

# laugh is in the heir

what's in a name? that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. or would it? the word "warisan" – which means heirloom or heritage – holds so much meaning. a talk with warisan's **cetin candan, paul campbell** and **dayu sri** show just exactly what is in a name

text annisa dharmas images courtesy of warisan

In many traditions, the choosing of a child's name is very momentous, as it will, according to beliefs, determine the child's fate and, therefore, holds a significant, even transcendental, importance. Now, you can choose to dismiss this belief as an old wife's tale, but Warisan is proof that perhaps it's not mere superstition, because since it was first established in 1989, this institution still remains, to this day, one of Bali's longest – and strongest – standing establishments; it is, just like the name means, a legacy.

To call something a legacy is some serious business, so if my choice of vocabulary holds too much weight, please let me rephrase; Warisan is not a legacy, it is something even stronger: a family.

I sat down for a lively, laughter-fuelled lunch with Cetin Candan, managing director of the restaurant and bar; Paul Campbell, manager of Warisan Furniture; and not long after, Dayu Sri, mother of the brainchild that is Warisan, joined our jolly bunch.

**warisan has gained a worldwide name, you went through ups and downs and have quite a history.**

**Dayu Sri:** When we established Warisan, I wanted to create a space where I can wine and dine and relax with my friends in a comfortable but classy atmosphere and there were not many places back then. So I built the restaurant behind the gallery, which was established first.

**So the story is:** back then, I was pregnant with my second child and I found it difficult to run the restaurant, so I leased the restaurant to new management and a chef. Thirteen years later, their lease ran out and they decided to create their own restaurant.

**Cetin Candan:** Regardless, Warisan is still Warisan; we have a new chef, Vincent Denayer from Belgium, and Warisan Restaurant and Bar still has the same concept – French Mediterranean cuisine. We've also expanded the venue to make it feel homier.

**so this article i'm writing, it is usually about one main personality. which one of you guys should i highlight?**

**Paul Campbell:** Warisan is the personality. We're a family.

**how so?**

**PC:** The founders of Warisan [Gian Paolo and Dayu Sri] come from an

Italian and Balinese heritage, and personally, they have taught me so much in their way of "raising" their child, which is Warisan, through each of their rich and diverse cultures and it truly feels like one big melting pot of a family.

**CC:** Everyone involved in Warisan has something to share and contribute, like a family. We all treat each other with respect and understanding, and most of us are long-time friends.

**warisan has been around for almost as long as i have; it definitely has seen the transformations bali has endured throughout the years.**

**CC:** The early tourists of Bali were international celebrities and socialites who would come to visit Bali and there were no proper venues to entertain them, so Warisan was one of the first restaurants to cater to that level of clientele, and it set a benchmark for fine dining on the island that has continued until now. Warisan's significant role in the development of Bali's scene is quite apparent.

**DS:** Bali has changed tremendously since 20 years ago. I am happy that now there are so many places to choose from, but at the same time, all these new buildings [shakes head], it's ridiculous.

**with so many new venues popping up in bali nowadays, how does warisan compete with all these younger establishments with their many "fresh and innovative" concepts?**

**DS:** Do you think I need to compete, with what you see here?

**not really.**

**DS:** [smiles] Mm-hmm.

**CC:** It's not competition, it's complementing.

**PC:** As you can see, Warisan is never pretentious. It is sophisticated without trying to be more than it should be. We aren't trying to create a "new and fantastic" thing. I



clock wise from top: more romance than

think we're just trying to be us and who we've always been.

**CC:** I think, because Warisan has been around for so long, it holds so many sentimental qualities and people recognise this.

**DS:** Like the name, Warisan has a heritage; we don't need to be anything extraordinary, we just stick to our roots.

**usually, old establishments possess an air of exclusivity, not intentionally of course, but an atmosphere of "belonging" is definitely present.**

**CC:** Well that is inevitable. With time comes a sense of bonding. But, as we said, Warisan is a family and this space is our home and the doors are always open. We welcome everyone that walks in here as a houseguest. We accommodate our guests with any requests they may have. In the end, our objective is to make people happy.

**and that i am; for one thing, for such a fine restaurant, the prices here are extremely reasonable.**

**DS:** There is no good feeling that comes from charging people more. It's a shame when you want to go and have good food and a good time and it comes with a foreboding of how much you will spend. I hear many people say that they can only dine at certain places once or twice a month and it makes me sad, you know?

**i agree. i am one of those people.**

**DS:** Darling, I am much older than you, and I must say I am pretty well off, and even I agree.

I want a place where people can truly feel comfortable. Look around you, everyone is smiling and it makes me feel good [smiles]. When you come here, just be yourself. No expectations, just feel good. •

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