Zeavola's Little Green Book

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A journey to saving ‘ze’ world

The man behind the ever-changing face of the barefoot luxury resort named Zeavola is Florian Hallermann. Formerly from Austria, he has resided in many provinces throughout Thailand for over 18 years and, has settled with his wife and young family in Phuket. His passions lie in creating the best possible hotel product embedded in sustainability, and his project for the last 11 years has been Zeavola on Koh Phi Phi Island. Just imagine: it is effortless for most people to turn on a tap and expect cool, clean water to flow. But in this stunning yet remote location, this seemingly simple expectation has a myriad of complexities and challenges to ensure that, for guests staying at this beautiful barefoot resort, it remains as simple as turning on the tap.

“Through Zeavola’s Little Green Book you’ll begin to understand the complexities and trials that running a luxury, yet rustic, resort on a remote island bring. Sit back and savour your spectacular view and appreciate how your holiday is made possible while protecting the fragile environment in which you are staying. I hope that you enjoy reading this; I have been on an unforgettable journey creating this resort” explains Florian.

“The Zeavola Resort is determined to create natural enjoyment for our guests, staff members, and partners here on Phi Phi island; we are passionate about achieving this for the benefit of all. However, it is not only what we achieve, but how we achieve it, that determines the true value of our company. We believe in certain values which include quality, reliability, and care. Our core behaviours are trust, relationships, entrepreneurship, and drive. People select companies more and more for the values they embrace and how they truly live them; we trust that our combined efforts do make a difference. In a nutshell, Zeavola gives you the time and space to discover yourself and each other, a place to create magical memories. We are an integral member of Green Pearls®, a marketing company promoting unique, authentic and green experiences”.

A luxury, yet rustic, resort on a remote island
The Andaman coast formed over 200 million years ago. The sea levels were 300 metres higher than they are now, and the limestone karsts seen around this region are moulded from trillions upon trillions of small marine creatures – namely corals, crustaceans and other fossilised critters. Limestone is relatively soft, hence the forever-changing scenery and towering castles in the sea. The islands are a small cluster of spectacular karsts that fall within the province of Krabi. Koh Phi Phi Don is by far the largest island and is inhabited by approximately 3000 people whose past was not reported in history books until the late 1940’s (2483 in the Thai solar calendar) when nomadic fishermen began to plant their roots, or at least their fishing boats, to take advantage of the flourishing virgin sea life.
Koh Phi Phi Don has changed face a couple of times in recent years, firstly by becoming a coconut plantation, then followed in the early noughties by gaining a reputation as a tourist bucket-list destination following the making of the celebrated film ‘The Beach’ on neighbouring Koh Phi Phi Leh. However, destruction to the once glorious Maya Bay has been caused by thousands of day-trippers, litter, pollution and boat damage and marine experts suggest that 80% of the coral reefs surrounding this bay have suffered mass destruction. As a result, Maya Bay has, thankfully, now closed indefinitely, and tourists are no longer permitted to step foot on this section of the island, allowing its spectacular nature and ecosystem to recover. Indeed, within months of closing, reef sharks are again in abundance. The closure is excellent news for residents of Zeavola, as peace reigns once more; it is back to nature and barefoot luxury. Guests of the resort can take a boat to the protected perimeter of the bay, where they will be able to capture the Instagram photo of a lifetime: ‘The Beach’ as seen by Leonardo DiCaprio in the famous film from 2000.
A flamboyantly robed Thai sugar baron sold the hotel in 2008 to the current owner and Florian was pronounced chief custodian of the team, the villas, nature, and the beaches. Thailand is sometimes known for its slightly creative dealings and true to this, at the heart of Zeavola, there were a few goings on that were undoubtedly questionable. As a result, Florian summoned the team to a crucial beachfront meeting and introduced the Big Bang Zeavola Family theory, which made it evident that the existing staff needed to become a cohesive unit; after all, they live together, support and respect each other. Consequently, a couple of team members chose to retreat on a fast boat back to the mainland but, because of Florian’s theory, the whole team has now come together and is a well-oiled machine. The motto introduced over a decade ago still strongly stands: this is home and is treated as such. This motto extends to guests; Zeavola is ‘home away from home’. Growth and change within the Zeavola family are ongoing, just as it is in a real family unit.

Learning together is crucial, and sustainability has been a gradual process. One such example was the gathering of fallen leaves. These
were originally shipped to Phuket and replaced with coconut husks so that natural nutrients could feed the trees. This exercise cost in the region of THB 40,000 a month — what a waste (literally). Zeavola invested in an industrial garden shredder which means leaves and trimmings from the plants in the resort are now sliced up and put back into nature – a saving of almost THB 500,000 a year that feeds the trees as nature intended.

In each of the bathrooms, guests will use the vibrant orange ceramic amenity containers for shampoo, body wash and lotion. These items are from a village in northern Thailand. Not only do they provide a ‘zing’ to the rooms but also save on branded plastic amenity container wastage, to the tune of 30,000 bottles per year - that is over 300,000 bottles since Florian took the helm. The products within the containers are from a locally based company that uses all organic, coconut-based products with zero testing on animals.

When the new custodian arrived, there were no windows in the bathrooms, and everything appeared to be slightly dark and dingy; an injection of colour was desperately needed. The glass in the windows was chosen for the beautiful light that was cast in the sunshine - warm and friendly. Design continues in the same colourful vein in the villas, all of the coloured glass is haphazardly placed so not to appear too rigid.

Finding the correct balance of nature in the resort is paramount, there is a natural force in place and it is essential that all of the ‘residents’ live in harmony together. Listening to nature is vital for Zeavola. There will eventually be a break-even point for investments made; however these are long-term projects and not short-term solutions.

Limestone fragments are pulverised by nature until they become implausibly fine sand which is then found on the walkways of the resort. During the green season the natural, coarser coral sand is washed away by the rains and is replaced by local currents with this soft limestone sand. This ultra-fine sand is then carried by hand onto the walkways of the resort thus ensuring that guests always have the finest sand between their toes.

There is nothing more than the locals enjoy than a spot of karaoke and partying. The team work very hard all year round and take it upon themselves to assist in extra-curricular activities where possible; from boat loading to sand sweeping, from garbage separation to bottling water, from feeding cats to relocating monkeys - an eclectic job description, if ever there was one.
Zeavola
Step back into simplicity

The rustic elegance of Zeavola was the brainchild of the aforementioned sugar baron in 2004. He dreamed of creating a peaceful, village-like environment for his fairer friends and guests. Based on a traditional southern Thai village, the teak houses boast outside living areas and an indoor bedroom with cooling dark teak wood that gives respite from the brightest sun. Ancient tamarind trees and three town squares lie at the heart of the resort and white, sandy pathways meander gently through nature to the shores of the Andaman Sea.

As guests start their journey in nature and check-in they will notice red, yellow and blue pavilions enveloping the sandy reception area: the colours reflected in the Thai flag. Red symbolises the people of Thailand, blue the revered King and white (or yellow in this case) the main religion in Thailand, Buddhism. In a nutshell, the people of Thailand protect Buddhism and the King with their blood. The Thai people are very passionate, humble and religious; you’ll see this in their daily rituals of prayer and offerings given at the spirit house - Red Fanta is usually the choice of the day!
Zeavola is indeed a paradise of barefoot luxury that takes guests back to a life of simplicity. The Zeavola family is the backbone of the resort, and the team strives to please their guests by offering unrivalled service with a genuinely warm Thai Smile. Guests are encouraged to take a blank notebook and create their journal of calm, invigoration and strength and to take these seemingly simple tools home for an enriched and harmonious life.

Throughout the resort, guests will see many quirks perhaps not noticeable at first but they are there. Lighting in the bedrooms and bathrooms are cleverly created by using the funnels that guide the common, yet divinely delicious noodle soup into tricky containers. You’ll find this noodle soup served on virtually every street corner across the country, each recipe protected with vigour and passed down from generation to generation.

Each suite boasts traditional Thai triangular cushions. Thailand is renowned for Buddhism and its spa and healing culture and sitting on the floor inspires a healthy and mindful posture, the wedge-shaped backrest ensuring that everyone enjoys comfort. It is not entirely clear how these
cushions became so popular, but it is believed that the secrets have been thoughtfully shared over hundreds of years to passing travellers.

As with many hotels, Zeavola is keen to reduce its footprint on the environment, especially when it is so fragile and water is at a premium. On the bedside table, guests will find a wooden toad that not only croaks when stroked but pleads to remain in place until they request bedsheets and other linens to be washed.

Throughout the resort rooms, guests will see vibrant splashes of colour in lime green, egg yolk yellow, and zingy orange. While these accent colours can be found in more muted tones in traditional village homes, they are also seen in the Zeavola logo: bright, young, and full of fun.

Guests will notice identification signs dotted throughout the resort showcasing the magnificent birdlife that resides in harmony with them. Guests are invited to take a moment and look up into the trees to see if they can identify the birds; listen out there are some interesting tropical sounds from warbles to hoots. The white sandy beaches to the east welcome the sun each morning, while the rocky outcrops just a short walk to the west see the sunset over the sea and give way to the twinkling stars that light up the night sky.

The name Zeavola is derived from the Latin name of the exotic half flower tree, Scaevola taccada. With a smart play on words, Scaevola rhymes with Zeavola, and the beach restaurant is named with the latter part of the name, Taccada. The plant is better known in Thailand as Rak Ta-lay which translates to love the sea or to serve the sea and it was promoted for controlling beach erosion and in coastal landscaping. Zeavola and its guests enjoy, serve and protect the sea. The white flowers have an irregular shape with all five petals appearing on one side of the flower making it seem to have been torn in half.

On a romantic note, over a hundred weddings have taken place at the resort. While Florian conducts the ceremony on the day, behind the scenes is a magical team dedicated to creating memorable experiences for the bride and groom. Each couple plants a magnificent coconut palm and a placard is then placed by the tree which carries the name of the newlyweds. Later, if the couple choose to stay in contact with the Zeavola family and share an exciting birth announcement, the child’s name is added to the placard. Where better to tie the knot than on a white sandy beach on the famous Phi Phi Don island?
Zeavola Residents

Living in a tropical environment is a little different. There are all sorts of birds, mammals and creepy crawlies that make up the delicate environment; they each have a role in sustainability, and they all have at least one superpower!

Gecko

These chatty creatures have superpowers that even Spider-Man would envy: they can scale walls and ceilings and other gravity-defying angles with ease due to their adhesive toe pads and electrostatic forces. Their vision and colour identification are vastly increased by the light of the moon, in fact, to over 350 times better than humans. Another favoured (or not) party trick is to lose their tail. If they perceive a threat from a predator, they'll quickly release their magic tail which continues to wriggle, allowing them to escape and leaving a confused hunter in its wake. Eventually, in most cases, a new tail will form. Blink and you'll miss that fact that gecko’s
do not have eyelids; they lick their eyes to keep them moist. Another beneficial superpower, for humans at least, is that they love nothing more than to feast on mosquitos. Guests will see the common house gecko and, if they are lucky, the tokay. The tokay is about the size of a hand, is brightly coloured and sounds like a rubber duck. Don’t worry, they are not dangerous, so please let them be.

Snakes

Humans have a natural fear of snakes, fear of the unknown perhaps. If guests see a snake within the grounds, they are fortunate; they are timid creatures and would rather hide from people than be in a selfie. A collection of snakes is known as a knot, den, pit, nest, or bed of snakes and a snake enthusiast is called a Herpetologist. Snakes found in the Zeavola jungle are the Green-eyed cat snake, Golden tree snake and the Burmese python, all of which are non-venomous.

When Zeavola first opened and was seldom visited, snake sightings were relatively common. When more visitors began to arrive, the snakes retreated to the jungle returning only to feast on jungle mice and other little critters. On the rare occasion that a snake is seen slithering from its habitat, guests are asked to report the sighting to any member of the team who will then carefully take him or her back to their home.

The team members were also wary of the snakes until they met Jake. Jake the Snake was a greedy fellow and liked nothing more than to feast on unsuspecting birds. On one particular occasion, Jake indulged in a few too many that nested in the roof of Baxil restaurant; so much so, he was too portly to exit, so the team had to shelve their fears and rescue the fat chap. Snakes have a slow digestive system; thus Jake became a sloth-like guest in the back-of-house area. His overstay was however beneficial for the team members as he showed them that he and his friends were of no threat.
Little Critters

The giant millipede derives its name from Latin meaning a “thousand feet”, although in reality, the Romans couldn’t count as they only appear to have 750 of them. Generally, these dark red-brown critters are well away from human view; they spend their lives composting and eating decaying leaves and other not-so-fresh vegetation. It is in the rainy season that they tend to venture out, using the resort’s sandy paths as highways to visit friends and family. When they spot hominid life, they hide by curling into themselves into a tight ball – a little like a small child hiding behind their hands. They are completely harmless but can excrete ‘stuff’ that people generally would wrinkle their noses at, so best to avoid stroking them - leave that luxury for the resort cats.

Rhinoceros beetles can also be found scrabbling around in the undergrowth. This spectacular specimen is named after the rather large mammal due to the horn on the male’s head. They are herbivorous insects that are also known as the Hercules beetle. According to various sources they have Herculean powers and can lift objects weighing 850 times their body weight - that is the equivalent of a grown man lifting nine fully grown rhinos! They are green, grey or black and can reach up to 6 inches in length, which makes them supersized in the insect world.

Rhinoceros Beetles is named after this rather large mammal due to the horn on the male’s head.
Cats, แมว, Mæw

A lovely word in Thai – Mæw, the sound of the cat meow. Perhaps an assumption would be made that ‘moo’ would mean cow, but absolutely not, it means pig. Rambling aside, Zeavola is the guardian of seven cats, their names, in order of age, starting with Candy - the slightly cantankerous calico lady that waits for cuddles and a scratch behind the ear outside the boutique. She rules the roost and is Florian’s side-kick. Candy’s offspring are Tung Ting, Pip, Euphoria, Pretty, Tiger, and Meow; you’ll see these ‘security’ cats protecting the sandy streets of the resort. Like many guests they are repeat visitors but have refused to leave, thus affording the Zeavola family full servant rights to feed and love these lazy felines. To maintain a healthy clowder, each of the cats has been spayed or neutered, not only is this better for their general health but averts a growing population of cute kitties. They are rather partial to fresh chicken and sushi-grade seafood, but the cat-servants feed them breakfast and dinner so guests don’t feel obliged, although it is very likely they will pretend otherwise. Did you know that ‘Ailurophile’ is the name given to a cat fancier?

Birds

Twenty-four species have been twitched in the resort, and at least sixteen of these are permanent guests, while the remaining birds are thought to pass through during migration season.

Some of the resorts favourites include the Greater Coucal, the chatty one that coo’s incessantly, the Brahminy kite, who swoops regally over the rocky outcrops at the western side of the resort, the Collared kingfisher, that occasionally can be spotted with a rapid flash of colour, and the Crimson sunbird, a tiny bird with an incredible red-breasted coat.
In Thai culture, capturing a bird is seen as good luck, and releasing it revokes any further good fortune Thais may have. It has been therefore quite challenging to educate the Thais that rehabilitating birds is humanitarian and purely that, with no bearing on future fortune.

Bozo, the pheasant crow, was introduced to the resort when he fell out of his nest. He should have been a scavenger, eating worms and snails. He was a little dumb, so was raised by the head gardener and general manager. The head gardener would spend his days with Bozo, who thought he had found his ‘mother’ and learned how to make conversation with his human who fed him the most excellent New Zealand beef. ‘Mother’ Florian can still be seen walking around the resort in search of his long lost bird-friend. Bozo has only been seen once since he grew his tail feathers and fled the nest. We like to think he is still around!

The Boy Chicken

The Zeavola rooster is called Klaus and is the son of Herman.

Initially, there were three roosters and two young lady chickens. There was a masculine battle to win the hearts of the young chicks. Herman was the fairest of them all and was ousted from his perch as jealousy reigned and he was resigned to sleep on the female bathroom roof. With chicken-code, he managed to charm one of the ladies in question, and an egg explosion happened. There were some very happy and well-fed gardeners throughout this time in history. Klaus' egg was overlooked; he has been the Zeavola pride and joy ever since. Sadly, Herman’s life was cut short by George the Python and news of his passing reached an all-time high on social media channels, he was wished well and is, to this day, sorely missed. Roosters typically live until they are ten years old and the rooster is well-known within the Chinese zodiac; 2017 was the most recent year of the rooster who, according to legend, protect against evil spirits.

Macaque monkeys

Groups of monkeys are interestingly known as a troop, barrel, cartload, carload, or tribe. From time to time, a lone male monkey appears at Zeavola, presumably rejected by his tribe. In their search for a new family, they can cause mischief, literally by the cartload. When they appear, they are relocated back into the national park. As part of the Maya Bay experience, there is a stop at Monkey Beach, however, the Zeavola boat captains and tour guides strongly recommend that guests do not mingle with the local troop.
Macaque monkeys, although very pretty to look at, are aggressive and protect their families with a vengeance; these monkeys have rich behavioural repertoires and recognise communication between each other and humans. Sadly, tourists over the years have encouraged lousy behaviour by feeding these wild animals human food, Coca Cola and beer; this is not part of their natural diet and causes sugar and alcohol highs making them extremely unpredictable. Adults and children alike, please stay away from the monkeys - a bite will result in a course of four very painful rabies injections.
Zeavola Traffic, Shopping, Utter Rubbish and Clued-up

Guests will notice that there are no vehicles on the island other than the busy tractors that flit across the beaches servicing a local school, the local community, a neighbouring hotel and most importantly, shuttling guests to and from their boats at low tide, and receiving or loading goods. Due to the topography of the island, there are no discreet loading bays; all the activities happen directly on the beach. Zeavola strives to ensure that these necessary tasks are completed quickly and quietly, in order not to disturb guests’ relaxation time. Koh Phi Phi is a remote island, and to serve fresh produce these logistics are a necessary evil; all of the goods required to run a boutique resort are delivered from Phuket each Thursday.

The team form a well-oiled human chain to seamlessly move the items from the delivery vessel onto a smaller boat that can land on the beach and then onto the trusty red tractor. The delivery is transferred to the bustling back-of-house area where everything is then stored in the appropriate facilities ready for consumption!
In the quest to make a difference to the environment, the team mindfully works with local suppliers. Instead of shipping everything onto the island in plastic wrapping, Zeavola has invested in reusable baskets and ice chests; this little step and a whole lot of conscious effort reduces plastic wrapping by 5 kg per shipment, that’s a staggering 260 kg per year.

Waste is a global problem and is enemy number one to the general manager of Zeavola. One man’s trash is another man’s treasure according to the proverb and here metal, plastic containers, paper, cans, glass and kitchen cooking oil are all separated with a fine-tooth comb at source and are sold on to recycling giants on the mainland. The wet and non-recyclable garbage is sent by boat for professional incineration in Krabi.

By mid-2019 Zeavola will have a Reddonatura composting machine which will reduce wet waste by a staggering 18 tons per year. Reddonatura was founded by staunch environmentalist Abhishek Gupta in 2013 to transform the world into a greener place. With a tried and tested garbage-to-green approach in their organic waste conversion, Reddonatura has successfully installed over 1,000 food waste machines into hotels across various hospitality groups throughout the world. Reddonatura in Latin means ‘giving back to nature’. Gupta says “Where we come from, we shall return. Garbage-to-green is a philosophy that encourages breathing life back to waste. It represents the endless possibilities we have to re-nourish the planet. It is a way of life, where we turn our everyday waste into a greener place for generations to come.”

Reddonatura systems create nutrient-rich, reusable end-products; the fertiliser will be distributed to golf courses, hotels and organic farms. All of the proceeds generated from recycling efforts are put into the team members fund for their annual celebration of the year’s successes. Reddonatura is one of the world’s leading providers in their field and has perfected the process seamlessly. Organic waste is added into the ‘green machine’ where a thermal bacterial process accelerates the conversion of this waste into compostable matter.

ISO certified and recognised under the Municipal Solid Waste Classification Guidelines, Reddonatura has various machines that have daily production capacities from 25 kg to a monstrous 15,000 kg and each device is handcrafted to the client’s exacting requirements. Reddonatura has regular and unconditional training programmes for each of their machine users thus ensuring the most excellent organic fertiliser and efficient waste-control. They intend to continue increasing their footprint
around the globe. Other projects can be found on their website [www.reddonatura.com](http://www.reddonatura.com).

During high season, the beach is a catch basin for natural garbage, leaves, and rubbish that are brought in on the tides. However, the resort gardeners clean the beach a few times a day and there are a couple of rubbish bins in the resort that guests can use for any stray rubbish.

Together, with other hotels on the island and the local community, Zeavola also cleans Chong Kiew Beach and Nui Bay which also become collection points for waste and rubbish during the monsoon season. Nui Bay is a precious cove that receives few tourists, the Zeavola team have taken it upon themselves to adopt this almost-secret beach.

A rather cheeky hashtag has been created by Adrian Grenier, co-founder of The Lonely Whale Foundation, to support the elimination of plastic straws in the ocean in a new campaign called Strawless Ocean. #StopSucking is a social media challenge that asks individuals, organisations, and brands to pledge a commitment to stop the use of plastic straws. The campaign is supported by the Strawless Ocean initiative. Zeavola supports this campaign by providing biodegradable paper straws to guests and has taken the challenge one step further and offers recycled paper takeaway containers and wooden cutlery to guests for their day-trip adventures.

**Water Baby**

Water is the essence of living and life. So, in that vein, Zeavola has embraced the challenges of creating a sustainable water system that has very little, or no impact on the environment. They are leaders in hotel sustainability and take giant leaps each year to ensure that they are at least one step ahead of change, in order to serve the environment that must be protected for future generations.
Zeavola is located on a narrow lip of land in the northern part of Koh Phi Phi Don. To the east are white sandy beaches and the west, rocky outcrops. The rocky hill is the first point where rain hits the resort and this water is absorbed into the ground until it reaches a geological conveyor belt that filters the water towards the beach. On its natural path, it is caught in three deep wells close to the shores of the Andaman Sea. Late May until early October brings the monsoon season, where the temperatures drop a little, the cooling rains provide life and a sigh of relief in the tropics. Due to Phi Phi not having a large land mass, the rainfall is up to 30 percent less than that found on the surrounding mainland.

There is a complex and highly efficient water system installation at the resort, and it all starts with mother nature and her rain. The runoff water collects into a series of wells; any overflow water is clear and flows into the sea - pretty straightforward. Let’s move swiftly on to the more complicated part of the procedure that converts this water into that fit for human use. The well water is first pre-cleaned by being pushed through a high-pressure carbon filter at a rate of 6,000 litres per hour. This water is syphoned into the reverse osmosis plant. So, what is reverse-osmosis? Imagine collecting water in a bottle from one of the wells. Due to the nature of the well, there will be rogue salt particles in the water, referred to as solute; and water referred to as solvent. Take a U-shaped tube which has been split into two chambers by a semipermeable membrane, on one side is pure water, the other is the slightly salty mix. This is where the magic begins.

Water wants to find equilibrium, so the level of liquid in the saltwater section will rise as the water (solvent) moves through the membrane to create an equal salt-to-water ratio, thus weakening the overall salt content. Now to turn this idea on its head for reverse osmosis. Back to the U-shaped tube and the same set-up in the chambers. The pressure of
approximately 60 bar applied to the salt water chamber pushes through fresh water to the drinking water section. The salt particles are too big, therefore rendering them stranded, this leaves a high concentration of solute on one side and pure solvent (water) on the other.

Any reject water contains a salt and is filtered back through a series of pebbles, stones and sand before continuing its journey into the wells and the sea. Interestingly, reverse osmosis was invented by the US Navy, so that fresh drinking water could be supplied to sailors on submarines. The resort uses between 65,000 and 80,000 litres of water each day.

The water storage tanks are not hermetically sealed, hence drinking water from the taps is not recommended. In each villa, ample sealed glass water bottles are filled with drinking water on a complimentary basis. Guests can request refills at any time or take the bottles to one of the refill points that are dotted around the resort. The accommodation area for the team members also has its own secondary reverse osmosis plant and their own supply of drinking water. Each of the team has been gifted a metal bottle so that they can help themselves to water at any stage. The water bottling plant is also on site; bottles are cleaned at very high temperatures, filled with drinking water and sealed to ensure there is no contamination. Water samples are taken to the University of Songkla (Phuket Campus) quarterly for testing and certification. The introduction of the glass water bottles has reduced consumption of single-use plastic bottles drastically, and by replacing them in the activity centre and transport vehicles and boats, we will reduce usage by 120,000 per year.

Wastewater

According to Thailand’s Government Health Department, Zeavola has one of the most impressive wastewater systems in the country and certainly on Koh Phi Phi Island. Each cluster of four villas has its own sealed, closed catch-tank; this is where water and solid waste is separated.

Enzymes are injected into the wastewater which in turn breaks down all solid particles. The water passes through several aeration tanks where it is broken down with oxygen and enzymes thus producing clean water. The water then goes into the pool with all other cleaned wastewater; rainwater also wants to be part of this exciting process, so adds itself. It is a real balance of nature, oxygen and algae; one cannot be more prevalent than the other or this would cause a breakdown and collapse of life.
Unhealthy wastewater is green while healthy water is clear yet brown. The two Siemens oxygen pumps installed into the pool are placed approximately one metre deep and have the sole responsibility of pumping oxygen into the water.

A rotating wheel spins the water so that mosquitos do not breed and also adds oxygen content into the water. This wheel is referred to as the ‘Chaipattana Aerator’. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej was the beloved late King of Thailand - his reign was from 9 June 1946 until 13 October 2016, making him the longest reigning monarch in Thailand. His Highness was known to have exceptional insight, intelligence, and compassion and possessed a natural gift for the sciences which he applied to serve the people of the country directly. His numerous development projects brought tangible results and lasting innovations not just to his subjects but to the world. Having witnessed water pollution in many regions of the country, His Majesty alleviated such problems by creating oxygen-enhancing devices such as the Chaipattana Aerator ensuring water became clearer, less foul and higher in oxygen content. Not only did this device enhance life for humans, but for aquatic animals too. For example, turtles and fish can survive when water quality meets a specific standard too. In addition to the Chaipattana Aerator, water lilies grow in this body of water and act as an additional filtration system.

Only clear water is permitted to enter into the next stage of filtering. A stirrer kicks up algae mud from the bottom of the pool which is then pumped through the algae filter and finally through compacted rice bags. Once a week the water is pumped through three gravel and sand filters and then is returned to the pool. The water is tested regularly for sulphur and phosphor chemicals; and the remaining mud contains a very high amount of nutritious nitrogen and requires diluting before use as fertiliser for the hotel jungle gardens. The pièce de résistance is the Koi carp filter...
system which replicates the needs of the Koi carp; these fish are highly sensitive to any changes in the water. There are five chambers containing mats, brushes, filtration ball technology, UV lights and finally the vortex system. This system filters 800,000 litres of pond water per day.

Alexander Auer, a truly charming environmental consultant and bio-engineer from Switzerland, kindly shared all of his secrets about the filtration systems that would work with nature within the resort. He consulted with the engineering team throughout and gave clear instructions and plans on the requirements necessary to create a healthy pool-life. The engineering team built the filtration systems under the guidance of this remarkable Swiss consultant. The water is so clean that catfish happily reside. The pool water is used to irrigate the garden during the dry season. During the rainy season, when the pool gets full; faucets are then opened to allow drainage - the water returns to the wells and the circle of life starts again.

Laundry water

Washing creates a considerable amount of wastewater that is saturated in soap. On average the hotel water usage for the laundry is an astonishing 12 – 15,000 litres per day. Alexander explained that this water could also be cleaned and then pumped back into the laundry for a constant cycle of

Koi Carp are highly sensitive to any changes in the water.
reuse. The cleaning system is made up of five tanks. Initially grey water is pumped into the first tank which is oxidised together with certain chemicals, stripping the laundry chemicals and soap from the water. Any ‘nasties’ sink to the bottom of the tank. From the first tank, the water is pushed through a collection of tiny filters which leave the water crystal clear; this is pumped back into the laundry water supply saving 4,000 litres per day. In the space of a year, this is an incredible saving of over 1.4 million litres of water. The initial investment for the entire laundry system was a mere THB 60,000. This is phenomenal considering the water shortages that are faced each year in Thailand.

Pooled Water

The swimming pool in the town square is about to go fresh with the Enviroswim ES3 swimming-pool water purification system. It works like magic providing crystal clear water that poses no health threats and does absolutely no harm to the environment. This allows Zeavola to discontinue the use of chlorine, salt or any other chemical. Most importantly it will enable guests to swim in clean, sweet water without red eyes or a terrible taste in their mouths. The pool villas will follow later in 2020.

Scientists on NASA space shuttles use this process for onboard drinking water (not moonshine!), so when guests relax in the freshwater pools of Zeavola, they could, in theory, be bathing on a NASA space shuttle with an astronaut. Enviroswim is a patented standalone sanitiser with extraordinary cleansing capabilities that has been tested and verified by leading and respected independent laboratories.

Enviroswim Asia is a freshwater swimming pool system provider, delivering state-of-the-art pool sanitising systems to resorts, hotels and private residences throughout Asia. The product, like any superhero, annihilates any bacteria, fungi, and viruses to ensure a clean and healthy swim. The sparkling, freshwater has undergone over 8000 hours of vigorous testing by NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) Australia and has challenged every aspect of water purification and its effects on the environment. There are no chemicals in the Environswim water, just natural minerals, sound waves, and electronic oxidising.
Mattias Nordin, VP Marketing at Enviroswim Asia, a keen advocate for implementing plans to preserve the environment for future generations, says “sustainability is at the heart of everything Enviroswim does. Together with Zeavola, we aim to inspire the hospitality and tourism industries to take responsibility for the impact they have on the environment. By using Enviroswim systems to purify water in swimming pools, we not only provide guests with the benefit of swimming in crystal clear, fresh water, but our pools also have less impact on the environment”.

“The Enviroswim system reduces a pool’s carbon footprint, by reducing pump run-times by up to 50 percent and saves over 250,000 litres (in a pool of 150,000 litres) of water per year due to the filtration systems in place. Thankfully the demand for healthier, less chemically dependent, eco-friendly water sanitising systems is rapidly growing in the hotel and tourism industry”.

The water is pure; it is non-irritating to the skin and eyes and is also beneficial for asthmatics, psoriasis and eczema sufferers. The water is as fresh as a mountain stream. enviroswimasia.com

Refill My Bottle

RefillMyBottle is a collaborative community of mindful business owners, locals and travellers who take action against plastic waste. The app is an online map that identifies all locations within resorts, cafes, museums or shops across the globe, that ‘refillers’ can walk into and dispense clean, drinkable water into their bottles for free or a minimal charge. The goal is to dramatically reduce the number of single-use plastic bottles used needlessly daily. Alexandre Tsuk, the founder of RefillMyBottle, visited Zeavola and is the inspiration behind the water filling stations across the resort. Guests can see a spectacular piece of driftwood that has been rescued from the beach which hosts the filling station at reception. The team is currently searching for more decorative

RefillMyBottle is an online app that identifies all locations within resorts, cafes, museums or shops.
pieces of driftwood so that three to four similarly attractive additional refill stations can be placed around the resort during 2019. Encouraging guests to refill their bottles again reduces the impact on the environment. Due to the refill stations, there will be a reduction in manpower and water to clean the bottles that the hotel provides. There is another rather exciting plan in place for the future, watch this space; it is still a matter of intrigue.

refillmybottle.com

Drops in Value

Every drop of water is valuable. Guests are asked to be mindful of turning off the water while cleaning teeth or shaving and ensuring taps are turned off entirely when not in use. Did you know that flushing the toilet uses an incredible 5 litres of water?

Eco-Tourism

According to TIES (The International Ecotourism Society), ecotourism has been defined as ‘responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education.’

Green Pearls®, a pioneering information platform and communication agency is transporting the green message of its partners worldwide. This exciting group affords guests the luxury of discovering hand-picked holiday destinations that offer comfort, hospitality, ecological consciousness as well as the invitation to experience new places and
take part in exciting projects. Their philosophy is based on the belief that travellers are all responsible for the world’s protection and that they owe respect to different cultures and the needs of the local people.

Stefany Seipp, inspiring founder and managing director comments on her green journey: “I always followed my beliefs, no matter what other people thought, sometimes stepped in shoes that were too big, which made me grow. I founded Green Pearls® at a time when sustainability was not a trend because I believe it is my duty to leave a better world to my children and the next generations.” Zeavola was amongst the first of Green Pearls® hand-picked hotels that resonated with their eco-ethos. Together they have grown to create a seamless blend of friendly hospitality, luxury and sustainability for travellers around the world. Green Pearls® have succeeded in providing an exciting platform that brings together essential environmental practices and understated extravagance to guests that are keen to contribute to conservational travel without sacrificing comfort.

greenpearls.com
ADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) has over 6,600 registered diving centres and resorts throughout the world, making it the largest diving community on the planet. The PADI System of diver education is based on training that introduces skills, safety-related information and local environmental knowledge to student divers in stages. PADI Instructors have issued over 25 million certificates across the world since inception.

The Zeavola PADI Five Star Centre is progressive and is committed to providing quality diver training and a full range of PADI SCUBA diving education programmes, equipment selection and experience opportunities whilst encouraging aquatic environmental responsibility.
The instructors spend much of their time beneath the water and see this environment changing rapidly. Tens of thousands of day-trippers visit the Phi Phi Islands to experience their natural beauty. Sadly, with the amount of boat traffic, litter and suntan lotion much of the precious reef life has been destroyed. El Niño also destroyed a large percentage of the coral reefs; the effects by causing warmer ocean temperatures, lower tides and pollution in the ocean. Coral grows very slowly, on average about 10 mm per year, therefore this destruction of the reef is a very real problem. This pollution and damage to the reef eco-system of the Phi Phi islands is a passion for internationally acclaimed investigative photographer York Hovest, who travels the world in search of inspiring stories and destinations. He explores some of the most remote areas of the planet and showcases the beauty of nature and visits various reefs around Phi Phi as part of his one-hundred-day expeditions series and believes that coral systems are indeed the cradle of life. Keep your eyes peeled for his Zeavola and Phi Phi exhibition.
A healthy underwater environment is essential to excellent diving and divers are great advocates for protecting water resources. Throughout PADI courses, divers learn the importance of protecting fragile aquatic ecosystems and are encouraged to become involved in local and global conservation efforts. For more than two decades, PADI has partnered with Project AWARE® – a global nonprofit organisation dedicated to protecting our ocean planet – one dive at a time. Zeavola respects their environment and has regular diving projects in which guests can take part.

Of particular concern beneath the ocean lies starfish villain, the ‘Crown of Thorns’. This spiny starfish can grow to one metre in diameter and each night eat its body area in coral. This bulldozer of a creature has very few known predators, other than the Giant Triton sea snail, puffer and triggerfish. While feeding fish is fun, it destroys natural harmony. Full-bellied fish don’t hunt these baddies. Therefore the Crown of Thorns, undisturbed munches its way happily through tonnes of coral while the fatty fish take a siesta. Please do not feed the fish. It upsets the ecosystem.

PADI Top Tips

**Be a Buoyancy Expert**

Underwater plants and animals are more fragile than they appear. The swipe of a fin, bump of your camera or even a touch can destroy decades of coral growth, damage a plant or harm an animal. Streamline your scuba and photo gear, keep your dive skills sharp, perfect your underwater photo techniques and continue your dive training to fine-tune your skills. Always be aware of your body, dive gear and photo equipment to avoid contact with the natural environment.

**Be a Role Model**

New scuba divers are being trained and certified every day. Regardless of your experience level, be sure to set a good example for others when interacting with the environment – while underwater and on land.
Take Only Photos, Leave Only Bubbles
Nearly everything natural found underwater is alive or will be used by a living creature. If you take a coral, shell or animal, you can disturb the delicate balance and add to the depletion of dive sites for future generations.

Protect Underwater Life
Choose not to touch, feed, handle, chase or ride anything underwater. Your actions may stress the animal, interrupt feeding and mating behavior or provoke aggressive behavior. Understand and respect underwater life and follow all local laws and regulations.

Become a Debris Activist
An astonishing amount of waste makes its way underwater, reaching even the most remote ocean areas. Once there, it kills wildlife, destroys habitats and threatens our health and economy. Don’t let your dives go to waste. Remove and report what doesn’t belong underwater every time you dive. Make a conscious effort to buy green, buy local and, when possible, buy less.

Make Responsible Seafood Choices
Overfishing leads to species declines while harmful fishing practices damage and pollute underwater ecosystems. You play a critical role as a consumer. If seafood is part of your meal selection, ensure you’re choosing sustainably sourced species and encourage others, including restaurants and shop owners, to do the same.
Take Action
Scuba divers are some of the strongest ocean advocates on the planet. Now, more than ever, divers are taking a stand. Speak out for conservation, share your underwater images, report environmental damage to authorities and campaign for change.

Be an Eco-tourist
Make informed decisions when choosing and visiting a destination. Choose facilities dedicated to responsible social and environmental business practices that include water conservation, energy reduction, proper waste disposal, use of mooring buoys and respect for local cultures, laws and regulations.

Shrink Your Carbon Footprint
Global warming and ocean acidification are putting your favorite animals and the whole ocean planet at risk. Do your part by understanding and reducing your carbon footprint and look for ways to offset what you can't reduce.

Give Back
Ocean protection depends on all of our actions, large and small. Investing in the ocean protects our planet and lets the dive adventure live on. Donate or fundraise for ocean protection to fuel the grassroots action and policy change necessary to ensure a clean, healthy ocean planet.

How can guests help?
- With around 900,000 plastic bottles ending up in the environment every minute, guests are asked to take their own bottles with them wherever they go.
- Volunteering and education is fun, guests can experience life with the sea gypsy children over lunch each Friday at the local school.
- Eat locally and sustainably; all of the food at Zeavola is freshly prepared, contains no preservatives and Thai food is delicious.
- Follow diving or snorkelling guides instructions and do not touch anything.
- Use sun cream that does not contain oxybenzone or octinoxate.
- Do not feed the fish.
Zeavola nestles amongst sea gypsy settlements. They are known as Chao Ley - water people or people of the sea. They have lived in this region as nomads for hundreds of years, although their precise history is still a little sketchy. They tend to live in small houseboats known as kabang or in metal-roofed homes. They were recognised as Thai citizens in the early 1960s when the late Queen Mother granted them five family names which afforded them identification cards and thus the ability to go to school. They all possess the same birthday on 1st January; a great way to extend the New Year celebrations for another 24 hours!

The majority of the Chao Ley are fishermen or work in coconut plantations and are well-organised by the gentlewomen of the family. The men frequently enjoy strong drinks made from fermented grain, and a short, sharp nudge from their beloved wives seems to get them back on track quickly. The women will fish in the reefs at sunset for shellfish, snails and abalone, an increasingly rare dish that has a similar flavour and texture to Parma ham.
The Chao Ley are animists. This religion, adopted by many indigenous people, is the belief that animals, plants, rocks, words and weather systems have their own spiritual heart that has links to the spirits of the sea, the island, and to that of their ancestors.

The Thai Government hopes that these communities integrate into society; they are friendly people, and the children are always thrilled to see foreigners. Zeavola guests are invited to help serve them lunch every Friday at the Laem Tong Primary school so that they can learn about their way of life, and vice versa. Sadly, sea gypsy numbers are dwindling. There is a collection box for the Chao Ley children in reception, while annually Zeavola pledge to collect THB 80,000 to assist with equipment for their education. If guests have a little space in their luggage, Zeavola encourages them to remember the kids love to receive pads of paper and colouring pencils.

International Children’s Day is celebrated on the second Saturday in January each year. This particular day shows the importance of caring for children that are the future of the country. Zeavola throws a full-blown carnival for the youngsters residing on the island. Local businesses and other hotels all take part to ensure a seemingly endless supply of educational supplies, toys and of course ice cream. Local dignitaries will also visit and offer speeches to encourage families. Apprenticeships are offered to older children, though they seem to prefer the non-restrictive nomadic lifestyle.
Thai Pride

A few pointers to guide guests through complex Thai traits:

Superstitions are endemic
It is characteristic of Thais to confer with a monk or fortune teller when making a life-changing decision. It is thought that giving nicknames to babies tricks spiteful spirits who may want to steal the baby away. Other superstitions include not cutting a child's hair while they are sick; and animals, dreams or spirits residing inside the body of dolls.

Loss of Face
Thais do not like to lose face under any circumstance. To be embarrassed or shamed publicly, or to be yelled at, is not taken well; Thais are gentle souls and take this to heart significantly. If voices are raised in conversation, they are embarrassed and start to smile. Visitors to Thailand can often read this smile as not caring or not taking the situation seriously; this is not the case. If guests experience any shortcomings in the service received or within the resort, they are politely asked to inform the team calmly so that any issues are resolved positively.

National Anthem
Thailand, a very proud country, and the only nation in Southeast Asia never to have been colonised by European countries, the national anthem is played daily in the morning and evening, and people are expected to stop and stand quietly until it is complete - the anthem even plays at the start of every movie in the cinema. All across the country, the Thai flag flies, and pictures of the late and current Kings hang in pride of place in homes, offices and shops.

Head to Toe
Thai’s place great importance to different parts of the body. The head is the most spiritual part of the body; and this also applies to children as well as adults - tousling a child’s hair can cause great offense to their parents. While finger pointing is deemed very rude, feet are considered dirty and symbolically low; never touch a Thai with the soul of a foot, or point a foot at a person or a Buddha image. They are not the most tactile of people; they find public displays of affection very awkward and offensive. Thais are generally very tolerant and understanding to foreign visitors and appreciate that sometimes mistakes are made, but make an effort to avoid disrespecting religion or monarchy, shouting in public and walking around half dressed. And remember topless sunbathing is considered very insulting.
Resort Etiquette

The Dumb Dumb Guide to the Bum Gun

Guests may have noticed this somewhat mystifying and scary-looking invention in virtually every toilet in Thailand. This small hose with a spray nozzle is to clean delicate nether regions after going to the bathroom and gives a feeling of being shower-fresh after every use!

Zeavola sewerage systems, much like the rest of Thailand’s, were not built for endless supplies of high-grade toilet paper and can get blocked easily. So not only is the bum gun cleaner, it saves 27,000 trees a day from being merely a statistic flushed down the toilet. (National Geographic).

Instructions for the prevention of the suspicious wet bum patch

- Test the power of the bum gun first; they are all different, spray some water in the toilet before self-ejection from the toilet seat!
- For women, please spray front-to-back, for men, do this back-to-front!
- You might want to consider the use of soap to ensure that the nether region is completely clean, rinse
- Pat dry with a little toilet paper, put this in the bin provided

It might take a little practice… but as the old saying goes ‘practice makes perfect.’

Respecting the Leccy

Each villa has one room key, that doubles up as an energy saver which shuts off all electricity when the guest leaves the room. Constant usage of power creates a huge carbon footprint. Zeavola encourages guests to be mindful, particularly in the challenging times of expedited climate change; each bedroom has a powerful air-conditioning unit that only takes a few minutes to cool the room.

Ash Cloud

Guest bedrooms are non-smoking areas; there are ashtrays provided on the terrace and balcony areas. Please dispose of cigarettes in the ashtrays provided.
Away with the Mosquitos

Zeavola fumigates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons between 16.00 and 18.00. Guests are likely to see a cloud and shouldn’t worry; it is a controlled process to eliminate mosquitos. The smoke only hangs around for a few minutes. During this time, guests are recommended to close doors and windows in their villa or to move away; the smoke doesn’t smell very pleasant.

To Dress Up or Down

Back to simplicity is the best way to describe Zeavola. Guests tend to be barefoot or wear flip flops around the resort in a relaxed fashion and enjoy feeling sand at their feet. There is one request from other guests and the team, however: all guests are required to wear a shirt or beach dress at breakfast and dinner times. Lunch, however, is served on the beach so that guests can chill out and feel relaxed. Please remember Zeavola has diverse visitors from around the world and some can be offended!

Mobile Devices

While Zeavola encourages the use of social media and provides complimentary Wi-Fi in all of the public areas, the resort is still a peaceful escape. Guests are requested not to make personal calls to their tribes at home in public places, but from the comfort of their rooms - other guests are generally not interested in Grandpa’s gout!
The Zeavola Family

Zeavola Colony

Now this is the most important introduction to make, an incredible collection of Homo Sapiens. Generally, they hail from across Thailand, although there are a handful of farang (foreigner) imposters in the mix. This colony of workers is industrious, and they like nothing more than to serve and make guests happy. They come in all shapes, sizes, and ages. Individually, they are specialists, but together they form a cohesive team. Some are nest builders, some can cook, while others tend to their environment or clean. Guests will often see the alpha male nurturing his smiley crew.

The Family Backbone

A family is traditionally a social unit consisting of parents and their children whether dwelling together or not. The Zeavola family is based on the traits and characteristics of a close family group. The parenting management team instill strict family values that are supported by the Thai Labour Law and International Human Rights Guidelines.
As with any family, there is a home; Zeavola is home to the entire team who work in the resort. Due to the limited space available, their accommodation is compact and bijou. For obvious reasons, accommodation for ladies and gentlemen is separate. Zeavola doesn’t want a baby boom! 130 staff live together harmoniously and they are each expected to respect each other and are all subject to a high degree of discipline which ensures a peaceful co-existence.

Accommodation and other living requirements such as air conditioning, electricity, and Wi-Fi are all provided on a complimentary basis. The team has a social area which is away from the guests, a restaurant where they can eat, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks throughout the day.

Celebrating Success

As mentioned previously in this book, the Thais love to celebrate, and regularly. Throughout the year, there are customary celebrations that include Songkran - the Thai water festival - and Loy Krathong, the festival of light and love. The Thais immerse themselves into these traditions fully and love nothing more than to dress-up in time-honoured costumes. Christmas and New Year are also celebrated. During these periods of celebration, the team works tirelessly to ensure that guests are happy and that they take fond memories away with them.

The monsoon season sees fewer guests thus allowing the team a little more free time. They have a busy social diary:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Thank You Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Fishing Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Sports Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>The Grand Party</td>
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</tbody>
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There are also regular Unity Challenges, community-based events aimed at team-building from within, where teams come together head-to-head, often with frayed tempers. Thai people are VERY competitive, but a social drink tends to re-unite winners and not-so-lucky teams. Thais enjoy nothing more than the sense of team spirit and fun competition and this ‘rivalry’ has led to the creation of garden and sand parties. These are work justifications that are considered competitive since staff members from different departments work closely together to achieve results in a joyous team and create deep friendships. Sand moving duties or a spot
of gardening, restoration of a teak wood chair on a guests terrace or a newly thatched roof, will almost certainly have resulted in celebration. There are monthly BBQs to celebrate the improvements in sustainability in connection with Travel Life, the sustainable certification group.

Zeavola supports other festivals throughout the year; and there is no celebration without the appearance of the long-drum. There is little history available on this instrument but teachers have passed down the saying; "If we win the battle, we will bring a long-drum to celebrate", thankfully there are no more battles, and these impressive drums are used to celebrate joyful moments. The long-drum can be made from entire tree trunks. Zeavola also celebrates Songkran by showing respect to the elders and also supports the island-wide cleanup project that is funded by entry fees into nearby Tonsai Bay, they provide sustainable lunch boxes for all the keen volunteers.

Tinglish, Thaiglish, Thenglish, Thailish or Thainglish

English is the official universal language and is native in over 70 countries. English can be at least understood almost everywhere, as it is the world media language and the language of cinema, TV, pop music and the computer world; all over the planet people know many English words, their pronunciation, and meaning. Zeavola has an intensive English programme which equates to 40 hours of complimentary lessons for each member of the team. Whilst the team might understand Tinglish, Thaiglish, Thenglish, Thailish or Thainglish, they might not understand Manchester English, New York English, Dallas English, German English, French English, and Italian English, so guests are asked to be patient!
Chinese Whispers

Each month, Florian hosts an often boisterous lunch for some 'lucky draw' winning members of the team. It is here that these individuals can share ideas on any improvements, sustainability, staff benefits and requests and of course any social calendar additions. Many upgrades in the staff area and in the operation originated from those lunches.

In addition to these lunches, there is a dedicated social team who plan all of the activities meticulously throughout the year.

Pocket Money

Under Thai Government Law, 10% service charge is added to each guest's final invoice. A whopping 90% of this monthly fund is split equally for each of the team members; the remaining percentage is used to fund their housing facilities. This service charge payment can sometimes exceed the team members average salary of Euro 200.

Avoiding Temptation

As mentioned under family values, for the most part, the team is sincere, yet to prevent human temptation guests are encouraged to use their safes for any valuable items and cash.

The End

The final word from Florian, the remarkable custodian: “As this book comes to a close, please remember that the Zeavola family and I are all committed to ensuring that our fragile environment is cared for and loved for our future generations. I hope that you have enjoyed learning about the ins and outs of this very special place and remember how we started this book with the simple task of turning on a tap for fresh and clean water. All of us strive to find the balance between providing guests with the very best in service, affording a home to the team members and the environment. We hope that you have enjoyed stepping back into simplicity and your home away from home and hope that you return to see us all again soon”.

Sincerely yours

Florian and the Zeavola family
Acknowledgements

Writing this book has been added to my list of journeys. It’s given me sleepless nights and left me with words dancing in front of my eyes. Putting pen to paper has given me the incredible opportunity to reflect on the tremendous amount of work that the team at Zeavola has achieved over the last 11 years and for that, I am genuinely grateful. It has been a magical journey full of learnings and challenges, but I am so proud of our collective achievements. My heartfelt thanks go to all of the team members who have made all of this possible and are part of the Zeavola family.

I would also like to mention some of the key partners that have made these projects possible:

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York Hovest
The team at QWERTY — Lee McGorie, Susie Attfield and Katie Hollamby

This book is dedicated to my children. In the words of Sir David Attenborough “The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.”