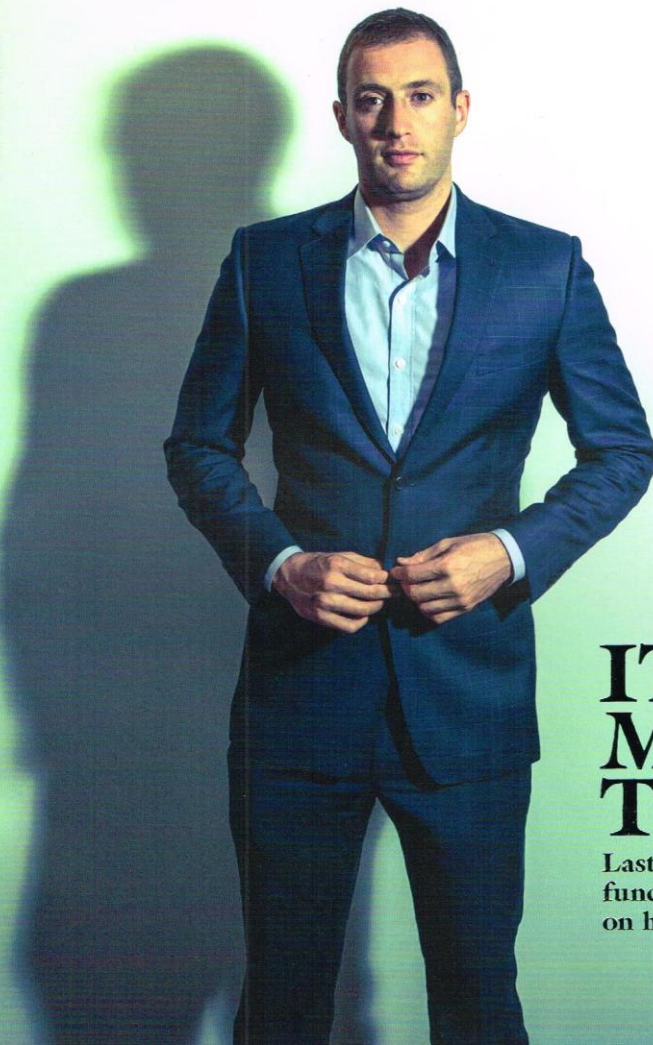


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IT'S MILLER TIME

Last year's top-performing
fund manager David Miller
on how he gets his results

Green, with Envy

As if renting your own island wasn't enough, these ones come with added eco creds too, say **DUNCAN MADDEN** and **LARA MccOMISH**

Song Saa

What sets one luxury private island apart from another? How about one so carefree of the real world that even time bends to its will? Such is the case on Song Saa, which runs an hour ahead of the rest of its native Cambodia – a subtle tweaking of The Man's grand plan that affords guests an extra hour to sleep in darkness and bask in sunshine. Whether you wear a watch in the first place is, of course, entirely up to you.

Two tiny islands nestled in the Koh Rong archipelago off Cambodia's southern coast amid a 100-hectare marine reserve the resort's founders helped establish, Song Saa is a conscientious choice for any well-off holidaymaker seeking serious, unbridled, unabashed luxury in the kind of setting usually reserved for postcards.

Across the island there are 27 exceptional villas scattered surreptitiously through verdant jungle, along rocky shore and over luminous waters. Rough hewn in natural sandstone rocks and weathered wood beams pulled from the ocean and still bearing the scars of life at sea, their organic, earthy design betrays nothing of the space, style and amenities within.

Cavernous thatched roofs hover over four-poster beds that command ocean views interrupted only when your toes creep out from under the soft cotton sheets. A huge leather-bound drinks cabinet on wheels overflows with refreshments carefully matched to your individual requests.

Outside, private plunge pools and decked terraces cater to al fresco everything, with day beds and outdoor showers spread liberally about. The blissful waft of frangipani pervades every nook and cranny.

For those who can tear themselves from these private havens, there's plenty more of nothing to do. A tangle of bleached wood and sand walkways may navigate you to the hilltop Ida Sanctuary, a kind of deconstructed spa with outdoor treatment rooms dotted around the island.

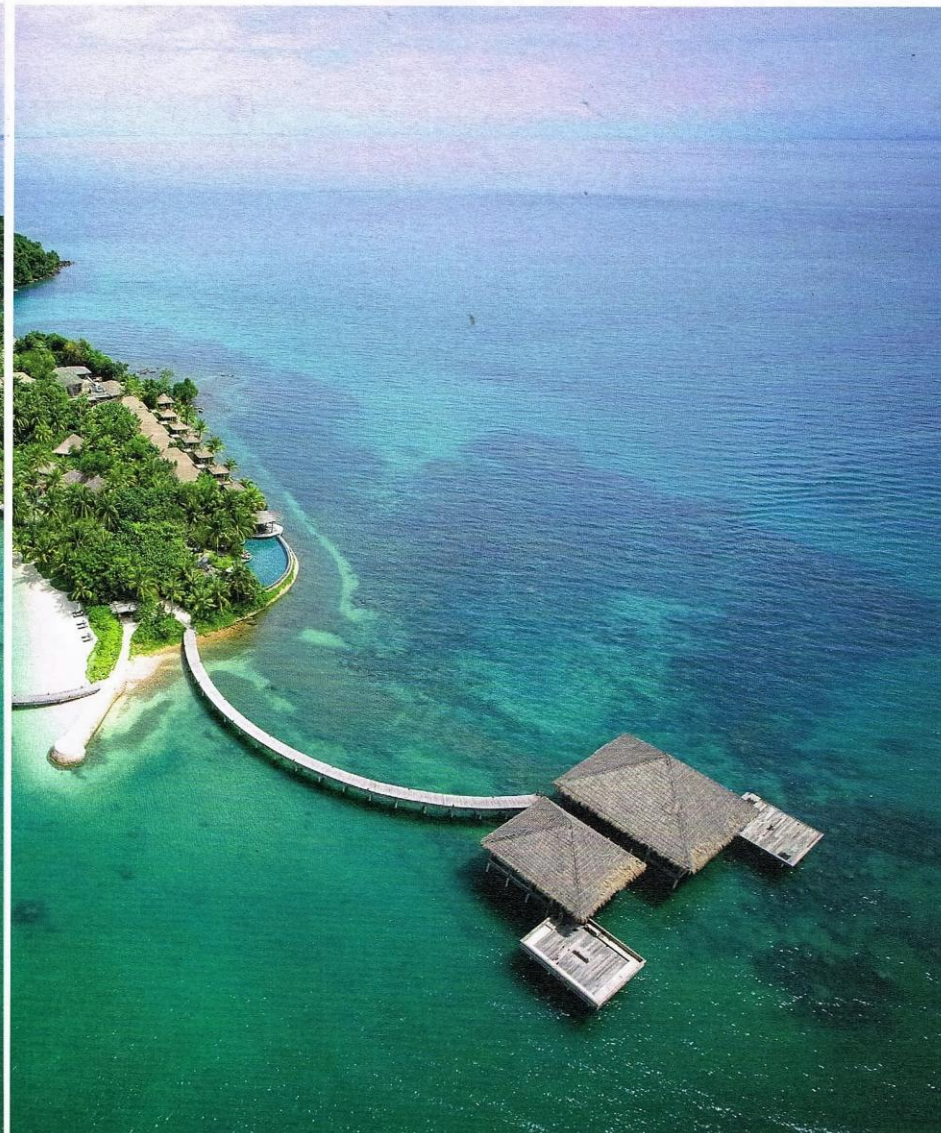
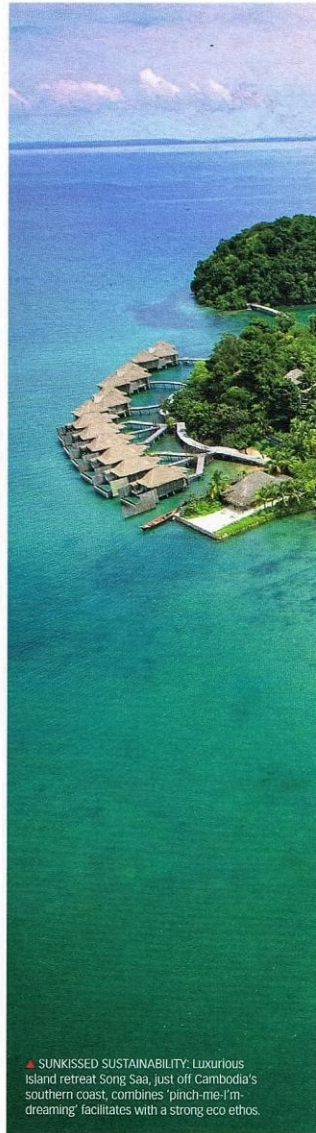
Just as likely you'll stumble on the main pool, a huge infinity crescent straddling Song Saa's east and west sides so you can float in it from sunrise to sunset without ever tasting shade. It's often murmured of in 'world's best swimming pool' conversations, and it's easy to see why with its hand-cut granite tiles and seamless convergence with the ocean beyond. There can't be that many pools you can float in while watching brightly coloured tropical ocean fish frolic freely just feet away.

All this luxury is well and good, but it's not Song Saa's crowning glory. Sustainability is the core ethos here and the force that drove founders Melita and Rory Hunter to create this island paradise. What's extraordinary is that there's been no compromise between that ethical determination and the embrace of luxury – they work together in perfect synchronicity, and it's reflected everywhere.

From the bamboo straws in the cocktails to the salt water in the swimming pools, there's nothing unnatural or synthetic here at all. Every last drop of water is recycled and most of the staff are Cambodian, often schooled in English on Song Saa and unrelenting in their enthusiasm and execution of their duties.

The Song Saa foundation has created Cambodia's first marine reserve, helped establish a school, recycling and sustainability programmes in the nearby village of Svek Pray, and filters profits down into the local communities. And that's Song Saa's magic trick. Guests get to sample the kind of luxury that's usually reserved for daydreams in rush hour but can leave basking in the glow of a conscience as clear as the crystal waters that they've spent the week floating about in.

Song Saa Private Island offers jungle villas from \$1,777 per night on an all-inclusive basis, based on double occupancy. Song Saa island is also available to rent in its entirety starting from \$62,300 per day (based on 60 people staying). See songsaa.com ▶



▶ **SUNKISSED SUSTAINABILITY:** Luxurious Island retreat Song Saa, just off Cambodia's southern coast, combines 'binch-me-l'm-dreaming' facilities with a strong eco ethos.