

Alila Hotels' sumptuous private-pool villas make a splash in Bali

ALILA ULUWATU – When we grow up, we want to live in a house like our Alila Uluwatu villa. Alila Hotels has made a splash in Bali with two ultra-sumptuous, private-pool villa resorts. Alila Villas Uluwatu clings to a clifftop on Bali's southern coast; the Soori retreat, surrounded by UNESCO's world heritage protected rice paddies, hugs a black sand beach on the southwest coast near the sacred Tanah Lot Temple. Both crank up the wow factor for boutique villa resorts, making you wish you could replicate their fab architectural features in your own home.

The 65 extraordinary Uluwatu villas are all larger than 3,000 sq. ft. From the living room, we could push back the glass wall-to-wall windows and dive right into an L-shaped pool. In fact, most of the window walls around the villa opened up to the outdoors to allow the sea breeze in. The bathroom boasted an indoor and outdoor shower, together with his-and-hers, leather-and-wood amenity boxes with organic products – scented pillow spray anyone? Nothing is cookie-cutter. Wood design materials have been recycled from railway sleepers and telephone poles. And a huge birdcage (aka, a sunset lounge) is cantilevered over the cliff edge beside the resort's main infinity pool – from here, the Indian Ocean looks as if it stretches forever beyond the horizon.

ALILA VILLAS SOORI – Transferring to Alila Villas Soori, we checked into a palatial beachfront villa. Also attended by a butler, it was decorated in a cool ivory-and-black color scheme with masses of marble. The resort's candle-lit spa seduced us with a Balinese massage and body mask of ginger, cinnamon and rice. The eclectic tasting menu for breakfast was a delicious first for us.

Add attentive whisper service and bespoke activities to the mix, and these two properties are reason enough for visiting the already-appealing Bali.



Alila Uluwatu one bedroom villa



Alila Uluwatu one bedroom villa



Alila Uluwatu one bedroom villa



Alila Villas Soori ocean pool villa

PHOTOS COURTESY ALILA HOTELS