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# A LITTLE SPICE

Beachfront entertainment completes the **hidden castle of Hansar.**

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My motorbike scuttled on the concrete beneath the night sky, wooden fences and sporadic trees on either side. There, on the right pillar, a white rectangular sign reading 'Hansar' had led me to this darkened road. Happy to be away from the traffic and bright lights of the ring-road, I welcomed the quiet, but wondered if I had in fact been correct in turning where I had. Maybe the sign was old and had not yet been removed. Maybe I had read it wrong. I continued.

Within moments I was met with what I had been looking for, as rays of light protruded out from behind letters forming the name HANSAR. Walking in, grey floors soothed my eyes as warm wood and white accents completed the modern look. Masterfully designed, the space looked twice its actual size with its open layout.



Leaving the lobby I walked to the main terrace. Situated in a cornered crescent moon, like a rectangle without its fourth side, 54 rooms, as well as the main restaurant, and ocean bar, make up Hansar Samui. In the centre, a salt-water infinity pool looks out onto the ocean along with greenery and beautiful paths intermixed. Designed to allow everyone a seaside and pool view, no guest is offered anything short of perfection.

After passing the pool, I made it to the beach bar. With barstools that glowed showing their mosaic colours I couldn't help but want to stop, but was unable. Instead I continued past, merely waving at the guests who were enjoying their Thursday night cocktails, aching for one of my own.



Descending a few short steps I soon found my toes in the cool white sand. Moments later I plopped down onto an orange beanbag, allowing my muscles to relax as I melted into the white beads forming around my body. I dug my toes deep into the sand and closed my eyes, letting out a deep sigh. Out in the sea, boats harboured in for the night, the dark shadow of Koh Pha-Ngan on the horizon. The stars and moon above, their reflection below. The bay calm and the wind soft.

A small off-white candle lit the table showing green plants on either side - a warm colour easing to the eyes. Kindly, a waiter provided me with lighted menus for drinks. The Strawberry Mojito came in a tall glass topped with fresh pineapple. Once it had arrived the waiter smiled, looking at his watch. With my questioning look he explained it was happy hour, so a second one would be coming shortly. I smiled back also checking the time. It was almost seven-thirty. Thinking that was fairly late for happy hour I inquired and discovered Hansar offers three happy hours; 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm - 10:30 pm. It looked as though I would be staying for a while!



Next came the 'Bites' - an original play on appetizers. Firstly, the 'Pork Kyoza', a crispy Thai pork dumpling that I couldn't help but finish. The dumpling was only the beginning however, as I also had prawn spring rolls, crisped to perfection. Each dish comes with its own special sauce, which of course added to the already delicious taste.

With expectations of fire-dancing, live music, and other entertainment every Friday night, Hansar hopes to liven up the beachfront experience, but only to a certain degree. It isn't the next Chaweng, and has no intention of alluding to the parties and hotspots to be found there. Instead, Hansar has created a dual atmosphere combining comfort and entertainment that lasts



until 11:00 pm. That way, those who don't want to participate into the wee hours of the night have the option to retire to bed, while the night owls can continue elsewhere. A happy middle ground that caters to all tastes.

But that only marks one day of the week. For the other six, everyone is invited to sink into one of the three types of beanbags. Choose to lie down, snuggle up next to a loved one or friend in the double, or plop into a single. You can't go wrong. And with the orange beanbags spread out over a wide area, there is no need to worry about privacy. Add to that tiki-torches, and the ambiance matches the mood. And let's not forget the full drink and bites service.

So pick your day. Friday's for a little spice, or any day for a relaxing night under the stars. Just remember - the little white sign is not old, you haven't turned down the wrong street - keep going, the hidden castle is near.

*Alison Stephens*

For reservations or further information, telephone 0 7724 5511.  
[www.hansarsamui.com](http://www.hansarsamui.com)