

VILLA & YACHT

middle east ■ europe

A woman with dark hair, wearing a vibrant red sequined halter-neck dress with a large ruffled shoulder detail, is the central figure. She is smiling and looking upwards, holding a martini glass in her left hand and a handgun in her right. The background is a dimly lit interior with a globe on a table to the left and red upholstered chairs to the right.

*Anyone for
Cluedo?*
Eco Indonesia
Earthrace



VAJRA JACUZZI & POOL VIEW

Through the Keyhole

Villa Vajra & Villa Sati

By Jen Oliveira

High in the Bali heartland, nestled on the banks of the Oss River north of Ubud, lies a haven of tranquility and peace, called Villa Vajra. As though it were folded into the hillside, this surprisingly spacious accommodation appears to sit lightly on the land. Join us as we go through the keyhole into the villa entrance, shaded by a majestic stand of bamboo and tropical foliage, which takes us towards Villa Sati - the new addition to the property.



VILLA SATI PATIO VIEW

Sleeping one couple, this newly built and luxuriously designed villa with an alang alang roof, glass walls and modern western kitchen, also features a black terrazzo shower and bathroom with uninterrupted views over the endless rice fields which surround the property. The magnificent views can also be enjoyed from the upstairs study that can double up as a bedroom for two. A water feature running into the pool provides the soothing background with which to relax and enjoy the swaying sawah views.

The main bedroom and bathroom of the villa are housed separately on the other side of the pool from the kitchen and study, decorated in a modern Asian style complete with photography taken by the owners hanging over the inviting, luxurious double bath. This completely private section of the villa complex lies on the other side of the sawah from the main part of Vajra. Located 300 metres above sea level in the foothills of the central mountain range, the walkway takes you across the sawah and allows you to see the undisturbed views of the paddy fields across the hilly rainforests towards Bedugul and Bratan.

The villa itself is composed of several thatched pavilions joined by stepping stones across the lotus pond, filled with Koi. A pergola covered by hanging *Thunbergia* flowers takes you towards the first two areas of accommodation: the Sawah Room and the Master Bedroom all on the upper levels of the property, each with its spacious



VAJRA MASTER BATHROOM



VAJRA LIVING ROOM



MASSAGE AREA

black terrazzo bathrooms, complete with tubs and set into their own gardens. The rooms are equipped with double beds, individually controlled air conditioning units and powerful ceiling fans, telephone and safety deposit boxes and distinguished by its furnishings, antiques, contemporary art objects and unique view.

Also at this level is the very enticing library, nestled high up into the alang alang roof with an expansive view over the cathedral-like living room, with its marble floor, aviary and steep river view. The library area doubles up to sleep two very comfortably. Also found here is the entertainment centre offering a growing library, games, music, satellite television and DVD movies. On the terrace, at this elevation, is a cosy and discreet massage area with a refreshing outdoor shower and indoor toilet. A dining table could be set up here away from the heart of the villa for a quiet breakfast or tea.

Following the stairs made of Palimanan stone down towards the sound of the rushing water, the pool and Jacuzzi lies next to the kitchen and dining area of the villa, where delicious meals are served by the well trained staff. Appreciate the spacious roof, serenading frog song along with the accompaniment of ritual music from the village temples and constant murmur of the river. Each of the trees have been thoughtfully built around and this is maybe one of the first things you notice at this level apart from the proximity to nature and undisturbed privacy. The third bedroom, also with its double bed and black terrazzo bathroom set in its own garden, boasts a walk in dressing room which shows off

the talents of architect Guy Morgan, with his attention to detail, revealing secret views across the sawah and magical pockets of the garden.

The last level closest to the river, underneath the living area, houses the gym and a large traditional open-sided pavilion or 'balé'. Surrounded by Peace lilies, Pagoda flowers, Gardenia and Jasmine, as well as the many orchids, it is perfect for meditation, yoga or just appreciating the surrounding nature. It is here where you can perfectly capture the stillness of Vajra – the symbol of wisdom in Tibetan Buddhism, cutting through ignorance with its ultimate goal of compassion and equanimity, almost best seen in the villa's relation to the land. The owners' careful directive to enjoy nature in its least disturbed state has brought panoramic permaculture gardens and sensitive landscaping to balance out any man-made heaviness that comes into view.

In spite of its intimate privacy, Vajra is conveniently located amongst the surrounding villages, all of which specialise in one of the native arts of traditional or contemporary painting, wood or stone carving, silver making, batik or furniture making. It's a one hour drive to the airport and a forty minute drive to the beach, from its panoramic location hidden amongst the tiny villages and river valleys, north of Ubud.

For more information and reservations online, visit www.VillaVajra.com. Vajra Villas are managed by BHM (www.BHMVillas.com) T: +62 (361) 730-668 E: info@balihomes.com