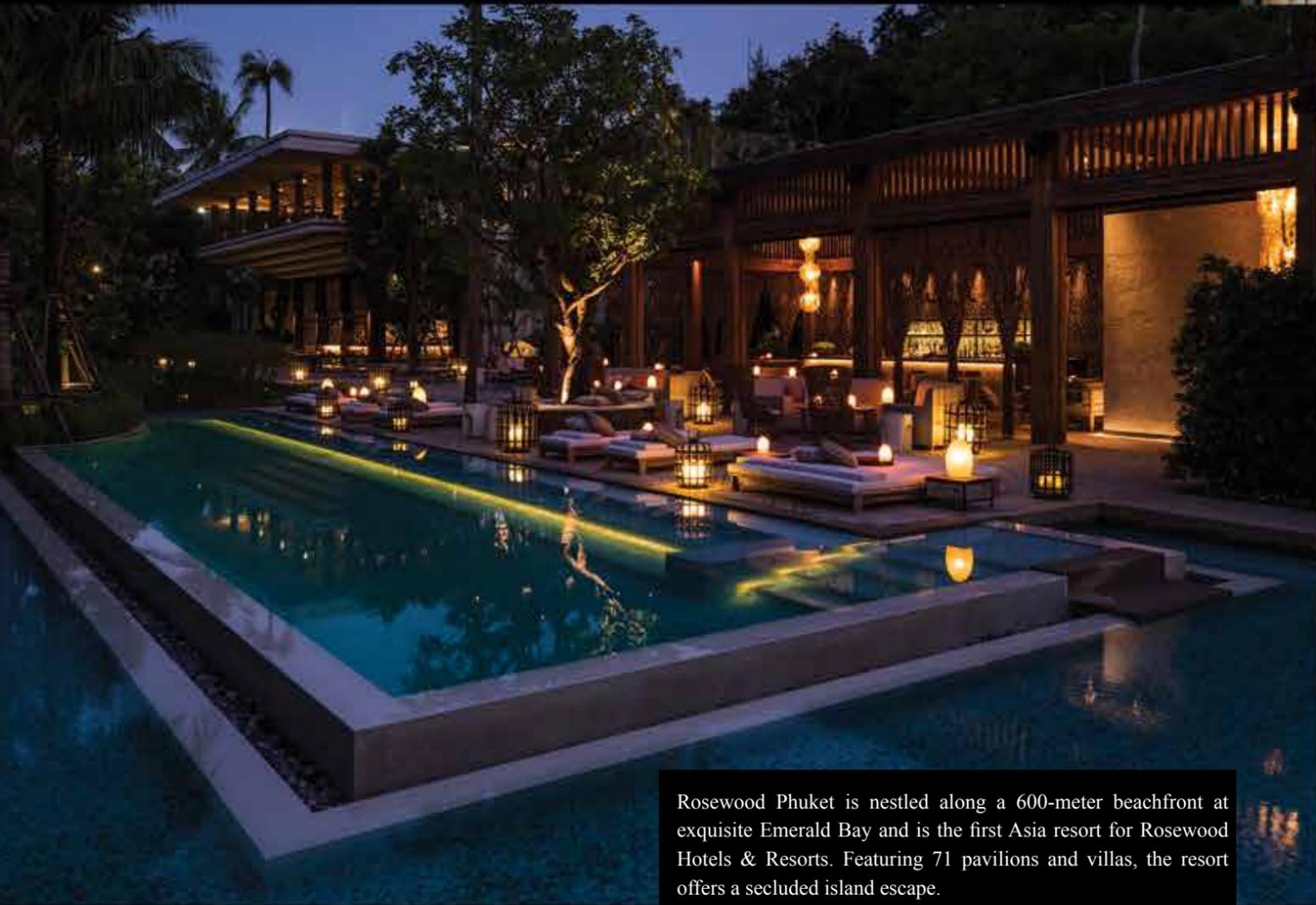


# Adding Luxury To Thailand

Amazing Thailand has added three more amazing luxury hotels for the discerning tourist – two in Phuket and one in Koh Samui.

- By Aruna Rathod



Rosewood Phuket is nestled along a 600-meter beachfront at exquisite Emerald Bay and is the first Asia resort for Rosewood Hotels & Resorts. Featuring 71 pavilions and villas, the resort offers a secluded island escape.

The hotel's environmentally sensitive, contemporary architecture style utilizes indigenous materials such as stone and timber throughout, and features floor-to-ceiling windows in all private and public areas to offer a fully immersive experience of the hillside forest surroundings. The design incorporates sustainable practices, including rain water retention ponds, to provide the entire resort's water supply, the largest solar renewable energy system for any Phuket hotel and "landscaped" rooftops for energy conservation.

Landscaping is handled by Bangkok-based P-Landscape, with a clear focus on the preservation of the natural environment through the retention or careful transplantation of existing trees and indigenous foliage right through to the protection of sacred 150-year-old banyan trees situated in the resort grounds.

## Rosewood, Phuket

The first Asia resort for Rosewood Hotels & Resorts

Rosewood Phuket lies along the southwestern coastline in a picturesque bay with one of the last remaining secluded beaches on the island. Hidden away amid mountainous headland, 43.5 acres of verdant beachfront forest naturally immerses the guest in a tranquil, island escape, while the winding coastal road provides convenient access to a nearby bustling town popular with visitors. Authentic experiences of the island's cultural attractions and historic Old Town are within easy reach, while guests are perfectly placed for timeless explorations around the dramatic marine environments of the Andaman Sea.



## Baba Beach Club

Get a taste of luxury at Baba Beach Club located on the beachfront of the Natai area with breath-taking views of the Northern tip of Phuket. With an amazing view of the sandy beach, Baba Beach Club comprises two-bedroom pool villas and five-bedroom beachfront villas with resort-style residences of the highest quality, maximum privacy, and superior service. The site is located just 20 minutes north of Phuket International Airport, and is surrounded by a lush tropical environment in an area of rich natural beauty and unforgettable charm, which is emerging as a prime extension of Phuket. Natai Beach has been recognized as one of the most beautiful white sandy beaches in Phuket. The unspoiled area features breathtaking views of the Andaman Sea.

The Baba Beach Club Hotel, Phuket, consists of 16 one-bedroom beachfront properties, each designed with its own touch of beach club style. Five different room types are available, as well as a larger residential collection of five bedroom beachfront pool villas.





## Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui

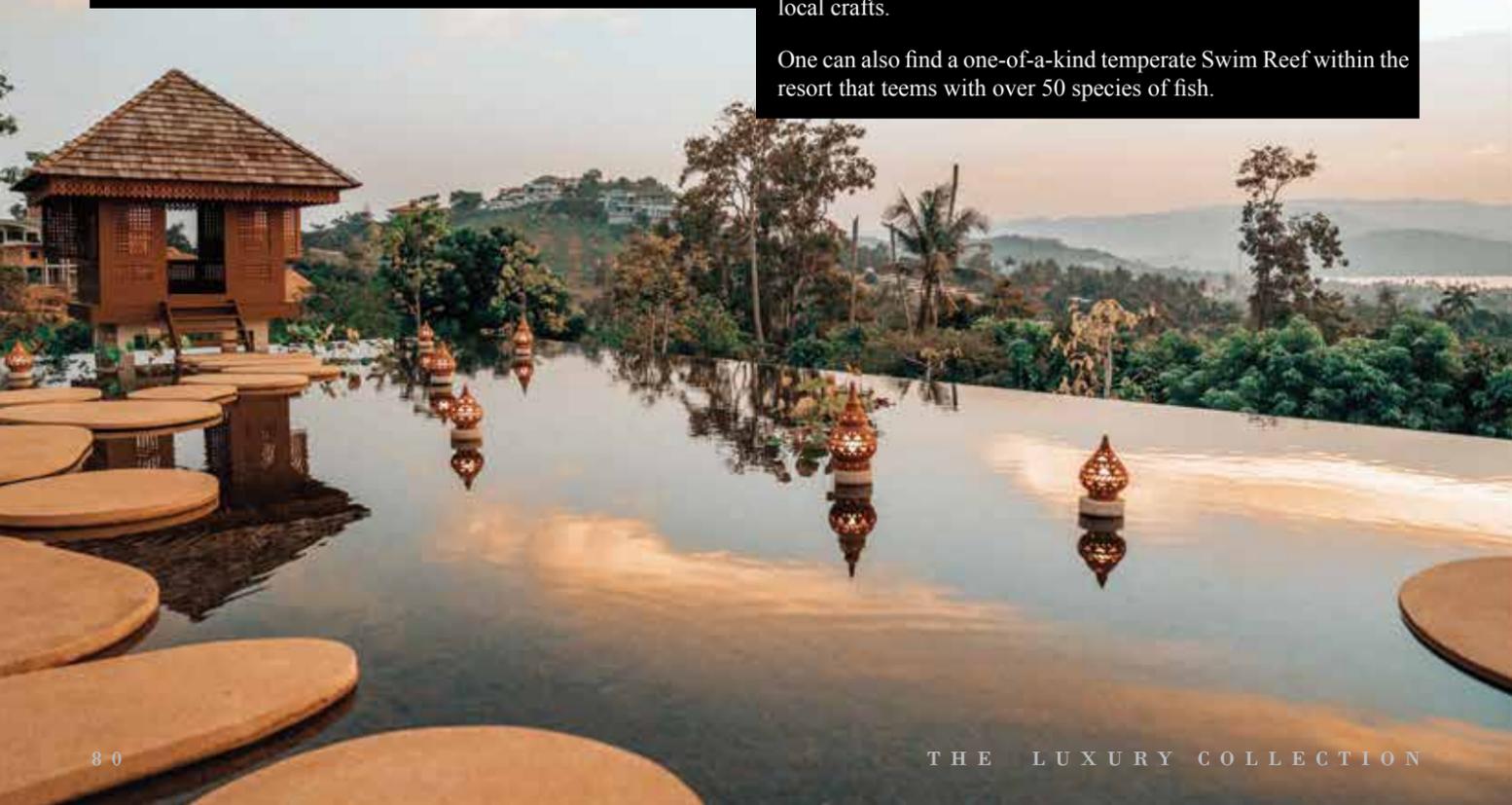
Situated on Thailand's third-largest island, The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui, introduces a new sanctuary of luxury amongst white sand beaches and the emerald waters of the Gulf of Thailand.

Marking its first presence on the Eastern coast of Thailand, the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. announced the newest addition, reflecting the traditional spirit of Thai hospitality and colourful Samui island life culture to create a unique melting pot of indelible new memories.

The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui offers 175 suites and pool villas nestled amid 58 acres that overlook the Gulf of Thailand. Built on the site of a former coconut plantation, the resort pays homage to its past through the extensive use of coconut and other natural materials, touches that imbue a sense of place and help immerse guests in their destination.

The oceanfront resort features Spa Village Koh Samui, a 3,800 square metre haven anchored in the healing culture of the region, complete with eight treatment suites, three massage pavilions, a yoga pavilion, a health bar, and a lap pool with intimate cabanas. The resort's culinary offerings reflect Koh Samui's destination across seven dining experiences including Pak Tai, offering fine dining interpretations of traditional southern Thai cuisine with views over the swim reef from its secluded individual dining terraces. Additional venues include Shook!, a stylish interactive dining space serving innovative Asian and Western dishes complemented by a superb selection of fine wines; Sea Salt, where international classics and Thai favourites are offered in a relaxed dining atmosphere; and Tides, an ideal spot for sun-lovers to unwind with a refreshing cocktail from the poolside bar and enjoy a citrus-cured specialty from the cevicheria. With its circular bar and lounge, One Rai offers cocktails and Asian-inspired small bites. On Saturdays, guests can enjoy Baan Talat, an outdoor food market experience with street food stalls, traditional dancing and local crafts.

One can also find a one-of-a-kind temperate Swim Reef within the resort that teems with over 50 species of fish.



# Slim. Beautiful. Powerful

The new automatic Grand Seiko Caliber for women.

If there has ever been a complaint about Seiko, it was that the Grand Seiko range did not offer quite enough for women. With the Caliber 9S25, that situation has been remedied and that in a limited edition of just fifty pieces.

Just 4.49 mm in height the Caliber 9S25 nevertheless has the strength to deliver a 50 hour power reserve and precision levels of +8 to -3 seconds per day. Which speaks volumes about the engineering that has gone into its making. In point of fact, Caliber 9S25 uses Grand Seiko's most advanced technologies, including the latest 610 alloy for the balance spring and MEMS engineering for the pallet fork, escapement wheel and other key components. The gear train layout is entirely new as is the profile of the teeth on each gear to ensure maximum energy efficiency. The escapement wheel has a new design that is lighter but still robust and designed for maximum durability. It is an 8 beat caliber with 33 jewels.



Like all other Grand Seiko mechanical watches, this watch is made and assembled by hand at the Shizukuishi Watch Studio in Morioka. No compromise is made at any stage; each 9S25 movement is put through the same rigorous 17 day testing procedure as every men's Grand Seiko mechanical watch.

Hidden within the movement is the escapement wheel which is made in the shape of a five-petal flower and, beneath the oscillating weight, the elegant lines of the bridges flow like a stream that can be glimpsed as the weight moves back and forth. Similarly, the additional strap has a white textured surface with a grosgrain pattern but behind it lies a second and hidden layer, made of the finest crocodile leather.

The dial is both striking and subtle. Its rich look is achieved with silver lamé that creates the sensual texture of the snow on Mt Iwate that overlooks the Shizukuishi studio where the watch is made. The bezel features 37 diamonds set into the 18k case with 60 diamond-cut facets. One larger diamond is set into the crown and eleven more mark the hours on the dial.

Now if all this is making you drool for the Caliber 9S25, you will have to wait for a couple of months to see it adorn your wrist. The watch is scheduled to be released in July.



Specifications

- Caliber 9S25.
- Vibrations: 28,800 vibrations per hour (8 beats per second).
- Accuracy: +8 to -3 seconds per day (when static).
- Power reserve: 50 hours.
- Number of jewels: 33.
- Diameter: 19.4 mm, Height: 4.49 mm.
- 18k rose gold case with diamonds (0.88 carat).
- High definition dual-curved sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating.
- See-through screw case back.
- Water resistance: 10 bar. Magnetic resistance: 4,800 A/m
- Diameter: 28.7 mm, Thickness: 10.8 mm.
- Crocodile strap with three-fold clasp with push button release in 18k rose gold.
- An additional white strap is included.