

TRISARA RESORT

PHUKET, THAILAND

By: Kelly Magyarics

It's all too easy when you are on vacation to be concerned about logistics that you don't truly appreciate the setting or experience, only to reminisce with wistful longing when you are back home. Trust us you will want to be mindful of soaking in every precious fleeting moment during a stay at this blissful property on Phuket's northwest coast. Tucked among the palm trees, foliage and tropical gardens are sixty spacious villas that are warm and welcoming--but we admit it's more than a bit soul-crushing when you realize you eventually have to check out. The villas range in size from two to seven bedrooms and face either the Andaman sea or lush gardens. The inviting interior is done up in a neutral palate with hardwood floors and inlaid ceilings, built-in seating flanks the walls, a comfortable desk lets you catch up on work if you need to, the bar is stocked with spirits, wines, beer, mixers and snacks and the living room comes equipped with a Bose sound system and hidden flat screen television.

The patio and private infinity pool will keep you dreaming about this property long after your respite is over. Dip your toes with a glass of wine as dusk settles in and you spot the neon green lights of the squid fishing boats on the horizon. It's all pure heaven--just like the resort's name which translates to: "garden in the third heaven."

If you can pull yourself away from your nook of utopia, you'll find attendants waiting to set up lounge chairs on the palm tree-dotted beach. Grab a hammock and sway the day away, or enjoy the large saltwater infinity lap pool with built-in whirlpool jets and loungers that runs parallel to the beach, along with several tiers of lounge chairs.

JARA Spa's rooms tout both garden and sea views, and treatments use Thai techniques and the Five Pillars that are inspired by the ficus tree among which the spa is situated. These pillars address the body's root, trunk, leaves, blossoms and spiritual core and promise serenity and well-being. The Royal Trisara 6 Hand Massage is the signature therapy, during which a trio of therapists work their magic with nourishing oils, herbal compresses, Swedish massage and acupressure. A Thai herbal wrap uses local products like white mud, fresh herbs and yogurt, while the samunpai scrub improves blood circulation and promotes detoxification with a blend of jasmine, cananga, turmeric and plai.

There is nothing quite like tasting Thai cuisine in its native environment, and at Trisara that becomes even more of a treat when you can dine at a table so close to the water, you can smell the salt air. The Deck is where you'll find traditional Thai or Chinese dishes à la carte, dim sum and tropical fruit on the buffet. For lunch and dinner opt for Thai or international fare. Among the dinner specialties at Seafood next door are traditional "mama recipes" that have been passed down over the generations.

PRU is the resort's crown jewel, a 14-seat restaurant that currently holds the only Michelin star on Phuket. Chef Jimmy Ophorst draws on his upbringing in the Netherlands where he was raised to help his family tend to their gardens and greenhouses for farm-to-table cuisine. All ingredients at PRU ("Plant. Raise. Understand") are sourced locally, and many are procured from Trisara's farm PRU Jampa. If you fall in love with the cuisine and want to replicate it at home, book a three-course cooking class available on property.

