



Six Senses Laamu.



A bath with a view at Song Saa.



Ariara's arrival jetty.

PARADISE NOW

Low-impact design meets five-star luxury at a trio of fashionable Asian eco-retreats

Proving that necessity is the mother of invention, the quest to protect Asia's islands and archipelagoes from the effects of climate change is leading to enticing new paradigms in resort architecture and design. These pristine hideaways reveal just how well style and sustainability go hand in hand.

PHILIPPINES: ARIARA

Ariara may be far-flung—a four-hour trimaran cruise or one-hour speedboat ride from the port of Coron, itself an hour's flight from Manila—but this fully staffed 125-acre private island is yours

alone the moment you and your guests arrive. Designed by Filipino architect Jorge Yulo, Ariara's eight elegant villas and cottages incorporate details such as sustainably sourced native hardwoods, custom-made rattan furniture, and hand-carved baths of Romblon marble. Guest-room walls open to maximize cooling breezes, while double-height ceilings channel warm air through palm-thatched roofs. A private chef is on hand to prepare freshly caught seafood as well as produce and herbs picked from Ariara's own orchard and garden. *Rates vary based on number of guests; ariara.island.com*

MALDIVES: SIX SENSES LAAMU

Hotelier Sonu Shivdasani is widely credited with pioneering the eco-retreat movement with his first-class Soneva and Six Senses outposts in the Maldives. His latest, Six Senses Laamu, hovers just above the equator on a gorgeously unspoiled atoll. Playful design elements abound, such as a quartet of spa-treatment rooms resembling oversize beehives and bathroom sinks shaped like vintage suitcases. The 97 villas pair simple wood paneling with color-saturated fabrics for a luxe beach-shack feel aimed—like the resort's 40-flavor ice cream parlor—at a young, free-spirited clientele. *Rates from \$1,210/night per villa; sixsenses.com*

CAMBODIA: SONG SAA PRIVATE ISLAND

Long overshadowed by Bali and Phuket, Cambodia's Koh Rong archipelago has finally arrived with the debut of this 27-villa resort and its teeming marine reserve. Australian Melita Hunter, co-owner with her husband, Rory, oversaw the rustic-chic design, taking her cue from the traditional fishing villages that dot the Gulf of Thailand and integrating found materials such as driftwood and lengths of indigenous vine into the decor. Each villa offers its own plunge pool, while the open-air restaurant at the end of a curving jetty seems to float, islandlike, on the silent, shifting sea. *Rates from \$668/night per person; songsaa.com* —DAVID KAUFMAN