

THE SCENE BUZZ ON THE BEACH

The race is on in Bali's luxury hotspot: to be the best, the brightest, flashiest and most fabulous. And that's not a bad thing. With every month that goes by, another celebrity chef comes to town (hello Maurice Terzini's Da Maria, Maurizio Bombini of Mauri and Will Meyrick at Billy Ho). With that, another boutique sets up shop and a hot new hotel vies to outshine the rest. It makes for great sport if you love to eat, shop and luxuriate. Sign us up – for a few days at least.

GROUP STAY ELITE HAVENS

Villas are the way forward for group holidays in the 'Yak. When the biggest challenge is having too many restaurants, cafes, beach clubs and too little time, downtime needs to deliver. Elite Havens, a purveyor of prestigious holiday rentals, has it covered. Their suite of properties come fully staffed with chefs, butlers and a villa manager armed with local knowledge to hook you up with restaurant reservations and the best nannies, massage therapists and facialists in town. Visit elitehavens.com



Elite Havens' Villa Lilibel is a six-bedroom private holiday rental in Seminyak.

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UBUD

THE SCENE HOLISTIC HAVEN

The spiritual healers are on stand-by. The jungle is ever-present. Ubud, in Bali's lush green interior, should come with a warning for the stressed. A week here and you just might quit your job, become a yoga teacher and embark on a ritualistic journey of cleansing, toning and sipping on raw green coconuts. Of course, if you're up for transformation, Bali's mystical heartland is ripe for a sabbatical.

JUNGLE HAVEN SANSARA, UBUD

The floaty feeling that sweeps through our

Samsara stay sets in at breakfast – served in a wicker boat in our private villa pool. Looking over the infinity edge into the jungle, we wouldn't want to be anywhere else – except the spa, which lures us out from our breakfast bliss bubble with the promise of a restorative massage. Samsara is a Zen-inducing, balance-restoring holy sanctum of a hotel. Each of the 122-square-metre villas luxuriously reinvents Balinese architecture in marble, teak and floaty fabrics. Nearby, Kelusa village is an untainted taste of traditional Bali life, in all its mystical glory. Partake in water purification rituals, high tea and hikes, then relax into the evening with dinner at The Kelusa and a classic movie by moonlight. Eat. Pray. Love. Sorted!