

# B

ali is back, the same but different. The same spirituality with spas, but a different hotel dynamic. Before the bombs, when this world-class destination blipped off the radar faster than the *Titanic*, it was the big hotels – Oberoi, Aman, Four Seasons – that were the big attraction. Now it is smaller boutique properties and private villas with wow-factor pools and soft-footed service. Bali has engineered its resurgence with aplomb, using the downtime to upgrade to ultra-high threadcount linens, Indian muslin, lychee martinis and groovy chefs. The Foreign Office travel warning has been withdrawn and so the race is on to the island of the gods, where there are temples at every turn and every day seems to be a festival with golden headdresses and local orchestras. Bali is soulful and sybaritic, attracting both the glittering – including Donna Karan and Kylie Minogue – and the stressed-out in search of spiritual repair. Bali provides the perfect karma of luxury through renewal.

