

A TOUR OF THAILAND

Elysia Agnew takes a tour of Thailand, uncovering its best bits and a few hip hotels along the way, from cliff-top villas and sun soaked beach clubs, to paradise coves and city-chic hideaways...



389 Views | October 2017



Kata Rocks, Phuket – view of Kata Beach

The sparkling sunset sets the scene as we check in for cocktail happy hour on the beach and the Ibiza beach club vibe rolls on into the night. Akyra Beach is the perfect paradise escape. All you need is a bikini, a book and a bum to sit on, and you're tucking in to a hefty slice of serious luxury.

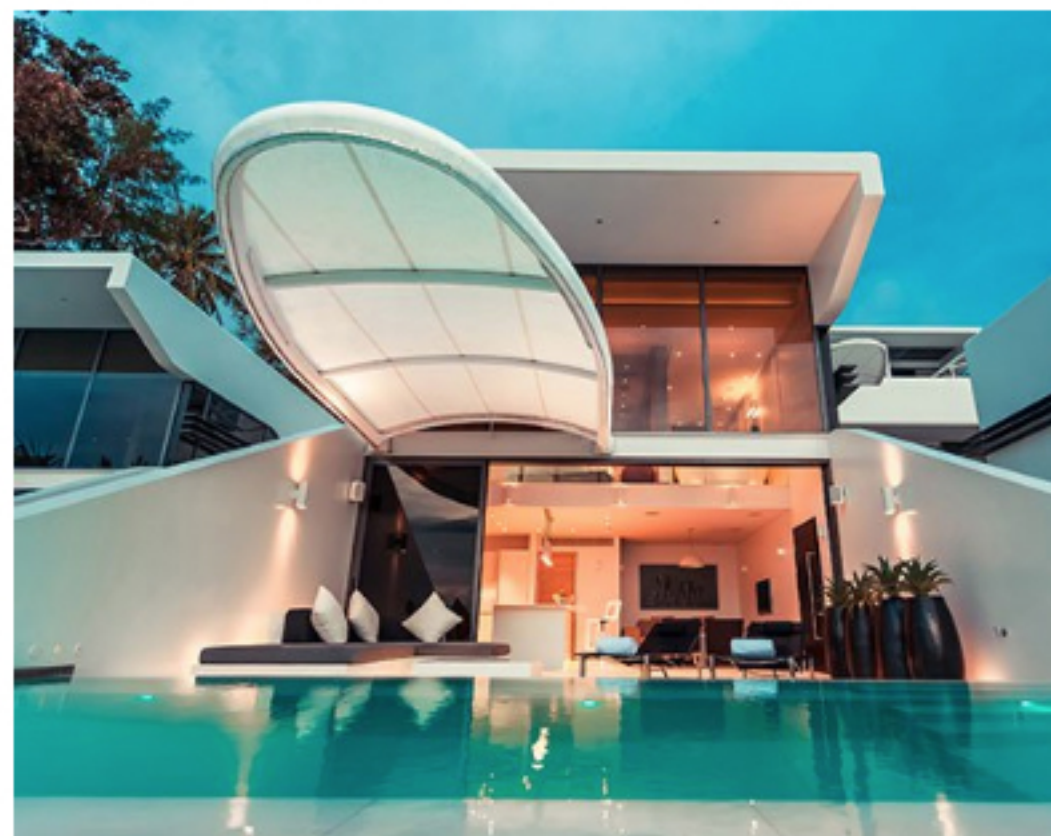
Our final Phuket port of call is a sumptuous cliff top setting for a rock star. A taxi tour to the southwest tip of Phuket takes us to the lush retreat that is **Kata Rocks**. A dream-like destination of white pavilions and cliff side villas, this

beautiful bubble of luxury overlooking Kata Beach takes me to a private Greek isle. Fresh white walls, blue waters and private boltholes with infinity pools hidden within the cliffs – it's magic.

Upon arrival, our personal assistant for the weekend escorts us to our suite in a buggy – our ride for the duration of the stay. Because Kata Rocks has been built into the cliffs, assistants (or 'Rock Stars') are on hand all day, every day to shift guests from poolside to spa, spa to restaurant, from restaurant to town, and from town to your villa. You quite literally don't have to lift a finger.

And although doing nothing in the comfort of our 'has-it-all' cliff top villa is oh-so appealing, we can't help but get to know this exclusive, boutique resort – booking in for both holistic and culinary experiences. A trip to The Infinite Luxury Spa means a 'Sense of Thai Aroma' spa treatment is on the cards and a calming couples massage brings the 'holiday-body' back to life. Truly refreshing and rejuvenating.

When it comes to the culinary delights of Kata Rocks, we enjoy a romantic dinner at the hotel's restaurant, where Thai-infused lobster seals the deal. The food and wine here is phenomenal. And as good food and wine tastes better when shared, we book up an evening in the majestic wine cellar. The hotel's sommelier takes us from Bordeaux to Mosel, the Loire Valley and back, sampling a collection of vintage wines and innovative flavours. The wines are playfully paired with an array of artisanal cheeses.



Kata Rocks, Phuket – sky villa



Kata Rocks, Phuket – views

Taking the luxury lifestyle to a whole new level, Kata Rocks brings an essence of contemporary, western-inspired flavour to our tour of Thailand. So finally, to bring a bit of rustic, island life back into the mix, we sail over the seas to grab a taste of real island paradise at Koh Yao – recommended to us as Thailand's last unspoilt island.