

CAMOGLI

MALDIVES

SAN FRANCISCO

MOZAMBIQUE

Condé Nast Traveller

WIN
A SUITE
ESCAPE IN
THAILAND

THE LAST WORD IN TRAVEL

MIDDLE EAST

Barefoot in
Mykonos

**LONDON
TO ROME**
The quest for
Michelin stars

Inside the world's
largest cruise ship

**Brazil's greatest
beach secret**

Lounging beachside
in Mykonos



ISSN 2310-3760
3 2
9 772310 376007
JULY 2016 | AED 5 | BHD 2.5
KWD 2 | OMR 2.5 | QAR 5

WHERE TO STAY

NEW MALDIVES OPENINGS ■ CYNTHIA ROWLEY ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Moskito Island is Richard Branson's second Caribbean property

Private PROPERTY

Five new villa resorts, each on an idyllic isle, kick things up a notch with sleek design, chefs on call and incredible coastal views you won't believe

MOSKITO ISLAND, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Caribbean

Inspired by Necker Island, just a few kilometres to the north-east, Moskito Island is the second Caribbean property in Richard Branson's capsule brand Virgin Limited Edition. It opened to guests earlier this year and, since it can only be booked in its entirety, plan to hole up with 21 of your closest family and friends. The speck of an island is split into two sections. The three villas of the Branson Estate have 11 bedrooms between them – the Great Room of one features a dining table that can accommodate 40 people and a full-sized snooker table. At the eastern end of the island is the Recreation Area, or as we loosely refer to it, the fun part. Here guests will encounter the Beach House, dining pavilions, a pool bar, tennis courts, a gym and the watersports centre. In addition to sublime beaches, various infinity pools and a consummate sense of plush isolation, visitors can enjoy full-moon sailing trips, dinners on the sand, aerial performers, a DJ and movie nights with outdoor projectors and fresh popcorn.

Branson Estate from AED 173,730 per night, 0044-208-600 0430, virginlimitededition.com

WORDS: SANJAY GUPTANA

**EROSANTORINI, SANTORINI
Greece**

Opening this month atop a cliff south of Fira, EROSantorini is a multi-level, four-villa estate with two acres of gardens, flora and olive, pistachio and lemon trees. Views from the property take in nearby whitewashed villages, the island's sharp, jagged cliffs and sunsets over the caldera (like the ones for which tourists flock to the village of Oia in the north of the island, but sans the crowds). The architecture is classic Cycladic cubist, and villas in palettes of white, dark grey, blue and sage have private outdoor areas and plunge pools, heated polished cement floors, abundant blooms of red and fuchsia bougainvillea, and fireplaces suspended from the ceiling that appear to hover in mid-air. The virtue of *philotimo*, roughly translated as generosity or love with honour, informs every aspect of the stay, from yoga and Pilates with private trainers to the fine Greek food that can be enjoyed at outdoor patios, on the communal table in front of the kitchen or at a cliff-top table with the caldera and the Aegean sea unfurling below.
erosantorini.com



Postcard-perfect sunset views from EROSantorini



The off-the-grid retreat has eco-friendly cred

**THANDA ISLAND
Tanzania**

The beachfront home of Swedish entrepreneur and philanthropist couple Christin and Dan Olofsson, situated 30km east of the mainland in the ShungiMbili Island Marine Reserve, became available on a sole-use basis in April this year. The sister property of their Thanda Safari in South Africa, it's off the grid and solar-powered, providing an environmentally sensitive, refreshingly secluded island escape. The five-bedroom villa, with a glass-rim flow swimming pool and a large indoor aquarium, comes in shades of white and was decorated by the couple. Expect fabulous snorkelling – the eight-hectare island is ringed by its own private coral reef, with a one-kilometre exclusive use zone – and water toys on hand that include sailing boats, stand-up paddleboards and kayaks (seasonal highlights include nesting turtles, and whale sharks and dugongs that congregate nearby).
Doubles from AED 36,730; 0027-71-611 5348, thanda.island.com



There's not one but two kitchens in the new Villa 24

**SAMUJANA, KOH SAMUI
Thailand**

Opened in 2012 on a serene hilltop a few minutes' drive from the international airport, and a quick shuttle ride away from Choeng Mon and Chaweng beaches, Samujana quickly emerged as the most polished villa resort on an island with no shortage of them. Its crowning glory, however, debuted earlier this year. Built

on two plots, Villa 24 is a colossal 19,500sqft dwelling designed, like the estate's other villas, by Bali-based GFAB Architects. It presents two full kitchens, a private cinema, a gym, a dining sala, Jacuzzi, games room, eight bedrooms and clean, uncluttered design achieved through plenty of wood and glass. Music systems deliver

custom sounds curated by Music Eye View, while the mansion's dual-sided vantages over the Gulf of Thailand afford residents sunrise and sunset views – reason enough for drinks at dawn and dusk.
Doubles from AED 10,980; 0066-077-42 3465, samujana.com

**KOKOMO ISLAND
Fiji**

Built by the Australian diversified property developer Walker Corporation, this luxe, all-inclusive island resort will welcome its first guests later this year. The property's location, a 45-minute seaplane flight from Nadi in the Kadavu island cluster, places it a 10-minute boat ride from the Great Astrolabe Reef, promising exceptional boating and fishing, and snorkelling and diving with manta rays in the fourth largest barrier reef worldwide. Other sweeteners include a spa, a cultural village, mini-golf, guest chefs visiting throughout the year, restaurants, walking trails, a kids' club and a classic beach-shack bar. Accommodations reveal a strong sense of place – in the five multi-bedroom villas or the 21 individual, beachside Fijian *bures* (wood and straw huts). Their traditional look comes courtesy of thatched roofs, woven matting and exposed timber-pole beams in an open plan, with decks that lead on to the beach or lagoon. Yet creature comforts such as a private pool, tropical garden, outdoor shower, smart television and Wi-Fi promise to elevate the experience.
kokomoislandfiji.com



The island resort has access to the world's fourth largest barrier reef