



Above: This is the typical living room of a guest villa at Segara Villas in Subic. Right: The Asian atmosphere is created by tropical gardens and Indonesian architecture. Below right: The well-appointed bathroom of a guest villa. Bottom: The Balinese theme continues in the bedroom loft.

Balinese-style villas in Subic

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One can live the Balinese lifestyle without having to leave the country. In Subic is a place that's been built to capture the look and the tranquil way of life of this paradise city. The place is a resort dubbed the *Segara Villas*. And as its name implies, the place features luxuriously appointed villas, all of which feature distinctive Balinese architecture.

Surrounded by verdant oriental gardens, Segara villas offer a unique alternative to staying at a high-rise hotel. Each unit offers an expansive view of Subic Bay, hence the name of the place, which is a term for "sea view" in Indonesia.

They look a little out of the ordinary when it comes to design. The architecture is unmistakably Asian, what with the odd asymmetric roof designs. They also have a feeling of spaciousness seldom found in typical hotels.

Walking through Segara is like wandering in an obscure village in Bali. Each of the 10 villas is uniquely named after famous Bali sites like, Kuta, Jimbaran, and Negara. Every unit is adorned with sundry Asian knick knacks and ornaments. Warm hues of bronze and red, set against neutral colors, are complemented by white washed walls and minimalist furniture. "We decided on a quaint Balinese-inspired village setting to veer away from the rather congested feel of typical hotels," says Dave Baldeo, the owner and general manager of Segara Villas.

Baldeo didn't hire a professional designer for the interiors. The furniture and décor were all hand-picked personally by the owners. He says his mother is very fond of collecting eccentric ornaments whenever she travels. Much of the pieces seen in the place were taken from her personal collection.

Baldeo notes that since the majority of his guests are either politicians or celebrities, he makes it a point that they get their money's worth by enveloping them in luxury and assuring them of complete privacy.

Indeed, there is something about the word "indulgence" that makes people to envision a world of lavish excess. Segara Villas takes that word a notch higher by translating it into amenities which include a pool, a massage area, and a Jacuzzi tub which is a feature found in every loft-type villa.

Residents of each villa are poised to make some important decisions involving the sleeping arrangements. If one thinks that there's nothing complicated about sleeping, then that person probably hasn't heard of thread count and goose feathers.

With eight different kinds of pillows to choose from, the pillow selection of Segara Villas can be considered complicated, but nonetheless rewarding. There's the Therapeutic Pillow, Memory Foam Contour, Microfibre Pillow, 2-in-1 Memory Foam and Microfibre Pillow, Down Alternative Pillow, the 7 Holes Fibre Pillow, Body Pillow, and Upper Body Pillow.

The Therapeutic Pillow is a scented pillow which emanates the soothing aromas of bamboo charcoal, lavender, or ginkgo, depending on the preference of the guest. Guests who are prone to allergies can have a fuss-free sleep with the Microfibre Pillow, which is stuffed with hypo-allergenic microfiber so as to prevent breakouts.

The main building of Segara Villas houses the reception area and main lobby. Yellow and orange is the dominant color of the interiors and it highlights a mural depicting a garden. This work of art was done by Segara's bartender. His creation successfully imparts the theme of the entire place, which is serenity and tranquility.

Visit Segara Villas at Waterfront Road, SRF Compound, Subic Bay Freeport Zone (042-252-86-22 to 23).

