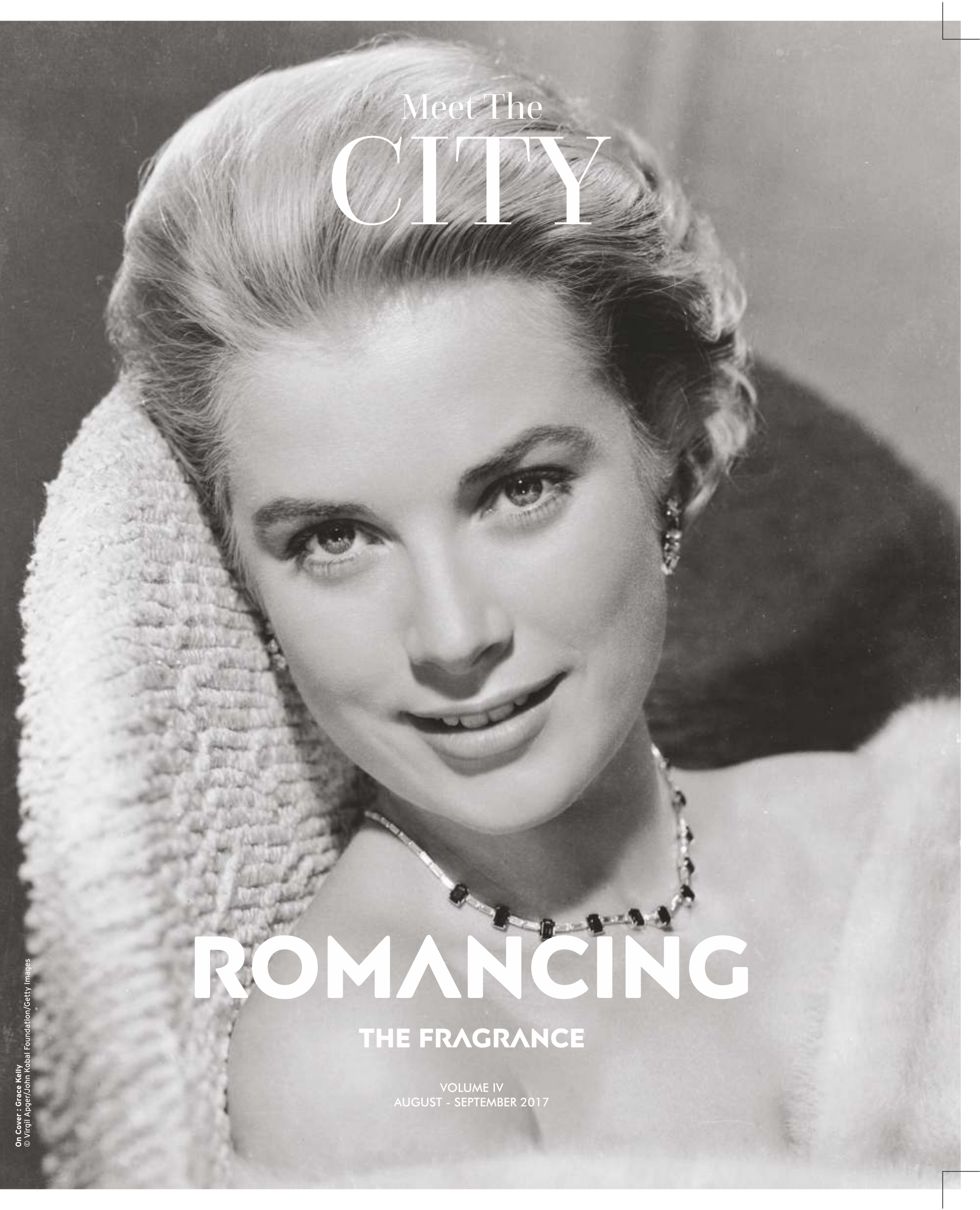


A black and white portrait of actress Grace Kelly. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. Her hair is styled in a classic, swept-back manner. She is wearing a light-colored, textured shawl or stole draped over her shoulders. A delicate necklace with small, dark, square-shaped pendants is visible around her neck. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Meet The  
**CITY**

# ROMANCING

THE FRAGRANCE

VOLUME IV  
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2017

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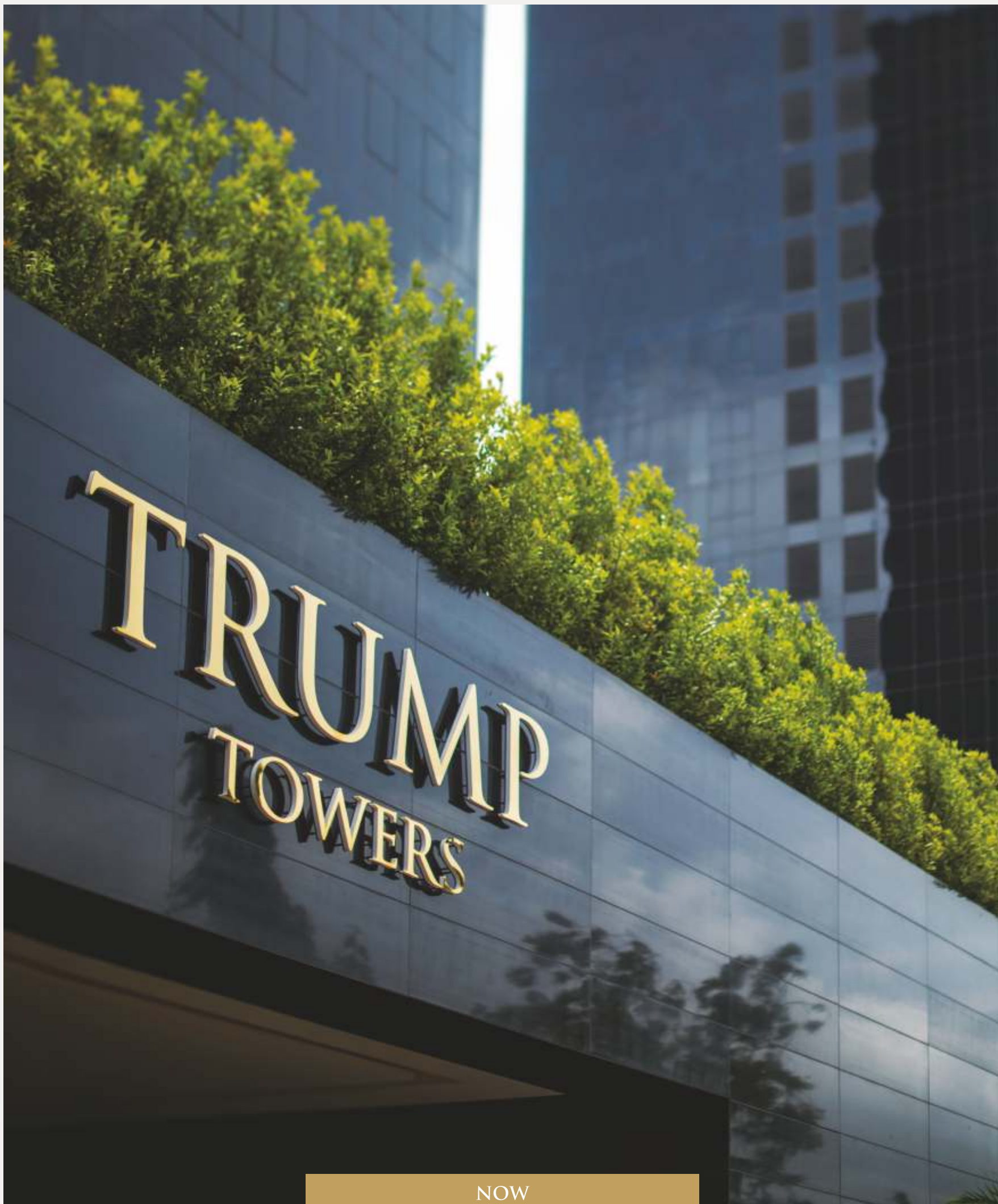
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\*This project was completed before May 1, 2017.





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The Perfume Makers by Rodolphe Ernst.  
© Fine Art Photographic Library/CORBIS/Corbis via Getty Images





When in 1947, the very outstanding Christian Dior proclaimed his desire to be recognised not just as a couturier but also as a perfumer, little did he know that he would go on to influence the world of glamour and fashion for years to come. All he wished back then was for his celebrated couture creations to be accompanied by a chic and contemporary fragrance. "Make me a perfume that smells of love" said he, to perfumer Paul Vacher and thus was born the marvellous Miss Dior!

In this edition of Meet the City, we've tried to recreate our version of Dior's tryst with fragrance and romance. For, what would love be if not for fragrance?

Ancient history's greatest love affair too set sail when Cleopatra had the sails of her boat layered with aromatic oils that blew with the wind, announcing her arrival and seducing Mark Antony even before he had espied her.

# Attar!

Closer home, the town of Kannauj or the Grasse of the East that lies on ancient India's 'scent trade route' has been enticing humankind to fall in love, albeit with a difference; a rendezvous with mother nature for centuries, as the perfumeries have been bottling the fragrance of our bountiful earth.

Our lives would know no intimacy or sentiment, if it were not for the fragrance of a loved one.

I urge you to discover love in its many splendid forms, through the power of fragrance.

Come, join me on a magical and aromatic journey of romance, in this edition of Meet the City. A journey like none other!

**Atul Chordia**





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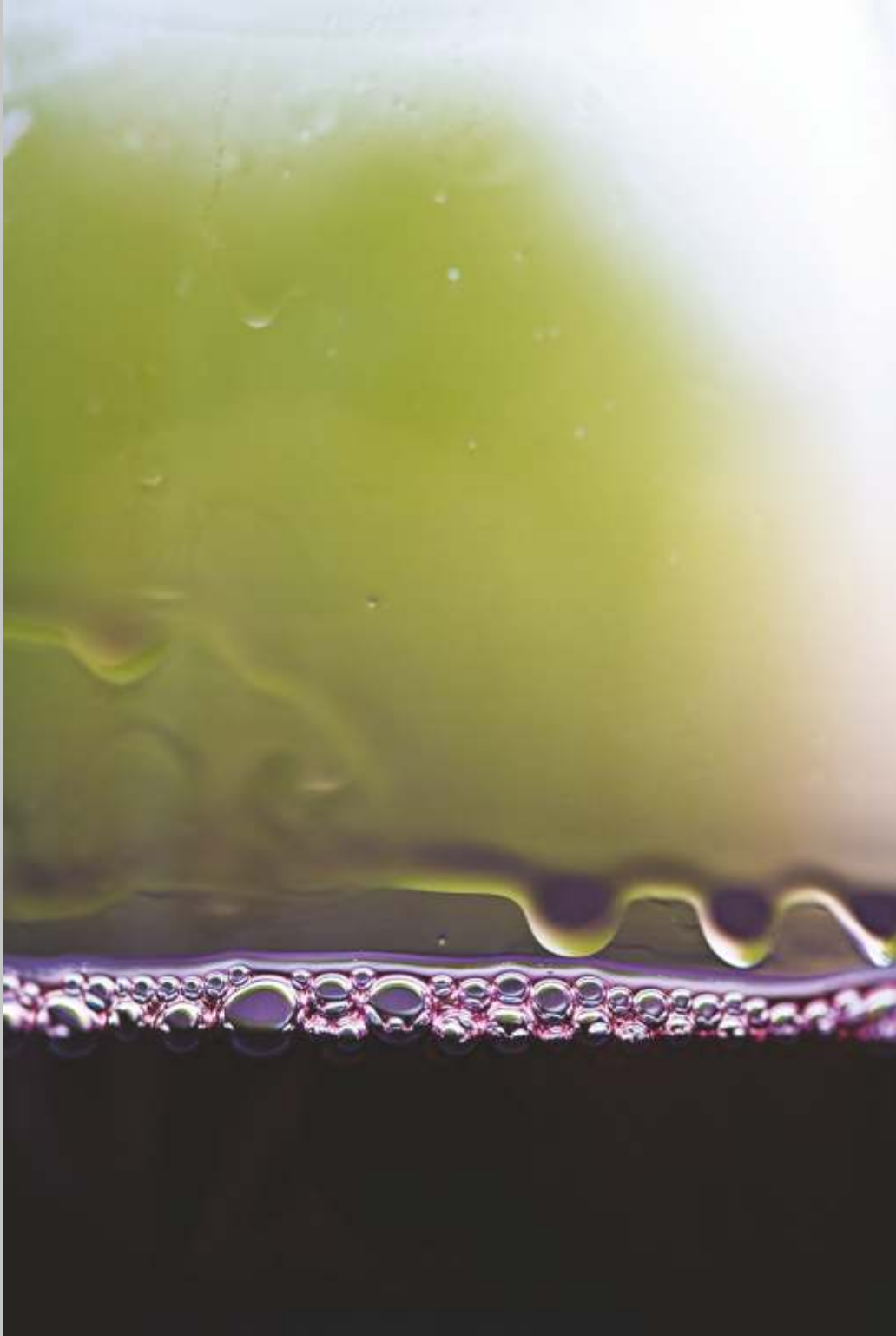
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This project was completed before May 1, 2017.





# REVIEW



As the heavy drops of rain fall to the parched ground, the earth wells up and breathes forth a piquant fragrance; a fragrance provocative and spicy and yet at the same time so very romantic. This is the fragrance of the rain that we universally identify with – a scent that is relaxing and wistful and evokes heady nostalgia. They call this intoxicating mix of dry earth and rain, Petrichor!

*On behalf of Meet the City, Chaitra Patel invites you to drench yourself in this dreamy and intense memory-arousing fragrance that the rains usher in!*

Petrichor is akin to a love letter from mother nature! It captivates our imagination and leaves us enthralled. And, this has been happening since the very evolution of humankind; the scent of the rain has never failed to enchant! Some scientists believe this is because we have inherited a great sense of affection towards this mesmerising scent from our ancestors, which back then resulted from a basic survival instinct.

Such is the allure of petrichor that traditional perfumeries in Kannauj, a city in Uttar Pradesh have been bottling this ethereal essence since the time of Emperor Akbar. Monikered the 'Grasse of the East', Kannauj is famous for its *Mitti attar* that even today is painstakingly crafted by master perfumers in age-old copper cauldrons, completely untouched by industrial machinery and modernity. Perhaps, the very essence of this fragrance lies in that purity and toil!

In our attempt to capture the spirit of the rain-drenched earth around us, we have put together stories that celebrate romance in its various forms and its subtle fragrances.

In our Travel section, we fall in love with the high seas and take a look at the most unforgettable and unique experiences there are to be, when on a cruise.

Shagun Mehra explores the world's cherished 'enigma in a bottle' – wine, in our special feature on the fragrance of the Tokaji, a glorious wine from Tokaj in Hungary.

In our Weekend Getaway section, we whisk you off to smell the sea and rejuvenate yourself in the luxurious setting of Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg, along the coast of Western Maharashtra.

Artist Ajay De who is utterly in love with the sights and smells of the rains, takes a look at the wonderful world around us through his monochromatic colour scheme, in our section on Art.

In our special section on fragrances, we take a look at some chef-d'oeuvre perfumes that were cherished by some of the world's most gorgeous style icons – from Vivian Leigh to Audrey Hepburn and Princess Diana. In the same vein, we explore the beautiful world of Scent Sutra, India's first multi-brand store for artisan perfumes.

Every woman's romantic ideal of an impeccable and well-turned out gentleman is fulfilled by Mr. Erbil from Kurdistan, in our section on Fashion.

The wonderful culinary world of aromatic foods that evoke heavy nostalgia are an integral part of all notions of romanticism. In our section on Culinary Culture, we soak in the aromas of the Far East, as far as Japan, through Pune's newly opened sushi bar – Coco.

Come, join us on a fragrant journey of the very essence of life! May this be just the onset of many joyful and romantic beginnings.



# Contents

## Cover Story

Romancing the  
Fragrance



## Fashion

The Gentlemen's  
Club

## Feature

A Matter of Fine  
Fragrance

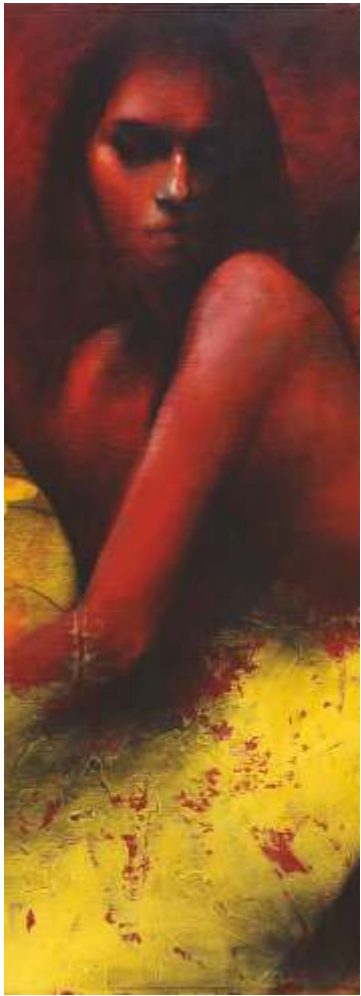


## Reader's Corner

Scents for the  
Bibliophile

Meet The City - August - September 2017

Travel  
Romancing the High Seas



Art  
The Poetry of Art



Weekend Getaway  
Luxury And Beyond  
Coco Shambala



Spazio Spaces  
Arrival of  
Fendi And Trussardi





Vivien Leigh on the set of 'Gone with the Wind'  
© Metro-Goldwin-Mayer Pictures/Sunset Boulevard/Corbis via Getty Images

# Romancing the Fragrance

**Fashion has been celebrated across the world over centuries, essentially because human beings have an intrinsic desire to be seen and applauded. But, fashion has always been dynamic and has constantly evolved over the years. And, while styles and fads pertaining to garments and accessories may come and go and sometimes reappear in a new form many years later, interestingly enough the same can't be said of fragrances. Fragrances tend to be far more personal; more personal than a favourite garment too, lending that 'eternal' air to them. Popular fragrances have in fact always been associated with famous style icons, thereby making them even more precious than ever.**

**From floral whiffs to exotic oriental fragrances, some of the world's leading style icons that were, wore their precious fragrances with much panache.**

*Chaitra Patel finds out more about the personal favourites of some of the world's most cherished and beautiful women.*

# “A woman's perfume tells more about her than her handwriting”.

Christian Dior

Fragrances, unlike clothing and accessories rely heavily on our olfactory memory. Often, the earliest memory of fragrance that we grow up with is of our mothers or grandmothers; sweet smelling, bathed in scents of sandalwood and sometimes wrapped in fragrant aromas from their kitchens. And, that never ceased to be comforting! But, as childhood memories gave way to college life and beyond, there was something truly exciting and romantic about wearing fragrances that are mysterious, seductive and yet sweet and charismatic, all at the same time.

Perfumes and fragrances have this intrinsic ability of becoming the wearer's individual style. After all, fragrances are indeed very personal, very intimate! They can be extremely seductive and romantic too, even if not always intended to be so. Fragrances provide a glimpse into our lives; the way we perceive ourselves or better still, how we want to be perceived or admired by others. The legendary Cleopatra too is believed to have famously evoked the power of fragrance to impress Mark Antony and Caesar; history tells us that she would bath in milk and honey and infuse it with lavender and rose petals to create beautiful fragrances.

From obsessing over the iconic Chanel No. 5 to commissioning Creed Fleurissimo for a royal wedding, celebrities and style icons have always been associated with their favourite brands of perfumes. Marilyn Monroe is even famously reported to have told interviewers that she wears Chanel No. 5 to bed! But naturally, that was not her only favourite! And, like Monroe, there were other style icons too who had their personal favourites.

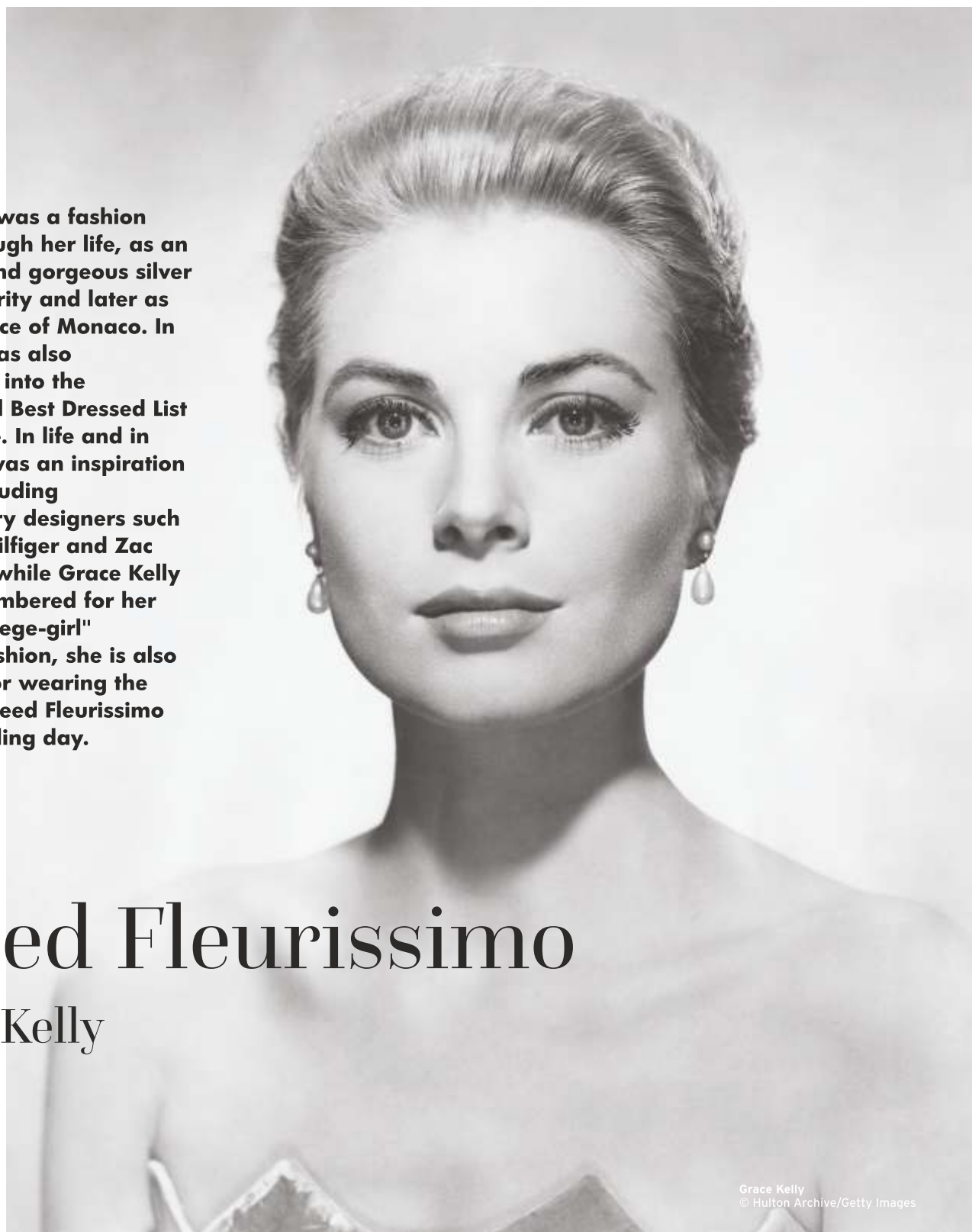




**Grace Kelly was a fashion icon all through her life, as an acclaimed and gorgeous silver screen celebrity and later as Princess Grace of Monaco. In 1960, she was also inaugurated into the International Best Dressed List Hall of Fame. In life and in death, she was an inspiration to many including contemporary designers such as Tommy Hilfiger and Zac Posen. And while Grace Kelly is best remembered for her elegant "college-girl" everyday fashion, she is also renowned for wearing the fragrance Creed Fleurissimo on her wedding day.**

# Creed Fleurissimo

Grace Kelly



Grace Kelly  
© Hulton Archive/Getty Images





In 1956, Prince Rainier specially commissioned the family-owned perfume house Creed to create Fleurissimo for his beautiful bride to complement her wedding bouquet on their big day.

Fleurissimo is a sophisticated blend of Hollywood glamour and elegant aristocracy, comprising of flowers such as tuberose, violets, Florentine iris and Bulgarian rose. A perfect fragrance for a beautiful bride, Fleurissimo has that intrinsic characteristic that makes every woman feel special, ensuring all eyes in the room are on her.

On that big day on April 18, 1956, when Grace Kelly walked down the aisle wearing Creed Fleurissimo at Cathédrale Notre-Dame-Immaculée to become Her Serene Highness Princess Grace of Monaco, she was certainly the most adored bride there was to be!



**L'Interdit by Hubert Givenchy was commissioned to perfumer Francis Fabron by the French designer especially for Audrey Hepburn in 1957. It is widely rumoured that the British beauty and style icon did not want this fragrance to be made available for purchase. This rumour notwithstanding, the fragrance was finally made available for wide purchase in the 1960s.**

# Givenchy L'Interdit

Audrey Hepburn

**A silver screen icon who is remembered for her flawless style, stunning outfits and elfin beauty, Audrey Hepburn was also a model, dancer and above all a fine humanitarian. Her association with Givenchy was a legendary one; Givenchy designed not just her silver screen ensembles that became as famous as her films such as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Funny Face*, but also her personal wardrobe. Such was the influence of Givenchy on Hepburn's style that she stated, "His are the only clothes in which I am myself. He is far more than a couturier, he is a creator of personality". Indeed, Givenchy could have found no better muse than Hepburn herself!**



Audrey Hepburn  
© Bud Fraker/John Kobal Foundation/Getty Images



Audrey Hepburn  
© Getty Images



Audrey Hepburn from a still for 'Breakfast at Tiffany's'  
© Donaldson Collection/Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images



Audrey Hepburn  
© Getty Images

The word L'Interdit in French means 'Forbidden'. And, it earned its name when Audrey Hepburn said, "But I forbid you!", quite taken aback by the idea of Givenchy making this fragrance available for mass purchase. A aldehydic floral scent, the original notes of L'Interdit include galbanum, pepper, clove, strawberry, aldehydes, rose, jasmine, jonquil, violet, sandalwood, amber, musk, benzoin, iris, patchouli, vetiver, frankincense and tonka bean. An elegant and yet youthful fragrance, this perfume perfectly complemented Hepburn, who was everybody's idea of the flawless dream girl!

With Givenchy stepping down in 1995, the fashion house got taken over by Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy. By 2002, the new owners decided to unveil the L'Interdit in a new form, which was fruity floral. The design house commissioned perfumers Jean Guichard and Olivier Gillotin to rework the essence of the original fragrance, retaining many of the original notes.

Five years later in 2007, coinciding with Givenchy's 80th birthday and 50 years from the first launch of L'Interdit, the master couturier released reissues of the original formulae of 10 of his most cherished fragrances. This collection was called Les Mythiques and also featured the L'Interdit, albeit with the addition of pink pepper.





Senator John F. Kennedy and fiancée Jacqueline Bouvier go sailing while on vacation.  
© Hy Peskin/Getty Images



First Lady Jackie Kennedy  
© Art Rickerby/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

# Joy by Jean Patou

Jackie Kennedy & Vivien Leigh

**For years, Joy by Jean Patou was renowned as the most expensive perfume in the world. Naturally, the fragrance was most befitting of the First Lady of the United States and a global style icon - Jacqueline Kennedy, endearingly known to the world Jackie Kennedy!**

**Hollywood's Vivien Leigh too, was elegance personified. But, while she was never really perceived as a typical style icon, unlike her contemporaries Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe, the British powerhouse was a great devotee of Joy by Jean Patou.**

Joy was created by perfumer Henri Alméras, for the Parisian couturier Jean Patou. For being labelled as one of the most expensive fragrances in the world, interestingly the creation of Joy had rather 'humble' beginnings. Back in a time when Wall Street was affected by the Crash of 1929, signalling the onset of the 12-year Great Depression, much of Patou's affluent and well-heeled American clientele found their fortunes to be diminishing. Joy was conceived as a reaction to this economically draining time and yet surprisingly, its elevated price tag did not thwart its success and popularity. Joy has by far been Jean Patou's most celebrated fragrance and one of the most successful fragrances of all time. In 2002, the house of Jean Patou introduced a contemporary take on Joy meant for younger women, and called it Enjoy!

What makes Joy very special is its composition. 10,000 jasmine flowers and 28 dozen roses and other flowers such as ylang ylang, michelia and tuberose are used to create 30 ml of parfum, ensuring this wonderful floral fragrance does not smell of any one particular flower. In 2000, Joy was voted 'Scent of the Century' at the Fragrance Foundation's FiFi Awards, beating its rival and another legend Chanel No. 5.







# Jean Desprez Bal à Versailles

Elizabeth Taylor

**"Burton turned and crookedly smiled at Elizabeth. He picked up a cup of coffee and spilled a little as his hand was seized by a hangover tremor. Instinctively she reached out and steadied the cup. Gently her hand cupped his and guided the coffee to his lips. His eyes fell into hers and locked there for eternity",**

So writes Lanier Smith, a story teller of fragrances, in his blog Scents Memory.

Elizabeth Taylor  
All Photos © Silver Screen Collection/Getty Images

The romantic encounter that took place on the 1963 film sets of Cleopatra involved the stunning Elizabeth Taylor and the formidable Shakespearean actor Richard Burton. The rest as they say, is history; a scandal that tore apart their respective marriages, a tempestuous romance, 2 marriages and 2 divorces! But, the tiny fact that has perhaps been given a miss through this entire 'scandalous' life is of the fragrance that Elizabeth Taylor was wearing on the sets of Cleopatra. Bal à Versailles is the one!



The name Bal à Versailles means 'Ball at Versailles'. Regarded as one of the most sensuous fragrances in the world, Bal à Versailles was first conceived to invoke the memory of a bygone decadent era, complete with candlelit ballroom dances and aristocratic ladies.

Bal à Versailles, a masterpiece fragrance by Jean Desprez is categorised as an oriental floral fragrance that was created for the women of 1962. Warm and richly textured, Bal à Versailles is a combination of flowers and musk with strong notes of orange blossom, rosemary, sandalwood and vanilla. The original formula created in 1962 contained over 300 of the purest, most expensive of natural ingredients. The Bal à Versailles is indeed a classical timeless indulgence!



**A more recent style icon to our list is the stunning Princess Diana! And, much like Princess Grace of Monaco, Princess Diana too wore a beautiful floral fragrance on her wedding day. Diana, Princess of Wales was known for her impeccable style that influenced an entire generation of women and girls across the world; the most iconic perhaps being the way she wore her hair, making it almost a must-have fashion trend for young women in the 90s.**

## Quelques Fleurs

### Princess Diana

**While Diana was very fond of 24 Faubourg by Hermès and Diorissimo by Christian Dior, she is also remembered for the fragrance she wore on the day she married the man who would someday be King. When Lady Diana Spencer walked down the aisle at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1981, to be wedded to Britain's most eligible bachelor - Prince Charles, she was bathed in the floral fragrance of Quelques Fleurs.**



Diana, Princess of Wales  
© Tim Graham/Getty Images



Diana, Princess of Wales with her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, at the piano.  
© Tim Graham/Getty Images

A floral scent, Quelques Fleurs comprises of notes of tuberose, rose and jasmine and has been a favourite with women since its creation in 1912. Because of its soft blend of a variety of floral scents, Quelques Fleurs is perfect for a chic evening out.

Quelques Fleurs is a very celebrated perfume, comparable only to Chanel No. 5. Interestingly, the exact notes used in this perfume have never been made available. There is however an official description of this fragrance, which describes it as, "One of the most renowned and admired fragrances of all time, Quelques Fleurs L'Original forever changed floral fragrances when it became the first true multi-floral bouquet 90 years ago. A classic that has endured the test of time, the fragrance is wrapped in a theme of sculptured petals in a frosted French glass. The true Quelques Fleurs formula has never been published. An ancient formula still kept in the family archives, this fragrance will never be duplicated. This blend of soft, sensual florals uses over 250 different raw materials and more than 15,000 flowers to create just one ounce of Quelques Fleurs eau de parfum. To this day it is still produced in Grasse, France, where Jean Francois Houbigant first created his perfumes in 1775."

Now, we know what makes Quelques Fleurs that much more sought after and priceless!



Prince Charles & Princess Diana stand on the balcony of Buckingham Palace after their wedding ceremony.  
© Express Newspapers/Getty Images





Marilyn Monroe  
All Photos © Getty Images



# Floris Rose Geranium

## Marilyn Monroe

While Marilyn Monroe was obviously a great fan of Chanel No. 5, it was apparently not the only fragrance she wore. In 2002, it was revealed that Monroe also loved Floris Rose Geranium, an uncommon sort of fragrance that comprises of a classic composition of rose, geranium, sandalwood, citronella and cedarwood. Such was her secret fondness for this fragrance that she had it delivered in bulk to her hotel at Beverly Hills, while she was filming for 'Some Like It Hot'.

Floris Rose Geranium, a British eau de toilette was first introduced in 1890. The version created then comprised of pink geraniums. Fresh and citric nuances laced with rose, this classic fresh fragrance created an illusion of green lime, with a strong base note that was woody.

Sadly, Floris London does not make this fragrance anymore. What they do continue to create however, is a version of the eau de toilette, the Floris Rose Geranium Bath Essence. The Bath Essence is a highly concentrated version, which is added to warm bath water to soothe and scent the skin.







Picture a group of young men, nattily dressed and well groomed, gathered at the Erbil Citadel or the Qalat (as it is locally referred to), a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Erbil – the capital of the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Sharp suits, trimmed beards, brogue shoes, elegant neckwear; indeed, every woman's idea of the perfectly turned-out gentleman! Meet Mr. Erbil – the city's first and only gentlemen's club comprising of the finest dressed men in town.

*Chaitra Patel spoke to 'Mr. Erbil' and discovered a gentlemen's club with a difference – one that is determined to turn its ideas into reality even in the face of adversity.*

# men's Club





Mr. Erbil comprises of a cross section of young men, from different walks of life. Aged anywhere between 18 and 32 years, religiously and ethnically diverse, these young men also pursue varied professions. Yet, a common thread that binds them together is a keen sense of style and fashion.

Approximately 350 kilometres north of Baghdad, lies the ancient city of Erbil that dates back to 5000 BC. The capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, Erbil is home to an ethnically diverse population and a number of cultures. Since the winding down of the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, Erbil was perceived as a hub for development, much like Dubai. It offered all the trappings of a modern life that a global city offers - a thriving nightlife, an international airport with modern amenities, malls housing a number of global retail brands, and so much more.

This boom however was short-lived. By the summer of 2014, Erbil was battling the dark and ugly face of militancy led by the Islamic State in the region, and the subsequent migration by Syrian and Iraqi refugees to Iraqi Kurdistan. Hardly the ideal backdrop one would imagine, for fashion to thrive. But, that's precisely where and how stereotypes are broken!

A group of young fashion-conscious Kurdish men that collectively go by the name of Mr. Erbil is now seeking to project a hopeful and cheerful image of the region and bring about a wave of social change along the way.

All Photos © Mr. Erbil





These young men are certainly inspired by fashion trends from Europe. Yet, the very essence of their style and character is Kurdish, reminiscent of a time bygone when Kurdish men would dress up in their very best.

### Men from All Walks of Life

Mr. Erbil comprises of a cross section of young men, from different walks of life. Aged anywhere between 18 and 32 years, religiously and ethnically diverse, these young men also pursue varied professions. Yet, a common thread that binds them together is a keen sense of style and fashion. "We expanded our group of men from just 3 to 30; our 30 men share a common interest for designing and styling their own fashion, while also remaining passionate towards bringing about positive change", say the gents of Mr. Erbil.

These young men are certainly inspired by fashion trends from Europe. Yet, the very essence of their style and character is Kurdish, reminiscent of a time bygone when Kurdish men would dress up in their very best. The group conducts social gatherings for its members against the backdrop of some of Erbil's notable monumnets where they preen and pose for photographs and at other times also meet at local cafés.

### The Power of Fashion

While their attire may be 'Western' in every sense, these young men are much more than just hipsters or fashion influencers! They use their refined sense of fashion to draw attention to more serious issues that plague our times, such as women's rights, environment protection and encouraging the growth of home-grown local businesses.

The first gathering of Mr. Erbil, called the 'Gents Gathering 2016', took place last year under economic circumstances otherwise not so pleasant. The country was plagued with a failing economy, volatile political landscapes and a complete lack of resources. With really not much to lose in a scenario such as this, the young men met for the first time with the intention of simply being the 'best dandies in town'. Pleasantly, they were met with an unwavering response and enthusiasm, which in turn set them thinking about using the group as a platform to push for a greater agenda of social change.

**"We wanted to, not only bring attention to the necessity of women's rights, the protection of our environment, and our failing economy, but also to figure out ways to resolve these issues within our region. During this time, we faced many obstacles such as our failing economy, and the political issues that were brought on because of it. Despite our lack of resources, we were determined to turn our ideas into reality".**  
-Mr. Erbil





All Photos © Mr. Erbil

They even released a video in 14 different languages, which promotes a strong message of putting an end to violence against women.



### **Taking Social Media by Storm**

“One of our greatest platforms has been social media”, say the young men. And how!

Since their social media launch last year, the group has garnered over 86,000 Instagram followers and over 35,000 Facebook followers to their credit. As part of the group's agenda to support women's rights, its Instagram and Facebook pages also feature a series called 'Thursday's Inspiration Girl'. “We show our support for ladies who are active in our community and active in achieving their personal goals”, say the gallant gents. They even released a video in 14 different languages, which promotes a strong message of putting an end to violence against women.



Mr. Erbil too seeks to promote the crafts of Kurdistan through their style and promote Kurdish culture on an international platform.

### Grow Local, Buy Local

Much like a host of fashion designers across the world who encourage the use of locally-spun fabric and home-grown artistry, Mr. Erbil too seeks to promote the crafts of Kurdistan through their style and promote Kurdish culture on an international platform.

With an aim to help revive and grow the economy, Mr. Erbil focusses on creating opportunities for local businesses to thrive in. "Our goal is to become more dependent on local goods with the hope of providing jobs as well as providing goods that were hard to come by before", they say. The members of the group patronise local tailors and encourage them to design and craft their suits, all out of fabric that is local and home-grown too.

The attempt to go local however does not stop at garments and fabric. One of Mr. Erbil's noteworthy achievements and perhaps a natural outcome of most of the members wearing perfectly manicured beards themselves, has been a men's grooming company by the name of Rishn. A luxury brand, Rishn provides hand-crafted beard-grooming products such as beard oil, moustache wax and more, all produced in Kurdistan. Today, Rishn is not just a success story in Erbil, but enjoys the patronage of customers from overseas as well.



All Photos © Mr. Erbil





### What Next?

The gathering of well-groomed and dapper gentlemen at Mr. Erbil goes beyond merely the idea of fine clothes and taking photographs. Their goal next is to also have their own clothing line, which will allow members a chance at getting creative with fashion that they can wear for their 'Gents Gatherings'.

The group also envisions having its own gentlemen's club house, complete with a tailor and barber shop that will allow the gents to enjoy their time, have a haircut or get a custom suit tailored to fit their highest fashion needs.

While this band of young men is all set to introduce the world to their homeland and their culture, they have also been keeping busy by associating themselves with noteworthy events such as a conference by the Kurdish European Medical Student Organization and lending their name to the CHRO Project that will bring a cancer research centre to Kurdistan. Indeed, social change is a wonderful way to introduce the world to Kurdistan!



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# OREMUS

## A Matter of Fine Fragrance

**Wine - An Enigma in a Bottle!**

By Shagun Mehra



The deepest flavors in wine rest in the aromas of this mysterious beverage. When one swirls the glass, oxygen penetrates in the wine and discloses the enigma in the bottle. There are innumerable wines in beautiful cellars and exciting wine lists that can perfume a glass, but there are a few special ones that will inscribe themselves unforgettably in our tasting memory. These wines linger, tease and seduce. They articulate their character voraciously and cast a magical spell unto those that encounter it.



“This wine invigorates every fibre of my brain, deep in my soul, produces a charming glint of intelligence & good humour”

Voltaire (1694-1778) on Tokaji

One such glorious wine comes from Hungary. It is rare, silky, perfumed and impossible to forget. With aromas of zesty orange peel dipped in a jar of golden forest honey, sprinkled with wild floral petals and with bits of the sweetest figs, this wine is surprisingly refreshing with its acidity.

Tokaji, also called Tokay is one of the oldest wines in the world, with vineyards dating as early as 12th Century BC. These old vine plants have stood relentlessly in volcanic soils of these hallowed vineyards for years at end, spectating kingdoms and conquests, spinning many romantic tales.



#### Wine -Tokay/Tokaji

Drinking Tokaji wine in Hungary. Liebig card, Wine (French: Le Vin), 1895.  
Image : Culture Club/Getty Images.



The Tokaj region rests under the Zemplen Mountains in the north of Hungary. It is a World Heritage Site since 2002 and consists of 28 quaint villages. It has clay volcanic soil, which is highly nutritious and intermingles with large rivers that provide enough humidity to this special vine plant. Tokaj is also one of Europe's first classified regions, hence one of the oldest wine regions on the globe.

While the world commonly enjoys drinking dry red and white wines, Tokaji offers wines in a different direction. Velvety sweet white wines with invigorating acidity and flavors that will humble the mightiest of kings. Not only are these wines deservedly expensive, they are also quite rare. Tokay comes from a grape called Furmint. This is a species of grape that ripens late, hence the wine is usually sweet because the grape is plucked when it has almost become a raisin on the vine.



**Edward Dmytryk And Richard Burton**

The actor Richard BURTON, the director EDWARD DMYTRYK and his wife leaving TOKAJ's wine cellar of the hotel Duna Intercontinental, Budapest.

Image : Keystone-France/Gamma-Keystone via Getty Images.



All Photos © Vega Sicilia/ Oremus





Each year before harvest, the wine maker prays for his vineyards to be affected by a special kind of rot. As ridiculous as it sounds, this particular rot, called *Botrytis Cinerea* attaches itself to the grapes causing them to shrivel and turn into raisins. The sugar in the grape intensifies while the rot itself renders complex aromas and flavors like ginger, honey and beeswax to the wine. The result is an astounding fragrant and complex wine that unfolds itself in waves that echo in the mouth.

Tokaji is a topaz colored wine, which is usually enjoyed as a dessert wine, but there are also some spectacular examples of dry and off-dry Tokaji. The best ones are the sweetest ones. Sugar in these wines dictates its quality. The more concentrated the sugar, the rarer the wine. These grapes are plucked in icy winters, much later than other wine harvests. One will find *puttonyos* on the bottle, which is the measure of the sweetness as well as the quality. Sweetness can vary in these wines. From crisp dry Tokaji, to 6 *puttonyos*, these wines are amongst the top wines of the world.



All Photos © Vega Sicilia/ Oremus











If there is one experience that that can elevate the flavor of a beautiful glass of wine, it is a beautiful plate of food. And it is also the other way around. This is the beauty of the marriage of food and wine; they amplify each other's virtues. This romance between the two needs to be carefully orchestrated. If appropriately curated, they can result in melodious notes that will leave their audience captured. Forever!

A scented sweet wine like Tokaji is usually thought about with desserts. Its velvety texture is perfect, with a strong cheese like a blue veined cheese. The saltiness and creaminess of the cheese pairs with the sweet yet delicate acidity of the Tokaji. The lingering aromas of the wine stand strong with the strength of the blue veined cheese.

Pairing food with wine can be a tricky exercise. Trial and error of course helps, but so does some reading. There are some classic combinations and some drastic disasters in the game of food and wine pairing. Aromas play a large part in taste. This is the exact reason why we can't taste our food properly when we have a cold. Hence the smell of crisp bacon always smells irresistible when doused with maple syrup. The





same logic applies to wine. Every food exudes certain aromas and when one smells the wine alongside, the pairing can be decided by the smell alone. Then of course comes the textures and the flavors.

Tokaji is an expressive wine and lends very complex aromas as well as flavors. From lemon rind and orange peel to dark coffee, this wine is highly recommended to taste at least once in life. "Tokaji, the Wine of Kings and the King of Wines" is how Louis XIV described it.

One winery that produces this wondrous wine is a 300-year old site called Oremus. It has earned amongst the highest recognitions, world over. Besides making some very special Tokaji, they also make a very special wine called Eszencia. Each grape is hand-picked and the noble grape's juice is collected drop by drop to form this priceless nectar. It undergoes an extremely slow maturation of two years (as opposed to regular wines, which average ferment for a few days!), lending a mind-boggling intensity to this wine and much anticipation and patience. It is said that this wine is practically indestructible. One could tuck away a bottle of Eszencia for more than a century. Tokaji wines can be ageless.



**Shagun Mehra**  
Guest Columnist

**Shagun Mehra studied at the coveted Ecole Les Roches in Switzerland and then went on to study Culinary Arts at Le Cordon Bleu, Paris. Here, she fell in love with wines and decided to pursue wines integrally in her career, alongside food.**

**Shagun started the first school of wine in Mumbai in 2007 after acquiring the Advanced Level 3 in Wines from WEST UK. Today, she tastes wines, styles and cooks food and travels the world, exposing herself through her gastronomic journeys.**



# Scents

## for the Bibliophile

In an age when Kindle editions of famous book titles are increasingly popular, there is perhaps nothing that quite compares to the thrill of actually holding a book in your hands. In our digital world, where artificial intelligence helps us navigate through the maze of the day, schedule our meetings, listen to music and monitor our sleep patterns and health, books seem like steadfast companions that help us get through each day. And, while technology is a wonderful thing, it certainly cannot beat the charm of touching and smelling a real book. Or as Karl Lagerfeld says, "The smell of a freshly printed book is the best smell in the world".

The smell of books incites heavy nostalgia. So, it's only befitting that literature and fragrances collaborate to create wonderful scents that remind us of renowned books or authors. These fragrances narrate mesmerising tales of a seductive romance with books.

*Chaitra Patel flips through some of the fragrances that would be perfect on the vanity table or perhaps even in the library.*



Who ever said that beauty and brains don't complement one another, obviously had never tried a fragrance that has been inspired by famous poetry or prose or a legendary author. The next time you dive deep into nostalgia and crave for a comforting fragrance, just reach out for one that reminds you of a wilting yellowed paper back, or the vineyards of Florence or even better, the very aloof yet romantic Mr. Darcy.



Oscar Wilde  
© Apic/Getty Images

## Wilde Eau de Parfum

**By Jardins d'Écrivains**

According to Jardins d'Écrivains, this unisex perfume pays tribute to those "aesthetes who are striving to become what they are". This aromatic and fruity fragrance was launched in 2013 and is a classic English fragrance, with Victorian characteristics that pay tribute to Oscar Wilde's gigantic literary stature and the power of his words.

Oscar Wilde

Wilde eau de parfum exhibits top notes of bergamot and grape, middle notes of fig, carnation and tea and base notes of oak moss and vetiver. Interestingly, the inclusion of the carnation in the fragrance subtly hints at the Victorian manner in which the flower served as a secret or coded message to a suitor or lover. Perhaps, one of the reasons for critics in modern times to often bemoan this classic fragrance!



## Dead Writers Perfume

### By Sweet Tea Apothecary

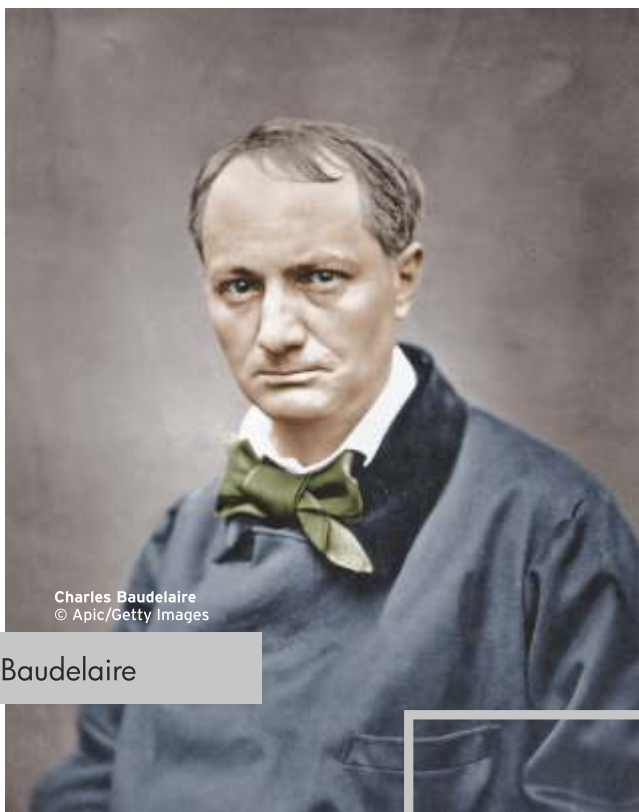
It's easy to be put-off by the name of this fragrance. But, don't be! As much as the name can be misleading, Dead Writers Perfume really pays glowing tribute to that wondrous feeling of sitting in a library surrounded by yellowing copies of much cherished titles. This unisex fragrance makes you simply want to curl up on the sofa with a warm cup of hot chocolate or coffee, and allow the characters deftly created by the likes of Hemingway, Jane Austen, Beatrix Potter and Edgar Allen Poe, to acquaint themselves with you through prose.

Dead Writers Perfume contains notes of black tea, clove, musk, vanilla, heliotrope and vetiver (*khus* as we know it in Hindi). Quite a heady concoction, adept at fuelling some great ideas in themselves!



Beatrix Potter  
© Hulton Archive/Getty Images

Beatrix Potter



Charles Baudelaire  
© Apic/Getty Images

Charles Baudelaire

## Baudelaire

### By Byredo

Distinctly masculine and unquestionably romantic, this leathery eau de parfum is inspired by French poet and art critic Charles Baudelaire, particularly his poem *Parfum Exotique*. The fragrance contains complex layers of juniper berries and pepper that make up the top notes, hyacinth, incense and leather that create the middle notes and patchouli, amber and papyrus that complete the perfume as its base notes.

Baudelaire, much like Byredo's other perfumes draws heavy inspiration from its founder Ben Gorham's olfactory memories from the visits to his mother's home town in India. The aroma of spices and the fragrance of incense have served as muse for much of his creations.

**"... A lazy isle to which nature has given singular trees, savory fruits, men with bodies vigorous and slender, and women in whose eyes shines a startling candor ..."**

(Baudelaire, *Les Fleurs duMal*, *Parfum exotique*, 5-8)



Jane Austen  
© Stock Montage/Getty Images



Jane Austen



Simone de Beauvoir



## She Came to Stay

By Timothy Han / Edition Perfumes

Perfumes crafted by Timothy Han/Edition are inspired by famous literature and creative thinkers. In the words of the brand, "We craft olfactory stories that unfold on your skin over time". One such legend is the perfume She Came to Stay, inspired by French author Simone de Beauvoir's 1943 novel by the same name.

The novel, set in Paris during World War II, explores existential concepts such as freedom and angst. Much in the same vein, its fragrant namesake (currently in its second edition; the first edition was an award-winning debut fragrance) holds a mirror to the ever-changing human nature of 'sense' or 'self', when faced with a situation on the very edge of change.

She Came to Stay is a unisex perfume that contains warm, woody notes of labdanum, patchouli and oak moss and captures the individuality of the wearer's spirit, prompting critics to call it "beautifully addictive". This fragrance displays notes of cedarwood and vetiver, before finally revealing a lightness that is fringed with a touch of basil and lemon. A distinctive characteristic of She Came to Stay is that it evolves gradually, eventually taking on the personality of the wearer. Or, in other words, according to Timothy Han/ Edition, "give it time to settle on your skin and allow it to tell your personal story".

## Poe's Tobacco No. 1

By TokyoMilk

Poe's Tobacco No. 1 pays tribute to the cultured notion of American author Edgar Allan Poe sitting on his porch, while he smokes tobacco and pens his notes in a leather-bound journal. Perhaps this could be the start of something legendary; poems replete with despair such as The Raven or Ulalume. The fragrance of the tobacco lingers on and fills the air by creating a certain calmness all around.

It is this 'soothing' fragrance that feels like home and has been captured by TokyoMilk and bottled into a perfume

Featuring a raven on the packaging, Poe's Tobacco No. 1 is a unisex fragrance and induces nostalgia with the rich notes of crushed and distilled tobacco, tea leaves, amber wood and autumn apple.

Poe's Tobacco No. 1 is a decadent and timeless fragrance in every sense, reminiscent of a bygone era! Critics say that the deep and warm scent is best worn on a chilly winter night by the fire or a warm summer night on the porch.



'Open here I flung the shutter, when with many a flirt and flutter,  
In there stepped a stately raven of the saintly days of yore.....'  
From 'The Raven' by Edgar Allan Poe.  
© Rischgitz/Getty Images)

## Paper Passion

By Gerhard Steidl and Geza Schoen

Given his love for the smell of books, Karl Lagerfeld writes, "Beautiful paper is for me the top of luxury. I am a paper freak. It's a physical passion. I cannot live without paper. Touching perfect paper has something sensuous about it". It is hardly surprising then that he would also be involved in the creation and packaging of a fragrance that pays tribute to the very smell of books.

Paper Passion is a perfume that has been born out of a unique collaboration; one between a boutique perfumer, a fashion icon and renowned designer, and a publishing house. Launched by the international design and style bible Wallpaper Magazine, Paper Passion marks the significant

association between Geza Schoen and Gerhard Steidl with Karl Lagerfeld, as well as Günter Grass and Tony Chambers.

The scent reveals a tale of passion and the desire to bottle the fragrance of freshly printed books.

The packaging, designed by Karl Lagerfeld is fashioned like an actual book that opens like one too, bearing a hidden cut-out section that houses the perfume bottle. The front of the book carries short write ups by Karl Lagerfeld, Günter Grass and Geza Schoen on the subject of books and published works. Certainly, a perfume designed to relax a true book lover just the way a book does, while it celebrates the very 'sensuality' of paper and literature.



Karl Lagerfeld



Karl Lagerfeld  
© Antonio de Moraes Barros Filho/WireImage



Günter Grass

Günter Grass  
© Lieberenz/ullstein bild via Getty Images.

**"You have a book, you open it, there's a bottle inside and it smells of a book. It might be quirky, but the idea has a simplicity, a linearity"**

- Geza Schoen, for Paper Passion.



E.M. Forster



E.M. Forster  
© Hulton-Deutsch Collection/CORBIS/Corbis via Getty Images

A Room with a View

**By CB I Hate Perfume**

Inspired by a scene narrated towards the end of chapter six of the literary work A Room with a View by E M Forster, this perfume named after the book itself, captures the fragrance of the hills above Florence, its vineyards, the hot and dusty Florentine earth and a gush of violets.

Created by Christopher Brosius for CB I Hate Perfume's Metamorphosis Series and in his words, A Room with a View was conceived to arouse "the moment when one simple beautiful gesture can transform an entire life". Truly, this fragrance has been designed to smell like a simple beautiful gesture

Reminiscent of the Edwardian era, this floral scent balances the fragrance of the violets with the very naive scents of fennel and grass. And, unlike the otherwise overpowering and candied fragrance of other violets, this perfume is fascinatingly light, transporting the wearer to the Florentine plains.



E.M. Forster

"She did not answer. From her feet the ground sloped sharply into view, and violets ran down in rivulets and streams and cataracts, irrigating the hillside with blue, eddying round the tree stems, collecting into pools in the hollows, covering the grass with spots of azure foam. But never again were they in such profusion; the terrace was the well-head, the primal source whence beauty gushed out to water the earth.

Standing at its brink, like a swimmer who prepares, was the good man. But he was not the good man that she had expected, and he was alone.

George had turned at the sound of her arrival. For a moment he contemplated her, as one who has fallen out of heaven. He saw radiant joy in her face, he saw the flowers beat against her dress in blue waves. The bushes above them closed. He stepped quickly forward and kissed her."

- Excerpt from chapter six of A Room with a View



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Kharadi, Pune.



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Romance, perhaps, is the most remarkable example of a term widely used but sparsely understood. Unlike today's social course, it is far beyond a cultural obsession and an imperial ideal. From being a language in mid-17th century to evolving in to a movement for natural love, the term 'Romance' has come a long way. To the closest that we can reach, romance is a feeling of excitement, mystery, and remoteness from everyday life. Of course, love is its most beautiful companion. We don't mean to turn down the flowers but romance is much more fleeting and mysterious than what we are told.

# Romancing

## The High Seas

Romance can be found in indulgence; when you indulge in the dusk, reflecting the lesser bright rays while capturing the moment. Or, when you listen to the sounds of crushing waves against a silent backdrop while savouring a decadent meal in an exclusively tailored set up. Maybe, the idea of romance is all about the vibes it has to offer.

Less of a feeling and more of an experience, romance never got its knots untied with the high seas and cruises. Constantly, meeting the horizons, the high seas add an elusive touch to the idea of romance. An experience so amazing that it takes a happy toll on your senses and makes you realise that there is nothing better than 'Romancing the High Seas' with your loved one. And, perhaps the best possible way to experience this on a cruise ship!

Less of a feeling and more of an experience, romance never got its knots untied with the high seas and cruises. Constantly, meeting the horizons, the high seas add an elusive touch to the idea of romance.

**Maheep Singh Rathore jots down some of the best cruise experiences there are, and helps you plan a memorable cruise holiday with your cherished one.**



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## Experience Nature's Own Lightning Show and Mighty Norwegian Fjords

### Expedition Voyages

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Far-off lands have always been associated with an idea of 'a romance to be remembered'. Sail to the farthest of the lands in the North and savour the majestic views by some of the world's most breath-taking fjords. A Norwegian Fjord and Spitsbergen cruise provides you with a chance to appreciate incredible natural beauty across an incomparable and astonishing landscape. The voyage to a sparsely populated place comes with various *avatars* of the high seas. The frozen white, the pristine flowing blues, arctic wilderness, majestic fjords, and your cherished one- you definitely can't fall out of love with the high seas on this cruise.

Cruises to 80-degree North, offered by 'Expedition Voyages', provide you with

various options to customize your tour. Nature is no one's bounty. And apart from the elements of romance, this expedition is ruled by arctic weather, chilled winds and ice conditions.

Step aboard on MS Nordstjernen in Hamburg and sail downwards along the beautiful Elbe river towards the open sea. As the cruise sails through, it gives you a perfect balance between a sumptuous and spacious atmosphere and the ability to traverse many incredible destinations on its way.

Sail into the magnificent Lysefjord known for its scenic highlights, including the world renowned Preikestolen or Pulpit rock. When off cruise, you have the opportunity to explore the oil capital of Norway-



© Expedition Voyages



Stavanger. The cruise strolls through the quaint streets of Bergen where you can enjoy famous sites like Hakon's Hall and Rosenkrantz Tower, St. Mary's church, Bergen Harbour and the famous fish market.

Experience surreal settings of steep mountainsides, roaring waterfalls and deep valleys, as you set your eyes on Geirangerfjord inarguably the most famous fjord in the world, and for good reasons. Among other recommended sites, you can look out for the famous waterfalls named 'Seven Sisters'. Enter Tromso and spectacle nature's very own light show- The Northern Lights. You might get a glimpse of northern lights in some areas but Tromso is where it truly sparkles. To add to the spectacle, marvel at mighty blue fjords under the northern lights, hundreds of beaches,

and the drama of the Lyngen Alps. Witness all the marvellous sceneries in the Land of the Midnight Sun. After visiting the Norwegian coast and Barentsburg, the day will be spent cruising towards the Monaco glacier. If the ice conditions have got your back, the cruise will move towards 80-dgeree North, towards Moffen, an island that is a home to Walruses. The landscape casts its spell more with U-shape valleys carved out of the mountains, as we move towards Longyearbyen.

A trip of this magnitude doesn't end here. Somewhere, it makes you crave more for the High Seas and its unending horizons. This experience definitely will set you longing for the high seas.





© Scenic Eclipse Luxury Cruises & Tours

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## Bespoke Cruising Experiences

### Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours

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There are cruise lines that offer the best of luxury and comfort and then there are cruises by Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours; bespoke and utterly unmatched by any other! The UK-based cruise line that specialises in river and ocean cruising is undoubtedly quite a few notches higher than any other cruise line in the category. And, while you are aboard a Scenic cruise, be rest assured that bespoke luxury is a standard, both onboard and onshore.

What truly makes a cruise aboard a Scenic ship stand out from the crowd, is the attention to detail. Their cruises honour the beauty of time and let you soak in the culture and charm of every port you alight at, as you embark on a water-route less travelled. They call it the 'Scenic Route', untrodden by others and bespoke and thoughtful in every sense - luxuriously appointed suites replete with state of the art technology and even your own personal butler! And, that is only the beginning of many wonders to unravel, as you gently cruise the Mediterranean coastline or explore the final frontier of Antarctica or journey to the top of the world to see the breathtakingly spectacular scenery of the Norwegian Fjords and Arctic as you would also traverse the alluring waterways of Asia and Europe.

If enchanting culture, colossal architecture and astounding history appeal to your refined senses, an ocean cruise through the Mediterranean, on board the Scenic Eclipse is certainly a must-try. Book your seats now, because this cruise promises to be like none other – the Scenic Eclipse is the world's first Discovery Yacht and launches in the Mediterranean in August 2018.

A 9-day tour of the Mediterranean aboard the Scenic Eclipse will transport you from ancient Athens to artistic Venice, inclusive of your return flights from the UK. The Discovery Yacht, a modern-day marvel in its own right, accommodates 228 guests. But, don't be overwhelmed by that figure! Because, everything else onboard the Scenic Eclipse has been designed only to provide you with the most intimate and bespoke of experiences. The 6-star Scenic Eclipse offers an opulent stay that includes a choice of 11 unique dining experiences, lounges and bars, live entertainment, 100% spacious verandah suites, an exclusive spa sanctuary and an unlimited supply of beverages, of course among a host of other onboard features. The good folk aboard the Scenic Eclipse want you to stay fit through your entire cruise too. From an impressive wellness centre, multiple pool areas and a gym and yoga/ Pilates studio, they have it all covered for you!

If you thought the Scenic Eclipse has got everything to get you to stay onboard, then think again! Well, they do, but then, the cruise line also offers enough reasons and experiences for you to disembark at port and explore the wonders of nature and fascinating culture that surround you. The Scenic Eclipse docks at the most unique of locations and small ports that exhibit the stunning beauty of each destination. For a spot of adventure, the Scenic Eclipse will also help you disembark at some of the ports by late night.

From the volcanic islands of Greece to the ancient city walls of Dubrovnik in southern Croatia, when you cruise along the Mediterranean on the Scenic Eclipse, you are free to choose from 25 Scenic Freechoice shore excursions to 6 ports, or interact with the Discovery Leaders onboard who will gladly share their insights about the environment, history and culture of each region as you explore on. And after a long day of discovery and excursion, you get back to some much-desired luxury and pampering; the staff onboard is only too happy to oblige. Ahoy to that!

The Scenic Eclipse is the world's first  
Discovery Yacht and launches in the Mediterranean in August 2018.





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## Sleep on the Deck, Under a Starry Sky

### The SeaDream Yacht Club

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Not many cruises allow you to sleep on the deck under the stars. The SeaDream Yacht Club is an exception. This private luxury cruise line offers some truly unique listings on board. Cosy up on the deck in a queen-sized bed as dusk takes on the already scenic voyage. As you lie down under the starry sheet on Balinese daybeds, the rhythmic movements of the ship and the sounds of waves will lull you to sleep as the ship sails on to its next destination. Although the cruises have every amped up event to offer, you can certainly spare some solitude to enjoy a margarita and a good book under the sun, thanks to the limited 112 passengers on board. Fares are all inclusive of

wines, spirits, and tips. The twin mega yachts SeaDream1 and SeaDream2 are favoured over any other cruise vacation because of their elegant informality and highly personalised service. A fleet of 95 servers make every guest feel like they are on their very own luxury yacht. Taking the personalised service a few notches higher, guests are also provided with monogrammed pyjamas, with their names embroidered on it. When off surfboard, the cruise staff organises beach picnics and guests are served Champagnes and caviar. Not just a cruise, this is a bespoke lifestyle, aboard these intimate vessels.





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## Scuba Diving in the Open Sea

### **Royal Caribbean International Cruise**

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Adventure provides just the right combination of thrill and romance; a blend that also happens to be the perfect decoy to fall in love with. Take an adventurous cruise that will bear experiences that you will remember fondly, ever after. Marine life unfolds at an entirely different pace with an ominous silence and colour, which never ceases to surprise. After indulging in luxuries on-board, head out for a dip in the crystal-clear water of the Caribbean for a unique diving experience. Swim over the green grass, flowers, pathways, rocks, and caves with your partner and explore some unspoiled natural treasures as you swim along. The underwater world, just somewhere in the middle of the open sea, is sure to leave you mesmerised. This is where, romance takes an adventurous turn!

The Royal Caribbean International Cruise offers scuba dives across some of the most amazing deep-sea spots in the Caribbean, Bahamas, Bermuda and Australia. Spot the magnificent Mesoamerican Barrier Reef (also known as the Great Mayan Reef), the largest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere or set a trail to discover some of the most mysterious underwater grottos, off the coast of Vanuatu in the South Pacific Ocean. The deep-sea excursion programme also offers courses taught by professional PEDAs. And after you have swum and dived the deep seas, you can celebrate your PEDA certification, along with memories for a lifetime of underwater thrill. And a realisation that romance is a deep involvement, just like the high seas!



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## Wrangel Island: Across the top of the world

### Heritage Expeditions

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There are some places which give you a sense of belonging, a different sort of happiness and leave you with experiences which turn you into a storyteller. If it would be just about falling in love with a place, Wrangel Island sits on top of the world and on top of all the bets.

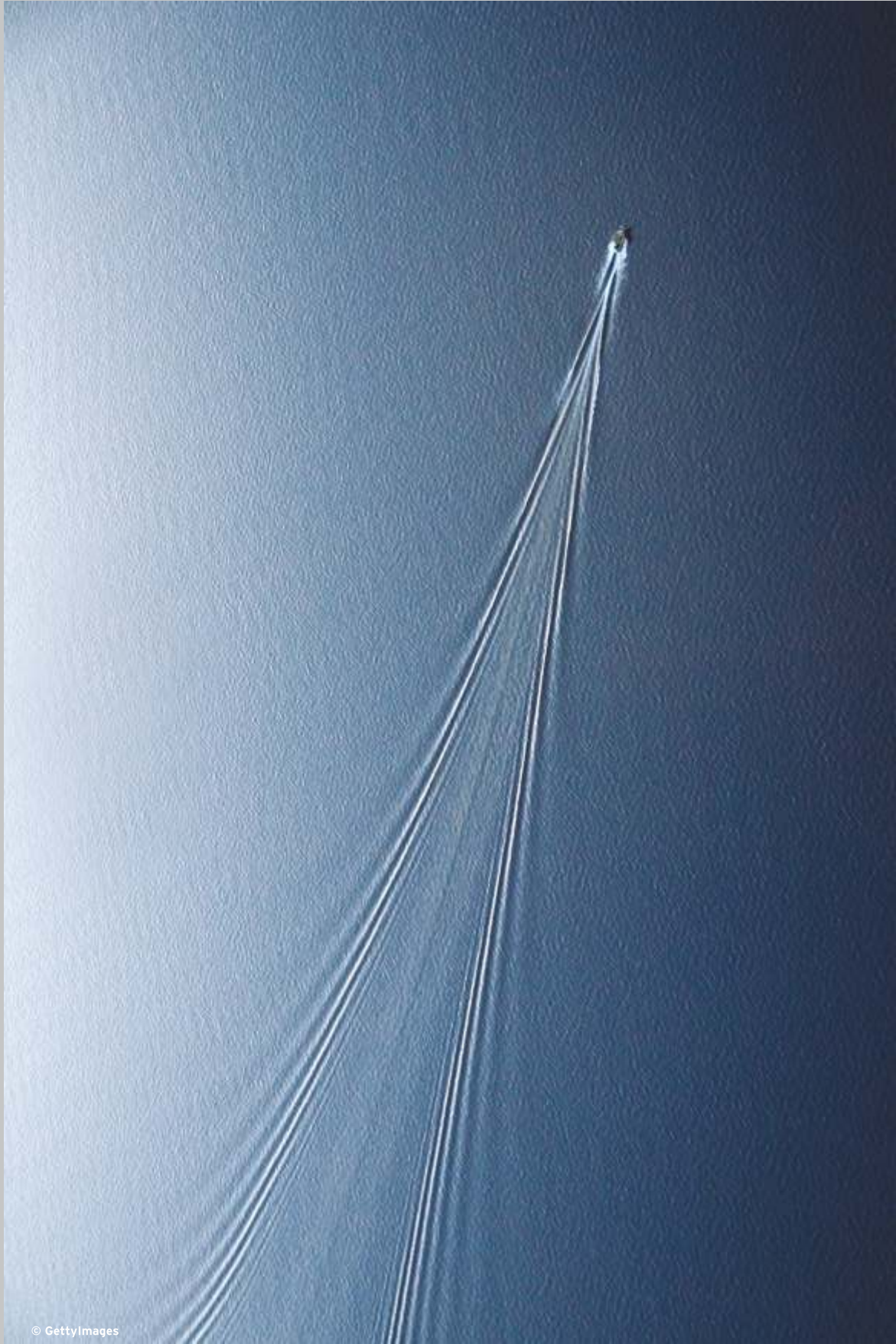
Head on to Wrangel Island to experience expeditionary cruising at its best. It is an island in the Arctic Ocean between the Chukchi Sea and the East Siberian Sea. Administered by Russia's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Wrangel Island is a very small area as wide as only 125 kms, covering a total area of of 7,600 sq. kms. and is one of the last great unique wilderness areas in the world. For sheer remoteness and incredible wildlife experiences, this area is very difficult to beat.

Step aboard on 'The Spirit of Enderby' by Heritage Expeditions - one of the best and safe options for cruising across the top of the world. The voyage ambles through the narrow Bering Strait, which separates Russia from the United States of America. The colourful skylines of the Bering Strait, the waves changing their patterns in an oceanic mirror, and the chilled breaths on a quickly shrinking day makes you feel like you caught your dream in the middle of the high seas. Don't be surprised if you see the sun set at 02:00 in the morning from your balcony or the deck of your ship. The cruise then sails across the beautiful Chukotka coast line where you can experience the unembellished beauty of the North, which only a few have experienced. Here, you can witness deep forested fjords and an abundance of rare wildlife.

There are few places in the world as beautiful and as remote as the Wrangel Island. A chunk of land in the Arctic Ocean that is famous for its unmatched variety of wildlife, including a large number of polar bears that come to feed on the walrus in the region. The journey, which has been made possible in some recent years, will never fail to astound you with its sublime and colourful beauty.

Romance, undoubtedly, is a deep involvement; just like the high seas.





© GettyImages



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## A Date Night at Port

### Azamara Club Cruises

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Don't let your romance cease when the ship anchors at port. Dim lights, quaint vibes and the quiet nooks, with the occasional sound of the waves beating against the port; an irresistible set up for an amazing date night. Pair it with scrumptious food and fine wine along with candle lights and the ambiances get as romantic as they can, as the night cruises along just like the calm waters.

Dining experiences at ports transport you into a world beyond imagination and are incredibly relaxing. Indeed, a subtle example

of why experiences lure your senses much more than pictures and words.

Azamara Club Cruises, a small yet luxurious cruise line sets the trend for a portside fine-dine experience, accompanied by some of the finest culinary experiences inspired from the local flavours of the destinations. Tick your bucket list as the cruise line halts at Venice, Italy. This date night is akin to love at first sight! Taste the world not just on board, but on the shore as well and make it a night to remember!



© Azamara Club Cruises



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## Cruising through the Burgundy Waterways

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**G Adventures**

If it's all about romance, how can you miss the French connection? With one of the best country-side experiences in the world, Burgundy adds a wonderful tinge of romance with its unique barging and fine wine experience.

Blending the big ship options and small ship cosy, G Adventures rekindles the romance, making you cruise along some of France's most charming sights on a water barge (flat-bottomed boat) that doubles as a floating hotel. The canals and rivers are meltingly beautiful, dotted with colourful villages and trees, romantic châteaux and wineries, drifting through breath-taking cliffs. The romance unfolds at a different pace in the pastoral region, as you explore the deep countryside and wineries on your own with several cycling and walking options. Standing on the deck of a barge, soak in the surrounding landscape as you pass by quaint villages and sample some fine wines and local cheese at meals prepared onboard.

The cruise industry is getting crowded and you can only expect more creative offerings that lure you aboard. Who wouldn't be lured with the seductive charm of the European countryside? To add, you have something to pair best with the wine - your loved one and the scintillating water.





**MILK.**

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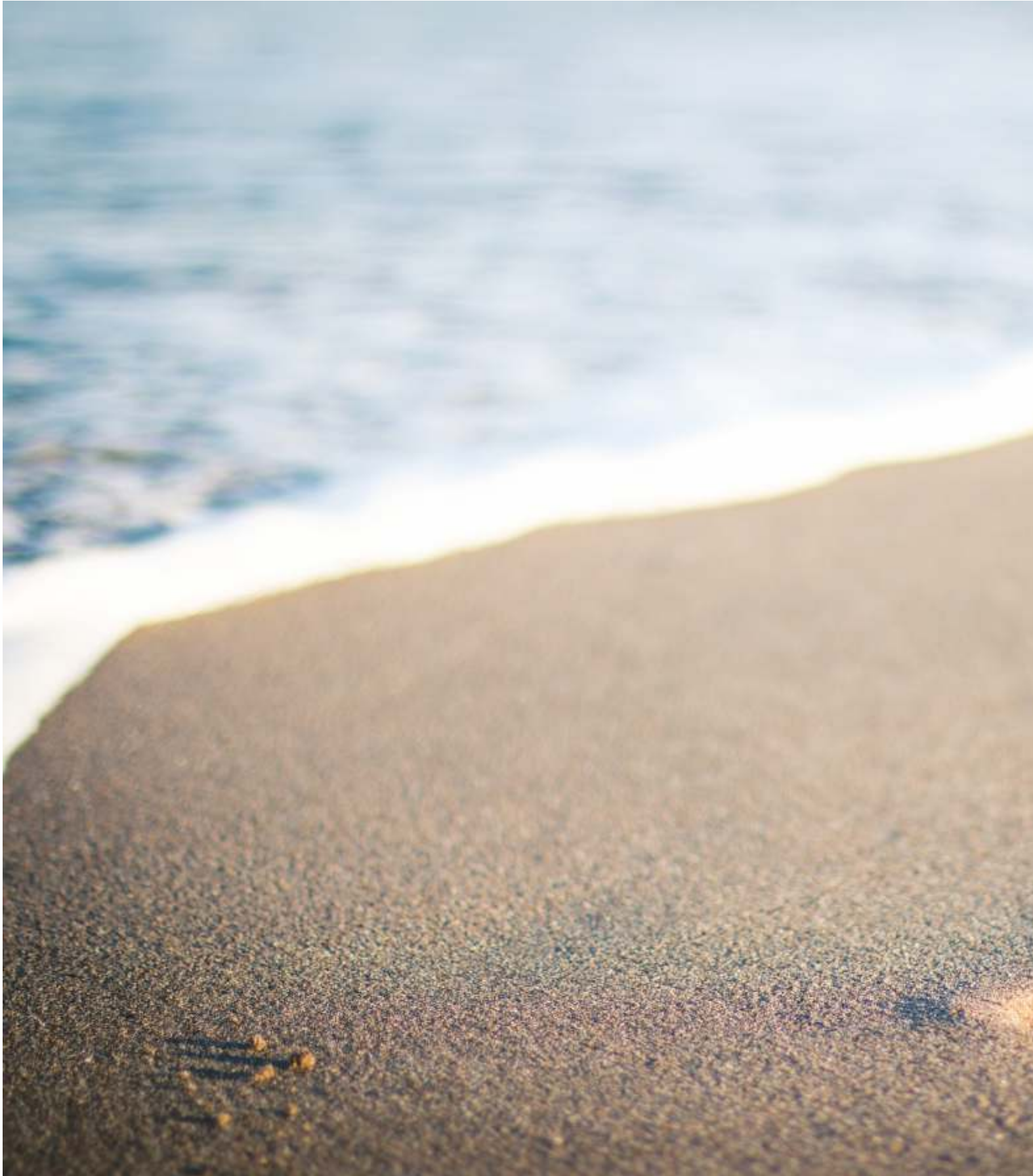


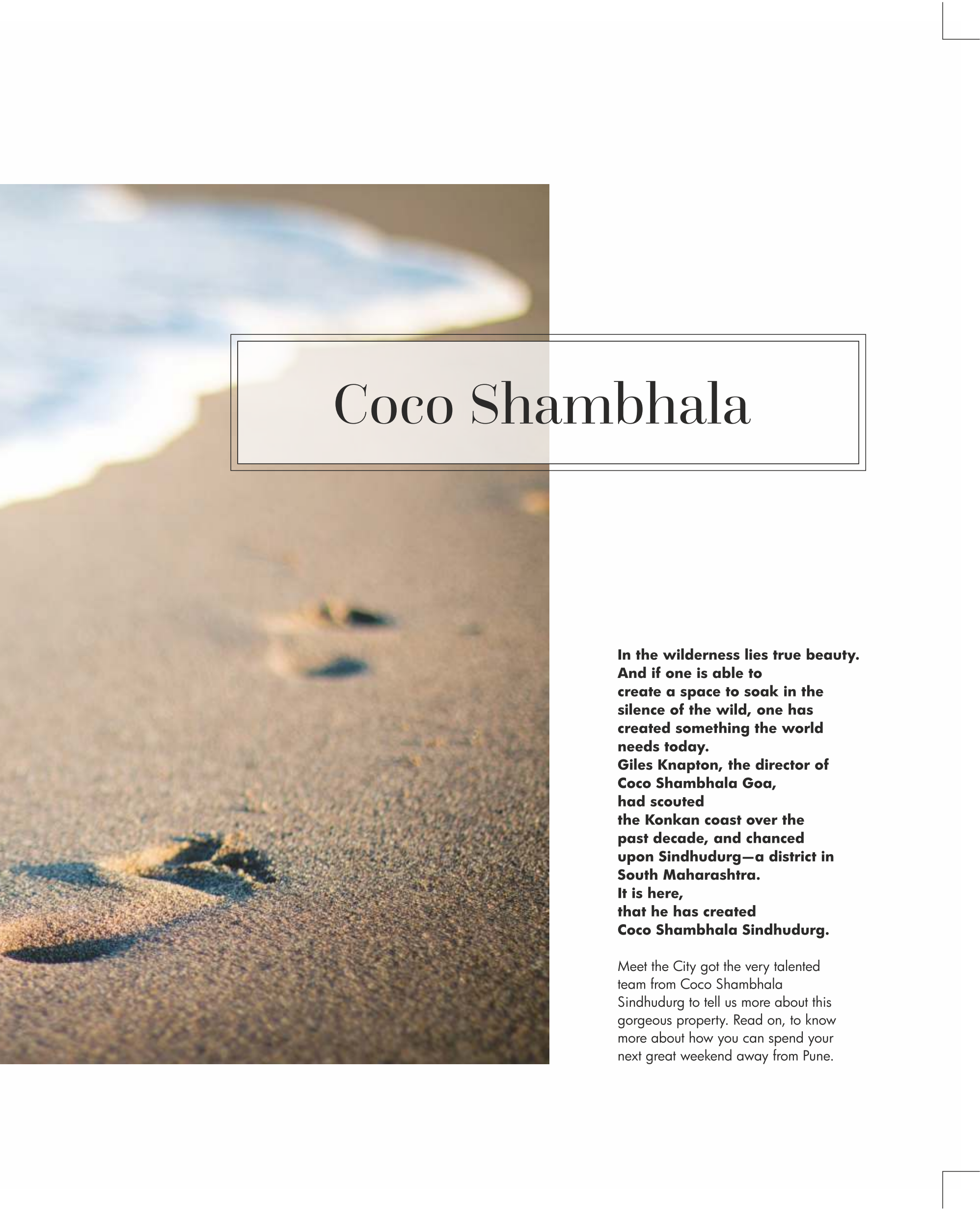
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# Coco Shambhala

**In the wilderness lies true beauty.  
And if one is able to  
create a space to soak in the  
silence of the wild, one has  
created something the world  
needs today.**

**Giles Knapton, the director of  
Coco Shambhala Goa,  
had scouted  
the Konkan coast over the  
past decade, and chanced  
upon Sindhudurg—a district in  
South Maharashtra.**

**It is here,  
that he has created  
Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg.**

Meet the City got the very talented  
team from Coco Shambhala  
Sindhudurg to tell us more about this  
gorgeous property. Read on, to know  
more about how you can spend your  
next great weekend away from Pune.



WEEKEND GETAWAY



All Photos © Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg



Sindhudurg is a magical land; home to fort ruins, unexplored beaches and pristine forests that adorn the coast of the Arabian Sea that hums with rich sea life, including whales. Last summer was a memorable one because of whale sighting off the coast of Sindhudurg, after 60 whole years! And, Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg provides just the right vista to watch these beautiful mammals. Some of the team at Coco Shambhala have even sighted them from the property without binoculars!

Coco Shambhala, Sindhudurg

# Luxury & Beyond

Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg is a collection of 04 luxury villas that are unique in design and architecture. Raised high on steel columns, these non-permanent structures strive to blend in with the tropical landscape—02 bedrooms with private balconies facing out to the sea, a large and completely open living pavilion and a massive private infinity pool; all set in the midst of planted, tropical jungle style gardens.

It is the attention to detail here that is key! The team at Coco Shambhala has travelled far and wide to source the finest linen, soft furnishings and ornaments that adorn the villas. They also found innovative ways to use natural products such as driftwood from the local beach that have been fashioned into arty installations in each villa or the lights and bar counter adornments that come all the way from a shipyard in Mumbai. The soft furnishings have been sourced from a textile producer in Rajasthan, while the pottery in the villas has been hand-picked from artisans in Goa. And, finally the toiletries have been exclusively sourced from the leading cosmetics brand - Forest Essentials, which signifies elegant, luxurious Ayurveda!







Giles and his team are keen to help develop the district in a sustainable manner and work extensively with the local and village governments to ensure the beaches here are clean, garbage management is on-point and the people of the area feel invested. To achieve this, they have appointed beach wardens, hired 70% of their staff from the local population (and trained them) and invited the village ladies to teach their chefs to make the most authentic local food.

Coco Shambhala Goa is well-known for its cuisine. And, Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg now tries to be a step-up from the same. The kitchens of Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg celebrate fresh seafood and Malvani cuisine of India's famed west-coast, while also producing gastronomic delicacies and seasonal menus that celebrate the tropics. All this, courtesy the expertise of Shagun Mehra, Director of Cuisine, Coco Shambhala. Shagun experiments with local ingredients and international cuisine, to deliver the most breathtaking culinary art on a

plate. She is also responsible for the fine collection of single malts, craft beers, Indian and foreign wines that are available at Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg. For those with an extra dose of curiosity into local life and culture, the team at Coco Shambhala has created gourmet tie-ups with the locals who conjure up the most authentic home-made Malvani cuisine in their homes. This, with an added walk or two and some friendly banter with the neighbouring villagers, makes a get-away at Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg, a memorable experience.

Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg also houses a spa with two massage rooms and a steam room, all complete with sweeping vistas of the sea. There is also a small curio shop on the premises, for those who would like to indulge in some shopping in this remote region! The shop houses beach wear, resort wear, beach essentials, handcrafted teas and soaps from the Himalayas, coffees from the house of Blue Tokai and cosmetic essentials from Ayca.





Guests at Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg can also indulge in a host of activities. Sindhudurg is a peephole into history and resonates with the charm of yesteryear. Set in an aquamarine, dreamy coast, it offers a veritable marine playground. Swim with dolphins, sight whales, dive, snorkel and parasail! Add to that a generous number of jungle hikes and explorations of fort ruins that dot the entire coast.

If one is lucky, one can even spot the elusive leopard, langurs, foxes, peacocks and jackals. The region is also home to birdlife including the white-bellied sea eagle, the great Indian hornbill, common Kestrels, Oriental Honey Buzzards and more. For the beach bums, there is a quaint collection of beaches which have only boat access, making them almost private coves of white beaches. The team at Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg can arrange boat trips for guests to these beaches, to spend a day or for a romantic sundowner. Guests can also indulge in a lesson on



All Photos © Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg



mixed martial arts or yoga lessons, with prior booking or participate in a session of slam/performance poetry with the resident manager.

The luxury resort is keen to raise the bar each time, and the team is supposedly in talks with the local government for private access to the local lighthouse, which is a 30-minute boat ride away. Guests at Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg will then have the pleasure of dining at their own private lunch party at the lighthouse! Certainly, the most romantic sort of settings for guests seeking some bespoke privacy.

The next time you crave for a holiday by the sea and want to make it a dreamy getaway too, you might want to consider heading to Coco Shambhala Sindhudurg. Allow the beauty of the tropics to seep through you, as you walk away with the holiday of a lifetime!



Coco Shambhala  
Bhogave Beach, Near Parole village, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.  
Email: [reservations@shambhalavillas.com](mailto:reservations@shambhalavillas.com)  
Call: +91 93722 67182 / +91 85509 85232



An architectural rendering of the Panchshil Towers in Pune. The image shows four tall, modern apartment buildings with a light beige facade and blue-tinted glass balconies. The buildings are arranged in a row, with the tallest one in the center. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue with a few wispy white clouds. In the foreground, there is a green lawn with some low-lying shrubs and a few people walking. A road with cars and a large tree are also visible on the right side of the image.

# PANCHSHIL TOWERS

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*All images are architectural renditions.*



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**"To the world, I am known as  
a charcoal artist.  
For the last twenty-three years,  
I am drawing in charcoal.  
I have used my fingers,  
thumb and even my palm.  
This is my art....my life.  
- "Ajay De"**

Art is creativity. Art is imagination.  
And for some, art is their whole life!  
Aastha Dogra explores the beautiful,  
inner world of artist Ajay De, for  
whom art is all-encompassing.

# THE POETRY

OF

# ART

- AJAY DE



© Ajay De



Sitting across the free-spirited artist Ajay De is an experience in itself. In the rat race of today's modern world, where everyone is on the go and out to get something, coming face to face with someone who lives in his own world and has a childlike effervescence, is like a breath of fresh air. Sipping a piping hot tea, enjoying the Mumbai rains from the window of his house, the painter reminisces his childhood and recalls how he took to painting. "I was a complete introvert and often found myself at a loss for words. One day, I read a poem written by the Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore. In the poem, Tagore spoke about three birds fighting on a kitchen terrace. The poem moved me so much that I ended up venting my emotions on paper. My emotions took the form of my first painting! Somewhere, painting felt therapeutic and ever since I have been putting pencil to paper to share my life and experiences with others."



Artist Ajay De

Born in Calcutta, De studied art at the city's Government College of Arts and Crafts. Thereafter, he moved to Mumbai to complete his post-graduation from the Sir J.J. School of Art. De has exhibited extensively at art galleries across all the major cities of India as well as New York, San Francisco, Singapore, Hong Kong, London, Dubai and Tokyo. Through his

art, De brings to fore the problems of everyday life. "All my paintings reflect the complexities and troubles that besiege modern day society. They are not deliberate efforts. They flow from within. I feel that art offers solutions to all problems in life, and my work offers a direction to these solutions." he explains.

In a world screaming of colour, rejecting convention and free from the bondage of traditional paints, De draws in black and white with charcoal. Look at any of his monochromatic paintings, they reflect extraordinary beauty and depth, which colours won't be able to do justice to. Speaking on his unusual choice, De says, "There is more truth, peace and tranquility to black and white. Colour, though appealing, does not pose any challenge. Painting in black and white is like swimming against the tide and adds an altogether different dimension to the artwork." Starting with his first solo show in the Jehangir Art Gallery in Mumbai in 1996, De has gone on to hold over twenty-four solo shows and over sixty-five group shows. Listening to the pitter patter of rain outside, he remarks that nature inspires him and has a lot to teach others, although today, people no longer find time to stand and stare! The romance of the rains is well portrayed in his artworks titled "The poetry of monsoon". De has captured the magnetic beauty of rains at the iconic landmarks of Mumbai and Calcutta, including the famous Rajabai Clock Tower, the Gateway of Mumbai, Flora Fountain and Marine Drive. The painting that stands out in this monsoon collection is of a rickshaw puller wading through the crowded, narrow streets of Kolkata, carrying load in the rain, with a quiet fortitude and dignity, unseen and unknown to others.

De is completely in love with the sights, sounds and smells of the rainy reason. Rains bring with them new life and hope and have inspired many of De's paintings. Besides rains, it is









All Photos © Ajay De

strong women like Mother Teresa, whom he places at par with God that have inspired him to create spectacular artwork. De's charcoals have a unique identity in the contemporary art world. He uses fingers, thumb and even palm while drawing and has tremendous control over his unusual technique. Of late, Ajay has started dabbling in colour with his artworks titled "The Butterfly People". Always known for his black and white charcoal works, Ajay found inspiration in the transformation of the caterpillar into a vibrant-hued butterfly, to create some stunning masterpieces. He remarks, "The butterfly stands as a metaphor for life. Nothing is more expressive and innovative than a butterfly. It knows no set patterns of expression. In fact, like nature, it breaks patterns all the time. Hence, my artwork is inspired by the beauty, colour and shapes of butterflies and its vibrant relationship with nature."

Butterflies have inspired De to explore the whole spectrum of colours. Their life has compelled him to explore the permanent impact of temporary life. De feels that we, as humans, should learn something from butterflies as they have such a short life but they seem to enjoy it to the fullest and express their inherent beauty, every single day. With "The Butterfly People", De explores the transformation of the human soul. He says, "In life, many of us might come close to being the butterfly. Yet, only a few dare to embrace the life of a butterfly and become liberated. The butterfly inspires me to live with freedom, to give up a life of dead habit and become spontaneous, so that even after I am gone, my cheerfulness, my euphoria, my energy lives on forever."

De practices gratitude as a way of life and is thankful to everyone who has helped him evolve as an artist. He has been meditating for the last twenty years and is mulling to create artworks on this personal journey of his. From childhood memories to women to rains, butterflies and now meditation, De's artistic genius has found inspiration in everyday living, to create an unparalleled aesthetic legacy!





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# Coco Sushi Bar

## And Restaurant



Good food perhaps is the happiest of experiences of life. Pair it with impeccable spirits and familiar faces around, and you soak in the atmosphere just like home. Beyond the world of crispy rice and dynamite rolls, there exists an upper echelon of Sushi world in the city of Pune. Coco Sushi Bar and Restaurant opened to its exclusive members on 21st April 2017, Friday with its flagship property "Black Friday", an energetic, fun party to bring in and celebrate the weekend. Coco may be called the very incarnation of selected members dining in Pune.

A perfect place to party with like-minded people or to wine and dine with your near and dear ones, Coco strives to bring back the long-lost nightlife culture Pune had a few years back and be the go-to-place to unwind and celebrate with close knit social circles. It's a space where the crème de la crème meet, bond, dine, party, network with each other and have a good time being in their comfort zone with familiar faces around.

*Maheep Singh Rathore puts his bets on the best new place to turn over your taste buds to the whims of a skilled COCO Sushi Bar and Restaurant-the most exciting sushi available without a passport.*

Tucked high in a promising low-lit atmosphere with a 360-degree mesmerising view, Coco Sushi Bar is one of the city's great bets for a weekend party bash that offers a delectable sushi fiesta, which is sure to draw well-heeled food punters with a taste for unique cooking. Starry lights that run the length of the club and ceiling, hit a lot of high notes for a chic setting. Coco is a true representation of the finest party scenes and ingredients and offers elegant and wonderfully balanced dishes, all prepared with delicate flair and passion.

Simple and uncluttered with beautiful detail, dark tones are blended with bright flashes from the golden bee on Coco's logo. The restaurant clearly displays a lush ambience with a blend of rustic glamour while keeping true to its party roots. The concept is developed by Kunal Mhaske, a well-known restaurateur in Pune, who

already has successfully established brands like Raasta Café and Penthouze in the city. The lounge is spread across 3000 sq. ft. and seats 70 guests. There are comfortable couches, high tables and chairs, a private dining area for guests and two outdoor spaces on its either side overlooking the vast expanse of the city.

**Speaking on the members only lounge concept, founder Kunal Mhaske says, "I always wanted to have a private space for my social circle, where people could just come and have fun without worrying about their security and enjoy themselves thoroughly with familiar faces around. Moreover, a classy place where guests would want to make that extra effort to dress up and come to party".**





Great food doesn't have to be complicated. But, a little beyond classic never leaves you disappointed. The food at Coco is just a combination of quality, skilful cooking, and succulent preparations that tickle your taste buds. Together with a bustling atmosphere and a passionate team, Coco creates a unique food and liquor experience that you will absolutely fall in love with. Whether you are joining for a lazy brunch, a work lunch, a delightful afternoon drink, a pre-theatre diner or a crafted cocktail party, you can be certain that it will be a time well spent.

The cuisine at Coco is Asian, and the restaurant serves a delectable range of bar bites and appetisers. Chef Jugal Pradhan, Consulting Chef at Coco is at the helm of the kitchen. Born in Darjeeling, Chef Jugal's journey through the mountainous ranges all the way to Tengra, gave him an insight into surreal flavours. He draws his inspiration for cooking in his early years from his grandmother. Soon enough he went on to travel the orient, to Thailand, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, China, Bhutan, Tibet and Nepal. He has worked in Pan-Asian kitchens in Chiang Mai in Thailand, the Chinese Room in Kolkata, Nobu in Monte Carlo, in addition to Hakkasan and Yauatcha in Mumbai. Says Chef Jugal, of the menu at Coco, "The menu will be extensively sushi based, which denotes a generic term for all or any appetisers at Coco. Right from the soups, salads, dimsums, dumplings, nigiris, sashimis, the portions are customised to individual servings to offer a variety".

Sushi is as artful as it is appetising. The Asian menu at Coco is set with intense focus, with dishes carrying a different kind of intricacy and creativity - all taking place no more than a few feet away from your chair. The thought behind keeping the menu only Asian, is that Asian flavours are sharp and apt for the Indian palate.

While at Coco, start with the Crackling Spinach Sushi Rolls or Sesame Salmon Roll. Chilled Sake and Dry Sparkling Wine serves as ideal companions, allowing you to get the most out of your interactions with the delectable sushis. The art of sushi making has been mastered at Coco, and you realise this with the intense flavours of the Ebi Sushi Rolls that leave your senses awestruck. The dish is a winner straightaway.

Fulfil your dimsum desire as you introduce your taste buds to translucent dimsums like Smoked Edamame and Truffles, Spiced Broccoli, Seafood Suimai, and Chili Bean Asian Snapper. The opulent dimsums echo nicely with layers of Rose Champagne and also make a smooth pair with Chin Cha. It's an ultimate surf and turf. Chicken Shitake are firm dimsums with thin wrappers with perfectly flavoured chicken and shitake mushrooms, complimented by dips with flavours that linger on your taste buds as you savour this culinary delight. For those with a tinge for classic taste, the Chicken Wrapped in Banana leaf doesn't disappoint.

Ramens, at Coco celebrate umami flavours in a manner that is light and nuanced. Pair it with any beer that will not overpower the most delicate of the ramen broths. Their low bitterness and slight sweetness offsets the broth nicely.

If you are looking for the perfect place to toggle back and forth while savouring a small batch of super premium alcohol or fruity summer tipples, head on to the eclectic bar to find interesting cocktails such as the Black Irish, Sleeping Volcano, Bloody Maria, Old Samurai's Mojito, Dragon's Nest Capriosa, Spiced Rum Fig Sour, and Japanese whiskies such as Hibiki & Kawasaki.

If you are firmly rooted in the "sweet-is-better-than-savoury" camp, it's likely you have different sugary preferences, which is why the menu at Coco is so fantastic - it comes up with some very gorgeous and standout desserts worthy of your appreciation. For purists looking for an upgrade, artisan Wasabi ice cream should do the trick - creamy, cool with a mild wasabi flavour, of course! The Smoked Dark Chocolate Mousse Cake is the best indulgence for chocolate lovers in the house. With different layers of exotic chocolate and a spot-on and exciting texture, it's hard to go wrong with your chocolate fantasies with this one; a perfect finale to your meal and a stylish night. Sure, Coco has lush vibes but there is something more about it that also makes it magical. Maybe, it's the common faces around in a select members arena. Or pulling out a hefty party in what feels more than a cosy ambience and a perfect backdrop for 'happy high' conversations with your group. Whatever be the case, once you visit this place, you are sure to look for a permanent membership for Coco Sushi Bar and Restaurant.

**Chef Jugal's special recommendations for the season:**

Sushi: Sesame Salmon Roll, Crackling Spinach Roll, Spiced Avocado Roll, Ebi Roll, Pop Chicken Roll and Sashimi that is best paired with Chilled Sake, Dry Sparkling Wine and also goes well with warm green tea.



All Photos © Coco Sushi Bar & Restaurant

Dimsums: Try the Smoked Edamame and Truffles, Spiced Broccoli, Seafood Suimai and Chili Bean Asian Snapper, paired suitably with Chin-cha (Chinese tea) or Rose Champagne. From the Wok: The Chef recommends sinking your teeth into Crispy Lotus Stem, Chili Mustard Sweet Potato, Twice Cooked Pork Belly, Roast Duck, Laksa Prawns on Soba that are best paired with Plum



# Scent Sutra

Fragrances have an innate quality of evoking countless emotions and feelings by recreating experiences and triggering a gush of memory. Transcending the ordinary experiences of our lives, fragrances are capable of inciting passion, fun, excitement and the very ecstasy of romance, long after the very experience first took place. The fragrance that brings back memories of college romance, or the one that makes one pine for a lost love, memories of the first crush, a soul mate, a life partner, a best friend, the warmth of mother's comforting hugs; it's practically an emotional minefield out there! And, it's these emotions that contribute to creating life's fragrance palette.

Back in 2013, Neha Kedia and Vivek Chidambaram set off on a journey of a different kind, one where they discovered their fascination for perfumes. As they travelled through France, they encountered a fascinating movement of sorts; of independent perfumeries that were gradually gaining popularity across various parts of the world. The more Neha and Vivek met perfumers and learnt about the fine art of perfumes, the more they realised just how devoid the Indian market was of this art; a market which despite its immense potential sadly reeks of unimaginative retail strategies and where perfume is a commoditised product. This prodded them to explore the



Numerous brands, passionate perfumers and retailers across the world have been giving expression to our collective fragrance palette over many years. But, none until now in India, despite the obvious burgeoning demand. Scent Sutra, which recently set up shop in Pune, has embarked on a journey to change this. With its first store in the city, Scent Sutra has positioned itself as India's first multi-brand perfume store that offers artisan fragrances and is a window into a fragrant world of exquisite craftsmanship, refinement and a host of emotions. *Chaitra Patel embarks on a magical journey at Scent Sutra.*

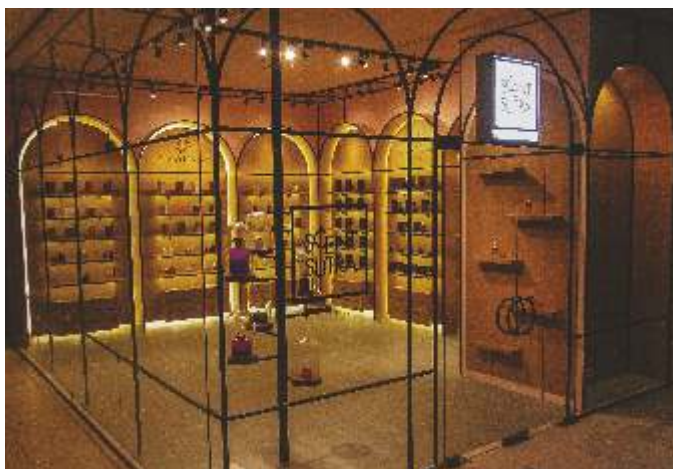
magnificent universe of fragrances, beginning with Grasse – the perfume capital of the world. Through their explorations, they met with perfumers who have been contributing to this niche movement of artisan perfumes and for whom perfumery is an art in itself.

Back home and 4 years later, the duo set up Scent Sutra that opened doors to a magical world of artisan perfumery from across the world, represented by brands that spell exquisite craftsmanship, refined quality and creative excellence. Scent Sutra is an earnest attempt (and a successful one too) to encourage a contemporary

olfactory culture amongst aficionados in India. Supported by MIDAS, an institute that enables start-up ideas to come to life, Scent Sutra is where time stands still and memories are encased in beautiful bottles.

Scent Sutra endeavours to bring the finest avant-garde lifestyles, products and experiences to connoisseurs of fragrance, in Pune. The store houses fragrances that have been carefully curated from across the world and demystify the world of perfumery. Step inside, and it is evident that this store is like none other. The in-store experience here

exclusivity and a subtle sense of romance. The very notion of extracting oils from delicate ingredients such as rose petals, lavender flowers, sandalwood, coffee beans and much more is indeed incredibly romantic. Pair it with the onset of the monsoons and our emotional minefield becomes active once again, giving way to countless emotions ranging from nostalgia, melancholy, passion and love. For rainy and sometimes dreary days such as these, Scent Sutra has put together for its patrons, a scintillating collection of fragrances that are warm and endearing, high on earthy, woody and tropical notes that help embrace the rains and lift up spirits.



All Photos © Scent Sutra

has been thoughtfully designed to help patrons become familiar with myriad olfactory families. The store's fragrance specialists too eloquently advice and help customers choose the right fragrance, depending on their individual preferences and styles. And, in order that the purpose of the brand is encapsulated in its entirety, Kunal Seolekar, founder of StudioHaus that has designed the store interiors, envisioned a contemporary aesthetic with the use of a subtle material palette and open design.

Handmade or artisan perfumes, such as the ones housed at Scent Sutra are all about luxury,

### **Scent Sutra's Hand-picked Fragrances for the Monsoons:**

**Amouage Myths For Woman**  
**Amouage Memoir For Man**  
**Nasomatto Silver Musk**

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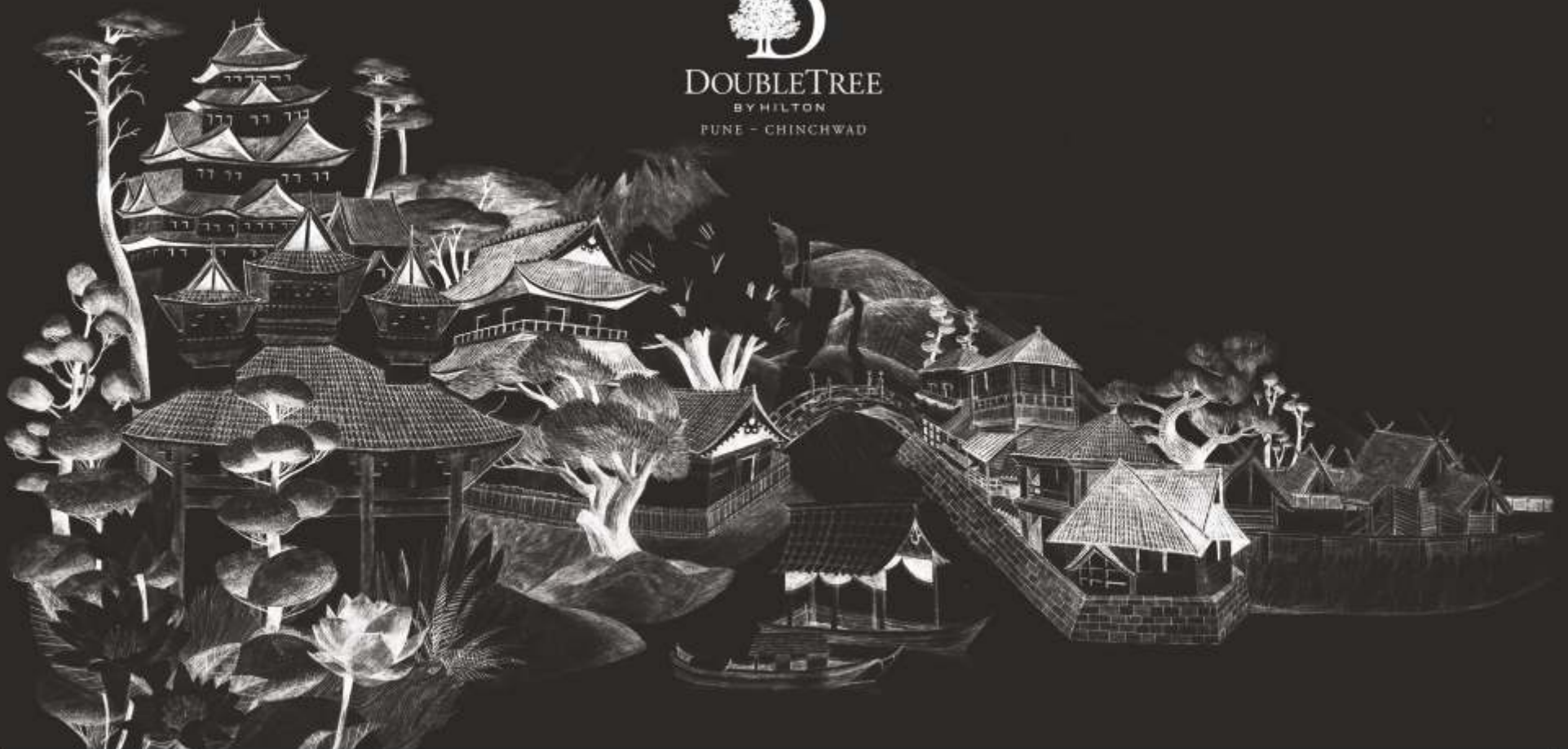
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# SPAZIO SPACES

**Spazio, located at the magnificent Trump Towers, Kalyani Nagar, now has an even stronger Italian connect. Fendi Casa & Trussardi Casa – the two new furniture brands at Spazio bring Milanese lifestyle to Pune city.**

*Aastha Dogra reports on this marvelous line of luxury furniture.*



At the beginning of the current decade, Pune city became a hub of global business houses and corporates across sectors like automobile, manufacturing and Information Technology. International trade and commerce, facilitated by corporate parks like EON Free Zone and World Trade Center Pune, saw many expats and high net worth individuals call Pune their home. Soon, the demand for luxury homes started emerging. And, with luxury homes in the picture, people developed a penchant for luxurious furniture as well. India's largest multi-brand luxury furniture store - Spazio has successfully met this growing appetite for luxury branded furniture in and around Pune city.



Photo © Spazio



All Photos © Spazio





Showcasing B&B Italia, LEMA, Medea and Poltrona Frau under one roof, Spazio - the design studio and art space spread across 1858 sq. mtrs., has enhanced the interiors of some of the most exclusive and magnificent spaces in the country. With the introduction of Fendi Casa and Trussardi Casa, Spazio now aims to up the consumer experience of the uber-rich and the brand conscious a few notches higher.

The Fendi Casa furniture collection, founded by Alberto Vignatelli, is a meeting ground of fashion and design. Just as Fendi has dressed generations of women with clothes and accessories, Fendi Casa lends a similar elegance and cosmopolitanism to the interiors through a furniture range which encompasses contemporary to modern to classic. Look at any of the furniture pieces of Fendi Casa at Spazio and you find an unmissable fusion of design and fashion, accompanied by refined aesthetics. The Fendi Casa collection of furniture and accessories expresses a contemporary lifestyle that is classical yet avant garde, a balance between tradition and innovation.

The Fendi Casa collection at Spazio features furniture for every area of a contemporary home and office. Seamlessly integrating modern advancements with retro details, the collection adds an elegant and inviting dimension to any ambience. The collection's effortless mergence with the surroundings is the result of extensive research and constant, meticulous craftsmanship and fine workmanship that happens behind the scenes. Over the last few decades, Fendi is known as a brand synonymous with elegance, craftsmanship, innovation, tradition, experimentation and creativity. Fendi Casa furniture displays each of these qualities and creates spaces which are not just stylish, but also warm and intimate in feel.





All Photos © Spazio



Thanks to social media and blurring international borders, well-travelled home owners are now knowledgeable about designs, wood materials and the latest furniture trends in western countries, especially fashion capitals like France and Italy, and are seeking the same in India. The Trussardi Casa collection at Spazio is inspired by a strong Milanese lifestyle, a synthesis of elegance and modernity which is deeply rooted in the Italian taste. The collection is an epitome of understated luxury for sophisticated homes and international settings. Representing true Italian quality, the collection boasts of sumptuous fabrics and fine woods combined with leather, a signature element of the brand, to perfectly interpret classic yet contemporary style.



At Spazio, the solutions proposed for spaces by the Trussardi Casa collection are defined by essential volumes and simple lines, following the idea of informal elegance which has characterized the Greyhound brand for more than a century. A creative blend of graphic lines and rigorous shapes, enhanced by an innovative use of colors, lends each and every Trussardi Casa furniture piece a unique personality.

With the new range of brands at Spazio, the emerging breed of nouveau riche in India, who are brand-conscious and have massive spending powers, have found the perfect answer to enhance their everyday living and work environments. Some of the most stunning collections of armchairs, sofas, tables, beds, bookcases, outdoor furniture and accessories, by some of the biggest labels in business, are now available at Spazio for the discerning Indian connoisseur.







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# A Perfect Blend of Luxury, Leisure and Lifestyle

Soft Launch of "The Pavillion"



With exclusive retail showrooms, six-screen PVR ICON multiplex, modern-day corporate spaces and some amazing dining options, The Pavillion, a premium mall part of the 2.2 million square feet International Convention Centre built by Panchshil Realty, was launched on 11th August at S.B. Road, Pune. Mr. Atul Chordia, Chairman, Panchshil Realty and Mr. Tuhin Parikh, Managing Director, The Blackstone Group, inaugurated the mall.

After the inaugural ceremony, the attendees got a pleasant preview of the magnificent mall, all set to feature some of the world's top-of-line fashion and food & beverage brands, promising to offer the best shopping, gourmet and entertainment experience. To add a dash of glamour to the event, Bollywood star Sidharth Malhotra was invited to cut the ribbon and inaugurate the multiplex, in the presence of Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Bijli, Joint Managing Director, PVR.







Tuhin Parikh with Atul Chordia at the opening of The Pavillion.



Gautam Dutta, Sanjeev Kumar Bijli, Sidharth Malhotra, Varsha Chordia, Atul Chordia at the opening of “PVR Icon” at The Pavillion.



Inauguration of the Lifestyle Store at The Pavilion.



## FICCI FLO "Power to Empower"

Inspirational Talk by Actress and Entrepreneur Preity Zinta



Smita Patwardhan, Anita Sanas, Sujata Sabnis, Sangita Lalwani, Varsha Talera, Pinki Rajpal, Alpana Kirloskar, Preity Zinta, Gene Goodenough, Varsha Chordia, Sabina Sangvi and Christine Khalsa.



Gene Goodenough



Varsha Chordia



Ritu Nathani, Gene Goodenough, Varsha Chordia, Preity Zinta and Sabina Sanghavi

An interactive session by actress Preity Zinta was held at Vivanta by Taj - Blue Diamond, Pune on 20th June, 2017. The inspirational talk, where the actress shared her journey from stardom to entrepreneurship, received a great response from the FICCI FLO members, thanks to the enigmatic personality, unique life experiences and popularity of the Bollywood actress. Her dynamic husband - Gene Goodenough was right beside her as she enthralled everyone with her forthrightness.

The event was anchored by Mrs. Ritu Nathani, wife of Mr. Arun Nathani, CEO & Managing Director of Cybage Software. The insightful session was highly successful and is another feather in the cap of FICCI FLO, an organization that celebrates women achievers from all walks of life.







Mamta Jain and Ritu Chhabria



Varsha Chordia with Gene Goodenough



Dimple Somji with a friend



FICCI FLO Members



Sujata Sabnis



Christine Khalsa, Varsha Talera



Anjana Thakkar



## FICCI FLO "Run for a Cause"

Upcoming 3rd edition of FICCI FLO Pune Marathon  
October 8, 2017



Varsha Talera, Sangita Lalwani, Sunetra Pawar



FICCI FLO Members



Usha Kakade with the winners

FICCI FLO, one of the oldest women's chambers in South Asia, carries out numerous activities year round to enable women's empowerment. In line with these initiatives, the Pune chapter organized their first mega marathon in October 2015 and the second on October 2, 2016. The latter witnessed a huge turnout of approximately 7,000 participants. The third marathon is scheduled to be held on October 8, 2017 at Magarpatta City, Pune.

The third edition will raise funds for facilitating two initiatives of FICCI FLO - Skilling and Swayam. Through "Skilling", the girl child is educated for better employment and financial independence. And through "Swayam", women are provided initial help for funds, strategy, legal advice etc. for a startup initiative. Funds raised from the FLO marathon last year have helped "Skill" over 300 girls at ITI Aundh and enabled them to find employment. FICCI FLO expects to replicate the same and empower more women through its 3rd edition of "Run for a Cause".



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