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EDITED BY EMILY MATHIESON



SHH... ENJOY THE SILENCE

VIETNAM Some of the country's most stylish resorts are setting new standards for eco-friendliness, and offer travellers a peaceful alternative to South-East Asia's more well-known destinations

Eco luxe

When **Six Senses Con Dao** opens this month on an island in the south-east, it will be one of Vietnam's most luxurious resorts, and one of its most eco-friendly. Fifty villas, built from sustainable wood and decorated using 1,200-year-old carved doors, have airy, butterfly-shaped roofs to minimise air-con use, and unheated pools.

The resort is laid out in the style of a fishing village so it sits comfortably in its beachfront location, shared with nesting turtles and monkeys in the surrounding forest. And it is not the only one. In north-west Vietnam, solar-powered **Topas Ecolodge**, a cluster of 25 bungalows atop two cone-shaped hills near Sapa, is one of the country's low-impact tourism pioneers. It's an appealingly simple base for those exploring the mountain trails that connect Sapa's colourful villages. On Phu Quoc island in

the south, **Mango Bay** was the first resort in the country to use rammed earth to build its rustic bungalows, which are ventilated by sea breezes rather than air-con units and set on deserted beach. And 160km from Ho Chi Minh City, the newly opened **Forest Floor Lodge** in Cat Tien National Park offers an upscale Tarzan-and-Jane experience, with luxury safari tents and traditional wooden houses built from reclaimed materials, with views over the jungle or Dong Nai river. **GEMMA PRICE**
Six Senses Con Dao (020 8780 3519; www.sixsenses.com); doubles from US\$700. **Topas Ecolodge** (00 84 20 387 1331; www.topasecolodge.com); bungalows from US\$89. **Mango Bay** (00 84 903 382 207; www.mangobayphuquoc.com); bungalows from US\$55. **Forest Floor Lodge** (00 84 613 669 890; www.forestfloorlodges.com); doubles from US\$100

A villa at Six Senses Con Dao, made from sustainable wood