

Signature Living at Zimbali Coastal Resort



This is better than Alice's wonderland. For a keyhole view into a world of opulence and luxury, I visited the last remaining signature villas at Fairmont Zimbali Resort. When taking in the breathtaking location and unsurpassed view of the idyllic Indian Ocean, along Kwazulu-Natal's picturesque northern coastline, I was conscious of the absolute luxury that money can certainly buy, but also reminded that the furnishings were only for photographic purposes of this story, and that owners would no doubt introduce their own taste and sense of style when applying interior and exterior décor.

But wow, the first impressions were an impression! The villas are located within the precinct of the world-class, 5-star Fairmont Zimbali Resort, and a playground for the rich and famous. The setting is straight out of millionaires row and something expectant of Monaco or similar, where the cars parked out front dwell in the seven figure mark and the only thing missing is the yacht. But then again, there probably is one moored somewhere.

Photographic contribution **Dayiana Oballos**

"I was conscious of the absolute luxury that money can certainly buy..."

There can be no better location than one of the last remaining beachfront sites in the resort, and legitimately, probably along the entire northern coastline of the province. There are already two magnificent villas completed with only four sites remaining on which to build, so securing a home on this pristine stretch is like the proverbial hen's teeth, or maybe more appropriately rare gems. Did someone mention Black Diamonds?

The big moment arrived sooner than later, as I was drawn into the world of signature living.



With no less than six bedrooms and bathrooms and full staff accommodation, the 900m2 double storey Balinese style design offers an inviting entrance through two, wide glass doors, providing a direct view through the majestic entrance hall, into the reception lounge and dining room, on to the ocean facing patio, with rimless pool. What I would have done to smell the familiar South African braai and the sip of a local wine to complement the 180° view of the Indian Ocean. I love the natural indigenous bush, which protects the villa from the sea breeze and acts as a natural barrier between sand and home. Space is in abundance. The open glass doors, and full surround view from the entertainment areas provide the feeling of freedom and

openness, connecting the resort precinct with the ocean, and interwoven with the villa as an integral link. The ground level is a wide expanse of open-plan living where dining and relaxing integrate seamlessly with the beautiful granite, open-plan kitchen, boasting state-of-the-art appliances, and all the latest mod cons in entertainment. Did I mention intelligent lighting and switch control is a standard feature?

This all consumed, I was never going to be prepared for the upper level and the absolute splendour which awaited me. Arriving on the landing is tantamount to the space of a lobby in any 5-star hotel. I was quite prepared to lose myself with a good book in one of the easy chairs, caught between the activity on one wing and the tranquillity of the other. The rooms are simply breathtaking. En-suite bathroom takes on a new meaning with an outside walk-in shower room, yes room, designer bath and accessories, and of course only the finest fittings, and once again space, space, space.

I would never sleep, or maybe I would never get out of bed. Every view from this magnificent villa is of the idyllic Indian



“What a place to close your eyes or greet the morning rays. I have never been in a more beautiful bedroom location.”

Ocean, or back onto the resort entertainment precinct. The layouts mean that the bed acts as a rimless resting place, where you can almost feel the lap of the ocean waves on the shore, and certainly feel the breeze, or the kiss of the early morning sun. What a place to close your eyes or greet the morning rays. I have never been in a more beautiful bedroom location.

Furnishing the villa will probably set you back R2 million if you have the taste required to match the location, facilities and pure luxury of the setting, so the temporary furnishings perhaps don't do the experience full credit.



The most noticeable feature is that the villas are all located within the new Fairmont Zimbali Resort precinct, which means that all the amenities and facilities are just over the 'yellow brick' road to paradise. Let's remind ourselves of the global hotel offering, which includes no less than nine different food and beverages experiences, from fine dining to a la carte and buffet. Bite, the world-class bar and café which overlooks the magnificent resort freshwater swimming pools, Willow Stream Spa and Health Club, and the international services of your personal chef, limousine or hotel concierge on booking complete the bouquet. What better way to live than at home, (even if away from home), but with the additional luxury and convenience of 5-star hotel facilities and service?



“We can’t ignore the absolute privilege of living at this exclusive resort, or using it as a holiday home.”

It’s also good to know you are in good company, rubbing shoulders with peers and friends. Only the crème de la crème socialise in the precinct - those with lots of spare cash to throw around, anticipation of the finest and an expectation of only the highest standards. I was also attracted like a dolphin to the ocean by the allure of the world-class beach club, exclusive to members of the precinct and awed by the curious. Layers of interwoven swimming pools create a myriad of sparkling blue water and a sub-tropical paradise where exotic cocktails are the order of the day and indulgent service is the coup de grace. How awesome to soak in the sun with the sounds of the ocean just a flick of a towel away and service turned on by a smile.



Then of course we can’t ignore the absolute privilege of living within this exclusive resort, or using it for weeks at a time as a holiday home. World-class security offers prestige and total privacy. Amenities also include private tennis and squash courts, no less than seven swimming pools, including Valley of the Pools along the ocean shore, and access to the Tom Weiskopf designed 18-hole, championship golf course. It is not out of the ordinary to see residents commuting quietly around the estate by electric golf car, but then would anyone expect anything less? To say that life on the Zimbali Coastal Estate is simply exclusive is to under-emphasise the level of privacy and discernment amongst

owners and location. Life is sedate and discreet, traffic policy responsible, while convenience and tranquillity is the norm. We should not forget that Zimbali is in the heart of the Dolphin Coast where tourism abounds to the local attractions including whale and dolphin watching, paragliding, Big 5 game farms, cultural villages, shopping, and the lore of local pubs and clubs, all with their own authentically local flavour.

I could wax lyrical for pages on end, and probably still not deliver the real experience of living in a multi-million rand villa in one of the best coastal resorts and locations in Africa.

To get a firsthand account of the world of signature living and what it costs to own one of these exclusive villas, I would like to suggest that you make personal contact with Kevin Wash of IFA Hotels & Resorts who will share his vast knowledge and experience and arrange a personalised visit to the resort.

You can call him personally now on his mobile 082 8147272 or email kevin.wash@ifahotelsresorts.com