

The fashion and accessories of the season from the playground

the yak

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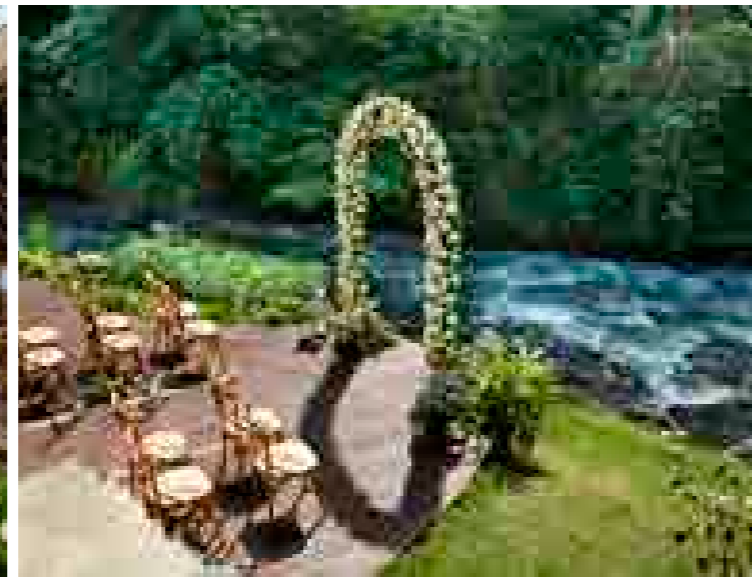
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Open-air receptions feature beachside full moon BBQ dinners, dancing barefoot to DJs in lantern-lit gardens, or indoors, within historically-themed dining chambers; the highlight, red-themed Bale Sutra, housing a 1706 *Kang Xi*-era Chinese family temple shipped-in from Java. These atmospheric-charged chambers offer a unique Cultural Dining Series with set wedding menus, fusing local gourmet delicacies with culture-rich, ceremonial rituals. Delicious treats laid-on for honeymooners include seven-course Aphrodisiac Picnic in Bed, feasting on an ornate 18th-century Javanese bed beside the beach, and *Gemulai Penari*, with eight hours of bathing rituals, body treatments and gourmet nibbles at Tugu's acclaimed spa. *Puri Le Mayeur*, a vintage villa elevated above a lotus pond and romantic tribute to this Belgian artist's love affair with a Balinese dancer, delivers the ultimate love-nest.

www.tuguhotels.com

KOMANEKA

UBUD can't provide any fabulous beach backdrops, however it does present more bucolic splendour than you can shake a (bamboo) stick at and is one of Bali's more traditional destinations for local Hindu rituals, culture and spirituality. Dotted across this highland town, the family-owned Komaneka group presents four upscale boutique hotels, infused with high-end Indonesian art and heritage. Each can host small-scale weddings, expertly supported by in-house wedding organizers arranging all the logistics and services, be it flowers, cake, *kecak* monkey dances, or tedious pre-wedding paperwork. Besides two wedding packages, plus F&B and photographic packages, couples can design their own weddings, whether it's a commitment celebration, a rite according to faith, non-religious exchange of vows, or legally-binding ceremony. Secluded in five hectares of tropical rainforest, yet a quick saunter from central Ubud, signature wedding venue Komaneka at Bisma offers two nuptial spots. Non-denominational Wanaswara Wedding Chapel, overlooking the Campuhan river gorge and constructed Torajan-style from timber and glass, accommodates 48 guests and comes with a dedicated Suite for pre-wedding preparations. Formerly rice terraces and now manicured lawns shaded by coconut trees, Garden Grove is lovely for small, late afternoon ceremonies, with receptions hosted at the lower lap pool on a specially decorated deck. Other facilities run to an open-air Roof Terrace, fab for cocktail receptions, Terrace Restaurant for wedding banquets and an open-air mini-amphitheatre and stage for post-wedding shin-digs. An elevated sanctuary set amidst tropical fruit trees, Komaneka at Tanggayuda boasts the largest venue, Batukaru Twilight Terrace, a rooftop deck for maximum 50 guests, open-air with awesome river valley and volcano vistas; receptions are hosted in the restaurant below. Komaneka wedding packages are available, but just-married's should splurge on Bisma's super-luxe, Masterpiece Bisma Residence, a three-bedroom pool villa camouflaged amongst the tree tops – quite the cool first home!

www.komaneka.com

MANDAPA, A RITZ-CARLTON RESERVE

SECLUDED in rain forested hills, this boutique gem spectacularly tumbles down a ravine to the Ayung River, but is still utterly refined with off-the-charts service. Well, what did you expect from a Ritz-Carlton property, or namely, Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, the world's third in the prestigious Reserve portfolio. Designed as a private sanctuary to relax one's mind, body and soul, Mandapa offers guests a full immersion into Ubud's native culture and nature, evoking traditional Balinese village life – working rice paddies dominate centre stage –

albeit holed-up at sumptuous 35 suites and 25 private pool villas, with the 24-hour services of a *patih* (personal assistant to Balinese royals). In short, a gorgeous setting for a destination wedding; so get those nice Ritz-Carlton ladies and gentlemen on to it. Dedicated wedding planners can organize bespoke weddings or lavish wedding packages (from IDR39,000,000++) catering to around 30 attendees (additional charge for extra guests, maximum 80). Signature Mandapa Balinese Wedding offers an authentic local experience, officiated by a Hindu priest, while Mandapa White Wedding offers a more Western-orientated approach with wedding celebrant. Nuptials are hosted on lawns beside the rice terraces, along the Ayung riverbanks, or at Mandapa's uppermost levels, either in front of a temple at the *Kul Kul* Tower or at the *Wantilan* welcome pavillion. For ultimate privacy, get hitched at the two-bedroom Reserve Villa or three-bedroom Mandapa Villa (a whopping 2,000-square-metres), with intimate ceremonies held in riverside gardens on a wooden deck, followed by poolside cocktail soirees. Customized receptions incorporate specially crafted menus from Executive Chef, Maurizio Bombini. Making it legal comes at additional cost, as does booking-up the entire Reserve, all yours for a four-day, three-night package, accommodating up to 120 guests, including helicopter transfers from the airport. Continue the high-life, reserving a honeymoon package.

www.mandapareserve.com

COMO SHAMBHALA ESTATE

FROM the prestigious COMO group, multi-award winning COMO Shambhala Estate is best known as one of the world's first full-service residential holistic health and spa retreats. Focusing on 360-degree holistic wellness and long-term healing and lifestyle changes, every aspect here – from accommodation to cuisine – contributes to wellness. Weddings however can also be held here; not so surprising, given its restorative and secluded setting, elevated high above the Ayung River gorge in Ubud's hills, with luxurious facilities and 30 rustic-Indonesian accommodations built in jungle clearings, plus water-tight privacy (you need a good excuse to enter the 10-hectare estate) and exceptional service that attracts A-List celebs. COMO's wedding organizers offer personalized yet unobtrusive assistance, whether it's for bridal hair and make-up or masked fire dancers and expertise on anything from Indonesia's legal protocol to meticulous floral arrangements. Weddings (commitment ceremonies, traditional Balinese, western-style and more), are incorporated in non-legal wedding packages with English-speaking celebrant; bespoke weddings are possible, including legal marriages, but must include Estate accommodation reservations, while receptions are tailor-made to suit couples' whims. Weddings at Residence package (from USD5,800++) is hosted for around 20 attendees at one of their five grandiose Residences, each boasting four to five suites, expansive semi-open living-dining areas and massive pool. The Water Gardens, accessed 250-plus stone steps down to the jungle-engulfed riverbanks, presents an ultra-secluded, miniscule ceremonial spot beside sacred spring-fed pools. For large weddings (100-plus guests), the Amphitheatre and Parkland amply suffices, but you'll have to book-up the entire estate at extra cost. If money is no object (and it wouldn't be, getting hitched here) that shouldn't be a problem. 📌

www.comohotels.com/comoshambhalaestate

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ALILA VILLAS SOORI; ANANTARA ULUWATU; HOTEL TUGU BALI; MANDAPA, A RITZ-CARLTON RESERVE; KOMANEKA; COMO SHAMBHALA ESTATE.