



HANSAR SAMUI

By **Yanni Tan**



“Good things come in small packages, as the saying goes, and Hansar Samui is one shining example. The footprint of the 74-room beachfront property on Koh Samui’s Bophut Bay may be compact, but housed within it is everything you’d need for a quick and peaceful getaway, especially for couples and groups of girlfriends.

The luxury boutique property is just 10 minutes from the airport, which means you’re a short hop away from bliss the moment you touch down. If the sight of the turquoise waters of the Gulf of Thailand upon arrival at the hotel lobby already makes you swoon, imagine checking into your room and discovering that you have a front-row seat to the idyllic seaview.

Yes, every room at Hansar Samui flaunts pool-meets-seascape scenery, and just so that you could savour every single moment of it, the resort makes sure its balconies are huge and comfortably furnished with daybeds and cushions. In fact, upon my late-night arrival, I walked into the balcony to discover, not the expected basket of fruits, but a platter of charcuterie and a bottle

of wine. This may not be an elaborate gesture, but it’s just one of those little things that speak volumes about the “heart” of the property, which comes in big doses here with its superb standards of service and genuine warmth.

Come evening, you will see many guests greeting the setting sun by lounging on the daybeds, sipping on wine, having relaxed conversations, and enjoying the sea breeze. In fact, that was what my companion and I loved most about the resort – it’s perfect for a “do-nothing-much” mental health retreat that is quiet, intimate and romantic.

Speaking of romance, the rooms are made for it. The SeaView XL room, where I spent two nights, is furnished with a large and luxurious four-poster bed, a free-standing bathtub that easily fits two big people in the middle of the room, and an ooh-la-la glass-walled shower case that looks like it could fit an entire family. I liked it so much I took design notes for my dream home.

Taking up most the whole length of the resort estate is the 30-metre-long infinity-edge

swimming pool, which looks like it blends into the sea. Should you not feel inclined to step across the small low-traffic public road separating the resort from the golden sands of the beach, no matter, as the pool is filled with saltwater. After a swim, head for a few hours of pampering at the Luxsa Spa, which may not be big in size with only six treatment suites (including four double suites), but does the job very well. Minimalist and neutral in palette, it offers a contemporary spa ambience combined with ancient Thai healing modalities.

One of the main highlights at Hansar Samui is the cuisine. Its signature restaurant is the small but cosy H-Bistro, helmed by executive chef Stephen Jean Dion, who hailed from the famed Les Halles in Quebec and spent two years working for the King of Jordan. It serves truly outstanding French Mediterranean dishes, alongside authentic Thai favourites, accompanied by a well-curated wine menu. If you’re among a group of eight to 20



guests, book a Chef’s Table dinner, which is created to feature the chef’s specialities, including foie gras, main lobsters, bresse royal pigeon, and Brittany dover sole. If there are just the two of you, opt for a romantic flame-lit beachfront dinner under the stars – with barefoot butler service to boot. Then end the night with a cocktail at the rooftop Chill Lounge.

Unlike the popular Chaweng Beach on Koh Samui, Bophut Bay is a small and serene area, which adds to the charm of the resort. While just a stroll away is a short stretch of local seafood restaurants, cafes and souvenir shops called Fishermen’s Village, we say you wouldn’t miss a thing if you don’t venture beyond Hansar.”



PHOTOS: HANSAR SAMUI

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