

TRAVEL DIARY

MEMORIES OF TWO BALI RESTAURANTS, from page 7

Kanda Restaurant

Jl. Kanda No. 8, Ngurah Rai Bypass, Sanur

Kanda Restaurant has a three-in-one deal for its visitors: It is a restaurant located inside a bird garden that has a mini lake. So, as you eat and chat with your friends, coworkers or family members you can look out the window to see the macaws, cockatoos, mynas and other birds fly about or watch a swan tread water on the mini lake.

The birds, the garden and the lake are more than just gimmicks to attract people to the restaurant, mind you. Its food and beverages are surprisingly good.

I went to the restaurant with some colleagues a while back and we were surprised by the eclectic range of dishes it offers: from local Balinese dishes from *nasi campur* (rice served with chicken, *sate lilit* or skewered meat and string beans dressed in spicy soup) to Western favorites like black hamburgers served with French fries.

What surprised us even more was the fact that the Balinese and Western food was equally delightful (yes, my colleagues and I ordered various dishes from both traditions and sampled each others' meals). They also have classic Indonesian favorites such *nasi goreng* (fried rice) with egg served sunny side up.

The less-than-formal ambience of the restaurant also helped my colleagues and I, who initially found it hard to connect outside



Courtesy of Kanda Restaurant

work matters, forget our hesitation and start a conversation right away. The food, which tasted great, served as a jumping off point for our chat. The exciting panorama around us also helped us feel more laid back. In no time, we began to discuss many other casual topics as well. Right there, I discovered that my coworkers were fun people after all; I just did not know them that well.

Perhaps the good food and the casual atmosphere of the restaurant can help you and your loved ones or coworkers drop your defenses too and start to get to know each other better.

Murni's Warung

Jl. Raya Campuan, Ubud



Courtesy of Murni's Warung

Murni's Warung, located in Bali's cultural and spiritual hub of Ubud, has four stories. Not upward, mind you, but downward from the top down to the bottom, as the restaurant's base level is beautifully located near the Ayung Valley, which is crossed by a beautiful and tranquil river.

I have a different memory about this restaurant. When I went there, I was accompanied by an old friend. We were both stressed out by the goings-on in our lives. Adult life is difficult, as everybody can tell.

By default, we chose the most popular level at Murni's Warung, its bottom level, where we could eat and chat while facing the Ayung Valley's tranquil and cool greenery, while listening to the discreet sounds of the river and admiring the crystal clear water.

We were hesitant to start talking about the tough subjects that concerned us; so again, the food broke the silence between us. We started eating a big portion of *nasi campur*, which came with many dishes. Besides the

usual chicken, *sate lilit*, string beans and spicy soup, it also came with tempeh, a hardboiled egg and a big serving of red chili paste. Thanks to the generous serving, the price was well worth it.

Then, as usual, after we talked about just how good the food was, our hesitation to talk melted away. We began pouring our hearts out unabashedly, as we spoke about the sad problems that befell us at that time, involving our families, coworkers and friends.

Of course, even with your best friends, sometimes you might find it hard to disclose your most shameful problems and hardest struggles.

Thankfully, on the restaurant's bottom level, whenever the truth-telling became too heavy to handle, we could always calm ourselves down by looking at the green valley and the calm river, while enjoying the hypnotizing sounds of the little crickets and feeling the cool breeze blow across our skin.

Then the truth came out. The truth was not always pretty. But even when we felt overwhelmed by our disappointments, we were comforted by each other's unconditional acceptance, and, again, by the loving caress of the Ayung River and Ayung Valley as well as the restaurant's calming vibes. Then we felt relieved. Our friendship became stronger because we were able to share our hardest struggles in just the perfect place – Murni's Warung.

Of course, there is no need to wait for hardships to strike to enjoy these fun dining experiences in Bali with our friends. Take your family and friends, or even coworkers during a business trip, to unusual places once in a while and see what these trips can do for your relationships.

HOTELS IN BRIEF



Courtesy of Karma Kandara

Party like a rock star at Karma Kandara

Summon your clique and host the coolest villa party ever at Karma Kandara. Besides offering that extra dose of luxury, staying in a villa will make the logistics that much easier, with canapés upon your guests' arrival and free-flow beverages and food for two hours, while you enjoy your private DJ.

Are you looking for preevent drinks? Karma Kandara has got you covered. Hangover? Don't worry, their hangover cure will be ready for you, and if that's not enough, a dip in the ocean at Karma Beach will surely get you back on your feet! Need transport? Arrive in style at the venue of your choice. Karma Kandara will organize one private return transfer for you and your friends. Safety first, no drinking and driving please!

The Party in a Villa package starts from US\$1,500 and includes accommodation (based on a two-night minimum stay), two hours of free-flow canapés and beverages and a two-hour private DJ performance. Book now and enjoy an additional 35 percent off until Dec. 23. For further details, visit us at karmagroup.com/party-in-villa-at-karma-jimbaran/

The Pre & After Villa Party package starts from \$1,000 and includes two nights accommodation, a bottle of gin or vodka and return transfer to your event. Book before Aug. 30, for a 35 percent discount. For more more information, visit us at karmagroup.com/exclusive_offers/pre-after-party-villa-at-karma-kandara/



Courtesy of the Anvaya

Anvaya's Sands Restaurant takes you on palatial odyssey

Is it possible to experience world cultures without having to leave your seat? Food allows you to do that. Now you can sample food from various international culinary traditions at the Anvaya Beach Resort Bali's Sands Restaurant.

The restaurant has just launched its new menu featuring modern Indonesian as well as international cuisine across various traditions, suitable for diners with eclectic tastes. Imagine enjoying seafood paella, sashimi salad poke bowl, chicken tikka salad, sushi delights, shish kebab and prawns à la plancha on the same table.

Besides these main course presentations, the restaurant also offers deserts for the sweet tooth, such as summer delight cake, matcha-red bean éclair, chocolate-salted butter caramel éclair, elderflower strawberry éclair, Mogador éclair and lemon meringue tart.

The Sands Restaurant also faces the Indian Ocean, giving guests a beautiful view from its open space setting.

More than that, gastronomically speaking, the setting also allows the restaurant to offer a delectable barbecue: dive into the sweet bounty of the ocean with a tempting selection of fresh seafood — fish, king prawns, baby octopus, blue prawns, squid, lobster, crab and so much more — on ice.

With an emphasis on freshness, the restaurant also offers an interactive all-day dining experience with a marketplace atmosphere where guests can try their hand at cooking, under the guidance of the restaurant's highly skilled chefs. Then, conclude your dining experience at the restaurant by drinking its selections of New- and Old-World wines.



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PARTY IN VILLA

Party it up in your own private Luxury Villa at Karma Kandara or Karma Jimbaran. Receive 35% off your private party villa when booking before September 30th. Your stay will include 2 hour free flow canapés & beverages and a 2 hour private DJ performance at your villa.

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t: +62 (0)316 848 2200

e: res@karmaresorts.com

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