

MEET THE
CITY

LUXURY

Distant and Distinct.

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yet most luxurious destinations far and across.

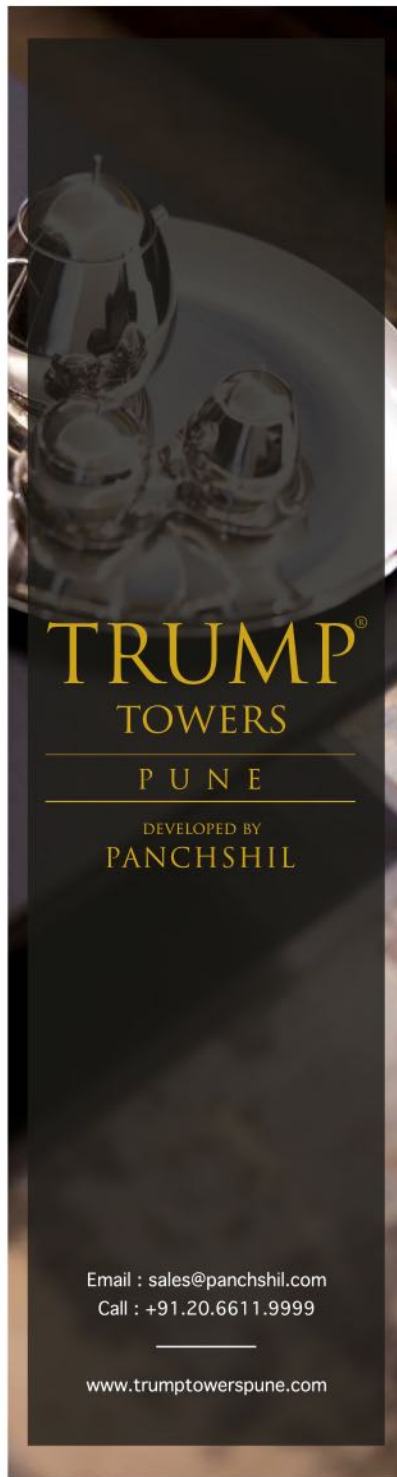
VOLUME III / AUGUST 2016



BESPOKE HOMES

BY





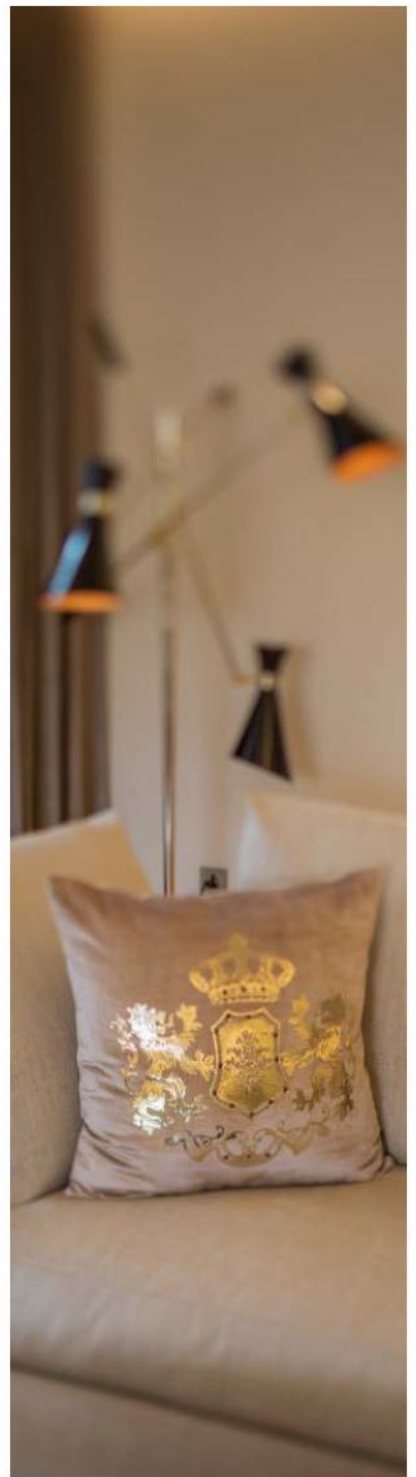
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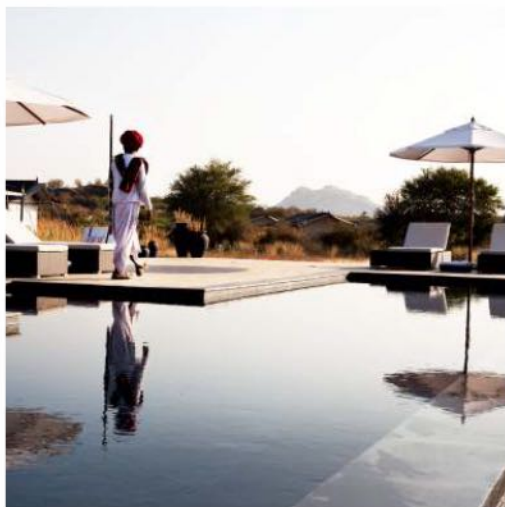


Content

Meet The City - August - September 2016

LUXURY TRAVEL

Distant and Dinstinct



Get away on a romantic sojourn in some of the most hostile yet most luxurious destinations far and across.

Featured Destinations:

Jawai Camp - Jawai, Rajasthan

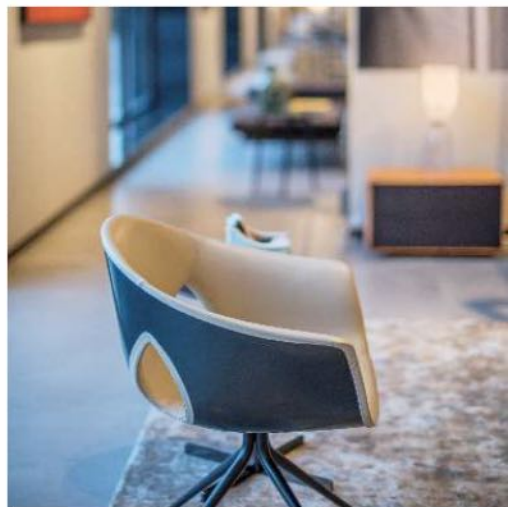
Forsyth Lodge - Satpura, Madhya Pradesh

Royal Melawane - Greater Kruger National Park

Little Bush Camp - Sabi Sabi, Kruger National Park

LUXURY LIVING

À LA ITALIA



Spazio Spaces

An ode to Italian-style home décor.

BESPOKE ART

An evening at the Spazio Art Gallery is a trip out of the ordinary.



CURATED BY
THE ARTS TRUST

Hello Fashion



Presenting Manish Arora, and Gauri and Nainika
mapping their journey to the world of fashion.

Curiously Handcrafted

Meet Naman Shah, the young entrepreneur and brain behind Cuero.

Nightlife

Discover The Urban Foundry and Playboy.

Culinary Culture

Boteco - Savour delicious insight into the flavours and
delicacies of the South American nation.

Fitness
Eevnts



Bush Holidays

Bespoke Experiences

FOREWORD

The eminent designer Oscar de la Renta once stated, "Luxury to me is not about buying expensive things; it's about living in a way where you appreciate things". Indeed, how right he was!

The word Luxury these days has come to signify more than just what money and riches can buy. When we speak of luxury, we imagine a world of privilege and exclusivity that is available only to a select few. But then again, luxury is really such a subjective concept.

Many of us have now come to realise that it's not that we do not desire the finer things of life; it's just that we wish to acquire these through our experiences. Our concept of luxury is no longer determined with having to keep up with the Jones's, but rather is defined by the quality of life we wish to live, and the manner in which our lives are shaped by our experiences.

And, in keeping with this beautiful sentiment of choosing a way of life that is governed by the luxury of pristine quality, we present to you this issue of Meet the City where we have tried to capture the very essence of an immaculate lifestyle. A lifestyle that we choose for ourselves; one which allows us to appreciate nature's bounties, experience beauty and art, tantalise our taste buds, and savour the sweetness of life.

Through this issue of Meet the City, we invite you to discover the luxury of life and experience it to the fullest. Don't just live your life embrace it, and experience it!

ATUL CHORDIA

Chief Editor





LUX.U.RY

Traditionally, the word luxury denotes something rare that is enjoyed by a select few and not by others. It implies a certain unattainable privilege and exclusivity enjoyed only by the very rich. However, of late, the definition of luxury has been shifting, hinting at the wealth derived from experiences, and not merely material acquisitions.

Rashmi Alevoor, on behalf of Meet the City, invites you to focus on life's little pleasures and to drink deeply of the beauty that life has to offer us.

From a beautiful, flowing piece of music by Claude Debussy, to floating over the golden grasses of the Serengeti, luxury can be found in near most anything. In this issue of Meet the City, we have explored the finer side of life. We've followed the call of the wild to remote and romantic locations of Bera Pali and Satpura in India and to the breathtaking heart of the South African Bushveld. Closer to home, we have travelled inward and embarked on a transformative experience at a wellness destination spa on the outskirts of Pune.

In the Art section, we've showcased the vibrant artworks of India's most prominent contemporary artists. The In Store piece speaks of art of a different form - the handcrafted and extraordinary furniture of great Italian houses, most of which have a rich, old story to tell.

We've looked at changing lifestyles in India and how this is reflected in the many details of our daily lives. We're the most informed we've ever been, and many of us are choosing to live life consciously. We strive for quality in everything that we do, seeking craftsmanship in footwear and fashion, and food and fitness alike.

Meet the City pays tribute to a different sort of luxury - the fulfilling pleasure of finding beauty and meaning in everything.

ESC



Safari holidays have been in vogue since time immemorial; camping in the wilderness to witness the spectacle of Nature's immense bounties. Early safaris are known to date back to almost the 16th century, from the days of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, whose passion for big game was renowned.

What started off as elaborate hunting trips or *shikaars* that were considered gallant and exotic, continuing well until the collapse of the great dynasty, found much favour amongst the British Raj and India's erstwhile Maharajas.

These hunting trips were often undertaken as a display of their wealth, power, and chauvinism.

APE



More recently, safaris have frequently been equated with a rugged lifestyle, out there in the open. Common notion tells us that safaris comprise of camping under the sun, and exploring the local terrain in a jeep or on elephant back, hoping fervently to catch a glimpse of a big cat or two.

But, that's not all; not anymore at least! For the discerning traveller with an eye for the finer aspects of life, luxury safari camps now provide every conceivable comfort matched with unsurpassed facilities and intimate getaways that are second to none.

These are luxury getaways that make for one of the most spectacular outdoor adventure holidays one can ever embark upon. Luxury safaris are where experiences make for stellar memories that last a lifetime.



A Life Well

Join Chaitra Patel and Chaitanya Deshpande as they take you on a whole new journey – a journey of luxury, through fascinating jungle lodges that offer the finest of hospitality and unforgettable safari experiences.

TRAVELLED

Imagine an adventure-filled holiday where you unravel the secrets of the jungles on your excursions, and all that lies ahead of you as far as the eye can possibly see, is sheer wilderness. That's what safari vacations are all about – exceptionally close encounters with the wild. Safari holidays are captivating to say the very least, and even more so when travellers are accompanied by adept trackers and guides who ensure animal sightings and recite enchanting folklore of the jungle. For those with a taste for the finer things of life, there are also incredibly luxurious jungle lodges and resorts. These lodges offer every conceivable comfort to their privileged guests, and yet deliver an authentic feel of a jungle safari. Who ever said that luxury and safaris do not go hand in hand? For our readers, we have put together a compilation of 4 jungle lodges that are sure to enchant you. We invite you to explore these fascinating lodges with us; each that provides varied experiences and an exceptional charm that make for a bag full of cherished memories.

While at JAWAI, the former kingdoms of Mewar and Marwar in Rajasthan, follow the rhythm of safari drives and excursions, embark on a drive accompanied by your tracker-guide in a customized 4x4, and relish the luxury of a delicious spread of food all cooked before your eyes.



For a wholesome and ecologically sound experience, and yet incredibly bespoke at the same time, head to Forsyth Lodge in the Highlands of Central India – Satpura. A recipient of the 'Outstanding PUG Eco Rating', Forsyth Lodge has perfected the art of hospitality while ensuring that guests are treated to a host of meaningful and sustainable wildlife tourism experiences.

Get exceptionally close with, and encounter the wild world deep in the African bushveld at South Africa's Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve. Sabi Sabi's Little Bush Camp, comprising of 6 luxuriously furnished and well-appointed suites, offers much needed peace and tranquillity along with a host of African safari adventures that include tracking the Big Five in open vehicles by day and night.

And finally, un-wind in a haven of old-world charm and stylish splendour, at Royal Malewane in South Africa's Greater Kruger National Park. Indulge in the romance and beauty of a bygone age paired deftly with every modern comfort and convenience that the Royal Malewane exudes, and experience a classic safari that is unsurpassed with incomparable game viewing accompanied by an exceptionally qualified guiding team.

To see a leopard, is to witness Nature's design in action. It is a magnificent beast and no matter how often you witness a leopard in the wild, it will always disarm you with its feline grace and ferocity. Sujan's Jawai, in the heart of Rajasthan's untrammelled wilderness is one such frontier that brings you intimately close to this beautiful creature. An experience in itself, Camp Jawai is a rewarding destination in a land of mystery, adventure, antiquity.

Located between the former kingdoms of Jodhpur and Udaipur, and enclosed by the ancient Aravalli hill range, Camp Jawai offers a niche wildlife and luxury experience. Here, leopards move freely through the rural hamlets and pilgrims trek past leopards on their way to ancient temples.



All photos © Jawai Leopard Camp

Jawai Leopard Camp



Experiences

The camp consists of 10 luxurious air-conditioned tents, including one with a family suite. Comfortably furnished in almost Bauhaus – monochrome, faintly 1930s, The luxury tents boast of private verandas, elegant writing desks and seating areas open to wallpaper views of the dramatic, Anogeissus landscape. Stunning black and white photographs of leopards and shepherds make up the interiors. The spacious, creamy-white tents are hand stitched and splashes of red are an ode to the signature turban of the local Rabari, nomadic herders. The opulence of the chic decor is accentuated with its service, especially the food.

Cherish your meals at Camp Jawai; flexible and tailored around your safaris, cuisines from the former kingdoms of Mewar and Marwar. Breakfast follows the early-morning drive, while you leisurely enjoy the lunch and afternoon tea before the evening game drive. Dinner is served in a delightful, lantern-lit al fresco setting with a warm bonfire that brings the unpolluted beautiful sky to life. As the showstopper meal, dinner at Jawai is an exquisite affair. And if you're celebrating a special moment, then a private dinner below a carpet of twinkling stars, way out in the bush is certainly the way to celebrate

This first of its kind safari camp in India, Jawai is a brilliant add-on to the 'Golden Triangle' circuit; even in its own opulent way, it is a glorious destination. Jawai is glamour camping in the heart of a serene wilderness. Embark on a drive accompanied by your tracker-guide in a customised 4x4, or choose any other excursion or activity from those that Jawai has to offer to its very discerning guests. And if you are looking for something even more adventurous, then off-road cycling expeditions allow you to explore this beautiful landscape outside the confines of a jeep.





Jawai Leopard Camp



Must Do

Treat yourself to a hot-oil massage or herbal rub at the Suján Spa, or in your tent. Trained masseuses and therapists use indigenous herbs and oils adding to the luxury experience here. After that stimulating experience, do not miss out to reach for a book from Jawai's well-curated library, and spend hours at the gorgeous drop-edge pool. They say the only way to truly understand someone is to walk a mile in their shoes. At Camp Jawai, you are invited to take up the unique opportunity to walk around the area with their adept guides, and discover the surrounding wildlife, the enchanting Rabari people and the history of the region.

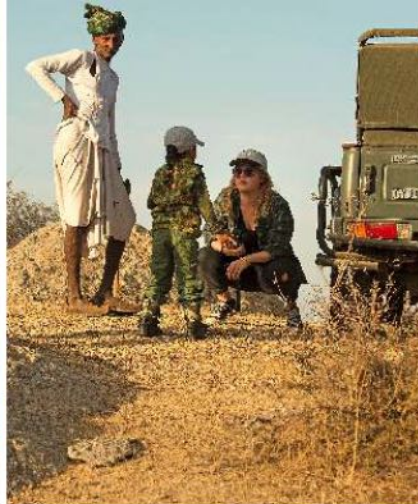
GUEST ROOM AT JAWAI CAMP





A TYPICAL EVENING OUTDOOR SETTING
AT JAWAI LEOPARD CAMP

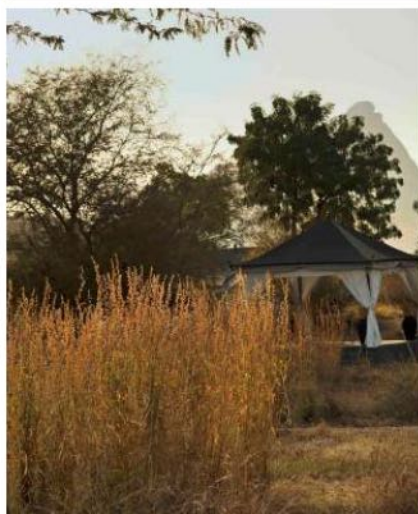




Must Try

Listen to Adam Bannister, Jawai's Quiz Resident and Yusuf Ansari, a Big Cat specialist as they weave fantastic stories and share experiences of their pioneering work with leopards in Rajasthan and wildlife conservation in India respectively.

Beyond the wildlife, are outstanding Jain temples of Ranakpur, the majestic Kumbhalgarh Fort (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), not to mention the adjoining villages and their idyllic lifestyle to savour.



Wildlife Highlights

Known for its bespoke wildlife safaris, Camp Jawai offers pre-dawn ventures in special vehicles for leopard spotting. Leopards inhabit the rocky granite kopjes that rise above the bush close to Jawai; a high frequency of leopard spotting is guaranteed here. Indulge in some leopard tracking in a jeep through the scrubland and over granite hills to find the best places to spy on the spotted big cat. The birdlife here is also vibrant and the camp centred around the Jawai Dam, is a birding hotspot. Watch avians like the Greater Flamingos, Ducks and geese, cranes and stork and over 100 species of fowl and water birds take flight here.

While at Jawai, head out to spot the Nilgai, or crocodiles, langurs, and the wild boar. Of the cats, apart from the magnificent leopard, the most common small cat you will see here is the Jungle Cat.



Early evenings, you can observe them hunting for rodents, geckos and small ground birds. Then comes the rare Rusty Spotted Cat (*P. rubiginosus*), which holds the record of being the 'Smallest Wildcat on Earth'!

Best Time to Travel

Jawai is open from early September until mid-May annually. The best time to visit is from October to early April, when it's dry, warm and less humid (though nights can be chilly). Temperatures rise to around 38°C from March onwards, before the monsoon season arrives in July. The rains usually last until the end of September.

For more details :
www.sujanluxury.com/jawai/

FORSYTH LODGE

Satpura



All photos © Forsyth Lodge

At Forsyth, the ideology of "taking to your feet to explore the wilderness and pay attention to every detail that surrounds you, making the journey one to remember for a lifetime" holds very true.

It really does not take much to realise why Forsyth Lodge has been adjudged "The Most Inspirational Eco-Lodge". Forsyth Lodge ensures an experience of a lifetime.



Deep in the jungles of India's Central Highlands lies the Satpura National Park, a moist deciduous forest that is home to one of India's finest tiger reserves. The national park is rich in biodiversity and is the abode of the Royal Bengal Tiger, in addition to a gamut of other large and small mammals.

Located on the outer edge of this very diverse national park is the Forsyth Lodge.

Named after Capt. James Forsyth, a British civil servant of the East India Company whose assignments to India lead him to journey extensively across the country's central provinces, Forsyth Lodge is cosily nestled across an expanse of 44 acres of reclaimed jungle land.

Experiences

At Forsyth's, every effort is made to tread as timidly as possible on the surrounding ecosystem, and yet provide guests with an experience of a lifetime by bringing them face to face with nature. And this is amply reflected in the manner in which the cottages here are constructed, the way they manage and recycle water, use technology in an environmentally sound manner, and above all generate employment at the lodge for the local community.

For the amount of living spaces that Forsyth makes room for, astonishingly the resort uses a mere 5% of the total 44 acres of its grounds. The living quarters at Forsyth's comprise of 12 independent cottages that are a short walk away from the main two-



storeyed lodge building and form an arc around it.

Cherish 5 unique dining experiences at the main lodge building or simply lounge around near the cosy fire places and the Forsyth Bar, immerse yourself in books at the library that is exclusively dedicated to Indian wildlife, or enjoy the lovely evenings and al fresco dinners on the spacious terraces, while you soak in the stunning vistas of the surrounding mountains. The verandas and relaxed seating areas of the impeccably and very elegantly furnished cottages are the perfect spots to catch a moment and soak in the junglescape, or you can choose to rather go for a swim in a pool that is virtually chlorine-free.

Must Do

The best way to get around is either by foot, or on elephant back or by jeep, each time accompanied by trained naturalist, making the jaunt just that much more adventurous and interesting. Bask in the glory of nature's abundance along the way, while you watch birds swoop across the skies and perch on tree tops gracefully. Cosy up near a quiet and comfortable bonfire, while you watch constellations and gaze at the stars, or paddle a canoe quietly along the shore as you drift into the little inlets watching the birds and beasts come to the water.



Forsyth's makes every effort to tread as lightly as possible on the ecosystem while making an exciting encounter with Nature possible for the visitor.

Must Try

Perhaps the most imaginative of all activities, the Forsyth Trail allows guests to either trek uphill to Pachmarhi or downhill from Pachmarhi, a scenic hill station that has served as an army cantonment since the days of the British and aptly dubbed *Satpura ki Rani* (Queen of Satpura). The Forsyth Trail traces the old-pack trail used in the day of James Forsyth to walk to Pachmarhi.

Wildlife Highlights

Unravel the deep rooted mysteries of the jungle while you soak in the gorgeous sights and sounds of the wilderness, around you.

Follow the trails and tracks, off the beaten path, and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the landscape while you are gently prodded by your tracker-guide to sight the very elusive and shy leopard.



A sloth bear with cubs at Satpura Forest.



View of Satpura Forest.



Canoe ride to reach forest.



A sub-adult tigers in Satpura forest.

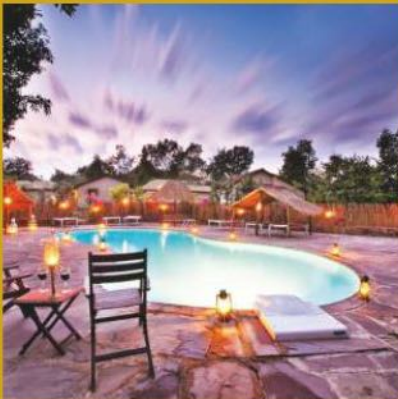
A sighting of the Gaur, or the sloth bear, and several species of deer, along with wild dogs, wolves, hyenas, the Rhesus Macaque, the Indian Civet, Palm Civet, porcupine, Bengal fox, and others is equally enthralling.

Get off the vehicle tracks and strike out across the forest, allowing the wilderness to gracefully envelop you, all while traversing Tiger country.

Best Time to Travel

Satpura National Park is open to visitors from mid-October to the end of June, each year. Animal sightings are known to be the highest during the last few months of the period.

The park is closed to visitors during the monsoons.
The best time to visit is during the winter,
between November and February.



Getting to Forsyth Lodge

Forsyth Lodge is 135 kms. from Bhopal and is easily accessible by air, train and road.

Air: The nearest airport is Bhopal, with daily flights from Mumbai and Delhi.

For Deatils:

www.forsythlodge.com

LITTLE BUSH CAMP

Sabi Sabi Game Reserve
Kruger National Park, SA.



All photos © Little Bush Camp

The way we perceive the world and the manner in which we create memories that last a lifetime, stem from an experience – an experience that in fact brings us closer to where it all began.

An experience that seamlessly blends yesterday's romances with today's contemporary lifestyles and tomorrow's avant-garde design.

This is an experience that will continue to echo in our spirits forever.

This is the experience of Sabi Sabi – a place where all good things come together to form some of our most cherished memories.

About 500 kms. east of Johannesburg and 800 kms. north east of Durban lies one of Africa's oldest and largest private game reserves - the Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve. Celebrating over three decades of excellence in hospitality, the award winning Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve that adjoins the Kruger National Park, offers world-class standards in luxury accommodation, unforgettable safari experiences, and exceptionally close encounters with the celebrated Big Five.



Little Bush Camp Suite.

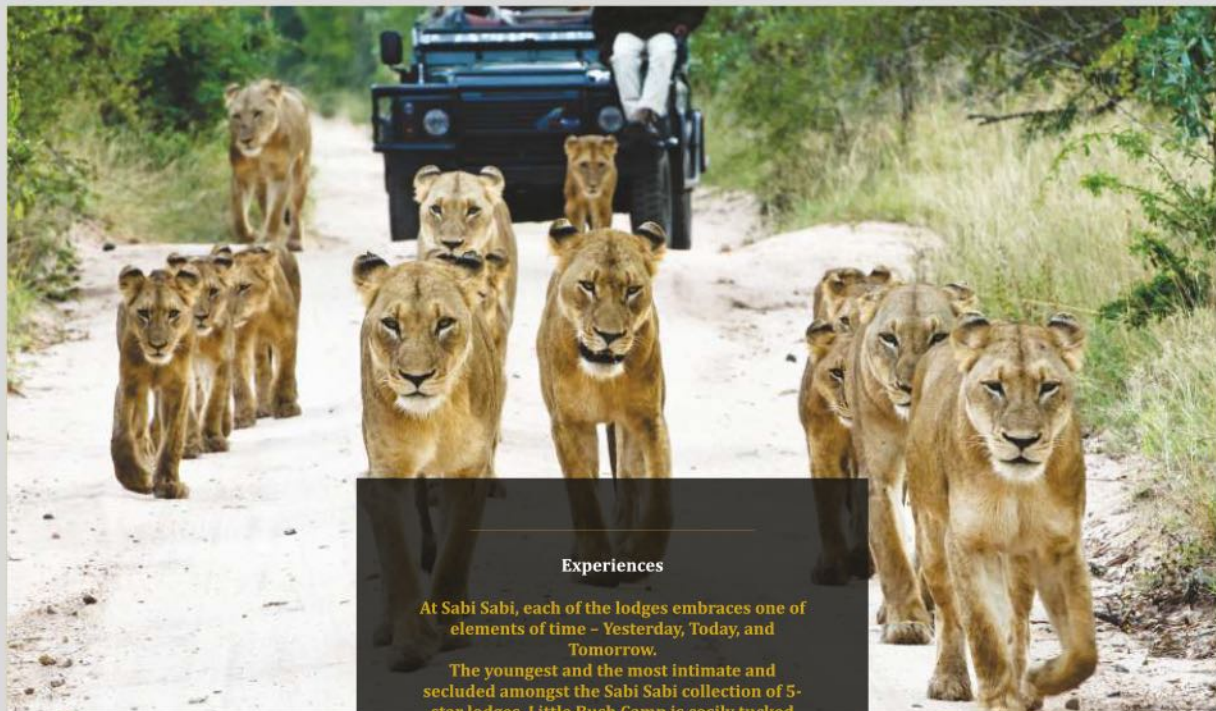


Deck and Spa bath.



Little Bush Camp bathroom.

Drawing inspiration from over a century of African safari experience, Sabi Sabi offers visitors four unique lodging options – Selati Camp, Bush Lodge, Earth Lodge that is ranked amongst the Unique Lodges of the World by National Geographic, and the very intimate hideaway on the banks of the Msuthlu riverbed - Little Bush Camp.

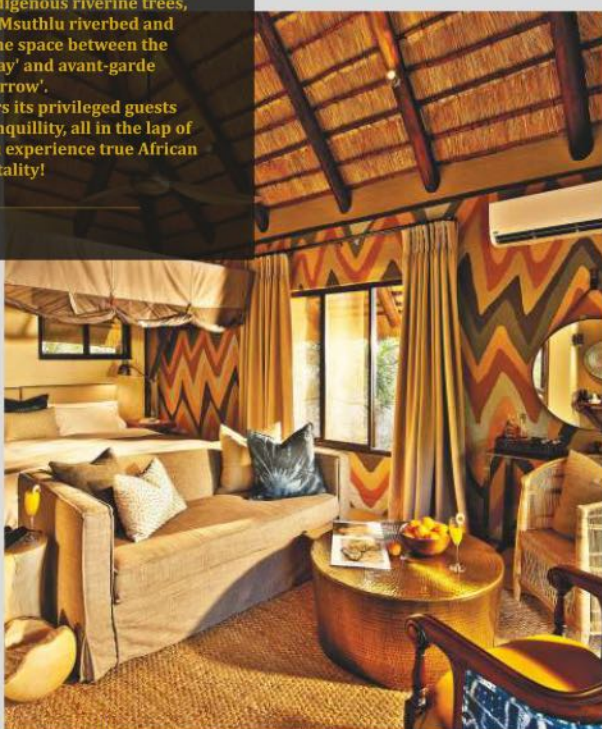


Experiences

At Sabi Sabi, each of the lodges embraces one of elements of time – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

The youngest and the most intimate and secluded amongst the Sabi Sabi collection of 5-star lodges, Little Bush Camp is cosily tucked away in the shade of indigenous riverine trees, along the bend of the Msuthlu riverbed and seamlessly bridges the space between the contemporary 'Today' and avant-garde 'Tomorrow'.

Little Bush Camp offers its privileged guests immense peace and tranquillity, all in the lap of luxury. This is where you experience true African hospitality!





Experiences

Little Bush Camp offers the ultimate in luxury safaris.

Bask in the warm African sunlight as it oozes into your living spaces, or enjoy a relaxing spa on your private deck overlooking the Msuthlu River, as you watch wild animals cross, only metres away. And if that were not all; be one with the immense bounties of nature as you take a bath and watch the surrounding wilderness through the large floor to ceiling French windows around the bath. Truly a sight to behold!

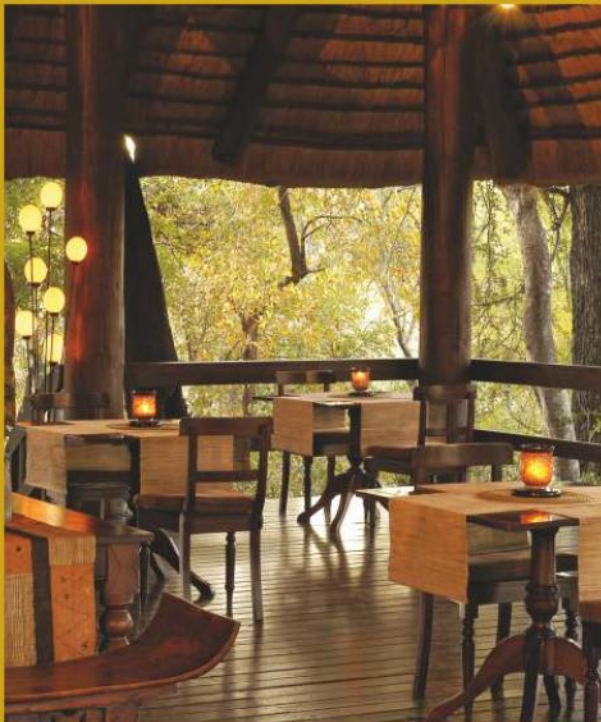
When you live in the city, how often do you really look up at the sky in wonder and gaze in bewilderment at the stars strewn against the pitch black sky? Here, at Little Bush Camp, the trained ranger will make sure to enlighten you with their entertaining commentary on the southern hemisphere constellations, and even customise the star gazing session for you.

If you enjoy getting behind the camera lens, then the Sabi Sabi Photographic Safari will offer you the most unique experience of being guided, by a professional photographer (Photographic Host), through the intricacies of getting the very best out of your safari holiday through your camera lens.

Must Try

Celebrate your gorgeous dinners in the welcoming dining area or under the stars at the outdoor *boma* (an enclosure) that serves the most exquisite, award-winning and contemporary culinary fare, paired deftly with a sparkingly bar list.

Meals at the Little Bush Camp are 'cooked for friends', using only the freshest of ingredients to whip out hearty and scrumptious delicacies.





Wildlife Experiences

No African safari is complete without the sightings of the Big Five - the African lion, African elephant, Cape buffalo, African leopard, and the rhinoceros.

In addition to these, look out for the cheetah, wild dogs, and a host of other species of small and big animals that are indigenous to the area, as your qualified rangers and trackers take you off road to experience close encounters with the untamed wilderness.



Must Do

The highlight of the safaris at Little Bush Camp undoubtedly is an outing with the lodge's Shangaan trackers who hail from the Shangaan villages that dot the vicinity of the game reserve.

The Shangaan people have grown up in the surrounding African bushveld and will enthrall you with their beautifully woven tales of the wild and share their knowledge and understanding of the centuries-old traditions and folklore of their people that has been long passed down by word of mouth from one generation to the next.

Watch them with astonishment, as they identify the birds and beasts of the jungle by their calls and imitate them to brilliant perfection. There is never a dull moment, as they take you off road for an exceptionally close encounter with the wild world and captivate you with their immense hospitality and concern for your well-being.

Best Time to Travel

Anytime of the year is a good time to visit Little Bush Camp at Sabi Sabi Game Reserve, as each season has its set of advantages.

Spring and summer between September and February is when the bush is green, lush and thick, and the reserve has welcomed plenty of new born animals.

Autumn and winter, between March and August are dry months and the bush is less dense and lacks water, causing animals to frequent the waterholes more often.

Getting to Little Bush Camp

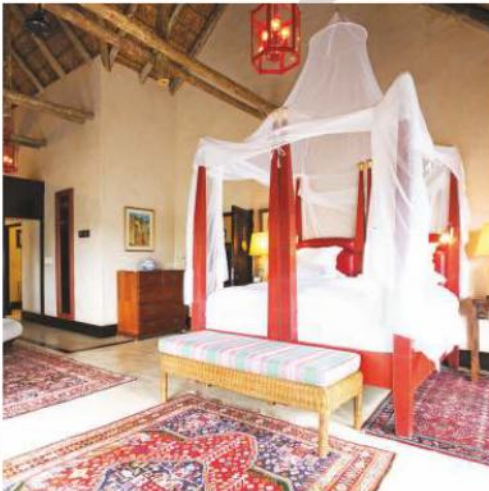
Daily shuttle flights from Johannesburg to the Sabi Sabi airstrip, and scheduled flights with SA Airlink from Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (Nelspruit).

Helicopter transfers and
Private air charters available on
request.

For more details:
www.sabisabi.com

Royal Malewane

Thornybush Private Game Reserve
Greater Kruger National Park, SA.



All photos © Royal Malewane

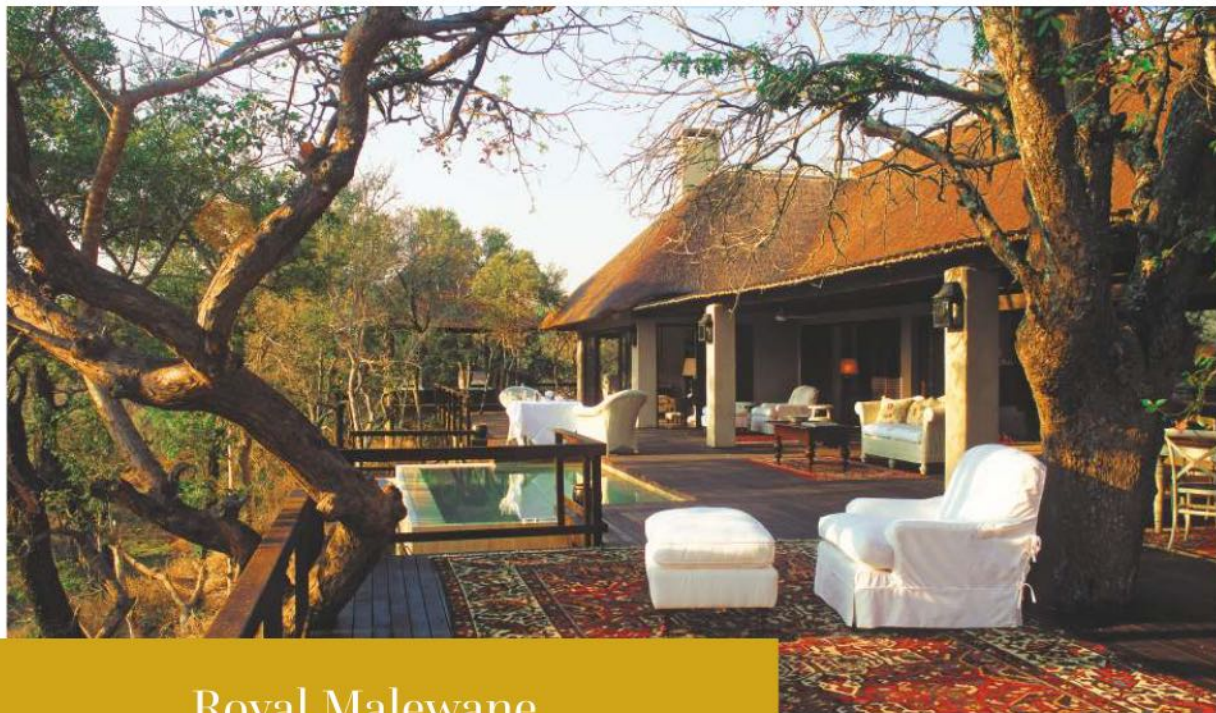
Part luxury safari camp, part six-star hotel, the Royal Malewane in the Thornybush Private Game Reserve is a place that pampers you.

The uber-stylish, privately-owned bush camp is located on the western border of the Greater Kruger National Park and boasts of a unique synthesis of Africa's wildest, colonial splendour and indulgent hospitality.

An intimate and luxurious safari lodge, Royal Malewane boasts of a spa, and offers the privacy of luxury suite with abundant indoor space and an inviting outdoor deck with loungers, a plunge pool and Jacuzzi, all spread across a sprawling 13,000-hectares.

Extremely service-oriented, it is the seclusion of the property that is simply gorgeous. The property is made up of a main lodge with only eight suites and a private six-bedroom villa called Africa House.





Royal Malewane

Royal and Luxury Suites



Royal Malewane

Thornybush Private Game Reserve
Greater Kruger National Park, S.A.

Experiences

You can rest be assured that while you holiday at the Royal Malewane, every special care will be taken, to make your stay extremely personalised.



Here in the African bushveld, every detail is conspired to spoil you, and make your stay special.

The Royal Malewane's main lodge is decorated with antiques and rich carpets. Dressed in colonial-style, each suite, Luxury and Royal houses a canopied four-poster bed, a luxuriant bathroom, a thatched gazebo and private infinity-edge plunge pool! The very private Africa House is perfect for a family stay and includes 6 en-suite rooms, and its very own private outside shower and deck.

To witness the magnificence of Royal Malewane, you are certainly advised to stay at the property for a minimum of 3 nights. Enjoy an unsurpassed classical safari experience in the company of expert rangers and trackers. An unrivalled wildlife experience awaits you, with over 130 mammal and 300 bird species to watch!

Choose to scout the wilderness on elephant back, or take a

Must Try

For a more sedate and dazzling luxury Africa safari experience, get up at the crack of dawn and seek favourable winds. Take flight in a hot air balloon, change altitudes and drift gently over the landscape below to survey the African wilderness from the sky.

Or try horse riding through the bush. On the beautiful Moholoholo Mountain View Game Reserve bordering the Blyde River Canyon spot a vast variety of animals and birds such as eland, giraffe, kudu, wildebeest, klipspringer, warthog, impala, hippo, duiker and nyala.



hot air balloon flight over the scenic Lowveld section of the Blyde River, West of Hoedspruit. And, if that does not suit you fine, take a helicopter flight over some of the most scenic areas of the Blyde River Canyon, Gods Window and the Pinnacle. Going horseback riding across the Reserve is not such a bad idea either, and neither is a cruise of the River Canyon. When you tire of all the adventure, enjoy a true luxury golfing experience at the Leopard Creek Country Club.

At the end of a long and adventurous day uncovering the bushveld, it's time to settle in at Royal Malewane's award-winning spa against a stunning background of the natural surroundings. And, when it's time for dinner, let the staff delight you with a unique and indulgent experience that features contemporary cuisine prepared by the executive chef and his team. For a romantic experience, the Bedouin Tent is much recommended – complete with romantic lighting and star gazing.



Royal Malewane

Africa House



Wildlife Highlights

It's not just the luxury, but also the jaw-dropping game that makes a stay at Royal Malewane an uber wildlife experience! In Africa's finest bushveld, the safari lodge's expert guides and trackers ensure intimate game experiences and close sightings of the Big Five.

Nestled in the heart of the bush, in the woodland savannah, the Thornybush offers a splendid Big Five game viewing experience. The Royal Malewane offers two safaris each day with an expert guide and tracker in a luxury safari vehicle. The trackers speak English, Zulu, Tsonga, Afrikaans, and Fanagalo and are extremely knowledgeable and master trackers. The game viewing drives here are comfortable and offer plenty quality extended game viewing moments.



Considerable off-roading is allowed here - a rare and special occurrence considering many lodges share rides and vehicles on safari.

Royal Malewane delivers an unrivaled wildlife experience with an equally incredible plant life that plays such a vital role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Best Time to Travel

Kruger National Park is always pleasant throughout the year. Every month offers a different experience. Summer months (October to March) mean the landscape is verdant because of the rains, but it also means that the foliage is denser, water is more abundant and game is therefore trickier to see. There are lots of beautiful migratory birds during the summer months. There are also many baby animals born around this

Must Do

Visit the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre where animals and birds can be viewed up close as they are tenderly nursed back to health.

From eagles to owls and vultures to wild dogs, lions and leopard, you will find them all here, at the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

Also check out the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre to get close to unusual species such as wild dogs, the black-footed cat, African wild cat and sable antelope.

A spectacular sight to witness is of rare vultures feeding.



time which can be the highlight of a game drive.

While the daytime temperature in the winter months (May to September) is ideal, it does get a little chilly at night and in the early morning.

Getting to Royal Malewane

There are daily flights by SA Express Airways and SA Airlink from Johannesburg and Cape Town respectively. Private charter planes too can be booked.

For more details:

www.theroyalportfolio.com/royal-malewane/

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DOUBLETREE
BY HILTON™
PUNE - CHINCHWAD



A photograph of the interior of the Alto Vino restaurant. The space is bright and airy, with large windows on the left side covered by light-colored, sheer curtains. The floor is made of light-colored wood. Several tables are set with white tablecloths, glassware, and plates. The chairs are upholstered in a light-colored fabric with a tufted back. In the background, there is a bar area with a dark countertop and a lamp. On the right wall, there is a large framed collage of various images, including architectural details and food. A decorative hanging light fixture is visible in the foreground.

ALTO
VINO

Irresistibly Italian

"He knows good Italian food when he eats it!"

And that is just the thought behind Alto Vino, Pune's premier authentic Italian restaurant.



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PUNE

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www.jwpune.com

A photograph of a deer in a forest at sunset, with the text "SPIRIT OF THE WILD" overlaid. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light from the setting sun, which is visible through the trees on the right. The deer is in the foreground, partially obscured by tall grass. The text is in a white, serif font, with "SPIRIT OF THE" in a smaller size above the much larger word "WILD".

SPIRIT OF THE
WILD

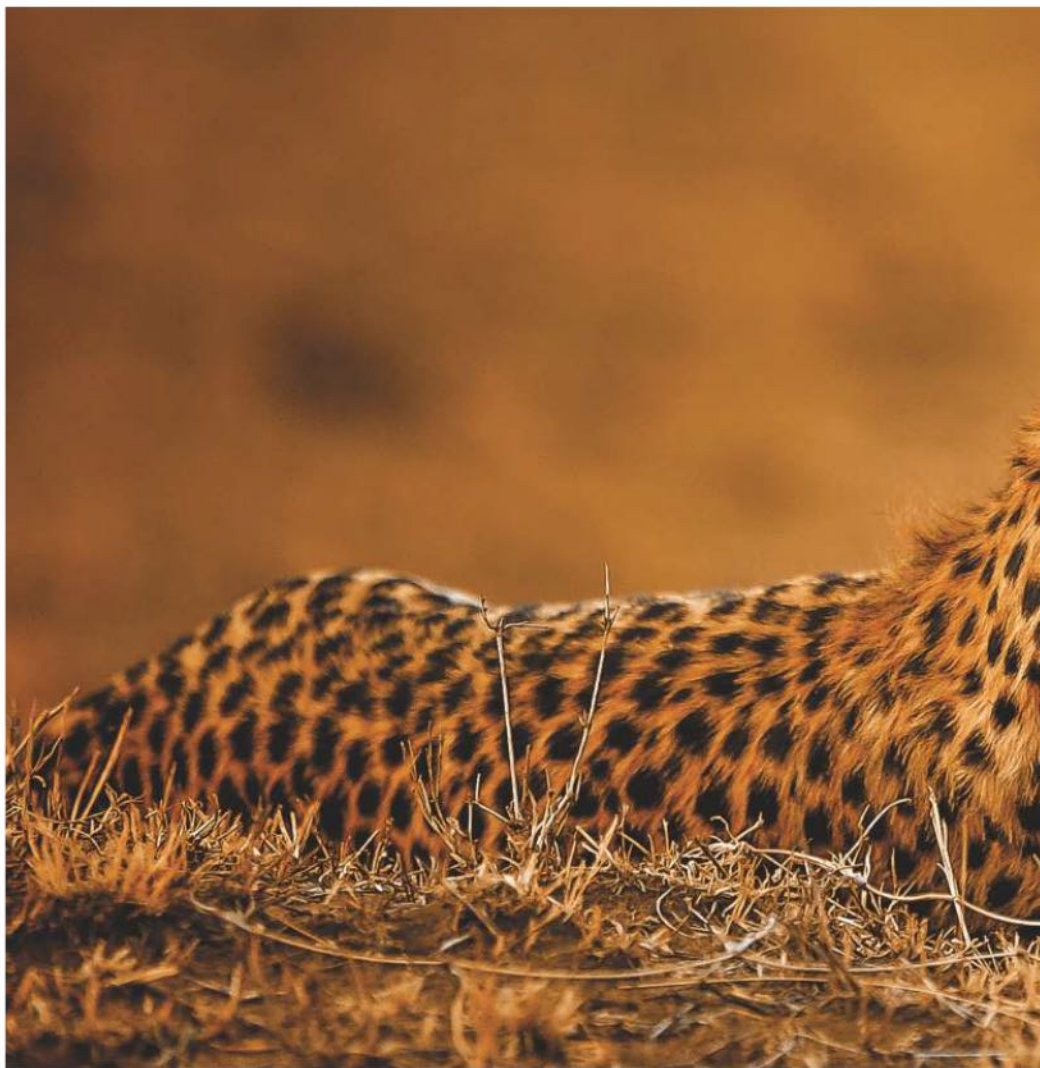


A photo feature by
Chandrabhal Singh

The wonderful, earthy smell of khus (vetiver bunchgrass), the sight of filtered sunlight piercing through wise, old Peepal trees, and the alarm calls of deers, monkeys, and peacocks – these are a few of Chandrabhal Singh's favourite things. With each visit into the wild, his feelings of belonging grow.

In the civilized world, he works in communication design and has been making an indelible mark for himself over the past 15 years. But it is in the natural world, where he truly shines – he follows fresh pugmarks into deep, dark thickets, his ears straining to hear the slightest rustle, while his eyes scan the undergrowth for any sudden movement. He is able to recount his first trip into the forests of Central India very vividly, “I was a greenhorn, unused to my new camera and to an environment that was almost too natural for my urban sensibilities. I was amazed at all that I saw and I returned a changed man.” Today, 16 years after that trip, he considers himself only slightly improved at being able to capture the majesty of nature, but his sense of familiarity with the woods has increased irrevocably. Accompanying him on my many trips to the forests of India are his wife and son. “We’ve become quite the team and we care greatly about our wild inheritance. Whenever I can contribute, in any small measure, to the betterment of India’s forests and its inhabitants, I do. And my team [family] is always there to support me. I may live in the city but I am growingly not at ease here.”

There, in the mighty jungle, surrounded by thriving nature, Chandrabhal Singh finds himself filled with a sense of peace and rightness – an inexplicable feeling of going home.



*An adult cheetah during sunset
at Mara Sarova grassland, Kenya.*



MASTER HUNTERS OF THE PLAINS

© Chandrabhal Singh



*A matriach elephant at
Timbavati Game Reserve, South Africa.*



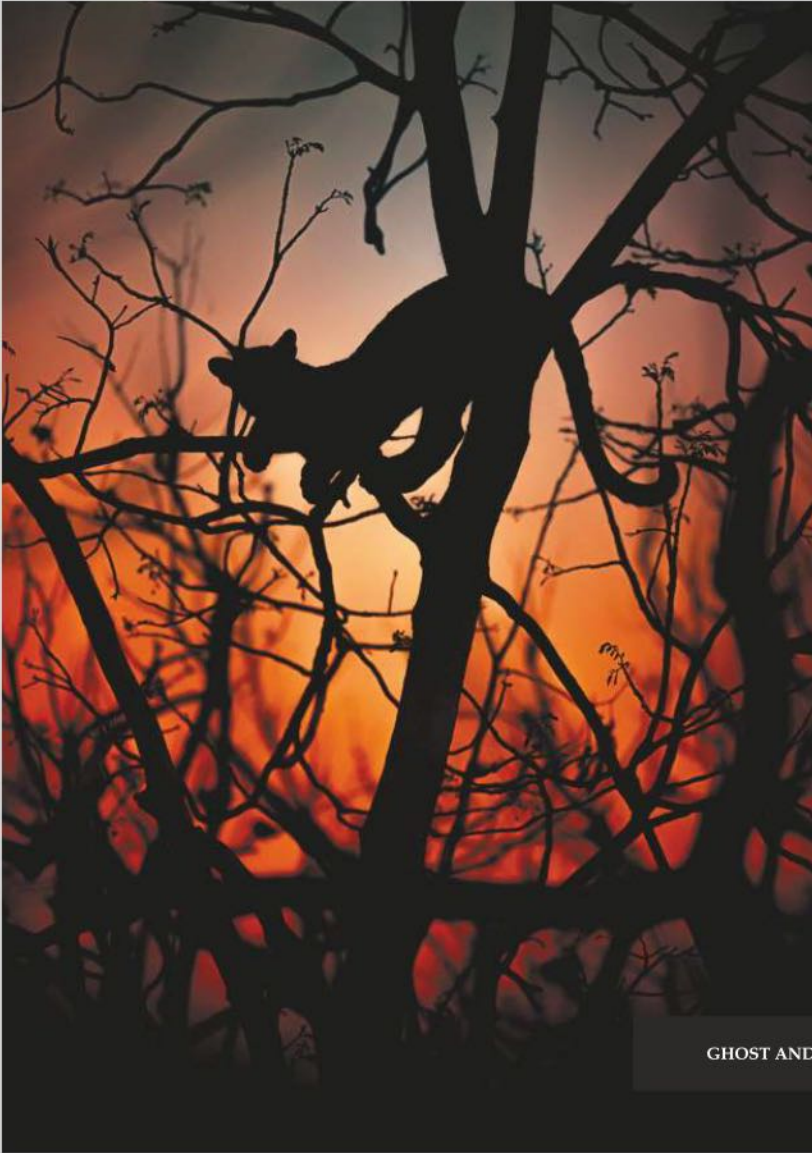
GENTLE GIANT



I'M LOVING IT

© Chandrabhal Singh

*A sub adult tigress enjoying the first showers
after 4 months of long summer heat.*



GHOST AND THE DARNKENSS

Even predators need to fear the darkness of the night. While returning to camp from Forest near Nagpur, found this leopard in the refuge of a tree as a pack of wild dogs had cornered this cat and holding their ground and not ready to leave the scene.



FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

*A brahmany kite in flight
in a sunlit evening at Ranthambhore.*

© Chandrabhal Singh



© Chandrabhal Singh

MORNING STROLL BY THE LAKE

A Sub-Adult Tiger taking a stroll by the lake in backdrop of thick fog and winter chill at Ranthambhore National Park, India.



ENTER THE FRAME

*A dominant and resident tigress
at Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.*

*A dominant and resident tigress
at Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.*

© Chandrabhal Singh



FIRE IN THE EYES, COURAGE IN THE BELLY



Serpent Eagle. Master of airstrikes and slayers of reptiles in a pre summer forest setting.



CALL OF THE WILD

LUXURY LIVING À LA ITALIA



Rashmi Alevoor talks with the good people of B&B Italia, Lema, Medea, and Poltrona Frau to gain an insider's perspective of 'La Dolce Vita' (Italian for "the sweet life").



B&B Italia, Lema, Medea, Poltrona Frau – these names have come to symbolise artistry in the way of furniture. These Italian luxury labels are renowned all over the world for their exquisitely designed furniture; each piece, inarguably, a *pièce de résistance*.

When high-end luxury real estate developers, Panchshil Realty think of design excellence, the phrase “Made in Italy” always comes to their mind.

More than a mere cachet, the expression is a promise of high quality and superior design. And so when the developers decided to launch their expansive multi-brand luxury furniture store in Pune, the words B&B Italia, Lema, Medea, and Poltrona Frau were naturally top of mind.

Located at the impressive Trump Towers Pune in Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Spazio is an ode to Italian-style home décor.

Spread over a sprawling 1,858 square metres, it houses stunning collections of designer furniture that includes armchairs, sofas, chairs, tables, accessories, beds, bookcases, and outdoor furniture; even a dedicated space for showcasing fine art!

Built to promote an essence of “bespoke living”, Spazio is truly a one-of-a-kind experience.



B&B ITALIA



B&B Italia is one of the leading contemporary furniture design brands since its launch in 1966. The brand has its finger on the pulse of changing tastes and lifestyles, and is always at the forefront of innovative design trends. B&B Italia are internationally recognised for modern yet timeless furniture as well as exquisite accessories that include statement table ware, carpets, and lighting solutions.

In conversation with
Massimo Franchi, B&B Italia.



What is one distinct feature of Italian design?

Italian design is one of the most qualifying expressions of 'Made in Italy' in the world; it comes from a balanced and refined mix of craftsmanship and technology, good taste and elegance, beautiful details and high quality. Thanks to all this, plus its long experience and strong know-how, B&B Italia is considered worldwide a leading company in the design field, as a matter of fact, an excellent ambassador of 'Made in Italy'.

What is the profile of your typical customer? Describe their lifestyles.

Our collections and lifestyles respond to the expectations and needs of the most demanding and varied clients. Over the years, B&B Italia has been capable not only to produce unique pieces – veritable icons of Italian design, but also to propose a very elegant and international lifestyle. From contemporary solutions to modern classic ones, our collections always bring creativity and personality in any living environment, no matter where it is, with proposals that offer a high degree of personalisation.

How is the Indian market in terms of luxury furniture?

[Interior] Designers are playing a key role in making Indian consumers aware of the existence of Italian Brands as they are the first touchpoint for clients. Designers are also architects and they design and follow the construction as well. There are not so many publications for furniture in India. Elle Décor, amongst a handful of others, have a seemingly low readership and so its difficult to reach potential clients in such a way. I think that the system of distribution for furniture in India is pretty nascent but things are growing very quickly.

Describe the Indian luxury brand consumer vis-à-vis his/her foreign counterpart.

The typical B&B consumer has (apart from wealth) a very good cultural background. They are open to innovation and have a desire to be proud of their acquisitions. They are also well-travelled and have global exposure.

Your thoughts on Spazio.

Spazio is no doubt the best luxury furniture store, not only in India but also in Asia. Both for its own way of display, decoration and located in a very well designed building [Trump Towers Pune].

Luxury is such a fluid and evolving concept. What according to you is luxury in 2016?

Luxury is a very simple concept. It is about feeling good and so all choices are geared towards that simple thought – what gives one pleasure. That why the concept of luxury is constantly changing with the times.

LEMA



Lema prides itself on a strong tradition of craftsmanship that is reflected in every project, piece of furniture, and attention to product quality. It was founded in 1970 by the Meroni family, who are expertly managing the company even today. Their strength lies in their manufacturing ability, Italian focus on excellence and innovation, and outstanding craftsmanship.

In conversation with Mauro Marelli, LEMA.



What is one distinct feature of Italian design?

Italian design represents and evokes the values of high quality design and ancient skills, balancing tradition and innovation. These characteristics have resulted in the world recognition and admiration of 'Made in Italy' products as a symbol of excellence. It is a must-have especially in those markets where Italian design is a symbol of a grand lifestyle.

What is the profile of your typical customer? Describe their lifestyles.

Lema's typical customer aspires to create an elegant and discrete ambience in his home, that is a reflection of easy comfort and effortless grace. We share with our customers a sophisticated and contemporary vision of the home.

How is the Indian market in terms of luxury furniture?

The Indian market represents a great opportunity for Italian companies like Lema, to bring their philosophy and products into India, creating a strong culture of Made in Italy. In the last few years these markets have become more open to contemporary tastes and lifestyles, due to the cultural integration and growing connection between different countries, stepping away from a more traditional and decorative style. Describe the Indian luxury brand consumer vis-à-vis his/her foreign counterpart.

Today, high-end Indian customers are living a deep cultural transformation; living in a more connected world and exhibiting globalized taste and style. They travel a lot, discover new cultures and tastes, and adapt all these experiences to their own visions and lifestyles. This remarkable change in their attitude and the unprecedented emphasis on contemporary design allows Italian companies like Lema to enter into this outstanding market, keeping its original style. As a matter of fact, Lema has never changed its way of being and its style according to different cultures and tastes.

What are your thoughts on luxury in Pune?

We decided to open the new Lema flagship store in Pune because we saw a dynamic, enthusiastic and growing city where luxury has become a leading driver in its economy. The Trump Towers Pune, the first Trump building in India, is the perfect example of this increasing demand and is a really excellent symbol of luxury.

Your thoughts on Spazio.

We believe Spazio, the new retail division of the group Panchshil Realty, is one of the most affirmed and influential Indian real estate companies and so is the best partner for us. We share with them a strong preference for quality and style and we're very proud of this collaboration. Spazio indeed represents the best with its extraordinary display for Lema's products in Pune.

Luxury is such a fluid and evolving concept. What according to you is luxury in 2016?

I firmly believe that one of the fundamental characteristics of luxury today is the possibility of offering unique and customized solutions for every ambience. The luxury products have to reflect and express the personality, allowing consumers to choose every single detail and be a part of the whole process in an engaged manner.



MEDEA





Established in 1905, Medea are famous for their attention to detail in design, and original classical designs. They have a long history that traces back to the Italian Liberty movement and the French Art Nouveau movement and one can still see traces of those historic influences in the timeless Medea pieces produced today. Their master craftsmen hold invaluable dying traditions of carving, polishing, lacquering, and upholstering of furniture, secrets that have been passed on “from father to son.”

In conversation with
Luigi Tagliabue, MEDEA

What is one distinct feature of Italian design?

In a word - Innovation. Italian manufacturing is first in the world in terms of innovation and that is why it is copied in many fields like fashion and design. 'Made in Italy' products are very much in demand all over the world. This is the reason why the exhibition in Milan “Salone del Mobile” [The Milan Furniture Fair] is very popular.

What is the profile of your typical customer? Describe their lifestyles.

Our customers belong to high-income groups. They are people who are in touch with the cutting-edge in all facets of life. They are in touch with the best of brands, and they take great care to possess the best and latest in products. They have a preference for custom-made items; pieces that are made to suit to their specific needs in order to personalize their home, villa etc.

How is the Indian market in terms of luxury furniture?
 It is an emerging market. But as with everything in India – the growth is dynamic.

Describe the Indian luxury brand consumer vis-à-vis his/her foreign counterpart.

The Indian Consumer is demanding because Indian culture is very ancient and incredibly rich in meaning. They like to mix their ancient culture with innovation and Italian “know how”. They love the innovativeness of Italian products and see them through the eye of their ancient culture. This is evident in terms of details, accessories and constructions of buildings.

What are your thoughts on luxury in Pune?

It is a market in evolution. We at Medea believe there is a lot of potential in this market and its international clients. They will take Spazio showroom as a point of reference for Italian design in Pune.

Your thoughts on Spazio.

It is a beautiful showroom and as said above I think it will be a point of reference in Pune. For our company in particular it is an important window into the Indian market.

Luxury is such a fluid and evolving concept. What according to you is luxury in 2016?

In my opinion, luxury in 2016 is ‘time’. We live in a frenetic world where everybody is chasing after things, goods, investments... and sometimes you realize that you lack time to enjoy life. Quality time spent with beloved people is the real luxury.



POLTRONA FRAU



In conversation with Amit Pai, Poltrona Frau.

What is one distinct feature of Italian design?

Quality, research, and attention to the manufacturing details, sophisticated and innovative materials, modern reinterpretation of traditional craftsmanship.

What is the profile of your typical customer? Describe their lifestyles.

HNI, over 40/45 years old, mostly women, world travellers and exposed to international brands and cultures. They are espousers of our brand values of history, tradition, craftsmanship, and leather.

How is the Indian market in terms of luxury furniture?

The Indian market is very intriguing. We entered the Indian market in 2010. At the beginning it was very difficult to understand the Indian Customer's thought process, tastes and needs. But we learned soon enough and in the last three years, the Indian market has boomed – especially with Poltrona Frau, our strongest brand in the market. We see a steady and important growth not only in Pune but the whole of India.

Describe the Indian luxury brand consumer vis-à-vis his/her foreign counterpart.

Value for money proposition sought by most Indian brand consumers vis-à-vis their foreign counterparts is the most important difference. However, the Indian consumer is still evolving in terms of taste. They are showing a growing appreciation for more sophisticated and design-oriented products that are already well-established preferences in the West or more evolved countries like Japan.

What are your thoughts on luxury in Pune?

Very sophisticated, I have seen beautiful real estate apartments (like that of Yashwantrao Chavan and Trump towers) but also stunning villas. In Pune, customers not only appreciate luxury, but they seem to have a higher understanding of international brands and real luxury.

Your thoughts on Spazio.

Probably the most beautiful store opened in India in the last 10 years, [Spazio is] a wide space with a rich collection of some of the most beautiful Italian brands. My only suggestion would be to open other Spazio stores across other Indian cities.

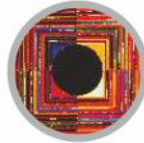
Luxury is such a fluid and evolving concept. What according to you is luxury in 2016?

For us at Poltrona Frau, the term 'Luxury' has always meant simplicity. As you have mentioned the Italian phrase, La Dolce Vita, which refers to the simple luxuries of life or a life well lived, for us too, luxury means something done well – anything executed to perfection.



Poltrona Frau has a long and rich heritage of producing the finest leather and high quality, handcrafted furniture. It was founded by Renzo Frau in 1912, and was making waves even then with their early designs such as the Frau Armchair which reflected the emerging Art Deco style. Over the last century, Poltrona Frau has remained masters' of their domain through their expertise of generations of artisans, executing modern designs to perfection.





“Art washes away from the soul,
the dust of everyday life.”

Pablo Picasso

Bespoke Art

It is said that Art is essential to human life. It is the expression of the soul, ever transcendent.

An evening at the
Spazio Art Gallery is a trip out of the ordinary.

Rashmi Alevoor takes a walk through the imaginative world of some highly prolific artists of contemporary India.

CURATED BY
THE ARTS TRUST

AVAILABLE AT



A PANCHSHIL ENTERPRISE



The Spazio Art Gallery is one of India's most influential and coveted gallery spaces.

The Spazio Art Gallery, in a short time since its launch, has become one of India's most unique and coveted art spaces. Its arrival is like a beacon, illuminating a dark phase of Indian art which is witnessing the lowest levels of art awareness and appreciation in recent times.

The gallery is curated by Mr. Tushar Sethi, Director of the 'Institute of Contemporary Art'. This Kala Ghoda based gallery has been a forerunner in terms of scouting for explosive contemporary artists and simultaneously streamlining the seminal works of revered master artists, thus establishing the foundation, identifying the present trends and pre-empting the future scenario of Indian art.



A treat for collectors, curators and artists, the gallery's primary purpose is to facilitate the buying and promotion of art from established and upcoming Indian artists alike.

"Fragments"
Sujata Bajaj

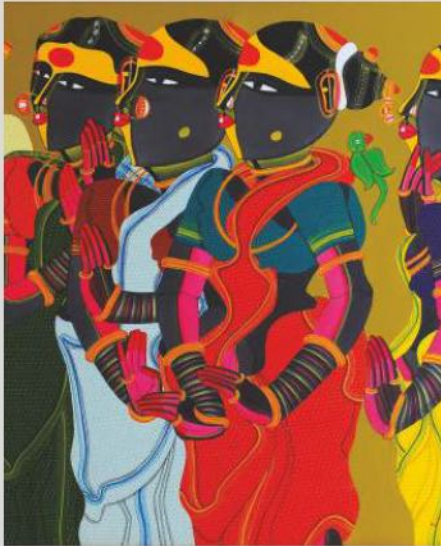


"Bura Mat Suno"
Ram Bali Chauhan



The Spazio Art Gallery aims to bring about a significant change in mindset by not only promoting the works of great, established, and upcoming Indian artists, but also to collaborate with other experimental art galleries from across the country. It also involves itself with the framing and restoration of art, and provides this service to private collectors as well.

"Telangana Women"
Thota Vaikuntam



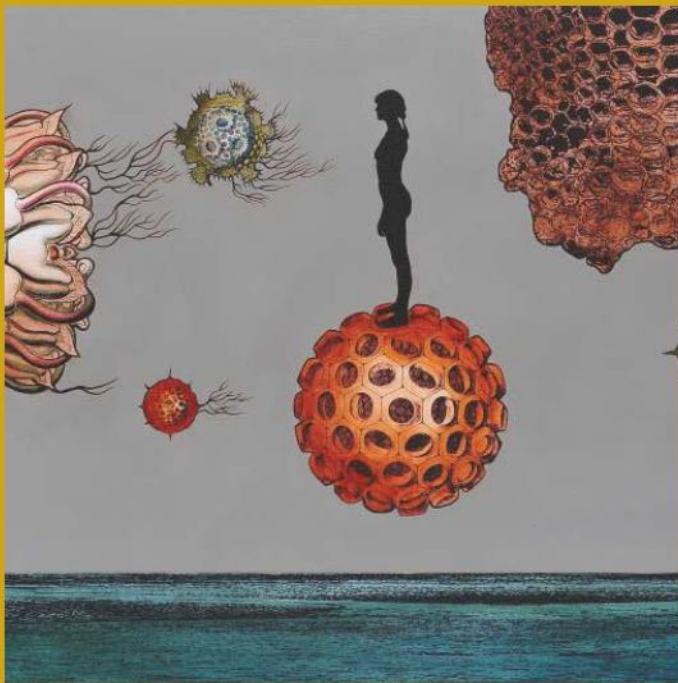
Untitled
Manu Parekh

"Sohini"
Arpana Caur



"Fragments"
Sujata Bajaj

Aside from these core aspects of art and artist promotion, the spacious gallery also serves as a luxury event venue, playing host to corporates, the fashion industry and high-end luxury product launches.



Evolve
Sonia Mehra Chawla



Untitled
Ompal Sansanwal



Untitled
Sonia Mehra Chawla

The Spazio Art Gallery is a place of inspiration and experience; it encourages Indian genius, the continuous reshaping and exploring of boundaries, and experimentation. It is an arts incubator, an accelerator of Indian culture at its finest, and at last – a thing of beauty.

All photos © Atmantan

ātmantan





ATMANTAN

A Wellness Resort

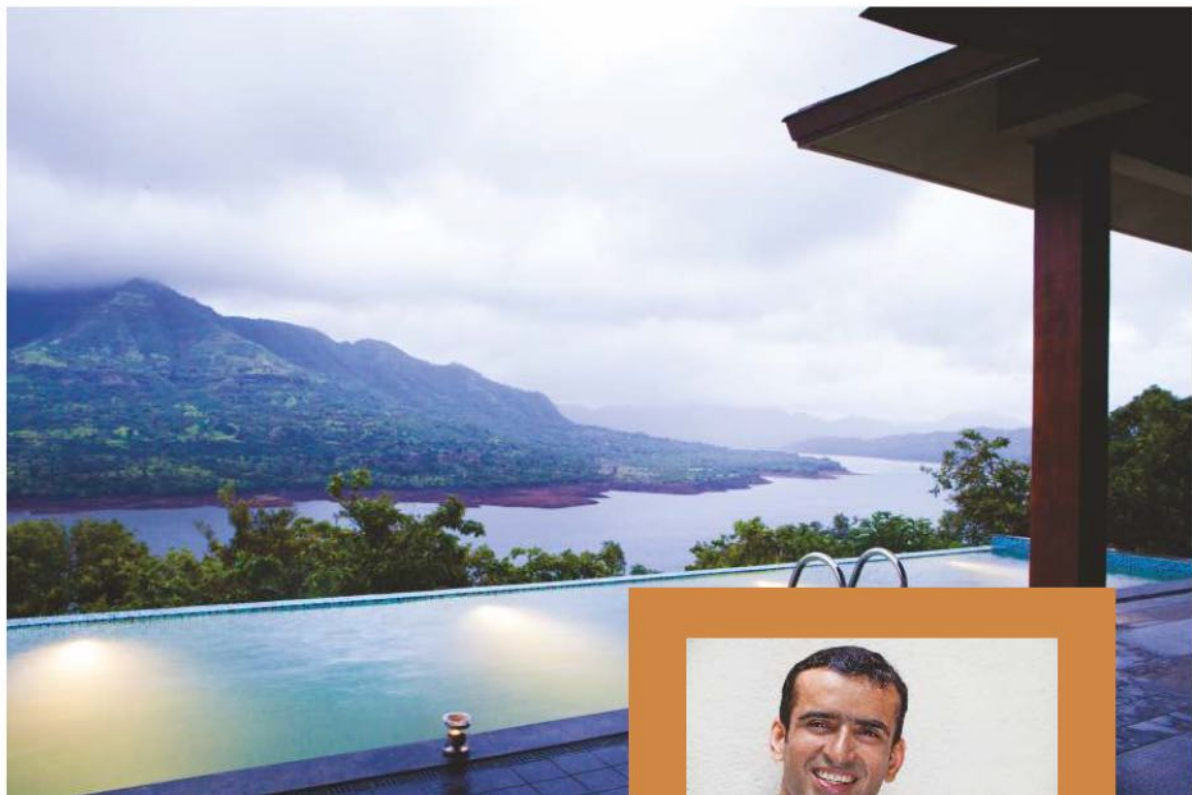
Evading the hassle, it poured heavily.
The soil found its aroma,
The woods found their colour,
The soul found its tranquillity



Luxury animates our mind and soul, deploying the roots of uneasiness that unfold our natural self into the habitat of tranquillity. You soak in the details when your mind departs into the land of tranquillity, away from the hassle of everyday life. Where serenity finds its abode in the lap of hushed nature, talking its own language. Indeed, silence is a luxury.

The panoramic views of the lush deep forest, the water splashing from the dam meets the blue waters of the lake merging with the green bank. Set against this natural kaleidoscopic view that irresistibly connects you to a world you long to belong to; redirecting your energies towards a 'healthier you', is Atmantan, a wellness resort.

Maheep Singh Rathore whisks you away on a well-deserved weekend retreat, a little over an hour's drive from Pune.



Where rejuvenation meets luxury, this elegant wellness destination is nestled in the lap of the majestic Sahyadri range, and is spread over 40 acres of breath-taking valley, overlooking the pristine blue waters of the Mulshi Lake. Easily accessible from Pune and Mumbai, Atmantan boasts of an uninterrupted, jaw-dropping view of an ethereal landscape. The heaven of bliss and wellness offers you a high tech gymnasium, a functionally inspired aerobic studio, an expansive yoga studio, and a multi-functional Pilates and dance studio. With easy access to a veritable game-filled indoor sports complex, meditation pavilions and amphitheatres, Atmantan is a space for soul-search, meditation, and waking up to self-realisation. An exclusive 60-seat conference room, a 10-seat boardroom and banquet facilities, efficiently enable wellness corporate gatherings at this inspiring spa destination.

"Atmantan is the divine amalgamation of *atma* (soul), *mana* (mind) and *tana* (body)", explains Sharmilee Agrawal Kapur, a *pranic* healer who along with her entrepreneur and tri-athletic husband Nikhil Kapur, sought to create a retreat with a difference. Sharmilee articulates, "We at Atmantan wish to transform you to the optimal way of life which enables you to



Sharmilee Agrawal Kapur with Nikhil Kapur.

"We at Atmantan wish to transform you to the optimal way of life which enables you to better what you thought was your best".



better what you thought was your best". Which means, Atmantan is a destination where guests can reconnect with their inner selves, all the while placing their own individual needs, wants and desires on top of the priority hierarchy ladder. This is a place where guests learn to put themselves first everyday of their life, a place to start living their life at its healthiest best.

While at Atmantan, indulge yourself deep into the superior amenities the resort has to offer. A one-of-its-kind chemical-free, salt-water indoor pool takes the concept of wellness to the next level, completely natural. Lose yourself in time, against a backdrop of green mountains and the pristine Mulshi Lake as you settle



down for your much needed break from the bustle of the city. From lake facing rooms with garden courtyards to well-appointed luxurious villas with private infinity pools, personal gymnasiums, couple spas and personal butlers' pantries, Atmantan extends your unperturbed tryst with nature. The clean and verdant campus is also home to long stem roses, intricate wooden carvings surrounded by breath-taking horizons, making Atmantan a serene destination which is grandiose and classy, and yet quirky and incredibly unforgettable.

Escape and pamper yourself with exquisite wellness treatments synergistically designed by blending healthy gastronomies, exercises and treatments.



Atmantan
is a space for soul-search,
meditation, and
waking up to
self-realisation.

With a Wellness Director, Dr. Manoj Kutteri, on board, Atmantan's goal oriented programs help you in designing a wellness program that caters perfectly to your needs. Begin with body exfoliating therapies and intensely nourishing aromatherapy massages, followed by acupressure and Chi Nei Tsang treatments, which will leave your inner senses revitalised. Return to balance and unblock your auras and *chakras* with purifying body polishes, cocooning wraps and *pranic chakra* healing sessions that will detox you, enhancing your overall wellbeing. The expansive menu also spans to special treatments such as *hammam*, Vichy showers, colonics and balneotherapy. With detoxifying and restorative



“Atmantan is the divine
amalgamation of *atma* (soul),
mana (mind) and
tana (body)”.

Sharmilee Agrawal Kapur

treatments, Atmantan aims at helping guests relax and heal deeply at the mental, physical and spiritual levels.

The spa and wellness centre not only paves your way to wellbeing, but it is also extensively concerned about the ecology of the surrounding environs. Comprehending the possibility of a green building and green zones through the use of passive architectural techniques, renewable energy, the amount of solar insulation available, and architectural designs that allow for maximum natural light to penetrate through at all times, Atmantan is a Gold LEED certified project. LEED is the green building certification program

atmantan

issued by the U. S. Green Building Council that recognises best-in-class building strategies and practices.

The perks of a getaway to Atmantan don't end here. Executive Chef Sandeep Biswas unravels the resort's spa cuisine, a treat in itself, with a philosophy that traces back to the traditional belief that locavorian (locally grown seasonal produce) food revitalises health the most and encompasses facets of wellness for the discerning traveller of today. Savour the surrounding serenity against a natural setting at 'Te'jus', The Juice Bar, which uses farm fresh produce to refine and relinquish your wellness goals. Settle down to tranquillity at Chantara - an al fresco lounge, and



indulge yourself in the innovative grills here, amidst music and sizzling spa cuisine. On your road to wellness, rejuvenate yourself with a nutritional palette watering culinary style from macrobiotic to Ayurveda, Mediterranean to Asian at Vistara, the main dining area, as you toss your senses into the pristine Mulshi valley, surrendering yourself to *prana*.

Experience the holistic approach to spa and wellness at Atmantan, which is natural and rustic, yet luxurious and incredibly indulgent in approach. Lose yourself in the lap of nature and find a better 'you' - where the road to wellness truly begins.

HELLO!

FASHION

"To me, fashion is like a mirror. It's a reflection of the times. And if it doesn't reflect times, it's not fashion. Because people aren't gonna wearing it." Clinching fashion with a psychedelic belt, the New York based bohemian designer, Anna Sui, quotes fashion as a timeless drug of choice changing its ingredients through different eras.

With the front row girls carting retro accessories swaddled with utilitarian jackets and argyle tights followed by fashion-witted designers in tunics, the fashion world keeps revamping the definition of glamour.

Fashion, undoubtedly is an anecdote of the ages, lifting and lowering heels and hemlines. The ever changing culture of fashion found its patronage in the courts of Indian aesthetes. With a plethora of art, culture and traditions in its abode, Indian styles, since ages have ruled the glamorous end of the sartorial spectrum.

Seeing through the tapestry of vibrant colours, rich motifs and intricate detailing, we look into the archives of Indian history in the context of its craftsmen, culture and couturiers. In the 1950s Indian fashion was hit by casually brilliant pieces of irony to find its alter-ego in the West, losing its ingenuity. The then drought ravaged Indian fashion industry was on its last lap, before the late Rohit Khosla became a pioneer of the revival of Indian Fashion, and presented Indian Fashion to the world.

Taking over from the erstwhile curators, some of the country's dynamic designers made the allure of this enviable Indian styling more appealing to the fashion world.



Manish Arora

Gauri and Nainika

Maheep Singh Rathod for Meet the city maps the footsteps of the Indian fashion industry onto the world stage, covering two of the most eminent Indian fashion designers who lured Hollywood A-listers to dress their way – Manish Arora, and Gauri and Nainika.

The Kitsch King of **Bold And Bright**



The 'John Galliano' of India,
the kitsch king of bold and bright,
meet the Aurora borealis of the Indian Fashion Industry -

Manish Arora



The eclectic designer with his indelible designs has always satisfied trend de jour, in turn becoming the only Indian Designer to exhibit at the Paris Fashion Week. His geometric motifs and 'Pink and Gold palette' put a soft spin on the western cuts and styles deciphering an amalgam of trends and tradition. A-listers from Lady Gaga to Katy Perry have banked on him to deliver a strong fashion stance on the red carpet. The former creative director of 'Paco Rabanne' has collaborated with big league companies like Walt Disney, Swarovski, Swatch, Reebok, Nivea, MAC cosmetics and Mono Prix.

An eclectic designer, Manish Arora came out with a melange of traditional gold royalty and his wild and quirky colours, to exhilarate tradition out of kaleidoscopic designs, and tied up with the luxury jewellery brand, Amrapali. Taking along his culture, Arora in collaboration with ethnic retail brand BIBA, launched his traditional brand 'Indian' in Paris. When asked, "How is 'Indian' being received in the fashion capital", Arora replied in his unconventional style, "It is an outburst of colours on the otherwise monotone Parisian fashion".

The visual treats of vibrant motifs and wild colours have always been Arora's forte. So, the next time you see wild pastels on impeccable whirling fluid dresses or western cuts on a Banarasi silk, styled with vibrant accoutrement of beadings and mirror work, don't forget to see the 'Manish Arora' label behind it.

Dressing with a little humour aptly defines the audacity of the kitsch king to create off-beat designs.

IN CONVERSATION

What do you feel about world fashion on the whole and India's contribution to it?
Fashion is growing by the minute today. We have so many different designers and that give us a varied variety of perspectives. Globally, people are looking at Indian fashion seriously now and there are a lot more Indian designers on the international fashion scene now, than before!

Do you feel luxury lifestyles in India are comparable to those in Western countries?

Depends on how you define luxury. Today, everyone has their own definition of luxury. Clean air is luxury for most now!

On the list of Hollywood celebrities, who are the ones to have influenced you because of their attitude... or anything and everything else?

Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, M.I.A

"Women's fashion is a euphemism for fashion created by men for woman". Would you agree to this saying?

There's a lot of amazing women designers today as well so no I do not agree!

Gender Neutral Fashion! Your take on this.

As long as you can make it work!

Indian by Manish Arora in Paris. How is it being received in the capital of fashion?

It's a burst of colour on the otherwise monotone Parisian fashion.



▲
Singer Rihanna in a Manish Arora label performs live at Hammerstein Ballroom, New York.

Image © Theo Wargo/Getty Images for the Island Def Jam Music Group



Manish Arora

▲
Singer Lady Gaga in Manish Arora creation during the
MTV Europe Music Awards 2011.
Image © Gareth Cattermole/Getty Images.

Flirting with glamour, romance and

Flattering Silhouettes... _____



The petite sisters' designs have adorned the likes of Nancy o' Dell, Carley Steel, Tory Kelly, Charlotte Ridley, Sia and many...

Meet Gauri and Nainika



With a feminine and European philosophy of design, Gauri and Nainika found life in the classic era of Hollywood and launched their eponymous label in 2002. While Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly played muse for the fashionistas, the Delhi NIFTians came out with a vogue upgrade ranging from cocktail dresses to bespoke gowns, making the fashion world 'evening-ready'. With scattered sequined skirts and ethereal sleek sheath ruffled gowns, their creations that resemble confections have become a wardrobe staple for many Hollywood celebs. Flirting with glamour, romance and flattering silhouettes, the petite sisters' designs have adorned the likes of Nancy o' Dell, Carley Steel, Tory Kelly, Charlotte Ridley, Sia and many other international celebrities.

In conversation with designer duo Gauri and Nainika, Meet the City asks them about their label, designs and how it feels to have taken Indian Fashion to the world.

Charlotte Riley in Gauri and Nainika outfit
with Actor Tom Hardy at the
88th Annual Academy Awards.

Image © Gettyimages



Singer Tori Kelly in Gauri and Nainika outfit
at the 58th GRAMMY Awards.

Image © Gettyimages



Singer Sia in Gauri and Nainika outfit
performs at FOX's American Idol Season.

Image © Gettyimages

When people wear your outfits and they like it.
That's an unmatched feeling.

In Conversation With

Gauri and Nainika

Your style is the picture of femininity. What (or who) are your fashion influences?

Taking inspiration from 'old Hollywood' and European designs we aim at polishing the elegant classic Hollywood style and bring out our best. Our strongest influences are Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly. In fact, the term 'diva' roots back to their style.

What do you feel about world fashion as a whole and India's contribution towards it?

World fashion as a whole is a knit of multiple cultures and styles. And there is no predominant part of fashion left as it is a free globetrotting sense. With active social media and editors covering the happenings at Fashion Weeks, fashion is becoming more accessible. 'Manish Arora on the Paris Fashion Week runway' was one of the greatest moments of Indian Fashion. Indian designers are contemporising the sense of fashion carrying their culture to the world. And the interesting part is that it is inspiring people around us.

Do you feel luxury lifestyles in India are comparable to those in Western countries?

India is altogether different. Culture and trends make the maximal impact on luxury styles in India. Although metros are exposed to luxury brands and labels, yet predominantly it's a niche market prevailing in India. In the western countries luxury lifestyles have been a part of their culture for many years. Whereas in India it is not so accessible. It's happening gradually and we believe that luxury lifestyles in India will be at par with western countries soon.

Your designs are western in concept. Have you ever flirted with introducing Indian themes to your fashion?

Rarely. We stick to our basics of European and old Hollywood and set that as our forte. We account to Benarasi fabrics and silks but our cuts and styling root back to old Hollywood.



▲
Designer Duo Gauri and Nainika at
India Fashion Week

How do fashionistas abroad differ from those in India?

Fashion is a global term. It's about what you feel confident in. From figure hugging glamorous gowns to elegant saris, red carpet has seen everything. Be it Rani Mukherjee in a sari or Deepika and Sonam trying out different trends, Indian fashion has always been eclectic. That's how we differ.

Please share with us your take on 'where global fashion is headed?'

With designers showcasing globally and 'see now buy now' trends introduced by brands like Burberry and Tom Ford, people want fashion as soon as they see it. In our view it means a lot to take your philosophies with you. That probably makes a difference.

Old Hollywood classic gowns and Old Bollywood Anarkalis. Both are prevalent on the red carpet. Your take on this.

That's what is beautiful about fashion. Fashions co-exist.

Gauri and Nainika gowns are widely worn by Hollywood A-listers. How do you feel about it?

It's a great feeling. Great for us and our label. It's good to see your work being searched on social media. When people wear your outfits and they like it. That's an unmatched feeling.

Curiously Handcrafted

There has probably never been a better time than now, to be young and ambitious, and nurse a great passion to tread the path not often taken. An increasing breed of young millennials in India are choosing to un-box their careers out of dull office cubicles and mundane 9 to 5 routines. These are the young turks who no longer choose to wait for a conventional career push in order to climb the ladder of success.

Chaitra Patel spoke to one such entrepreneur, who is in the business of literally helping the well-heeled put their best feet forward. Meet Naman Shah, the young entrepreneur and brain behind Cuero – a brand that creates handcrafted and absolutely bespoke shoes.

It's not every day that one comes across a successful entrepreneur, who as a "fresh out of college graduate" chose to pursue his start-up dream, instead of a lucrative career at Google.



But then, that's Naman Shah for you! Smitten by a fledgling idea that stemmed from an immense passion for shoes and their understated, erudite craft, Naman decided very early on that he wanted to change the manner in which shoes are perceived to be more utilitarian in nature, rather than a stunningly crafted piece that adds aesthetic value to the wearer's life. Thus, was born Cuero – Handcrafted Luxury.

Fortune Favours the Brave

The decision to branch out as an entrepreneur at the cost of a promising career was not without its share of controversies and much raised eyebrows. And the decision to design bespoke shoes, was unheard of! Amidst the clamour of much dissuasion from others, Naman nevertheless chose to take this leap of faith, with a firm belief that "fortune favours the brave". Says he, "I asked myself, what did I have to lose. I realised that I wasn't afraid of failure, and defeat, if any, would only make me a better person".

Influenced deeply by Andrew Carnegie, the self-made Scottish-American steel tycoon, Naman took Carnegie's saying "immense power is acquired by assuring yourself in your secret reveries that you were born to control affairs" to heart and threw himself headlong into the world of start-ups. Undoubtedly his efforts paid off; today Cuero and Naman Shah have not just been written about in the press and on fashion blogs; the bespoke brand also adorns the feet of celebrities and royalty alike, from Mumbai to Karachi, and Paris to Milan!

The Making of a Fashion Icon

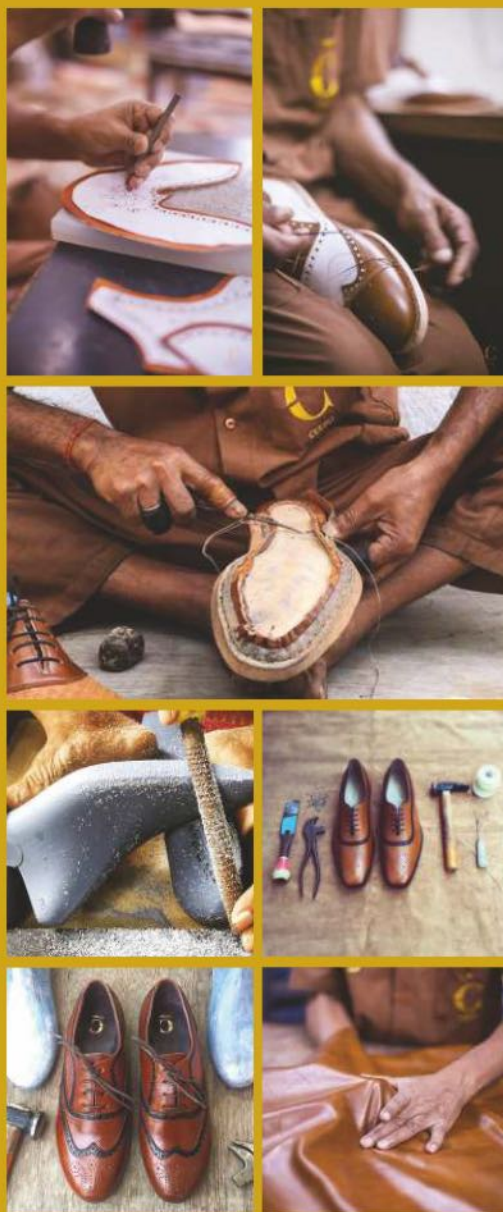
Cuero in Spanish means leather. And Naman's brand Cuero is aptly named so, because it celebrates the beauty and dignity of leather as the time-honoured medium of the ancient craft of shoemaking. Naman explains, "The elegance and durability of a shoe depend to a

All Photos © Naman Shah / Cuero - Handcrafted Luxury



crucial extent on the quality of its leather; Cuero in its very nomenclature stands for the absolute care and consideration that I wanted to put in the delicate, contemplative process of choosing the right kind of leather".

For the founder of a brand as niche and bespoke as Cuero, interestingly Naman doesn't come from a fashion background. A student of Business Management, Naman was however intrigued by fashion since his early days. Says he, "I have got my fashion sense from my father who is very particular about the kind of clothes he wears. As a child, I was never allowed to wear floaters. I wore sandals made of pure leather. So, I guess that is where it all started". What started off as a college project with two other friends, Cuero finally took shape in its current form when Naman met Chandrakant Salunke, whose family has been handcrafting shoes for four generations now. Salunke readily agreed to mentor the young man, and the rest as they say is history.



The Process of Handcrafting a Pair of Shoes

Before a pair of bespoke Cueros finds its way to its lucky wearer, the Cuero workshop is abuzz with activity and a process that involves various stages of creation, that no mere machine is capable of producing. That is why, each pair designed is truly unique, but not before it runs the test of the following stages of shoe-making, as explained by Naman Shah:

Measuring: A fundamental first step to making the perfect pair of shoes is measuring, because no two feet (of the wearer) are exactly the same. Therefore, making a bespoke pair of shoes entails gathering as much precise information as is possible about its wearer's feet.

Pattern Cutting: Once the measurements are finalised and the choice of colour and style are made, the chosen piece of leather makes its way to the craftsman to be marked and cut out and the patterns are laid on to the leather, measured, and cut out carefully before being sent off for the assembly of the upper.

Upper Making: The "upper" is the part the shoe that basically covers the foot – from toes to the back of the heel, and is attached to the outsole of a shoe. At Cuero, creating the upper involves a process where the various parts are joined, and the decorations and eyelets are punched, before they are stitched together to form an entire upper.

Fitting: The assembled upper now finds its way to the shoemaker's bench, where it is placed with the materials for the lower section of the shoe, as well as the made-to-measure last. Thus begins the construction of a pair of bespoke shoes.

Lasting: Once the craftsman has fitted the upper and insole over the last, he begins the second phase of shoe construction, i.e. shaping the upper with a pair of pliers. This complicated phase imperative in order to give the stitched upper the exact shape of the last. Any wrinkles and creases on the shoe are completely removed by skilful hammering.

Soling and Heel-Making: Irrespective of whether the shoe has a single sole or a double one, the process of soling is a delicate one since the craftsman needs to make sure that the thread is pulled through with the same amount of force for every single stitch. The heel is also constructed during this stage. After the process is completed to perfection, the inside of the shoe is filed and covered with a softer lining that bears Cuero's impeccable stamp.

Finishing: A pair of shoes never looks as immaculate as when it is first purchased. And that is why, the finishing stage is extremely vital – this is where the surface of the shoe is ironed with an anvil tool, and all finger marks of the shoemakers are removed with soft flannel and lukewarm water. Every minuscule detail from smoothing to applying shoe cream and polishing the upper, is given complete attention.

And, that is how a completely flawless pair of shoes with a mirror-like gloss, and laces woven dexterously into the eyelets, are placed carefully into specially-designed boxes, accompanied by the shoe trees and two drawstring linen bags – all ready and waiting to be dispatched to its new owner.



Cuero Founder
Naman Shah

Finding Success, and Beyond

"Every pair of shoes is a story", says Naman. "To put yourself in someone else's shoes is to live that person's story, to understand the ebbs and flows that govern his life, to look at the world from his perspective". Cuero was born out of Naman's immense desire to give shape to these individual stories. Just as every individual and his or her personality are an 'original' and hard to replicate, a pair of bespoke shoes by Cuero too are next to impossible to replicate because they intrinsically represent the wearer's incomparable spark and individuality.

Today, Cuero is a flourishing business venture and is looked upon by its patrons as a reliable, sophisticated and intuitive brand. A pair of bespoke Cueros would cost its wearer anywhere between Rs. 9000/- to Rs. 18,000/-. There was a time, when handcrafted shoes were the privilege of only a chosen few. With individual fortunes changing in India, there is now a substantial bunch of Indian buyers who are well travelled and fashion-conscious that create a constant demand for a well-fitted customised pair of shoes. In 2014, Cuero also made its debut at the Lakme Fashion Week and the brand has now started acquiring dealerships across some of India's major cities. Behind the success of Cuero also lies the legacy and the incredible toil of the brand's workforce – craftsmen who are 3rd and 4th generation shoemakers, who pride themselves for this trade passed onto them over the generations.

For Cuero's skilled craftsmen and for Naman too, shoemaking is not just "work"; it is a "habit" and the process is as natural as, say breathing. Says Naman, "I am glad and grateful every single day that I gave myself the opportunity to achieve this. There is nothing as gratifying as doing the work that you love, and I aim to take Cuero to the highest pinnacles in the fashion and lifestyle industry". If there is a place that can only be reached through constant hard work and creativity, then Naman most certainly aspires to reach there.

For someone as young, Naman has his head firmly on his shoulders, and lives by his philosophy "If your mind can believe it, you can manifest it. Patience, Perseverance & Hard work are key to success," every single waking day of his life.

Cuero's Illustrious list of Handcrafted Shoes (As explained by Naman Shah)

Cuero Astaire - Oxfords

The Oxford is the most elegant and distinctive men's shoe, recognised easily by its closed lacing. Named after the inimitable Fred Astaire, Cuero's collection of Oxfords is designed for gentlemen with discerning tastes. Worn with either a suit or plain pants, a bespoke Cuero Astaire guarantees to the wearer a distinguished appearance on both formal and festive occasions. The quintessence of dignity, restraint and refinement- an Astaire is the absolute classic that will never be ousted.

The Smith-Stanley Collection - Derbies

The Derby, like the Oxford, has one defining characteristic in its lacing system. While the Oxford has a closed lacing system, the Derby has an open lacing system. This characteristic makes a Derby more comfortable for a wider range of wearers. Cuero's Smith-Stanley collection, named after the 12th Earl of Derby, offers pure comfort and aesthetic pleasure to shoe-lovers. Ideal for both formal and leisurewear, a Cuero Smith-Stanley is a shoe that symbolizes perfect harmony. Whatever the colour or style, a pair of bespoke Smith-Stanleys is the perfect companion for versatile gentlemen of diverse talents.

The Abbot Collection - Monks

The Monk, so named as it was preferred by nomadic monks in Europe for being more protective than sandals, is a hard-wearing, long-lasting and ingeniously crafted shoe. Its hallmark is its lack of lacing; it differs from other types of shoes in that its two quarters are fastened together with a distinctive buckle. Named after the title that indicates the head of a monastery, Cuero's unique Abbot collection is designed to pique. A bespoke hand-crafted Cuero Abbot can be both classically elegant or casual and relaxed, thus being well- suited for any kind of occasion.

Beau-Churchill - Boots

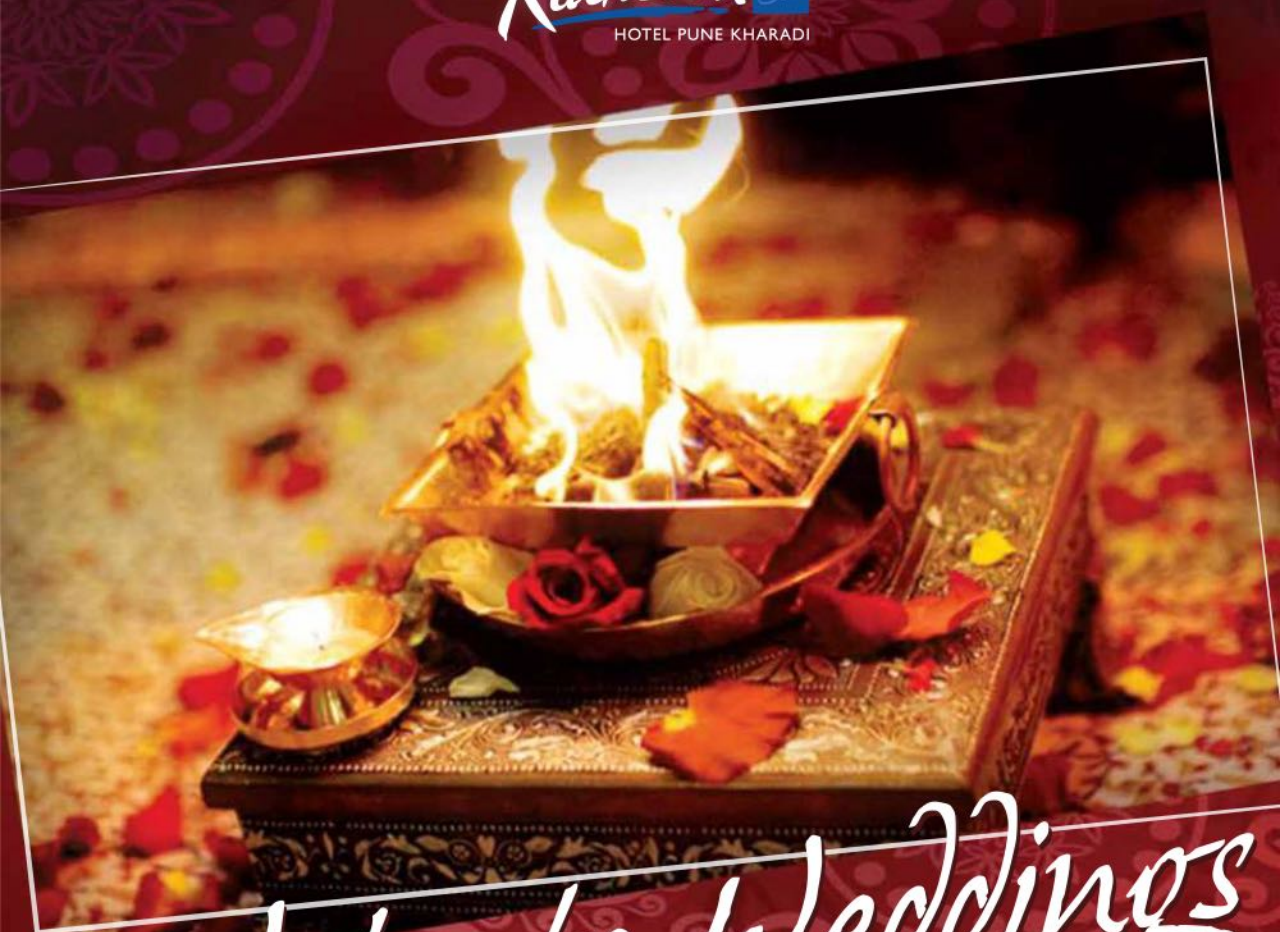
Boots are possibly the oldest style of men's footwear, tracing right back to ancient Greece. They are distinguished from shoes, in that they cover both the foot and the ankle and extend further up the leg. Most boots have a heel that is clearly distinguishable from the rest of the sole. Named after two famous patrons of boots, Winston Churchill and George 'Beau' Bummell (who had his boots polished with champagne), a bespoke Cuero Beau-Churchill is created to be a force of nature- an ultimate statement of strength and complexity.

Perrault - Loafers

A loafer is a light, flexible shoe made of soft leather with a thin sole, designed to be so comfortable that the wearer is hardly aware of them on his feet. This style of shoes, given its extreme simplicity, has tremendous potential for original and inventive designing. A personalized hand-crafted Cuero Perrault (named after the man who made Cinderella's glass slipper an icon in popular culture) is a symbol of free-thinking individuality and casual grace. A pair of bespoke Perraults is entirely one-of-a-kind, always standing out from the crowd. Just like its wearer.

The Farrago Collection

The proud expression of diversity is an essential part of Cuero's ideology. In keeping with its dedication to celebrating individuality, Cuero's order-only Farrago collection consists of bespoke women's footwear, kolhapuri chappals, mojadis and jootis, leather bags and purses, belts and other custom-made leather artefacts.

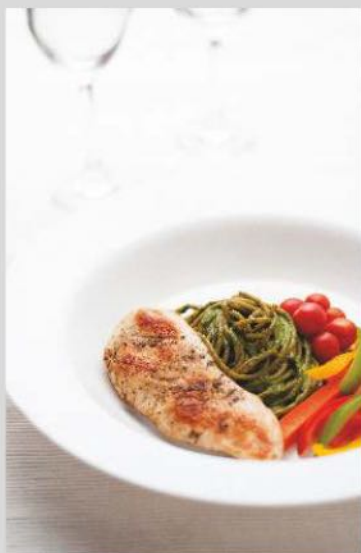


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Gourmade With Love



**Food is not simply an organic fuel to keep the body and soul together,
it is a perishable art that
must be savoured at the peak of perfection.
What is better than art that has your wellbeing
at the heart of all that it promotes.**

*Chaitanya Deshpande discovers
"Gourmade with Love",
a company that encourages healthy eating habits.*

Wholesome Living

We are constantly on the move, travel often, and our lifestyles are perennially short-changed for time.
And since we are always on the go, we tend to grab what we can,
and when we can to satisfy our hunger.

Combined with the many options now available at our fingertips,
tastes are changing and food preferences are evolving.
Rising expectations bring stress;
making healthy eating choices imperative now, more than ever.

Food aficionado and fitness enthusiast **Soniya Arya Patodia**, found inspiration here. Her company Gourmade with Love promotes healthy lifestyles not just by serving healthy meals but also by being a part of a healthy change and helping you sustain it. It is a fascinating concept and an evolving service around food you eat.

Gourmade with Love is working to disprove the thought that 'healthy food cannot be tasty'. Every meal option is crafted with attention to the finest detail. What is special about this food-delivery service is that it strikes the right balance between right nutrients and unique flavours.

Each meal contains proteins, carbohydrates, essential fats, vitamins & minerals in required quantities for an average body-type. This combination is then infused with flavours that are pure gastronomic pleasures!

With intricate control, Gourmade with Love runs food permutations that cater to variations and special dietary requirements. But fear not, food here is not made in the cookie-cutter mould, it makes you feel like you are eating fine calorific food within the comfort of your work desk or on your couch at home. The mix-and-match is more like listening to a playlist while asking for regulated calorie intakes.



Gourmade with Love uses locally-grown, freshly procured vegetables. All raw materials are chosen with care. The kitchen is designed to be more flexible than most. It is organised to handle fresh stock on a daily basis and only equipment that is crucial to a recipe is used. Devoid of artificial flavouring, preservatives or chemicals, the kitchen pickles, cures and pulps fruits and vegetables first-hand to ensure that nutritional values are retained. The recipes they develop tend to be for meals that are low in sugar, oils or other ingredients that leave you energised. The menus are carefully designed to include options that are suited for vegan and vegetarian diners as well.

Who's creating this amazing menu?

A full-time fitness professional, food lover and a creative chef on-board, Soniya guarantees that meals from the Gourmade with Love kitchen are second to none in health, taste and quality! Their secret recipe to success is the ability to constantly provide better services to help clients make healthier choices for meals being served.

Gourmade with Love stands out as the best nutrition-focussed option that gives you the luxury of taste you desire without adding to your waistline.

The Urban Foundry

Located in the new 'chill-out zone' for Puneites, Balewadi, The Urban Foundry (TUF) calls out to your taste buds on a unique drink-food experience that satisfies your culinary cravings. From cutlery emerging from special dyes, to the finishing of furniture, metal forms a hefty part of everything inside the foundry. The orange brown shades, metal gears installed on the bare brick walls and grungy furniture render a rare yet cosy and warm ambience, enticing you with the feel of the late 70s.



Breaking the monotony of metal, the wooden chairs are perfectly leather cushioned and elevated in perfection to reach the high wooden tables that maintain your dine-converse stature. The yellow light from the huge Edison bulbs mixes with the daylight, illuminating the space and creating mesmerising light and dark spots in harmony. By night, the lights take on the whole canvas - neither allowing the dark to conquer nor itself being conquered - a perfect 'just brighter than a candle light experience. With the al fresco resto bar outside visible through the glass facade, TUF can comfortably host about 150 guests at any given time.

The well-stocked sassy bar offers refreshing assortments of different genres blended beautifully and hold on to your senses till the very last sliding drop. 'Beyond the beer' on the menu suddenly aligns you to the mood of the moment and how can you not opt for the absolute winner, the Guntur Chilli. An ecstatic Spanish sangria and Guntur chilli based beer-with a mix of ingredients that lend it a palpable brininess, soaks down in your senses, leaving you floating in refreshment. Pair it with a Malaai Broccoli treated on a charcoal grill and flavoured perfectly to tease your taste buds.

Classic drinks get a Hawaiian taste on the CAN-CAN section with Hawaiian Can Can, an elder flower rum based drink, being one of the most suggested in-house beverages. If you wish to spice up the affair Thyway Can Can is the best tingle on the menu. And for the fresh and fruity ones, the foundry serves their most selling item -Thai Moji-ta-rita.

Honestly, we were unable to tame our temptations, with the array of food items served at the adjacent table. Watching them munch on delectable Shammi kebabs, we realised that our taste buds too were held under a spell, and we

after kick of the chilli garlic sauce served with it. If you are a pork lover the best of all is a plate of 'oink oink naan' that indulges you with a smoky and tangy affair of an unprecedented gastronomical journey.

While the cocktails and food are enough of a reason to visit The Urban Foundry, the music adds an evergreen flavour. As the evening progresses, resident DJs make an appearance on top of the bar space, followed by some live events to jazz up the place. Retro and rock takes the plunge on Friday evenings crazy enough for those who have left their teenage years behind.



All photos © The Urban Foundry

could not resist ordering these too. The ball-shaped kebabs simply melted in our mouths within seconds, settling down the intricacies of taste. Such good food surely brings a smile on your face and it shows in your eyes.

The food menu at TUF lists other funky fusion Indian delicacies too, along with it with oriental ones, ticking all the right boxes of flavour in our list. Tender on the fork 'Thai-chicken-thai salli pe' is a tandoor fare cooked under maintained flames, with a distinct smoky flavour and served on ice picks. What drew our attention next was the aroma of the Far East, piercing a wooden basket. And what tantalised our taste buds was the chicken bao in the basket leaving an

After a sumptuous culinary delight, save room for desserts, and indulge in the signature red velvet kulfi with a drizzle of mascarpone cheese. The delicacy on the stick melts in your mouth leaving you salivating with every bite, and a cheesy tang to set your taste buds on a soothing mode. When ice creams are not enough, a beer based addition will fulfil any craving. Slide your spoon into deliciously moist beer infused Biramisu coupled with mascarpone cheese and coffee-cream flavour hovering over it till the last gulp.

Glazed textures, tempting aromas, limpid pools of cocktail and mouth-watering flavours of food...The Urban Foundry is an epicurean haunt for gourmands.

Food is one of life's great beauties. Sharing a meal with friends, good food, exceptional service, and losing oneself in the wonderful ambience are all a part of tickling one's taste buds.

Maheep Singh Rathore takes you on a journey of soul-pleasing food and wine across two of Pune's drink-to-dine resto bars – The Urban Foundry and Playboy Beer Garden.



Playboy

Beer Garden

Brew. Enjoy. Empty. Repeat. Sit long, talk much and laugh often. Make it even better by pairing the moments with fresh beer and mouth-watering European and Asian grills. Spice it up with groovy music and don't refrain from kicking up your heels and whooping it up. The new concept of Playboy Beer Garden has everything to offer with the Bunny thrill in town.

The first of its own kind venture in the world, Playboy Beer Garden hosts you to great vibe, delicious food and tittle that will invigorate you before you even realise it. Located at a prominent corner of Balewadi High Street, the internationally acclaimed watering hole warms you up with a comfortable indoor section illuminated with perfect strands of light and darkness. The scintillating chandeliers hung in harmony add to your sparkle, glistening the arena already scintillating with the floor lights. Adding to the classic glamour, the lounge has a dedicated wall for Playboy icons like Hugh Hefner and Marilyn Monroe adorned in golden frames.

The privy section with leather cushioned couches and comfortable wooden chairs evade the grungy style brushing the ambience with an elite vibe. The froth of the already glossy ambience is the gold-plated iconic rabbit head, soft peddled with golden mirrors. The white and grey outdoor section has a community table, a cabana for privacy seekers, and a burrow section with a stage and bar of its own. The seating arrangement is adjusted to make space for acoustic live nights and DJ appearances. So brace yourself to loosen up your heels and groove to the music after a tittle or two.

Canadian Brew Master, Martin, holds the recipe for 6 types of in-house beers, making the garden a matchless pub. To start with signatures, Chuck A Berry is a Cosmopolitan vodka based cocktail with a berry twist relinquishing you with each toss. Add a tang of oriental ginger clubbed with lemon grass and Asian flowers to your taste buds with a vodka based 'Asian Mule'. Gulp it down with relishing

Nachos drizzled with Tex-Mex chicken. The sweet and sour mix of blue Curacao offers you brain freeze tequila shots, giving you a weekend feel as you quench your thirst with each shot.

Don't miss the much recommended-the sensory delicacy of Heff Burger with a bacon patty garnished with jalapenos, onions, eggs and fries, leaving you surrendered to its sensory aftertaste. Interplay of blue cheese creamy delight and soft flavours of tapenade olives make Sweet Potato Gnocchi a dish at its best feel for vegans. Fresh, hearty and sweetly spiced. Adding smoky pheromones to the crunchy base and cheese delight topped with flavours from Italy, Cagliri Pizza hooks up pizza lovers leaving the palate asking for more.



All photos © Playboy India

Swooning over desserts, Banoffee Pie is a sheer classic, punctuated and fruity delight which you will want to savour with each bite. Watching the creamy delight waiting to be devoured, the taste buds are left craving-the best of the Playboy desert delights.

With desserts adding final grace to the consistent and debonair food line and limpid cocktails, Playboy Beer Garden is an ageless oasis, a classic extrication from the always rushed monotony of daily life, bringing the gastronomes of all stripes together. The endlessly relishing variety of the food line up and the exhilarating cocktails ensure that the beer garden's regulars keep coming back.

When one thinks of Brazil, the colourful feathery garb, the festive Carnival celebration and unanimous support for football are (positive) stereotypes that spring to mind.

However, little is known of its cuisine that speaks volumes of the country's diversity and heritage.

Alysha Pinto Lobo gains a delicious insight into the flavours and delicacies of the South American nation!

A Sensational Journey through your Palate...



Restaurante Brasileiro

In perpetual competition with its metropolitan sibling, Mumbai, Pune's restaurants have steadily been developing a high standard of their own. The last ten years have been revolutionary in the variety of cuisines being made available to its residents. As an ever-evolving city, Pune is effectively catering to the increasing demands of its international and corporate population. As Pune-kars, we have always welcomed international cuisines into our lifestyle, evident by the abundance of thriving Asian and European restaurants around the city. Today, a week around the city's top restaurants could expose your taste buds to a global assortment of authentic and fusion delicacies!

In line with this change in our culinary culture, the flavours of Brazil have finally arrived to expose us to their rich and fascinating culture! Boteco Restaurante Brasileiro, the refreshing Brazilian addition to Pune's international restaurants, has provided the city with the sensation of Brazilian cuisine like never before.

The quintessential and individualistic charm of

Brazilian fix Pune has been looking for. From the moment you walk in, you are greeted by the vibrant décor of Azulejo tiles, portraits of Brazilian artisans and warm lighting; you are pleasantly welcomed to the Brazilian experience! Every element of the interiors was selected by the owners with the intent of showcasing the spirit and culture of Brazil. As you wait for your meal, rectangular glass windows allow you to gaze into the kitchen at the chefs at work, providing you with an atmosphere of transparency.



All photos © Boteco

Boteco makes the experience of fine dining much more relaxed and enjoyable. Here, formal attire is not a prerequisite to undergo the exquisite sophistication of fine dining. Boteco provides the perfect setting for almost all occasions, tranquil meals with friends and family, and even business dinners.

Located in the heart of Pune's own "khau-galli" (food haven), Lane 7, Koregaon Park, Boteco is exactly the

Also, you can't help but tap your feet to the lively Latino tunes: a real treat for the ears!

The owner of Boteco, Praveesh Govindan (31) dreamed of being a restaurateur in India for years. Working with Coca Cola in the U.S., he frequently visited Brazil and fell in love with its cuisine and culture. He was especially intrigued by the state-to-state variation of the cuisine, much like India. Fascinated by the refreshingly unique taste and



texture of Brazilian food, Govindan felt that it needed to be introduced to the Indian palate. Thus began his search for the right Head Chef and partner. After several mismatches, he was directed to Goa by mutual friends where he met the Brazilian chef Guto Souza, a partner at the restaurant "Go with the Flow". It was with Souza that his life-long dream solidified into a reality in March 2016. With no previous experience in the hospitality business, Govindan's first venture is, to say the least, admirable. The duo brings to Pune a long awaited gem!

The indoor bar is stocked with an impressive selection of imported and Indian wines and spirits. A variety of classic cocktails, mocktails and liqueurs are also available along with an impressive list of 'Signature Cocktails' exclusive to the restaurant.

The outdoor seating has its own allure with elegantly placed potted plants enriching the quaint atmosphere. The cleverly designed awning and cooling systems allow diners to comfortably appreciate a meal Al Fresco regardless of the weather. Covered in elegant blue tiles outdoors, the Churrasqueira (charcoal grill) that produces Boteco's famous mains is visible to guests. For meat lovers, this really is a slice of heaven! Delectable signature meats such as the Belgian Pork Steak, Chicken Breast and Lamb Picanha (rump steak) are a few of the many Churrasqueira options. The impeccably cooked tenderloin steak, which happens to be the owner's favourite, is alone worth visiting for. Boteco's assurance of the finest quality of meats and produce is evident through every course.

For the entradas, or starters, Boteco provides an impressive assortment of vegetarian, meat and seafood options, all cooked to perfection. The Latin fusions on staple favourites constantly remind you of this unique Brazilian experience! The Gazpacho, a chilled soup, is the Chef's twist on the signature dish and one of the restaurant's specialties. The salads are plated with a combination of raw and cooked components that allow for a refreshing range of contrasting textures. Wide arrays of vegetarian mains ensure that authentic bursts of flavour are available for everyone, regardless of your preference. The risottos in particular stand out for their quality preparation and presentation. The intricate assembly of each dish is a sight in itself that would

make you think twice before lifting a fork! Every element on the plate is thoughtfully placed, not only to add to the aesthetic appeal, but also provide you with flawless balance. The blend of delicate herbs plays on the palate like a graceful Latino dancer at the Carnival!

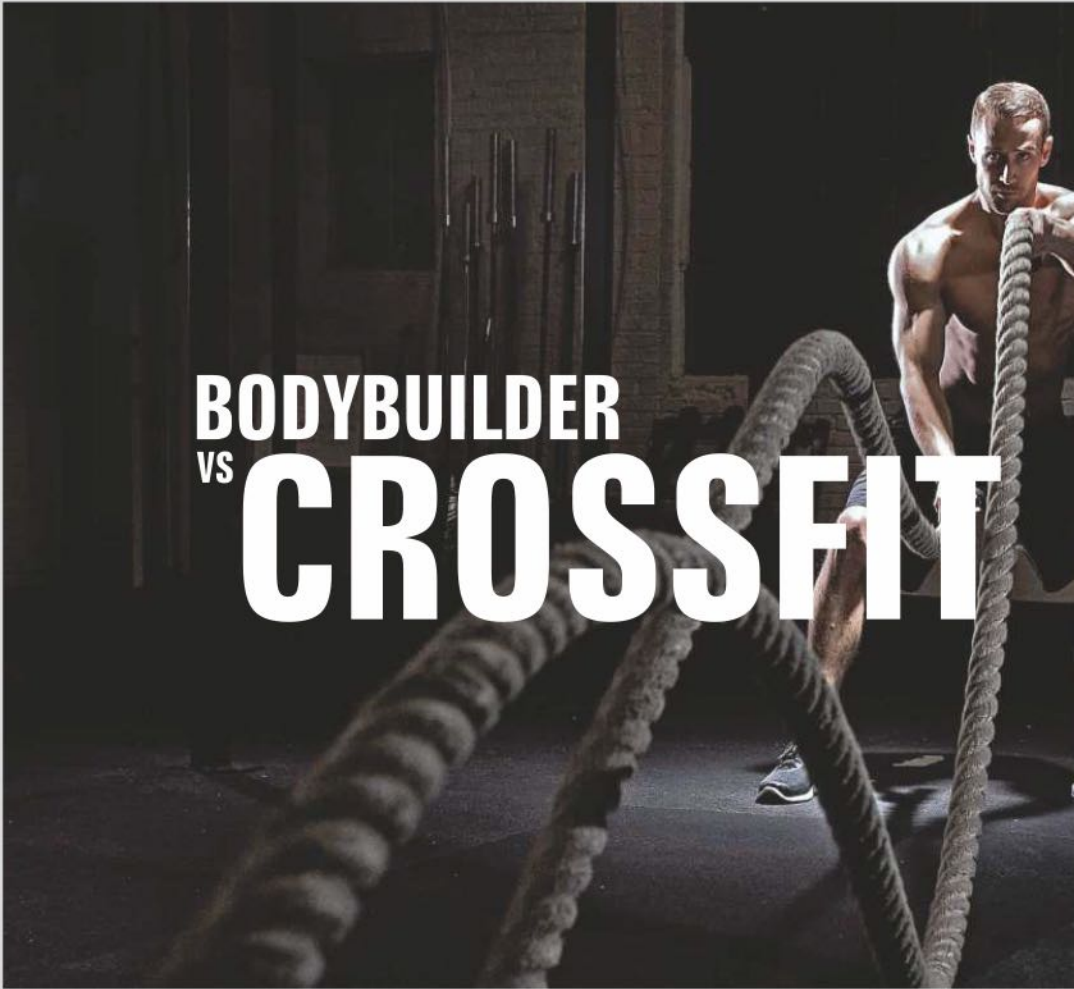
The desserts are a part of the meal that simply cannot be forgone! The sinfully delicious Doce de Leite, a sweetened milk reduction, is paired with a few of the dessert options such as the Churros and the delectable Almond Tuiles with fresh seasonal fruit for the perfect sweet-tooth haven! While the Petit Gateau au Chocolat or Profiteroles with Chocolate Sauce can amply satisfy any chocolate cravings, the traditional baked custard, Quindim, incorporated with fresh coconut is a uniquely blended flavour and is ideal as a light end to a satisfying meal.

The attentive staff is extremely well informed about the exotic delicacies on the menu and their ingredients. But if you still prefer a more expert opinion, the charming Guto Souza is always around for a friendly chat with the guests and is more than happy to guide you through the unknown. The friendly attitude of the staff is purposefully incorporated into the owners' concept of merging fine dining with a relaxed, casual setting.



So, whether you want to tantalise your taste buds, be overwhelmed by artistic presentation of your food or simply enjoy a few drinks in a charming atmosphere, Boteco is truly an intimate experience that cannot be missed!



A muscular man is shown in a gym setting, pulling a thick, coiled rope. He is shirtless, wearing dark shorts and sneakers, and is looking directly at the camera with a determined expression. The background is dark, with some gym equipment visible. The text "BODYBUILDER VS CROSSFIT" is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, white font.

BODYBUILDER VS CROSSFIT



Think Inside the Box

A gym, a lifestyle, a community and an addiction;
Priyanka Chordia discovers the extraordinary world of CrossFit,
a new sport and a new way of living!

Introduced by athlete Greg Glassman in 1996, CrossFit has since taken the world of fitness by storm. Often described as intense, therapeutic, exhausting, transformative and sometimes even crazy, this revolutionary way of working out has brought positive changes to many lives. Glassman defined fitness as an "increased work capacity across broad time and modal domains". He is said to be the first person in history to define the word in such a meaningful and measurable way. Following this, he constructed the holistic fitness and health regime, which we know today as CrossFit.

The two fundamental aspects of CrossFit that set it apart from a regular gym routine are its level of intensity and all-rounded effectiveness. The exhaustive WODs (Workout of the Day) are based on the core functional movements of everyday life. They include the key aspects of physically taxing sports like running, gymnastics and weightlifting among several others, enabling athletes to challenge their bodies with every workout, without any machines. A common saying in the world of CrossFit is, "Don't use machines, be one!" And, as the name (WOD) suggests, you will encounter a new set of exercises every single day making it impossible to get trapped in the monotony of a regular gym, thereby staying true to its tagline - 'CrossFit: Forging Elite Fitness'.

However, what makes CrossFit particularly interesting is the community it has created around the world. In just about 20 years since its conception, CrossFit today has over 13,000 licensed affiliates across the globe. In fact, our own city of Pune boasts of two affiliated gyms, the first of its kind being CrossFit Chakra in Koregaon Park and the second- CrossFit Graybar in Viman Nagar. CrossFit Chakra was founded four years ago by the young entrepreneur and athlete, Pawan Jani (now 24) with 10-30 members across two batches that were conducted only three times a week. CrossFit Chakra has grown at an impressive pace, today they conduct eight batches every day, and train over 200 members!

CROS



In 2007, CrossFit also introduced an annual sporting event—The CrossFit Games. In a sport that challenges the strongest of athletes, The CrossFit Games are a quest to find the 'Fittest on Earth'. People from every affiliated gym are welcome, and by the process of elimination, the fittest athletes from around the world are invited to compete at The CrossFit Games. With high energy levels, immense competition and a thriving atmosphere, these games embody the very spirit of the CrossFit community. Additionally, due to the highly varied nature of this sport, it is said that even the most competent athletes do not reach a plateau; instead they find themselves continuously testing and stretching their fitness levels. There is a unique comradeship that buds from the omnipresent positivity in the CrossFit 'box' (yes, they

call it the box not the gym) and is reinforced by the common passion that 'crossfitters' share around the world. With an almost mesmerising blend of people from all walks of life, the CrossFit community is like none other.

At any CrossFit box, you are sure to find a mix of everyone; from teenagers to grandparents and professional athletes to first-time gym-goers. It is the highly scalable and flexible nature of the workouts that allows everyone to exercise together regardless of their shape, size, age or strength. Since the WOD only differs by degree, not kind, individuals can scale their workouts to suit their own physical abilities. Moreover, this camaraderie formed amongst trainees is not confined to

SFIT

UNLEASHING HUMAN POTENTIAL



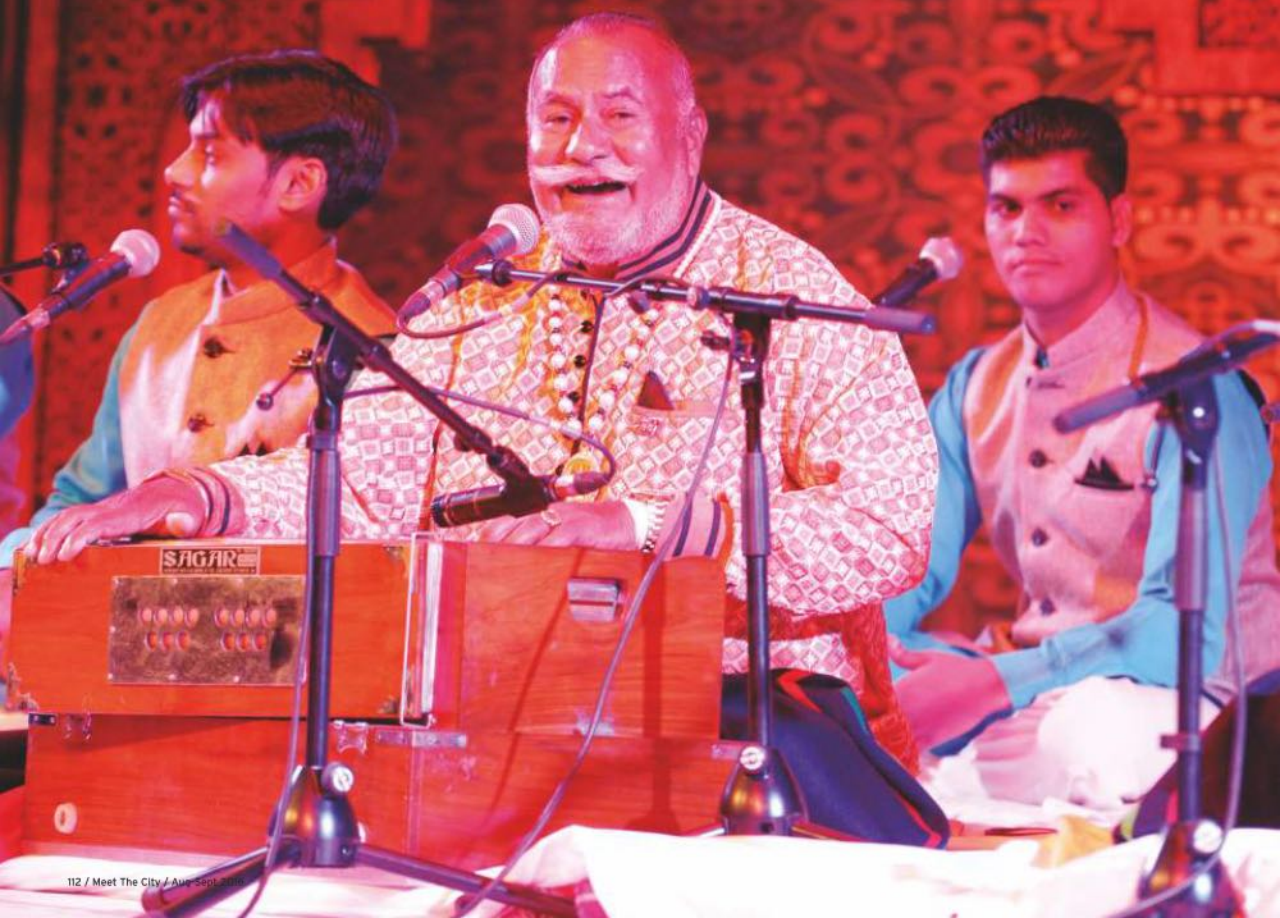
the box; crossfitters often find genuine friends in their CrossFit buddies and it is not uncommon for these friendships to extend beyond the gym and into their social lives. In the process, they build a community that extends better lifestyle choices even outside the gym, by going out for healthier meals or even playing another sport together. So, not only does CrossFit move away from the isolation and repetitiveness of a regular gym, it also instills an organic change in the lifestyles of its athletes. Moreover, most members notice a significant difference in their mental and physical health shortly after starting CrossFit. This change automatically encourages the desire to follow healthier eating and drinking habits without the stress of an extremely strict diet control.

Quintessential to every CrossFit box is a whiteboard to keep score. And in spite of this, the gym has an extremely positive vibe where crossfitters encourage one another. This makes CrossFit possibly the only sport where the last one to finish, receives the most amount of cheering! The intention of the scoreboard is not to instigate competition amongst the group, but rather to measure personal fitness and motivate individuals to become a better version of themselves, every day. Perhaps this is why CrossFit has gradually transcended the initial tagline of a 'trend' and has become more of a lifestyle choice, and at times even an obsession.

So, if you haven't been lured into the CrossFit life yet, it's definitely worth a try—it will leave you breathless, to say the least!

زندگى ميش

ڪنهن ٻي



The legendary Wadali Brothers need no introduction. Born Puran Chand Wadali and Pyarelal Wadali, the brothers who hail from a small village called Guru Ki Wadali in Amritsar district have been mesmerising audiences and music patrons alike across the world for more than 3 decades now. Masters at their art, the Wadali Brothers are fifth generation musicians given to singing the poems and couplets of Sufi saints. The duo, from the renowned Patiala gharana of music that has produced maestros such as Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan and Parveen Sultana are also well-known for their mastery over other genres of music such as gurbani, kaafi, ghazal and bhajan.

those who promise to preserve it and are believed to not charge a penny for their teachings. Their music to them, is a medium to preach the teachings of the great saints to anyone who is interested in listening. And perhaps that is why, they have also refrained from singing commercially, with the exception of a few recent Hindi movies such as Pinjar and a few more.

Chaitra Patel and Neha Kaura met with the musical legends who take their job very seriously; that of preserving and presenting the verses of Sufi fakirs such as Baba Farid Sahib, Amir Khusrou and Baba Bulle Shah.



Celebrated the world over, as they are today, it's interesting to note that the brothers did not particularly enjoy music from the time they began singing, as children. As Ustad Puran Chand Wadali, the older of the two brothers explains, "Our father Thakurdas ji, literally forced music on us". Devout as the two are, music was never a means of earning a livelihood for the brothers. Ustad Puran Chand Wadali used to be a wrestler and a regular at the *akhara*, before fame found him in the form of music. The younger brother Pyarelal, much younger was tutored by the older brother in music and contributed to the family income by playing Krishna in the village *rasleela*.

Humility seems to be a trademark of the brothers, apart from their music of course. When not mesmerising their fans across the world, the duo teach music to their disciples and

In Conversation With THE WADALI BROTHERS

How were you initiated into the world of music? Do you think you were destined to be wedded to music?

Puran Chand Wadali: My father, Thakurdas ji Wadali used to sing *qawwalis*, and he was my first teacher. I learnt music under him mainly out of a certain fear of him; didn't really enjoy it back then. We (the Wadali Brothers) haven't been to school. When I was 10 years old, there used to be a godlyman called baba Kartar Singhji; *Gurnanak ji ka avatar the woh*. He proclaimed that I will be famous one day. Then, once at a wedding that we had been invited to sing at, I sang well



and people acknowledged me and my singing. For a child all this love and affection were wonderful, and that's how I decided to sing from then onwards.

Fakiron ki *karmanawazi*, I am here today, I don't know what it is that makes me sing, Kabhi Riyaz nahi kiya hai, abhi bhi nai karta hoon – wohi Fakiron ki *karmanawazi chal rahi hai*.

What is your first early memory of music and how were you discovered?

Pyarelal Wadali: Our first performance together was at the Harballabh Temple in Jalandhar. We wanted to perform at the Harballabh Sangeet Sammelan Jalandhar, but were not allowed by the authorities to do so – they said the schedule of performances is decided in advance, and had no room for us to perform. Then, some people told us to go to the Harballabh Temple and sing there and make our musical offering to the deity.

An executive of the All India Radio, Jalandhar – Bakshi Ram spotted us there and invited us to record our first song. In those days, our elders used to tell us that one must not sing into a mike; so when they placed the mike in front of us, we kept

moving away from it; people were simple in those days. But, when we heard the recording, we were very happy and we were given a B High Grade, even without an audition. For twenty years, we continued to sing in the B High Grade, while many people told us we should sing in A Grade. Then, we were awarded the Sangeet Natak Academy Award by the President of India, and then we were given the A Grade by All India Radio.

You are known to sing gurbani, kafi, ghazals, and bhajans – all odes to the Lord. But how does each style differ from the other and yet, do you find any similarities between these?

Pyarelal Wadali: This has to be understood first, Baat samajhne ki hain... *Ram Rahim te mola ki gal samajh lai ji rola ki*. Everyone is the same, ek hi mitti ke hain – Ram bhi ek hai, Rahim bhi ek hai we are all made by one creator. Those who understand this also understand what the great fakirs have said, “*tu nai boldi, tu nahi boldi tera yaar bolda*” “*Woh tera khuda bolraha hai*”

How and when did you start singing live on the national and international stage?

Pyarelal Wadali: Plenty of people from Punjab and other Hindi speakers live abroad. Even the non-Indians who do not understand a word of what we sing, understand sur. Sur-Sangeet ek hai. Over time, as we became well-known and were awarded the Padmashree, Sangeet Natak Academy Award and the Tulsi Award, we soon started visiting other countries to perform, we then performed on television, and then we entered your homes (smiles). Guru *Garibnawaz* ki aisi karmanawazi hui...

You are not very comfortable using electronic gadgets in your music. Why is that so?

Pyarelal Wadali: These days, music is all about *aankh ras* (visual appreciation), people watch lots of television; there is no concept of *sur* or tone, there is only dance. So, if you only watch with your eyes, you don't realise the missing elements of music. But, if you listen carefully, which is *kaan ras* (audio appreciation), you wouldn't like it. We prefer to stress on *alaap* and *taan*, and believe that spiritual heights can only be attained if you sing unreservedly, in a free atmosphere. Today these computers and technology alter the musical quality suitably, so even if the singer does not sing well and has no concept of *sur*, *raag*.

Puran Chand Wadali: Batayega to wohi jisne doctari paas ki. Bag utha le koi, tou thodi woh doctor ban gaya (Picking up or holding a doctor's bag does not mean you are a qualified doctor)

You have also sung for films – how do you view this form of music, singing for films as against singing for an audience or in a place of worship?

Pyarelal Wadali: We have sung for Pinjar and for Tanu Weds Manu. But for a long time we did not sing for films because even though it makes people famous, it also means you have to sacrifice something else in life - *Naam ke badle sab kuch karna padta hai*. Bhaiya bole, cassette sunenge log to hame kaun bulaega. Then we did not also want to sing for films because of the dances in them. When we did start singing for films, we had our set of conditions; the accompanying dances should be graceful – something like Kathak.

Today, there is no concept really of Sufi music in Bollywood – what is sung in the name of Sufi music is not really Sufi. *Sufiana kalaam nai hota, ye sufi geet hota hai* – what is sung in Bollywood is not Sufiana kalaam (written by the fakirs), its only geet (music). The Sufi babas wrote *bhakti* geet. If people call themselves Sufi singers, then why do they charge for their art? Fakirs don't charge.

Other than your own style of music, is there any other musical style that you admire? Any favourite musicians – Indian and international?

Wadali Brothers: We listen to Indian classical music – Shastriya sangeet only.

“An executive of the All India Radio, Jalandhar – Bakshi Ram spotted us there and invited us to record our first song.

In those days, our elders used to tell us that one must not sing into a mike; so when they placed the mike in front of us, we kept moving away from it; people were simple in those days.”



Wadali Brothers on their solo tour of Pune 21C6

Fakiron ki *karmanawazi*,
I am here today, I don't know what it is
that makes me sing.

*Kabhi Riyaz nahi kiya hai, abhi bhi nai karta
hoon – wohi Fakiron ki
karmanawazi chal rahi hai.*



Utkarsh and Etika Munot with Shreebala Chordia



Vishwajit Kadam, Swapnali Bhosale Kadam, Shweta and Gauri Bhosale



Rahul Kirloskar, Christopher Benniger and Dilip Padgaonkar

Launch of the Pune Biennale Foundation

Pune Biennale Foundation is an organisation that is dedicated to bring together art, architecture and design with the purpose of enhancing the visual aesthetics in Pune. While Pune is a culturally rich city, with a heritage of the fine arts that dates back to many centuries in history, it is also very imperative that this art is made accessible to the citizens by bringing about an awareness for the same. Pune Biennale Foundation aims to create a platform for artists that will enable them critically engage with public art and public spaces. And enrich the public domain where citizens are free to enjoy and appreciate art as it is expressed and performed in plazas, courtyards, riverfronts and other public spaces.

The third edition of the Pune Biennale will take place across the city between January 5 and January 29, 2017, which will include a number of projects that will promote art. The launch of the foundation that took place in May was attended by art aficionados, artists, and various stakeholders of the city, who came together to promote the city's creativity and art. The event was also marked by a dance performance by Hrishikesh Pawar, founder of the Centre of Contemporary Dance in Pune.



Atul and Rahul Kirloskar



Anand Chordia with wife and Meena Chordia



Dr. Vishwajit Kadam with Kunal Kumar



Varsha Chordia, Ritu Nathani, Resham Chordia and Reha Gupta



Sujata Dharap



International Day of Yoga

Celebrated at Trump Towers Pune.

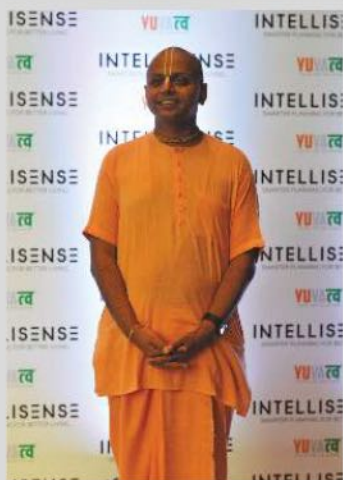


The word Yoga implies a Union and comprises of 8 limbs that together form the Yoga Sutra. Hence, a day such as the International Day of Yoga bears great significance since it reinforces the practice that is not just made up on physical asanas, but also involves channeling the *prana*, the focus of energy with *dhyaan* and *pratyahara*. Additionally it is important to remind ourselves about being good human beings by practicing the *yam* and *niyam*, thus concluding that Yoga does not merely extend to our yoga mats, but is an integral part of our lives too. Therefore, a day such as the International Day of Yoga bears much significance in our everyday lives.

Yoga guru Trisha, who runs a studio by the name of Yoga Life conducted a yoga session at Trump Towers Pune on this day.



Words to Live By by Shri Gaur Gopal Prabhu



What is the value of intelligence if it is not applied for the larger good of those in need?

On a Saturday evening, a few good people gathered to hear the simple but wise words of the internationally known motivational and lifestyle coach from ISKON, Shri Gaur Gopal Prabhu. The fundraiser was organized by Intellisense – smarter planning for better living and Yuvatva, a youth run non-profit organisation. All proceeds of the event were to go toward feeding and educating the children at Shantivan, an organisation in Beed looking after the children of farmers who have committed suicide.

Shri Gaur Gopal Prabhu is appreciated the world over for his use of witty humour to dispense some easily applicable philosophies of life. He effortlessly mixes life lessons with relatable anecdotes, making sermons pleasurable.

On the day, his agenda included arming the audience with the 'panchastotra' for better living.

- Correct your equation of happiness
- Change your expectations
- Compare yourself not with others
- Covet a life of purpose
- Connect with the source of true joy

He said that while the acquisition of material possessions and money need not be renounced, they should be treated as part of one's life and not the sole reason for living.

With his age-old wisdom and infectious laughter, Shri Gaur Gopal Prabhu brought a sense of positivity and cheerfulness to an otherwise dreary, drizzly Saturday evening.



BESPOKE HOMES

By Panchshil

A life of refinement is one that is filled with unique experiences. It is a life that is cultivated, in manners and taste. It embodies a lifestyle that embraces richness: beauty, ease, elegance, and everyday luxury.

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