# GARUDA

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60

Garuda Indonesia

Art & Culture:
Interpreting the Sacred and the Profane

Lampung:
Where Nature's Ornaments Find a Place of Their Own

Melbourne Offers Its Own Special Charm

Marine Tourism:

*Bunaken*

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Several facets of the island no one has attempted to delve deeper into before are revealed in one immaculately well-produced book.

# BaliChic: As Fascinating as the Island Itself

Just about everything on Bali, from reminiscences of past and present long-staying expatriate painters to the island's beautiful sceneries in glossy coffee table books, is available in quality bookstores here and abroad.

So rich and diverse is the island, some books even dwell at length on several of its different regions and regencies such as Sanur and Kuta, as well as its famous artists.

Indeed, if there is such a thing as an overexposed island, Bali fits the bill.

But so fascinating and unique is the island, there is always something to write about it. That a writer and a publisher, respectively Susi Johnston and Singapore-based Editions Didier Millet, have managed to find something fresh and original to write about the island of the gods is all the more laudable.

*BaliChic* is not only interesting to read but also a visual delight to the eyes: its no-nonsense, clear and informative text is matched by sharp and artistic visuals.

Mind you, this is no run-of-the-mill guidebook that usually features hotels, villas and other favorite touristic sites, as it it is complemented with brief but quite comprehensive takes on the island's history, tradition and geography.

Not surprisingly, the 256-page book, first published in 2004, has gone through three printings. It is constantly updated to help readers keep in pace with the island's rapid and seemingly unstoppable growth, which is quite amazing by any measure.

Bali is so colorful and tantalizing in many countless terms. Incorrigible Bali enthusiasts and first-time visitors are well-advised to consult a number of books to know better what has often been called "the world's most favorite island resort". In such a case BaliChic ought to be included in their list of references.

The book's format, however, suffers from an identity crisis. It is too small to grace the marble table in your living room but too large and heavy as a guidebook for you to carry around. Still, it is a handy – and quite elegant – reference, a book that you will never be tired of browsing every now and then—a tribute to the island and all that it has to offer, as well as to the writer and the publisher.