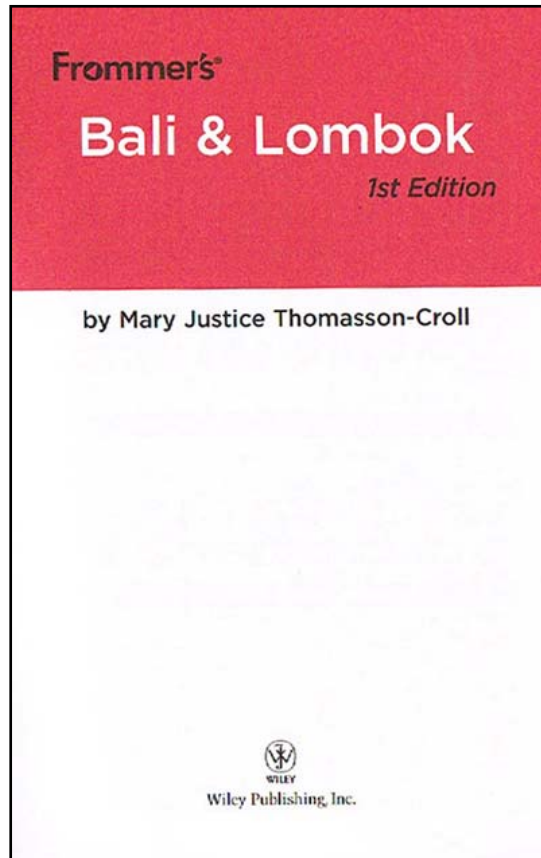


Frommer's - Bali & Lombok

1st Edition, 2010



- spoiling the Chedi Club can be to its lucky members—or is that guests? See p. 191.
- **Puri Ganesha** Puri Ganesha is in a class of its own. Evenings spent at the main house or restaurant chatting about life, loves, and the pursuit of happiness always end on an upbeat note. The most decadent trait of this hideaway haven is the tranquility by day, but don't expect it by night. See p. 285.

7 THE BEST VILLAS

- **Atas Ombak** The unique beachfront position, surrounding sweeping lawns, and immaculate gardens make this villa a stellar choice. The deal is made even sweeter by its proximity to Seminyak and all of the great shopping and dining. See p. 100.
- **Villa Mana** This is a villa on a different scale, from its .8-hectare (2-acre) lawn and sweeping rice paddy views to all manner of tricks and toys. It is a super-spot for throwing a megaparty or just entertaining family and friends with plenty of room for the children to frolic. See p. 115.
- **Villa Des Indes** This place outclasses any other villa on the island by the sheer magnitude of its remarkable collection of Indonesian artifacts, antiques, and museum-quality paintings. Everything about it is reminiscent of luxury travel of a bygone era, even down to the sterling silver and crystal cocktail glasses. See p. 100.
- **The Irtana** Sitting on the cliff top, the Irtana, or "palace," has jaw-dropping views of the Indian Ocean, and rock-star status. You pay the price for the privilege. See p. 171.
- **Villa Balan Putih** On Bingin Beach, a favorite for surfers and sun seekers alike, this villa has all the ingredients including beachfront position, a sprawling lawn, and tasteful decor. It's the kind of place that you check into but you don't want to check out of. See p. 172.

8 THE BEST DINING

- **La Lucciola** This is the most elegant beachside dining experience in Bali. Accessed over a charming footbridge and sitting on one of the prettiest stretches of Seminyak Beach, this is a wonderful place for a leisurely meal at any time of the day. Mellow, magical, and memorable. See p. 103.
- **Nutmegs** Picturesque Nutmegs overlooks a spacious garden filled with frangipani trees and hundreds of candles that twinkle under the stars. The open kitchen remains wondrously calm given the level and variety of cooking on offer. See p. 102.
- **Sardine** Quite possibly Bali's most charming restaurant. Built entirely of bamboo with a stunning rice paddy view in the posh Peritenger area of Seminyak, the design is as innovative as the daily changing menu. Fresh sardines feature high on the menu. See p. 103.
- **Sarong** Running the gamut of Asian cuisine, this buzzing Seminyak eatery draws crowds like bees to honey. What makes it great? Superbly decadent decor of chandeliers, soft lighting, plenty of mirrors, and an expansive bar—people-watching nirvana. See p. 103.
- **Sip** A better French bistro outside of France would be hard to find and with

on the red carpet out front late in the p.m. You can sit on the outdoor patio bar directly on Jalan Laskmana and watch the rising circus outside. **115**

7 CANGGU

Canggu is Seminyak's suburbia. First discovered by surfers looking for new waves outside of Kuta, Canggu's appearance has changed from rolling rice paddies and cattle farms to rows of luxury villas. However it still retains much of its village community feel—a refreshing change from the car-laden streets of Seminyak. It's a 10-minute hop in a taxi from Seminyak. There is no public transportation here. Plenty of surfers head to the waves with their boards on bikes.

All activities in Canggu are based around surfing. This beach is not for the idle as there are a lot of rocky outcrops. Of the several surf breaks, **Canggu** (better known as Tugu; **best swell:** south/southwest; **best size:** 3–5 ft.; **best winds:** east and no wind days) is a popular spot, best during the dry season, April to October. This wave offers punchy, ripplable, and super-fun right and left beach break peaks for the masses, all punctuated by a few submarine rocks and marine visitors. This is an early morning wave as lunch time winds are too strong. On lighter wind days you can surf it until dusk. Canggu is often crowded at dawn during the dry season. Look for windless days in the wet season for some off-season respite.

• **Echo Beach** ★ is just north of the surf break and makes for an easy laid-back day in the sand or on a sun lounger. Sunday nights light up with families and live music.

WHERE TO STAY

Most people in Canggu stay in a luxury villa. The older properties tend to have large rolling gardens while the numerous newer ones can be on small plots of land, suitable for those on a budget. There are a few hotels but only one is worth mentioning.

The big Canggu splurge is the mega **Villa Mana** ★★★, Jl. Pipitan Sari, Br. Babakan, Canggu (☎ 0361/730668; fax 0361/736566; 7 bedrooms; peak season US\$1,300; high season US\$1,200; low season US\$1,000; meals market price; AE, MC, V). Soaring 5m (16-ft.) ceilings shelter the clean and modern design of shimmering dark woods and polished stone with contemporary Balinese art. Wooden decking surrounds the infinity pool and lounge area replete with a tricked-out bar. A whirlpool is perched above the rice paddy with a view to Mount Batukaru; just below is a playing field perfect for soccer and frolicking kids. The seven oversize en-suite bedrooms and industrial strength kitchen make this place party central.

• **Desa Seni** ★★★ The Desa Seni (Artist's Village) is comprised of antique *joglo* and embellished with royal antiques and charming folk art. Vegetable gardens and rice fields surround the pool. Our villa, Rumah Wunga, had bedside lamps made of ox bells; the brightly painted headboard was originally a wall panel from Madura; the armoire was formerly a food storage chest from the 1920s. A twice weekly class in African rhythm and movement meets here.

• **J. Raya Putih 13, Canggu** (☎ 0361/844-6392. www.desaseni.com. 10 units. Year-round US\$150 standard; US\$290 suite; US\$360 villa. AE, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (p. 119); bar; babysitting; bicycles; concierge; outdoor pool; room service; spa. In-room AC, TV/DVD, stereo or CD.

• **Oazia Spa Villas** ★★ At Oazia you get your own villa with a spa that would be more at home in a five-star resort. A dedicated personal assistant picks you up from the airport

THE BEST DINING

SEMINYAK & CANGGU

7

CANGGU

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