

# house *of* COCO

+ NAMIBIA  
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TRAVEL + STYLE



**THE  
ADVENTURE  
ISSUE**



WORDS: HANNAH TAN

Here at House of Coco, we are not just travellers, but also citizens of the world — tasked with the responsibility of caring for this beautiful planet that we call home. Our girl Hannah Tan rounds up some of the world's most eco-friendly hotels and all the wonderful work they do for the environment, to help you plan your next sustainable adventure. What's good for the environment is even better for the soul.

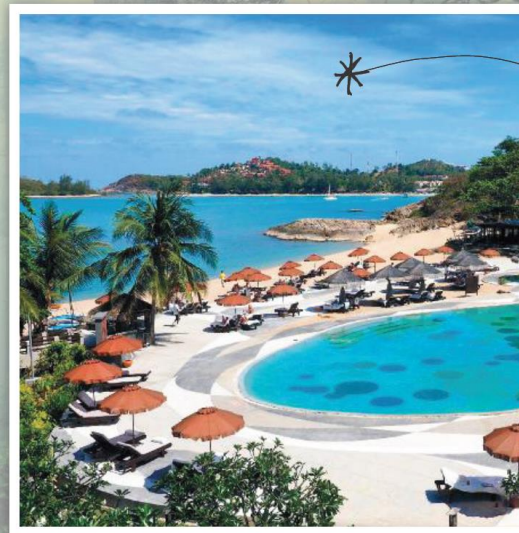
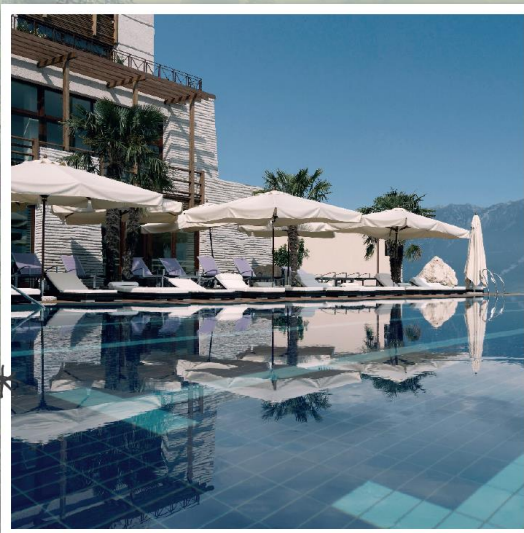
### EL NIDO RESORTS PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

Located amidst the natural limestone cliffs and lagoons of the Philippines' beautiful Palawan region, El Nido Resorts is a group of four island properties with sustainability at its core. Each island has its own unique personality that explores a different aspect of island eco-tourism. Apulit is an eco-adventure island with a variety of thrill-seeking nature activities on offer, while Miniloc is an eco-discovery island where you can learn about Palawan's ecology, and even swim with giant Jackfish. Lagen is an eco-sanctuary island nestled in a four-hectare lush forest, while Pangalusian is an eco-luxury Island, with its own seven hundred fifty metre white beach.

From the moment you arrive in the El Nido Resorts' private airport, you immediately lose yourself to the natural beauty of this tropical island paradise. The resort caters to your every need, whether that's private speedboat hire or a massage by the beach. El Nido Resorts is not only leading the trail in terms of Philippine eco-tourism but also presents the best of what this gorgeous archipelago has to offer. Crystal clear waters, spectacular lagoons, and wonderfully diverse wildlife — make a visit to El Nido Resorts, a journey you will never forget.

### LEFAY RESORT & SPA LAKE GARDA

"Personal Wellness should never overlook Environmental Wellness" is the philosophy that informs Lefay Resort & Spa. Located in the heart of the



iconic Riviera dei Limoni, Lefay Resort & Spa is the pinnacle of green Italian luxury. Surrounded by eleven hectares of protected natural park, the Lefay enjoys breathtaking views of Lake Garda and extremely rare biodiversity. Unlike other parks in the region, the Parco Alto Garda Bresciano features unique topographical contrasts. With altitudes ranging from sixty-five to two thousand metres, the park is home to a flurry of different rare flora and fauna, including 959 species of butterflies.

The hotel itself was built with the conversation of this unique environment at the forefront of its architecture, featuring individual structures perfectly fitted into the hill slopes.

For the people behind Lefay Resort & Spa, sustainability is more than just a responsibility, but a way of life. Their total green concept makes Lefay Resorts the first Italian company to sign an agreement with the Ministry of Environment with the aim of neutralising CO2 emissions. A technological centre serves as a renewable source of energy, producing electricity, heating, and cooling. This wonderfully executed balance of style, luxury, and sustainability make the Lefay Resort & Spa's green concept one we can definitely get behind.

### TONGSAI BAY, KOH SAMUI

The Tongsaibay was the first luxury hotel to open in Koh Samui. For thirty years, the Tongsaibay has been a leader in environmental conservation in Koh Samui. This family-owned luxury five-star resort has eighty-three suites, cottages, and villas, all overlooking the property's secluded bay; making Tongsaibay the epitome of privacy and tranquillity in the very popular beach destination of Koh Samui.

At Tongsaibay, all wildlife is protected. The resort is home to monitor lizards, monarch butterflies, dolphins, and a total of sixty-seven different bird species. In fact, their green policy dictates that no plant or tree may be cut down without permission. This policy encourages wildlife to the hotel, making Tongsaibay the perfect sanctuary for both travellers and local indigenous species. In addition to this wonderful commitment to wildlife conservation, the hotel also has a number of note-worthy sustainable practices. They have replaced all plastic straws with lemongrass, produce their own natural cleaning agent with local fruits and vegetables, as well as offer a completely plant-based menu. It is no wonder Tongsaibay's environmental credentials are so substantial, and why it has led the way for Koh Samui's ecological preservation.

# THE WORLD'S BEST ECO-FRIENDLY HOTELS



## PHUM BAITANG, CAMBODIA

Picturesque views of lemongrass meadows and rice paddies surround visitors at the Phum Baitang Resort, a five-star luxury resort set within eight acres of lush farmlands deep in the jungles of Siem Reap. The Phum Baitang, or “green village” in Khmer, has forty-five gorgeous stilted villas and 20 natural saltwater private plunge pools. A gateway to the mythical Angkor Wat Heritage site, the Phum Baitang combines local culture with all the modern luxuries a discerning traveller could want. Inspired by traditional Cambodian wooden farmhouses, each aspect of the property exudes the authenticity of the Cambodian village aesthetic; and is designed with a minimal environmental footprint in mind.

The Phum Baitang is sustainability at its finest; a green oasis deserving of its name. The resort is equipped with an autonomous water treatment facility, which provides guests with fresh and drinkable water throughout the year. They have also replaced all plastics with reusable Glosch-top purified bottles, and have banned fuel powered vehicles in the resort and around the resort. The Phum Baitang also takes the farm to table concept to another level by serving locally farmed “Sen Kro Ob” rice among other herbs and vegetables, all of which are grown on-site in the resort’s paddy fields. Guests are encouraged to immerse themselves in the local community, with the unique opportunity to interact with the local farmers - helping them understand the farming culture and learn about rice cultivation and processing. All this and more make the Phum Baitang a truly unique retreat, right in the heart of mystical Cambodia



## UXUA CASA TRANCOSO, BRAZIL

There are no words to describe the magic of what Wilbert Das has achieved with UXUA Casa. Located in the otherwise isolated village of Trancoso, UXUA Casa Hotel & Spa is a truly gorgeous Brazilian hideaway that combines Trancoso’s unique vibrancy, with all the little nuances of a luxury hotel. Wilbert Das, formerly of Diesel Jeans, has immersed himself into the local community. Building long-lasting friendships with the locals; and helping them transform their age-old handicrafts into sustainable livelihoods. Their



UXUA Casa Home range adorns the different Casas in the property. All the linens, for example, are made by the charismatic Evandro - who sits at his loom at the hotel’s entrance, using ancient weaving techniques to create everything from throw pillows to handbags.

With twelve Casas set in the beautiful exotic gardens of the property, no two Casas are the same, with each one having its own distinct spirit. The resort’s shining jewel is the Casa Da Arvore, an exclusive luxury treehouse constructed from recycled wood with a traditional thatched roof. The Casa Da Arvore features a captivating private garden and outdoor tub and is spread across three levels. The gorgeous natural spaces of UXUA Casa and the endearing camaraderie with the locals make UXUA Casa Brazil’s best-kept secret and the perfect ethical hideaway.

## THE SCARLET, CORNWALL

Overlooking the rolling cliffs of Mawgan Porth Beach, the Scarlet offers the most breathtaking sea views in North Cornwall. Just a five-minute drive away from Newquay airport, this adult only hotel offers the ideal luxury city-break for anyone in search of a reprieve from the hustle and bustle of city life. Each visit to the Scarlet is unique, with each break tailored to individual guests. Their packages range from wellness and yoga to even baby moon breaks for expecting mums. With thirty-seven gorgeous bedrooms, each one with its own individual outdoor spaces, the Scarlet maximises the panoramic views of the sand, sea and sky.

Outdoor cliff hot tubs, natural reed filtered swimming pools, cedar barrel saunas, and an Ayurvedic spa makes the Scarlet a glorious wellness retreat — and with a sustainable arm to boot. In the midst of your relaxation, rest assured that the Scarlet also does as much as possible to reduce its environmental impact.

The hotel uses a biomass boiler, recycles their grey-water, harvests rainwater, and even offers slippers made from recycled plastic. In addition to being the perfect coastal getaway, the Scarlet is also ethically and environmentally sustainable — making it a guilt-free wellness escape.