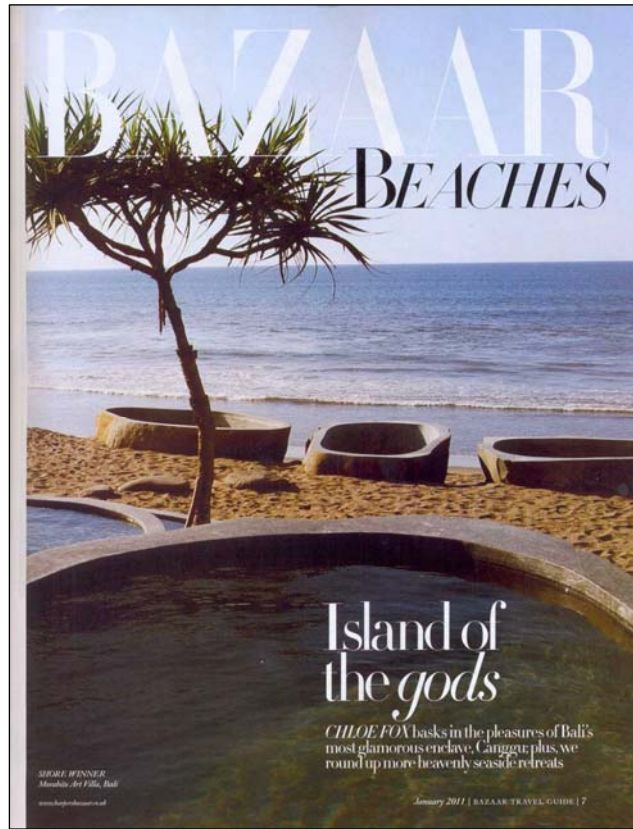
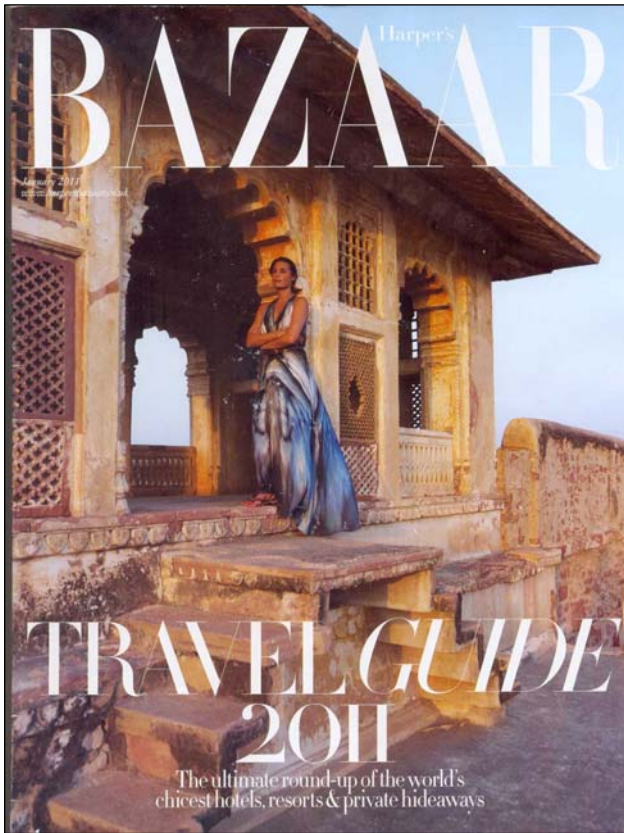


HARPER'S BAZAAR UK – PURI BAWANA

Edition January 2011 – Islands of the gods



There's only one problem with Bali – Island of the Gods – the tourists seem to like it as much as the gods do. With visitor numbers in recent years far exceeding the island's 3.2 million population, it's getting a little crowded.

Anyone heading to Ubud in search of a bit of spiritual enlightenment is likely to find themselves falling over fans of Elizabeth Gilbert's bestselling memoir (adapted into a recent film starring Julia Roberts), *Eat Pray Love*. And the pleasure-seekers making a beeline for the spas, bars and sunsets of the glamorous Seminyak area on the south-western tip of the island spend a large part of their holiday in a traffic jam (albeit dressed in beautiful clothes). Which is why those in the know are heading to Canggu.

Nine kilometres north of Seminyak, on the same wildly beautiful stretch of black sand coast, Canggu is Bali's best-kept secret. As yet relatively undeveloped, with vast expanses of

emerald-green rice paddies stretching all the way down to the water's edge, it feels like the Bali of yesteryear: Here the indigenous culture remains intact, with surfers bowing respectfully as they walk, slick-skinned, past Hindu ceremonies held on the beach.

And yet Canggu (only a 25-minute drive from Seminyak's bustle and bustle) is just developed enough to make for an easy holiday. Everything you find on the rest of the island you can find here – with an added hip factor that's lacking elsewhere: Thus, the few boutiques, spas and restaurants springing up (mainly around the hard-to-find surfing mecca of Echo Beach) are just as good, if not better, than those found farther south, but without the swarms of models, jewellery designers, DJs and VIPs jacking up the prices. Massage, manicures, manicures: you name it, you can get it. But don't brag about it. The people who live, work,

BEACHES

party and surf in Canggu don't wear shoes if they can help it – and most dispense with shirts as well. A range of intriguing expats have houses here. There's Nicholas Morley, founder of fashion label Bukhdist Punk, and his party-loving brother Simon, founder of the travelling show *Puppetry of the Penis* and married to British jewellery designer Carolina Barbieri. Add to the mix Storm model Clare Malholland, rock 'n' roll jewellery designer Morgan Sibbald of Zoe & Morgan and Dare Jennings, co-founder of cult motorcycle brand, Deus Ex Machina, and you have an interesting guest list for a house party. Hotelier Saxon Lockyer is in charge of opening Canggu's va-va-voom: his apartment hotel Sea Sentosa will open this year, putting the area well and truly on the map.

With space to breathe, Canggu is rapidly becoming home to some of the island's biggest and most luxurious villas. If Seminyak is the city, Canggu is a country retreat. Parties go on all the time. You just have to find them. There are no parking streets, only fleets of mopeds wending their way through the lanes late at night, towards the lights. With its promise of anonymity, Canggu has already begun attracting famous names. When she visited the island last summer, Kate Moss made her base here, and surf junkies Damien Hirst and Maiz Norman wouldn't dream of staying anywhere else.

Which all means, of course, that Canggu will not be a secret for long. Already home to a country club, an international school, a delicatesse, a handful of top-end hotels (with more in the pipeline) and a glamorous expat crowd, it is only a matter of time before it becomes a popular tourist destination. And with plans to extend the south of the island's busiest main road up towards Canggu for easier, quicker access, there is no better time to come and visit. Just don't bother packing your high heels. ☺

Five nights at Bali Tugu in a Royal Suite, from £1,565 a person B&B, including breakfast, airport flights, and transfers, 2011. Contact: +44 (0)20 7384 2332; www.careful.com.

Q&A

FASHION designer MAIA NORMAN on her love of Bali

How would you describe Bali? A beautiful island, now a little busy, with peaceful pockets. We like the south-west because it still has a country feel in parts.

Your favourite Bali memory! I have a mental picture of surfing punchy sunset waves right in front of our holiday villa in Canggu, walking in nicely exhausted, and sitting down for a well-deserved dinner with my family.

Who goes there? A mix of pro surfers and creatives, with a heavy Australian slant.

Where would you stay? Hotel Tugu, a majestic antique palace of a hotel that's very peaceful and elegant.

Where would you eat? Kairin, at 33 Jl Laksmiana in Seminyak, which serves amazing Japanese and Korean food.

What's your Bali tip? Bali Deli (+62 361 738686; www.balideli.net) in Seminyak is the island's best gourmet supermarket.

Cocktail hangouts: I'd have a sundowner at Ka De Ta (+62 361 737499), then I'd go to the Balcón in Kuta (+62 361 750 655).

Favorite serenity escape: Serious yoga followed by a delicious lunch at the beautiful ancient shack-village Deus Seni.

What should one read in Bali? Einstein's *Dreams* by Alan Lightman: short stories posing questions about time, gravity and space, but in a magical, dreamy way.

The perfect Bali soundtrack: Brian Eno and David Byrne's *My Life in the Bush of Gees* – mystical ball-tube tropical rhythms.

WHAT TO DO
Learn to surf with Brod Getach (www.brodgetach.com).
Ride horses or Toruk Equestrian Centre (+62 361 735280; www.balioriding.com).
Get sporty at Canggu Club (+62 361 844 6385; www.canggoclub.com).
Try Bali Beyond Adventures (www.balibeyondadventures.com) for family trips. Get fit at **Bali Elements** (+62 361 792 082; www.balielements.com).
For yoga, try **Deus Seni** (+62 361 844 6392; www.deuseni.com).

WHERE TO RELAX
Visit spa villa Simasa Oasis and Spa (+62 361 730668; www.simasa.com).
Coll in Nunguh (+62 813 336 60590) for beauty treatments, and **Mardani** (+62 816 578 532) for traditional massages.

WHERE TO STAY
Hotel Tugu (+62 361 731701; www.tuguhotel.com) is comfortable and chic.
Deus Seni (+62 361 844 6392; www.deuseni.com) is for spiritual tourists.
The beachfront Merabito Art Villa (+62 813 3819 6666; www.merabitoartvilla.com) is exquisite.
Villa Puri Bawana (+62 361 730668; www.puribawana.com) is tranquil and homely.

For high lease, stay at Villa Infinity (+62 813 3850 6995; www.villainfinitybali.com).
Villa Mania (www.villamania.com) exudes modernist style.

WHERE TO EAT
The Beach House (+62 361 747 4504; www.achobeachhouse.com) is simple and affordable.
Deus Seni is organic and poolside.
Deus Ex Machina (+62 361 730276; www.deus.com.au) is a delicious pan-Asian grill.
Go to Sticky Fingers (+62 361 738 471) for sunset negronis.

THE ESSENTIALS
Where to eat, sleep, play and relax to get the best out of Bali

www.harpersbazaar.co.uk

Island of the *gods*

CHLOE FOX basks in the pleasures of Bali's most glamorous enclave, Canggu; plus, we round up more heavenly seaside retreats.

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