

**VILLA & YACHT**  
middle east europe

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**Through the Keyhole**  
Villa Vajra & Villa Sati  
By Jen Oliveiro

High in the Bali heartland, nestled on the banks of the Oss River north of Ubud, lies a haven of tranquility and peace, called Villa Vajra. As though it were folded into the hillside, this surprisingly spacious accommodation appears to sit lightly in the land. Join us as we go through the keyhole into the villa entrance, shaded by a majestic stand of bamboo and tropical foliage, which takes us towards Villa Sati – the new addition to the property.

Sleeping one couple, this newly built and luxuriously designed villa with an along-along roof, glass walls and modern western kitchen, also features a black terrazzo shower and bathroom with uninterrupted views over the endless rice fields which surround the property. The magnificent views can also be enjoyed from the upstairs study that can double up as a bedroom for two. A water feature running into the pool provides the soothing background with which to relax and enjoy the swaying sawah views.

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# Through The Keyhole

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The main bedroom and bathroom of the villa are housed separately on the other side of the pool from the kitchen and study, decorated in a modern Asian style complete with photography taken by the owners hanging over the inviting,

luxurious double bath. This completely private section of the villa complex lies on the other side of the sawah from the main part of Vajra.

Located 300 meters above sea level in the foothills of the central mountain range, the walkway takes you across the sawah and allows you to see the undisturbed views of the paddy fields across the hilly rainforests towards Bedugul and Bratan.

The villa itself is composed of several thatched pavilions joined by stepping stones across the lotus pond, filled with Koi. A pergola covered by hanging Thunbergia flowers takes you towards the first two areas of accommodation: the Sawah Room and the Master Bedroom all on the upper levels of the property, each with its spacious black terrazzo bathrooms, complete with tubs and set into their own gardens. The rooms are equipped with double beds, individually controlled air conditioning units and powerful ceiling fans, telephone and safety deposit boxes and distinguished by its furnishings, antiques, contemporary arty objects and unique view.

Also at this level is the very enticing library, nestled high up into the alang-alang roof with an expansive view over the cathedral-like living room, with its marble floor, aviary and steep river view. The library area doubles up to sleep two very comfortably. Also found here is the entertainment centre offering a growing library, games, music, satellite television and DVD movies. On the terrace, at this elevation, is a cozy and discreet massage area with a refreshing outdoor shower and indoor toilet. A dining table could be set up here away from the heart of the villa for a quiet breakfast or tea.

Following the stairs made of Palimanan stone down towards the sound of the rushing water, the pool and Jacuzzi lies next to the kitchen and dining area of the villa, where delicious meals are served by the well trained staff. Appreciate the spacious roof, serenading frog song along with the accompaniment of ritual music from the village temples and constant murmur of the river. Each of trees have been thoughtfully built around and this is maybe one of the first things you notice at this level apart from the proximity to nature and undisturbed privacy. The third bedroom, also with its double bed and black terrazzo bathroom set in its own garden, boosts a walk in dressing room which shows off the talents of architect Guy Morgan, with his attention to detail, revealing secret views across the sawah and magical pockets of the garden.

The last level closest to the river, underneath the living area, houses the gym and a large traditional open-sided pavilion or 'bale'. Surrounded by Peace lilies, Pagoda flowers, Gardenia and Jasmine, as well as the many orchids, it is perfect for meditation, yoga or just appreciating the surrounding nature. It is here where you can perfectly capture the stillness of Vajra – the symbol of wisdom in

Tibetan Buddhism, cutting through ignorance with its ultimate goal of compassion and equanimity, almost best seen in the villa's relation to the land. The owner's careful directive to enjoy nature in its least disturbed state has brought panoramic perm culture gardens and sensitive landscaping to balance out any man-made heaviness that comes into view.

In spite of its intimate privacy, Vajra is conveniently located amongst the surrounding villages, all of which specialized in one of the native arts of traditional or contemporary painting, wood or stone carving, silver making, batik or furniture making. Its one hour drive to the airport and a forty minute drive to the beach, from its panoramic location hidden amongst the tiny villages and river valleys, north of Ubud.

For more information and reservations online, visit [www.VillaVajra.com](http://www.VillaVajra.com).  
Vajra Villas are managed by BHM ([www.BHMVillas.com](http://www.BHMVillas.com))  
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