



Reside – Siam Style

If you're after a good meal in the **Nathon** or **Lipa Noi** area, look no further than the **Pavilion Restaurant** at **Siam Residence**.

Tucked away at the northern end of Lipa Noi Beach is Siam Residence, a resort that has, as the saying goes, stood the test of time. Siam Residence has been open for 25 years – just longer than the island's airport. For a resort to last that long they must be doing something right.

Siam Residence is Austrian owned and under Austrian and Swiss management, but the furnishing in the one and two bedroom villas, is a combination of classic European and Asian style. The villas are generously proportioned to say the least, with the one bedroomed being 80 square meters, and the two bedrooms being a spacious 130 square meters. They're spread far enough apart in the lawned garden that residents don't feel on top of each other, and the atmosphere is more that of a villa development than a resort.

Taking centre stage near the beach you'll find the swimming pool, large enough to do laps. But if you're less energetic, there are more than enough loungers flanking the pool and in the shade of giant pine trees on the beach. And if simply relaxing with a book under the trees or by the pool is not enough for you, try one of the massages in the glassed-in sala located next to the restaurant, with views across the bay.

But it's the Pavilion Restaurant we're focusing on here, and the resort welcomes outside guests to dine, either inside or on the beach. Chef Lamyai has been heading up the kitchen for an impressive 22 years – again, with a record like that, she must be keeping customers happy. If you find yourself walking along Lipa Noi Beach and fancy a drink or nibble, pop in and give the Pavilion a try. It's open from 7:00 am, so good after a sunrise beach walk, through to 10:00 pm.

Breakfasts range from a full American, to lighter options such as fruit platters, cereals, pancakes and French toast.

If you're in the area for lunch and fancy a bit of local seafood, you've hit the jackpot with Chef Lamyai – as this is her speciality. Rather than keep seafood on hand in the kitchen, if a guest orders a seafood dish, she hops on her scooter and pops to the local market and back in ten minutes. Now you couldn't get fresher if you caught it yourself. And, she's more than happy to let diners tag along to the market to see their lunch selected directly from the fishmongers. The fish or shellfish is cooked to your liking with a variety of options including barbecued, deep-fried, curried, or stir-fried with Thai-style sauces.

Carnivores will enjoy the selection from the grill, with options of grilled chicken, pork chops, beef tenderloin, or a mixed grill, all accompanied by seasonal vegetables and a choice of rice, French fries or fried potatoes and add a choice of sauce if you prefer too. And if you need to carbo-load before the walk back along the beach, there's a choice of classic pasta dishes.

For lighter lunch options, choose from the selection of sandwiches, burgers, salads and soups, and of course all the Thai favourites too. Lunch guests are more than welcome to use the swimming pool and beach loungers, so why not make a day of it, staying for cocktails to enjoy Lipa Noi's famous sunsets. The beach is kept clean by the resort, and the sea is calm, clean and good for swimming.

At night the restaurant comes alive as tables are

set out on the lawn and beach, candles are lit and silverware and glasses twinkle in the moon and candlelight. The mood is quite romantic with the sounds of soft music and the water lapping the shore only metres away. According to Group Consultant, Manfred Stark, at night they get expats and residents from other resorts walking in from the beach. They're seen coming from far by the beam of their flashlights as they walk along the beach.

The staff are friendly, and all speak English well – some even speak German. With only nine villas, the setting is intimate and it is management's goal to let every guest, both in-house as well as those visiting the restaurant, feel welcome and relaxed.

So if you've tired of the east coast's crowds, and are in the mood for a drive to Lipa Noi along Samui's unspoilt west coast, a relaxed meal or sundowners at the Pavilion Restaurant may just be what you are looking for.

Rosanne Turner

For reservations or further information, telephone 0 7742 0008.
www.siamresidence.com

