

"My clothes have nothing to do with fashion, my clothes are created in such a manner as to induce reaction; my creations entice. They are clothes for those who prefer to be naked, sensual not sexual. We create a certain freedom that allows men to wear the same garment as a woman and vice versa. They are for people who believe they can wear their pyjamas in the garden. But most important of all they have to be fun to wear."

He mixes bright colours. Red, peach, lavender and magenta might all be combined in one outfit. And the material of choice: soft and comfortable handwoven rayons and cottons with fine embroidery. Gold metallic threads might be woven into a plaid rayon shirt tunic.

More often than not they are seen on actors, rock stars, art directors, closet freaks, "artsy fartsy" characters and the odd sultan or two. They are not the cheapest selection of clothes available in Bali and are probably one of the more expensive collections to come out of Indonesia, but Ropp shrugs this off: "I don't strive to be the cheapest; I want to be interesting and besides, our prices here in Bali are 50% less expensive than they are in the west."

Paul Ropp has become as accustomed to mixing with celebrities as the rest of us have become accustomed to lusting after them. I guess anyone who counts the likes of Dolph Lundgren as his personal friends, knew Jack Kerouac and Dennis Hopper and was one of the late Jimi Hendrix's friends would be one extroverted character – you only need to look at the clothes he designs. But that is just the point he quips: "I was and still am a very shy person. What I do is to create a reaction by the manner in which I dress or present myself. It's just a facade. If someone is attracted to another human being who walks into a strange club or party simply because of what they are wearing, then already they have overcome the major hurdle of a social extension of what they previously had before they walked into the room."

Making and selling garments for the rank and file is just not part of his repertoire. "We appeal to a very small segment of society – the very affluent or for anyone who doesn't consider price a crucial factor in obtaining a unique item."

And basically that is how the Paul Ropp story started – making clothes for rock stars who happened to be his friends. That was after he had just made his first million decorating "roll-yer-own" cigarette papers with the American flag, draft cards and \$100 bills. He played a role in the great American raised middle finger to the establishment, but unlike many he never lost sight of the need to make a buck. His brand of non conformism was and still is very lucrative.

Paul grew up on the wrong side of the New 'Yawk' tracks, crashed the best parties, hung out in

ESCAPE INTO FANTASY



" Situated in the heart of exciting Seminyak, PRANA Spa at The Villas offers an extensive range of luxurious body and beauty treatments guaranteed to transport you into a stress free mental plain some call Nirvana.

A complete haven of relaxation and therapy

The choice is yours.
The experience unforgettable "



30% discount will be offered to all Air Paradise guests

PRANA
SPA AT THE VILLAS

THE VILLAS BALI
HOTEL & SPA

Jalan Kunti 118.X, Seminyak, Bali, Indonesia
P: +62 361 730840, F: +62 361 733751, email: spa@thevillas.net
www.pranaspaaandvillas.com, www.thevillas.net

Restaurants of the month



Decadence knows no bounds as one munches away at a selection of 'ayurvedic entrees' including Sattvic Steamed Vegetables, or Thai Cashew Curry served with fragrant Basmati rice. Or, depending on how far your taste buds can travel in a single sitting you might like to try the Sushi Platter: coconut sashimi, heart of palm and marinated vegetables served with wasabi / ginger sauce and a side of miso soup.

With such exotic tastes dancing like Shiva on your tongue, your eye inevitably lands on the entrance to the spa upstairs (well worth a visit) and you may begin to feel guilty about your insatiable palate. Luckily Prana have included a 'Healthy International Fusion' main

Prana Restaurant

By Pak Sirtib

If you've never actually been to Rajasthan, this is probably how you imagined it. The opulence of Prana takes the first time visitor aback, with its lush carpets and drapes, ottomanesque cushions and iconographic statues, all set against reds, mauves and purples. This combined with the scent of burning incense as well as the aroma wafting in from the kitchen forms a prelude to the equally impressive gastronomic assault on the senses that is to come.

The term 'starter' might seem anomalous in this space with no beginning and no end, but there are some treats in store when you emerge from meditation and find your bearings. Mouth watering Vegetable Curry Samosas with - my favourite - jackfruit chutney, Thai Pumpkin Ginger Soup served with coconut creme tofu and broccoli, or how about Smoked Marlin Mousse with mixed green salad?

course menu that includes low-fat options for the conscientious diner. Or at least the Prana club sandwich contains low-fat pastrami; and for dessert there's the frozen sorbet or brownie a la mode, both of which are sugar, dairy and wheat-free.

For those who regard the spa as cure rather than prevention, however, the main tour begins here in Asia with some creatively concocted Indonesian favourites as well as Thai and Japanese dishes. The Thai-inspired Mango, Curried Chicken and Cashew Boat Salad melds particularly well with the decor! Then as we leave Asia there's the BBQ-grilled Monk Fish and Prawn Kebab on ratatouille and tomato couscous, the Cajun Pumpkin Jambalaya, and, oh la la, the Chicken Dijon: sautéed chicken with dijon mustard sauce, grilled tomatoes and rustic wedge potatoes.

Given the luxury of the surroundings a meal at Prana will not cost you a prince's ransom. Accompanied by a bottle of quality wine, the daily set meal guarantees an affordable as well as an unforgettable night out. Highly recommended!