

## Unforgettable Moments

Between extremes lies a collection of memories that define the maritime journey. From adrenaline-filled discoveries to contemplative sunsets, each moment contributes to a transformative experience on the sea.” Ronaldo Dizon

# Homeward Bound

By

Ronaldo Dizon



After seventeen extraordinary days exploring the Indonesian Archipelago aboard the Viking Orion, our adventure culminated in a dramatic arrival at Bali Port Harbor, lightning snapped across the



darkened sky as thunder rolled through the monsoon storm, nature providing a spectacular finale to our maritime journey.

As Diane and I disembarked the ship, the intensity of the storm seemed to mark a transition—from the excitement of exploration to the promise of tranquility that awaited us. Our destination: the renowned Ritz-Carlton Bali, an oasis dedicated to healing and relaxation rooted in the time-honored traditions of Balinese therapies.

The contrast couldn't have been more perfect.



From the rolling waves and adventure of our archipelago voyage to the serene sanctuary of one of Bali's wellness retreats, we were ready to embrace the

ancient healing practices that have made Balinese spa culture legendary worldwide.

After two days of cultural enrichment in Bali, including attending the captivating Barong Kris Dance Performance, we felt obligated to return to Singapore for a social get-together dinner with old friends. A quick flight on Singapore Airlines brought us to the luxurious Mandarin Oriental Hotel, where we would experience one of Singapore's most magical Michelin-starred moments.

As we readied ourselves for an early Singapore flight home, we stood on our 16th-floor balcony with a final panoramic view of the city, a profound quietude permeating the morning. The city's landscape stretched before us, bathed in the soft pre-dawn light, lending the urban vista an almost ethereal quality.



The distinctive scent, uniquely Singaporean—a blend of tropical flowers, ocean breeze, and the city's characteristic humidity—filled the air, making this early morning moment truly unforgettable. It was a sensory experience that captured the essence of the town in its most peaceful hour, a memory to carry with us as we departed. This peaceful interlude between our Balinese cultural immersion and our Singapore social obligations offered a rare opportunity for reflection. The stillness of the city at this hour stood in beautiful contrast to the vibrant energy Singapore would soon display, reminding us of the multifaceted nature of Southeast Asian urban life.

