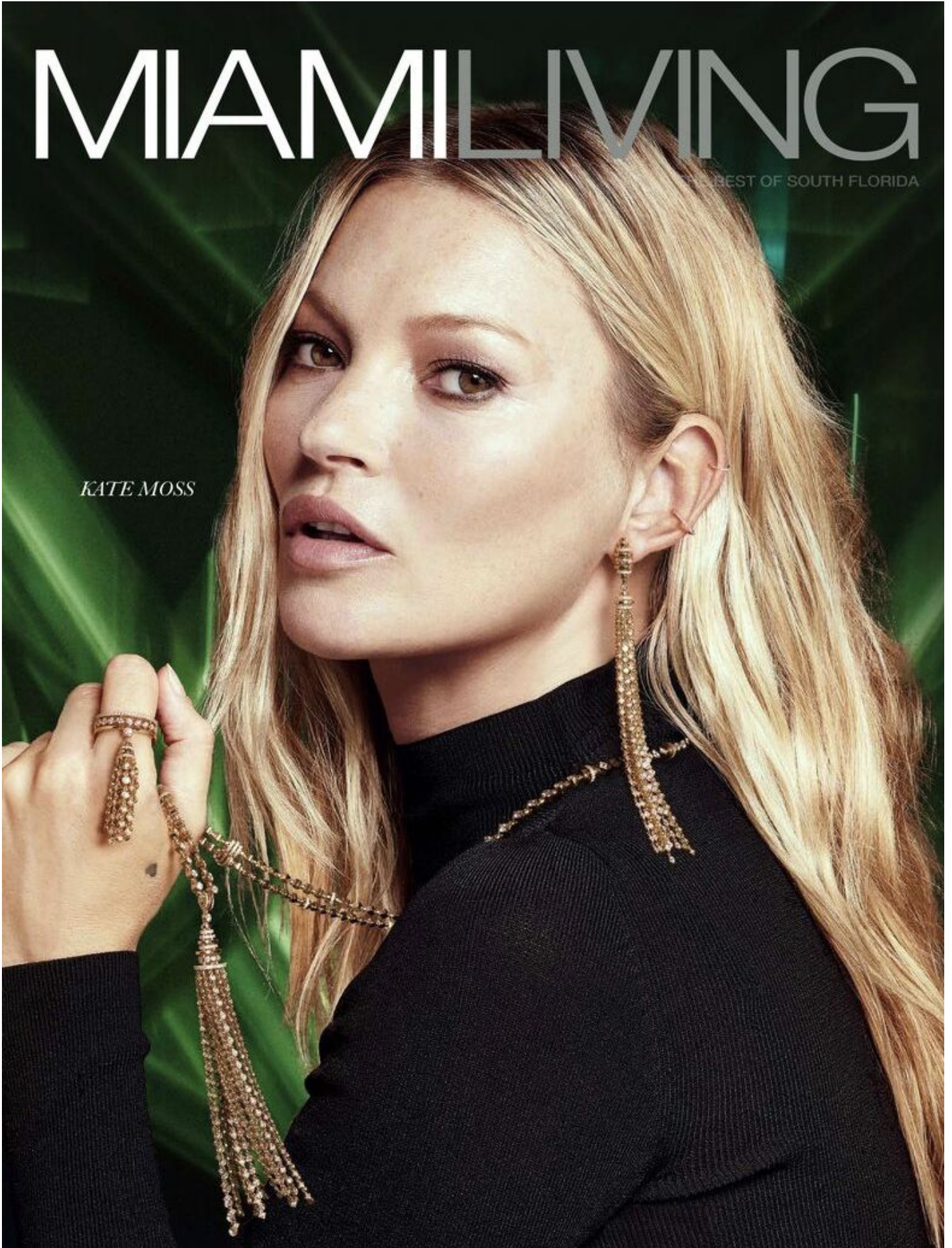


# MIAMI LIVING

BEST OF SOUTH FLORIDA

*KATE MOSS*



# EXPLORING THE NATURAL WONDERS OF COSTA RICA

By Adriana Garuolis & Markin Abras

With a territory of only 19,700 square miles (roughly the size of Denmark or the state of West Virginia), Costa Rica holds a distinguished three-pronged stake in the stage of international fame: it is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, one of the happiest places on earth, and home to one of the only five Blue Zones on the planet – regions of the world where longevity reigns.

Flanked by two oceans, intersected by five towering mountain ranges, and home to over two hundred volcanic formations (of which only 5 are active), this relatively small Central American country is host to a remarkable 12 ecosystems. And it shows. Anyone who visits will experience a richness, diversity and intensity of the natural world that will leave them extraordinarily enlivened. Add to this a burgeoning market of unique, luxury eco-lodging, and Costa Rica has become a destination that leaves one coming back for more (and more).

## EASY ACCESS

Located an easy 2.5 hour flight from Miami and Fort Lauderdale airports, Costa Rica has two international airports (San Jose and Liberia) which facilitate access to different regions of the country. American Airlines offers the greatest amount of weekly flights but you can also choose to fly on United, JetBlue, Spirit Airlines and more. Direct flights to San Jose are also available from Los Angeles, Atlanta, New York and Minneapolis.

## CHOOSE & EXPLORE

Miami Living Magazine presents you with 4 lush regions of Costa Rica together with luxurious stay options in each for you to flavor and indulge in.



*Image by Zdenek Machacek, unsplash*



## ORIGINS Lodge

Pueblo Nuevo, Bijagua,  
Alajuela, Costa Rica  
[www.originslodge.com](http://www.originslodge.com)  
+506 4001 5356

## OVERVIEW

Remote, natural and raw, the elusive luxuriousness of ORIGINS Lodge seems to be in a world of its own. Located in the northern highlands of Costa Rica, it sits high atop a mountain with a central masterpiece: a breathtaking 180 degree panoramic view of the majestic Lake Nicaragua and its surrounding valley. The property consists of 45 hectares (111 acres) of pristine nature fostering high-level environmental and social sustainability practices. It is an ideal destination for those seeking to escape and connect with nature, body, mind and spirit.

Arrive by private helicopter or drive to ORIGINS Lodge through an unassuming, unpaved rural road, the unique experience that is Origins begins just in the getting there. Upon entering the property, prepare to be transported into a grand immaculate natural world of tropical rainforest and lagoons, showcasing over 150 different species of local plants and exotic birds and frogs.





## ACCOMMODATIONS

ORIGINS features six luxury eco-lodges inspired by the pre-Columbian architecture of Costa Rica. These stand-alone structures are remarkably circular in shape and made of sustainable and renewable materials minimizing its environmental impact without compromising comfort. Each comes with handcrafted canopy beds, a striking and unique skylight teepee, fire-heated hot tub on the terrace, indoor and outdoor showers and a prized view of its spectacular landscape.

If you are looking for larger accommodations, "Villa Vertigo" is a three-bedroom luxury residence perched on the property's hillside among the canopy. The suspended architectural villa has 1,000 sq. ft. of living space. It is exquisitely decorated with handcrafted works by local artists, containing all modern amenities including a fully equipped kitchen. Notable is the grand terrace exhibiting a 180-degree panoramic view of the surrounding landscape and an oversized fire-heated jacuzzi.

If desired, ORIGINS allows you to book the entire property – ideal for special occasions such as intimate weddings and

special gatherings. It is worth mentioning that there are no TVs nor digital distractions anywhere on the property and may not be as suitable for young children.

## EXPERIENCES

Michelin-starred chef Jean-Luc L'Hourre is the mastermind behind El Salto, ORIGIN's star restaurant and gastronomical experience. Savor haute French cuisine fused with Costa Rican's flavors by Sous Chef, Manuel Ricardo Marroquin Badilla who heads all kitchen operations. All dishes use organic, locally-sourced ingredients from ORIGINS's own gardens including an on-site fish production. An impressive international wine collection is also available.

El Salto is located in the central building and gathering place of the property, which features a lounge bar, entertainment center (billiard table, games, books and music), hot tub, and a large infinity pool with mesmerizing views of Lake Nicaragua.

For those looking to rejuvenate, ORIGINS offers extensive wellness and holistic healing programs including holistic therapies, yoga at its majestic "Koora Yoga" sanctuary,



massage therapy, reflexology, nervous system release therapy, meditation, energy healing, sound and vibration therapy, emotional release therapy (biodecoding) and more. If you are in the mood for something more adventurous, choose from an abundance of tailored-made experiences including nature-guided tours, hikes, cacao plantation tours, horseback riding and more.

Taking pride in its high-level sustainability culture, ORIGINS offers integrated practices including composting its organic waste, a nearly plastic-free and chemical-free environment, plus a bold reforestation project which has yielded 200 new trees annually. ORIGINS also executes socially-focused initiatives designed to support the local community with education, health and sports programs.

