

Six Senses

IBIZA

Architect and developer Jonathan Leitersdorf realises his vision for a rejuvenative coastal retreat, drawing on the culture, community and terrain of Ibiza’s secluded north.

Words: Lauren Jade Hill
Photography: © Patricia Parinejad (unless otherwise stated)

A place to come in, get calibrated and recharge before going back out to the urban world: this is what Jonathan Leitersdorf and his team set out to achieve when they first envisioned the Ibiza outpost of Six Senses. “We wanted to solve a problem,” explains the architect and real estate developer. “When people leave Ibiza, what do they need? Another holiday. So we wanted to create a place where people leave feeling recharged.”

Cala Xarraca became the setting for the ultra-luxury wellness-focused retreat, with this remote side of the Balearic island’s rugged landscape and bohemian spirit as its guiding inspiration. “The north of Ibiza is a beautiful place with an amazing community of spiritual people who love to celebrate,” says Leitersdorf. “We came to the conclusion that Ibiza, and especially the north of the island, is about three elements – community, spirituality and celebration. We’ve brought those three elements into this utopian retreat with a village layout that is all about discovery.”

The sprawling complex staggers the gradual slope leading down towards the rocky coastline with structures at the lowest point built into the cliffside. Guests are met on entry with a minimalist white building housing the boho-chic wood-and-white arrival area and, down some steps, the light and airy central gathering space: an open-sided indoor farmers’ market home to a gleaming red Porsche tractor and looking out, via an indoor-outdoor lounge, towards the sea.





Built directly into the cliffside, the hotel's Beach Caves are home to a live music venue, several suites and a range of F&B destinations

From here, steps and meandering pathways lead to the 116 guest villas and suites, as well as two townhouses, spanning the 20-acre site, along with an array of indoor and outdoor venues bringing music, art, sustainable fashion, wellness, spirituality, culture and plant-based gastronomy into the experience.

"The village is about discovery and you never see it all in one shot," explains Leitersdorf. "You walk through the farmers' market, down through a garden to the pool, then down again to the beach caves. When you arrive there's the hero view but everything else is hidden; there are plenty of wow moments."

There are wow moments in the cuisine too; organic, seasonal and local ingredients are highlighted in the menus of HaSalon, the first European outpost of renowned Israeli chef Eyal Shani, and plant-based dishes are served in the farmers' market, with The Orchard also offering local seafood cooked over fire. Locally grown ingredients are brought into mixology at Pharmacy Bar too, where healthy herbal

creations, detox juices and non-alcoholic cocktails are served.

With wellness a key part of the experience, the Six Senses Spa offers a layered approach that unites a pioneering spirit with treatments, a state-of-the-art fitness area, rooftop yoga platform, outdoor boxing ring, steam room, salon, hot bath and more. Accessed via steps leading beneath ground-level on the cliffside, the 1,200m² spa is a tranquil hideaway for results-driven treatments, including the longevity programmes of its new wellbeing concept The Rose Bar, which combines diagnostics with nutritional guidance and modern healing methods to optimise health and performance.

Representing the fashion aspect, the resort is home to the sustainable fashion concept store of Daniela Agnelli and Tiffanie Darke. And art is brought into each space through pieces by local artisans – curated by Muzéo – as well as photographic artworks selected in partnership with Magnum Photos. Celebration meanwhile





Championing sustainability, the Earth Lab highlights Six Senses' efforts to reduce consumption, produce locally, and support communities and ecosystems

shows in the resort's music offering with its Beach Caves building housing a recording studio, Live Cave music venue, rehearsal room and cave suites, all built into the cliff. "When you come to Ibiza, at any time of the year, the elements of community, spirituality and celebration are always a part of your experience," says Leitersdorf, "so this is how we wanted to capture that in this particular location."

The pristine setting was the priority from the off with the resort designed to blend in with its natural surroundings. Construction materials match the colour of the rocky cliffside, cantilevered roofs hide glass surfaces from outside view and the use of local wood and stone further connects each structure with the bay and its trees. "All the materials we used mirror the colours, smells, feelings and textures of the bay – we didn't really introduce anything new so that when you come into the bay, the structure is almost hidden. We painted the entry hall white but everything else is the colour of the cliffs with light and shadow creating pattern."

The all-natural look weaves its way into the



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selection of FF&E too, with highlights including custom rugs from Alarwool, woven from jute and seen in guestrooms and Beach Cave, and an extensive range of furniture from RH, dressing both indoor and outdoor spaces.

This village-like complex is immersed in plantlife with green roofs and flourishing foliage running throughout. Edible produce, such as pomegranates and lemons, grows in every corner and flanks each pathway.

Sustainability is a key factor too, permeating both design and operations, so much so that it is the first BREEAM-certified hotel in the Balearic Islands. As well as being built using locally sourced, sustainable and natural materials, the resort was strategically constructed for optimum insulation, maximum daylight and natural ventilation, with measures taken to protect the surrounding area and restore disturbed terrain post-construction.

Furthermore, the resort reduces its carbon emissions through renewable energy production, the use of two geothermal wells

and a smart automation system for lighting and air conditioning in rooms; it plans to become plastic-free by 2022; and has a farm nearby, where ingredients are grown for the restaurants. It also has its own Earth Lab to introduce guests to its sustainability projects and runs a dedicated Sustainability Fund to support local organisations with a positive social and environmental impact.

More developments are to come in the form of 16 townhouses with private pools and roof gardens, two mansions – the resort's take on a presidential suite – two new swimming pools and a 500m² longevity clinic dedicated to its Rose Bar concept. Work is set to complete in the opening months of 2022 before reopening to host winter retreats. "We're now in our cool season, which is very exciting," Leitersdorf enthuses. "This is a year-round destination where the experience is all about the people in each space and what is happening there. At Six Senses Ibiza, it's all about the human architecture."



EXPRESS CHECK-OUT

Owner: Jonathan Leitersdorf

Developer: Beachbox Hotelco

Investor: Beachbox Hotelco, Metric Capital

Operator: Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas

Architecture and Interior Design: Six Senses, Jonathan Leitersdorf, GCA Architects, Janfri & Ranchal Studio

Art Consultant: Muzéo, Magnum Photos

Procurement: Sunnlyand Consulting

Landscaping: Aeland, GMP Paisajistas

Main Contractor: Grupo Avintia, Grupo Sanjose

Project Manager: Hill International

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