

COMPLIMENTARY

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# real life

Caribbean Real Estate & Luxury Living

## Villa Balinese

The Goddess of Turtle Tail



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# VILLA BALINESE

## The Goddess of Turtle Tail

Words by Lisa Boushy – Photos by Steve Passmore@ProvoPictures

Around a bend, down a hill, a left turn, then a right, up a hill again, followed by another bend...this is how it goes as you drive along the winding roads of the south shore in Provo. A sense of anticipation and wonder slowly builds inside you like a crescendo in a musical orchestra until you finally arrive. As you make your way up the steep driveway lined with palm trees and bordered by green river rocks, an 80-foot brown slate stone bank of cascading waterfall greets you. You walk up the steps and open the 10-foot-tall antique double-doors. The music has stopped, but the second act has just begun as you enter the heavenly Villa Balinese. ▶





The 16-foot floor-to-ceiling walls are made of Asian pearl stone patterned intricately to create a rich, textured effect

The breathtaking oceanfront villa lies on a 45-foot elevated cliff that spans one-acre; the sparkling Caribbean Sea merges with clear blue skies from every angle to create a stunning panoramic view of Turtle Tail. From the furniture and antiques to the lighting and paintings, most of the items in the villa were purchased during the owners' travels throughout Southeast Asia, mainly Bali, and served as their inspiration as well as the villa's namesake. Built over the course of two years and completed in April 2007, the owners, a married couple, were not only the interior designers – they were also the contractors. With the help of an architect based out of Florida, Jim Stergas, and a team of construction workers, they designed and built the entire villa that is now on the market. The owners learned how to build homes while they lived in the Cayman Islands and have, to date, built three other villas in Provo besides Villa Balinese. A unique quality that separates them from the pack is that none of their homes are built in the traditional Caribbean style.

As you walk through the arched doorway to the 4,000-square-foot villa, which contains a Patina copper roof, 30-foot-tall exposed cedar beams (illuminated with rope lights in the evening for a romantic and dramatic atmosphere) take you aback. Copper sconces stand proudly on the walls and an Asian-European interior theme is featured throughout. The 16-

foot floor-to-ceiling walls are made of Asian pearl stone patterned intricately to create a rich, textured effect. Custom-made designer lights and travertine marble floors imported from Turkey feature throughout. The kitchen is immediately to your right and contains Viking stainless steel appliances, including a six-burner stove, black granite countertops, custom wood cabinetry and an island facing the living room area. It is easy to imagine cooking a delectable meal for friends and family, or barbecuing on the 150-year-old terracotta French-tiled built-in Viking grill that sits just outside the villa and can be quickly accessed through a side-door.

As your guests sit at the Indonesian teak wood dining room table to the left of the entryway, or on the comfy couches in the sunken living room below, they can sip martinis made at the custom-built granite bar complete with recessed shelves, icemaker, fridge and two wine coolers. Perhaps they will want to watch a movie on the 50-inch plasma TV (and full entertainment centre), which emerges from a custom-built cabinet by a hydraulic lift – and swivels 180 degrees to accommodate any lounging position. Either way, friends and family will be surrounded by 10-foot-high by 25-foot-wide sliding glass doors that pocket into the walls, creating a breathtaking ocean view with no end in sight. ▶





The open-concept living and dining area is flanked by a master bedroom and bathroom in the west wing, and each of the two guest bedrooms in the east wing contain their own bathroom. The master bedroom contains 25-foot high cedar beam ceilings and invisible rope lights, a hydraulically lifted plasma TV with full entertainment centre, and a custom-made mahogany walk-in closet. The master bathroom contains a Kohler hat-box toilet and Grohe, Franke and Kohler fixtures; the walls are made of a luxurious, dark coconut wood. In an alcove to the left, his-and-her copper vessel sinks are nestled on a free-floating vanity top complete with custom mahogany shelves; a large free-standing raised Duravit bathtub sits ceremoniously as a waterfall showerhead cascades down from high above; a separate open shower in the back corner completes the one-of-a-kind alcove. Ninety-degree sliding glass doors lead directly to the pool by steps, perfect for candlelit midnight dips. If you prefer, you could situate the poolside lounge chairs to face the TV for late-night movie watching under the stars. Another doorway leads you to a private courtyard terrace complete with an antique Balinese teak wood day bed.

The two guest bedrooms on the east wing of the villa are also oceanfront and contain 14-foot double tray ceilings, coconut-lined walk-in closets, marble vessel sinks and wall-mounted plasma TVs. Each room has wall-to-wall glass doors, giving access to the poolside, with one room leading directly to the pool via steps. Fine silk linens, pillows and curtains in bright oranges, yellow and pinks fill all three rooms and pair perfectly with the oversized paper lamps, the wood ceiling fans, the intricately carved teak furniture and the bold, colourful artwork. Although the villa's architecture is contemporary in its sleek, smooth lines, it blends effortlessly with the custom-made pieces and traditional Balinese-Indo theme that is featured throughout.

The entire villa gives an expansive yet private atmosphere; its crescent-moon shape has the angles of a hexagon, which mirrors the stunning, three-angled double infinity-edged pool made of emerald green granite tile. The 90 by 15-foot-wide pool spreads over the villa's width from east to west wing and contains an eight-person, rectangular heated Jacuzzi infinity edged pool. Standing poolside, the sky, sea and pool merge into one in three beautiful shades of blue, creating a scene so spectacular that it takes your breath away. A modern-day moat acts as a decorative yet functional feature and adds to the sense of wonder. What is on the other side? You





The guest bedrooms

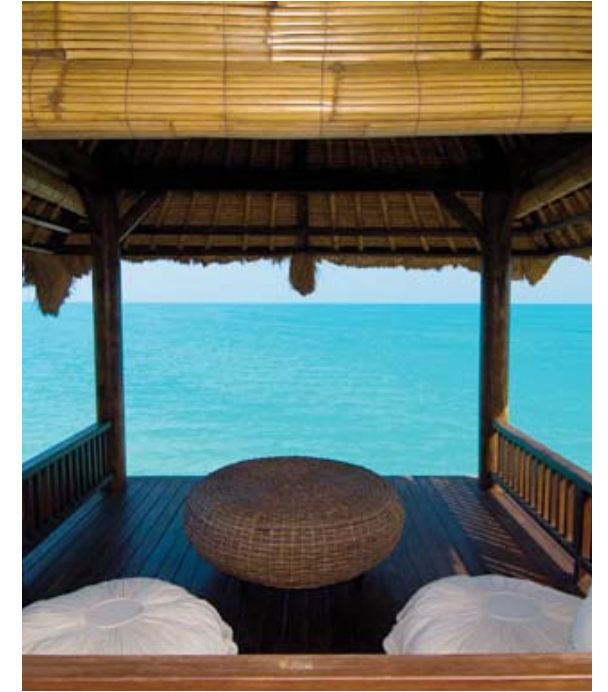


The master bedroom

are seductively beckoned to cross the high-arched bridge to find out. As it connects one end of the pool to the other, you courageously move along its curve and are led to a native limestone walkway with natural coral weaved intricately into its path.

Effortlessly, you are guided to a sacred-looking thatched roof gazebo imported from Bali. Decorated with oversized Indonesian pieces, you can hear its call to you; for your morning meditation; a much-needed massage; or maybe it will provide you with a quiet place to contemplate life under the stars as you overlook the ocean. It is also the halfway point before you make your way down the steps to the ocean below. Clear and shallow at first, the water here is calm and easy to swim in. In the distance, sailors breeze along, the trade winds softly pushing them further out to sea, and fishermen can be seen catching lobster or conch, which will be freshly served throughout the island that same day. As you take in your surroundings, the warm southeast wind touches against your skin and you feel at home on the shores of Turtle Tail.

In the true spirit of the Balinese culture, this villa is a soulful yet hedonistic retreat; eclectic yet contemporary; elaborate yet functional. Like a true symphony orchestra, all of its elements come together in perfect harmony to take you on an uplifting and magical ride – Villa Balinese is divine music for your soul. ■



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