

THINK BIG

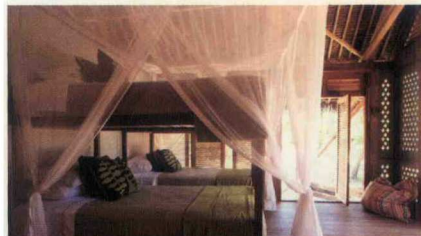
Need space, not just room? Go for a villa and bring your pals, says DAISY FINER

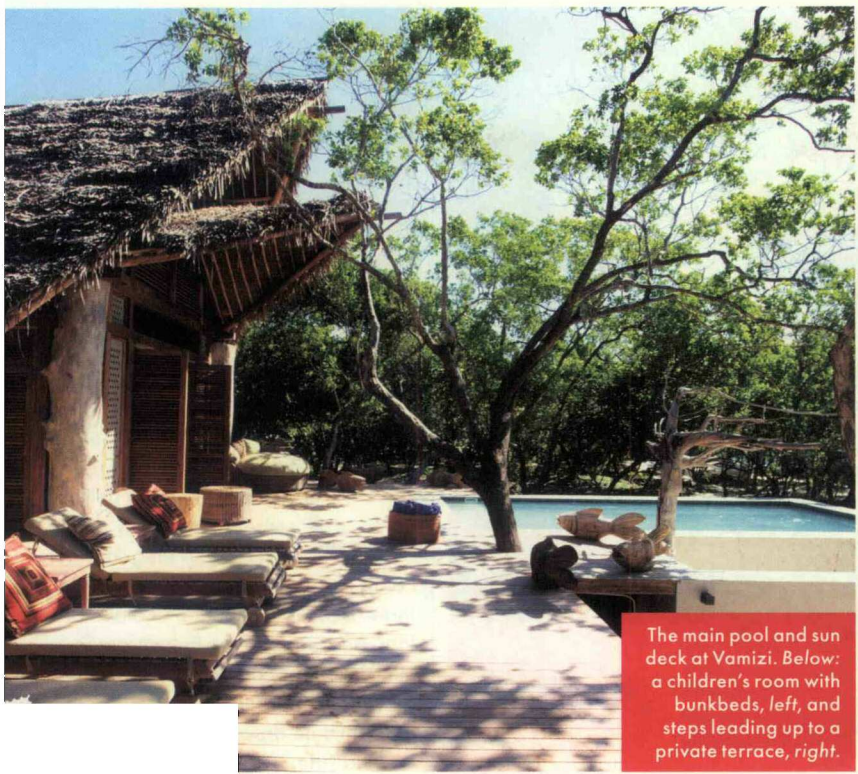


VAMIZI, MOZAMBIQUE

ozambique is one of the most unspoiled beach destinations of our time. Miles of pristine coastline, a subaquatic world so vibrant that just to snorkel there is to feel as if you have been dropped into Finding Your Own Nemo, exciting deep-sea fishing, foot-long prawns, enough South African wine to sink a ship, charming, giggling people and somewhere to stay that is a castaway fantasy. Vamizi is laid-back sophistication, an island eco-lodge at one with nature (the abundance of monkeys, whales, turtles and giant coconut crabs add a safari edge to the experience) but also in tune with the modern traveller's needs. So in addition to the lushness without there is no shortage of lushness within: high thread-counts, yoga, staff with serious know-how and simple food, including barbecued kingfish eaten by lantern light and spankingly fresh sashimi. Arrive at this tiny hideaway (it's just 12 kilometres long and one wide) by propeller plane and kick back in one of the two new exquisite villas, Suluwilo and Kipila, both of which are available to rent. Sleeping up to 14, they have beautiful indoor-outdoor living areas, enormous decks, direct access to perfect sea and pashmina-soft sand, and practically no windows, just airy freedom. Plus the essential accessories of a personal chef, housekeepers, butlers, masseuses, secret picnics, and boat trips to spot whales.

Six nights at a Vamizi Private Villa, including international return flights to Dar es Salaam from London and international return flights between Dar es Salaam and Vamizi, costs £3,660 per person, assuming a group of eight people are staying, with African Explorations (africanexplorations.com).





The main pool and sun deck at Vamizi. Below: a children's room with bunkbeds, left, and steps leading up to a private terrace, right.