

TRAVEL + LEISURE

SOUTHEAST ASIA

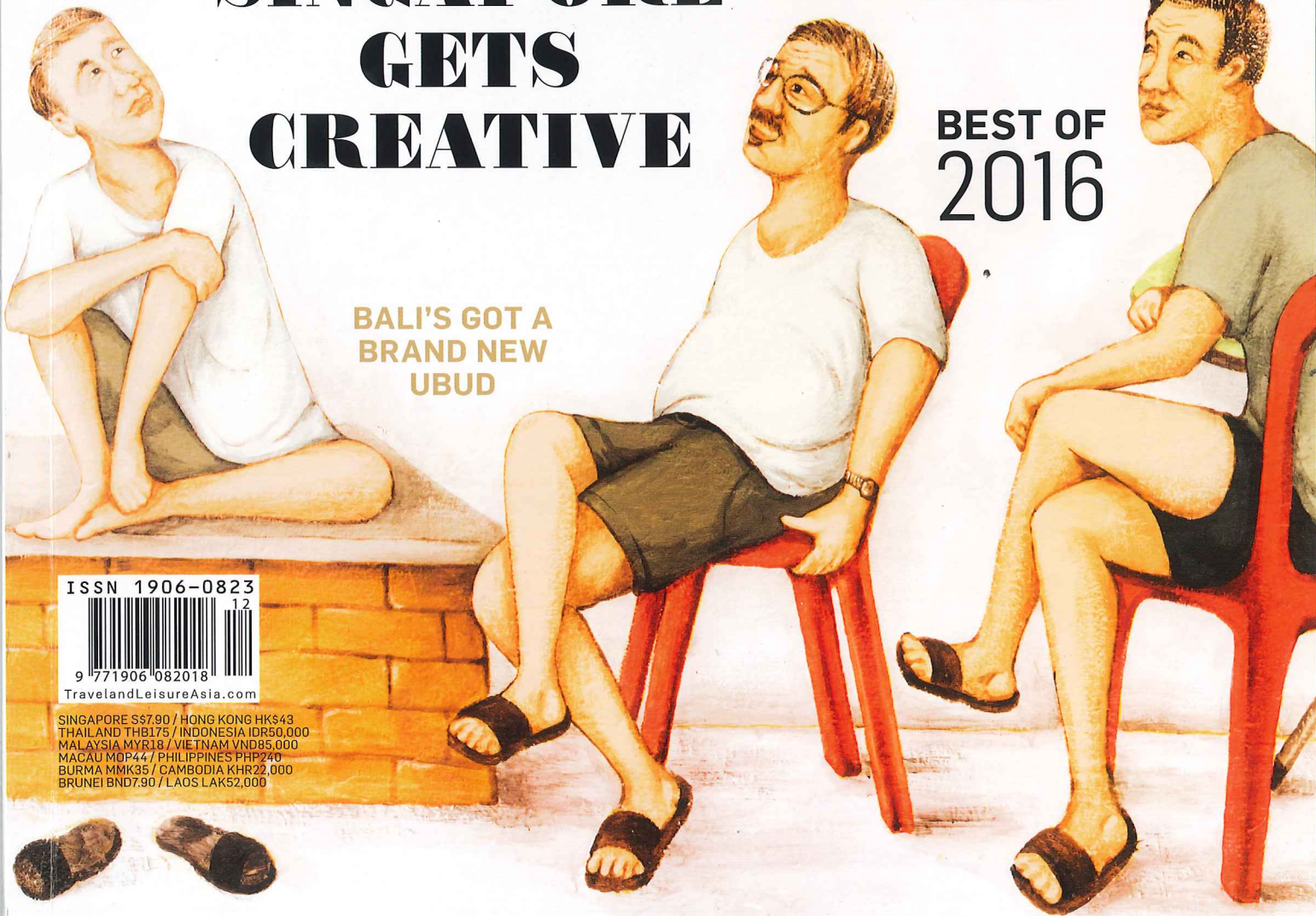
DECEMBER 2016

SINGAPORE GETS CREATIVE

MARGARET RIVER: SURF AND CABERNET

BEST OF 2016

BALI'S GOT A BRAND NEW UBUD



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Anantara Kalutara's gabled lobby at dusk.

SRI LANKA
STAY
ANANTARA
KALUTARA

SET IN A BUILDING DESIGNED BY THE LATE GEOFFREY BAWA, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST BELOVED ARCHITECTS, **ANANTARA KALUTARA** CHANNELS DUTCH COLONIAL ELEGANCE WHILE SHOWCASING ITS CHOICE CORNER OF THE KALU RIVER ESTUARY AND INDIAN OCEAN.

kalutara.anantara.com,
doubles from US\$275.



SINGAPORE

EAT & DRINK THE OTHER ROOM

Hidden behind thick drapes in an unmarked doorway (you'll need to ask the hotel reception at the Marriott for directions), this ambient speakeasy is manned by a bartender who disdains fancy, tricked-up cocktails. Instead, drinks are based on 150 spirits that are cask- or spice-finished and served neat, in flights, or as close to the original cocktail recipe as possible. theotherroom.com.sg; drinks for two S\$45.

sets from the era have been faithfully recreated, right down to dimly lit kitchens and cramped bedrooms of the original Chinatown tenants. china.townheritagecentre.com.

INDULGE CALLA SPA

Spas are a dime a dozen in Singapore, but few match the sheer scale of this 920-square-meter cocoon, or its imaginative menu of treatments that incorporate everything from trehalose and baobab extracts to aromatic oils infused with

SUPER LOCO CUSTOMS HOUSE
Built in the 1960s for the Singapore Customs Police, these days the Customs House focuses on less clandestine pursuits, like drinking and dining at the clutch of stylish restaurants and mood-lit watering holes that fill its waterfront. The latest addition, Super Loco, a largely gluten-free, modern Mexican menu, including roasted chicken, Monterey Jack and cilantro mayo; and soft corn tortillas nuzzling crispy soft shell crabs. super-loco.com/customs-house; dinner and drinks for two S\$70.

EXPLORE CHINATOWN HERITAGE CENTRE
Located along a long stretch of touristy shops hawking trinkets and tchotchkes in Chinatown, the Chinatown Heritage Centre has just emerged from an extended refurbishment, and what a treat it is. Carved out of three early 20th-century shophouses, the museum is an intriguing peek into the past. Alongside new gallery spaces and exhibits, entire room

SHOP LOOKSEE LOOKSEE
Conceived by Wee Teng Wen, the hospitality maven behind the two Michelin-star Odette, Looksee Looksee is an unusual creature. Located in a fin de siècle shophouse in Singapore's Kampong Glam quarter, its gray-tan-pink interior houses a cozy, light-filled public reading room. The books, ranging from Buddhist philosophy to architecture and cookbooks, are regularly curated by a blue-chip corps of Singaporean influencers, chefs and fashion designers. Peruse while sipping tea brewed by local tea specialists A.muse Projects. lobehold.com/looksee.

STAY OASIA HOTEL DOWNTOWN
Billed as the world's tallest greenscaped building, the Oasia Downtown's green-clad façade looms over the historic red-tiled roofline of Singapore's Tanjong Pagar neighborhood. The Aga Khan Laureate architects WoHa have stacked the rooms in alternating volumes around a central core perforated with sky gardens whose terraces are festooned with lush creepers and flowering varietals. The 314 rooms, each furnished in soft hues of pastels, stylized leafy screens and patterned rugs, offer dizzying views of the city, as does the rooftop pool. stayfareast.com; doubles from S\$189. —DAVEN WU

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A hot mineral pool at Calla Spa; Chinatown Heritage Centre; slicing through pork belly at Super Loco Customs House; order whiskey, hold the nonsense, at The Other Room; Oasia Hotel Downtown.