

Paul Ropp & Pamela

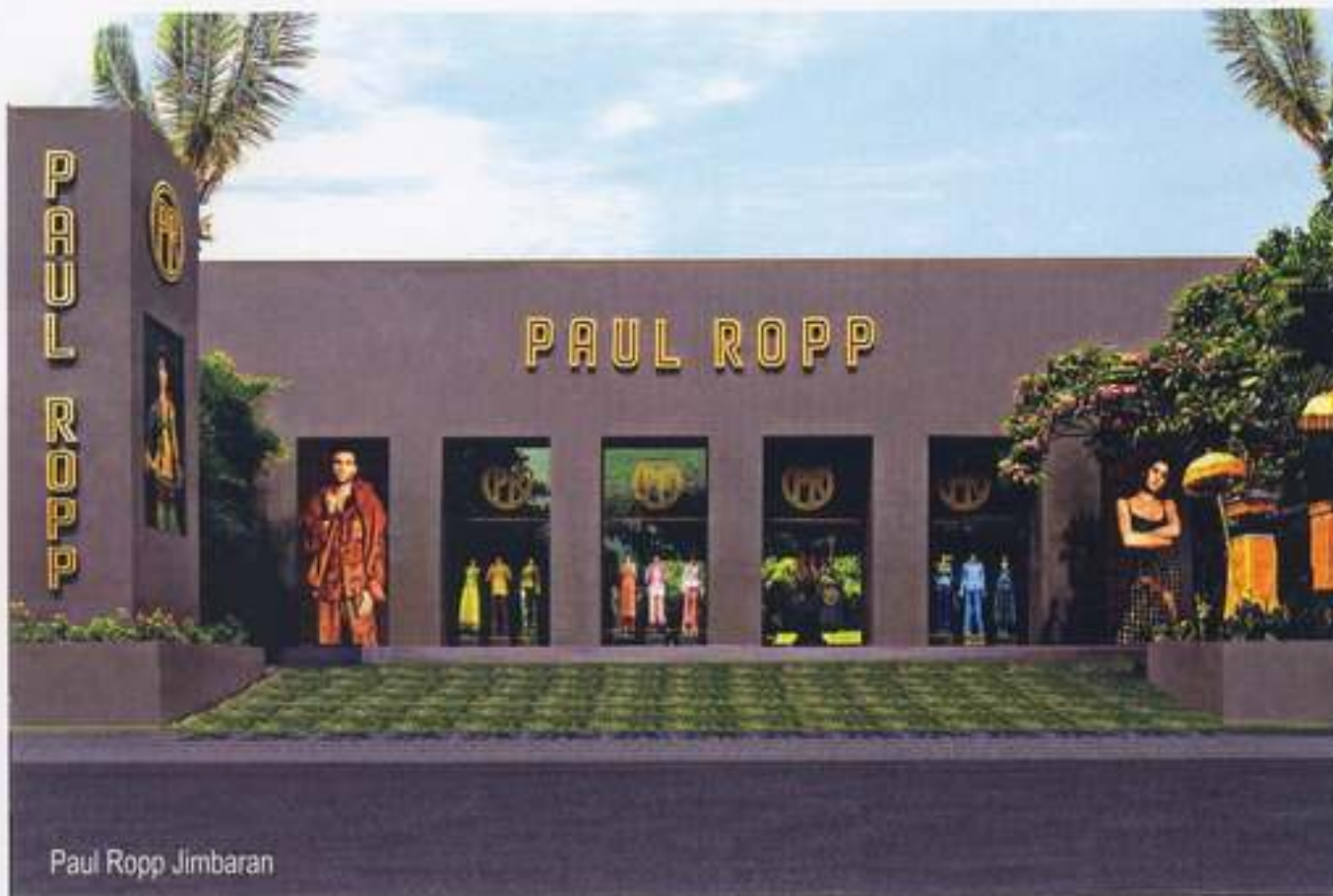
The Designer, His Yacht & Their Magic

By Sarah-Jane Mierop



Pamela

'You must come and meet Pamela' Paul gushed at a recent meeting 'and put us in your next edition'. Well, it sounded to me that he fancied himself in some kind of 'Hello' style photo spread with his latest flame, cooking around a barbeque in his latest fashion creations. But how wrong sometimes we can be. Pamela was none other than his gorgeous, favourite toy – a thirty foot Catamaran.



Paul Ropp Jimbaran

The date was planned. And so, on a Saturday morning we met up at Benoa Harbour, Bali, and our party of six made eager introductions, eager, that is, to board Pamela, and set off. The Pamela Catamaran is a good looking but comfortable young lady with all the necessary accessories of a modern gal of her time! She is equipped with a high technological satellite navigation and sonar system, and powered by two eco-friendly 4 stroke out-board engines – just the sort of thing that even I can comprehend (being a bit of a technophobe!).

We quickly cut across the fabulously calm sea, passing all the usual touristy day trip boats and waving furiously at the faces at the windows – whilst sitting on Pamela's upper deck breathing the fresh morning's air. What a glorious start to the weekend. It was not long before the breathtaking rocky cliffs of Nusa Penida came in sight – especially quick after convivial conversation with the two friendly staff, the captain and his 'mate' (we'll leave the obvious jokes aside), and a hearty helping of fresh coffee and fruit.

Nusa Penida is a stunning island to circumnavigate, as the island juts out unpredictably, leaving waters that are the true meaning of the colour turquoise to mix dramatically with white horses that spectacularly smash against rocky precipices. You can't but help to feel awed. Paul and Pamela's crew got the tackle gear out for some serious fishing – five lines, as the spot around Nusa Penida is teeming with various marine life. At one particular rock, covered in tropical flora, we were startled when the captain started to blow the horn and clap, and much to all our surprise what looked like hundreds of enormous fruit bats took to the skies – swirling not too dissimilarly to a common European seagull. My seven year-old son was particularly enthralled by this batty display,

reminding me rather too passionately for my liking, of the beginning of 'Scooby Doo' when the cartoon bats swoop forward.

Scooby Doo was once again the subject at a beach named none other than 'Mystery Beach'. We cruised into a scene straight out of a timeless painting complete with a lean-to hut of banana leaf roof. The perfect setting to serve lunch, and a delicious Mediterranean-style array of pasta and crisp salad with cool drinks of choice got us all in the mood to jump overboard to experience some fabulous snorkelling and diving. The Pamela Catamaran is well equipped with some intriguing toys: the Brownie, for example, allows guests the pleasure of a scuba dive without a certificate, but with the same ease and tranquillity experienced whilst snorkelling.

Alas, all too quickly the day had come to a near end, and it was time for us to head back to Bali.



Paul Ropp

As we left the majestic Nusa Penida, one last look behind showed a grey storm cloud hovering, and so we all knew that we had been given the best of the day – or so we believed... One of the five lines began 'pulling' and before long Paul had reeled in an impressive sized barracuda. We would be eating well that night!

Along with Pamela's impressive speed, we managed to beat the storm and arrive at Benoa Harbour in excellent time.

The Pamela Catamaran, and her staff, comes thoroughly recommended, and bookings may be made at a reasonable rate of US\$ 800. Considering this is all-inclusive and for groups of up to eight (you do the maths) this is a very reasonable luxurious trip – you know you're worth it!

My sincere thanks to Orly, whose beautiful photography, as always, captured the moment. Also, to Paul Ropp, who is as ever, the perfect host.

To book your cruise on The Pamela Catamaran please use the below coordinates:

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