

NEWSLETTER

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VILLA BUKIT SEGARA

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MASTER CHEF BART : VILLA IS NUMBER 1 FOR BALINESE FOOD.

From 29th August until 6th September , TV celebrity and Master Chef Bart van Berkel and family were guests in the villa.

Bart and Annique are active people : diving, snorkeling, trips and enjoying the time with Meis (3 years old), and Boet (5 months).

But in between you could find Bart in the kitchen, working on new recipes with our Sery.



Q : You don't mind to work in your holiday ?

Bart : It is not work, its my passion.

Q : In the Netherlands you are quite famous .
What happened ?

Bart : I won the competition of Master Chef of the year on Dutch television.

Q : How long have you been a cooking – pro (Bart is 39 years old).

Bart : Since a year.

Q : What ? How is that possible, what did you do before ?

Bart : Before I owned an IT – Business, I sold it and made a career – switch.

Q : Yes, you can call that a switch, but how could you win this master prize with so little experience ?

Bart : My experience counts since I was a child, cooking was always my hobby and became my passion.

And last year I worked in world class – restaurants with top chefs.

Q : How about your stay in the villa and the kitchen there ?

Bart : I gave 5 times “10” on the evaluation paper of the villa : Location,Room, Service,everything is perfect.

Q : And the restaurant ?

Bart : They serve the best Balinese food in Amed.

We tried also other restaurants.

Q : How can that be ? its just a boutique hotel without a professional chef.

Bart : No, but they have Sery as head kitchen. She is a talent.

If she wants to come to the Netherlands, I will start a Balinese restaurant with her.

And the villa is clever in using the input of their guests.

So they keep learning.

Q : What are your plans for the future? Will you start your own restaurant and go for 2 michelin – stars?

Bart : No comment !

But I can tell you that I am working on a book, “The secret of the chef “.

It will be published at the end of the year.

Thank you Bart. We really enjoyed your stay with us and we learned a lot.

Bart is not only a celebrity , but he is also a nice guy who had excellent cooperation with our Sery.

Together they created a wonderful salad : Balinese Spicy Salad – See recipe.

BALINESE SPICY SALAD, THE SECRET OF CHEF BART AND chef SERY.

Master Chef Bart worked together with our Sery in the kitchen : our Goulash is now of world class, new on the menu is Rendang Bebek and together they created Balinese spicy salad.

Here is the recipe :

Balinese Spicy Salad

- Slices of any kind of fresh fruit, like pineapple, mango, papaya, snake fruit, apple, and cucumber.
- Ingredient of the sauce : tamarind, vinegar, brown sugar, salt, shrimp paste, chili and ice cube .
- Put slices of fruits into the bowl and pour the sauce.
- The Balinese Spicy Salad is ready to serve.



Master Chef Bart is famous in the Netherlands since he won the first prize in TV – cooking match.

Sery likes to learn and is a talent, that made a successful cooperation with Bart.

FREE DIVING.....DIVING FOR FREE ?

No, diving in Amed is cheap but not for free. Free diving is diving without an oxygen tank on your back, just holding your breath. Our guest Andrea (Australia) experienced it.

Q : Andrea, glad to see you back alive, because Cyrill (husband) and I were worried you wanted to break all records. How long could you hold your breath ?

Andrea : I started with 1 minute, but now already 2.

Q : How deep did you go ?

Andrea : Up to 14 meter.

Q : Amazing ! Do you use equipment ?

Andrea : Just a mask, long flippers and a wetsuit.

Q : What is the program ?

Andrea : It was 2 times a hole day, from 9 am to 4 pm.

Every day 6 dives before and 6 after lunch.

A group of 7 trainees, 3 instructors. To be honest, after lunch was a bit too much.

Q : Where did you do it, what did you pay ?

Andrea : It was organized by Apneista in Jemeluk bay (near by the villa). Professional people, I paid 200 USD.

Q : How about the risks ? I heard people sometimes loose consciousness.

Andrea : You dive with an instructor, it's safe. But you train for rescue.

The main challenge is to learn 'equalizing'(more on internet).



Created by Apneista.com

Q : Could you continue your program ?

Andrea : Yes, I did 'beginner', you can continue with level 1, 2 and master. But its ok for me.

Q : Did you also do scuba - diving ?

Andrea : No, free diving is more fun, more natural, less technique and bubbles.

Q : Any advice for free diving ?

Andrea : Yes, don't take a heavy lunch !

Q : You are an athletic person. Would you like to learn sailing also ?

Andrea : Yes, certainly. This was our 2 nd stay in the villa, a 3rd time , I certainly would like to learn sailing.

The First Dutch Sailing School (in Villa Bukit Segara) certainly likes to welcome an athletic and nice person like Andrea.

FIRST DUTCH SAILING SCHOOL STARTED.

During 1 year we tested our first fast sailing trimaran, the "Flying Jukung". The combination between the traditional trimaran design used by fishermen ("Jukung") and modern rigging,(sails and so on) brought from Europe,resulted in a fast sailing boat.

But we wanted a bigger one to be used for teaching. The result was "The Racing Jukung". It was tested,2 instructors ,2 trainees. It's fantastic, it's indeed racing over the Bali sea, instructors and trainees are enthusiastic!
Based on these experiences the First Dutch Sailing school was established in Villa Bukit Segara.

The capacity is limited, each day we have place for 2 trainees and the sailing course takes 4 (half)days. So we give way to our guests and we have a contract with 2 hotels in the area (the Griya and Santai) to offer there guests sailing lessons.

Amed is now not only the place for snorkeling and diving but also for sailing!
Soon, we will publish a video on our website about sailing.



EVERYBODY HAPPY IN THE VILLA ? NO ! ABOUT UNSALTED BUTTER AND 3 ANTS...

Tamu is Indonesian for guests. At departure we ask the guests to fill a paper for evaluation of their stay. We call it the Tamu-happy-paper.

Here are the averages for 2015 up to September on a scale from 0-10:

Location9.7
Room..... 9.4
Restaurant.....9.3
Service.....9.8
Trips, transport..... 9.3

But were all guests happy? No, here are 2 stories of unhappy guests.

UNSALTED BUTTER

After a stay of 3 nights (and 3 times breakfast) the guests filled in the "tamu-happy-paper", than they left. The staff looked at the ratings and was shocked: a "5" for the restaurant". The average is 9.3, we have our own bakery, so fresh delicious bread, fresh juice, any eggs you like, 10 other things you can choose.. What happened.? The remark was that the butter was bad.

The butter is from "Elle et Vire" qualite gourmand ,made in France. What can be wrong with that?. We sent the guests an email and got the answer: the butter was unsalted and they were from Bretagne, a part of France where people prefer salted butter.

We keep learning, now we offer salted butter on the breakfast paper as an option. Good question "Why these people not mention the point on the first day?"

THREE ANTS

Another guest came to the reception, he was shocked. When he was on the toilet he saw 3 ants. "Do you always have so many ants in the rooms??"

Immediately a hole team was sent to the room and killed the bastards!

More than 99% of our guests are happy.. but also the remarks of the unhappy ones we take seriously.

TRIPADVISOR

Our ratings on tripadvisor up to end of September 2015(number of reviews)

EXCELLENT104

VERY GOOD8

AVERAGE0

NOT GOOD1: (Date 13 September 2013)

BAD0

A few week ago we got 'excellent 'review nr. 100 by Cyrill and Andrea. They were for the second time in the villa and will come back in 2016. They are more than welcome!

But so are the "unsalted" guests ,we all keep learning, maybe so do they.

TO THE GILI'S..DO YOU PAY 650.000 OR 250 000 FOR YOUR TICKET?

Every day hundreds of (mostly young) people visit the Gili's. Little tropical paradise-islands on swimming distance from the coast of Lombok. Its only 40 kilometer, you can see the mountains of Lombok while relaxing in the swimming pool of the villa.

Until 2012 you had to take a ferry from Padang bay or even Sanur. But the shortest is from Amed. So fishermen-like our Putu-brought guests with their boats to the Gili's in a few hours.

Now different "fast boats" are cruising daily from Amed to the Gili's. For our guests we inspected the locations, the boats and checked the prices. In 2012 Amed Sea started with a "fast boat" to the Gili's. It was a great success, because it takes less than 1 hour. The Amed Sea is a small ferry boat, closed, about 30 passengers, departing from Amed beach.

Other "entrepreneurs" followed, but from Jemeluk Bay. There are some facilities, like a parking, waiting place etc.

Daily these companies depart from there:

- Kuda Hitam
- Sea Express
- Free bird

Free bird is the latest one and operates with a new and comfortable looking boat for 50 passengers.

But the other 2 look also good, with new and heavy outboard engines. We also inspected Amed Sea. During our visit the boat was in repair, the tank was leaking. The boat looks old and small. Also the hole "harbour" makes a poor impression. But we heard that they work together with Sea-express in Jemeluk.

It's obvious that Jemeluk is now the center for the fast boats, daily-around 9.30 -3 boats with each about 50 passengers leave the beach.

Normally this is the only time of departure. Even now, September, all boats were full.



PRICES

Sitting next to someone in the same boat, it's possible that he paid 250.000 idr (Indonesia. rupiah) and you 650.000! People have heard that it can be crowded so they book online..they will pay the highest price. If you book when you are in Amed, you will pay a lower price, but indeed, you are not sure of a place. If your hotel books for you, they will buy the ticket for 250.000 and they are free to ask you any price they want, mostly around 500.000.

As a guest of the Villa you have the best option..we book for you, you pay us 250.000, our staff gets some commission, you have a sharp price and are guaranteed a place. This is the deal we made with "Free Bird".

note: In July and August the mentioned prices can be a bit higher.

SERVICE

All companies offer free pick up at your hotel. At departure there is staff to help with your luggage. Going on/off board can be difficult for older/ disabled people. Suggestion: if you go for 2 or 3 days to the gili's leave your big trunks in Amed and go with a backpack..the gili's are anyhow mostly geared towards backpackers.

SAFETY

Some tourists distrust safety, hygiene, the equipment used in diving schools and so on in Indonesia. Don't overdo..The ships we mentioned are ok, they have radio contact with the port authority in Bali, there is safety equipment on board, they have a licence and the captain has a diploma. So far there was never a problem. If there is too much wind they get a warning and don't go out. If a ferry gets a problem the others will be there in minutes to assist.

SEASICK

The fast boats make a speed of about 50 kilometre per hour, in waves that means shocks and up and down movements. We never saw someone seasick, but if you are sensitive take pills.

Finally..they have bags on board.