

BEACH DELIGHT

Once the mecca for backpacking westerners in search of an idyllic playground, Koh Samui now has an upmarket appeal for sophisticated travellers.

text MOMOKO

With turquoise blue water and light golden sand, Bophut Bay is possibly the most beautiful beach in Koh Samui, and that's where you will discover paradise.

Just 10 minutes from Koh Samui International Airport, Hansar Samui is located right next to Fisherman's Village, a quaint little seaside town by day and bustling dining paradise by night. Gift shops, massage parlours, bars and tempting restaurants line the strip.

Every Friday, hawkers pile their makeshift stalls on the "walking street" night market. Operations start from around 5pm and visitors are advised to go on an empty stomach to savour the many local delights available.

There are 74 rooms in Hansar Samui and each has a stunning view of Bophut Bay. Designed for couples, the resort has an



open concept bathroom which certainly helps to set the mood for intimacy. Every evening during the turndown service, a thoughtful tray of chocolates along with a single rose are delivered to rooms.

The resort's current Executive Chef, Stephen Jean Dion is a native of Canada and was at one time, private chef to the King of Jordan. Stephen has a flair for using fresh local ingredients to whip up innovative gourmet dishes of superb fine dining standards.

A stay at this fabulous resort would not be complete without a trip to the in house LUXSA spa. Their treatments use ancient Thai healing methods based on the four elements of earth, wind, water and fire. Oils and treatments from a particular element are recommended after guests fill in a survey form which determines the element that suits them most.

ACCESS:

Just 1 hour and 45 minutes from Singapore, Koh Samui is best accessed by daily direct flight with Bangkok Airways www.bangkokair.com.

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITY:

Hansar Samui offers romantic sunset cruises on a private 30 foot yacht from Thursdays to Fridays. Guests will be served champagne, free flow Hansar signature cocktails, soft drinks, imported oysters and other gourmet delicacies. Priced at 7,800++ baht per person, a minimum of two people is required.

