

# What's Inside

asita eco-resort



## TRAVEL

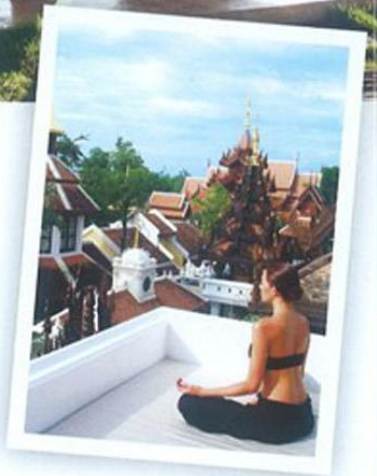
- 20 **Mini Guide: Phang-nga //**  
Phang-nga, located 788km from Bangkok, is indeed lesser known than its neighbors Phuket and Krabi but certainly no less endowed
- 36 **5 Amazing Green Retreats //**  
Some of Thailand's most rustic, idyllic, and greenest spots for a vacation
- 38 **Touch of Nature //**  
Nestled in the peaceful, green surroundings of Amphawa, asita eco-resort promises a holiday that is in harmony with nature
- 40 **Quick Holidays for the Most // Refined Taste**  
Close to the nature and far from the bustle of the city, Rayong Marriott offers travelers what holidays essentially are for: to relax, explore, meet new people, and have the time of their lives
- 42 **7 Wonders of Thailand //**  
The world's leading marketplace to list, discover, and book unique accommodations —airbnb —unveils its top seven unique listings in Thailand
- 44 **The Benefits of Going Green //**  
Aside from the positive impact on the environment, here are the top benefits associated with going green

## PERSONALITIES

- 46 **Always with Passion //**  
Torsten van Dulleman, general manager of Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi Chiang Mai says a career in hotels is like being an actor; it needs leaps of faith
- 48 **Aiming High //**  
Dominique Ronge, general manager of Centara Grand Phratamnak Resort Pattaya, says he's looking to deliver the best possible hotel and guest experience

## WINE & DINE

- 60 **Signor Sassi //**  
The latest among the city's sky-high dining venues brings Italian food straight from London to Bangkok
- 61 **Spice Market //**  
There's simply no Thai restaurant in a local five-star hotel like the Spice Market of The Four Seasons Bangkok
- 62 **Maggie Choo //**  
1930s Shanghai 'speakeasy' comes to 21st century Bangkok
- 63 **The Terrace, Amanpuri //**  
At the Terrace Restaurant, Chef Naree tantalizes even the most discerning lover of refined Thai cuisine
- 64 **Palm Cuisine //**  
Looking for an antidote to the hectic pace of inner Bangkok? Palm Cuisine provides a quiet space to enjoy a meal and perhaps a Thai massage also
- 65 **YTSB //**  
YTSB at Vie Hotel Bangkok strives for the supreme sushi experience
- 66 **Brotzeit //**  
Why this new restaurant franchise from Singapore is being dubbed as "the best of modern Bavaria in the heart of Bangkok"
- 67 **Bad Motel //**  
A hip new spot that makes its innovative owners proud
- 74 **Mixx Discotheque //**  
The electric atmosphere, frantic energy, and the "be yourself" vibe — and more



COVER: MANDARIN ORIENTAL DHARA DHEVI, CHIANG MAI

## regulars

- 6 EDITOR'S NOTE
- 8 CALENDAR
- 14 CULTURE
- 16 BEACH READS/TRAVEL GEAR
- 18 FILM: REEL LIFE
- 26 TRAVEL DEALS
- 28 TRAVEL NEWS
- 68 DINING SPECIALS
- 72 BAR SPECIALS
- 73 OCTAVE OPENING
- 76 DIRECTORY
- 80 MY FAVORITE PLACE



## eco-resorts

ASITA ECO-RESORT  
CHECKING IN

## Touch of Nature

A new boutique eco-resort in Amphawa promises a holiday that is in harmony with nature

BY PERCY ROXAS

Amphawa may not ring a loud bell among many foreign visitors to Thailand. Yet, the locals however, can tell you that the popularity of this holiday spot has been consistently growing in the last few years. Located just about 63km west of Bangkok, this district of Samut Songkhram is favored for its picturesque riverside scenery and laidback ambience that is already disappearing from some traditional Thai holiday spots. While a relatively new destination, Amphawa offers a lot, especially for eco-friendly travelers. They can enjoy an array of activities and hotels that make all "back-to-nature" breakaways perfect. One of these properties stands out not only in terms of service and facilities, but also for its truly green attitude. This is asita eco-resort, a new intimate boutique hotel.

How eco-friendly is asita eco-resort then? Amazingly, for such an intimate resort, asita is "green" as green" should be. This means some of the biggest polluters in the operation has been scrutinized. Firstly, green energy is prioritized and water consumption minimized. Recycling has been made a commonplace practice through all the facilities. In fact, the entire operation is thought through, from gardening products to guestroom amenities – and not the least – the staff is trained to protect the environment too. As importantly perhaps, guests are encouraged to participate in the green initiatives – without compromising their opportunities to have a fun, memorable stay, of course.

Guests just love the resort's peaceful setting. Surrounding pine trees and an enormous canal nearby help in recreating the yonder years of simple but elegant Thai upcountry lifestyle. But here's a twist: it is run by a veteran team experienced in managing five-star hotels of international caliber and built with facilities equivalent to four-star hotels.



Needless to say, the resort is built with eco-friendly materials, in harmony with its natural surroundings. Room decorations use natural products to help preserve the environment while also emphasizing space and comfort. The Villa (Standard and Deluxe) and Thai Deluxe rooms are both 42sqm in size and fully furnished. Each room enjoys a view of green trees, spacious bathroom, and separate shower. The Villa Deluxe has exterior shower and garden. The 60sqm-Thai Suite is fully decorated in modern Thai with living room and porch for a peaceful evening sipping tea and admiring dancing fireflies. All the rooms are filled with expected mod cons plus wireless high-speed Internet. There's even a private natural swimming pool in front of the rooms' porch for that ultimately relaxing dip.

The green and healthy policy continues at the bar and restaurant. While serving Thai and international food, focus is on dishes made from local produce. One of the most ecological options on the menu is the seafood, freshly caught from their own marine farm, and cooked with organic vegetables and fruits also grown from their own garden. Even in their Spa by asita, you may leave your worries of your environmental footprint outside the door. Only high-quality natural products, generally made from Thai herbs, are used for your pampering. You can choose treatments from a wide range, varying from facials to massages. Moreover, asita eco-resort is not just for leisure guests. The resort can also meet professional requirements for functions and special occasions (for groups of 10 to 200 people) – the natural way, of course. During breaks guests can join exciting activities such as rowing boat by the river or even just appreciating the unique surroundings.

But don't think asita eco-resort neglected the fun side. Besides the outdoor saltwater swimming pool and recreational space, it also offers tour packages in the nearby attractions.

Truly every detail has been taken care of, so that you can enjoy an unforgettable lesiurly stay. What's best is, at the same time, guests can trust that they have done their share in keeping the environment green for us all! ■

## Contact Details:

asita eco-resort  
33/3 Tai Hard, Amphur Mae Klong,  
Samut Songkhram  
Tel: 089-8662-168, 089-8663-16 //  
www.asitaresort.com

