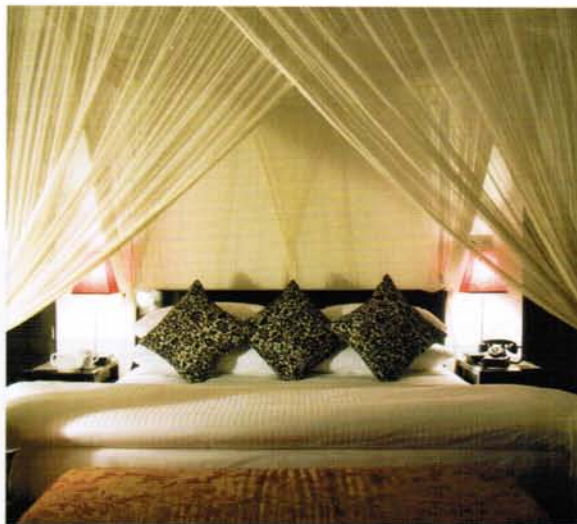




MIND YOUR MANORS

A bedroom at The Wallawwa in Sri Lanka, right. Below: On the terrace of one of Abacá's ocean-view suites. Opposite: A private pool cabana at Alila Villas Uluwatu.



SRI LANKA

**The Wallawwa**, Kotugoda Skip the hour-long journey into Colombo from the international airport by starting your Sri Lankan holiday at The Wallawwa, an 18th-century manor house set in lush surrounds near Negombo Beach. Blissfully quiet despite their proximity to the planes, the 14 guest rooms are outfitted with Balinese canopy beds, colonial-inspired

furniture, and terrazzo-clad bathrooms with huge rain showers. Upgrade to a suite to enjoy a large living area and private garden overlooking the courtyard pool and its padded loungers. Mornings begin with platters piled high with tropical fruits like mangosteen and papaya, followed by New York-trained chef Alex Stanich's delicious apple pancakes. Come dinnertime, Stanich proves equally adept

at preparing spicy Sri Lankan curries alongside some of the island's tastiest Western dishes. Before moving on to Galle or Kandy, be sure to spend some time at the Z Spa, where signature massages combine Ayurvedic principles with circulation-enhancement techniques to help you recover from any jet lag (*Minuwangoda Rd.*; 94-773/864-384; *thewallawwa.com*; doubles from US\$140).

INDONESIA

**Alila Villas Uluwatu**, Bali One of Bali's newest resorts is also its greenest. Overlooking the Indian Ocean from its cliffside perch on the Bukit peninsula, this truly eco-chic retreat was designed and built according to the guidelines of Green Globe, an Australian NGO that sets tough ecotourism standards. Only locally sourced and sustainable materials were used in its construction, from recycled wood to the creamy white stone that frames the 84 villas. Water conservation comes in the form of rainwater catchments and gray-water treatment systems, and in unirrigated gardens planted with foliage native to the arid Bukit. (For more about the Alila's green credentials, see *Eco Watch*, page 87). Not that any of means you have to sacrifice one iota of comfort: in-room amenities include 500-thread-count bed linens, a pillow menu, and private pool terraces with sweeping views of the sea. At the resort's main restaurant, Dutch executive chef Stefan Zijta updates local flavors in dishes like grilled barramundi with tempeh and foie gras *rendang*. While they dine, guests can admire the hundreds of backlit Javanese batik stamps that cover the walls, testaments to both Indonesia's rich cultural heritage and to Alila's commitment to elegant environmentalism (*Jl. Belimbing Sari, Pecatu*; 62-361/848-2166; *alilavillas.com*; doubles from US\$1,040).

PHILIPPINES

**Abacá**, Mactan Island Chef Jason Hyatt has cleverly grown his three-year-old Mactan Island restaurant into this intimate beachfront retreat, just a 15-minute drive from Cebu's international airport. Accommodations include three roomy villas, but the six ocean-view suites offer the best value for money, with plush beds, soaking tubs, and generously proportioned sun decks. Abacá's staff exude genuine Filipino warmth; room butlers are particularly attentive, and are on call for everything from restocking your organic lemongrass bath amenities to arranging spa treatments, like the deep *hilot* massage with virgin coconut oil. When you're



not sprawled out in the spa, find a perch in one of the shaded cabanas by the seaside infinity pool. While the resort's tiny strip of sand won't thrill beachcombers, jet skis and boats are on hand to zip you to nearby strands. There's also a bijou gym set alongside the restaurant for those who want to work off Hyatt's

addictive flatbread pizzas. For the diet-conscious, his menu also includes such healthful offerings as organic salads and a delightfully light bouillabaisse of prawns, shellfish, and sea bass (*Punta Engano Rd., Lapu-Lapu City*; 63-32/495-3461; *abacaresort.com*; doubles from US\$290).

COURTESY OF THE WALLAWWA (TOP); COURTESY OF ABACA. OPPOSITE: PETER FAHJADI. MAKEUP AND HAIR BY YEAHNI, MODEL: CATHY SHARON. DRESS BY CATHERINE MALANDRINO. FROM HARVEY NICHOLS