

Word of mouth

What's hot in Zanzibar Monaco

Ravello East Hampton Plus Spanish winery hotels Private jets



EDITED BY EMILY MATHIESON



At Kilindi, the 15 domed pavilions each have a separate bedroom, bathroom and private, open-air lounge area overlooking the Zanzibar Channel.

Kilindi's spa, below, far left, offers treatments that make use of indigenous ingredients



Curves in all the right places

Zanzibar An unusual retreat on the north coast offers a tranquil Indian Ocean experience

Just opened If you want to get away from it all on Zanzibar, then Kilindi might be the answer.

The 15 domed pavilions, which overlook Tumbatu Island in the north, are scattered across 54 acres and bordered by casuarina forest. To get there, 'guests are driven along back roads so they think there's nothing else around,' jokes owner Bobby McKenna. The cement-and-limestone pavilions don't resemble your usual Indian Ocean hideaway. They were designed by Neil Rocher, who created the equally idiosyncratic Shompole in Kenya and Chongwe River House in Zambia; McKenna calls it 'functional art'. The architecture is certainly distinctive, but McKenna (who is originally from the Wirral and was drawn to Zanzibar by its 'mystery and magic') and his Swedish business partners hope that the resort will become as well known for its other elements, too. The restaurant is overseen by chef Richie Tewnton (who has worked with Jamie Oliver and Pierre Koffmann and has an on-site smokery and organic kitchen garden to play with) and managed by Russell Bridgewood (previously at London's E&O and Annex 3). Elsewhere, talented massage therapist Julia Sampson oversees the spa, where skilled East African therapists use traditional techniques incorporating local herbs, oils and honey. There's also a T-shaped, 25-metre-long swimming pool, and a screening room.

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Kilindi, Zanzibar, Tanzania (00 255 24 223 1954; www.kilindi.com).
Pavilions from US\$1,200 (for two people, full board)

PHOTOGRAPHS: PIA ULIN