



HOT SPOTS

Vicki Williams

The Library, Koh Samui

What is it? A design-driven, luxury boutique hotel with a rather apt name: the property offers quiet refuge from the party atmosphere Koh Samui's Chaweng Beach is otherwise known for. Aesthetically, the hotel is reminiscent of a chic art gallery, but the bookish theme is manifest in the faceless statues of readers sitting throughout the grounds (far right) and in the hotel's referring to its rooms as "pages". Thankfully, though, it is not all show - The Library was voted the trendiest in Thailand on TripAdvisor last year, and it has substance and warmth to go along with the whimsy.

So, is it trendy or just try-hard? Hmm, trend-setting, perhaps. The 26 spacious accommodation options (suite pictured top right) include the newly opened The Bookmark (102 square metres), the ground-level Exotic Suite (76 square metres) and the first-floor Smart Studio (67 square metres). All have a modern, semi-minimalist aesthetic that wouldn't look out of place on the cover of a high-end interiors magazine. With low-level bespoke furniture and artwork, high ceilings, striking colour palettes and natural light, the "pages" have "one of a kind" written all over them. They each come fully equipped with gadgetry and goodies, including an iMac, wireless headphones, modern-art-inspired mood lighting and outdoor writing desks with vistas that might encourage guests to start penning their own prose.

Impress me some more: the Library's red-bottomed pool (above) turns many a head; and there is a staggering selection of books (as you might expect), CDs and DVDs available for loan at The Lib. All-day restaurant The Page has a large wooden deck for alfresco dining overlooking the beach.

This is Koh Samui - is there anything to get you in the mood to party? The in-house mixologist can help you with that, with one of the 101 cocktails he whips up at the Drink Gallery (above centre), a hip upmarket bar and restaurant. If, on the other hand, you are looking to wind down, you can't go far wrong with sundowners at The Beach Bar while chilling on an oversized bean bag.

And for the morning after? Breakfast in bed takes on new meaning here for guests who choose the Breakfast Culture option. Get comfortable on one of three white-linen-covered double mattresses (with fluffy pillows) on the beach, metres from the water. Indulge in a multi-course breakfast, magazines optional, set against scenery that will ensure you'll want to "lie in" for as long as possible.

What's the bottom line? Online rates start from 11,699 baht (HK\$3,000), including taxes and breakfast, for a Smart Studio, 13,379 baht for the Exotic Suite, and 20,891 baht for The Bookmark.

For more details, visit www.thelibrary.co.th.

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