

TRAVELER



TRAVEL 2019

THE UNGASAN CLIFFTOP RESORT
Bali, Indonesia

This feels a bit like you're teetering on the edge of the world. Sure, Australia's out there somewhere, but from your cliff-hugging, private infinity pool, it's nothing but endless views of the sapphire-blue Indian Ocean. The resort is made up of seven sumptuous villas: each a private hideaway with laugh-out-loud enormous bedrooms, all tropical cool with their white-and-wheat tones, soaring ceilings, Balinese carvings and alfresco showers. For the most fun, take the whole villa and throw the mother of all house parties. There are bars, cinema rooms, more pools, chefs, nannies, masseuses. And butlers, divinely discreet but freakishly tuned in to your every whim, whether it's another mojito or a golf-buggy dash to the funicular, which zips down to the cool beach club. Paddleboard on pancake-flat waters, snorkel in the sparkling shallows, or just loll on talcum-powder sand, grazing on tuna poke and lobster bao buns. It's paradise perfection. *Double, from £515 (theungasan.com; +62 811 942 1110).*



asia & indian ocean

Dreamy tropical archipelagos, eco-chic hideaways and butlers on call



WILD COAST TENTED LODGE
Yala National Park, Sri Lanka

Surreally beautiful, this safari camp is made up of 28 'cocoon' scattered across a jungly plot in the buffer zone next to Yala National Park that crumbles into a thick strip of golden dunes and wave-bashed coastline. With their steel exoskeletons and porthole windows, the chrysalis- and teardrop-shaped cocoons are appealingly bonkers, their effect entirely UFO. Inside, the theme is industrial explorer: copper-pipe washstands and bathtubs from Jaipur, teak floorboards, Turkish rugs and leather campaign chairs. The owner operators, Resplendent Ceylon, know how to make an impression, whether that's the shingled, boulder-shaped dining room with infinity pool where suppers of fish curry are served, or the private, crowd-free Yala game drives for leopard or sloth-bear sightings. This is Sri Lanka, which means safari is only one of the attractions: there's blue-whale spotting in offshore channels, and an important Hindu site down the road – reached by car, avoiding the elephants crossing the road. *Ampersand Travel (ampersandtravel.com; 020 7819 9770) offers seven nights, full board, from £4,795, including flights, car and driver.*

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