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Bali's home living & décor magazine

bali style

...because Bali feels like home

INSTANT KARMA

SAVVY VILLA STYLE AT JIMBARAN'S KARMA RESORT

COCONUT CHIC

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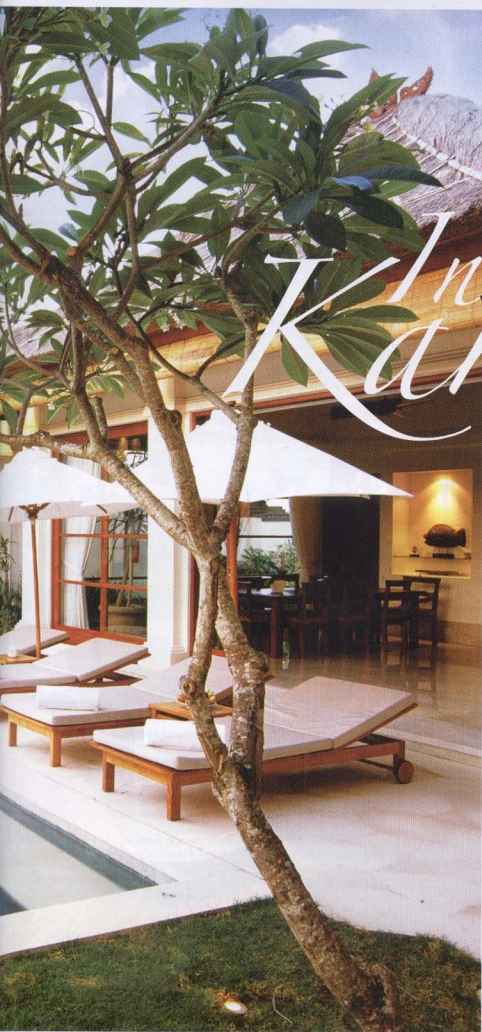
High on Sayan

RIDGE-SIDE SEATS AT SPECTACULAR VILLA KIRANA

PLUS: ESSENTIAL BALI STYLE - WANTILAN LAMA, A SANUR ORIGINAL

Poolside at one of Karma's stunning one-bedroom villas.





Instant Karma

Elegant, savvy and coolly understated **Karma Resort**, a member of the elite *Leading Small Hotels of the World* group, combines **Bali Style** with the best of **modern design** and **technology** to create one of the most *impressive* villa resorts on the island.

Text and photography by Adam Fenton with Photography courtesy of Karma Resort Jimbaran

This page: Candles by the pool for shimmering, romantic style.

Opposite page: Living room of a three-bedroom villa, functional and stylishly furnished.
Ground-floor double bedroom of a three-bedroom villa with blissful outdoor shower.





KARMA RESORT'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS SEEMS quite simple: take the best elements of Balinese design and combine them with the best that modern technology and home living design can provide and *voilà*, you have one of the most livable, understated, yet coolly elegant villa developments on the island of Bali. You may know Karma by its previous name, *The Royal Jimbaran*. Situated at the foot of the Four Seasons road (at the southern end of the beach as the road begins its ascent), Karma's entrance beckons to you, with a smart detached reception area for check-in, before you even go past the constantly-staffed security boom gate. As the Royal Jimbaran, the resort was then, and still is, a member of the elite 'Leading Small Hotels of the World' group. That's quite a billing to live up to and Karma does it with style.

Karma is the kind of villa resort that you walk in to and instantly think "mmm...this is exactly how I want my place to be..."

The *de rigueur* Balinese touches, like the *alang alang* roofing, gateway entrances, and *palmanan* stone outdoor tiling, are combined with smart modern touches that make life all that more livable. For example, the villa's main functional space which combines living room with dining room and kitchen, situated adjacent to the generously proportioned swimming pool, is enclosed and air conditioned. Many of Bali's

appliances are all modern and amply suited – like the marble-topped island bench in the kitchen, the gigantic SMEG brushed stainless steel fridge, the wireless always-on broadband internet connection, the Sony Trinitron flatscreen TV complete with Pioneer surround sound system with a small army of wall-mounted speakers. Other smart touches abound, like the small fact that all of the light switches have dimmers. Everything has been carefully planned and designed to give you maximum comfort and convenience. The enormous three bedroom villa which *Bali Style* sampled was a joy to explore. The living area features an ensuite outdoor guest bathroom, and adjoining the kitchen is a spacious pantry complete with washing machine. Head outside through

tropical villas opt for the strictly traditional option of the open *wantilan* design, which is a sort of quintessential element of Bali style, and on first glance looks fantastic. The drawbacks however, are that many times you find yourself craving the indoor-ness of a house, where you can cocoon yourself with the luxuries of a/c, curl up on the sofa, watch a video, and simply shut out the mosquitoes.

The fixtures and appliances are all modern and amply suited – like the marble-topped island bench in the kitchen, the gigantic SMEG brushed stainless steel fridge, the wireless always-on broadband internet connection,

expansive glass sliding door where shady, blossoming frangipani trees and lazy deck chairs flank the swimming pool, and the bedrooms are bordered by a lotus pond with stepping stones creating a path across.

On the ground floor is the second double bedroom, with outdoor shower and separate storage room (another livable touch), and a twin bed-room for the kids, with chunky teak furniture and study desk.

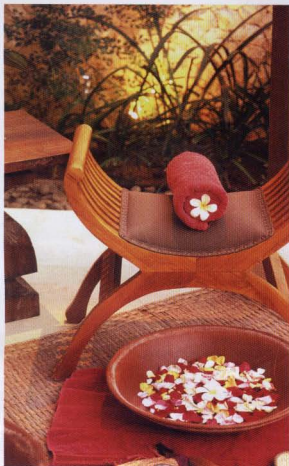
On the upstairs level the master bedroom occupies the entire floor consisting of a double bedroom (the four-poster bed romantically swathed in muslin cloth) with privileged ocean views. An antechamber acts as a changing room and conduit to the double bathroom. But there's also a fantastic touch here with a sliding library ladder that leads up to a Peter Pan loft room with a panoramic view of the bay and just enough room to make a compact study – simply delightful. The master bathroom contains

a luxuriously sized oval bath tub, and full floor to ceiling marble, and double basins, so you won't get in each other's way.

The praise doesn't stop at the interior design though. Service is obviously a priority with the management team, which boasts several former members of the exclusive Aman group. The wireless broadband internet connection that is

part of the villa's amenities proved just a bit too much for technology challenged me when trying to get connected. As a seasoned hand at trying to deal with technical obstacles in Indonesia, I dreaded the

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"Headed by experienced New York chef Raymond Saja, the restaurant recently won an award from a local tourism magazine for being one of the best restaurants on the island in the international category..."



the prospect of calling reception or some other department for helping to deal with the broken English, the well-intentioned blundering – but that's a whole other story. In this case I was delightfully surprised to be connected with a well-spoken young chap who instantly analysed the problem and gave me a simple solution in smart professional English. Impressive. So I was able to download the latest version of Macintosh Quicktime, while I wrote this article – very cool.

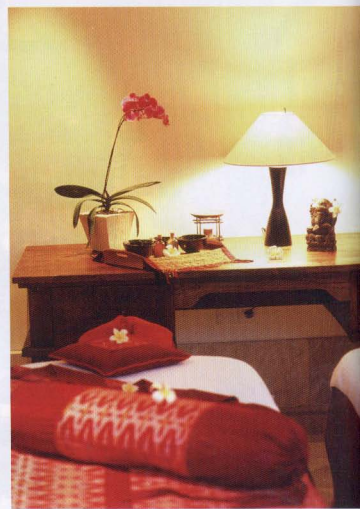
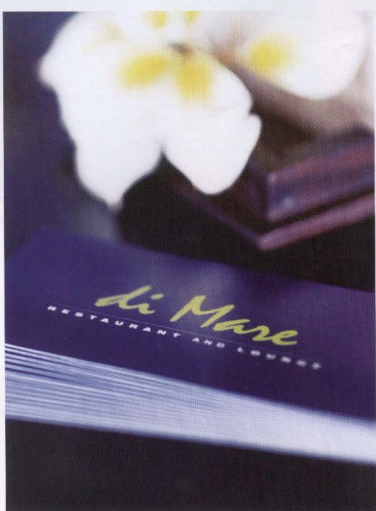
Not content to be just one of the best villa developments on the island though, Karma went ahead and set up what is one the best stand-alone restaurants, *Di Mare*. Headed by experienced New York chef Raymond Saja, the restaurant recently won an award from a local tourism magazine for being one of the best restaurants on the island in the international category.

With a thoroughly refined pool-side ambience, *Di Mare* blends chic

A night photograph of a three-bedroom villa. The building features a prominent thatched roof and a wooden frame structure. A balcony with a wooden railing and a staircase is visible on the left. The scene is illuminated by warm, yellow lights, creating a cozy atmosphere. In the foreground, there are lush green plants. The background shows a dark sky and some trees.

This page: Night view of a three-bedroom villa – lotus ponds create a tranquil atmosphere.

Opposite page: Stressed? Perhaps a massage and spa treatment would help. Funky, colour in Karma's award-winning restaurant, Di Mare, with the buddha head mural; Lounge with all modern amenities; Sea views from the second-storey master bedroom.





This page: Fresh local seafood, delicious; Haute cuisine from the kitchen of chef Raymond, Villa living room; Orchids; Main swimming pool adjacent to Di Mara. *Opposite page:* Ticket to dine; Lounge room; Spa treatment room; Living and dining areas adjoin the pool - true tropical style!



pool – now that’s what we call Bali style – living the dream...

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elegance with modern funk, especially with its multi-coloured Warhol-esque Buddha head mural dominating one wall. As we dined on artfully presented haute cuisine, like the herb-crusted Australian lamb loin accompanied by an excellent Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc from Raymond’s carefully stocked cellar – an elaborate floating flower decoration of heliconias drifted lazily across the shimmering surface of the candle-rimmed swimming

