



Pascal Morabito, HRH Prince Asa and Rob Dodde-meade



Photo of Morabito Art Villa taken from the Canggu Beachfront

Morabito Art Villa... A Bali Treasure

BY ROB DODDEMEADE PHOTOS BY JAN DEKKER & MARIE EVE

If they've flown the Concorde to London for lunch.
 If they've steamed down the Nile to Luxor.
 If they've seen the Taj Mahal by moonlight,
 and marveled at the Fractal Pyramid on
 K7 Mountain in the Himalayas.
 If they've rubbed shoulders with the best and touched the
 exotic trophies at the Cannes Film Festival.
 If they've seen the 'Captive Diamond'
 in the Museum of Modern Art in New York,
 and felt the glow of the finest
 Venetian chandeliers in Munaro.
 If they've worn the flattest quartz watch in the world or
 experienced the heavenly scent of Or Noir –
 the world's first perfume jewel.
 If they've sunk into the plush interiors of
 the world's finest luxury automobiles
 and wined and dined in royal chateaux
 with 'Art de la table' pieces.
 If they've flown to Paris to see monumental sculptures
 at the Grand Palais and Eiffel Tower,
 and been astonished by one man's passionate exhibition
 of 80,000 photos – revealing an era of fashion trends
 and change in human behaviour.
 If they've sipped Jewel Champagne over Kuta Bay in Bali
 and rested their heads on a comfy beach bale...
 They'll have packed their luggage in the finest Italian leather,
 and chances are, it will bear the same name...
 'Pascal Morabito'.

Genius, eccentric, designer extraordinaire, architect, sculptor, painter, decorator, goldsmith, silversmith, glassmaker, perfumer, fashion guru, photographer, author, art collector and museum curator. These are all words that could be used to describe the one and only Pascal Morabito.

Last month, I had the privilege of meeting up with Pascal and his wife Marie Eve, and their two boys, Teo and Tao, at their Morabito Art Villa on Canggu Beach in Bali. Previously known as Bolare on Jalan Pantai Berawa, Pascal has in just 2 years, transformed what was a collection of rundown chalets into an exceptional art villa – comprising of several suites, guest houses and a guest pavilion – all designed with the kind of artistic flair that Pascal Morabito is renowned for.

Before I take you on a guided tour of this unique villa with art and design in every corner, I should first explain a little more about the man himself and the legend he has created worldwide.

Pascal Morabito is a famous French designer who works in all domains of luxury goods. Born in Nice in 1945, Pascal comes from a family of goldsmiths and Italian leather goods designers. His name has been handed down from father to son since 1871. In the 19th century his grandfather and great grandfather had solid reputations as designers and makers of quality luxury goods. The Pascal Morabito company was appointed official supplier to Tsar of Russia, the King of Sweden, and the Prince of Monaco.

In 1968, after completing his studies in architecture, Pascal created the first centre for artistic jewellery, named 'Le centre de création et d'étude du bijou contemporain ou micro-architecture'. He then designed unique pieces of 'haute joaillerie' for private and international clients and many royal families of the world. His stunning gold 'compressions' creation later became the famous César du Cinema trophy. Indeed some of his closest friends are artists like, César, Arman and Dali for whom he has designed numerous micro sculptures.

Pascal's achievements in the world of art and design are too many to list in this article but you can discover more about this passionate, exuberant, slightly eccentric but truly gifted designer by visiting www.pascalmorabito.com.



Beach Bale at Sunset



Master Bedroom of Bolare Suite



Breakfast on the Beach



The Bolare Suite at Night



Just a few of the 3000 stone sculptures at Morabito Art Villa.

JJK: "Pascal, how did you manage to secure this exceptional beach front property in Bali?"

Pascal: "I came here for a holiday several years ago when it was known as Bolare. I fell in love with the property – by that I mean this magnificent view of the Indian Ocean and the entire bay of Kuta and Jimbaran. I started by renting just one room, then later two rooms, and then I invited my family and friends to visit so I needed to rent more rooms. It got to the stage where I was renting so many rooms, I thought why not negotiate a lease on the whole lot."

JJK: "How long is your lease and what facilities do you offer?"

Pascal: "20 years – starting from 2 years ago. Now we are close to finishing all the renovation work and renting out the entire villa. Unlike a hotel or resort which rents out individual rooms, here we are offering the whole villa to exclusive clients who will treat it like their own home, enjoying total privacy with luxury facilities and quality service around the clock."

Our fish and seafood comes every morning – straight from the ocean out there – so you can't get any fresher than that! Apart from private parties we also cater for wedding functions. For a wedding party with one suite we require 3 days, and a day more if all 10 bedrooms are needed. Our rate is 2000 euro per day and it covers all facilities.

These facilities include, a hectare of parkland with manicured lawns and 150 meter beachfront, a private swimming pool (100 m2), 10 bedrooms (2 suites, 6 double bedrooms, 2 single bedrooms), for up to 20 people. Inside and outside dining areas with dedicated staff, 4 cooks and a manager who speaks English, French and Dutch. And of course all 5 star amenities."

JJK: "Tell us about the unique spa you're building?"

Pascal: "The spa will be directly above the open terrace and entertainment area, which combines indoor and outdoor dining, a modern kitchen with a wood oven pizza, a bar and cinema area. The spa which stretches across the entire top floor includes a jacuzzi, sauna and massage area, and a specially designed swimming pool with thick glass side panels. When lit up at night the pool lights send a shimmering glow across the ceiling of the entertainment area below. The lighting effect is stunning and truly mesmeric."

JJK: "Why an art museum in Bali?"

Pascal: "Where else in the world can you find so many artistic people. Bali is the island of the unknown artist. By that I mean there are just so many painters, sculptors, wood carvers – where ever you look you see beautiful art pieces – anyone of these unknown artists would be famous in any other country."

JJK: "What will happen to your art museum 20 years from now – your thousands of wood carvings and stone sculptures, some thousands of years old?"

Pascal: "I don't really know... Some may go to other collectors; maybe I will leave it – as I did with my collection in Egypt – so that future generations can appreciate their heritage and the wonderful artistic culture of their people."

JJK: "I don't know anyone more passionate about rocks and stone sculpture than you Pascal, how many stone sculptures and figurines do you have here?"

Pascal: "Just over 3,000, some are thousands of years old, others are quiet recent."

JJK: "When did you start collecting?"

Pascal: "When I was 7 years old, I started collecting pieces from a construction site in Nice. After the graders stopped digging I would go and search



Carved Indonesian Figurines



100 m2 Swimming Pool



Jacuzzi of Bolare Suite



Morabito Guesthouse Room



Relaxation Bale at Morabito Villa



Master Bedroom of Javanese log



A Foaming Spa bath with views over parkland and ocean

– sometime in the early hours of the morning – for pieces of stone carving, pottery, porcelain, even old bottles. Eventually I had quiet a collection. Little did the developers know that they were digging on the site of an ancient civilization. As the word of my collection spread, the French government decided it was a national treasure and convinced me to give it to the National museum.”

JJK: “What is the oldest stone carving you have on this property?”

Pascal: “Marble stone carvings from ancient Rome – over 2,000 years old.”

JJK: “Where does your inspiration come from?”

Pascal: “Nature itself... Sometime the elements of nature create the most amazing shapes and designs in stone and wood – that’s why you can see so many uniquely shaped rocks and huge pieces of petrified wood in the gardens around the villa. I’ve become impassioned by the discoveries of archaeologists who continue to shed new light on the art and culture of lost civilizations. As with nature, if these valuable artifacts are not collected and protected, they will be lost forever. Of course I also like to work with new materials to create truly original pieces, but whatever I create it has to be the very best of its kind, and if possible the only one of it’s kind.”

JJK: “Strong words from a perfectionist who will settle for nothing but the best!”

Pascal: “Yes, it has to be the best if it carries the Morabito name.”

I guess that’s what you’d expect to hear from the man that created designs for Cartier Jewellery, Lampe Berger, Porsche automobile interiors, Ericsson mobile phones, Passion Mediterranie and Nagada Perfumes, Or Noir et Or Black – the first ever jewel perfumes for woman and man, Cork-wired champagne jewels for Piper, Heidsiek, Royal Côteau, Deutz, Prince d’Orleans and Cattier.

Other Morabito milestone creations include the ‘Mysterious Rings’ collection of gold, diamonds and precious stones

encapsulated in synthetic crystal; the world famous ‘Constellations’ collection of pendants made of gold and diamonds with signs of the zodiac; ‘Les Scientifiques’ a collection of jewel clocks with astronomic themes; ‘Les Carrossables’ a collection of car luggage and hardtop suite cases custom- tailored to fit the boots of Ferrari, Rolls Royce, Porsche, Jaguar and Mercedes; ‘Les Cartonnables’ desk accessories; Morabito spectacles, night and day watches, lingerie, scarfs, ties, belts, shoes, and leather wear; ‘Expression Libre’ silverware and Pascal Morabito Cognac.

Morabito’s most famous sculptures include his Fractale Pyramid in Normandy France, a monumental sculpture in Corten steel, 22.60 meters high with side edges 32 meters long and a surface of 1,024 sq meters. In 1991 Morabito created another massive Fractale Pyramid at an altitude of 4,000 meters on K7 Mountain in the Himalayas.

The ‘Cube Jewel’

In the jewellery world he will always be remembered as the creator of the ‘Cube Jewel’ and the first person to integrate resin (crystal of synthesis) into jewellery. This international success opened new doors to the world of contemporary jewellery and resulted in millions of copies being sold worldwide.

For as long as there is a love for champagne and romance, Pascal Morabito will always be remembered as the creator of the ‘Champagne Jewel’. When the champagne is bottled, the cork-wired jewel is placed under the bottle top, becoming free when the bottle is opened. The cork-wired jewel is gilded with fine 24- carat gold and delicately hangs on a silk thread which is designed to be worn around the neck like a pendant, commemorating the finesse and seduction of a moment of sharing.

Thank you, Pascal for sharing your amazing life story with us. I’m sure that your Morabito Art Villa in Bali will be yet another international success. JJK



Unique Shower in hollow petrified tree trunk



Javanese Pondok



Celestial Clock created by Morabito



Surrealistic Sculpture



Entrance to Morabito Art Villa



Art in every corner