

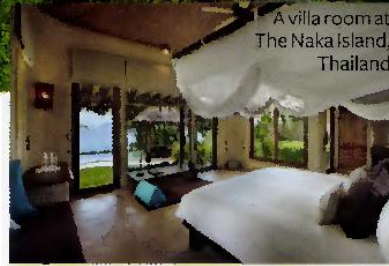
TRAVEL NEWS

See the world in first-class style



A private island retreat in the Far East is just the thing if you want to get away from it all. The recently opened **Naka Island** (£184 per night, b&b; starwoodhotels.com; 00 66 76 371 400), located just off Phuket in Thailand, is a stunning boutique resort comprising 67 villas with pools and alfresco bathrooms. There are white-fringed beaches and spectacular views over Phang Nga Bay, with its limestone cliffs and sea caves.

A little further afield in Cambodia's Koh Rong archipelago, just off the coast of Sihanoukville, you'll find the new eco



A view from Song Saa, Cambodia
A villa room at The Naka Island, Thailand

retreat of **Song Saa** (\$668, about £422, per person per night, including meals, minibar, sports, activities, excursions and speedboat transfer; songsaa.com). Think luxury, high-end design with a little rustic chic and just 25 over-water villas, with a focus on environmental protection and helping the local communities.



Hideaway heaven

Whether you're looking for a romantic retreat or a luxe pad for a festive family get-together, we're loving Farm & Cottage Holidays's West Country bolt holes (holidaycottages.co.uk). For peace à deux, check into the newly renovated Earl Barton Cottage near Wootton-under-Edge in Somerset (£465 for a week). For a family venue, Rhu House, near Saunton Sands in Devon (£2,650 for a week), sleeps 12 and has fab panoramic views of the Braunton Burrows.

Opulent Orient

Forget pounding the pavement or going online – try Christmas shopping on the Orient-Express (yes, really)! You'll enjoy a four-course lunch and get the chance to shop on board at the likes of Harrods, Miller Harris, Brora, Daniel Sandler and Liberty. Shopping on the Rails, £300 per person; the train departs from London Victoria on 1 December (orient-express.com/uktrains; 0845 077 2222). ■

Do your Christmas shop on the Orient-Express

