







# RELAXING ESCAPES

*Some find peace by climbing mountains to witness breathtaking vistas emerge from an early morning mist. Some find it by sinking toes into warm sand and letting the soothing sounds of lapping waves lull them into an early afternoon slumber. Whatever path you take to nirvana – soaring above the clouds or sunning yourself by the sea, we've made the ultimate list of zen-worthy places in which to rest, relax, and ride out the drama of a high paced lifestyle.*

Much more than simply a curated collection of design-led hotels, these suggestions are a tangible celebration of creativity, diversity, and innovation. From fusing age-old Japanese hospitality principles with sustainable design, to capturing the cultural richness of ancient cultures, we've selected five getaways in the Asia/Pacific to escape from it all.







# I PHUM BAITANG, Siem Reap, CAMBODIA



carpets, reminiscent of Cambodia's golden days. The hotel's Bay Phsar restaurant has a local market feel where guests can pick their own fresh ingredients and spices, and where the rice comes from the surrounding paddy fields. The spa temple, yoga pavilion and pool bar turn the hotel from a continued tradition into a luxury getaway built on authenticity. Arnaud Zannier, the owner and founder of Zannier Hotels, is an old hand at hospitality but describes his newest project as his most personal one.

Khmer for "green village," Phum Baitang is an elegant hideaway wrapped in eight acres of lush gardens and paddy fields near Siem Reap – rural Cambodia at its most beautiful. This hotel opens up a realm of possibilities for inspiring stories. Just like the traditional Khmer village, which serves as its model, this property is a collective creation of 45 spacious villas set amidst eight acres of paddy fields in the countryside. Thatched roofing, wooden-stilted villas, local stone and wood, and wisdom gleaned from centuries of construction have contributed to Phum Baitang's creation, offering guests full cultural immersion in mystical Siem Reap complemented by local modes of transportation, such as tuk-tuks. An existing ancient farmhouse on the property has been converted into a lounge and furnished with rattan wing chairs and plush oriental







# 2 SATOYAMA Jujo - Niigata JAPAN

Based upon the traditional model of a Japanese home with a backdrop of the dramatic Osawa mountain pass, this resort resists the cliché of a traditional rural retreat, fusing Japanese folk architecture with modern design and eco-conscious sensibilities. The visual concept of the hotel's guestrooms is inspired by the principles of washitsu (a traditional Japanese room) with tatami flooring, lofty spaces, and natural light flooding through oversized windows. Satoyama Jujo not only borrows the Japanese terms for "mountain village" and "10 stories" for its name, but the 12-room hotel also conceptually tells its own stories throughout the 150-year-old house and modern extension that it calls home. For example, the story of organic growth and harvest is told through the farm-to-table process that the hotel's Sanaburi



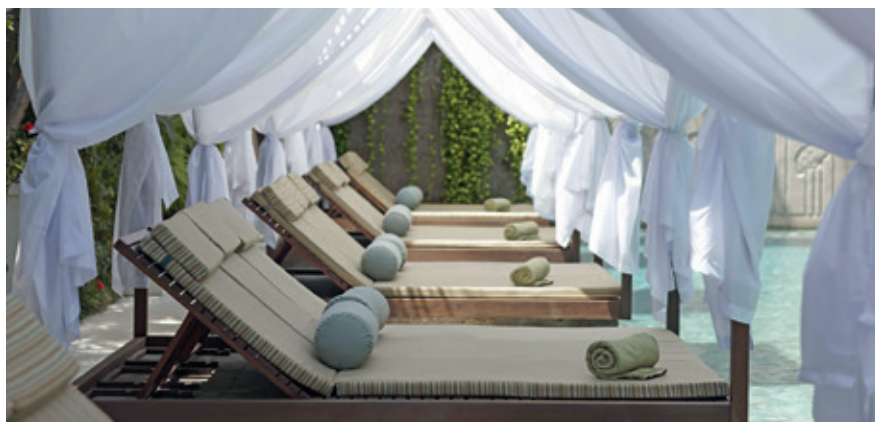
restaurant employs to serve up cuisine inspired by the Minami-Uonuma region, while the story of art is present in the hotel's mountainous village-like location, believed to be perfect for unlocking one's inner creativity. The communal areas, such as the lounges, bars, and meeting space, as well as the multidisciplinary events that take place at the hotel, all tell a story of social gathering and togetherness. The hotel's wood structure adds coziness to the ambiance, while it exemplifies the region's architectural heritage. And with a hot spring spa and a chef that has a Michelin three-star restaurant on his résumé, the hotel offers an indulgent respite just two hours from Tokyo amid a landscape characterized by rice paddies, mountains, and forests.







# 3 THE ELYSIAN BOUTIQUE Villa Hotel Seminyak INDONESIA



There is nothing shy or reserved about the south Balinese beach town of Seminyak and that's just exactly the way the folks there prefer it. More laid back than neighboring Kuta, this Indonesian hotspot presents a serene beach setting during the daylight hours when sun and surf are of paramount importance. Set amidst lush tropical Balinese gardens, the Elysian Boutique Villa Hotel is true to its name... paradise. Part of a growing wave of condominium hotels, this sublime sanctuary offers island ambience that caters to short and long term guests with 27 private villas, each with its own pool, located only 200 meters from long stretches of soothing sand beaches. The look of The Elysian is modern Asian, a combination of traditional proportions with contemporary ambient twists: an open pavilion surrounded by water welcomes guests, and a 25-meter pool runs the length of the terrace, ending in a trellised waterfall and Balinese temple. The Rush Bamboo restaurant, poolside café, and bar offer cool, comfortable dining, drinking, and snoozing possibilities. Although their thinking is modern, they are still passionate about giving excellent old-fashioned service. The villa design is refreshing: each measures 140 square meters with doors and windows that fold away and disappear to give an open and free feeling. Or you can shut the world out and have complete control over the temperature with the combination of fans and air-conditioning. There is also a sense of total seclusion, as each villa has its own private 8x3 meter pool surrounded by leafy Balinese gardens.







# 4 THE LIBRARY, Koh Samui, THAILAND

Lose yourself in a good book at a lush, minimalist resort dedicated to the power and beauty of the written word. Against the seductive backdrop of Koh Samui's Chaweng Beach, The Library reads like an elegant monograph. Its story begins with Kasemtham Sornsong's parents who created a quaint beachside restaurant with 12 simple huts. After university, Sornsong returned home and transformed the property into a lush, minimalist resort. When he first conceived The Library, he envisaged a retreat that recaptured the joys of storytelling, "When guests leave here, I want them to feel that they have just left a magical place full of stories." Aged just 26 when The Library launched, Sornsong used the book as the core motif of the hotel's visual and spiritual identity. Together with designer

Tirawan Songsawat, Sornsong has created an elegant, resort surrounded by expansive grounds that provide guests with space to grow and create, a blank page on which they can write their own story. Divided into 26 suite/studio cabins, the complex avoids the monolithic hotel-complex look, scattering discreet buildings in lush vegetation. With its restrained yet sophisticated design, the conceptual resort is unique to the island: understated and peaceful. The hotel's library binds the property; its collection of over 1,300 books, available to borrow or purchase, provides a satisfying alternative to modern distractions. Sornsong's unique concept has embodied The Library with a living, breathing quality that will grow and evolve, and ultimately stand the test of time. Much like a good book.









# 5 THE NAKA PHUKET, Phuket, THAILAND

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