

VILLA & YACHT – THE ARSANA ESTATE

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Go With The Flow

by Thomas Jones

It's a joy to drive out of the chaos of any city and watch the dominance of concrete and white noise give way to green fields and birdsong. Travelling through stands of tropical fruit trees, crossing deep river gorges and sailing through a sea of glimmering rice padi, all thoughts of the busy West are gone: packed up and left at the door preparing you for tranquil relaxation. This is just the feeling created on the lazy one-hour drive from the airport to The Arsana, a luxury riverside dwelling masterly designed to be either a peaceful retreat or an exquisite entertainment venue.

The Arsana is set on two-and-a-half hectares of land on the banks of the forested Sungai River in Tabanan regency of Bali. Palm trees and lush green gardens and lawns surround the villa as the river passes lazily by giving the villa its name: Arsana - Sanskrit for "flow".

From the reception The Arsana gives away nothing of what lies within, and in that lies its charm. A simple pathway leads from the gate down to a traditional Balinese wamitan entrance pavilion; it is here that the full grandeur of The Arsana unfolds. Before you is a wide flight of white batu yurga stone steps flanked by fountains and terracotta walls sweeping down to the main entrance hall of the large U-shaped, open plan main pavilion, which incorporates dining and living rooms, a fully stocked bar area, air-conditioned TV and billiard rooms, a sun deck and a designer kitchen.



All too often in Bali, villas are decked out to be totally open plan and this design ignores the need to have at least one communal room in the dwelling where one can close the doors, turn down the heat, and retreat from the humidity and mosquitoes. The Arsana gets it just right in this respect with its air-conditioned TV room. A 39" flat-screen TV dominates the back wall leaving no question as to the room's function. Surround sound is standard as are the surrounding comforts of couches, cushions and beanbags.

Bold use of primary reds, blues, greens, yellows and whites by interior designers Cempaka works brilliantly to separate the areas into their distinct roles. The large living area has a teakwood floor and is furnished with a comfortable rich red sofa. Separated by a wide sun deck, the dining room opposite has an impressive twelve-seater, glass-topped table with lush royal blue cushioned seats. Both look down over the pool to the rice-lined river below. The kitchen is a clean silver and white delight of white terrazzo stone and chrome, while adjacent to the dining area is an outside breakfast pergola with a dining table of natural wood surrounded by tropical plants and flowers to guide you through your mornings with a touch of nature.

The four bedroom pavilions are equally attired in strong colours and each is set on the hillside adjacent to the main building with stunning views of the river and the grounds. The master pavilion has a king-size bed, rooms



two and three are queen-size, while the last is a twin. All the rooms are air-conditioned with ensuite bathrooms and all comfortably furnished with a single bold colour theme.

Coming downstairs, a frangipani lined fountain cascades into the India stone clad pool. The gentle turbulence of the cascading

water and the remarkable colouring of the stone makes the pool shimmer with eddies like a clear mountain stream. Two cushioned massage areas and an outside bar and riverside pavilion complete the ensemble.

Not to leave any resource untapped, The Arsana has taken the rich alluvial soil on the site to create an organic garden, which supplies the residence with its own fresh papaya, bananas, eggplants, tomatoes, chillies and herbs which is made good use of in the kitchen.

Isolated The Arsana may appear but it is only ten minutes from Nirwana Golf Course and the mystical Tanah Lot, Bali's most revered sea temple. Ubud and Seminyak are only 40 minutes in either direction, and are both close enough to be far enough away. This is the Bali like it should be imagined, a place to get away from it all.

* For contact information please refer to Property Search



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www.ArsanaVillaEstate.com