

# News

*Serenity in the South Seas and remote splendour in Malaysia and Indonesia*



Newcomer The Brando is a model of sustainability



## PRISTINE POLYNESIA

With outings including swimming in Mermaid Bay and boat rides to Seahorse Point, it might be easy to confuse The Brando, a luscious new resort in French Polynesia, with Neverland. But, rest assured, it's real. Occupying a green pinprick 30 miles north of Tahiti, it's just a 20-minute hop in a small plane from Fa'a'a international airport.

Screen legend Marlon Brando fell hook, line and sinker for the island while filming *Mutiny on the Bounty*, and snapped it up, vowing to keep it how Mother Nature intended: with red-breasted black frigates, phaetons and brown gannets circling the skies and lemon sharks, turtles and *Kaveu* (coconut crabs) patrolling the shores. Today, after a large contribution from his estate, it has become the ultimate winter escape.

Each of The Brando's 35 villas backs onto a three-mile-wide, baby-blue lagoon, served by a charming beachside grill offering spicy Polynesian fare, and in the evenings, chef Guy Martin, a Parisian with Michelin stars to his apron, rolls up his sleeves.

Best of all, fierce eco-awareness penetrates every inch of the resort. From the coral-friendly lotions in the gift shop to the full-service lab that measures, records and releases all creatures great and small, the Brando's ultimate aim is to become a model for carbon-neutral, low-impact design in the South Pacific. Let's hope its trail blazes long and bright. *Turquoise Holidays offers three nights full board from £4,525 per person, including a spa treatment, an excursion and local transfers. 01494-678 400; www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk*

## TRIBAL WAVE



Nihiwatu, located on the island of Sumba in Eastern Indonesia (400km west of Bali) is splendidly remote and wholeheartedly supports its local tribal community and natural surroundings. 'The Wave', off Sumba, is a famous break that attracts surfers from all corners of the globe (although the resort limits numbers to ten surfers per day to avoid overcrowding). Those happier on terra firma can enjoy butterfly trails, hikes through waterfalls and visits to ancient villages. This year sees extensive renovations: the resort has opened nine new villas with enviable proportions. *Scott Dunn offers seven nights full board at Nihiwatu from £5,250 per person including flights and transfers. 020 8682 5020; www.scottdunn.com*



## Rainforest retreat

*The Taj Group has expanded its footprint into Malaysia with Vivanta by Taj on Rebak Island, one of the 99 isles that make up Langkawi. Located four kilometres from the mainland and set within a privately owned 390-acre rainforest, the island is surrounded by crystal-clear waters with*

*abounding marine life. The newly appointed rooms have contemporary interiors with sleek wooden floors yet retain all the charm of a traditional Malaysian dwelling and they are wonderfully affordable. Rooms start from £82 B&B including transfers. www.vivantabytaj.com*