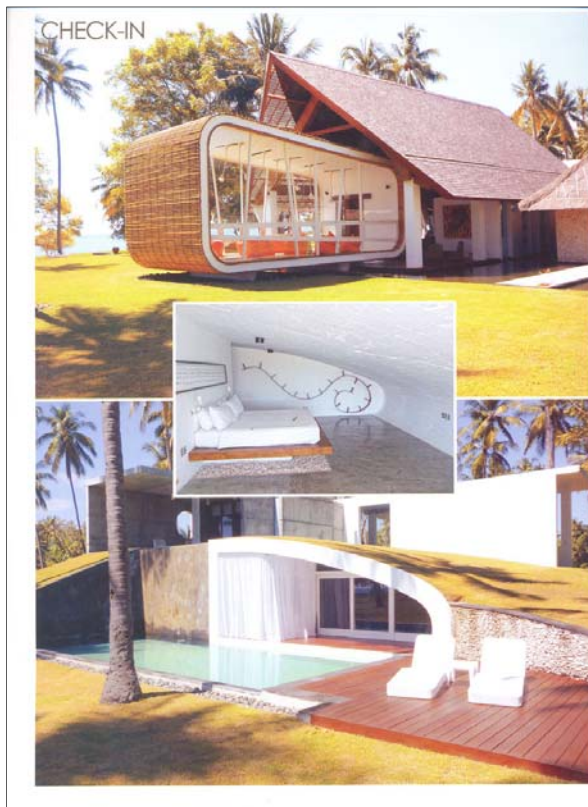


# MAXX-M – VILLA SAPI

## Edition Oct-Nov 2011



## Relax Until the Cows Come Home

VILLA SAPI is the latest super-luxury property to open on Lombok, and what awaits guests is a whole new level of relaxation and refinement.

Text by Thomas Jones | Photos courtesy of Villa Sapi

**F**orget Bali. When it comes to paradise villa holidays, north Lombok is the new place to be for the most private, prestigious and luxurious addresses in Indonesia. Blessed with pure white-sand beachfront land and landowners only willing to sell it by the hectare, five beaches is home to Villa Sapi, a destination property that has brought a new level of extravagance and space to the modern holiday villa concept. With ocean to the front of you, Mount Rinjani and Lombok's northern ranges behind and everything shaded by plenty of towering coconut trees, Villa Sapi is old-school paradise – and you will love it.

Sapi is a five-bedroom super-villa spread over 2.2 hectares of sprawling lawns with swimming pool, a tennis court and a unique architecture and design that sets it apart from its contemporaries. Designed by Canadian David Lombardi in a Bauhaus style of function over form, this is a truly stunning dwelling with curves, angles, colours and tasteful elements that will dazzle at every turn.

Sapi means "cow" in Indonesian and you may think it odd that the owners gave the villa such an inauspicious name. There is a reason. Before Villa Sapi was realised the land was home to a herd of grazing cows, the symbol of ultimate wealth and prosperity for the Indonesian farmer and the backbone of the nation providing leather, meat, milk, fertilizer and fuel and the labour required to prepare the fields. Looking at the power and majesty of Villa Sapi it is

only fitting that the owners chose to honour these noble beasts.

The main building is long and huge like the long houses of Borneo, albeit with massive hardwood beams and polished floors rather than bamboo and sheet iron, yet the hospitality is the same. A large and comfortable seating area dominates one end while a dining table for 14 the other. There are two kitchens, a designer showpiece for guests and an adjoining "backstage" staff kitchen where the culinary magic happens.

The bedrooms are all very elegant with eclectic interior, with three of the main house, and a two-room guesthouse built "underground" in a designer hill. The guesthouse has a private swimming pool and is far enough away from the main residence that it is perfect for the in-laws or loud, annoying teenagers. The office in the main house also doubles as an extra bedroom. The media room is the exclamation mark at the end of the long house and resembles a wide, caterpillar track from a World War I tank. Wrapped in bamboo with glass on two sides, it houses 12 huge beanbags and a 62-inch TV. Lying in bed glued to the goggle box is not something encouraged in this natural theatre.

The owners are strong patrons of the arts and have many pieces by Indonesia's finest young artists adorning the walls and gardens of the estate. From the Campari Soda lamps in the kitchen, to the STOP MAKING SENSE sculpture on one of

the exterior walls, its eclectic mix seems to make perfect sense.

Sure, being so isolated does have its issues and it's therefore not a place for party animals, but there are plenty of things to do in the untouched local environment for the adventurous. The villa has a slew of activities on offer for guests to fill their days should lazing under a palm tree in paradise doing nothing prove too much. Diving, hiking, visits to local waterfalls, mountain climbing, Sasak dancing, trips to local markets, cooking classes, water sports or even a scuba course, it's all only a simple request away. One of the best ways to see the area is by bicycle, of which the villa has four. With the wind in your hair, a ride through the villages and cow-filled coconut groves is a must to get a sense of how tranquil the world can be.

But, if you really do feel the need to let your hair down and dance wildly on fair taps after downing a bottle of Grey Goose, it's as easy as asking the villa manager to organise a boat for the short trip to Gili Trawangan, for a barefoot party, Seminyak style.

The staff is fantastic and the service is exquisite and efficient, and best of all discrete. If you want to splash out on your dining, however, the Hotel Taga Lombok is a five-minute stroll up the sand and the Oberoi Lombok is only a 10-minute drive away. This will make for a nice break from your break but, as they say, why go out for milk when you have a "cow" at home. ☘

# RELAX UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME

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[www.villasapi.com](http://www.villasapi.com)