





SALA PHUKET

Resort and Spa

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If fairies were real (and we're not saying they aren't), one can easily imagine they would find a welcome home in the ethereal grounds of Sala Phuket Resort and Spa. Located on a dramatically secluded section of Mai Khao Beach, Sala rises from the leafy earth wrapping itself around its natural surroundings to create a stunning juxtaposition between concrete and clouds.

With 63 out of its 79 villas and suites featuring private pools, Sala's most defining feature is the privacy its guests are offered. Luxurious open air bathrooms adorned with crystal chandeliers overlook azure pools encased in high walls. Floor to ceiling windows open completely to encourage full indoor/outdoor living spaces. Each artfully decorated wooden door within the resort seems to contain its own secret garden just waiting to rise to the occasion.

Sala manages to cleverly combine rare historical Sino-Portuguese architecture with high-end luxury at every turn to ensure guests are pampered in complete fashion. Clean lines, creamy off-whites and minimalistic decor ensure maximum impact. However, Sala has done careful work to ensure that nature is included in its architectural design. Concrete walkways are allowed to grow carpets of grass and moss so that the experience





is one of natural ambience rather than forced integration. Secret swings and chairs throughout Sala hide in the long grass begging for a good book and a glass of wine.

The showpiece of the resort has to be its three beachfront infinity pools surrounded by comfortable sun loungers and soft couches. It is easy to let the afternoon slip by with a few cocktails under the warm Phuket sun watching the palm trees sway in a light breeze. A short stroll finds you on the shores of Mai Khao beach where a connection with nature is sure to be felt in the most spectacular fashion. There is something to be said for a spirit filled with wanderlust when it meets a lonely beach. If the resort itself isn't enough to strip away the stress of everyday living, the award-

winning Sala Spa promises to synchronize your inner being. Misty wooden walkways over still waters are reminiscent of worlds long forgotten while therapies combining ancient rituals with modern therapies soothe the soul.

The Sala Restaurant is located by the pools and on the beachfront and features an decadent menu able to please any palate. The real magic, however, lies above the restaurant for rooftop dining where tables "float" on their own reflection pond. Panoramic views through coconut groves of an untouched coastline are eager to greet diners. We like to think that's where those fairies flitter and fly as they enjoy one of Phuket's last flawless beaches under a red setting sun.



