

picturesque retreat

Mihiri Wikramanayake cools her heels at Tisara Villas, and is impressed by the peaceful hideaway off the southern coast.

Come the April and May holidays, and everyone wants to get away from the heat and humdrum of city life. Whilst the ersatz cool types head to the hills, others prefer to really get away and look out for places that are different, affordable and far from the madding crowd.

Along the picturesque southern coastline, a little beyond Galle, is the nondescript town of Habaraduwa. About half a kilometre inland, nestled in two acres of tropical gardens is a delightful collection of villas. Tisara Villas is the brainchild of Anura Saparamadu, who took time off from making limoncello to turn this plot of land into 10 delightful abodes.

Designed to blend in with the environment, Tisara Villas

is meant for chilled-out travellers who simply want to get away from the noise and pollution of urban living.

Each villa stands alone and is fully furnished, albeit differently. They all boast two tastefully designed air-conditioned double-bedrooms with majestic four-poster beds. The en-suite bathrooms are like little gardens with their own cemented bathtubs that look up to the open sky.

And yep, they bring an absolute sense of peace and tranquillity, as you soak in a scented bubble bath.

The living and dining areas are airy and spacious with tropical-style hand-made

terracotta floor tiles and cane or seagrass furniture. A fully-equipped pantry is stocked with all the necessities for culinary delights, which you can cook up yourself or have one of the Tisara chefs prepare for you – they offer a variety of Western or Eastern dishes and believe me, they are good!



The refrigerator-cum-minibar is stocked with a range of bottled soft drinks as well as beers that are chilled to perfection! A verandah runs alongside the villa, providing an ideal place to relax whilst listening to the birds around you.

Apparently, 35 species of birds have been spotted in the gardens. So don't forget to pack your binoculars.

At the centre of the property, amidst the landscaped gardens, is a large swimming pool and sundeck. A dip in the pool in the early hours of the morning or even at the height of a sunny day is incredibly inviting and invigorating.

You might even be tempted to take a dip at dusk, when the entire garden is lit up, turning it into a veritable wonderland. BBQs can be arranged by the poolside, under the starry night sky.

In addition, Tisara Villas has its own Ayurvedic massage centre, a laundromat, 24-hour security, maintenance and maid service. How much more pampering could one ask for?

LIVING 24 MAY-JUNE 2010



ROOM RATES



BED & BREAKFAST Villa**	RS. 16,000
HALF BOARD Double room	14,500

* Rates are for Sri Lankans and resident expatriates, valid until 30 November 2010.

** Two double rooms, for four adults.



MEDIA SERVICES PHOTOFLE (MIHIRI WIKRAMANAYAKE)

The service here is exceptional. Meals are served at your convenience, so all you need to do is work up an appetite! Lunch and dinner are served off the menu, but special orders can be placed in advance. In fact, along with a welcome drink, all the juices served are fresh from the fruit trees in the garden.

An added feature is the organic vegetables – they are grown at the property for your consumption.

Tisara Villas is perfect for an undisturbed family holiday, where you and your family can enjoy privacy with only the incessant birdsong and the cool breeze to disturb your thoughts. If you really must 'touch base', then Wi-Fi is available in the compound – even by the poolside, in fact!

And when you drop in, do not forget to drop by Villa No. 6 and say 'hi' to Brazilian-born Franklin and Sandra from Spain, the franklin host and hostess.

They are charming and helpful and will even let you use their beautiful Spanish

villa which can accommodate up to six adults.

To think they have left behind the exotica of Brazil and Spain to take up residence at Tisara Villas is refreshing... and this perhaps is a reflection of what this place is all about!

"Besides, there is always a doctor in the house," says Sandra, referring to Franklin, who came to Sri Lanka soon after the tsunami.

He was part of a team of doctors, fell in love with the island and its people, and decided to make Sri Lanka his home.

Franklin and Sandra will also arrange special tours for anyone who might want to go whale and dolphin-watching in Mirissa, visit the wonders of the national parks or take a catamaran ride in the nearby lagoon.

Or you could just get on one of the bicycles that are available on site and explore the countryside.

So yeah... when life gives you lemons, you know where to go!

LIVING HOTEL RATINGS

ACCOMMODATION	☆☆☆☆
FACILITIES	☆☆☆
ACTIVITIES	☆☆☆
SERVICE	☆☆☆☆
FOOD	☆☆☆
ECO FACTOR	☆☆☆☆
OVERALL	☆☆☆☆

LIVING RATINGS GUIDE

EXCEPTIONAL	☆☆☆☆
EXCELLENT	☆☆☆☆
GOOD	☆☆☆
ADEQUATE	☆☆
LIMITED	☆

WHERE TO GO

TISARA VILLAS	
Duwa Road, Habaraduwa.	
TELEPHONE	(091) 2283303
FACSIMILE	2820761
EMAIL	tisara@gmail.com
WEB	www.tisaravillas.com