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66 LIVING IN STYLE

CASTELLO DI RESCHIO
HEAVEN IN UMBRIA

PLAYERS' RESIDENCE
REAL MADRID

JEWELS
FROM INDIA

CULINARY
FEMMES FATALES

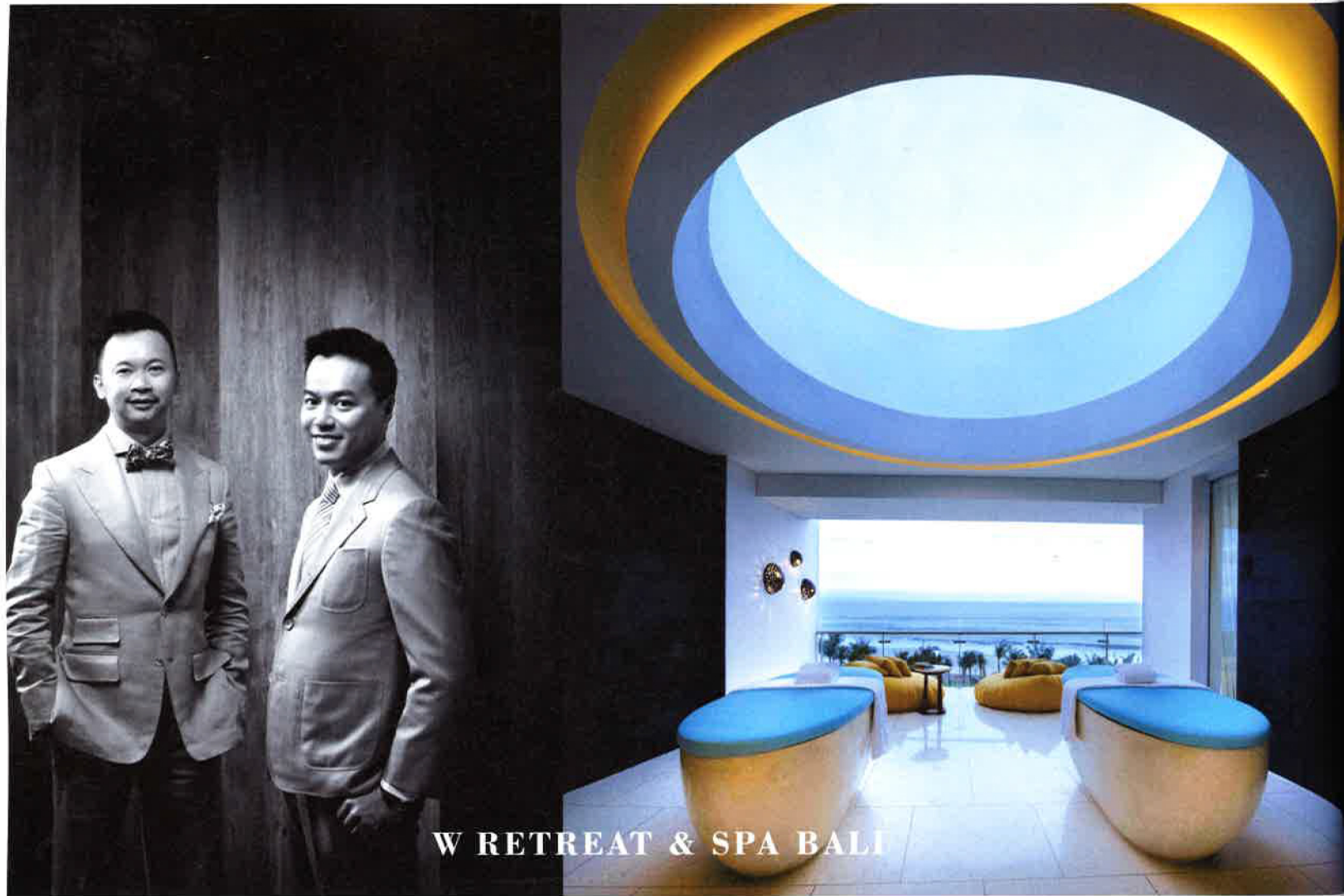
SUPERYACHT
CHOPI CHOPI

THE WORLD OF
LUXURY HOTELS

us \$9.50 can \$11.50 australia \$14.95 uk £8.95
italy-spain-belgium-france € 9.90 europe € 12.20



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Above: founders of AB Concept, Ed Ng and Terence Ngan.

AB Concept, a leading Hong Kong-based design and architectural studio designed the W Retreat & Spa Bali – Seminyak. Befitting a hotel brand known for its no-boundaries innovations, AB Concept offers an ultra-modern twist on Balinese design. Fusing festive colours, distinctive architectural shapes and traditional elements, the designers have created a luxury retreat of uncompromising quality.

Located along Bali's uber-chic Seminyak strip – home to the island's best restaurants, galleries and designer boutiques – the W Retreat & Spa ups the ante by bringing a new level of sophistication to the area. Comprising 232 hotel rooms and 79 one, two or three-bedroom private villas, W Bali covers 31,000 sq m over four floors.

“With the W Retreat & Spa Bali we are pushing boundaries for Resort hotel design, creating a distinctly unique look that still incorporates Balinese elements, but is unlike anything else on the island,” explains AB Concept cofounder and Director Ed Ng. AB Concept designed the interiors of this beachfront resort, including the terraced lobby and W Lounge. Oversized day beds and billowing curtains inspire a relaxed vibe, while the quirky contours and palette of hot pinks and purples add an adventurous spirit.

While dispensing with the teak-and-terrazzo formula so popular in many of Bali's resorts, AB Concept remains respectful of the island's rich cultural heritage. Architectural motifs reinterpret traditional Balinese art while the open-plan lobby provides natural ventilation for much of the year, blurring the boundaries between indoors and outdoors. Lampshades woven from synthetic rattan resemble pagoda roofs while terrazzo tiling, cut to resemble leaf veins, shimmer with inlaid seashells. Inspired by the colours of Bali's sunsets and seascapes, the scheme pulls in the coastal landscape at every opportunity. From the violet-hued lustre of the lobby, to the aquatic greens of the guest retreats, the designers have seamlessly integrated natural elements into the design.

Bed throws are hand stitched with a leaf pattern; skylights carved above the bath welcome the sunlight, and the library features furniture made of tropical timber and pillars of local volcanic stone. Adding a new level of luxury, the 79 self-contained villas offer a sense of relaxed outdoor living and boast a private pool.

