

# Condé Nast Traveller

WIN  
A HOLIDAY  
IN THE  
MALDIVES

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

FEBRUARY 2011 £3.90

## Discreet Caribbean

Discover the white-sand  
beaches of Anguilla

## The magic of Marrakech

Our guide to  
the highlights

## Andalucía

What to see in Seville,  
Granada and Córdoba

## Romantic breaks

Where to take  
your Valentine

## Europe's best villas



## Beach chic

On the white beaches of Koh Samui, a growing number of five-star, super-stylish private places to stay are opening their doors. Among them is **AKATSUKI RESORT**, right, in Lipa Noi on the west coast of the island. Designed by Tokyo-based architect Riccardo Tossani, the private resort has five stand-alone rooms, each with its own iPad, set around a tiered pool, along with a dining room and spa. The design is a stylish fusion of Thai (the fabrics, orchids and peaked roofs) and Japanese (the bed linen, sliding screens and room names such as *Kokoro*, which means 'heart', and *Mizu*, or 'water'). Not far away is **BAAN TAWANTOK**, 'Sunset Villa' in Thai. Set in frangipani-filled gardens on the beach, the two five-bedroom villas have two-tiered roofs, vaulted ceilings, terrazzo baths and outdoor showers. A tennis court, private beach and a full-time Thai chef complete the hotel-style package. Meanwhile **THE COVE**, north of popular Chaweng Beach, is a sprawling contemporary villa in landscaped gardens with five thatched pavilions plus kids' dorms, a clean, white interior and – just to make quite sure there's absolutely no need to leave the premises – its own outdoor cinema.

DANIELLE DEMETRIOU

## THE LOWDOWN

### Akatsuki Resort

Whole villa from US\$2,800 a night in low season. Rooms from US\$1,500, full board ([www.akatsuki-resort.com](http://www.akatsuki-resort.com))

### Baan Tawantok

Whole house from US\$1,000 a night in low season, or from US\$800 for three bedrooms (00 66 77 427648; [www.samui.villasandhomes.com](http://www.samui.villasandhomes.com))

### The Cove

Whole property from US\$1,350 a night in low season, or from \$1,000 for three bedrooms (00 66 848 427506; [www.luxury.villasamui.com](http://www.luxury.villasamui.com))

## THAILAND

# YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY

The island of Koh Samui has grown out of its backpacker-shack days – now there's an array of stylish, upmarket properties that offer beachfront action without the bug life

