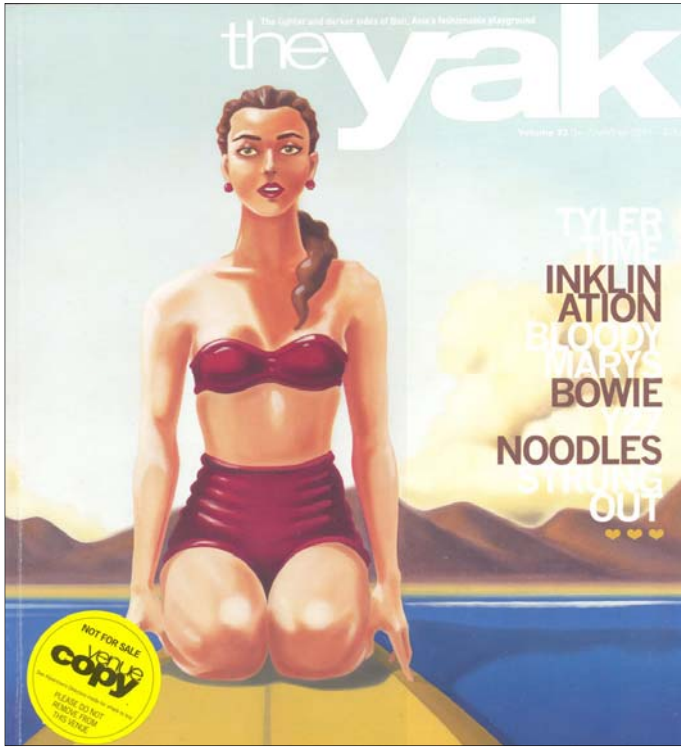


THE YAK – KUBU & LATALIANA VILLAS

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VERTING IN A VILLA

SMART MOVES

KATIE TRUMAN ABSORBS A TRIO OF BALI'S NEW BOUTIQUE RESORTS AND VILLAS...

SEMAHA RESORT AND SPA
 RUSSELL shoulders with Jean Pettinger's other notable residences, Semaha Resort and Spa has blossomed as fast as its landscaped gardens since opening May 2011.

Australian/Balinese owned and managed, casual yet stylish, Bar permeates throughout this deluxe boutique resort – a popular choice for predominantly Australian guests. Although relatively small-scale, there are a surprising number of things packed in here, yet they're spread out enough to lend an overall sense of spaciousness.

Reflecting the tropical setting, nature plays a key part in resort design: a broad stone path dissecting the grounds is flanked by lush coconut palms – wild leafy vegetation and calming water wall features.

Nearly 58 spacious rooms and suites come designed in a chic contemporary Balinese style – light and airy with optimum use of natural woods, glass and stone, leading out to generous open verandas.

Two-friendly smart bathrooms feature bespoke all-natural bathroom amenities with bio systems installed for recycling water to the gardens.

Rooms must-haves include 42-inch flat screen TV's, international power sockets and laptop-sized safety deposit box – an excellent lateral thought.

Although a quick stagger outside brings you to a boulevard of world-class restaurants and distractions, this boutique really offers several discrete distractions of its own like the Astem Restaurant Bar, a cavernous contemporary space with vertical wall gardens and glass-encased wall of fine wines. The culinary focus here is modern Australian.

Concealing guests to wellness and healthy living, Semaha provides a kick gym, early morning lap-pool training sessions, yoga and meditation hosted in a charming, timbered garden pavilion.

Semaha Spa promotes affordable spa luxury within its 10 treatment suites, including a hair salon and a dedicated Thai massage space. Several of the rooms have ceiling fans only – avoiding Siberianque aircon blasts. Exclusive spa products are by Australian Miranda Ken with her totally organic, Kona range (try the organic face wash).

Semaha is just the biz for families – kid friendly without forsaking good taste. The 44 superior suites are especially family-orientated, all featuring interconnecting doors, allowing the mum to relax their own space without the worry of not being able to supervise them. Sofa beds help accommodate two adults and two kids in one room (plus there are plenty of available cots). With generously-sized daybeds, outdoor furniture, and overhead ceiling fans, the verandas present an additional space for family downtime.

Nearby, sprawling Georges Pool Bar and Restaurant offers another playground, with a 25-metre pool surrounded by a timbered deck and plenty of shade and single sun loungers, large pool and extensive covered daybed section.

The vast dining terrace is a rigour for relaxed dining on family, with freshly baked, wood-fired oven pizzas, chilled wines and even more chilled cocktails – an ideal gathering point at sunset. If that's not enough, Pettinger beach is just a 150-metre stroll away.

Semaha's trump card is arguably Cubby House: Kids Club, the largest and best equipped of its kind on the island. This fun playroom covers a whopping 364-square-metres, providing premium equipment, imaginative activities and highly trained staff for the most discerning mini customers. Age appropriate activities include Mac internet stations, two movie theatres and Play Station 3 with hair mazes and, coming soon, playpools, leaving parents free to pursue their own pre-activities.

Loaded-up breakfasts are not overlooked either: deluxe suites are designed for romance, complete with king-sized canopied beds and indoor dining setting.

Already fine-tuning for 2012, Semaha at all-new The Deck is a hip seven-story deck space for lounge bar, dining, club, and live entertainment.

The Atmos is undergoing its own rip and back – introducing a more stripped back bar approach, with value-for-money cocktails and new menus.

All in all, Semaha Resort and Spa manages to accommodate everyone's needs in a suitably exotic way.

Room rates from US\$199.
 Semaha Resort and Spa, Jean Pettinger, Seminyak, Tel: 0361 847 6661 • www.semaharesort.com

VILLA KUBU AND VILLA LATALIANA
 BACK in 1999, when – impossible to imagine now – Seminyak was still a rice field domain, Australian, Dwyer Mylton and architect Ross Flaxton designed and created one lovely villa. Then another and another. And over the course of 12 years, expanding to a total of 15 one, two and three-bedroom villas, resulting in Villa Kubu of today.

Unlike other villa complexes, each villa here is not only different, but reflects the identity ever-changing tastes and trends – from traditional antique Balinese to lavish Mediterranean. Almost off the radar down a labyrinth of laneways, Villa Kubu provides a very private sanctuary far removed from yet within instant access to central Seminyak.

Katie Trueman is home from home and that's exactly what you feel, tucked up at any of the 15 villas, an organic touch point of private residences in a vast walled compound. No coincidence Kubu was built with long-term living in mind. Designed behind high limestone walls, vines, privacy is further upheld by a charming three flag signpost for call, stationed at each wooden entrance gate.

Beautifully tended gardens are Kubu's defining factor. Ms Mylton spent years studying the island's tropical vegetation – which, these days, garden reflects the owner's love of Balinese botanicals and



displays a distinct Balinese style, with elements like teak poles, weathered staircases and rock gardens, and modern palms and exotic blooms like ginger flowers. And of course, an ample sized pool with thatched roof.

Heavy breakfast cooked to order by personal butlers in fully-equipped kitchens, luxurious living and beds with feather pillows, high threadcount sheets and comfy slippers are just some of the home comforts provided. Kubu's relaxed living style, with fabulous open-air dining and lounge areas, and in-vip dining service, positively encourage private entertaining – villa also supply fully loaded iPods, i-pods, flat screen TV's, DVD players and DVD library. Larger groups can book the palatial three-bedroom villa, or limited side-by-side villas. Committed to wellness and the environment, room service fare is sourced from Bali's organic farms, while villa maintain all natural cleaning products and recycle bin systems. While the private focus dictates no communal facilities per se, there is however Spa Venus, with its exclusive detox programmes, holistic therapies and metaphysical treatments.

After deciding to create something different on a grander scale, Ms Mylton et al have totally surpassed themselves with their jaw-dropping Villa Lata Liana, debuting August 2011. This exclusive two-bedroom and five-bedroom villa is one of Seminyak's shining new stars. Located in a quiet residential area, a frog, skip and jump from Seminyak Beach and Gado Gado restaurant, it's a minor miracle they found any land left in Seminyak. With land so scarce, villa design – come designed 'stacked' yet yet boutique Villa Lata Liana bucks the trend on a truly grandiose scale – an exceptional property decidedly sprawled across a well-treed hillside plot.

Managed by Villa Kubu and sharing its concept, five-star standards and Spa Venus, Villa Lata Liana totally redefines villa as a stylishly modern take on Balinese architecture. The magnificent five-bedroom villa features several pavilions encircling a large freiform pool – recently illuminated at night-time. All five chic guestrooms – including a colonial inspired Master Bedroom with private garden – are carefully tailored for optimum privacy.

Seeking modern tropical architecture contrasts with some unique traditional features, such as antique water features and custom-made furnishings, recycled from the century-old timbers of an Indonesian schooner. Placid wooden gazebos are in fact a vintage joglo and rustic, thatched great pavil' Things get up-in-date with dazzling chandeliers made from amber capiz shells, furry feathered floor lamps, high-tech appliances and uber-stylish bathrooms leading out to serene outdoor rain showers.

The smaller-scale, yet no less interesting two-bedroom villa features contemporary architecture inspired by Indonesian vernacular design, including a lumbung-style dwelling, making a fun but luxurious holiday home for families. Again, this features a lovely pool and landscaped gardens. Villa can also be booked together – providing a palatial seven-bedroom option and given the five-bedroom villa's health-entertaining spaces, facilities including a Yamaha electric piano and swing catering kitchen, Lata Liana is tailor-made for serious entertaining and outdoor events – anything from wedding receptions and dinner parties to product launches and fashion shows.

Rates from: US\$345 + Villa Kubu, US\$975 + (Villa Lata Liana).
 Villa Kubu and Spa Venus, Jean Ross Pettinger, Villa Lata Liana, Jean Pettinger, Seminyak, Tel: 0361 238625 • www.latalianavillas.com

MACA VILLAS AND SPA SEMINYAK
 IT's another fabulous new addition to Pettinger, MACA Villas and Spa Seminyak, opened in August 2011.

This gem of a boutique villa and extensive cleverly balances Balinese aesthetics and contemporary international design with a stylish yet homely ambience and competent, friendly staff.

Stream along a stone pathway edged with lush foliage and towering walls, the 25 one and two-bedroom pool villas reveal contemporary, understated interiors that are instantly comfortable – warm woods contrast with splashes of turquoise with furnishings. Surrounded by glass sliding doors, rooms are airy and sun-drenched. The open-plan living room kitchen and bedroom lie right beside the pool and deck, almost as if the pool is an interior element: push back the glass doors and you can sit out of bed, literally, straight in for a wake-up call with a difference.

Perfect.

Deluxe villas also feature a floating table with daybed over the pool – an indulgent spot for chilling or utilising the complimentary iPod (if you've brought your laptop). Bonus: MACA's Pool. Spacious spa inspired bathrooms come with stand-alone

bathtubs, walk-in shower (used for two), but most importantly, a wall-mounted TV screen for essential bath-time viewing (you'll never get out). Along with 24-hour personal butler service, villa provide iPod docking station, LCD flat screen TV and digital entertainment system with music and movies.

Although the complex is small and quite compact, high walls between villas ensure maximum privacy.

MACA also features a 20-metre communal lap pool, complete with rock waterfall and sundock, plus small spa facility. A totally unexpected find however is MACA's kitchen and bar, a gourmet fine-diner with French-inspired cuisine and headed up by the newly-ennobled French chef, plus a passionately committed German general manager with long experience in F and B. This glass-encased, poolside restaurant takes on subtle moods from sun-in daytime to formal dinner ambience of candle light and starched white tablecloths. Yummy breakfast options include lemon ricotta pancakes with rosemary bacon, or peranakan topped aguragus with fried egg and parlay croissants and fresh, home-baked breads. Dinner is a open highlights gastro-cuisine: French delights, anything from Caviar Stuvia Montage, and Coffin Bay Australian system to encrust wild halibut with fresh taragon and imported fresh French cherries. All beautifully executed and presented, washed down with a carefully selected line of wines, cocktails and then exceptional coffee. MACA's adjoining, casual deck space at the front, opposite Coffee Bar, is one of Pettinger's new must try treats – a Singapore brand micro coffee, and Bali's first that roasts on-site highest quality, organic coffees from around the world – especially exotic, micro-lot and single origin beans. Superior lattes and cappuccinos come expertly served by Singapore-trained baristas. But you'll find your own personal stash of specialty coffee beans in the villa kitchen.

Down the same laneway housing illustrious neighbours such as Villa Lumbung and Villa La Ball, the neighbourhood still feels refreshingly like a traditional Balinese village, yet a shortish stroll for a ride on complimentary motorboat takes you to Pettinger Beach and all those other local hotspots you may however find it hard to entice yourself from this urban villa sanctuary for the senses.

One bedroom pool villa from US\$475 +
 MACA Villas and Spa Seminyak, Jean Ross Pettinger, Tel: 0361 238 0000 • www.macavillas.com

SMART MOVES

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BACK in 1999, when — impossible to imagine now — Seminyak was still a rice-field domain, Australian Dee Mytton and architect Ross Franklin designed and created one lovely villa. Then another, and another. And over the course of 12 years, expanding to a total of 15 one, two and three-bedroom villas, resulting in Villa Kubu of today.

Unlike other villa complexes, each villa here is not only different, but reflects the island's ever-changing tastes and trends — from traditional antique Balinese to lavish Mediterranean. Almost off-the-radar down a labyrinth of laneways, Villa Kubu provides a very private sanctuary far removed from, yet within instant access to, central Seminyak.

'Kubu' translates as 'home from home' and that's exactly what you feel, holed-up at any of the 15 villas, an organic hotch-potch of private residences in a vast walled compound. No coincidence Kubu was built with long-term living in mind. Enconced behind high limestone walls, utmost privacy is further upheld by a charming three-flag signal system for staff, stationed at each wooden entrance gate.

Beautifully tended gardens are Kubu's defining factor: Ms Mytton spent years studying the island's tropical vegetation — which shows. Each garden reflects the owner's love of Balinese botanicals and displays a distinct Balinese style, with elements like lotus ponds, weathered statuettes and rock gardens, and mature palms and exotic blooms like ginger flowers. And of course, an ample-sized pool with thatched roof bale.

Hearty breakfasts cooked to order by personal butlers in fully-equipped kitchens, luxurious king-size beds with feather pillows, high threadcount sheets and comfy daybeds are just some of the home comforts provided. Kubu's relaxed living style, with fabulous open-air dining and lounging areas, and in-room dining service, positively encourage private entertaining — villas also supply fully loaded iPods loaded, flat-screen TVs, DVD players and DVD library. Larger groups can book the palatial three-bedroom villas, or limited side-by-side villas. Committed to wellness and the environment, room service fare is sourced from Bali's organic farms, while villas maintain all-natural cleaning products and recycle bin systems. While the private focus dictates no communal facilities per se, there is however Spa Venus, with its excellent detox programmes, holistic therapies and metaphysical treatments.

After deciding to create "something different on a grander scale," Ms Mytton et al have totally surpassed themselves with their jaw-dropping Villa Lataliana, debuting August 2011. This exclusive two-bedroom and five bedroom villa is one of Seminyak's shining new stars. Located in a quiet residential area, a hop, skip and jump from Seminyak Beach and Gado Gado restaurant, it's a minor miracle they found any land left in Seminyak. With land so scarce, villas tend to come designed 'stacked-up,' yet boutique Villa Lataliana bucks the trend on a truly grandiose scale — an exceptional property decadently sprawled across a vast tree-studded plot.

Managed by Villa Kubu and sharing its concept, five-star standards and Spa Venus, Lataliana's totally separate villas are a stylishly modern take on Balinese architecture. The magnificent five-bedroom villa features several pavilions encircling a large freeform pool — stunningly illuminated at nighttime. All five chic guestrooms — including a colonial-inspired Master Bedroom with private garden — are carefully spaced for optimum privacy.

Striking modern tropical architecture contrasts with some unique traditional features, such as antique water features and custom-made furnishings, recycled from the century-old timbers of an Indonesian schooner. Poolside wooden gazebos are in fact a vintage joglo and rustic, thatched goat pen! Things get up-to-date with dazzling chandeliers made from amber capiz seashells, funky feathered floor lamps, high-tech appliances and uber-stylish bathrooms leading out to sensuous outdoor rain showers.

The smaller-scale, yet no less intoxicating two-bedroom villa features contemporary architecture inspired by Indonesian vernacular design, including a lumbung-style dwelling, making a fun but luxurious hidey-hole for families. Again, this features a lovely pool and landscaped gardens. Villas can also be booked together — providing a palatial seven-bedroom option and given the five-bedroom villa's lavish entertaining spaces, facilities (including a Yamaha electric piano) and swish catering kitchen, Lataliana is tailor-made for serious entertaining and outside events — anything from wedding receptions and dinner parties to product launches and fashion shows.