

The lighter and darker sides of Bali, Asia's fashionable playground

the yak

VOLUME 41 | DIRT/JANUARY 2014



SAUSAN
JEREMY
TRONS
FRIENDS OF
WAYAN
REVOLUTION
AUDREY
DREAMTIME
AQUABUMPS
LANDBOYS
MUA MUA

ISSN 2089-838X



9 772089 838102

IDR80,000; S\$11; HK\$50; A\$10; €5

MAYA UBUD RESORT AND SPA

Known for its stunning clifftop setting, Maya Ubud Resort and Spa is offering a lavish authentic, asian-rich cuisine, featuring the finest array of food. Tuna sashimi *sambal* match with lime-chili ice is a new dish that takes full advantage of Asian spices and seasonal produce. Fresh sashimi-grade tuna slices are marinated in a delicious and authentic Balinese *salsa* of lemongrass, kaffir lime leaf and shallot, served with a lime-chilli granite. Asian food lovers will love this marriage of Japanese and Balinese flavours. With a menu that consists of Indonesian, Thai, Indian, and Japanese cuisine, including a teppanyaki grill, executive Chef Katherine Townsend lets the flavors speak for themselves at Maya.

Tel: 0361-977888

Bud Map. K17

www.mayaubud.com



SMUGGLERS COVE

The newest addition to the Scallywags Group of accommodation in the Gilis is Smugglers Cove on Gili Air – just a two-minute walk to the harbour. Twelve private air conditioned double rooms, with balconies, maxi bars, and shared pool, are a 10-minutes walk from the best swimming and relaxing beach on the island. Scallywags Smugglers Hideaway is situated in a great place to chill out. Check out the views and spend the day.

Tel: 62370 6145301 (Scallywag)/0370-620201 (Smugglers)

www.scalleywagsresort.com

LIVE LIFE FOR L HOTEL

L Hotel and Resorts is a 30-room boutique property that has become the meeting spot for international and local designers and trendy urbanites and fashionistas from around the globe. The hotel's mantra of "Live Life" is personified at their rooftop bar, Luna, where you can enjoy gourmet European canapés and light bites of wonderful tandoor from their own oven made by Mama L, and produced in the open kitchen. People are in the know gravitate here where the house DJ plays music that lets the conversation flow without the doof-doof of joints down the road. Overlooking rice paddies and a sea views, this breezy, beautiful rooftop is one of the best places to catch a sunset in Bali. Luna Roof Bar's consulting mixologist, Dr. Cocktail, makes amazing concoctions with all natural ingredients and Luna also features three unique private dining areas, each with its own identity and style: Kitano (Japanese Teppanyaki), Labu, which seats 12 in a room highlighted by decorative Balinese ornaments, and 1908, an uber-chic room that intimately seats 6-8 people.

Tel: 8947898

Yak Map. Q.3

www.thelhotels.com



BALQUISSÉ LIVING

Famed Moroccan Bali-based interior designer Zhora Boukhari has taken her treasure trove of homewares, furnishings, fab fabrics and curios and antiques under one huge 1300 metre roof to make shopping for your villa a one-stop-shop. Known for her discerning and opulent eye, Boukhari's designs are always cozy, sometimes industrial, sometimes *boudoir* and very sensual. Her collection includes Hishem Furniture which is both outdoor synthetic rattan, and vintage wooden furniture that includes classic French designs. Stunning soft furnishings are from the ZB Design collection, and the Shahinaz Collection offers a large array of fabrics in linens, velvets, silks and cottons ... plain or with motifs all handpicked by Boukhari.

Tel: 8476833/737073

Yak Map. W.7

www.balquisseliving.com

OLD MAN'S

Sean Cosgrove of Petitenget fame (and formerly Cornerstore), has opened up a super groovy barefoot beach bar called Old Man's that looks out on the most popular long board breaks in Batu Bolong beach, Canggu. Perfect for super relaxed brekky, lunch and dinners, often with live music and impromptu jam sessions, Old Man's is kid friendly with plenty of room to roam. Old Man's encapsulates what Bali's all about ... chillin!

Tel: 8469158, 8469159



ZOHRA

PERSONALITY PLUS – ZOHRA BOUKARI IS A FIREBALL OF ENTHUSIASM AND PASSION WITH NO HOLDS BARRED . . . BY SALVADOR BALI. PHOTO BY SPENCER HANSEN

THE green light is on.

Zohra Boukari, married with Blair Samoy, two daughters. I'm Moroccan, born in Belgium I've lived in Bali now for 18 years.

Do you have a schooling background in interior design?

I went to a normal school with no education in interior designing – my knowledge is all self taught. I've always loved beautiful decorations, beautiful homes. When I was 16 and lived in Europe I loved to go to antique markets . . . I would buy things that needed work, or that were unfinished, and then I would finish them by myself.

So it has been a passion?

Yes. If you don't do this kind of job with passion, you can't do it. It's a lot of work . . . concentration, sometimes frustration, and it's a long road. If you follow a project all the way, the result is the most beautiful thing you can imagine.

You travel through Indonesia?

Yes. Indonesia has been colonised by various cultures, so if you travel to Java, for instance, you can still find a lot of European heritage. Then there's the Arabic influence. If you put Indonesian, European and Arabic together under the same label then you can find something very nice.

Do you have a specific style as an interior designer?

I have my own style, I think. I try to follow a little bit of my clients' whims but most of my clients come to me because they like my style.

Let's define what that is . . .

Oh wow. I hate perfection, I hate minimalism, I love everything that has a life to it. I like to give my projects an antique feel.

Basically you deal with warm feelings – Art Nouveau, modern or abstract?

I don't like abstract or modern. I like opulence. This is the way you share your life – you share your personality, and people feel very welcome.

I presume you decorated Bistro Restaurant . . .

Oh yes, it's ours.

I've loved that place since the day it opened.

We did everything . . . furniture, decoration, the works.

Did you come to Bali with the idea of opening an interior design business?

No, not at all, I was very scared. When we were heading to Asia, I thought, what am I going to do? There's only plastic over there! I'm also from a big family, and I knew I would miss that. But the time came to accept and just find our way, find the philosophy, the mentality of Balinese people.

So where did the idea come from . . . I mean in those days

there wasn't much happening?

Not much at all. When we started we rented a house in Jimbaran, and at that time we didn't even know where Jimbaran was. We liked the atmosphere of the place though. I started renovating a little bit, and then started looking for furniture, but it was expensive at that time in comparison to Europe. Then the (financial) crisis hit, and the prices became really interesting, so I started decorating the whole house – Villa Balquise. We had two rooms and thought, why don't we rent one room, then another and another. In the end we finished with a boutique hotel. And then people wanted me to do their houses – I was really surprised, I never imagined someday I would be happy decorating a restaurant or a hotel – so that's how we started. Then we created The Shaba and that's when it really took off.

When did you open your company in an official sense?

Eight years ago – with my first client in Bali, DaLa Spa. In the end they won the Best Spa in Asia award. That was really good for me . . . nice.

Do you work only in Bali?

We have many projects in Jakarta, Surabaya, a project in Paris, another in China. I have a lot of proposals overseas but I don't want to do too much – I still have my daughter with me, I want to take care of her, I think we have enough to do here. I'm a business woman definitely, but not the kind of woman who will sacrifice her life for business.

What is your philosophy?

Love, enjoy, understand, be kind. I think you can do a lot with that. ☑

w.zohra.bz

