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PROPERTY WATCH

Picture-perfect winter boltholes at Samujana on Koh Samui, Thailand



AS THE THAI PROPERTY MARKET continues to expand, there has been a surge of property and hotel investment in Koh Samui over the past two years. The Samujana estate has been a consistent market leader within the island's large luxury villa market. The gated estate has as an international reputation for stunning villas with ocean views, award-winning architecture, and five-star service, and is positioned just 10 minutes from the airport and close to the major beaches, restaurants and shopping areas in the North East of the island. The estate's dedicated professional General Manager, John Dopéré, and his hospitality and management team, are on hand to deliver 24/7, five-star service for villa owners as well as rental guests.

Since the first villa's completion in 2004, the 18-acre estate has become one of the leading tropical private villa estates in the world. Each villa has been designed by award-winning architect Gary Fell, and his breathtaking open living spaces embrace the spectacular ocean views while being sympathetic to the surrounding environment. Each villa is bespoke, maintaining a uniform architectural composition that creates this unique, hillside estate.

Samujana's villas are kitted out to the highest standards. Each has a private infinity pool, and many have fully-equipped gyms, private cinemas, BBQ terraces, and indoor spa treatment rooms. Villa owners have the option of offering their villa for rent for part of or all the year through the management company's reservations and marketing division. Of course, the rental programme crucially allows buyers to try before they invest.

John Dopéré comments: "With our exquisite hillside villas commanding some of the best views on Samui, we have a unique offering in terms of both the sales and rentals. The beautifully established landscaping provides shade and unrivalled privacy."

For Samujana owners, there are considerable benefits in the co-operative ownership structure of the common areas and management. The operating company that oversees the management reports directly to villa owners. Villa ownership is combined with a leasehold structure over the land (foreign owners aren't legally allowed to own land) and comes with the benefit and security of a shareholding in the management company.

All villas come with dedicated villa managers and staff, regular maintenance, 24-hour security and the use of the common areas including a beach bar. Optional services include private chefs, nannies, personal assistants, drivers and business support. New owners have peace of mind that their investment is protected through year-round care and maintenance to a very high standard.

In 2012, the island of Koh Samui became a self-governing entity, leading to better quality hospitals, schools, and transportation links, along with various leisure facilities, including a world-class golf course. This has increased the number of expatriates who have come to live on a permanent or semi-permanent basis, which in turn has boosted the local real estate market and positively impacted prices. The island's global appeal ensures that there is always a steady flow of new arrivals.

Ten out of the 27 villas on site are currently for sale, starting at \$3m. In addition, there are villa resale opportunities starting at \$1million.



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