

FRV Travel – Villa Hansa

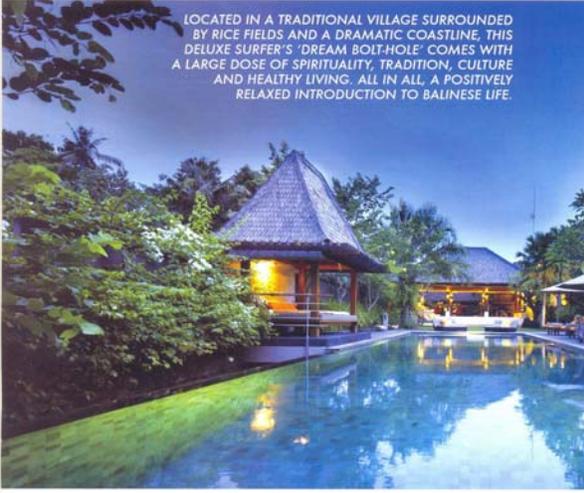
Edition 7.5, Feb – Mar 2011 – Bali Villa Hansa

BALI VILLA HANSA

Villa Hansa: Kindred Spirits

Text by Katie Truman. Photos by Christopher Leggett

LOCATED IN A TRADITIONAL VILLAGE SURROUNDED BY RICE FIELDS AND A DRAMATIC COASTLINE, THIS DELUXE SURFER'S 'DREAM BOLT-HOLE' COMES WITH A LARGE DOSE OF SPIRITUALITY, TRADITION, CULTURE AND HEALTHY LIVING. ALL IN ALL, A POSITIVELY RELAXED INTRODUCTION TO BALINESE LIFE.



FRV Travel

Below: From the pool, the water wall features a view of the main house and the surrounding rice fields.

Right: Lazing around the pool, another view of the villa.




I never did meet the owners of Villa Hansa. However I've already warmed to them as their lifestyle concept appears similar to mine. And I feel I know them well, as this American couple left their personalities stamped all over the gorgeous four-bedroom villa. It even starts with the name, 'Hansa', Goddess of Knowledge.

Luxurious Villa Hansa has all the discerning comforts you'd expect of a top-notch property, ranging from alinky Galdo bathrooms feature in the open-air tropical bathroom, to the striking 18 metre infinity-edge pool, encompassing every garden leading down to a river and renowned rice-field. And as the owners are avid collectors of antique and traditional objects, this contemporary Balinese-designed property is littered with them, carefully sourced over

FRV Travel



Below: A public's view from the pool, behind tropical foliage, one of the divine four bedrooms.

Above: The living room abounds with good taste. Fine antiques and luxurious comforts.

Right: A fully-equipped kitchen and bathroom are just two more facets to this luxury villa.




the years from the Indonesian islands. Rooms, including the semi-open main pavilion with living dining room and kitchen, plus four garages in detached outer wings, reveal anything from Balinese stone stairways and Japanese wood chests to vintage women shoes from Sumatra.

Yes, despite all this, there is a wonderful informality and relaxed calm about the place. Following the villa philosophy that staff are very much part of the family and there to make guests feel relaxed, the local team of six are endearingly friendly, welcoming and thoughtful or one with new arrivals. Everyone ends up part of one big extended Balinese family, perhaps learning how to make traditional offerings, or Indonesian delicacies in the kitchen. Hoping on the casualness, surfing seems a big factor and there's no escaping the beach influence. Every so no surfboards are generously available for guest use and it's perhaps no coincidence that Villa Hansa is consistently one of several excellent surfing beaches strung along south-west Bali's wildly beautiful coast. Pererenan Beach is just a 300 metre stroll through a Balinese village, while legendary surfer's haunt, Echo Beach, is a mere ten minutes in the villa car. Even the guest walkways display shelves stacked with glimmering ivory hair shafts.

Spirituality and wellness, though, is a core element, with practically everywhere offering a few moments' from the swirling sounds of the water wall feature in the living area to continually burning herbal incense, hand-picked to enhance the day's vibe. There's even a stand-alone timbered room dedicated to yoga, supplied with yoga mats and mats, adorned with fluttering Tibetan prayer flags. It is here you'll find the only TV of the house, emphasizing the villa's underlying serene nature. The 2007-built property is based on Balinese Vastu principles, full-time manager, Amara, doubles as the villa's spiritual advisor and each delightful guestroom is named after a Hindu god, such as Brahma and Vishnu. Guests are given a privileged opportunity to participate in full- and new-moon offering ceremonies and blessings, performed at the villa by Hindu priests.

Food prepared in the kitchen is predominantly organic, fresh and locally sourced. Recycling systems have been established here and for the surrounding village, while a trust fund – the Hansa Foundation – has been set-up to help local community children learn about traditional culture and music, and the environment. Villa Hansa is indeed a charming hub of knowledge.

SPIRITUALITY AND WELLNESS IS A CORE ELEMENT. FROM THE SOOTHING SOUNDS OF THE WATER WALL TO CONTINUALLY BURNING HERBAL INCENSE, HAND-PICKED TO ENHANCE THE DAY'S VIBE.

Villa Hansa
www.villahansa.com

FRV Travel

Villa Hansa; *Kindred Spirits*

Text by Katie Truman.

Photos by Christopher Leggett

LOCATED IN A TRADITIONAL VILLAGE SURROUNDED BY RICE FIELDS AND A DRAMATIC COASTLINE, THIS DELUXE SURFER'S 'DREAM BOLT-HOLE' COMES WITH A LARGE DOSE OF SPIRITUALITY, TRADITION, CULTURE AND HEALTHY LIVING. ALL IN ALL, A POSITIVELY RELAXED INTRODUCTION TO BALINESE LIFE.



I never did meet the owners of Villa Hansa. However I've already warmed to them as their lifestyle concept appears similar to mine. And I feel I know them well, as this American couple left their personalities stamped all over this gorgeous four-bedroom villa. It even starts with the name, 'Hansa,' Goddess of Knowledge.

Luxurious Villa Hansa has all the discerning comforts you'd expect of a top-notch property, ranging from sleeky Grohe bathroom fixtures in the open-air tropical bathrooms, to the striking 18 metre infinity edge pool, monopolizing pretty gardens leading down to a river and terraced rice fields. And as the owners are avid collectors of antiques and traditional objects, this contemporary Balinese-designed property is littered with them, carefully sourced over the years from the Indonesian islands. Rooms, including the semi-open main pavilion with living-dining room and kitchen, plus four guestrooms in detached outer wings, reveal anything from Buddhist stone statuettes and Javanese wood chests to vintage woven throws from Sumba.

Yet, despite all this, there is a wonderful informality and relaxed calm about the place. Following the villa philosophy that staff are very much part of the family and there to make guests feel relaxed, the local team often are endearingly friendly, welcoming and thoroughly at ease with new arrivals. Everyone ends up part of one big extended Balinese family, perhaps learning how to make traditional offerings, or Indonesian delicacies in the kitchen. Heaping on the casualness, surfing seems a big factor and there's no escaping the beach influence. Forty or so surfboards are generously available for guest use and it's perhaps no coincidence that Villa Hansa is conveniently near to several excellent surfing beaches strung along south-west Bali's wildly beautiful coast. Pererenan Beach is just a 300 metre stroll through a Balinese village, while legendary surfies' haunt, Echo Beach, is a mere ten

minutes in the villa car. Even the guest washroom displays shelves stacked with glistening ivory horn shells.

Spirituality and wellness, though, is a core element, with practically everywhere offering a 'zen moment': from the soothing sounds of the water wall feature in the living area to continually burning herbal incense, handpicked to enhance the day's vibe. There's even a stand-alone timbered room dedicated to yoga, supplied with yoga mats and outside, adorned with fluttering Tibetan prayer flags. It is here you'll find the only TV of the house, emphasizing the villa's underlying serene nature. The 2007-built property is based on Balinese Vastu principals, full-time manager, Asmara, doubles as the villa's spiritual advisor and each delightful guestroom is named after a Hindu god, such as Brahma and Wisnu. Guests are given a privileged opportunity to participate in full- and new-moon offering ceremonies and blessings, performed at the villa by Hindu priests.

Food prepared in the kitchen is predominately organic, fresh and locally sourced. Recycling systems have been established here and for the surrounding village, while a trust fund — the Hansa Foundation — has been set up to help local community children learn about traditional culture and music, and the environment. Villa Hansa is indeed a charming hub of knowledge.