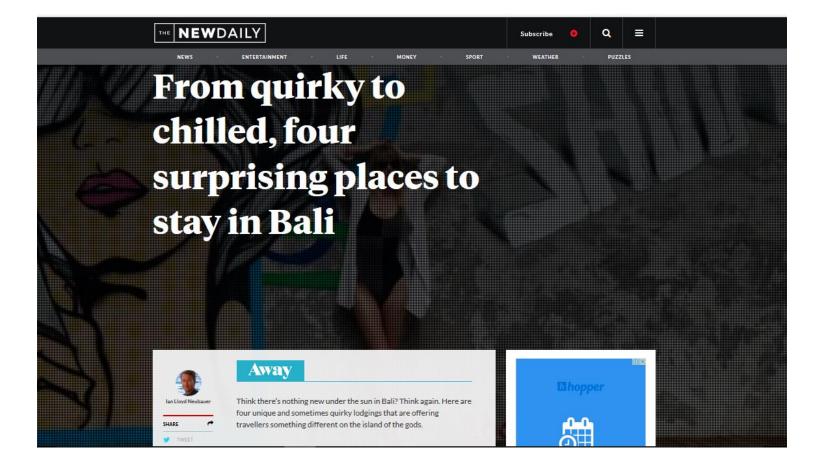
Thenewdaily.com.au – The Layar Villa

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From quirky to chilled, four surprising places to stay in Bali

By Ian Liyond Neubauer

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The Layar

In the Indonesian language, "berlayar" are the large triangular sails found on traditional wooden sailing boats. This gated community's 23 luxury pool villas are each anchored under triangular roofs that taper to the ground like the rigging of those sails, creating split-level spaces with contrasting stone and hardwood finishes. And like the sails that inspired them, these big sloping roofs are more than just aesthetic.

"The primary living areas in many of our villas are outdoor and not air-conditioned," The Layar's general manager, Andrew Leith, says. "But the smart design of the roofs allows them to catch the breeze and create good airflow throughout."



Set in Seminyak, a fashionable hub of high-end restaurants, beach bars and boutiques on Bali's southwest coast, The Layar also has one of the best restaurant hotels in Bali – an Italian trattoria

called Settimo Cielo that cooks up a terrific four-cheese pizza and meatballs just like an Italian grandmother would make.

"Being in Seminyak, many of our guests stay here specifically to dine at different restaurants each night," Mr Leith says. "But in Bali, hotel restaurants generally don't have the best reputation. Yet with Settimo Cielo, we can provide a high-end dining experience within the complex or via invilla dining for our guests."

The Layar has 23 pool villas with one to four bedrooms from around \$400 a night.

www.thelayar.com

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