

VOGUE AUSTRALIA

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LOWDOWN**

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OF AN
ALMOST
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THE SPARKLING

*Scarlett
Johansson*

\$9.90 MAY '10 NZ \$9.90

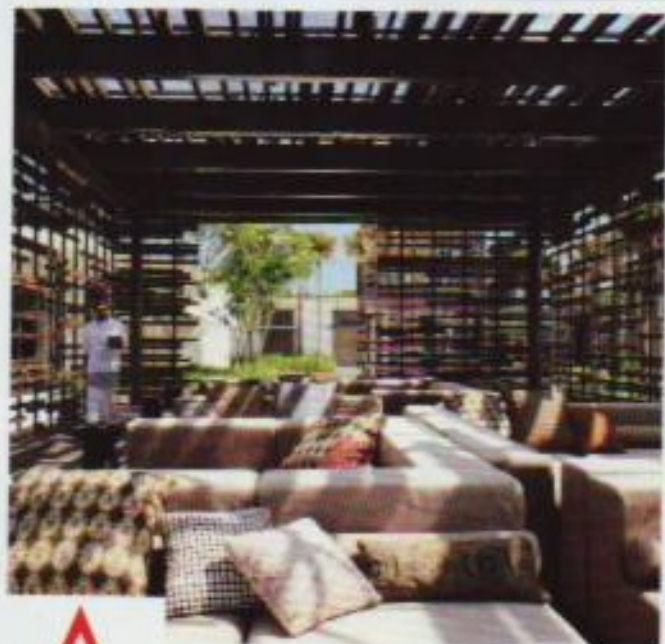
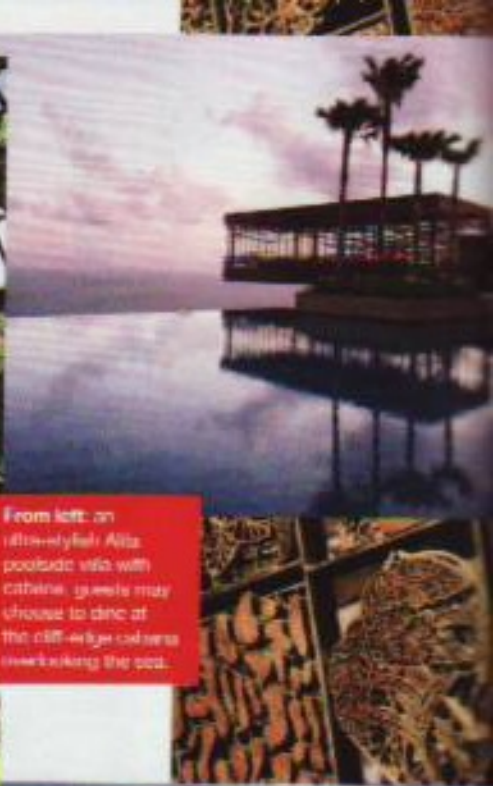


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From left: an ultra-stylish Alila poolside villa with cabana; guests may choose to dine at the cliff-edge cabana overlooking the sea.



Clockwise from left: the natural colour palette of the resort's decor; mixing by the Indian Ocean; the Waring restaurant offers authentic Indonesian and Balinese cuisine in a sophisticated setting.

As every Australian traveller knows, Bali is not short of adequate hotels, good hotels or even great hotels, but Alila Villas Uluwatu has set a whole new benchmark when it comes to a luxury stay. There are certain standards that the discerning guest has now come to expect from an upmarket Balinese resort: a private plunge pool in your villa, a luxury spa, fine dining options, a personal butler. Alila delivers on all these *de rigueur* requirements, at the same time ramping them up a notch to the next level of luxury. It's as if Alila has seen the future of world-class resorts, and introduced it now.

Looking out on the Indian Ocean from atop a vertiginous limestone cliff on the more sybaritic south coast of the island, Alila Villas Uluwatu, designed by Singapore-based architectural firm WOHA,

is just simply breathtaking: linear and horizontal, open and airy, like an architect's rendering come to life. One-, two- or three-bedroom villas each come with a private pool and outdoor cabana, beautiful self-contained designer spaces that mean you may never want to leave your room. Whole days can be frittered away as you roll from one super-comfortable day bed to the next, diverting yourself with a dip in the pool or an outdoor rain shower next to the frangipani tree. The only intrusion on the serenity is an occasional visit from your butler proffering chilled refresher towels.

The level of luxury offered by Alila is uber yet subtle, due in part to the empathy of the design and the way the villas are situated within their surroundings. Local materials such as limed bamboo, stone, limestone and recycled ironwood have been used, resulting in a property that is both breathtakingly contemporary and environmentally sensitive.



For those willing to wrench themselves from the indulgent cocoon of their villa, the spa is a worthy distraction. One particularly indulgent package starts with a private yoga lesson, followed by hours of heavenly massaging and pampering and finished off with a reflexology session back by your own pool, surrounded by candles that have been set up by your butler in your absence. And all accompanied with a cup of hot chocolate. Other bespoke activities can be integrated into your Alila Journey, but full participation is a choice rather than a requirement, in much the same way as doing absolutely nothing is.

Visit www.alilahotels.com for more details.

firstCLASS

Vogue goes on location, inside, outside and around the world.

Swept away

A stunning resort, far removed from the frenetic pace of Bali's tourist traps, sets a new benchmark in luxury and the pursuit of pleasure.