inclined). Try the tea mixology with the sea bass tartare (served with wasabi, avocado, ginger flower, onion and capers).

Finally, The Library overlooks the pool and rainforest with an open-air lounge hosting Mandapa Dulang Premium, the signature afternoon tea offered in both English and Indonesian traditions, plus a menu of fresh juices, light fare and cocktails. It's a nice afternoon spot in which to unwind and chill for a while.

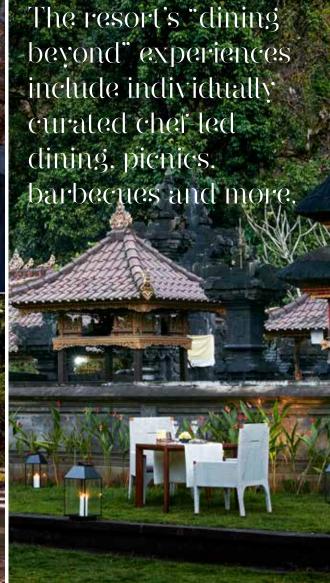
Something extra special are the "beyond dining" experiences — distinctive private dining beyond the resort's restaurants. Options include Sounds of the Ayung River (a six-course degustation menu served under the stars, just steps from the river), Grace by the Rice Field (a six-course degustation menu served on The Gracefield deck overlooking the rice terrace), In-Villa Romance (a six-course degustation menu served in the privacy of your villa, with fresh flower petals and candles), the Mandapa Picnic (brunch, lunch or afternoon snacks served next to the Ayung River or at the resort's iconic Lumbung [rice barn]), the Barbecue by the Rice Field (with a bountiful buffet selection and table-side cooking by a private chef) and The Cliff at Sawah (refined open-air dining at the edge of the cliff, with gorgeous views of the Ayung River).



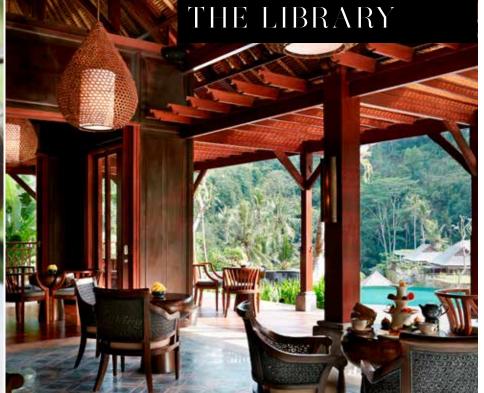


















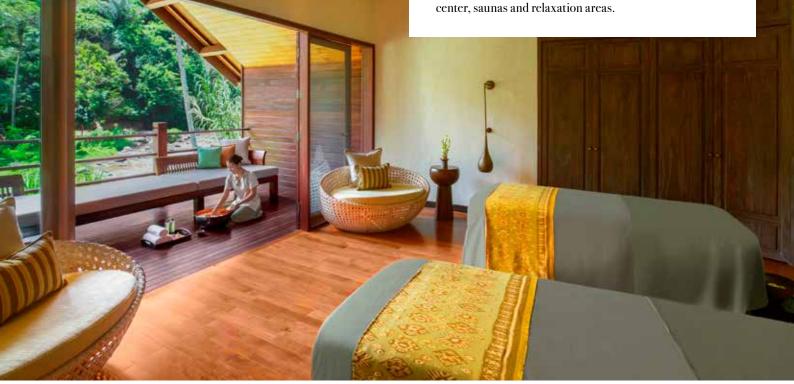






#### the spa

A peaceful sanctuary, the riverfront Mandapa Spa draws on Bali's long tradition of healing and inner reflection. The modern, luxury retreat is set among the lush rainforest and offers authentic Balinese treatments infused with subtle energies and locally sourced products; unique services include varied sessions with local Balinese healers—a must experience. In addition to five well-appointed treatment rooms, the spa features a yoga pavilion, meditation temple, vitality pool, 24-hour fitness









Bali is known for its rich culture, traditions and holistic healing, and Ubud (a name derived from the Balinese word *ubad*, which means medicine) was originally a source of energetic holistic healers and medicinal herbs. The incredible local healers at Mandapa share their gifts and are reason enough to stay here. There are many selections from which to choose, here's a highlight.

One of the most unique spa treatments is the Ibu Ketut Mursi – Intuitive Blind Healer, with a highly skilled, intuitive healer. Each session is customized, as the healer assesses each individual's emotional and physical issues and recommends herbs necessary to treat specific conditions. She and her assistant, Ibu Kis, use body work and reflexology to realign and release any blocked energy, and employ Ketut's secret family herbal oil blend, which has been passed down through generations. The session takes 60 or 90 minutes, depending on individual needs. At the end, a translator assists with suggestions related to health and well-being.

Another distinct treatment is the Pranic Acupuncture Healing with Pak Ketut (75 or 120 minutes) that works with both the subtle energetic system and the physical body. Ketut begins with pranic healing, followed by acupuncture to release any energy blocks. For the two-hour session, Ketut integrates his signature healing massage.

Meanwhile, the Mebayuh–Water Blessing Ritual with the Resort Priest (60 minutes) is a traditional ceremony meant to cleanse and purify. Conducted in the resort temple, the ceremony is intended to release accumulated experiences and negative energies, while purifying and reconnecting with the divine energy within.

Another distinctive experience at Mandapa is a traditional blessing ritual performed by a traditional healer. For example, the Homa Yajna-Fire Blessing Ritual (60 minutes) is a sacred ceremony that originated in the ancient Vedic texts. It begins with meditation in the fire space, where the ceremony priest rings a Balinese bell and chants Sanskrit mantras to evoke health and abundance. Following the lighting of the fire, participants make offerings of grains, lentils and other foods. The ritual is a process of purifying unwanted beliefs, habits or thought patterns, while manifesting new intentions.

Alternative healing energy options include reiki, conscious breath work and more.

Mandapa offers comprehensive wellness and lifestyle programs based on six pillars: Balinese Spa, Detox, Nutrition. Alternative Therapy, Body Therapy and Healing.



Designed as
a peaceful
sanctuary,
the riverfront
Mandapa Spa
draws on Bali's
long tradition of
healing and inner
reflection.









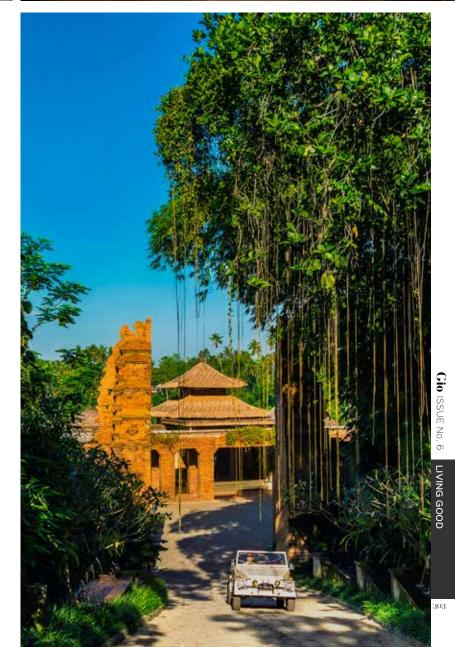
# the activities

With so much to do on the property, it's tough to pull yourself away, but Mandapa offers a full menu of activities and private excursions around the island. We spent a day with the amazing Eriwah and Roger on the Volkswagen Vintage tour. Cruising in an open-air, classic VW 181 convertible, we toured the Goa Gajah, an elephant cave that's a UNESCO World Heritage site built in the 9th century; Gunung Kawi temple complex, with 200 stairs down to the temple, rock-cut shrines, walking path through the rice field and jungle with meditation caves, waterfalls and running rivers; Segara Windhu Coffee Plantation (as seen in the movie *The Bucket List*) for authentic Kopi Luwak coffee paired with a yummy picnic lunch from Mandapa; and the Ubud monkey forest, home to about 500 monkeys. Our memorable private tour included an inspiring meditation session among the trees and waterfall: truly, an experience like no other.





Mandapa's signature private Volkswagen Vintage tour with visits to iconic tourist sites and others in a classic VW 181 convertible is a must. A full array of traditional, cultural, and educational activities and adventures await.



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# wedding & commitment ceremonies

Drawing inspiration from local Balinese tradition, as well as the area's lush jungle location, distinctive culture and spirituality, Mandapa offers a naturally striking setting for a destination wedding. Local traditions impart a very real sense of authenticity to the ceremony and reception. Bridal party prep, the wedding ceremony and cocktail reception can be held in one of the luxurious three-bedroom villas, featuring a private outdoor garden and pool. The Rice Terrace lawn is another great outdoor venue option. Whether small or large, the team will ensure every detail is perfectly executed.

Couples wanting to express their love for each other while creating lasting memories of their romantic journey together in Bali can choose the Enchanting Love Journey—a romantic experience combining a traditional Balinese commitment ceremony and a sumptuous private dining experience for two.

A stay at Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, is one that will fill your body and mind with memories of a lifetime. For more information visit *mandapareserve.com* 



Couples choosing the The Enchanting Love Journey will enjoy a traditional Balinese commitment ceremony topped off by a most memorable private dining experience for two.







# the accommodations

COMO Uma Ubud offers a variety of guest rooms, suites and villas from which to choose; all are light, airy and offer a relaxing respite. Accommodations come complete with Egyptian cotton linens, fine goose-down duvets, yoga mats and COMO Shambhala bathroom amenities.

You can't go wrong with any of the accommodation offerings. Four Ubud Rooms feature 592 square feet of space, each with its own conservatory; hand-carved, king-size bed; oversized bathtub with separate shower; and seating area beneath a that ched roof. The 18 Terrace Rooms offer 484 square feet of space with large French doors that open onto a private terrace; four-poster bed with hanging white cotton voile; and a semioutdoor shower. Four Pool Suites feature 592 square feet of space with sitting room; a sundeck with outdoor furniture and garden views; and a plunge pool.

The 10 Garden Pool Villas, meanwhile, offer 570 square feet of space with an open-air courtyard; a four-poster, king-sized bed draped in airy white fabric; and a private plunge pool and terrace off of the bedroom. Eight Uma Pool Villas offer 990 square feet of space with a private swimming pool; a sprawling sundeck with views across the Balinese jungle or Tjampuhan Valley; and an oversized shower and freestanding bathtub.

For even larger digs, the Uma Villa (1,012 square feet) has a sitting and dining room; a bedroom with a four-poster bed; and a private terrace with daybeds and sweeping views across the Tjampuhan Valley. And the signature COMO Villa (1,023 square feet) has a separate bedroom, sitting area and en suite open-air bathroom; a private treatment area; a spacious sundeck; and an infinity pool overlooking the Tjampuhan Valley and the River Oos.



Rooms and suites feature large sliding glass doors that fully open up, creating an idyllic indoor/ outdoor space.





### the dining

The cuisine at COMO Uma Ubud includes an Italian-inspired restaurant and lounge bar, Uma Cucina. The street-side setting is perfect for lunch or dinner any night of the week; live music is offered on Saturdays and during Sunday brunch. Fresh ingredients are enjoyed in every Italian dish, including seriously mouthwatering pizza and decadent brunch delights. Meanwhile, at Kemiri Restaurant, the cooking techniques of Southeast Asia are highlighted on a delicious and diverse menu. Surrounded by tropical gardens at the heart of the resort, Kemiri also offers the COMO Shambhala Menu, which features food rich in living enzymes, vitamins and minerals. Kemiri sets a gorgeous backdrop for weddings.

At Uma Bar, expect a relaxed poolside environment ideal for enjoying fine wines, cocktails and healthy juices. Themed dinners also are on offer at COMO Uma Ubud. For example, Balinese Ribs 'n' Bibs takes place poolside at Uma Bar with Balinese-spiced spare ribs, sausages, smoky cocktails and more. Or, try Bebek Betutu—a traditional smoked roast duck dish that is part of a Balinese feast served at Kemiri and accompanied by a dance performance. For something more casual, try Street Eats at Uma Bar with a sundowner cocktail paired with traditional Indonesian street food. Private dining can also be enjoyed in the comfort of your own room.





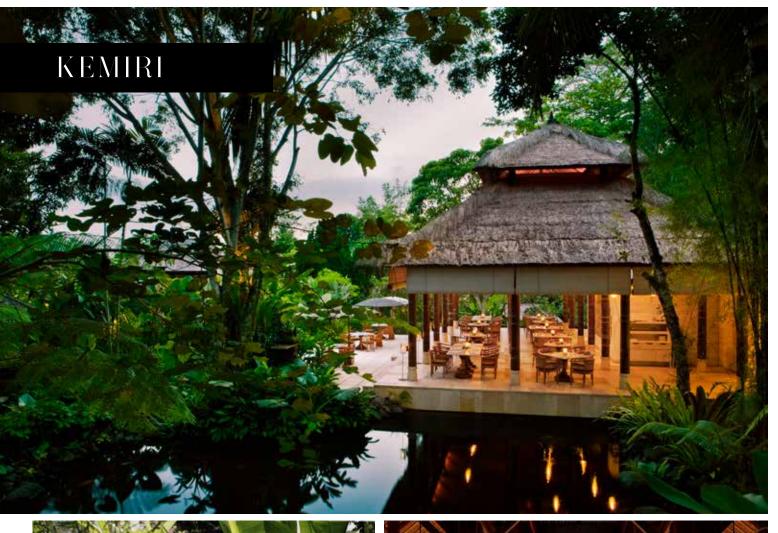
































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# spa twellness

COMO Shambhala Retreat at COMO Uma Ubud invites guests to seek greater health through yoga, meditation and treatments such as facials, massages and holistic therapies. The serene retreat offers four spacious indoor/outdoor treatment rooms, a fitness center, reflexology area, yoga studio and pavilion, steam room and sauna, and an 82-foot pool. With twisting wooden paths, koi ponds and lush green jungle, you'll find peace and harmony at every turn.

The extensive array of Asian-inspired treatments includes massages, facials and body therapies. The COMO Shambhala signature treatment is a must. This cleansing therapy begins with dry brushing, which is followed by a COMO Shambhala invigorating salt scrub and revitalizing bath soak. The two-hour luxurious treatment concludes with a COMO Shambhala massage featuring signature blended oils, which relax the entire body. A healthy COMO Shambhala juice tops off the treatment.

An open-air yoga pavilion sits high in the Tjampuhan Valley, offering dramatic views of the river far below. It's an ideal spot to soak in the fresh air and subtle energies that abound. Yoga and other classes are offered here.













Amid the relaxed, elegant ambiance of the resort, the Uma Pool is a perfect spot to chill pre- or post- spa or, really, anytime.

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#### activities

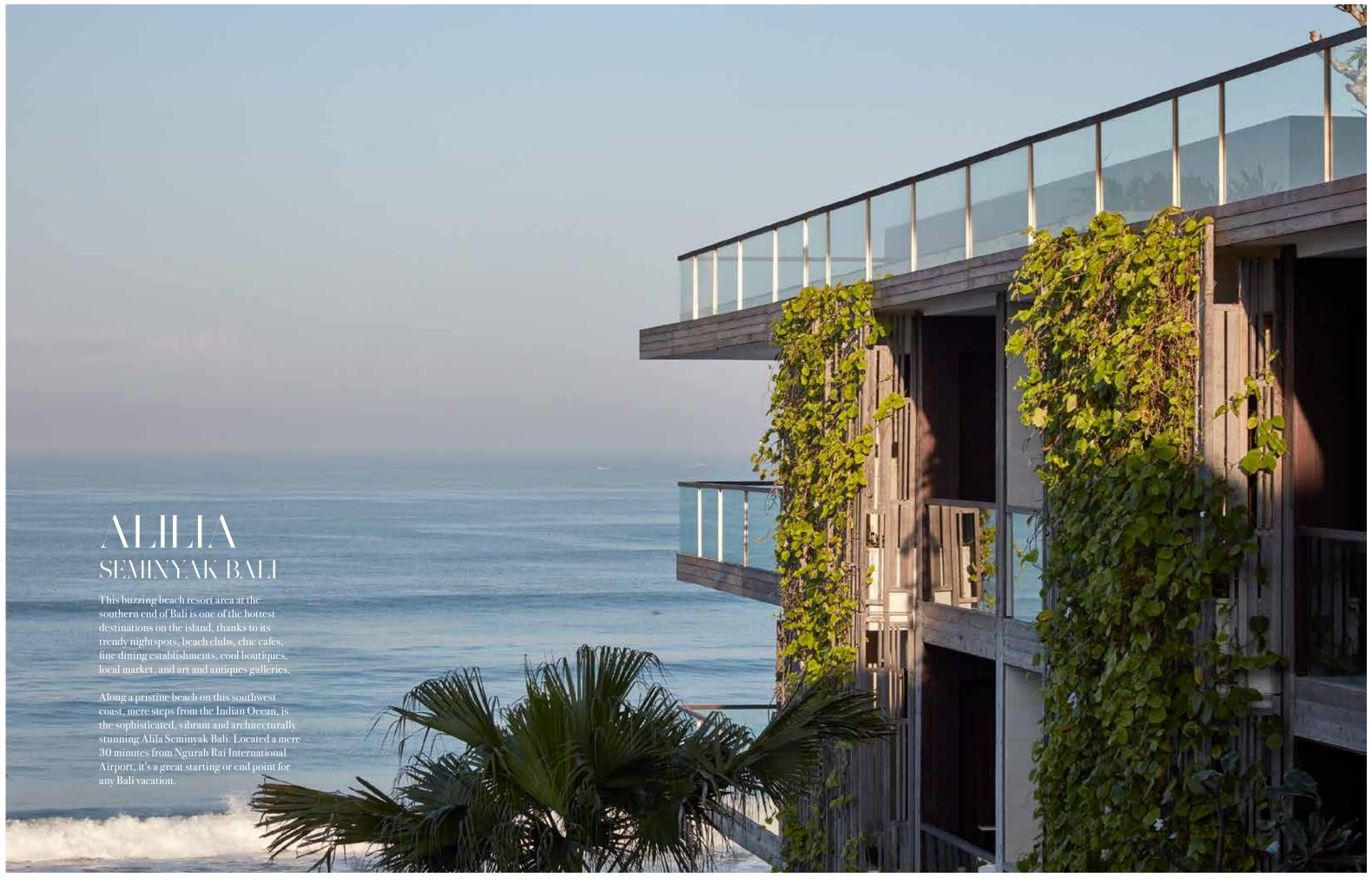
Complimentary daily activities, such as yoga classes and guided morning walks through surrounding rice paddies, are on offer. Other alluring activities (prices vary) include guided walks through local villages and jungle gorges; mountain bike rides, including a descent from Kintamani on the crater of Mt. Batur; whitewater rafting on the Ayung River; cooking classes; and museum, temple and gallery visits.

For more information visit comohotels.com/umaubud

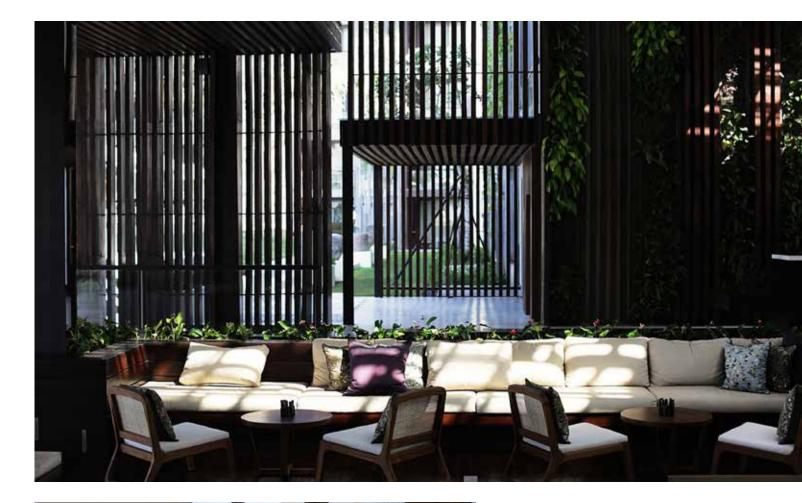


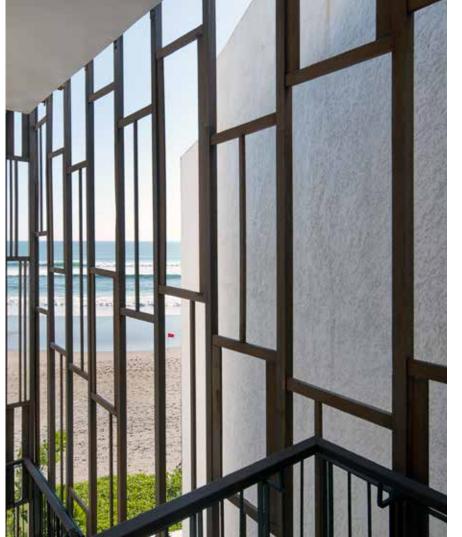


If you want to take a break from all of your R&R, sign up for one of COMO Uma Ubud's many activities.





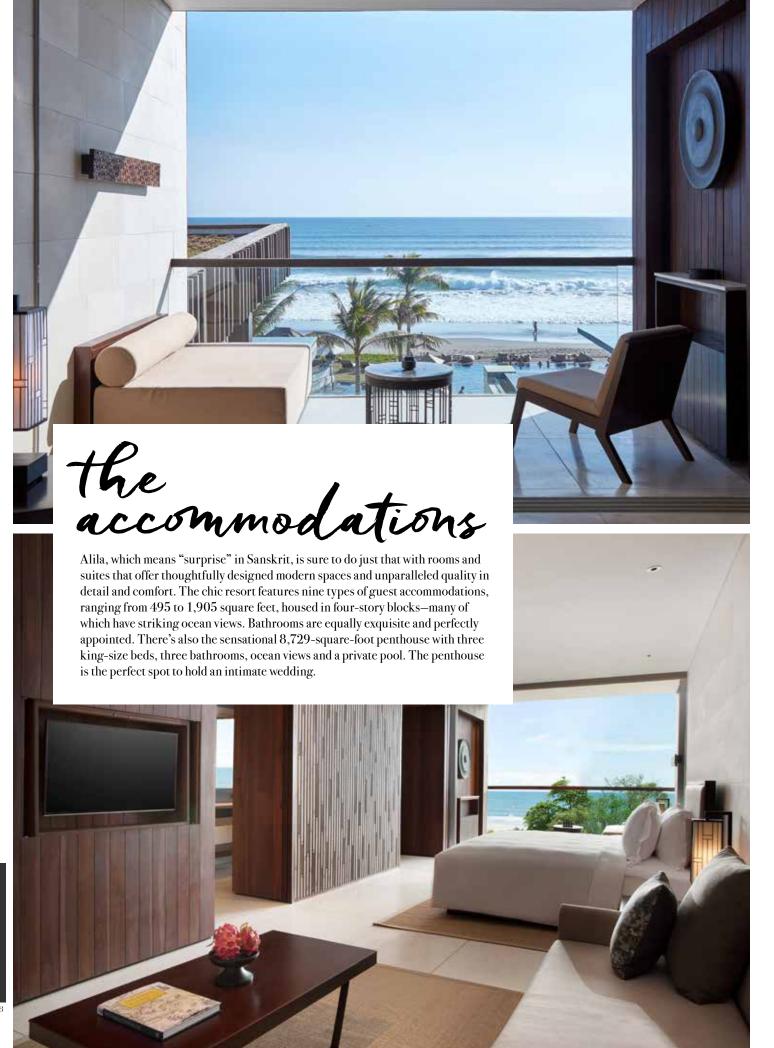




Alila Seminyak Bali, with its clean, crisp lines, is totally Instagramworthy.





















# the dining

The oceanfront Seasalt restaurant is the seafood destination spot within the Seminyak area. The open kitchen and outdoor decks make this a great choice to catch some ocean breezes while enjoying a seafood menu with Japanese flair. Seasalt sources seafood that is wildcaught and sustainably harvested from the waters around Indonesia. Dishes are seasoned with traditional organic Kusamba sea salt from East Bali, and inventive craft cocktails also are impressive, thanks to the sustainable, zero-waste concept behind the bar. Leftover fruit juices, fruit rinds and fruit seeds become ingredients in oceaninspired creations. Meanwhile, the resort's Flat Stanley specializes in hand-pulled sourdough pizzas topped with Balinese ingredients. The Beach Bar is a great place to sink into the comfort of a daybed or armchair, while enjoying a thirst-quenching juice, an aperitif or an Alila signature cocktail. For a quick coffee, the chic coffee bar is the spot.













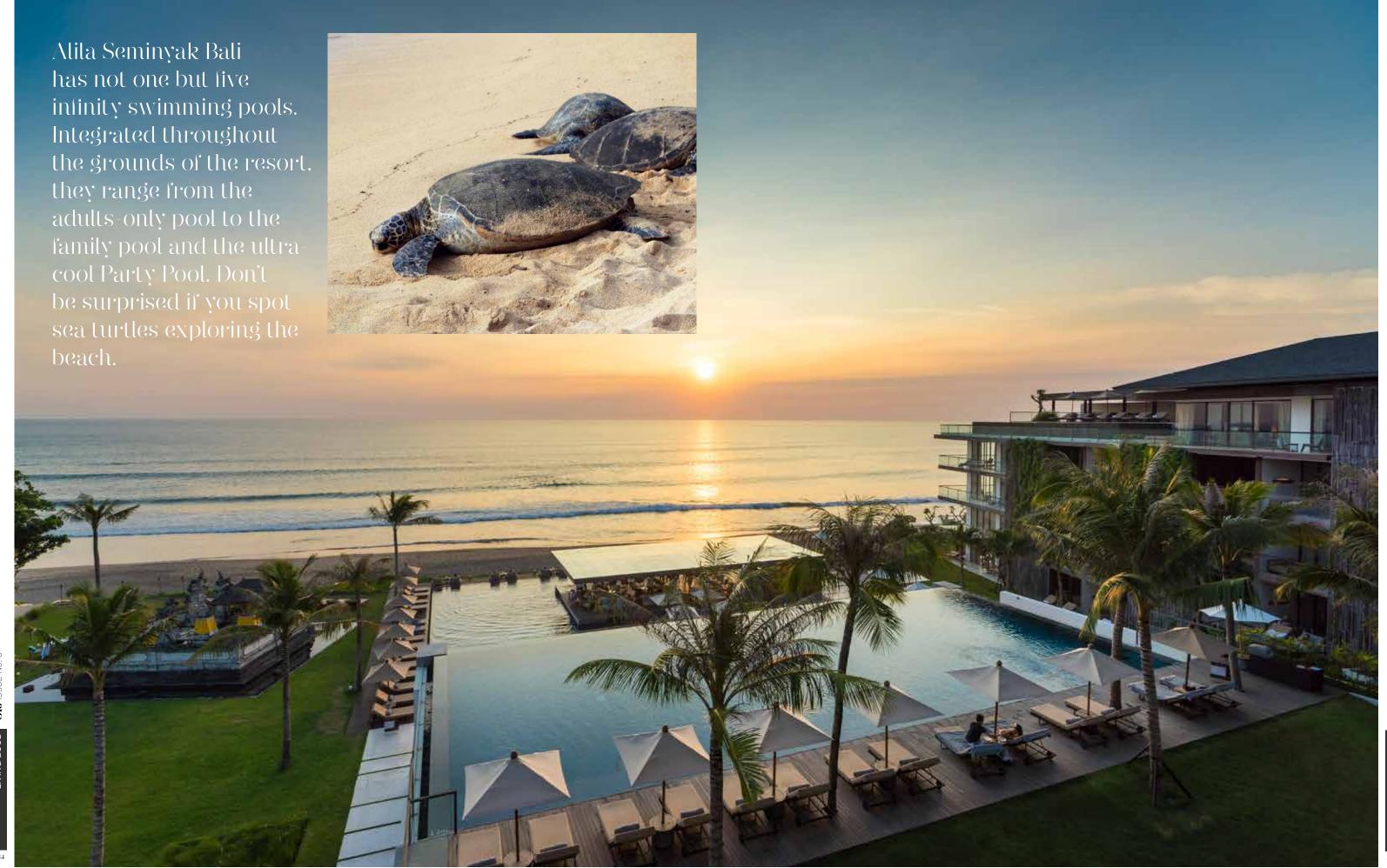


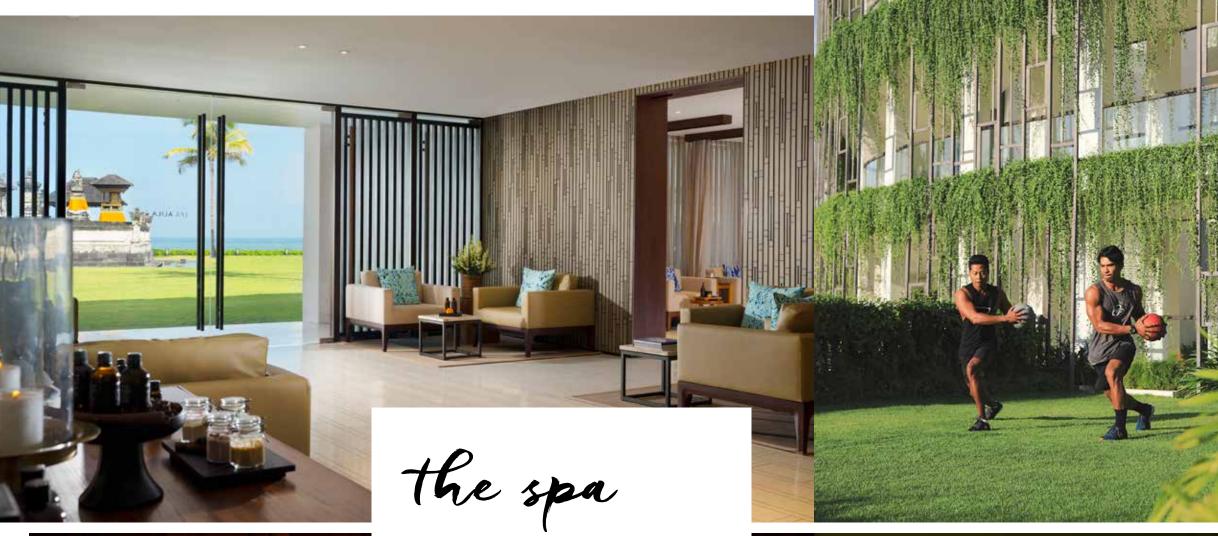
Fresh and delicious cuisine features wild-caught and sustainably harvested fish from the waters around Indonesia.









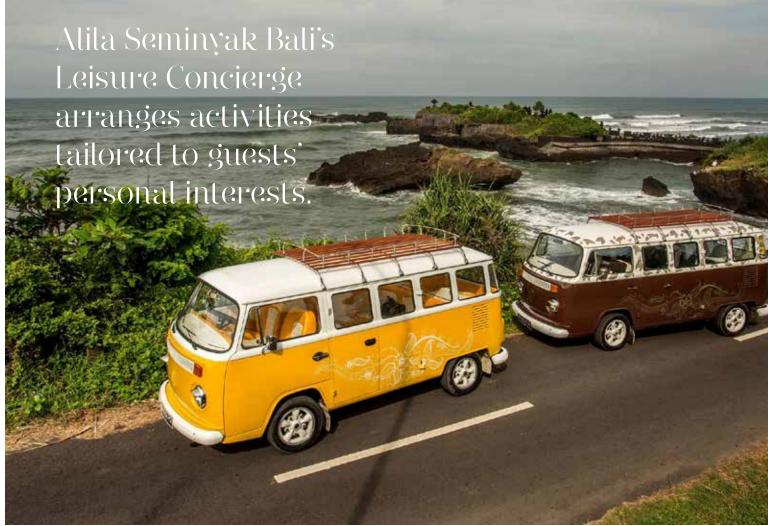






In addition to customized treatments, the spa offers a range of yoga and meditation classes, plus recommendations on self-care.



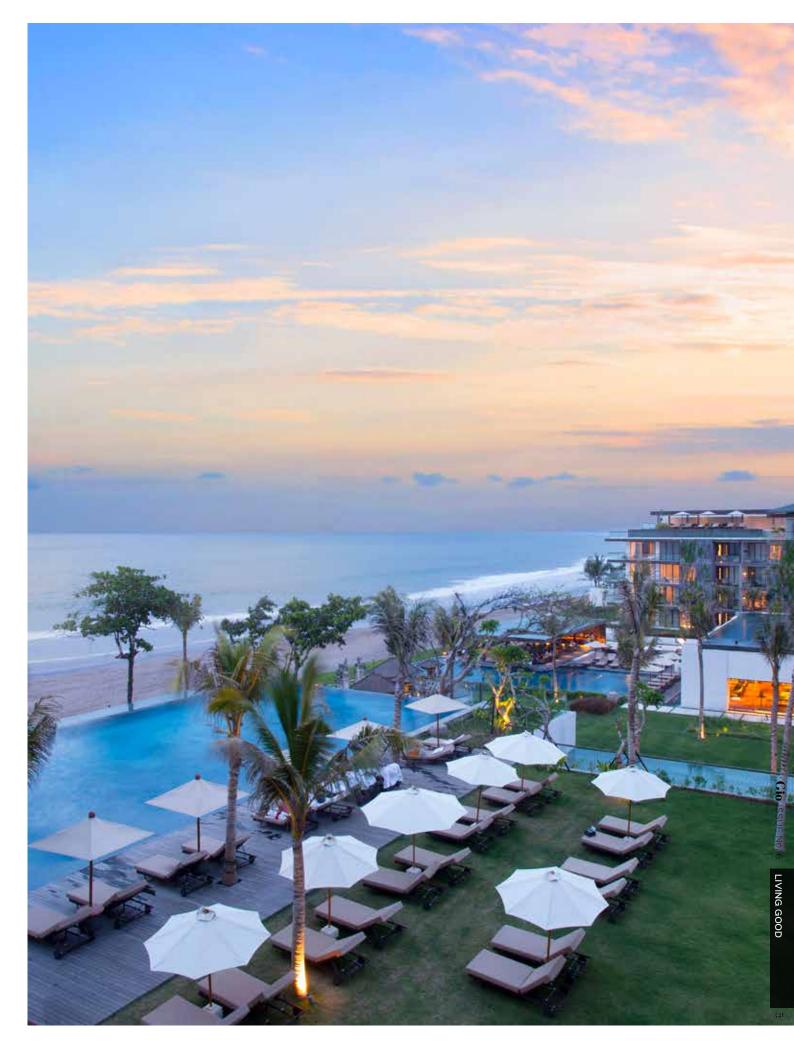






















# the accommodations

Boasting 313 suites and villas outfitted in Balinese materials and design, local touches and artifacts mix with the latest technology to provide the utmost comfort. Eight different room types include the Sawangan Suites (230 units, 34 with lagoon access and 60 with Club access), The Ritz-Carlton Suites (49 units, 10 with lagoon access and 7 with Club access), the Pool Pavilions (18 one-bedroom units that combine indoor and outdoor living areas with an outdoor shower and access to a pool from the terrace), the Garden Villas (four, two-story clifftop villas overlooking lush gardens with a swimming pool off of an expansive terrace and a rooftop daybed area), The Cliff Villas (four units similar to the Garden Villas but with views of the Indian Ocean and Mount Agung), The Sky Villas (six one- and two-bedroom villas with views of the Indian Ocean, a floating swimming pool, an outdoor tub, a large sundeck area, a Balinese bale, and a separate living and dining area), the Ritz-Carlton Cliff Villa (one three-bedroom villa with views of the Indian Ocean, access to the infinity pool with large sundeck and a Balinese bale), and The Ritz-Carlton Oceanfront Villa (with direct access to the beach and a massage pavilion). When staying in any of the rooms with a pool, don't miss ordering the floating breakfast.

The Sky Villas feature views of the Indian Ocean, a floating swimming pool, an outdoor tub, large sundeck area. Balinese bale, and a separate living and



The relaxed Ritz-Carlton Club—one of the few freestanding clubs within The Ritz-Carlton portfolio—is where guests can have every need met, including personalized check-in and check-out at the Club Lounge, five daily food and beverage presentations, sundowner cocktails by the Club Lounge Pool and more.













### the dining

Each of The Ritz-Carlton, Bali's six restaurants takes guests on a gastronomic journey, elevating a simple meal into a memorable culinary experience. At Raku, a Japanese lounge and bar located on the cliff area with indoor and outdoor seating, guests can choose from sushi, sashimi and tapas-style Japanese specialties. For dinner, scope out Bejana's authentic Indonesian dishes and its Culinary Cave—an open kitchen with chef table that focuses on culinary learning. A relaxing yet stylish lunch or dinner is on order at The Beach Grill, located on the beachfront and boasting fabulous views and serving seafood and grilled items with a live cooking station complemented by classic and contemporary handcrafted cocktails. Also on the beach is Breezes, a pool bar and tapas lounge that's open for lunch and dinner (and a perfect spot for a sundowner cocktail). At Senses, guests will enjoy a rustic yet contemporary setting for all-day indoor and outdoor dining. Finally, The Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge-located above Senses—serves all-day light bites, afternoon tea and pre- or postdinner cocktails. There's no shortage of tempting culinary options here—even if you are staying for a week or more!

















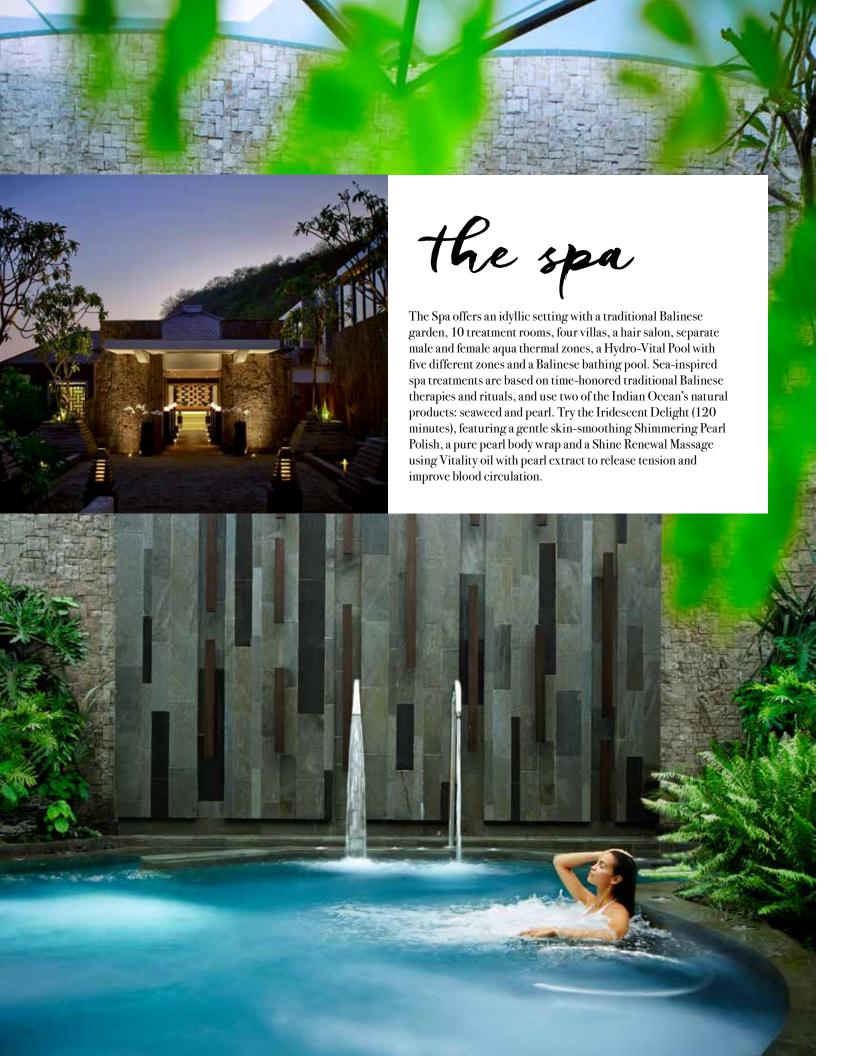




Tempt your tastebuds at any of The Ritz-Carlton, Bali's six tantilzing restaurants.



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# the wedding venue

A strikingly beautiful glass-lit Majestic Chapel makes a memorable spot for exchanging vows. Followed by a reception on the sweeping cliff lawn or beautiful sandy beach, the venues at The Ritz-Carlton, Bali, provide a dramatic backdrop for tying the knot. ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/indonesia/bali







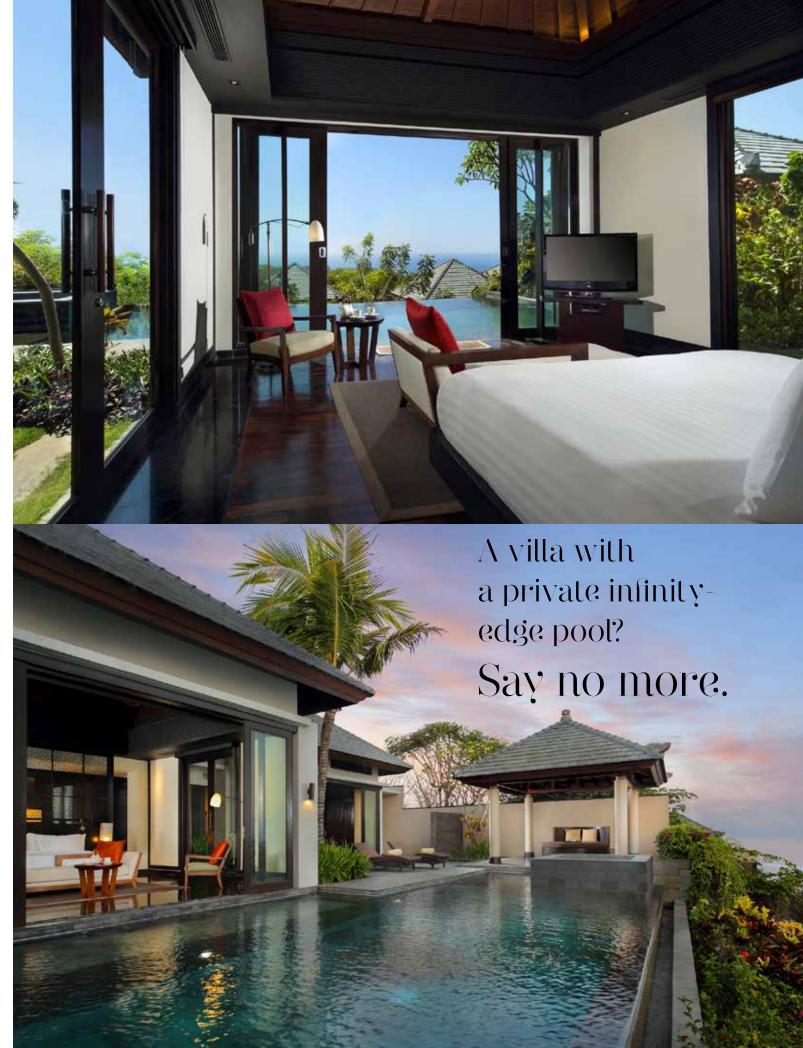


# the accommodations

Perched 210 feet above Melasti Beach on the southern tip of Bali, Banyan Tree Ungasan offers luxury amid pure white beaches, crystal blue water and stunning ocean views. The all-pool villa resort features a dedicated beach area and distinctive Balinese touches at every turn. With the killer views, your own private pool as well as a resort pool, a bevy of indoor and outdoor dining choices, and a fabulous spa, you really never have to leave the resort.

Offering total privacy, each of the villas (in nine different room categories) is an intimate retreat featuring a large bedroom, a huge marble bathroom with spacious bathtub, living room, private infinity-edge pool, outdoor dining area, private landscaped gardens, magnificent vistas and outdoor showers. Book the Pool Villa Cliff Edge Ocean View and enjoy panoramic views of the ocean, a Balinese bale complete with daybed and a 30-foot infinity pool. Sitting atop the cliff's edge, this villa will impress even the most well-traveled jetsetters.

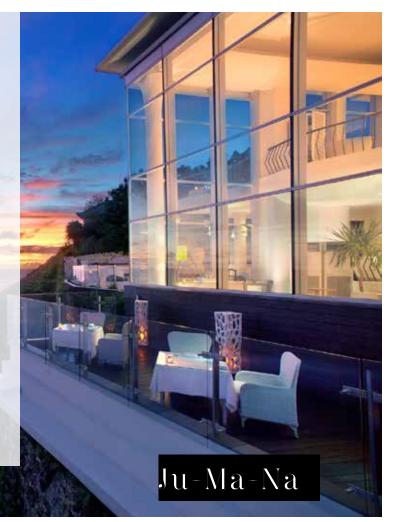




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### the dining

Banyan Tree Ungasan's signature clifftop restaurant, Ju-Ma-Na, overlooks the Indian Ocean with views so breathtaking you can't keep your jaw from dropping when you dine here, either indoors or outdoors. The French cuisine with a Japanese twist is equally spectacular as the view. Adjacent is The Ju-Ma-Na Bar, perfect for pre- or post- dinner cocktails and aperitifs in a Moroccan setting. Within the spa area is Tamarind, where authentic Balinese cuisine focusing on locally sourced ingredients, herbs and spices is served in a most tranquil setting. Serving three meals a day at indoor and outdoor cooking stations, Bambu specializes in pan-Asian fare, including Thai, Vietnamese and local dishes. In-villa dining is also a fabulous option. Choose from the room service menu-not to be missed is the nasi goreng (fried rice with egg) for breakfast and ikan mepanggang sambal matah (barramundi with lemongrass salsa) for lunch or dinner. Or book a barbecue experience and have a chef prepare one of three feast options on your villa patio. The pool bar is also a great spot for all-day light snacks, drinks and inventive cocktails. With the resort's dining destination, a completely bespoke experience can be curated just for you-dinner in a private bale under Bali's shimmering night sky? Not a problem.















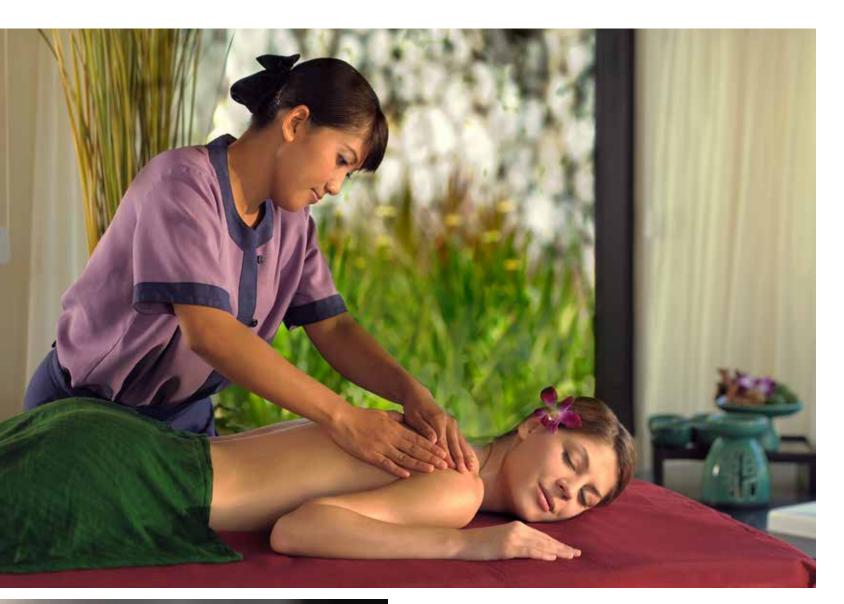














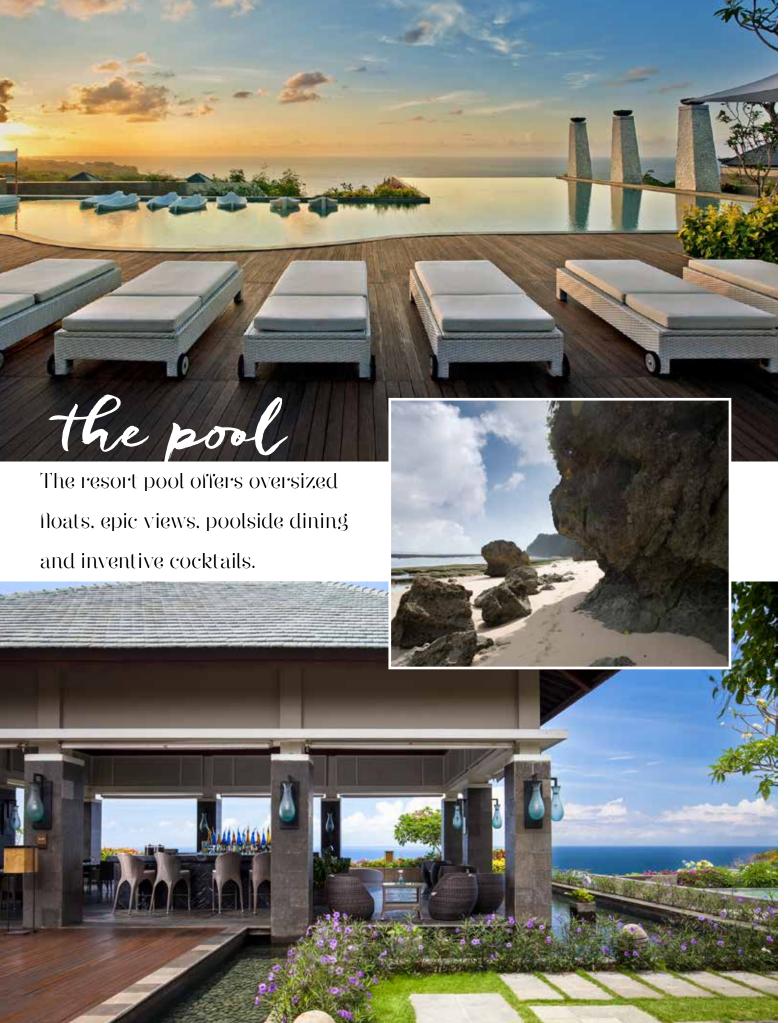
Get your energy in check with any of the many Asian therapies on the menu at Banyan Tree Spa.



### the spa

Banyan Tree Spa features nine spacious spa pavilions offering a range of Asian therapies, from massages to face and body treatments. Try one of the Banyan Signature holistic treatments for a truly refreshing experience. The Tropical Rainmist, a specialty, features a trickling rain shower, an invigorating body scrub and a choice of massage (from a cleansing mitt scrub to a honey milk nourisher), while the Sense of Place, a Balinese ritual, eases aching muscles and restores skin to its natural balance. A deep-tissue Balinese Massage is complemented by a relaxing face and head massage, relieving tension and imparting a true sense of Zen. A body scrub and body conditioner completes this serene treatment. Before of after your treatment, be sure to pop into the boutique for aromatherapy oils and ceramics, as well as other artful items and unique gifts. Outdoor yoga, classes in the aerobics room and state-of-the-art fitness facilities make working out easy.









#### the extras

The resort's Banyan Tree Gallery is a showcase of indigenous arts and crafts. An international selection of books and magazines can be enjoyed in the library. The resort is perched above a lovely beach, so you can take the trail down and enjoy a meditative walk any time of day.







#### TIPS FOR BALI-BOUND TRAVELERS

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Visitors to Indonesia must have a passport valid for at least six months prior to arrival, at least two blank passport pages and proof of onward passage. Consult travel.state.gov for more information.

#### REQUIRED VACCINATIONS

 $\label{prop:continuous} Visit\ cdc. gov\ for\ the\ latest\ requirements.$ 

#### CLIMATE

Comfortably warm with relatively low humidity April through October. Warmer and more humid November through March.

> LOCAL CURRENCY Indonesian rupiah

370