

GARUDA – INDAH MANIS

Edition March 2007

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TRAVEL NOTES

Villa Views

By Ron Jefferson

The ranks of Bali's ever-expanding choice of luxury villas has recently been joined by the stunning property Villa Indah Manis. Perched on the high slopes of Bali's Bukit, the rocky peninsula to the south of the island, Villa Indah Manis, managed by BHM, takes the luxury villa retreat experience to a new level. And a very high level it is too. With panoramic views of pretty much the entire island on a clear day, this has to be one of the best villa vistas in Asia. Add the emerald hued infinity pool which jets out dramatically into the great beyond

and palatial villa surrounds and you've got something very special indeed.

Those looking for a retreat in the true sense of the word will find solace in the fact that the Villa Indah Manis complex is surrounded by rocky forest, down a randscript bumpy road in the middle of nowhere - if you want remote, you've got it. The only sound punctuating the surrounding jungle is the patter of rain and an evening frog chorus, with the ever-flowing trickle of water from the villa's series of ponds and pools providing a relaxing background.

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TRAVEL NOTES

In response to the villa's somewhat out-in-the-sticks location, Villa Indah Manis offers a list of facilities that would keep even the hyper-active bung. Spread over the sizeable property, there's a gymnasium, a spa, a good table, a darts board and an air-conditioned DVD theatre, with a specially carved boules pitch adding a touch of Gallic flair.

Due to the villa's size - there are five bedrooms, including a secluded fully enclosed honeymoon villa - the property can either be rented as a whole or can operate like a small boutique hotel. The modern Balinese exterior houses an interior inspired by Buddhist Indochina, with Sumeru and Khmer flavours and fabrics adding colour to the guestrooms and public areas. Buddha heads, sculptures in bronze and silver and stone carvings lend an ethereal serenity to the surroundings with

rattan, bamboo and teak furnishings adding a natural rustic charm. As is the standard in similar five-star establishments, guestrooms are well-equipped with TVs and DVD players, mini safes, hair driers and individually controlled air-conditioning. Each follows a unique theme and colour scheme - the Ibac hued Cambodia room is enlivened by a scarlet hallway, where a large ornate Buddha sits in meditative pose. The oversized four-poster beds are supremely comfortable, draped romantically in swathes of intricately designed mosquito netting.

For those looking for something a little more intimate, the self-contained Honeymoon Villa is a delight. Sporting a private pool, with incredible views over forest down to the coast, set in a gorgeous secret walled garden, it's perfectly poised for romantic escapes.

The villa experience is nothing unless there's good service and at Villa Indah Manis they're off to a flying start. Despite being open for less than a month, there is already a quiet confident professionalism amongst the staff, which, once the inevitable teething problems have subsided, should guarantee guests are very well looked after.

As there are no restaurants within walking distance, the villa comes with a fully staffed kitchen facility and the menu includes a choice of standard affordable Indonesian and Western fare and an excellent barbecue menu catering towards larger groups - the main lounge area and bar is a perfect location for holding private gatherings or cocktail parties.

Villa Indah Manis is an ideal retreat for those looking to be well away from the main tourist areas of Bali. A short drive from some of the island's best beaches, including Dramaland, Padang Padang and Balangan, and minutes from the atmospheric temple at Ubud, it's well-placed for a relaxed peaceful holiday surrounded by natural beauty.

For more information, contact BHM, tel: +62 361 730 668, ytll@balihomes.com, www.BHMillas.com

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VILLA VIEWS

By Ron Jefferson

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Those looking for a retreat in the true sense of the word will find solace in the fact that the Villa Indah Manis complex is surrounded by rocky forest, down a nondescript bumpy road in the middle of nowhere – if you want remote, you've got it. The only sound punctuating the surrounding jungle is the twitter of bird and an evening frog chorus, with the ever-flowing trickle of water from the villa series of ponds and pools providing a relaxing background.

In response to the villa's somewhat out—in—the—sticks location, Villa Indah Manis offers a list of facilities that would keep even the hyper-active busy. Spread over the sizeable property, there's a gymnasium, a spa, a pool table, a darts board and an air—conditioned DVD theatre, with a specially carved *boules* pitch adding a touch of Gallic flair.

Due to the villa's size — there are five bedrooms, including a secluded fully enclosed honeymoon villa — the property can either be rented as a whole or can operate like a small boutique hotel. The modern Balinese exterior houses an interior inspired by Buddhist Indochina, with Siamese and Khmer flavours and fabrics adding colour to the guestrooms and public areas. Buddha heads, sculptures in bronze and silver and stone carvings lend an ethereal serenity to the surroundings with rattan, bamboo and teak furnishings adding a natural rustic charm. As is the standard in similar five-star establishments, guestrooms are well-equipped with TVs and DVD players, mini safes, hair driers and individually controlled air-conditioning. Each follows a unique theme and

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