

# The Tamarind

By Thomas Jones

Every villa project has a budget but when it came to building The Tamarind near Bangsaray it certainly looks like the owner had very deep pockets that he wasn't afraid to go digging into to get what he wanted. In fact, even under close scrutiny, you would be hard pressed to find any faults with this villa or say that any corners were cut. *Thomas Jones* heads to Thailand to see the results for himself.



*The Tamarind is pure Bali Style and exhibits unrivalled quality of materials, workmanship and dedication to detail.*

Facing page: The pool sala is just the place for lazing away your days.

Below left: The vast estate is a mosaic of manicured lawns, palms and tropical flora.

Below right: One of the many golf courses within a short drive of the estate.

The Tamarind is without rival on the eastern side of the Gulf of Thailand. It sits on a wooded hillside within the massive 20 hectare Buraran Estate near Bangsaray, a small beachside fishing community 20 minutes south of Pattaya, two hours drive southeast of Bangkok. Enveloped within a beautifully landscaped garden filled with tall mango and tamarind trees, coconut palms, a river, a lake, waterfalls, tropical plants and flowers, and all interconnected by flowing expanses of immaculately manicured lawn, it has unparalleled luxury written all over it.

The Tamarind is pure Bali Style and exhibits the unrivalled quality of materials, workmanship and dedication to detail for which the Balinese are renown. In conceptualising the villa the owner, Justin Tate, was fortunate to find an ally in the very talented stylist and designer Fiona de Rose, a Bali-based shaman of interiors who possesses a flair for design up there with the best. She was given *carte blanche* with the design and, in consultation with Justin, had almost everything in the villa made in and shipped from Indonesia; the stone, the wood, the furniture, the antiques, the fabrics (except the Jim Thompson silks, of course. Think, coals to

Newcastle.) From the stone Buddha sculptures and the animal skins on the floors, right down to the two-dollar bamboo wind chimes that hang from the trees, it is Fifi's eye and attention to detail that has given the villa its soul.

Another significant part of the design collateral was Justin's large extended family and the fact that they all love coming to Thailand. The villa had to therefore be big enough to bring everyone together for Christmas and birthdays yet also provide enough space so kids, parents, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and guests could still go their separate ways and have some downtime. Indeed, a large part of the success of this nine-bedroom dwelling is that it does have so many places to either play together or escape to and be alone. Sleeping 20 as it does, in a mix of doubles, bunks and twin beds, it is eminently affordable and can accommodate anything from 10 couples to a large mix of kids and friends and family who don't mind sharing. Families being what they are, you couldn't ask for a better holiday location: or solution.

Each bedroom has its own design theme and a title to match. Names like Africa, Zen, Java, Rose, White, The Dorm, Raj (master suite), and Bali House (a self-contained, two-bedroom apartment ideal for families); each a little journey through culture, time and excitement unto themselves that should ensure parity



# THE TAMARIND PATTAYA



Above left: The living room in the Bali House.

Above right: The pool and villa by night.

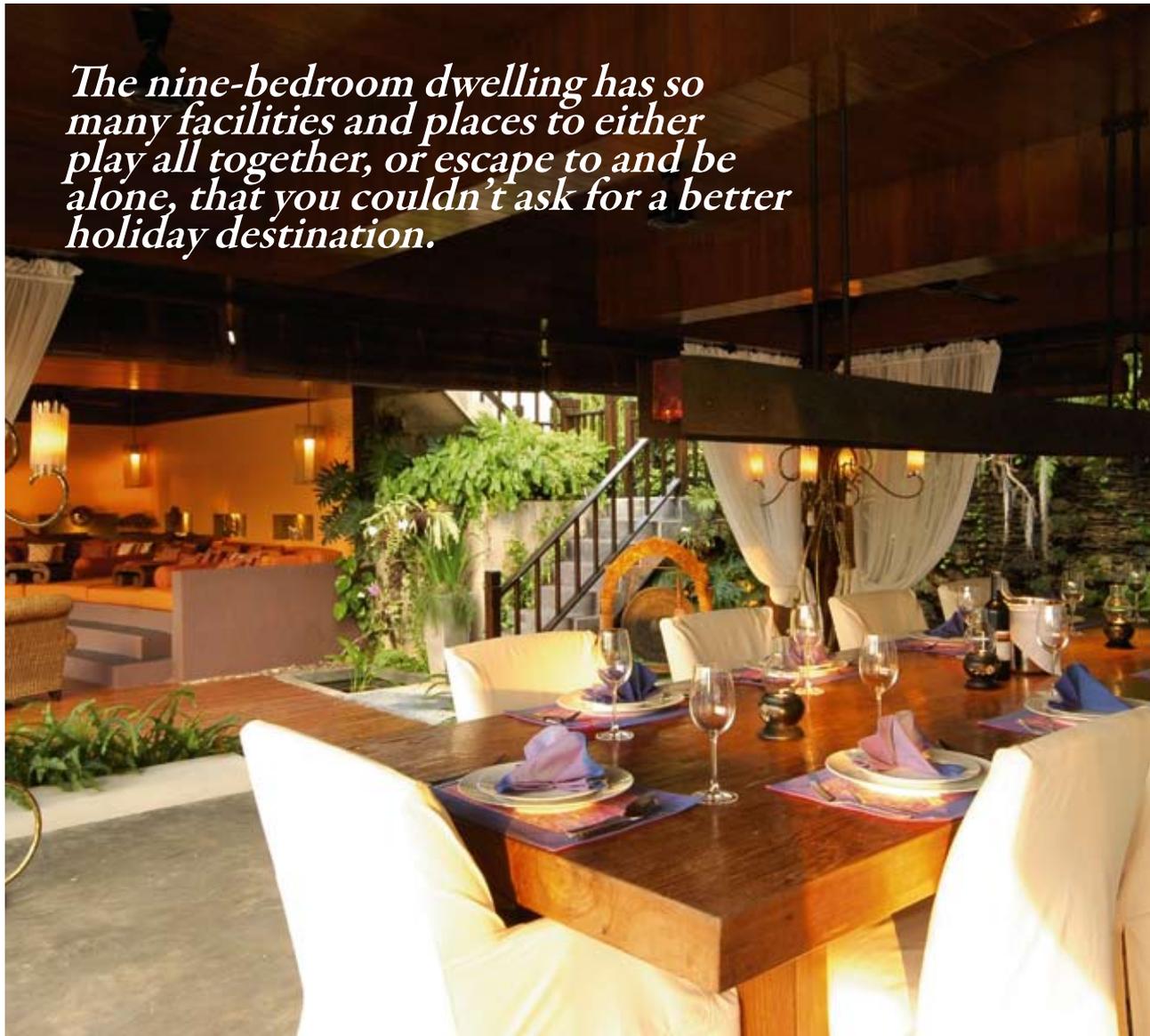


Left: The Dining Sala which sits adjacent to a large lake on site.

Right: The main Dining Pavilion with the super comfortable Spice Lounge in the background.



*The nine-bedroom dwelling has so many facilities and places to either play all together, or escape to and be alone, that you couldn't ask for a better holiday destination.*



THE TAMARIND PATTAYA





*One set of guests were here for two days before they realized there was a floodlit tennis court, it's that big!*

www.thetamarind.co.th  
 www.privatehomesandvillas.com  
 www.quintessentialyestates.com

Left top: A gargantuan Buddha image in gold at the nearby Silverlake.

Left bottom: The main body of the villa clusters around the pool.

Above: Two of the fantastically-themed rooms. The king-size Zen suite, and Africa, a twin. Both designed to take you to another place and time.

amongst the group and prevent squabbles from breaking out over who gets the best.

There are more places to relax at The Tamarind than a soft-furnishings showroom, including The Sunset "Champagne" Lounge overlooking the pool; two gazebos, one in the garden and another by the pool; the Spice Lounge, a vast sitting area just off the dining room all decked out in orange and the perfect chill out space any time of day; the main Dining Pavilion; and the Lava Lounge, a surround-sound home theatre with a 62" TV screen! There is a dedicated massage pavilion next to the estate's lake (where the local masseuses will pummel you into submission), and a four-story-tower at the back of the property housing a sunset viewing pavilion that looks down over the villa and out over the bay and offshore islands. Decked out in white sofas with blue cushions this is a stellar place to enjoy a few evening cocktails and watch the day recede.

There is also a fully-equipped gym, ping pong and pool tables, a library, a petanque court, a car and driver, and a 250cc Harley Davidson just crying out to be used. The villa is fully-staffed by a sweet and dedicated crew who will take care of your every need and cook and prepare

the most amazing Thai meals you will ever have. For the busy executive there is even an office with computers, fax, and phones so work can always be close at hand for those trying to juggle family obligations and the needs of demanding shareholders back in the real world. In fact it is so wired that you could run an evil empire from here à la a James Bond protagonist. An underground lair beneath the adjacent lake, anyone? It wouldn't come as a surprise. One set of guests were here for two days before they realized there was a floodlit tennis court, it's that big!

And should lazing away the days surrounded by all this splendour with so many top facilities get too much, the local area will come to the rescue. There is plenty to experience including vineyards, private boat charters, shopping, horse riding, countless cultural activities and enough golf courses to illicit divorce proceedings. Guests at the villa also have privileged access to the beach at the Royal Thai Navy Base just down the hill, an under-populated stretch of perfect white sand normally reserved for Thailand's elite. With the villa's friendly and very knowledgeable driver on hand 10 hours a day you would be mad not to get out there and experience everything The Tamarind puts at your disposal. **FRV**