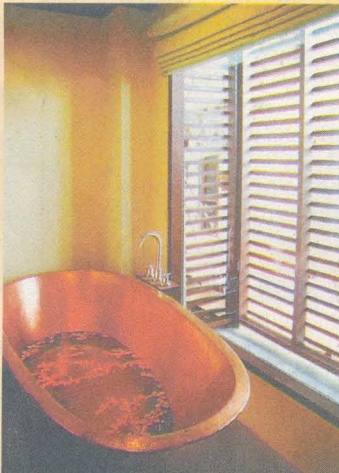
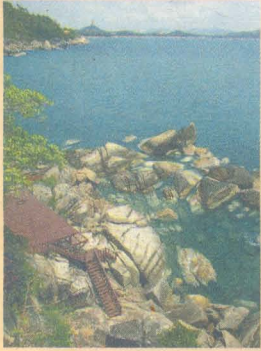


BEEN THERE

DONE THAT



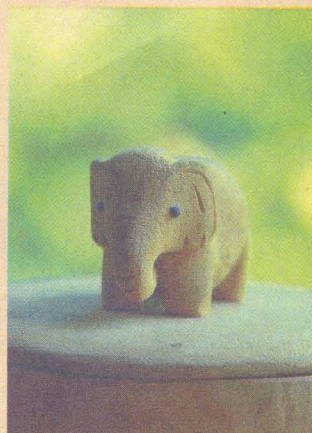
THE KALA














210/8 Moo 4, Lamai, Tambon Maret, Ko Samui, Surat Thani

Tel: 077-422-671/3; fax: 077-419-195

Email: info@thekalسامui.com; web site: www.thekalسامui.com

This is one of Samui's newest resorts. Its name means "coconut shell", a reference to the time when this island was best known for its coconut plantations. Built on a hill overlooking the Gulf of Thailand and midway between Lamai and Chawaeng beaches, the Kala offers eight private pool villas, 30 deluxe rooms, a restaurant, pool bar, spa and swimming pool. Thanks to clever landscaping, ocean views are guaranteed from every guest room and from practically every corner of the public areas. The architecture and interior decor are contemporary Thai/Asian with lots of wooden furniture (some antique) and fittings, naturally dyed fabric and hand-crafted decorative items.



BEEN THERE CRITERIA	Level of satisfaction	As experienced by: CHARUNGSAK PHITHAKPRAPHAN
Comments		
Atmosphere		Very quiet and offers complete privacy. The breathtaking sea views and natural landscape (lots of the original boulders and indigenous trees were retained) make for a most relaxing ambience.
Location		There's no beachfront but Lamai and Chawaeng beaches are only 10 to 15 minutes away by car or resort shuttle bus. It's a 30-minute trip to the airport.
Cleanliness		Neat and clean — as you'd expect from a resort in this price range. Everything still looks brand new.
Service quality		Polite and highly attentive staff. An "all-day breakfast" is served in the restaurant or in your room. You can check out at any time you want. Comprehensive room service.
Facilities		Well equipped with all the essentials, including an infinity pool, sundeck and library. There's no TV in the studio guest rooms but sets are available on request. Every pool villa has a wine "cellar" (fridge).
F & B		The sole dining area, the 26th Degree, offers local and fusion cuisine. The "spicy young fern salad with soft-shell crab" and "scallop curry with tropical fruit" were delicious. Check out jams made by resort staff from coconut and other seasonal fruit.
Security		The only access — via the main road which runs past the front of the resort — is manned by security round the clock.
Environmental & social concerns		Most of the furniture, fittings and decorative items are made from natural materials. The exterior cement walls have been left unpainted to minimise the use of chemicals. Original old trees and plants have been retained.
Price		Deluxe rooms and suites go for between 6,500 and 8,500 baht a night; Duplex Pool Villa for 13,000-14,500 baht; and the Presidential Villa for 15,000-17,000 baht. Room rates vary according to the season.
 Highly satisfied  Satisfied  So-so  Unsatisfied  Deeply dissatisfied		