



# A feast for the senses

Words by Mat Horne  
Photos courtesy of Batu Karang  
Lembongan Resort & Day Spa



If you're keen for a resort-style holiday in Bali, but want to avoid the frenetic pace of the main island, then Batu Karang Lembongan Resort & Day Spa is just the place for you.

If you were to judge Bali from the experiences you have en route from Denpasar Airport to the main tourist destinations of Kuta, Legian and Seminyak, the one overwhelming impression would be that of a tourist mecca. It is a place where two worlds have collided and yet grown accustomed to each other; where a myriad of tourists mingle with locals eager to cash in on the tourism dollars.

Even with the hot and humid climate that exists almost year-round, Bali never seems to rest. The roads have an air of ordered chaos about them, with moped riders ducking and weaving through trucks and cars. In all, it's like a paradise tanked up on pep pills.

However, there are escapes for those wanting a more relaxed environment, and they're not as far away as one would think. A 40-minute boat ride from Sanur is all it takes to get you off the main island and over to the small, laid-back island of Nusa Lembongan. Increasingly popular among those seeking a less chaotic vibe and already well known to avid surfers and divers, this island truly gets you way from it all. And you needn't be concerned about losing out on luxury resort accommodation, because Batu Karang

Lembongan Resort & Day Spa – the premier resort on Nusa Lembongan – allows you to experience your escape in five-star comfort.

Batu Karang was developed just over three years ago by renowned Australian developer Alan Sinclair and his family from Queensland's Sunshine Coast. It is situated on the north-facing cliff of Jungut Batu, a position that affords it amazing views of the bay and a stretch of some of the most famous surf breaks in Indonesia, including Playgrounds, Lacerations and Shipwrecks.

The resort comprises 24 freestanding, open-plan villas with spacious bedrooms / living areas that flow onto a timber deck with views of the gardens, the bay, surf breaks and Mount Agung. Completing the luxurious setting are outdoor bathrooms offering guests a personal bathing oasis with open-air showers, freestanding stone baths and unrivalled vistas of the island and bay. All villas are equipped with a day bed, satellite TV and broadband Internet access.

Although Nusa Lembongan Island is small, there's still much to explore. A round trip on a scooter or mountain bike can be completed in just a couple of hours, though will probably take longer due to the many

enticing stops along the way. Whether you visit the Mangrove Forest, Ceningans Island or Dream Beach, all destinations exude tranquillity and provide some of the most striking settings you're most likely to enjoy a drink in. The island also offers some of the best diving sites in Indonesia, as well as over half a dozen reef breaks that will keep any surfer happy.

For those not looking to venture out too far, Batu Karang provides numerous facilities to help guests unwind and savour their time at the resort. Whether it's relaxing by one of the three sapphire swimming pools enjoying a cocktail or indulging in the fine food at the in-house restaurant and bar, Muntigs, Batu Karang is a true getaway. The large outdoor pavilion overlooking Jungut Batu Bay is ideal for weddings, though it is also perfectly suited to reading a book or taking an afternoon nap in the gentle sea breeze. For extra pampering and full rejuvenation, you can head to the resort's Lulur Day Spa, which offers a 'No-Fuss' facial that even the guys will enjoy.

Mike Greeff recommends Batu Karang Lembongan Resort & Day Spa. For more information, call +62 366 24880 or e-mail [info@batukaranglembongan.com](mailto:info@batukaranglembongan.com).