

A villa to call home

The land of sun-kissed beaches, infinity pools and luxury spas, Bali also offers palatial villas in beautiful, tranquil locales. **Jenny Hewett** peeks into some of the best.





Villa Mana features three spacious master bedrooms (left) and three guest bedrooms

Hang out with hipsters...

VILLA MANA, CANGGU

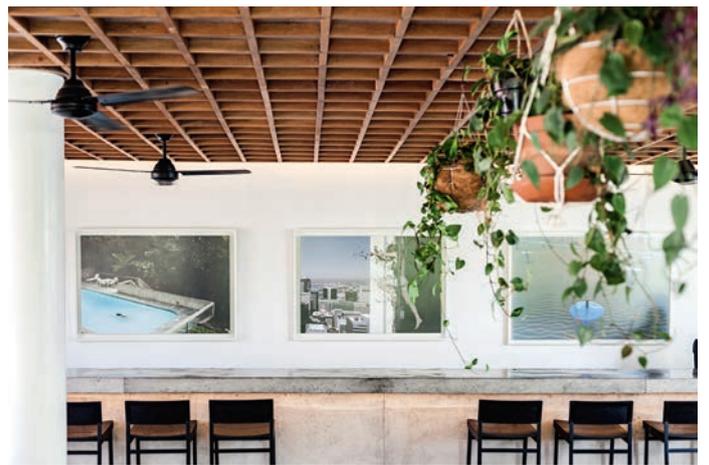
villamana.com

CARVING OUT its own slice of cool in happening Canggu, this design-led villa offers the perfect mix of style and serenity. Textured stone walls, polished concrete floors, soaring ceilings and moody, minimalist interiors speak straight to the fashion pack. But it's Villa Mana's uninterrupted rice-field views, turquoise pool and draping vines that create a tropical sanctuary. Gather for croquet or boules on the lawn or ride a bicycle to nearby Echo Beach. Then meet for a Pisco Sour cocktail on the rooftop terrace at sunset while the chef prepares your Indonesian feast. There's a barbecue for in-villa get-togethers, a home cinema and each of the six bedrooms has

a statement bathtub that is large enough for two.

Set aside some time to explore Canggu, where streets are lined with giant murals, quirky cafés and bars and chic boutiques. Further afield, about 10 minutes' drive from the villa, is Batu Bolong Beach, the heart of Canggu's thriving surf culture. Rent a board and hit the popular Old Man's break.

When it's time for a bite, stroll to The Slow (hotel.qantas.com.au/theslow), accommodation opened by Ksubi co-founder George Gorrow and his wife, Cisco Tschurtschenthaler. Its in-house restaurant, Eat & Drink, does excellent share plates – try the lamb kofta pide with eggplant relish, tabouli and za'atar yoghurt.



The villa's 17-metre, palm-fringed infinity pool (left); Eat & Drink restaurant at The Slow

Seek wellness...

HARTLAND ESTATE, UBUD

hartlandestate.com

THE GO-TO for meditation and yoga is Ubud, with its mainstay of mindfulness. But if you're coming here to find yourself, you'll first need to get lost inside this sprawling eco-chic jungle property. Built in traditional Javanese style, Hartland Estate sits on the slopes of the Sayan Ridge and has five all-natural standalone suites with thatched roofs and reclaimed wood.

The soft rustle of foliage – stretching as far as the eye can see – provides the soundtrack, while a saltwater infinity pool and outdoor decks for yoga and outdoor decks for yoga offer creature comforts. Those who want to centre themselves can do so in the two meditation gazebos. Staff are on hand to cook (the chef harvests from an organic vegetable garden), book an AcroYoga session or organise a guided tour of medicinal plants.

The villa is a seven-minute drive from the centre of Ubud, Bali's holistic and cultural hub, where there are many ways to feel Zen. Start by immersing yourself in the landscape; Ubud's hypnotic mix of palms, forest and rice fields is its trump card. Then enjoy locally grown produce among the rice paddies at raw-food eatery Sari Organik (off Jalan Subak Sok Wayah), followed by a relaxing chakra treatment amid the lotus ponds of the nearby Sacred River Spa at the Four Seasons Resort Bali at Sayan (hotel.qantas.com.au/sayan).



Eco-chic Hartland Estate (left); The Sacred River Spa at Four Seasons Resort Bali at Sayan can help balance your chakras (below)



Flight path

DPS

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Find seclusion...

VILLA LATITUDE, ULUWATU

latitudebali.com

THERE'S LITTLE else you need to do to relax than watch the sun go down at this hideaway on the Bukit Peninsula. But the stunning sunset over the Indian Ocean – best viewed from the infinity pool – is only one of the charms of this six-bedroom abode (left). Perched on a cliff above the barrelling Uluwatu surf break, Villa Latitude features modern furnishings and floor-to-ceiling windows. There's a butler on call 24 hours a day, a personal chef and a chauffeur-driven car so you won't need to lift a finger.

Secluded though it may be, this luxurious pad is also well equipped for a party; an entertainment pavilion, two outdoor Jacuzzis and a karaoke lounge amp up festivities. But if low-key is more your groove, just kick back and watch the antics of the turtles, dugongs, manta rays and migrating pilot whales in the waters below.

While many five-star resorts now populate the coastline here, Uluwatu is first and foremost a gateway to one of the best waves on the Bukit. Swimming is not advised but watching the pros paddle out from a cave near the famed Uluwatu Temple can be addictive. Up the stairs from the beach, the cliff-side Delpi Waroeng has cheap Bintang beers and the best surf-watching seats in the house.

If you want to turn up the luxe factor, head to Karma Beach Bali (karmagroup.com/karma-beach), a secluded James Bond-style escape at the foot of the limestone cliffs. Arrive via inclinator, snack on fresh fish and Mediterranean-inspired dishes or doze off mid-massage at the seaside Karma Spa tent.

Villa Lulito is 800 square metres of luxe living space (right and below); Miami-inspired Mrs Sippy Bali (bottom)



Enjoy good food and wine...
VILLA LULITO,
PETITENGET/SEMINYAK

villalulito.com

MOMENTS FROM Seminyak's hippest dining strips of Jalan Petitenget and Jalan Kayu Aya, Villa Lulito is a crisp, Colonial-style hideaway. Dressed in white with window shutters and Caribbean-inspired décor, this stylish two-storey holiday home dazzles in daylight, as do the Insta-worthy pool and bright outdoor living spaces.

Fit for a group or family, it sleeps eight and is equipped with pool toys, games and a children's room decked out with bunk beds. There are a number of ways to spend the day. Sleep off a food coma on one of the poolside sun lounges, day beds or wicker chairs. Order in a massage and ask the chef to whip up bacon and eggs and Bloody Marys. Or just crank up cocktail hour with the Bose sound system.

Villa Lulito is within walking distance of some of the best



tables in town, including popular sunset spot Ku De Ta (kudeta.com) and the upmarket eateries on Jalan Petitenget.

Start your gourmet excursion early at Mrs Sippy Bali (mrssippybali.com). Located off Jalan Petitenget, this Sydney export has turned into a tropical pool club with a dive tower, top-shelf cocktails and a small but well-honed menu. Grab yourself the crab salad and four-cheese pizza.

Next up? The new place on everyone's lips, Bikini (ulookhotinbikini.com), where every detail – from slick matte-black cutlery to gleaming marble tables – feels fresh. The Miami-inspired spot is breaking new ground in Bali, mastering affordable Michelin-quality food with a theatrical edge. Tuck into the foie gras "cigars" with bread and butter ash or the suckling pig with caramelised pear and cherry vinegar.

Christopher Leggett



Go shopping...

VILLA TJITRAP, SEMINYAK

villatjitrapp.com

WHETHER YOU'RE in the market for homewares or fashion, Seminyak offers shopping on every corner and this six-bedroom Hollywood-esque villa should provide more than enough space to stash your purchases.

Spread over two levels, Villa Tjitrapp's design is inspired by the Colonial-Javanese plantation houses of the 19th century but contemporary Balinese artworks, modern wooden furniture and vibrant textiles keep this grand property relevant. The villa comes with five staff – including a chef and a butler – and is surrounded

by lush manicured lawns and coconut palms.

A 15-minute walk from Seminyak's main shopping strips – including Jalan Raya Kerobokan, Jalan Kayu Aya and Jalan Raya Seminyak – and a short drive to Jalan Petitenget, this oasis is a quiet retreat in one of Bali's commercial hives. Its poolside lounge area with sun-drenched deck (below) is the perfect place to unwind after a day of retail therapy.

Home to world-class dining, excellent shopping and swanky beachfront bars, Seminyak is a playground where you can make a sport of splashing cash. Start at the corner of Jalan Drupadi and Jalan Kayu Aya and walk towards the beach until you find interiors boutique Saya Gallery (sayagallery.com), which stocks a covetable range

of homewares and accessories – upcycled furniture made of salvaged wood from old boats and colourful embroidered handbags. The Bali Boat Shed (baliboatshed.com), on Jalan Laksamana, stocks reasonably priced fashion-forward beachwear.

Round off the shopping spree with a seafood lunch just down the road at beachfront Italian La Lucciola. Not only is it a Bali icon, the restaurant also boasts one of the most spectacular settings in Seminyak.



Island hopping

JUST A 30-minute boat ride off Bali's south-east coast, the small island of Nusa Lembongan is famed for its dramatic limestone cliffs, manta-ray encounters, snorkelling and surf breaks with names like Shipwrecks and Lacerations. It's also family-friendly and has excellent holiday homes to choose from.



VILLA VOYAGE

villavoyagebali.com

Bang on the beachfront at Sandy Bay, this safari-inspired five-bedroom villa is all white and natural timber with large outdoor areas for lounging. Close to Devils Tears, where waves violently lash the cliffs, creating a thunderous roar, Voyage has a pimped-up outrigger for daytrips, replete with Emilio Pucci cushions and chef-prepared gourmet picnics.

VILLA TANJUNG

tanjungbali.com

This luxury oceanfront villa is perched on a private headland between Mushroom and Tamarind bays. The curved design of the infinity pool and living pavilion echoes the natural shape of the peninsula, while the beautiful gardens are the work of the late Made Wijaya, an Australian who became one of Bali's most respected landscape architects.

VILLA NUSA

balivillanusa.com

Take in the views of Bali's sacred Mount Agung across the Badung Strait from this hillside oasis near Jungut Batu. A 10-minute stroll from the restaurants and bars on Jungut Batu Beach, the three-bedroom villa features an infinity pool, outdoor showers and baths and a second-floor open-air mezzanine ideal for watching the kaleidoscopic sunsets. ●



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