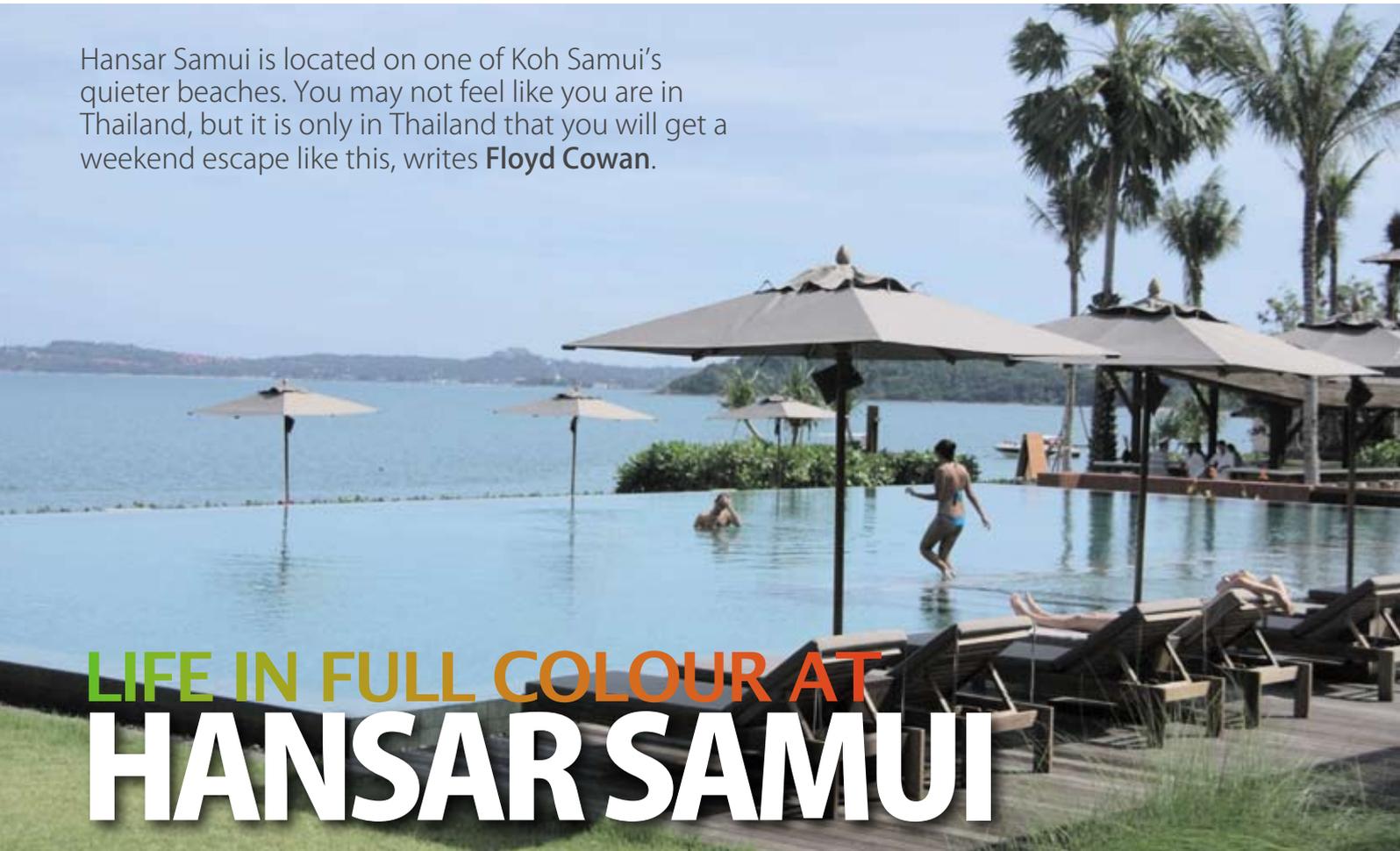


Hansar Samui is located on one of Koh Samui's quieter beaches. You may not feel like you are in Thailand, but it is only in Thailand that you will get a weekend escape like this, writes **Floyd Cowan**.



# LIFE IN FULL COLOUR AT HANSAR SAMUI

**HOT OIL, LIKE** liquid honey, like the notes of cool fusion jazz, like old scotch whiskey, hits the base of my spine, where pain and pleasure gather, and like a tropic night, with stars etched in to a peerless sky, with burnt orange 'good fortune' lanterns taking wishes and dreams into the heavens, it melts away all the effort and stress of the days before I arrived at Hansar Samui. The spa sessions are carefully designed to meet individual needs.

### FULL OF COLOUR

During a relaxing dinner on the terrace of H Bistro with the Hansar Samui General Manager Indra Budiman we were served course after course of succulent dishes. The night provided the ambience that those outside the tropics search for as if it were a world heritage treasure. Which it certainly is.

Indra tells me that the name Hansar is from ancient Sanskrit and means "happiness" and "joy". "The concept and philosophy of Hansar Samui," he says, "is to deliver an experience to each guest that is happy, memorable and enjoyable. It is about living life in full colour and finding joy in every moment."

I've had the pleasure of meeting and dining with many General Managers of resorts and they are no longer like the hotel managers of a

Graham Greene novel, – cold and aloof, who ask you how you are and then disappear into mystery and intrigue. Today's GM is so often like Indra. They are often people who have come up through the ranks, who have done many, if not all of the jobs in a resort, they have been transferred – willingly – from location to location and gathered a wealth of experience and friends. They are great to have a conversation with.

Menu highlights at H Bistro include fresh Maine lobster and oysters flown from Canada, Japan, and France, complemented by a carefully chosen list of wines and champagnes from the best regions in the world. Every morsel lights up the taste buds in unexpected ways.

### CHILLING IN THE TROPICS

I did what I seldom do. I lay on the wide

comfortable 'bed' on the balcony that overlooks the infinity pool that merges with the sea, merges azure blue with aquamarine blue, with sky blue, and the breeze from the sea runs its fingers over my face, through my hair, and I am back in Luxsa Spa with the gentle Ying removing stress and putting energy back into my essence.

She places her hands over my face – my eyes closed – open for a moment because I thought she was touching me, but she wasn't. I could feel the energy from her fingers, like a midtone, like the colour of the reddish powder in the tray set before me before I began the treatment – her energy seeping deep beneath the skin, where the mind resides. Awakening the mind while relieving the stress.

### ABSORBING THE UNIVERSE

Coral coloured coarse sand, the slanting beach and sea mingle and mingling people merge in and out of the waters and stand and look at the horizon and journey out where sun and islands and waves and light make the nature of the universe.

I lay on the balcony and the breeze comes off that sea, comes beneath and through the sky blue and all the effort and all the time it took me to get here is erased.

Breakfast is a special time when on



Executive Chef,  
Stephen Jean Dion



holiday, waking slowly. Hansar Samui makes it easy easing into the day. Coffee comes quickly. Juice is refilled, and you order your main dishes. Supit the Manager of Hansar Samui introduces himself and chats with me for awhile and talks with everyone in the room – the guests and the staff. He has a generous personality, so similar to Indra.

He says hello to Kelvin Hui and his wife Bee Yen who are from Singapore and enjoying a holiday before they move to Hong Kong. “We are going to miss this place,” says Kelvin. “It is too good to be true.”

It is true, but I bristle when another Singaporean couple say briskly to the waitress, “I want to speak to the manager.” I’m expecting them to complain about something

### ENGAGING SERVICE

Supit attends and finds that the group of four has been on a fishing trip and they have been keeping a fish in the mini-bar fridge in their room. They would like to move it to a real fridge and have it for dinner. Of course Supit agrees, and takes the fish which is in a plastic bag, and holds it up. “You know this is the last of its kind in the sea,” he smiles. “You’ve caught the last one!”

They laugh, once again enjoying the memory of the fishing excursion, enjoying Supit’s sense of humour. They’ve enjoyed the depths of the sea as I’ve enjoyed the infinity of the sky.

Unobstructed sea views are enjoyed from every room at Hansar Samui. Supersize private balconies and oversize daybeds for outdoor living and entertaining is where I often read and snooze. The rooms have an open plan yet are intimate, and have been artfully finished with teak floors, terrazzo bathrooms and local textiles to provide a sense of place. Chic custom furnishings, large flat screen TVs balance the design’s natural touches with a modern flair.



GM Indra Budiman

Ying has not yet caught the last one, the last knot of tension in me, but I turn over and oil slips on my forehead, trickles, soothes, brings dreams and what she is doing and where I am are like intersecting beams of honey yellow, rainforest green, liquid amber.

### FISHERMAN’S VILLAGE

There are places to go. Hansar is located at Fisherman’s Village, which once was a real fisherman’s village. A short stroll down the cobblestone street gets you to what is now an energetic place which the entire family can enjoy. Great places for lunch and a beer while looking at the sea. There are the shops offering local art, local tattoos and there are a few massage parlours and spas. It’s a comfortable area with not a lot of vehicle traffic and you won’t be fretting about where the kids are.

Hansar Samui is situated just 10 minutes from the international airport, on the up-market Bophut Bay, which provides a front seat to island life. Sunset cocktails and canapés are best enjoyed at the elevated Chill Lounge – overlooking the golden sands and turquoise waters. The chic and trendy Chill Lounge showcases a carefully handpicked wine list and innovative cocktail menu. You can also enjoy snacks and refreshments poolside, beachside, or at the beach bar which is hugely popular during happy hour.

I don’t want to get out of bed – it’s my last day here and I want it to go as slowly as possible. At Hansar Samui you can sleep in as long as you

want, breakfast is served when you get there. Hansar Samui is the place you go when you want to get away from it all. In this scene, you put in the colours at your pace. But beware – it will be hard to leave.

### FITNESS CENTRE

The modern air-conditioned fitness centre offers modern computer controlled cardio-vascular equipment including treadmills, an elliptical trainer and upright bicycle as well as multi-station free weights. Open daily from 7.00 am – 10.00 pm.

### HANSAR BOUTIQUE

The Boutique carries an exquisite line of superior quality items that have been sourced from within Thailand and Asia. Open daily from 10.00 am – 10.00 pm.

### MEET

The 127sqm event space offers a stylish meeting facility with access to business centre services. Located on the 3rd floor it is the ideal venue for a private function or meeting with up to 90 people. [A](#)

### Contact Details

101/28 Moo 1, Bophut,  
Koh Samui, Surat Thani  
Thailand 84320  
T: +66 77 245 511  
reservation@hansarsamui.com  
www.hansarsamui.com