

# the SAMADHIAN

SAMADHI STATE OF MIND | ADVENTURE | CULTURE | TRAVEL | CUISINE

ISSUE 4  
JANUARY TO MARCH  
2018



A trailblazer for immersive, off-the-beaten-path adventures, Samadhi Retreats lands its first villa in Thailand.

## The Samadhi Chiang Mai

Chiang Mai: the former seat of the ancient Lanna Kingdom and a centre for culture and religion in Thailand. With dense jungles to the north, bustling markets along its streets, and over 300 Buddhist temples to explore, it is no wonder the city is commonly called the, "Rose of the North" by the locals.

Along the banks of the gently meandering Ping River will sit The Samadhi – a private hideaway just 20 minutes away from the town, intimately entwined with the fabric of the local Thai community. With 21 quaint rooms and 5 villas in the Lanna design, each individual retreat will be built amidst rice plantations, organic vegetable farms, and flower fields owned and managed by members of the local community.

Take a boat ride down the river to Chiang Mai city centre for a day of exploration, or head into the outskirts and visit one of the six main hill tribes for a truly intimate insight into their traditions and rich culture.

The Samadhi is set to open end 2018, and 5 villas are currently available for sale. If you would like to register your interest, please email [residences@samadhiretreats.com](mailto:residences@samadhiretreats.com).



### KEY FEATURES

- 330 square metres of living space
- 21 square metre private pool
- 17 kilometres from the city
- Situated along the river bank
- Views of the riverbank and the Doi Suthep mountain
- Surrounded by organic gardens
- Butler, Housekeeping and Maintenance services by Samadhi Retreats

## CEO's Message

Happy New Year to our Samadhians and warm greetings as we begin 2018.

This January, we celebrate the one-year anniversary of Villa Samadhi in Singapore, the only colonial hotel situated in a nature reserve in Singapore. Built in the 1920s, Villa Samadhi embraces Singapore's colourful past and rich history, while imbued with the city's promising future. We have been honoured to serve you as our guest and we hope that you have had a sense of personal renewal during your stay with us. Villa Samadhi also features Singapore's first African Safari Tent, inspired by the desert dwellings of Bedouin nomads. This 15-metre stretch tent is set up in the lush gardens of the villa, to provide a truly alternative destination for an intimate celebratory evening.

This year, we look forward to new ventures and new challenges while strengthening our brand in the region. We are poised to open our first property in Thailand, The Samadhi Chiang Mai. Centred on well-being and respite, this retreat entwines its design, hospitality and dining elements with the fabric of the local Thai community.

We also look towards opening a new chapter with two projects in the pipeline – a luxury Dive Resort on Tioman Island and a Floating Tented Camp in the 130-million-year-old Belum Rainforest. Every project adds to our experience and expertise, and each is valued and cherished because of the effort, the thought and the planning that has gone into the development process.

While we're steadily moving forward, we also believe in the importance of staying true to our heritage. This includes a continued focus on sustainability and giving back to the local communities and the environment.

We work with "Orang Asli", indigenous people of Malaysia, to offer a range intricately hand-woven bags and clutches at our Samadhi Boutique in Japamala Resort. Woven by tribe members using only with recycled or sustainable materials, 10% of proceeds from each bag goes into the training of artisans, planting trees and a Malayan Tiger conservation campaign.

We spearhead the growth and culture of local farming by cultivating our own vegetable garden, we connect the community to nature by purchasing our seafood directly from fishermen in Malaysia, and we celebrate the local spirit of community by focusing on locally sourced and freshly harvested ingredients that nourish the soul.

I would like to thank you for being a part of our Samadhi experience. We look forward to creating more journeys of meaning with you.

FEDERICO ASARO  
CEO AND FOUNDER



## Our Brand Philosophy

The Samadhi experience is a blend of local history, culture, heritage and sustainability to create what we call our brand of rustic luxury. At Samadhi, we build a holistic experience by blending luxury with culture and heritage of the local place. We believe in design that inherits the local architecture, cuisine that is reflective of tradition and adventure in unique destinations as well as a sense of respect for the environment.

Our properties are designed and built within a philosophy that invites our guests into a state of mind called Samadhi. In Sanskrit, Samadhi is the highest state of meditation – the moment when the mind achieves stillness and a state of meditative consciousness.

The long walkways leading into the main entrance – a distinctive feature at each Samadhi property – are essentially a metaphor for your 'gateway to a dream state'. Beckoned by strong core values which centre around protecting and preserving nature, we build responsibly, operate eco-consciously and advocate to leave wildlife and their habitats unharmed in the process.

Sustainability is part of the brand DNA, we grow our vegetable gardens, purchase our seafood directly from fishermen in Malaysia and support the local communities by introducing products made by "orang asli" of Malaysia.



## Enriching Adventures in the Outskirts of Kuala Lumpur

Just 20 minutes north from the city centre lies one of Malaysia's most iconic sights and holiest Hindu shrines, Batu Caves. A convergence of culture and tradition, this complex of giant limestone caves have been drawing Hindu pilgrims for more than 120 years.

Spend the day visiting these famed natural caverns and marvel at artistically constructed shrines lined with colourful deities, before climbing the 272 steps up into the high caverns. Complete the tour by enjoying a generous banana leaf lunch, a much-loved Malaysian staple consisting of rice, raita (cucumber and yoghurt), mixed vegetables and crunchy pappadam topped with curry or dhal.

If you've crossed this famous attraction off your bucket list, Kuala Selangor offers another reason to revisit the city. Discover the municipality's famed paddy fields and explore the traditions and cultures of its local community. This day trip starts with a visit to the local fish market to experience the leisurely local sea-faring life and witness a treasured fishing tradition of generations past. Thereafter, make a wish at popular Wishing Tree at Redang Beach, and visit the Chinese Nan Tian Kong Temple. Dedicated to the Taoist god of prosperity, this definitive highlight sits in the centre of this picturesque paddy fields. End your trip with a seafood lunch on a stilted restaurant, set along the scenic river of Kuala Selangor.

Travels with Samadhi offers private trips to these locations. Find out more at [www.travelswithsamadhi.com](http://www.travelswithsamadhi.com)

## New Hideaways at Japamala Resort

After months of sourcing for natural materials and careful construction by hand, Japamala Resort is now ready to unveil two new rooms in a category of their own – the Luxe Treetop Sarangs.

Nestled amidst the luxuriant jungle canopy, these back-to-nature retreats boast over 61 square metres of living space and a private plunge pool for an added touch of luxury.

In line with the group's philosophy, each room was constructed around nature to preserve the inherent beauty of the destination, while the blend of handcrafted furniture, restored timber and tall glass windows create an air of soft, island-chic living.

Guests to the resort can also look forward to enjoy a new freeform swimming pool and a gastronomic experience at Il Tempio, our latest dining destination which opened in the second half of 2017. Offering an array of hearty Italian fare, indulge in signature pastas and succulent cuts of meat.



## Awards & Accolades

TripAdvisor Travellers Choice Award 2017 Recipient  
– Tamarind Hill Kuala Lumpur

In October 2017, the hilltop restaurant was selected as one of the winners in the Best Fine Dining Restaurants category, recognising it as one of the top 1% of restaurants in the country. We would like to thank all our diners who have taken their time to write their reviews about us, and we look forward to creating even more experiences with you in the future!



RAS Epicurean Star Award 2017 Nominee –  
Tamarind Hill Singapore

We are delighted to share that Tamarind Hill has been nominated for the Epicurean Award in the category of Best Asian Restaurant (Fine Dining). Organised by the Restaurant Association of Singapore, it is an award that celebrates the milestone achievements of individuals and establishments in Singapore's F&B industry.

## Unveiling Singapore's First African Stretch Tent

Relish the private villa experience amidst the rainforest at Villa Samadhi Singapore and discover a 1920s heritage residence and the city's first and only African stretch tent.



Inspired by the dwellings of the Bedouin – nomads who historically roamed the Middle Eastern deserts – the 12-metre by 15-metre stretch tent was specially created in South Africa and assembled within Villa Samadhi's lush garden.

Offering 20 alluring rooms that are furnished in harmony with their colonial surroundings, Villa Samadhi is perfectly poised for a destination wedding. Make an exclusive booking of the property and its grounds, and spend a weekend celebrating with your closest family and friends. With numerous event spaces, the possibilities are endless.



VENUE CAPACITY	
Hotel	20 rooms
Library, Standing	40 guests
African Tent, Seating	100 guests
African Tent, Standing	150 guests

For bookings and enquiries, please contact +65 6270 1868 or email [se-sg@samadhiretreats.com](mailto:se-sg@samadhiretreats.com).

## Villa Samadhi Singapore Turns One

On 5 January 2018, Villa Samadhi celebrated its first anniversary – a significant milestone for the hotel and for Samadhi Retreats.

Housed in a 1920s colonial garrison, it is the only hotel in Singapore that is situated in a Nature Reserve, and offers a seamless fusion of nature, heritage and rustic-luxury.

In an effort to continually improve its offerings, the hotel also incorporated Handy Phones into its rooms and worked with Mobike to offer a bike rental services for guests who wish to explore the nature reserve.

Villa Samadhi was also honoured to receive numerous awards, including the Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence in April 2017 just 4 months after its opening, as well as recognition in Travel+Leisure's IT List.

For reservations and enquiries, please call +603 2630 8324 or email [reservations@villasamadhi.com.sg](mailto:reservations@villasamadhi.com.sg)





## Trails of Discovery

*Japamala Resort, Villa Samadhi Kuala Lumpur and Villa Samadhi Singapore*

From the bright lights of the city to the tranquillity of an island paradise, spend six inspired evenings at our boutique residences and resort.

Begin your journey in Kuala Lumpur or Singapore, before your voyage to the east coast of Malaysia for an island getaway. Set amidst an ancient rainforest and framed by an azure lagoon, relaxation and rejuvenation beckons at Japamala Resort.

- Four-night stay at Japamala Resort, Tioman Island
- Complimentary two-night stay at Villa Samadhi Singapore or Villa Samadhi Kuala Lumpur
- Two-way land transfers from Villa Samadhi to Mersing Jetty for two
- Two-way boat transfers from Tioman Island's Genting Jetty to Japamala Resort for two

For reservations and enquiries

CALL: +603 2630 8324

EMAIL: [reservations@japamalaresorts.com](mailto:reservations@japamalaresorts.com)



## An Afternoon with Mark Burkhardt

Introducing Villa Samadhi Kuala Lumpur's new Resident Manager

Bringing years of expertise in the hospitality industry, Mark Burkhardt understands what makes a journey meaningful and memorable. Being a traveller himself, he is always on a quest to incorporate small touches to make it part of Villa Samadhi's gesture to ensure guests' experience is exceptional.

Mark's escapades are far from normal touristy settings, sharing this trait with Villa Samadhi as both prioritise exploring genuine and authentic experience. When asked about the uniqueness of Villa Samadhi, he responded that it is definitely a getaway destination in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, where one can escape city life without even having to leave the concrete jungle. Despite being located minutes away from the city centre, Villa Samadhi's 'Rustic-Luxe' concept immediately transports guests into an urban oasis.



## Stay 4 Pay 3

*Japamala Resort, Tioman Island*

From now till 28 February 2018, retreat amidst true seclusion at Japamala for 4 consecutive nights, and enjoy the fourth evening complimentary.

- Daily breakfast for two
- Complimentary four pieces of laundry per day
- Evening cocktails for two at Mandi Mandi restaurant

For reservations and enquiries

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EMAIL: [reservations@japamalaresorts.com](mailto:reservations@japamalaresorts.com)



## Samadhi Getaway

*Villa Samadhi Singapore*

Experience the rich heritage of colonial Singapore and explore the thriving wildlife at the Labrador Nature Reserve with our weekday package available from 7 January to 13 Feb 2018.

- 20% off stays from Sunday to Thursday
- Daily breakfast for two persons
- Welcome afternoon tea set for two
- Evening cocktails at the Chandelier Bar

For reservations and enquiries

CALL: +603 2630 8324

EMAIL: [reservations@villasamadhi.com.sg](mailto:reservations@villasamadhi.com.sg)



## A Celebration of Love

This Valentine's Day, let us create a romantic and intimate evening at Tamarind Restaurants and our boutique Villa Samadhi properties. The perfect backdrop to experience love through all senses, share tender moments at our award-winning restaurants and savour a four-course menu from Global to Indochinese cuisine, or impress your loved one with a romantic weekend away.

Be it a private oasis in the heart of the city or a stay within a heritage colonial bungalow, our unique properties offer the perfect backdrop to experience love through all senses.

For reservations and enquiries

CALL: +603 4256 930

EMAIL: [reservations@tamarindrestaurants.com](mailto:reservations@tamarindrestaurants.com)



## Get Paws-perous with Tamarind Restaurants

Welcome the Year of the Dog and celebrate Lunar New Year at our award-winning restaurants.

Add a touch of elegance to your reunion feasts with our Executive Chefs' Indochinese interpretations of Chinese classics and favourites. Amongst the scrumptious dishes that will be presented are Prawn Dim Sum à la Thai, Honey Duck with Longevity Noodles, and Steamed Seabass with Ginger and Herbs.

Host intimate get-togethers with your family and colleagues, and toss to a year of abundance with our unique Thai-inspired Yu Sheng. Created entirely from scratch, it comprises more unusual ingredients including Shredded Taro, Sour Plum & Tamarind sauce and Freshly Sliced Salmon.

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