



Bangkok Post

Where eagles rest

The Aquila is what real luxury looks and feels like

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In Latin, aquila is the word for that majestic creature that we all know as the eagle; a symbolic representation of magnificence and freedom the world over. You certainly do feel both magnificent and free when you're staying at the luxury rental villa this review is based upon. Currently a seven-bedroom but soon-to-be 10-bedroom private oceanfront villa located in the Millionaire's mile of Phuket. The Aquila is a feast for the eyes, mind, heart and soul. If your budget can handle it, there is nowhere we could recommend more for your next getaway. Read on to find out why!

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION

As many have said before, the location of any piece of property is just as important as the property itself. Some would go as far as saying that location is even more important than the property itself, but seeing as this particular piece of property is beyond breathtaking, we'll settle for the former statement. One of the things that make this cliff-top villa with 165m of frontage so unique is how completely private and secluded it is, despite being a short ten minutes' drive from Kamala Beach. You feel like you're away from all the hustle and bustle that is Phuket, and in our opinion it's a bit of a refresher as Phuket seems to be a bit too rowdy these days. If you've got the urge to hit a beach club -- Cafe del Mar perhaps -- or to go swimming along a curved sand beach, then no sweat, because you can. Would you really want to though, when you've got a gorgeous dark turquoise coloured infinity pool that looks like it's gracefully floating on the Andaman ocean? Sure, you don't have a beach to lounge on but trust us, with the surrounding tropical view of jungle mixed with hills against the backdrop of the ocean, as well as all the luxuries the villa has to offer, you won't spend even a second crying about it. You've nonetheless got direct ocean access via a stone-step staircase that takes you through the villa's garden and right down to the sea, where you can swim and snorkel around the coral reef in the cove in front of the villa. Water can be choppy and the rip tide strong, so think twice if you're not a strong swimmer.

www.aquilaphuket.com



REST AND RELAXATION

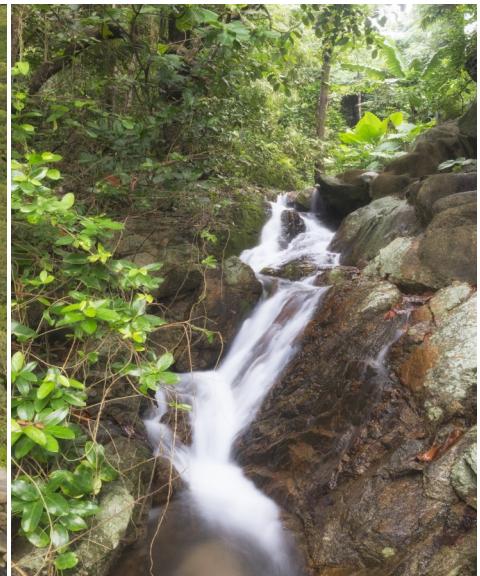
Bedrooms are arguably the most important rooms for any place of accommodation, as they represent the place we can retreat to truly be ourselves. And the eagles that soar the highest also do need sound sleep. Modern and minimalist, the bedrooms at The Aquila will allow you to do so, leaving you feeling regal and rested. Each of the bedrooms provides guests with their own private sanctuary, with every single one of them boasting sweeping views of the ocean and large balconies on which to relax to the sounds of nature as it flows. You'll feel like a million baht after resting in any of them, from the comfort of your king sized bed overlooking the seascape through floor-to-ceiling windows, watching AppleTV or Netflix on a flat screen TV or taking a long romantic bath filled with rose petals or an open-air waterfall shower overlooking at what else but the Andaman Sea. It's obvious that no expense was spared in the making of these rooms. Five are configured with king beds and the remaining two have twin beds that can be rearranged to a king bed, depending on guest preferences. The Suite Room is the only room not situated in the Guest Pavilion, but in the Arrival Pavilion, and it has a small private living room and features a small additional bunk-bed room suitable only for children. Please note that the villa is strict about keeping to a maximum of 14 adults and four children.

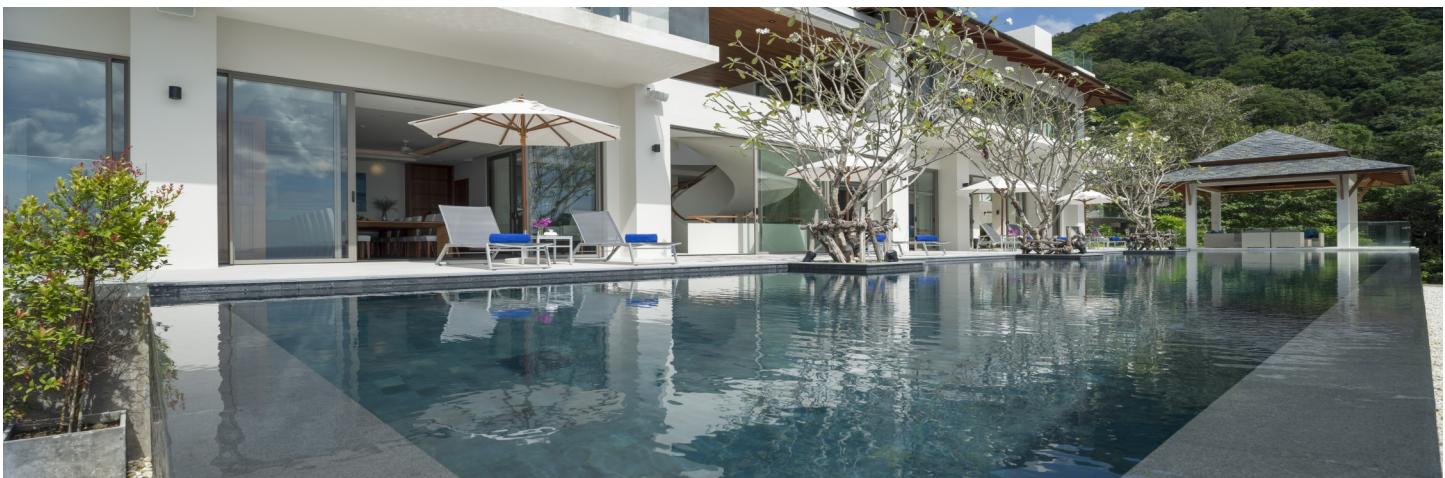




RECREATION FOR CREATION

You're more likely to come to your senses engaging in recreation and such activities might even stimulate that much needed creativity for your next million-baht idea. Well, there ain't a better place to engage in activities for the sake of joy and pleasure than at The Aquila. Especially when the largest room in the villa estate -- that's hella large btw -- is the Entertainment Room. If you aren't satisfied swimming 20 laps in the infinity pool, sun-bathing or gazing upon a pink sunset then you can head downstairs where you'll find a red-felt pool table, space to dance and have a good time, a private movie theatre and even a stocked wet-bar with a three tap facility for golden beverages. Choose to bring in your own keg and the staff will happily facilitate. There is access to the private in-house gymnasium at the far end too, which coincidentally also has an ocean view, as well as all the run-of-the-mill equipment you'd need to get your heart pumping, along with free weights, kettlebells, Swiss balls, yoga mats and last but not least, a punching bag. If you ain't about exercise or surround-sound entertainment, head upstairs to the library which is a place we could spend a day in. You've got books, a chessboard, huge sofas and again, an ocean-front view higher above the ground that really does make it seem like you're in an eagle's nest far up high. Warning: inspiration will probably strike you here most.





HOME AWAY FROM HOME DINING

If you're the type who likes to cook, then cook on further in the villa's top-grade kitchen that has top-of-the -range equipment and a view that's to die for. Or, let the skilled cooking team that's headed by a local chef satisfy those taste buds with a menu that is decided upon before you come. It accommodates for everyone, from the vegan and lactose intolerant to the diehard meat veteran. Guests can order from the villa menu or give specific requests on meals and purchases. The staff purchases groceries from local stores and markets, from fresh fish to imported meats and exotic fruits. We were absolutely blown away by the selection of food on offer, which covered everything from a European continental breakfasts to a Northern-Thai and MSG-Free evening meal that still has our mouths watering. Honestly, consultation with the staff pre-arrival is key to make sure all dietary requirements are met. All items for food and drink for occupants of the villa are charged at cost plus 20%.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Got a large squad and a significant birthday or occasion to celebrate? Want a super private and luxury wedding? Are you heading up a huge corporate team and wondering how you can put together a weekend that would encourage that much needed trust building? Is your family quite pally with another family and looking for a way to have a family2family centred holiday? Four to six couples looking for their next holiday? Well, so long as there is a decent number of you, no more than 14 adults, then The Aquila would be the perfect place to hide out in luxury. Highly recommended.

For more information and rates, visit

www.aquilaphuket.com

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