

Enjoy the Slowlife

With a deluge of hospitality options now available in Vietnam it is becoming difficult to decide where to take the perfect vacation. But the Six Senses Evason Ana Mandara resort is making that choice a little easier. Words by Will Peach. Photos by Rico Gonzales.

THE EVASON ANA MANDARA IS LUXURY at its finest, and with 2.6 hectares of private beachside garden and villa-style accommodations, guests have little reason to complain. But while these features are certainly a lure, the real draw of this resort lies in its appropriation of a winning mantra.

Through their incorporation of the philosophy of *SLOWLIFE*, the Six Senses team has hit on something unique. Designed to create innovative and enriching experiences in a sustainable environment it has "benefited everyone involved," says executive assistant manager Anthony Gill.

SLOWLIFE is an acronym for generalising eight tacit company goals – sustainable, local, organic, wholesome, learning, inspiring, fun and experiences. Each penetrates broadly into the interaction of guests and staff alike, transforming a luxury getaway into a deeply positive experience.


The resort riffs on sustainability and fun in promoting Vietnamese traditions to guests who are treated to Cham and lion dancing, and the visual delights from local artists. They are conscious of green issues too. The use of solar-powered water boilers and local materials means that they keep their carbon footprint low.

Excursions to countryside markets, rice fields, salt farms and local businesses all provide visitors a little window into the local way of life. Calligraphy tutoring, Vietnamese language lessons and educational cooking classes give guests the chance to take invaluable skills away with them when they leave.

Perhaps the most striking thing about *SLOWLIFE*, though, is just how involving it is. Hosts and guests come together to cook organic lobsters farmed in Nha Trang, participate in the messy frolics of the general manager's weekly cocktail party and even journey around local areas to sample some of the favourite street food hotspots.

Although the experience is often fast paced, there's still plenty of time for rest and relaxation. The signature Six Senses spa hits on the mantra's wholesomeness by providing full sensory nourishment and revitalisation, inviting guests to prepare organic fruit and vegetable body scrubs while enjoying a raw food lunch in the relaxation sala.

It seems the slow life is certainly a good life.

*The Evason Ana Mandara & Six Senses Spa, Nha Trang, is located on The Beachside, Tran Phu Boulevard, Nha Trang. Visit www.sixsenses.com/Evason-Ana-Mandara-Nha-Trang/ for more information on *SLOWLIFE*. *

