

# WISH YOU WERE HERE?

*Urban escapes and weekend getaways*



## Amplify the senses

**S**eventeen. That's how many swimming pools Rawi Warin Resort & Spa will have when it officially opens next month. If you think that means there is no need to venture into the sea, think again. One of the pools is a "mobile ocean swimming pool." Basically, this means 200 square meters of the Andaman Sea has been roped off for your personal enjoyment.

The pools – 11 of which are private dippers in the seaside villas – are only a sideshow to the main event: seafaring on one of seven custom-built boats. Two of these are majestic wooden Siamese junks, hand-crafted in Ayutthaya and powered by 400-horsepower Volvo engines. This fleet sails all manner of excursions, from sunset cruises to snorkeling trips to Koh Rok and Koh Phi Phi. There are even plans afoot to take the junks on a trip to Singapore in February.

"We are a maritime, audiophile resort," explains Florian Hallermann, the resort's General Manager. In addition to the stunning fleet, Rawi Warin boasts some truly mind-bending audio-visual facilities. The music listening room's a den of high-fidelity craftsmanship, with tube amplifiers and speakers made by the owner

himself – the warmth and clarity of sound has to be heard to be believed. Next door is a 20-seat movie theater with a 134-inch screen and a surround-sound system powered by outrageously high-end equipment. It's like a being invited to a private screening in a millionaire's home.

The concept of the 185-room resort is to offer a sense-heavy base for exploring the sea and Lanta's interior. They'll be organizing treks through jungle waterfalls and kayaking expeditions in unexplored mangrove forest. However, with over 10,000 trees planted in the landscaped gardens, you're likely to spend much time foraging through the resort grounds itself.

Rooms here – "Pond Villas," "Seaview Deluxe," "Seaview Villas,"

"Sunset Villas" and the US\$1,500, 335-square-meter "Rawi Suite," complete with its own swimming pool and Jacuzzi – are spacious and well-appointed, decked out with Asian-inspired luxury trimmings and still redolent with the aroma of fresh mango wood. Over half the resort is perched on the hillside, where stand-alone villas and units of eight rooms slope up a hill and the view gets more and more breathtaking every foot you ascend. – *Stirling Silliphant*

### Rawi Warin Resort and Spa

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■ Visit [www.rawiwarin.com](http://www.rawiwarin.com)