

FRV TRAVEL – VILLA SURYA DAMAI

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BALIVILLA



HOME SWEET HOME

UNOBSTRUCTED RICE FIELD VIEWS? CHECK. SPACIOUS FAMILY-FRIENDLY RESIDENCE? CHECK. SERENE BOLT-HOLE, BUT NOT FAR FROM SEMINYAK? CHECK. DISCERNING TASTES, YET CASUAL? CHECK.

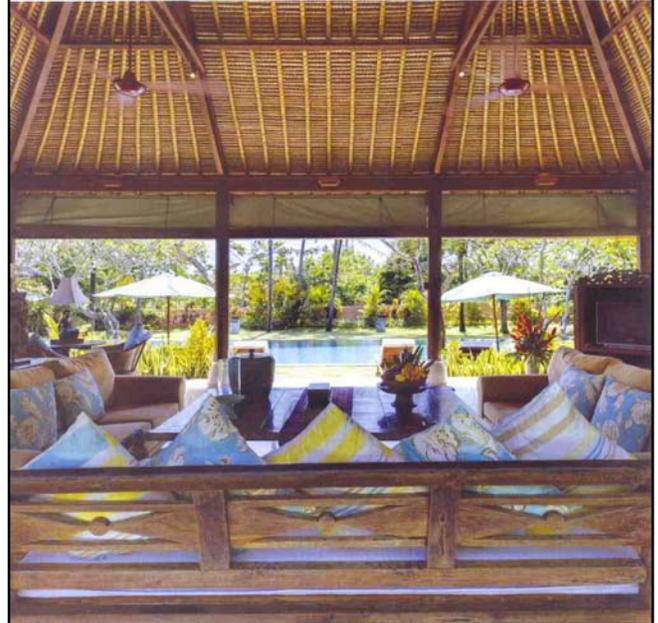
VILLA SURYA DAMAI TICKS ALL THE BOXES AND PROMISES A WONDERFUL, PERHAPS TOO GOOD, INTRODUCTION TO BALI VILLA LIVING.

Text by Katie Truman
Photos by Christopher Leggett

Above: Surya Damaï may be unobstructed but guests can still relax in style.

Right: The detached living pavilion for chilling-out in the height of summer.

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IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT, LIKE THE STAFF LEAVING OFFERINGS FOR THE GODS IN THE EARLY MORNING AT SMALL HINDU TEMPLES DOTTED AROUND THE GROUNDS.



Like into the evening, I could hear suppressed giggles and chatter from about the back of the kitchen. Their shifts long ended, some of the villa staff were still hanging out together, obviously not ready to head home yet. It later dawned on me that this is probably because the team here feel like one big happy family and after working several years together, enjoy one another's company, and as their workplace feels so delightfully relaxed and homely, it's very hard to leave. I could say the same myself about Villa Surya Damaï, an affordably charming five-bedroom rental property, which seems to get everything right and makes guests feel rather too much at home.

A family-oriented hideaway, Surya Damaï's key ingredient is that it's essentially a much-loved private family residence. Through an unassuming entrance of narrow wooden doors, it's like entering a home from home (as that's what it has been for years), where engagingly friendly staff – nurtured by a surprisingly savvy and informative villa manager – welcome with smiles and informal hospitality.

You'll certainly get your Balinese with you here. Within a 2,750sqm of tropical riverside gardens, the 2002-built property comprises several solid, along-along thatched pavilions, with the overall design resembling

a traditional Balinese compound, albeit with modern touches. Beyond a broad unobstructed bank of rice fields – promising to remain that way, given this is an extension of the property – merges into a picturesque semi-rural landscape. As a family home, genuine Balinese touches come with less of the excessive, and restrictive, antiques collection and more of the little things, such as staff leaving offerings for the gods in the early morning at small Hindu temples dotted around the grounds. Modern creature comforts are adequate enough without overbuilding with hi-tech gadgetry, or interfering with your hard-earned serenity.

Standards, however, are not compromised, and understated island simplicity comes with premium furnishings and classic colonial-style elegance: note the four-poster canopied beds, Persian rugs, smoked rattan wicker furniture and tennis court. Above all, Surya Damaï is perfect for holidays en famille, with a continual ebb and flow of relaxing and socializing together, before finding your own private spot of seclusion. Even for a large group, the latter need is amply provided for here. Spaced well apart on kid-friendly, sponge lawns, accommodation pavilions offer generous-sized, timbered verandas, sitting areas and open-air garden bathrooms for indulgent 'me-time'.

© FRV Travel



Left: The master bedroom, colonial elegance and tropical island comfort.

Far left and above: The master veranda, and the terracing, some of the best dominated gardens.

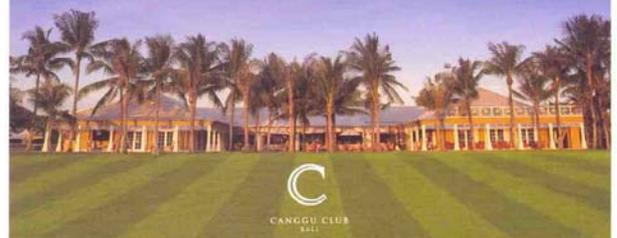
Deep in self-styled Umalas, in up-and-coming Kerobokan, the villa is a short leap from the black volcanic sands of Bali's southwest coast beaches. It's also only a few minutes drive from Penangas and Seminyak, where Bali's finest dining, shopping and nightlife bars are to be found. But with all that on your doorstep it's still hard to get going. But the often river frontage, shaded by palm fronds and coconut trees, timeless farming life in swirling communities is peacefully played out – and clearly visible – from within to us.

This is a remarkably tranquil spot, where days blithely blur from each other. With the afternoon fading light stretching across the 18m lap pool, dusk is a particularly lovely time for a refreshing dip, sit a sunlounger with views from the plantation-style, first-floor veranda. Before you know it, the gardens become magically illuminated with fire lanterns dramatically lit along the leaves. Then the chef suggests freshly caught, succulent seafood for dinner and served outside under close, starry skies. Now, is it any wonder we all don't want to leave? ☺

www.suryadamaï.com

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Shogroup

Home Sweet Home

Unobstructed rice field views? Check. Spacious family-friendly residence? Check. Serene bolt-hole, but not far from Seminyak? Check. Discerning tastes, yet casual? Check.

Villa Surya Damai ticks all the boxes and promises a wonderful, perhaps too good, introduction to Bali villa living.

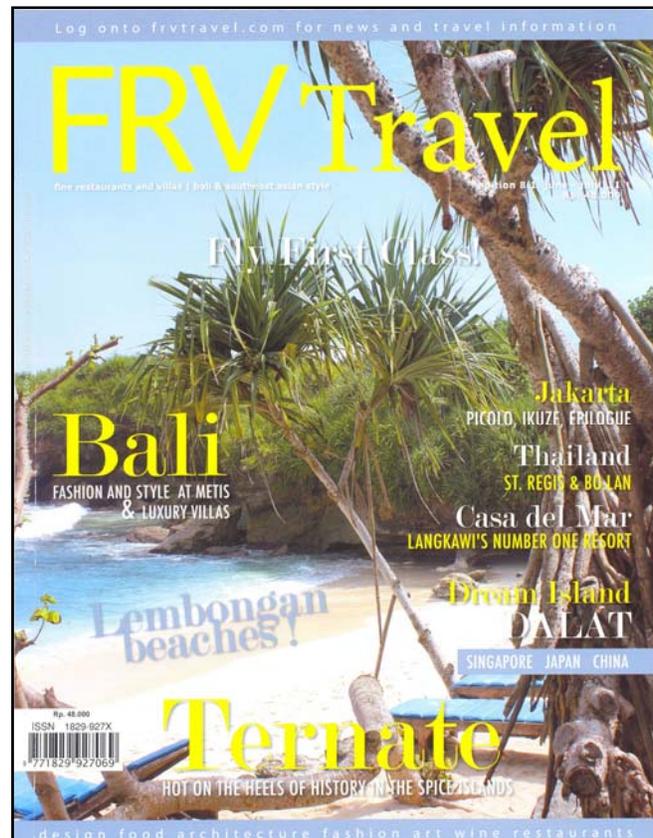
Text by Katie Truman

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Late into the evening, I could hear suppressed giggles and chatter from out the back of the kitchen. Their shifts long ended, some of the villa staff were still hanging out together, obviously not ready to head home yet. It later dawned on me that this is probably because the team here feel like one big happy family and after working several years together, enjoy one another's company, and as their workplace feels so delightfully relaxed and homely, it's very hard to leave. I could say the same myself about Villa Surya Damai, an effortlessly charming five-bedroom rental property, which seems to get everything right and makes guests feel rather too much at home.

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You'll certainly get your Balinese wish list here. Within 2,750sqm of tropical riverside gardens, the 2002-built property comprises several solid, along-alang thatched pavilions, with the overall design resembling a traditional Balinese compound, albeit with modern interiors. Beyond, a board unobstructed bank of rice fields — promising to remain that way, given this is an extension of the property — merges into a picturesque semi-rural landscape. As a family home,



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Deep in still-traditional Umalas, in up-and-coming Kerobokan, the villa is a short hop from the black volcanic sands of Bali's southwest coast beaches. It's also only a few minutes drive from Petitenget and Seminyak, where Bali's finest cutting-edge restaurants and stylish bars are to be found. But with all that on your doorstep it's still hard to get going. Past the 60m river frontage, shaded by palm fronds and coconut trees, timeless farming life in outlying communities is peacefully played out — and clearly visible — from sunrise to sunset.

This is a remarkably tranquil spot, where days blissfully blur into each other. With the afternoon's fading light stretching across the 18m lap pool, dusk is a particularly lovely time for a refreshing dip, or a sundowner with views from the plantation-style, first-floor veranda. Before you know it, the gardens become magically illuminated with fire beacons dramatically lit along the lawns. Then the chef suggests freshly caught, succulent seafood for dinner and served outside under clear, starry skies. Now, is it any wonder we all don't want to leave?

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