

green notes

writer **Louise Renwick**

1. Green globe

It's not too hard to make eco-conscious changes on your home turf, but the truth is we could all do a little more to make our global gallivanting greener. **Green Globe** give their sought after certifications to operators who support the local community and the environmental issues affecting their area so planning your vacation with a Green Globe operator means you can rest assured that your travel dollars will support a responsible operation. Alila's Bali hotels in Ubud and Manggis both achieved Green Globe certification in May 2007 and when Alila Villas Hadahaa opens in the Maldives in 2009 the resort will be the first in the Maldives to have achieved the prestigious Green Globe Certified status. Search the Green Globe Network online and find out more information on which organisations are contributing to a sustainable future in your favourite sunspot.

www.ec3global.com / www.alilavillas.com

2. Eco-nomical renting

In this age of environmental ethics and sustainability we're all paying more attention to the business practices of companies and how they choose to invest the money we're spending. Hong Kong's serviced apartment providers **Kush** are taking their environmental responsibility seriously with a handful of new eco friendly policies including using eco-friendly paint and non-toxic cleaning products in their apartments. Tenants are provided with eco kettles, re-usable shopping bags and the Kush Octopus pre-paid Go Card to encourage a switch from gas gussling taxis to public transport. Using movement sensors, timers and dimmer switches to help reduce lighting consumption they're creating a shining example of how rented accommodation can start to be eco-friendly.

www.kushliving.com

3. Making a lighter footprint

Scientists and economists agree that we need to cut carbon emissions by as much as 60 percent by 2050 in order to limit the risks of major environmental, social and economic upheaval. As China's only carbon neutral hotel **URBN Boutique Hotel Shanghai** is leading the way to greener hospitality by monitoring the hotel's energy consumption, including staff commutes, food and beverage delivery and energy used by each guest to calculate the hotel's carbon footprint then investing carbon credits in local "green" energy development and emission reduction projects. There's definitely something cool about this place, and it's not just thanks to the eco-friendly passive solar shades and water based AC systems. The entire creation has been committed to green from the ground up – using reclaimed hardwoods, old Shanghai bricks and other recycled local materials to renovate an existing building. As Director Jules Kwan says, "our vision is to create destinations of comfort, style and interest across China. Our first hotel is unlike any other, and we want to be at the forefront of promoting environmental awareness, protection and sustainable buildings within the hotel industry." Look out for more of their environmentally friendly hotels and resorts across the country in the next three years. www.urbnhotels.com