

EXPLORE THE CULINARY HERITAGE OF ZANZIBAR AT ESSQUE ZALU ZANZIBAR

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Proud to be one of the 'Spice Islands', the rich culinary heritage of Zanzibar, with its Swahili, Persian, Portuguese, Arab and Indian influences, is celebrated in the hands of Executive Chef and Zanzibar resident of 21 years, Jussi Husa (<http://www.essquehotels.com/press-releases-2011-2.html>), and his team at Essque Zalu Zanzibar (<http://www.essquehotels.com/restaurants.html>). The island's only premier resort, this deluxe destination hotel promises a true culinary adventure to delight, surprise and inspire the most seasoned foodies.

A half-day Spice Tour to a local shamba, or plantation, offers the chance to discover the spices and herbs synonymous with Zanzibar's rich history, reflecting the island's status and importance on the ancient trading route. Guests will be introduced to a heady mix of cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, green and black pepper and vanilla as well as exotic tropical fruits. Back at the resort, guests' new found knowledge on local ingredients can be employed in a Swahili Cooking Class, led by native Tanzanian chefs Rose Masha and James Zole. Masha and Zole share their passion and local insights, demonstrating key techniques and recipes to recreate at home, from Mishkaki, a spiced meat skewer perfect for barbeques, or Pweza a nazi, an octopus curry prepared with coconut.

Chef Jussi believes ingredients should be fresh and local, and the best way to understand a destination and its culture is through its cuisine. He and his passionate team are always eager to recommend tailored ways in which to discover the island's eating. An excursion to the UNESCO Heritage Site of Stone Town (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173>) showcases the spectacular street food at Forodhani Gardens, where vendors invite shoppers to taste their wares, including the popular makaki ya kulisha or 'Zanzibar pizza', a delicious stuffed bread snack, spicy local samosa or simply grilled local Cobia fish, washed down by baobab or fresh sugar cane juice. A visit to Darajani market offers the chance to sample the cornucopia of exotic fruits, vegetables (gleaming chillies, aubergines and tomatoes, okra, lychees, baobabs) and local fish laid out side by side with sandals, brightly woven fabrics and other treasures in the winding alleys. The perfect digestif comes in the form of a Coffee Degustation at the Zanzibar Coffee House tasting locally grown artisan coffees.

Avid fishermen – or gourmands looking for 'line to fork' eating – have the opportunity to head out in a local fishing boat and try their luck with local fishing materials before returning to the resort to grill their catch.

For a truly indulgent voyage of culinary discovery, each Wednesday evening Chef Jussi hosts a private multi course dinner at the Essque Zalu Chef's Table. Showcasing a contemporary take on Swahili cuisine, seasonal produce is paired with selected wines from the Southern hemisphere to both compliment local ingredients and keep food miles down.

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Scott Dunn offers seven nights at Essque Zalu Zanzibar, Tanzania from GDP2,928 per person. This is based on two people sharing on a B&B basis and includes a "Spice Tour" of the island, return international flights and private airport transfers.

For more information visit [scottdunn.com](https://www.scottdunn.com/) (<https://www.scottdunn.com/>) or call 020 8682 5070

ABOUT ESSQUE ZALU ZANZIBAR

Located on the north east coast of Zanzibar, in its own natural cove, and framed by lush green forest and the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean, Essque Zalu Zanzibar offers a mix of villa and suite accommodation crafted from local materials. All 40 suites are luxuriously styled spaces, and comprise a master bedroom, lounge and outside terrace or balcony, under a traditional pitched Makuti roof. The crystal clear waters of the Indian Ocean offer superlative snorkelling and diving opportunities, the beaches are immaculate and the island itself is steeped in history, from the UNESCO heritage site of Stone Town and the footprints of Africa's greatest explorer, Dr Livingston, to the birthplace of Freddie Mercury, arguably Zanzibar's best known performer.

For more information or to discuss feature ideas and press trips please contact Sarah Harvey (Sarah@bacall.net) or Flora Gandolfo (Flora@bacall.net) at Bacall Associates (<http://www.bacallassociates.co.uk/>) or Tel: +44 (0) 8704 288 401