

SUMMER 2017

BUSINESS AVIATION MAGAZINE

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X2 KOH SAMUI

SATISFY THE SOUL AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

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The Thai island of Koh Samui is well known for the bustling resorts of Chaweng and Lammai where restaurants, bars, shops and hotels compete for custom. However, head south and life becomes more tranquil. Traffic thins out and several high-end hotels are dotted around the coastline. The most distinctive of which is the X2 Koh Samui Resort.

Spreading over five acres of water front land the property boasts just 26 villa suites of which 21 have private pools. The styling is surprisingly urban. Clean lines and the intelligent use of natural local materials including wood and bamboo, blend with polished grey concrete and a thoughtful range of neutral tones, to deliver an unusual contemporary city design, but on the shores of the Gulf of Thailand.

An expansive wooden boardwalk, peppered with palm trees, leads from the open-air reception which features contemporary marble and wood architecture, to the 4K (pronounced Fork) restaurant and bar. This heavenly location is where meals, cocktails and snacks can be relished throughout the day. The restaurant layout provides two clear areas, which like the reception are open air, creating a spacious, airy and enticing venue.

The modern design theme continues with a polished, black stone bar extending over fifteen meters along one wall with a wild variety of cocktail ingredients displayed on up-lit shelves carved into the wall. The drinks menu mixes traditional cocktails with X2 specials featuring a locally brewed sugar cane rum served in chilled coconuts that can be sipped straight from the husk. An extensive wine list offers something



to accompany every style of dish. Private barbeques under the stars, Thai cooking classes, or special set menus are all available for guests.

Diners are encouraged to relax and soak up the tropical atmosphere, reclining on generously sized Thai-style sofas whilst welcoming the fresh sea breeze which gives respite from the stifling heat. Looking out over the azure lagoon, guests will find themselves hypnotised by the waves lapping at the shore, breakers rolling over the reef and the unbelievable beauty of the coastline. As the heat recedes through the mid-afternoon, the shore welcomes a hive of local activity. Traditional Thai long-boats “putt-putt” past as they set out for the evening catch; crab fishermen paddle in the receding tide rhythmically clicking stones in their hands to attract the crustacean. They are no match for the crab catching Sandpiper which, with its oversized feet and amazing speed, picks up its afternoon snack every day on the dot of three.

The 4K menu is as diverse as the vista, offering traditional Thai dishes such as Pad Thai noodles, and Mussaman curry, but with a contemporary twist. These spicy plates are complemented by traditional western options including lamb, steak and fish plates which seem somewhat tame in comparison. The servers are friendly and helpful, yet remain unobtrusive, leaving the impression you are merely staying at your own private beach estate.

If the sea lacks appeal the capacious swimming pool, the deepest in Koh Samui, invites sun worshippers to cool off in

its refreshing waters. A raised lounge area to one side of the pool resides over the gardens with sumptuous day beds and loungers to laze around on; whilst at the shore’s edge bean bags, and sunbeds provide further dozing options. The overall effect is to induce an intoxicating atmosphere of pure idleness.

Uniquely X2 Koh Samui is the only property on the island to offer guests unlimited spa treatments throughout their stay. The X2 spa is nestled in a far corner of the resort providing a cool oasis from the burning day. Continuing the urban-by-the-sea styling grey slate walls are punctuated with teak cabinets containing an array of oils, incense, lotions and potions from X2. Floor-to-ceiling windows look out to a garden where pairs of brightly painted butterflies flit between the leaves of the lush vegetation and colourful birds swoop between the trees. It certainly fits with the X2 ethos of blending luxury with nature. In dedicated treatment rooms, tiny Thai therapists ply massages with incomprehensible strength ridding the body of stresses and strains using a combination of techniques, herbal poultices and various body parts; thumbs, elbows, knees, fists, hands; to deliver soothing tension relieving sessions.

Accommodation is provided in Bauhaus inspired individual villas, each with its own private garden, protected from the outside world by a foliage drenched wall. The pool villas offer a seating “box” recessed into the wall with sumptuous mattresses and triangular Thai-style cushions which are amazingly supportive. Around the pool the verdant garden incorporates sunbeds, dining area, and a pebbled garden with outside shower. The neutral tones of the open plan interior create an elegant space that wouldn’t look out of place in the heart of a New York designer-boutique hotel. The bedroom area features a high cathedral ceiling and wall- to-wall windows, with one wall providing dark wood cabinets for storage. The centre piece is a ridiculously comfortable platform bed with views out to the pool.

A sliding wooden doorway leads through to a vast grey polished concrete bathroom incorporating shower, bath, sink, wardrobe, and glassed off toilet area. Overall the impression is one of subtle and fully achieved design, incorporating nature with urban functionality, yet the whole remains inviting, relaxing and somehow sexy. Once you’ve unpacked there is no need to leave at any point as food, drink and massages, can all be provided en-suite.

X2 has set out to blend contemporary luxury with nature, space and privacy, and in X2 Koh Samui they have certainly achieved luxury by design. The result satisfies the mind, body, spirit and soul at the very highest of levels. [BAM](#)

