

RITUAL BY THE OCEAN

Bali's latest seafood restaurant, Seasalt, is to be found at one of its most attractive resorts, Alila Seminyak. The 150-seat eatery, which launched last month, is open for lunch and dinner, and is targeted at the public as well as the hotel's guests. The signature dishes are Nicoise salad (Rp 90.000++), white snapper (Rp 225.000++) and blue swimmer crab (Rp 125.000++).

"It's a must-visit for foodies on holiday or living in the Seminyak area," says Alila. "Seasalt is located next to the beach and has a clear ocean view, even from the indoor area. It's the perfect place to spend time with friends and family while enjoying the food and ocean breezes.



"We have an open-kitchen concept so that guests can interact with our culinary team, and a Chef's Table programme that's offered to those who wish to get closer with our chefs while they prepare special dishes. The restaurant also has fast Wi-Fi and valet parking, which are not easy to find in standalone restaurants in Bali."

The restaurant was designed by URBNarc, which set out to create "an extension of the ocean, that gives diners a feel that one is on a boat. Its layout and materials reflect the colours and waves of the ocean." The "boat" is "captained" by Chef Vivian Vitalis, who hails from Sabah, East Malaysia. Beginning his culinary career in 2002 at JW Marriott and The Ritz-Carlton in Kuala Lumpur, he has worked at many leading luxury resorts in Malaysia.

"I'm working with neighbouring fishermen and local suppliers, seeking out the finest seafood in the region as well as local produce," says Chef Vitalis. "Fresh, natural and organic is the essence of my cuisine, allowing the natural flavours of the ingredients to express themselves.

"When you arrive at Seasalt, an artisanal centrepiece will be ready on your table. Our host will come to you, break the sea salt crust. Inside the centrepiece is seaweed wrapping a small portion of mackerel, rilleted butter and mayonnaise to accompany your welcome bread. We call this whole process the Seasalt Ritual. It's inspired by the question: 'What's inside the sea?'"

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