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Asia-Pacific

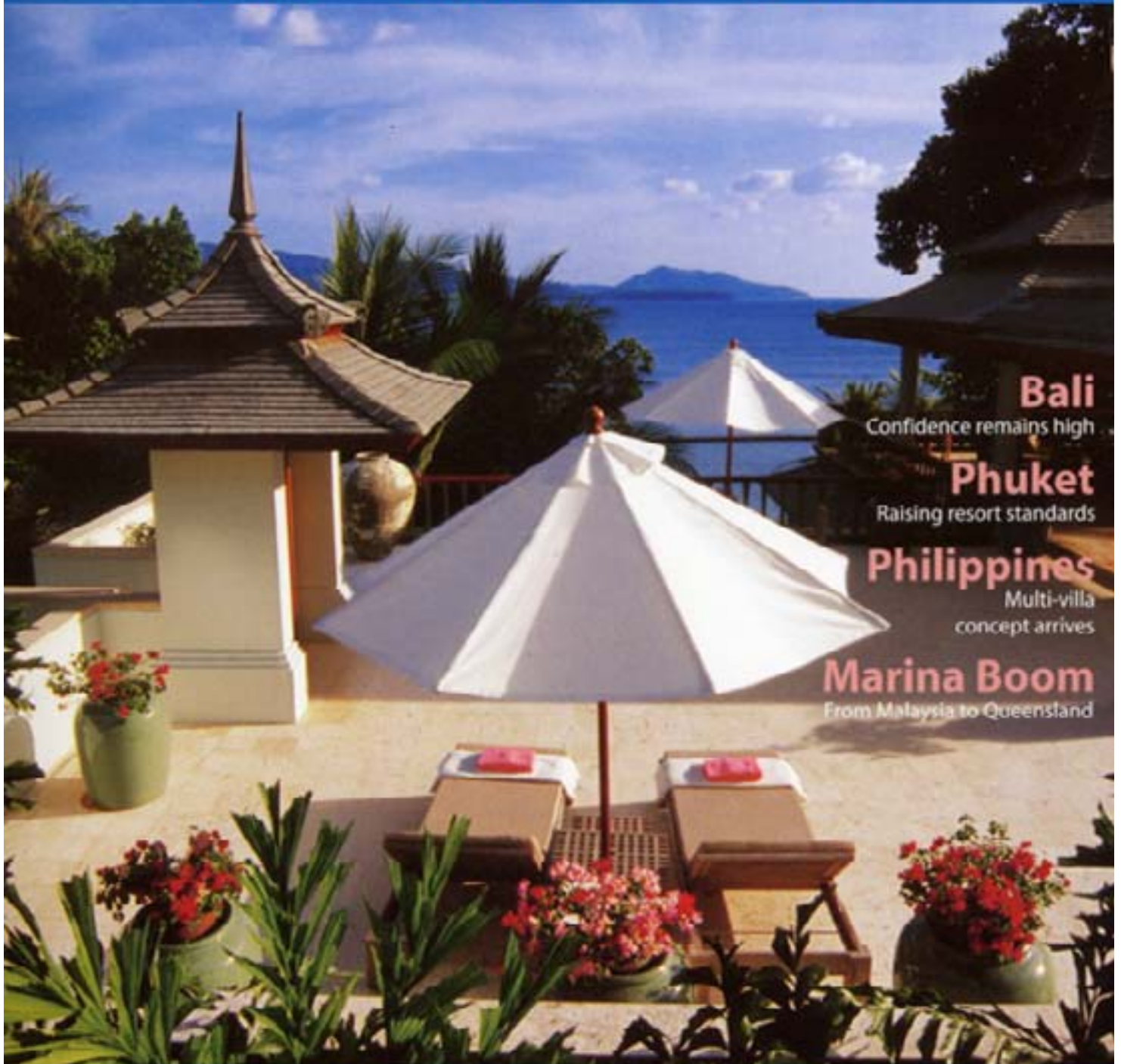
HOMES *Tropical*

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Lifestyle

Design & Architecture

Villa Rentals



Bali

Confidence remains high

Phuket

Raising resort standards

Philippines

Multi-villa
concept arrives

Marina Boom

From Malaysia to Queensland

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Escaping was never so comfortable.

In the heart of the heart of modern Bali

The Elysian presents a break from the more far-flung escapes usually featured on this page. A great little discovery for those seeking a taste of Bali's most famous attractions, it lies in the heart of "modern" Bali, a suburb of sophisticated restaurants, galleries, boutiques and other diversions perhaps offering more fine design per hectare than any other place on earth. Meet Seminyak, Bali's "in" face. The Elysian lies on a quiet back street, sharing a wall with the Oberoi Hotel, right in the heart of modern Bali. This newly opened boutique resort offers 26 mini pool villas in a new interpretation of contemporary Asian style, as well as a larger communal pool, restaurant, bar and many other facilities. "Cosy, finely finished, and warmly human" also helps characterize this fine resort. This modernist interpretation of the Balinese villa offers seclusion, elegance and easy access to all the happening buzz. It's a mere hop and skip home from Ku De Ta, for example, arguably Bali's best-known boutique bar-restaurant. www.theelysian.com **JE**



The Byron at Byron, hippie haven to honeymoon retreat

Byron Bay is losing the backpacker image it has held for the last few decades. The town has developed into a much more sophisticated destination. The new Byron at Byron Resort, Spa and Conference Centre, the first 5-star resort in the region, has become popular with couples, especially honeymooners, and families wanting a stress-free holiday with everything on tap. The resort has built on just 10% of 18 hectares of rainforest adjoining Tallow Beach. The resort offers 92 air-conditioned suites, as well as a 25m infinity pool, spa facilities and restaurant helmed by award-winning chef Matt Wild.

Just across the road from the Byron Bay Golf Course, a few minutes from the town and all the surfing beaches, the Byron at Byron can serve as a quiet retreat or as a base for exploring the whole fascinating region. www.thebyronatbyron.com.au **Fay Knight**



Creative native Nashville

Waimea emerged after friends Allan Nash and Jose Catita put their creative heads together on the shores of Puerto Galera. Stretched across 150m of waterfront in tiny Laguna Beach, Waimea – sometimes known as "Nashville" – Waimea was constructed with the natural landscape in mind.

"The idea was to keep the outside as native as possible," explains Nash. And that they did. With just five two-storey homes that include design elements from indigenous bungalows, the land has been anything but overdeveloped. A local landscape designer, meanwhile, has surrounded the hideaway's Nautilus-shaped marble swimming pool with colourful gardens. www.egalleon.com **MOM**

