

FRV TRAVEL – EAST RESIDENCE AND SPA

Edition 7.4, Dec '10 Jan '11

FRV Travel
fine restaurants and villas | bali & southeast asian style & travel
edition 7.4, dec '10 jan '11 Rp. 48.000

Bali
EAT PRAY LOVE, THE SAMAYA
UBUD, WARIKAN AND EAST
RESIDENCE AND SPA

Jakarta
JAPANESE, CHINESE AND FRENCH
RESTAURANTS

Japan
TOWERING RESTAURANTS
OF NIHON

Koh Samui
LAP UP THE LUXURY ON SAMUI'S
WHITE SAND BEACHES

**Burma, India,
Queensland**

The Class of Thursday
FASHION FROM BAMBOO BLONDE
IN BALI'S HU 'U AND THE JUNCTION

Haseena Mukhi
UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH
THE LADY FROM PATRON

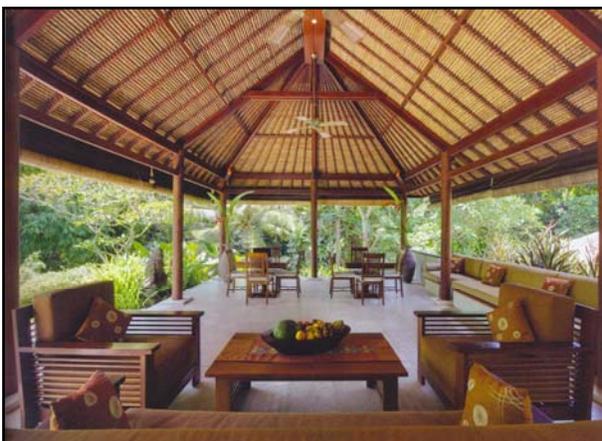
Rp. 48.000
ISSN 1829-827X
771829-927069

BALI VILLA

Text by Samantha Coomber

East meets West

TAKE A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY THROUGH EAST RESIDENCE AND SPA, A GEM OF A FIND AMONGST CANGGU'S CROP OF HOLIDAY RENTAL VILLAS AND RICE FIELDS, AND YOU'LL FIND THIS MAGNIFICENT PROPERTY OFFERS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A HOME AWAY FROM HOME.



Left: The stunning infinity-edge pool features a 45-degree sunken bar and panoramic views.

Above: The open-air lounge pavilion makes the perfect spot for sundowners and barbecues.

get the impression that the New Zealand owners of East Residence and Spa are almost reluctant to put their villa up for private rental. And who can blame them? Completed in 2008, this palatial five-bedroom property sits in two riverside acres, has after all, been the owner's cherished family home on extended Bali sojourns. And it's blatantly obvious, from blueprint conception to present-day realisation, from the smallest fixtures and discreet nooks and crannies to the Zen-infused grounds, that much passion, meticulous attention to detail and personality has been poured into the property.

"This is a home away from home," insists the owner, but frankly, that's an understatement. Entering through carved wood doors with an overhanging *alang alang* roof, faced with a lot-filled water feature and Buddhist statues (and that's just the perimeter), I sense I've entered a private sanctuary with hidden treasures, which certainly stands out from the crowd.

The main building itself presents a solid, western-style architectural design. But through glass doors in the sun-

drenched, open-plan living room, immediately beyond is, a totally unsuspected sight: a 20m infinity-edge pool which seemingly drops away to a riot of riverbank rainforest. Although tucked away in Tambak Bayuh, amongst Canggu's picturesque rice fields, here, you could almost be mistaken for being in Ubud's jungly depths.

More surprises ensue, as I'm led through beautifully manicured gardens – amazingly, once covered with jungle. Lovingly tended daily by three gardeners, these comprise three distinct terraces, with sloping lawns fringed by banana plants and bird of paradise blooms. Down stone steps, across the first of two rivers, we find the delightful Rainforest Cottage, a bedroom annex separate from four en-suite bedrooms in the main villa. Resembling a honeymooner's bolt-hole, complete with tropical-indulgent, outdoor bathroom. I imagine many heated discussions arise about who gets to sleep here. Further down, there's the open-air Balinese lounge pavilion, almost submerged in rainforest foliage, and as I discover later, a wonderfully peaceful spot for Gin and Tonic's as daylight fades. And beside here, quite *surprise* again, a spa pavilion! Exclusive to villa guests, this small spa is

part of the owner's parent company that operates several upscale spas in New Zealand and Australia. Two fully-trained therapists are on standby for traditional therapies: try the Flower Petal Bath in the sensual outdoor stone tub, or ancient reflexology on the River Deck, reclining on vintage leather armchairs – all accompanied by soothing waterfall sounds. Yoga enthusiasts should wait below to the three *balés* (gaboon) cleverly placed alongside a shaded river.

The globe-trotting owners welcome guests with Western comforts and contemporary Balinese interiors of the highest quality. Yet homage to their adopted homes' traditions is omnipresent, from the frangipani flower placed behind my ear on arrival and bathroom amenities stored in traditional Balinese offerings boxes, to tasteful Indonesian artworks and décor. Amongst many examples, antique Sulawesi warrior statues, framed on white-washed walls.

With the owner's flying back to New Zealand, their loss perhaps is our gain. The villa brochure blurb declares, "The Gods come here to rest," but as from now, as more mortals too get the chance to rest, restore and rejuvenate, at East Residence and Spa. **FRV**

www.eastrésidence.com

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YOGA ENTHUSIASTS SHOULD WAIT BELOW TO THE THREE BALÉS CLEVERLY PLACED ALONGSIDE A SHADED RIVER.

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East meets West

Text by Samantha Coomber

Take a journey of discovery through East Residence and Spa, a gem of a find amongst Canggu's crop of holiday rental villas and rice fields, and you'll find this magnificent property offers much more than just a home away from home.

I get the impression that the New Zealand owners of East Residence and Spa are almost reluctant to put their villa up for private rental. And who can blame them? Completed in 2008, this palatial five-bedroom property set in two riverside acres, has after all, been the owner's cherished family home on extended Bali sojourns. And it's blatantly obvious, from blue print conception to present-day realisation, from the smallest fixtures and discreet nooks and crannies to the Zen-infused grounds, that much passion, meticulous attention to detail and personality has been poured into the property.

"This is a home away from home," insists the owner, but frankly, that's an understatement. Entering through carved wood doors with an overhanging *alang alang* roof, faced with a koi-filled water feature and Buddhist statues (and that's just the perimeter!), I sense I've entered a private sanctuary with hidden treasures, which certainly stands out from the crowd.

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With the owner's flying back to New Zealand, their loss perhaps is our gain. The villa brochure blurb declares, "The Gods come here to rest," but as from now, us mere mortals too get the chance to rest, restore and rejuvenate, at East Residence and Spa.