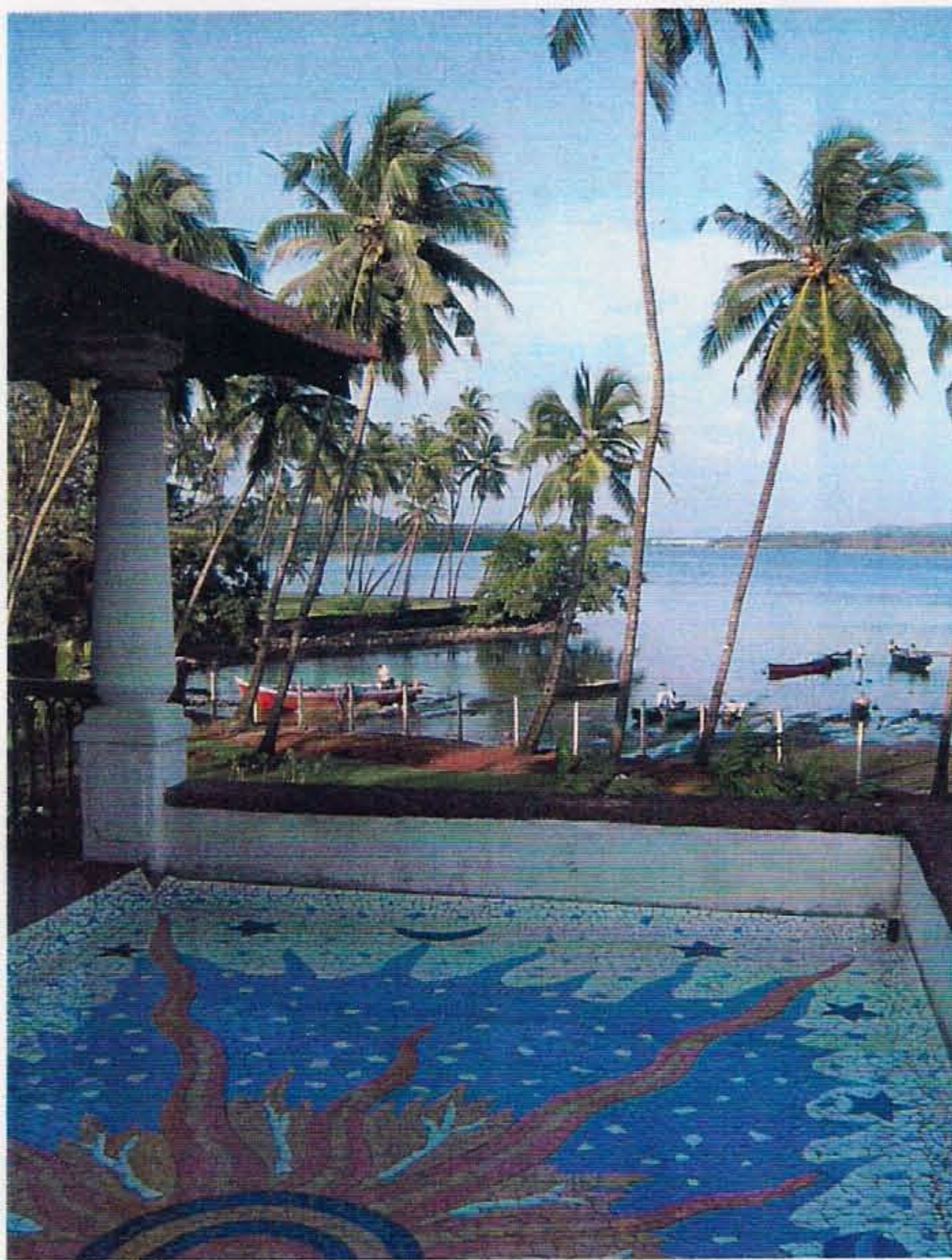


SMALL SECRET RIVER HOME

Addicted to Goa but fed up of plush resort holidays? You need to rent a villa. The newest on the block is **Villa Morjim**, a five-bedroom bungalow located 300 metres from Morjim beach which has now become famous as a nesting site for Olive Ridley turtles. Built in classic Goan style, the architecture employs traditional materials such as red laterite, Mangalorean tiles and wooden rafters. The house, located on the banks of the Chapora river and surrounded on three sides by water, is let out only as an entire unit—perfect for a group of eight to 10 people looking for a quiet Goan idyll. Breakfast is included in the tariff and not other meals, but you get to use the services of two chefs who can cook everything from Goan to Continental to North Indian (buy your seafood straight from the fishwoman who'll come calling every day). Other facilities included in the rental price: airport transfers, television in the family room, housekeeping services, laundry, Internet connection. Per night tariff: €640 (Dec 15-Jan 15)/€475 (Jan 16-April 30 & Oct 1-Dec 14)/€300 (May 1-Sept 30). Contact: Madhumita at 011-29561599 or Rahul Bansal at 9810363612, or check out www.villamorjim.com



Going Dutch

*They are tearing up the Transvaal district at the Hague. Older homes are being vacated and family businesses are uncertain about the transition. Or they were, till RAL2005 architects stepped in with a unique concept—the award-winning **Hotel Transvaal**. Vacant spaces—empty houses and shops, unused rooms in old homes, new but unoccupied homes—are done up by local entrepreneurs to suit a variety of tastes and budgets (from euro 64). For local businesses, it means renewed custom—services are provided ad hoc by locals, from errands to F&B. Indeed, the whole district IS the hotel! Pick up your keys at the cigar shop. See www.hoteltransvaal.com*

watch this space



> Treat yourself to an arty holiday at the **Brufani Palace** in Perugia, Italy: between Feb 2 and June 29, an exhibition dedicated to Umbrian artist Pintoricchio on his 550th birth anniversary will be held at the National Gallery of Umbria. The Palace offers entrance at the exhibition, breakfast, room upgrade, late check-out, 20% discount on à la carte menu, city map, use of the fitness centre and pool built under Etruscan vaults for €250 per night. Contact: +390755732541, www.sinahotels.it

> **Victoria Hotels** combines luxury and hill-tribe home stays in the North Vietnam highlands: the 4D/5N package includes 2N at the Victoria Sapa Resort, one night aboard the Victoria Express train, breakfast and one dinner at Sapa, meals during the hill-tribe home stays, dinner on the train, excursions to villages and markets. Tariff: \$581 per person. Contact: www.victoriahotels-asia.com

> The **Ritz-Carlton Bali** is offering to host your wedding and give you a dream honeymoon: they'll organise everything from gowns to flowers, photography and venue for guest sizes ranging from four to 400. The honeymoons will feature such things as a Diamond Miracle spa treatment while sipping champagne and soaking in scented roses to romantic dinners. Contact: www.ritzcarlton.com