

# The FLUX Review

A visual feast of art, culture and world exploration - Edition 9 - £15



## ARTIST INTERVIEWS

Kirsty Mitchell  
Katrina Shearlaw  
Elena Akaeva  
Ben Sheppee  
Hang Zhang

## WORLD EXPLORATION

The Pavilions Bali  
The French Colonial Impact  
Biodiversity Nature Resort  
Hoi An Little Riverside Hotel  
Alba Wellness

## FEATURES

Victor Pellegrini  
Ally Pulleyn  
Lewis Andrews  
Bobby Forsythe  
Lenny Lopes

ISSN 2633-643X



# Chasing Red Dragonflies

## The Pavilions Bali, Sanur, Indonesia

Author - Gail Palethorpe

The Pavilions Bali is a luxurious hideaway down a long bamboo-bowered driveway in the beachside village of Sanur; here, you can wallow in doing nothing but being pampered. It is here where passion is ignited and wishes come true whenever you see a red dragonfly. In Hindu mythology, the rare red dragonfly is a spirit animal representing the purity of being. They are associated with good luck and the first chakra. Only alive for a very short time, these magical creatures with transparent patterned wings that glisten in the sun haunt the gardens of The Pavilions Bali. They kiss the water ponds, flirt with the flowers and float in the air gently perfumed with hints of frangipani flowers and sandalwood incense.

All images @ Gail Palethorpe and The Pavilions Bali



Open the wooden double doors to your villa compound oozing Balinese charm and enter an exotic enclave shrouded in old gardens and moss-covered statues. It's an oasis of calm with your private pool for skinny dipping moments and a personal butler to indulge your fanciful whims. The perfect place to spend long, lazy hours reclining on a day bed under a shady umbrella. You will be mesmerised by butterflies and the haunting beauty of red dragonflies frolicking amidst brilliant gold heliconia and purple bougainvillea flowers, while small honeybirds with yellow breasts daintily dip their beaks into flower cups, and geckos scamper in an endless hunt for morsels of prey.



There are only a small number of elegant villas featuring different configurations. One bedroom for solo travellers, couples and honeymooners. Or villas with two bedrooms for friends and family to spend valuable time together. Spacious bathrooms have fragrant personal amenities, thick fluffy bath towels and a robe. You can linger under the rain shower or luxuriate by candlelight in the oversized outdoor bath with the stars shimmering above you. A few villas give you the sweet choice of showering amongst the greenery a la natural if that's your thing. Ceiling fans and air conditioning allow airflow throughout the day and night. While massive windows and an abundance of doors reflecting lush tropical gardens bring the natural world indoors. Bedrooms have a four-poster bed known as 'the bed of kings' draped in a floating cloud of mosquito netting and smothered in plush pillows and soft linen. Woven-matted window blinds keep the light out or are easily pushed aside if you wish to wake up with the natural rhythm of early morning sunshine.



Striking photographs of quintessential Balinese life make villa walls come to life. The stylish kitchen areas are freshly stocked with everything you need, from snacks to wine and beer. A mouth-watering breakfast is delivered each morning to your villa at the hour of your choosing, or if you like to be sociable, the restaurant is open as an alternative. Cosy lounge furniture begs to be sat upon, and the elegant dining area sets the scene for a romantic dinner that can be delivered to your door. A beach bag and towels wait on the top shelf of your walk-in wardrobe when you wish to indulge in a salty dip in the ocean across the road. A Balinese gift with a note of its use in the local culture is on your pillow at night. It may be a bamboo Suling flute to entertain your partner with – tongue in cheek. Or elegantly presented incense to appease any lingering unwanted spirits. And your surname will be on the door to your villa so you can't get lost – especially at night when meandering its fairyland pathways dotted with intermittent lights. Every tiny detail to spoil yourself during your stay is at your fingertips.



Lorem Ipsum

Beautiful handmade offerings to the Balinese Hindu gods, Canang Sari, litter the entrances and statues dotted around the property. The main swimming pool is in a courtyard of tropical gardens flush with daybeds and umbrellas. You can graze all day and feed the soul. The pool bar is at hand for when you get thirsty: be good with a fruit juice or smoothie, or be naughty with a margarita, a Bintang or maybe a glass of French bubbles. All-day dining will tempt you when the hunger pangs strike. Or overindulge in a tropical version of high tea – think pandan crepes or rice cake in a coconut leaf with delicious coffee or your favourite blend of tea.



The Pavilions Bali take their food very seriously. Let your taste buds come alive with the traditional cuisine of Indonesia by dining under the clear night sky in your own candle-lit gazebo at the Jahe Restaurant. Or dine à deux in your villa with a private seafood barbecue. Wherever you choose to tantalise your palate, indigenous dishes will compete with international fare. The produce is so fresh the colours pop, and the flavours will leave you craving more. It's a unique culinary experience as Balinese cuisine has taken on influences from India, Malaysia and China. You will be sent on a wild ride of taste sensations: aromatic Asian spices, sometimes with mouth-puckering hot chilli. The budding wanna-be chef can get up close and personal with The Pavilions Bali's head chef and learn his secret cooking techniques in individual cooking lessons. And, yes, you get to eat what you cook!



When you wish to immerse yourself in pampering, The Pavilions Bali spa is a serene space of magical self-indulgence hidden behind an ornate doorway. Take your pick of how you wish to bliss out. Have a signature massage—literally melting in delight as any body tension is released and those nasty knots are kneaded away. Or shed those old skin cells with a scrub and mask. The ultimate end to these aromatic treatments is to wallow in a floral milk bath like Javanese Princesses did long ago. The spa menu is endless, from facials to mollycoddling your tired feet in a footbath followed by a massage using essential oils. You can also practice the ancient movements of yoga in a peaceful outdoor setting with an expert wellness practitioner. It's heaven to walk through the spa's doors, wrapped in mellow strains of gamelan music and calming scented aromas.

The village streets of Sanur are only minutes away from your sophisticated refuge. Watch a blushing-pink sunset on Sanur Beach, or poke your nose into eclectic designer boutiques. Savour a French pastry and local coffee at one of the many cafes, or dine in one of the restaurants dotted along the main road of Jalan Danau Tamblingan.

Or simply bask in your own space, and whenever you glimpse a red dragonfly, make a wish, as you are in the lap of luxury on the island of the Gods.

Take a peek at the villas: [pavilionshotels.com](http://pavilionshotels.com)

