

Meet The CITY

VOLUME IV
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2017

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An architectural rendering of two modern skyscrapers, Trump Towers Pune, set against a dramatic twilight sky with soft clouds. The towers are illuminated from within, showing a grid of windows and balconies. The base of the towers is integrated with a lush, landscaped area featuring greenery and a walkway. In the background, the city skyline of Pune is visible, with various other buildings and a bridge. The overall mood is sophisticated and urban.

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the first issue of Meet the City, in 2017!

Change comes in all forms, sometimes hailed and at other times berated. But, for better or for worse, change needs to be embraced. While 2016 ended with a whimper due to obvious economic alterations, 2017 will be a year of to look ahead and embrace the novelty of everything around us. It is the beginning of something new.

I wish you well for 2017 and hope that you make the most of the new year. So, pack a bag and go on a 'never-done-before' holiday or read that book that waits for you to flip through its pages. Get back into the limelight and make it all about you. Make 2017 count!

Happy New Year!

Atul Chordia



**Believe in
a world where
people belong
anywhere.**

Happy New Experiences

In this fresh issue of 2017, we explore all things original and disruptive. In the spirit of the New Year, we set out on a search for novel experiences and unique practices that will set the tone for an exciting year ahead of us.

On behalf of Meet the City, Rashmi Alevoor wishes you a very Happy New Year and invites you to renew your fascination for the world around us as we collectively turn over a new leaf.

Our cover story this time 'round pays tribute to the wonders of travel; of exploring a new land in an authentic manner, through a people powered website and app called Airbnb. The young and innovative company is on a mission to transform the travel industry to reflect the transformative powers of travel. The founders of Airbnb believe that travel should cater to people's innate yearning to belong. And that travel should never be bereft of the touch of community.

We then take a trip through the world's best wine-producing regions with oenophile and self-described bon viveur, Shagun Mehra. In her aptly titled, "The Incredible Lightness of Being", she talks of her deep and studied passion for wine, with a particular focus on new wines emerging from multi-generational family-owned wine producers. The travel section takes off from there on a romantic sojourn through idyllic Tuscany in Italy and sunny Rioja in Spain and pays visit to two world-renowned wineries, Poggio Al Casone and Marques De Riscal. Back at home, we celebrate the art of winemaking at the ever-popular SulaFest, the country's favourite gourmet world music festival, held at Sula Vineyards, near the city of Nashik in India. In praise of La Dolce Vita or the Sweet Life, Meet the City continues on a gastronomic journey with Indigo Delicatessen, an all-day café that serves comfort food made with fresh, local produce – cooked from the heart.

To satisfy most of our New Year resolution lists (and to balance out the indulgent flavour of the first half of the magazine,) in this issue's Fitness section we have looked at 2017's health trends and forecasts.

We've devoted our Fashion pages to the remarkable work of three Lebanese designers who have bowled the world over with their ethereal gowns, Elie Saab, Zuhair Murad, and Reem Acra. At the home front, we've featured the designs of Monika Chordia's newly launched fashion boutique, Praan:t. The store is the result of Monika's efforts to revive India's age-old indigenous crafts and handiwork and houses an inspired collection of traditional and western wear in Chanderi, a weave from Madhya Pradesh, Ajrak, a print from the Rann of Kutch, and block printing from the cultural capital of Gujarat, Vadodara.

The January 2017 issue of Meet the City, in New Year tradition, tips its hat to a rich cultural past while celebrating an exciting, adventure-filled future.

Happy New Experiences to one and all.



INSPIRED LIVING MAKES ITS WAY TO THE CAPITAL!



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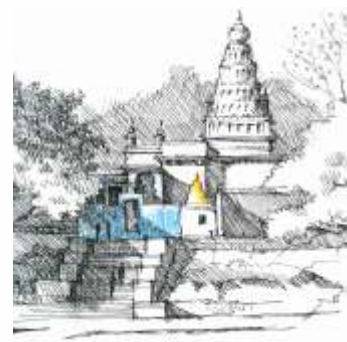
Cover Story
Featuring Artist Sujata Bajaj



Performance Art
Pushpamala N.



Art Residencies
Brisbane Airport Residency, Thread Art Residency, Senegal
And Gunehar Art Residency, Himachal Pradesh



Art In Pune
Urban Sketchers

Meet The City - October - November 2016

Fashion
Payal Khandwala



Street Art
Pune Street Art Festival



In Store
Atelier Homes

Contemporary Art
Lala



Spazio Spaces
Art & Architecture Featuring AHA



Farzified
Launch of Farzi Cafe



Fitness
Dance Circle by Hrishikesh Pawar

Legendary Workspaces
Express Towers

Belong

ny



yywhere

By Rashmi Alevoor

Is there a right way to travel?

Should there be a prescribed way to experience a new place?

**According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization,
people are travelling in record numbers.**

But the question persists – are we doing it right?

Less Travel

More Tourism

Author, essayist, cultural critic, Ilan Stavans, looks at travel as an art form and observes that while we are in the age of mass travel, we continue to lean too heavily on tourist packages, mechanically striking things off a list. We visit a place, click a selfie, and move on. In

'Reclaiming Travel', a book co-authored by Ilan Stavans and Joshua Ellison, travel is defined as a transformative quest that gives us deeper access to ourselves – thus starkly distinguishing it from tourism. Tourism, according to Stavans and Ellison, is inauthentic, staged, shallow, and sterile. Travel should instead be a search for meaning; about disorientation, and discovery. Travel should transform us.

For any travel experience to be unique and meaningful, it is imperative to meet local people and make new connections. For travel to truly be impactful, it must be immersive. One must experience the city authentically – as if one belonged to it.

It allows people to
enjoy unique
experiences, at
any price point, in
more than
34,000 cities and
191 countries.

Enter Airbnb

Founded in 2008, Airbnb is a community marketplace where travellers can discover unique accommodations across the world, over the Internet or from a mobile phone. It allows people to enjoy unique experiences, at any price point, in more than 34,000 cities and 191 countries.

It easily connects owners of apartments, trailers, treehouses, and virtually any other conceivable sort of living space with short-term renters and adventurers – making it a people-powered disruptive company. The company actively works towards bringing the mystique and fantasy back into the experience of travel.

Airbnb is a young brand that has very quickly risen to top of mind, and top of its class, ringing up a valuation of \$30 billion, as of 2016. It has also joined a league of very big brands (think Google) that have won the much-coveted consumer accolade of being used as a verb (For example: I'm planning a trip to Goa next month. I'm going to Airbnb a cute villa by the beach.) Brian Chesky, cofounder and CEO, explained the mission of Airbnb in a detailed essay on the company website, "We asked ourselves, "What is our mission? What is the big idea that truly defines Airbnb?" It turns out the answer was right in front of us. For so long, people thought Airbnb was about renting houses. But really, we're about home. You see, a house is just a space, but a home is where you belong. And what makes this global community so special is that for the very first time, you can belong anywhere. That is the idea at the core of our company: belonging." Airbnb, he wrote, would stand for community and would use technology to bring people together. The company logo, the Bélo, was introduced in 2014 as a universal symbol of belonging. It was conceived to resemble a heart, a location pin, and the 'A' in Airbnb and stands for people, places, love, and Airbnb.



At the Heart of Every Trip

The innovative company recently launched another feature aimed at making travel more easy and magical. In November of 2016, Airbnb unveiled Trips, a platform that gives people access to local passions and hidden gems and allows them to socialize with other travelers and locals at events around the city. Having already transformed the travel industry by their people powered hospitality, Airbnb now provides people with an opportunity to make money from their interests by hosting a cooking class or a short course in urban gardening. These handcrafted experiences designed by local experts offer deep insights into communities and places that travellers wouldn't otherwise come across.

Among the hundreds of remarkable experiences available on the website and app, are activities like a Samurai Swordplay workshop in Tokyo, Truffle Hunting in Tuscany, violin making in Paris, and marathon running in Kenya. "Until now, Airbnb has been about homes," said Brian Chesky, Airbnb CEO. "Today, Airbnb is launching Trips, bringing together where you stay, what you do, and the people you meet all in one place. We want to make travel magical again by putting people back at the heart of every trip."

The company's mission is to create a world where people can belong when they travel by connecting them with local cultures.



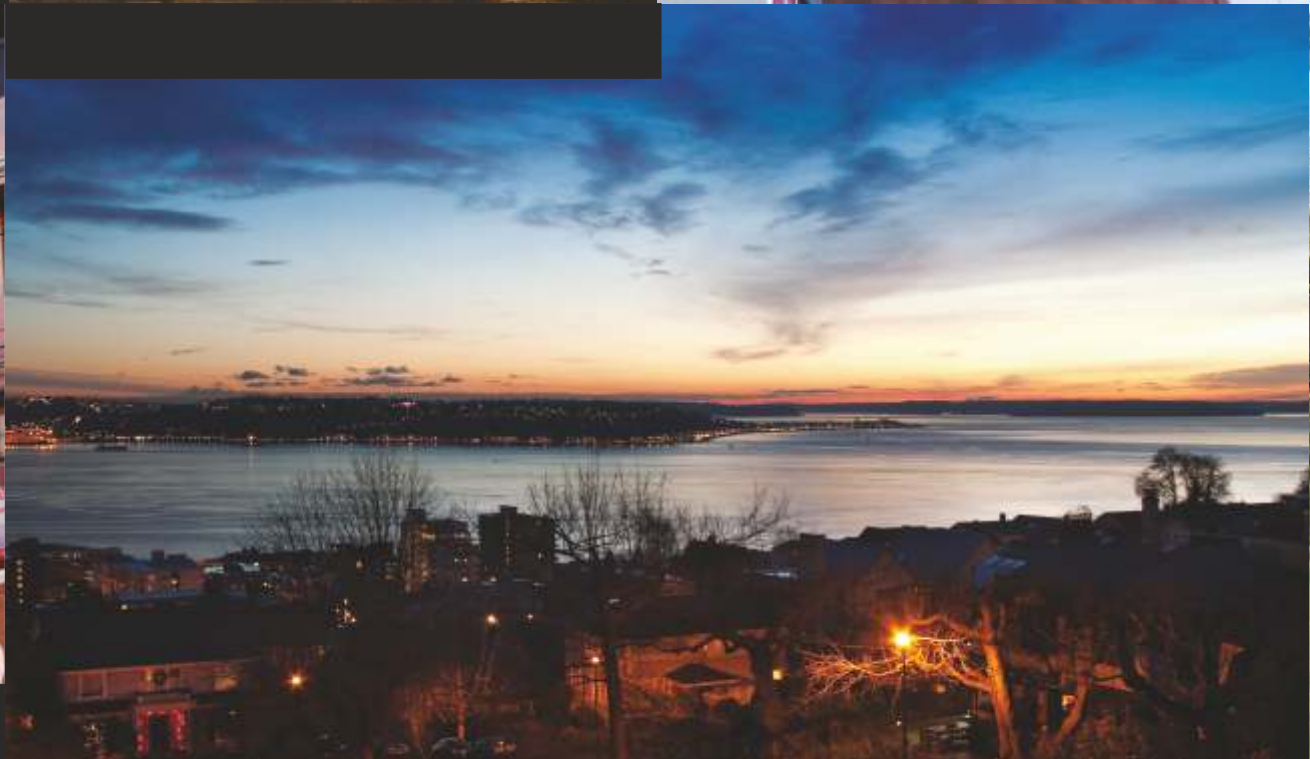
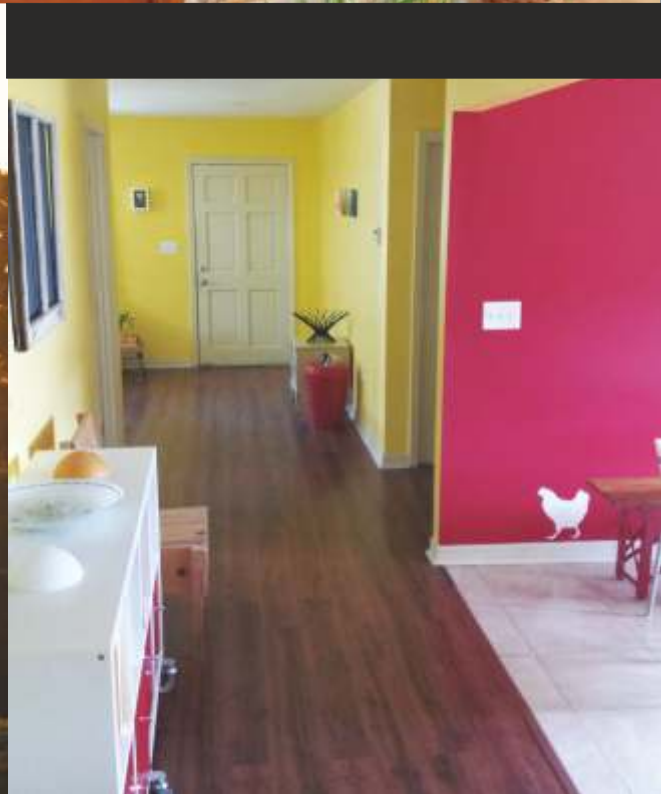
Bringing Places to Life

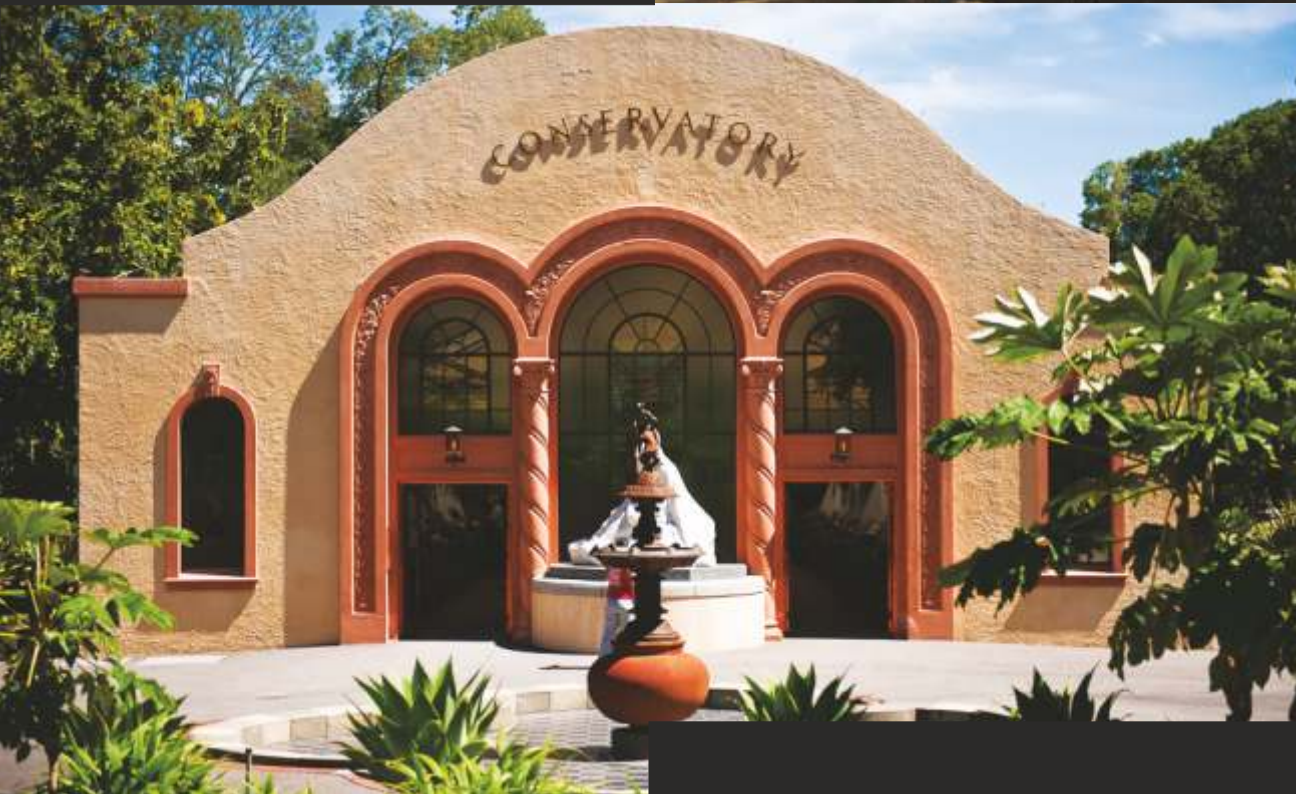
“Today, Airbnb is launching Trips, bringing together where you stay, what you do, and the people you meet all in one place. We want to make travel magical again by putting people back at the heart of every trip.”



The Trips feature on Airbnb makes travel an awakening experience. Airbnb has identified “cultural experts” and neighbourhood influencers and brings their recommendations to people who seek offbeat experiences in foreign cities. Within these Insider Guidebooks, visitors can discover the perfect diver bar from a local mixologist or the best spot to grab a bite from an up-and-coming chef. Apart from these guidebooks, people will also have access to over one million recommendations worldwide from home hosts for the best cafes, restaurants, and other local attractions.

To make travel further social and enriching, a feature within Places called 'Meet ups' will let local businesses host events for Airbnb guests and locals to connect with each other.





The People's Choice

In their never-ending pursuit to offer more intelligent travel suggestions, and to ultimately make travel a robust experience, the good people at Airbnb released a report on the top trending neighbourhoods for travel in 2017.

From an artists' residency in Minneapolis to the theatre district in Seoul, the list makes for an eclectic mix of international cultures and subcultures. A few consistent themes emerged though.

People were flocking toward urban areas that weren't dense. They were seeking places that offer the convenience of an urban setup but with a relaxed vibe – places like Phoenix Park, a verdant district filled with parks and wildlife, near Dublin, Ireland.

Open, Green Suburbs

Whimsical and artistic communities also made it top of the list, like Rockcliffe Smythe in Toronto, a serene residential area with large, green spaces mingling with shops, restaurants, and live music venues.

Foodie Hubs

Places like Bangkok's roadside markets in its Din Daeng district, and Midtown Miami's numerous food options made it high on the list, proving that the way to travelling people's hearts' is through their stomachs.

The top trends for 2017 is revealing of a particular Neo-Bohemian mindset. People seem to want to connect with nature, whilst still being able to savour some of the comforts of urban life like shopping, music, and food.

Flights of Fantasy

Airbnb also released the most popular Wish-Listed properties around the world recently. When people travel on Airbnb, they want to experience something original, unique, and extraordinary.

Adventure was the real winner on this list with Treehouses being the most popular, followed by Igloos, Vans, Lighthouses, Caves, Islands, Yurts, Trains, Lofts, and finally Cabins in the woods.

For the People, By the People

Airbnb is a great tool for the intrepid traveller. And a recent report findings reveal that 60% of its user base belong to the Millennial generation. But what's interesting to note is that the fastest growing cohort (and most top-rated) of Airbnb hosts were senior women, who were renting out rooms in their homes for hobby income but also for social interaction. Thus, bringing the focus of travel back to community and human connection.

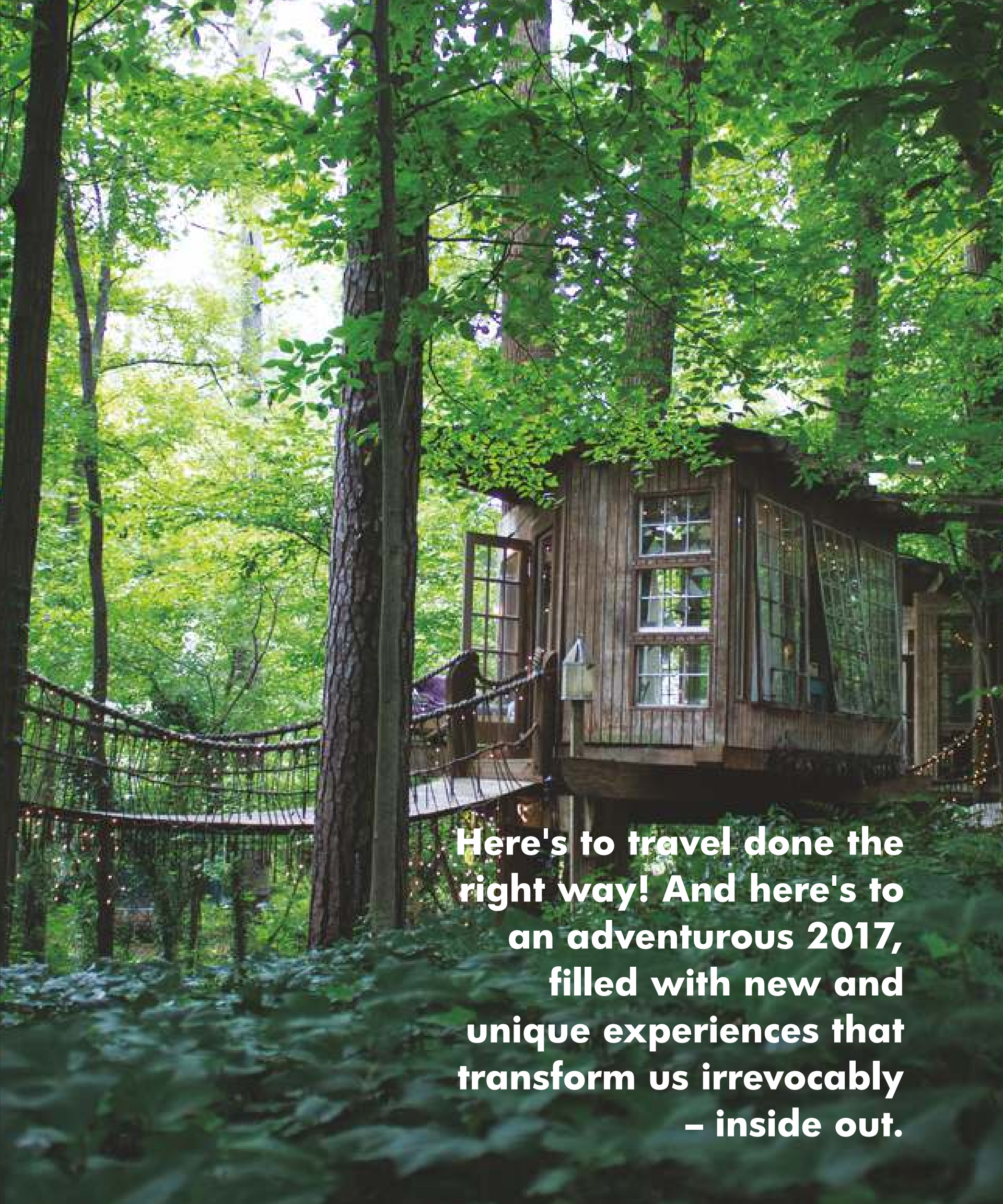


2017

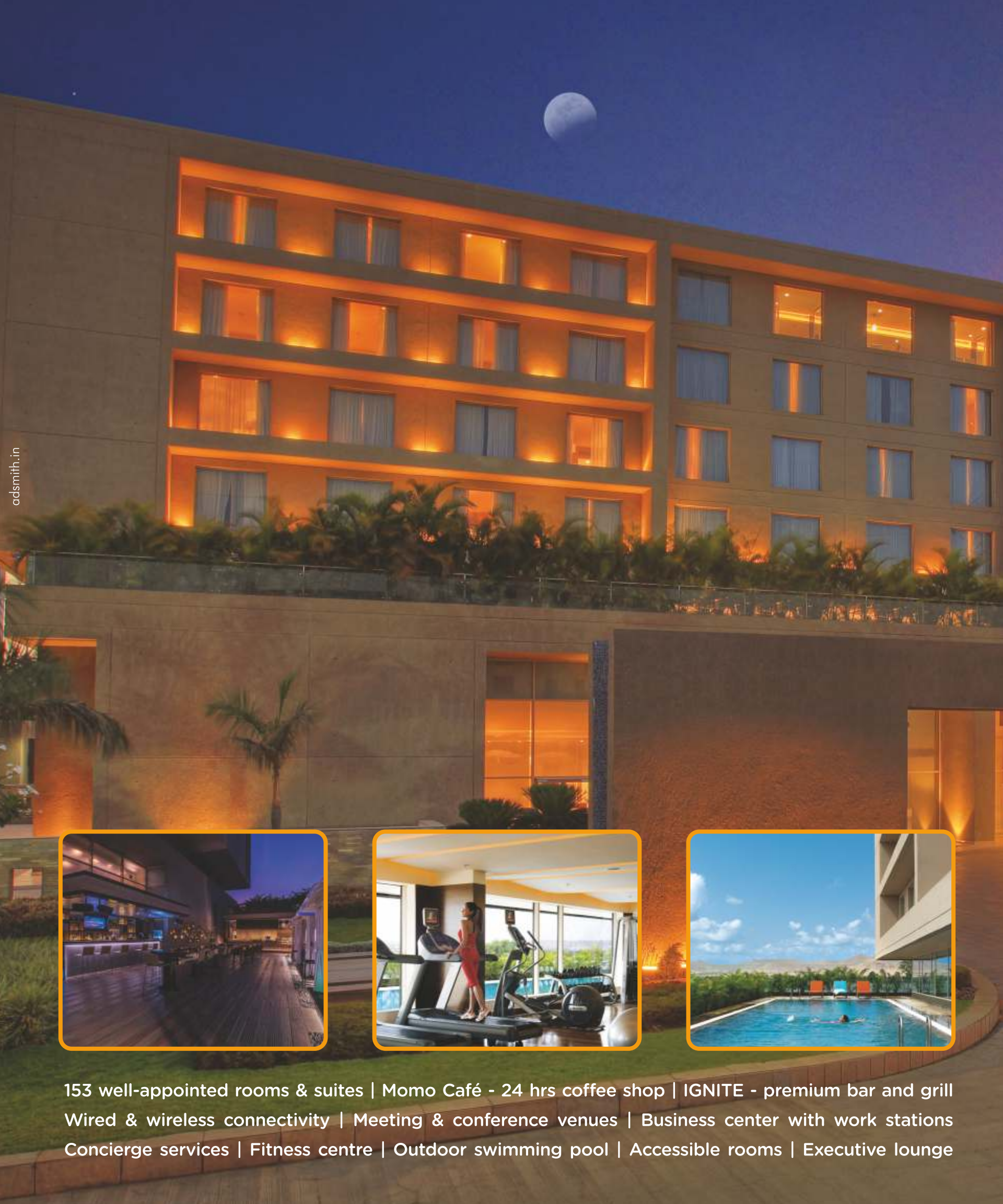
On the 26th of December, 2016, Chesky took to Twitter to ask followers, "If Airbnb could launch anything in 2017, what would it be?" He painstakingly responded to the more than 2000 responses he received. Among some of the very creative requests were, group travel facility, more child-friendly options, video previews of home listings, longer rentals, offline maps, and Airbnb on Mars – to which the ambitious Chesky responded, "working on that... no joke."

Airbnb seems to have brought fresh life and vigour back to the art of travel. Travel should open minds, hearts, and imaginations, and should have the power to resuscitate the weariest of souls. And Airbnb's community powered wings allow for all of our dreams to become an easily accessible reality.

Here's to travel done the right way! And here's to an adventurous 2017, filled with new and unique experiences that transform us irrevocably – inside out.

A photograph of a rustic wooden treehouse built high up in a lush green forest. The treehouse has large windows and a small balcony. A rope bridge with wooden planks and rope railings leads to the treehouse. The scene is filled with tall trees and dense foliage, creating a magical and adventurous atmosphere.

**Here's to travel done the
right way! And here's to
an adventurous 2017,
filled with new and
unique experiences that
transform us irrevocably
– inside out.**



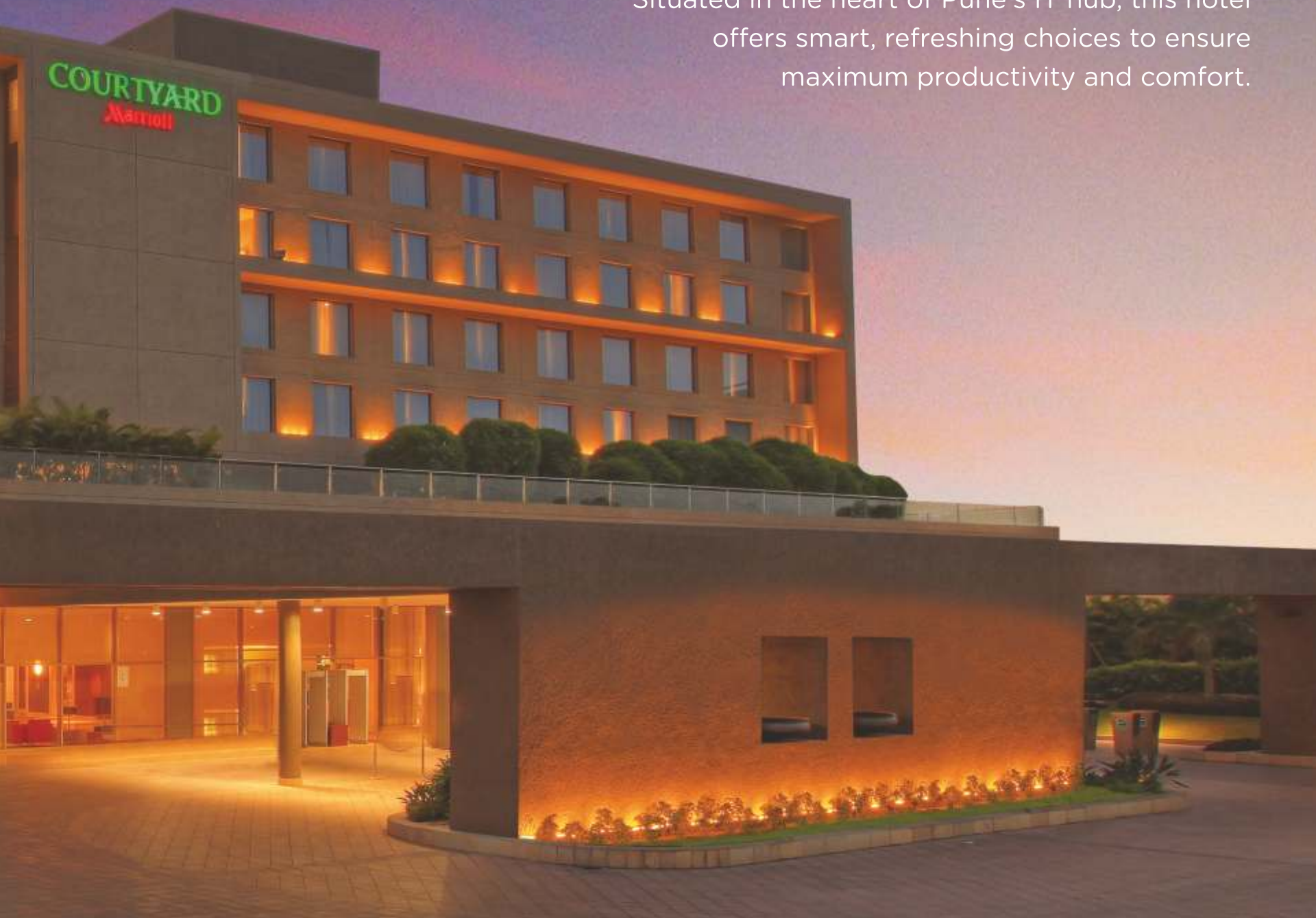
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The Incredible LIGHTNESS of Being – The New Wines of the Old World

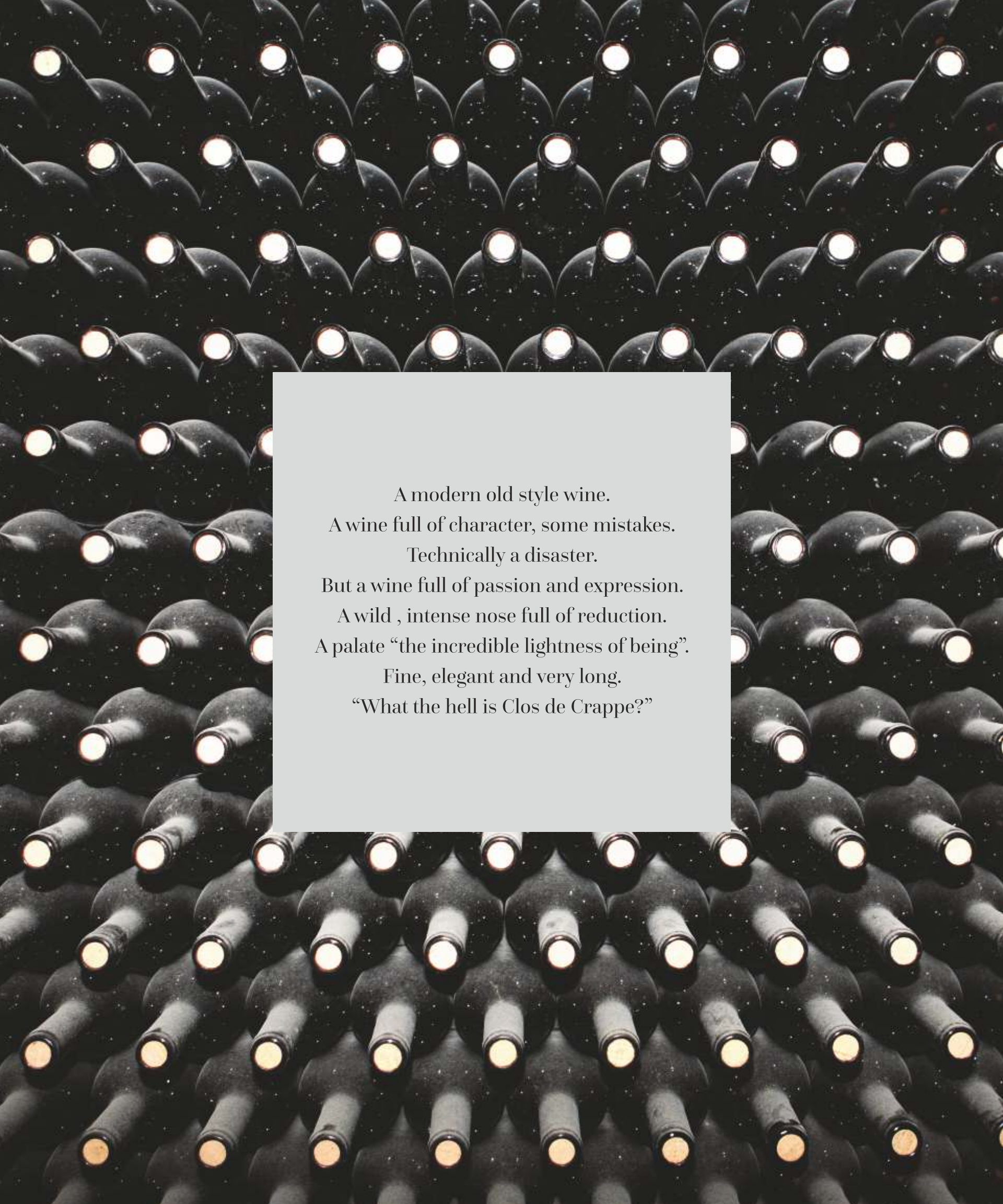
By Shagun Mehra

The world of wines is ever embryonic. The grape vine travels its tendrils across the globe and habitually shows its potential in regions and countries that were not otherwise on the wine map. The definition of New World and Old World changes every decade or so. Who knew about Chilean wines 20 years ago? The wine shelves today are a spectrum of diverse terroirs and reflect the creativity of many a passionate wine maker.

As the new world challenges and opens up realms in eminent wines, the romantic old world has also decided to redefine itself. The wine consumption globally has increased and so has the wine producing regions. When earlier the oasis of wines was nestled in the heart of



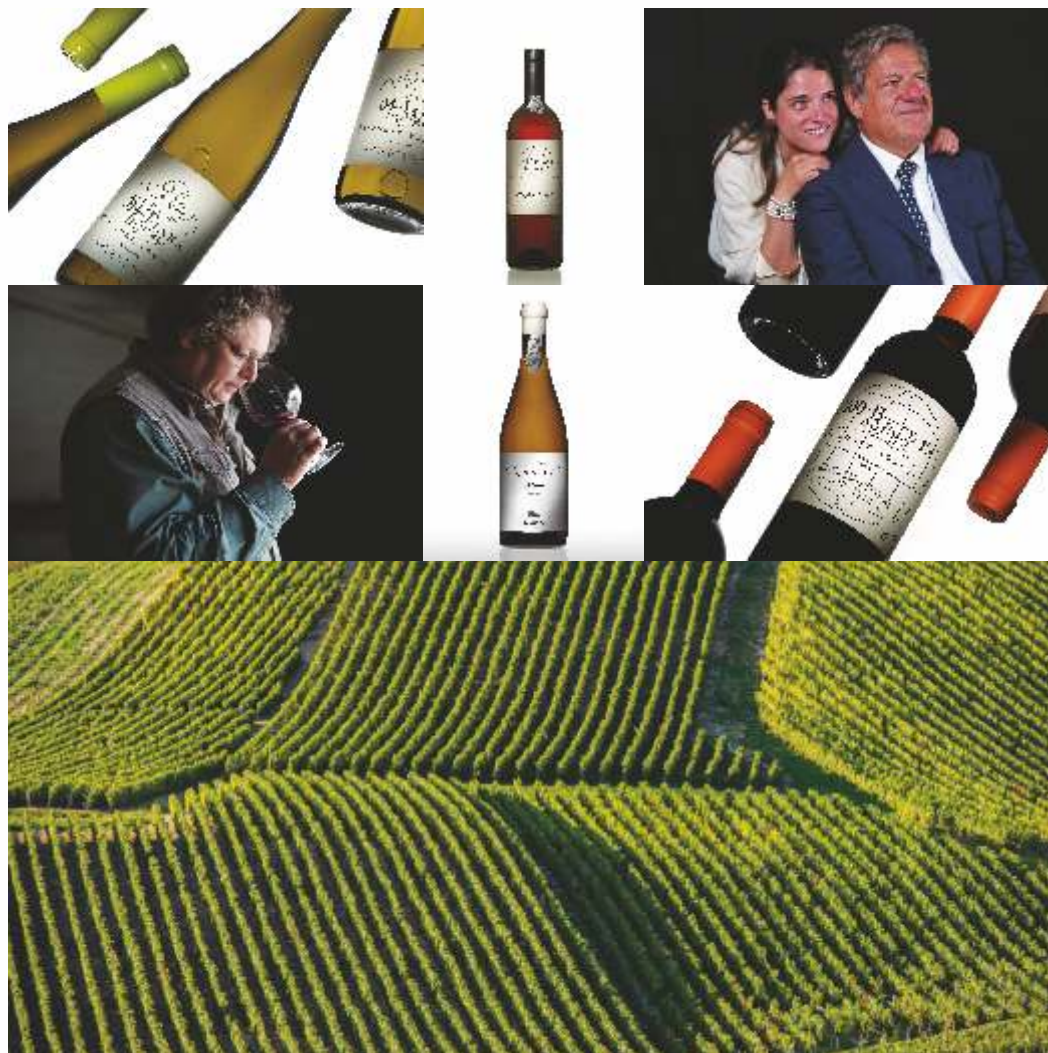




A modern old style wine.
A wine full of character, some mistakes.
Technically a disaster.
But a wine full of passion and expression.
A wild , intense nose full of reduction.
A palate “the incredible lightness of being”.
Fine, elegant and very long.
“What the hell is Clos de Crappe?”

Europe, today it thrives in the Americas and the all the other continents too. It is a great mission for the wine makers of Europe, where wine making has trickled down several generations to now adapt to their modern contemporaries. Experienced wine makers from Europe are crossing the seven seas to transfer their wine ethos to rest of the world and explore new and stimulating wine lands. It is a very sensational time for the wine world.

Many old wine institutions are turning towards the



modern marketing style of the labels and use English to express their wines as opposed to labeling them in French or Italian. English being one of the most widely accepted world language has today become the language of the wine world. There are more wines in France, Spain & Germany using International Grapes – Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Chardonnay, etc. than ever before. The ancient region of Chianti, that only grew Sangiovese for centuries, suddenly had a wine maker who decided to make wines using international

Port wine is synonymous to Portugal, and it takes one man like Dirk Niepoort to acknowledge the potential of its terroir and convert discerning wine lovers into truly recognizing Portugal as a quality wine making country.

grape varieties. It was radical. And it paid off. Sassicaia, was the brain child of Marchese Mario Incisa della Rocchetta who planted Cabernet Sauvignon (in a vineyard that had only seen Sangiovese for centuries) at his estate Tenuta san Guido in Bolgheri back in 1944. Today Sassicaia is a trendsetter for modern high quality Italian wines. These are Tuscan wines, redefined. They are called SUPERTuscans.

The approach of making the wine has also modernized significantly. Camouflaging the true character of the wine by the over use of wood and focusing on expressing the true flavor of the grapes is increasingly becoming popular.



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

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

Wine is like art. It is a mien of the creativity of the wine maker as he juggles with the climate and soil conditions of each harvest. There is a great amount of intuition backed by years of experience that makes the wines of the Old World so fascinating. The soil itself has been cured and the vine plants are centuries old and hence produce grapes of high quality. This is something the new world cannot compete with. So if the wineries of the Old World decide to take a modern approach towards wine making, the result is usually extraordinary.

One such dynamic wine maker is Dirk Niepoort. In 1987 when he was leaving California to go back to Portugal after

completing an internship program, Gary Andrew from Pine Ridge asked him if he would ever make red wines in Portugal. Gary asked him what his wine philosophy would be if he ever made some wines. Dirk comes from the hallowed Port wine making Niepoort family dating to 1842. While his forefathers have mostly made Port, as a young wine maker, when he was handed the baton, he decided to open his mind and allow his instincts to guide his business forward. If one knows Dirk at all, one knows him well. He is a man of few words. He thinks very profoundly and yet has an easy demeanor about him. Wine is spiritual to him and his modus operandi is inborn. He chose to make a red wine called Robustus in 1990, which back then was

A modern old style wine.
A wine full of character, some mistakes.
Technically a disaster.
But a wine full of passion and expression.
A wild, intense nose full of reduction.
A palate “the incredible lightness of being”.
Fine, elegant and very long.
“What the hell is Clos de Crape?”

From mysterious wines in funny named bottles, to traditionally aged wines in French Oaks, wine lovers are to only benefit. The rousing of this pot has only brought out more thought



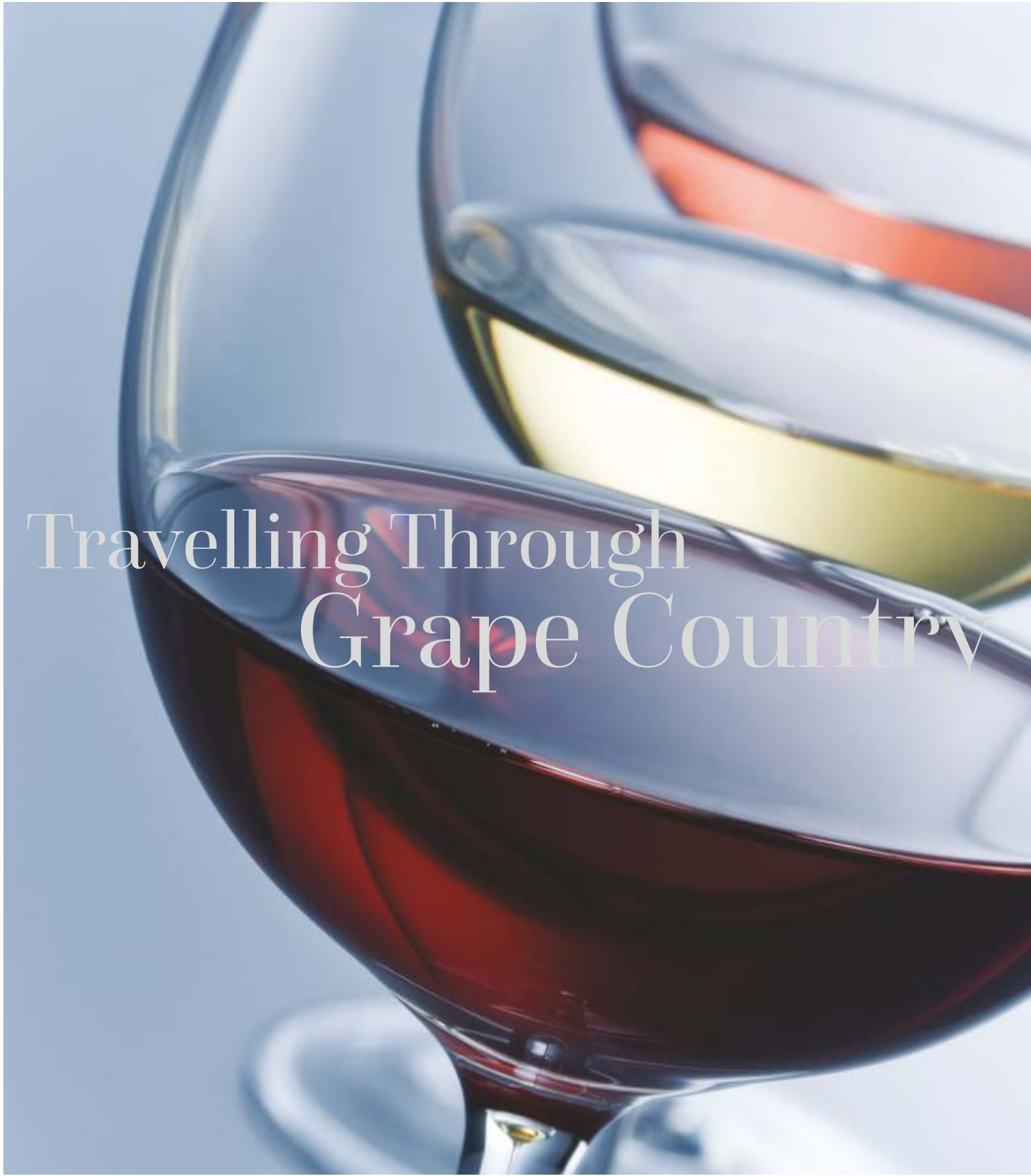
just about quaffable, even to him. Today, when he opens this bottle, his eyes luster. It seems to have aged exquisitely. Dirk Niepoort is making formidable red wines from Portugal that is indeed turning heads.

Port wine is synonymous to Portugal, and it takes one man like Dirk Niepoort to acknowledge the potential of its terroir and convert discerning wine lovers into truly recognizing Portugal as a quality wine making country. What is intriguing is his way of breaking boundaries of the perception of wines only being austere. He has a sense of humour attached to his sharp-tasting skills. His new wine is called Clos de Crape. This is exactly how Dirk describes it.

provoking wines in our glasses. And I am ever so gratified for that.

When you venture into your favorite wine shop next, and want to taste some New Wines from the Old World, I heartily recommend these.

1. Charme by Niepoort, Portugal
2. Sassicaia by Marchesi Antinori, Tuscany, Italy
3. Macan by Vega Sicilia & Rothchild, Ribera del Duero, Spain



Travelling Through Grape Country



The world has long associated France with some of the finest of wines there are to be and the art of wine making. While France has unanimously topped the charts of the largest wine producers in the world and the supremacy of French wine is undeniable, it has very recently been upstaged by Italian wines. Coming up third on the list is Spain, followed by a host of countries including the United States, Australia, Chile and others. This is what we know of wine in modern times, and you would be forgiven if you believe that France is the birthplace of wine!

The art of wine making seemingly is ancient and has been known to humankind for over several centuries. Evidence traces the first forms of (pre-historic) wine production to countries such as Iran (c. 5000 BC), Greece (c. 4500 BC) and Armenia (c. 4100 BC). The oldest known winery, "Areni-1" cave in Vayots Dzor, Armenia, was discovered in 2011, where archaeologists stumbled upon all the material required to produce fine wine – a wine press, fermentation vats, jars and cups and above all the seeds of the *Vitis vinifera* (common grape vine) grape that are used to this day to make wine.

While wine assumed religious connotations in Biblical times, the production and consumption of wine on a larger scale began proliferating in Europe approximately in the 15th century. The Benedictine monks were largely responsible for the production of wine in France and Germany, owning vineyards in Champagne, Bordeaux and Burgundy in France and Rheingau (the Rhine District) and Franconia (modern day Bavaria) in Germany.

The world's vineyard regions have been collectively producing wine for hundreds of years now. A large number of the celebrated wineries (and their wines) are known to dot the topography of Europe and the Americas. More recently, the New World producers of the Southern Hemisphere - namely Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have come to be known for their high-quality wine, keeping step with the rest of the regions traditionally renowned for wine making.

With the large-scale evolution of wine production, and hospitable wine makers playing host to curious visitors, came a boost to the tourism industry of these regions. What started off as unassuming and casual visits to vineyards especially in France and Italy, have today blossomed into high-end affairs that promote Enotourism or Wine Tourism and are closely associated with the history of wine making. The popularity of Enotourism soared significantly in the first decade of the current 21st century, ushering in a modern-day demand that has pushed wineries to upgrade and keep with times, as they jostle for space under the limelight.

Wineries everywhere, including in India have moved on from being just vineyards, to providing visitors with a host of experiences. Guided tours around the vineyards, a peak into the history of wine estates, grape crushing, tastings and food pairings, harvest festivities are just some of the many exciting activities to engage in while at a vineyard. With the emergence of more countries producing wines than ever before, wine tourism, an industry in its own right has certainly come of age. Indeed, there has never been a better time to undertake a wine tour, than now!





Join Chaitra Patel on a trip to two of Europe's sunny wine producing regions of Tuscany and La Rioja as she discovers delightful wineries that guarantee their visitors a time of their lives.



MARQUES DE RISCAL

Rioja, Spain

Sprawled across 100,000 sq. mtr. of grape producing grounds stands the Marqués de Riscal wineries, one of the oldest in Rioja that dates to 1858, a wine-producing region in Spain. At the heart of this expansive winery lies the imposing and modern structure of Hotel Marqués de Riscal, designed by eminent Canadian architect Frank O. Gehry and a part of the Luxury Collection Hotels by Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

Out of a determination to bridge the gap between the 19th and 21st centuries, was born The City of Wine, a project at the eminent winery that marks a 'before' and 'after' in the study of the world of wines. The magnificent estate is located in Elciego, a town located in the province of Alava in Northern Spain. The City of Wine, at the core of which lies the spectacular architectural form of the resplendent hotel, preserves the striking heritage it is known for and provides an exceptional and modern setting for living a unique and unrepeatable experience.



The City of Wine project brings together two facets of wine making under one roof - innovation and tradition. And what better manner to showcase the spirit of innovation and change, than being housed in a building that is built entirely with modern material employing ground-breaking design and ideation. The grand structure and its interiors designed by Frank O. Gehry are bright and contemporary in style, and create an atmosphere that complements the verdant surroundings to perfection.

The Marqués de Riscal houses 43 exquisite rooms (that include 10 suites) each designed by Gehry and equipped with the latest technology, making the living space both comfortable and contemporary at the same time. With design elements by renowned labels such as Alvar Aalto and B&B Italia, the hotel interiors offer an authentic avant-garde vision for its shapes, colours and materials. The use of titanium and steel and the asymmetry of the floors and walls, to the leather and solid maple wood of the suites and the marble of the bathrooms all bear the stamp of Gehry and effortlessly marry advanced technology with luxury.





Experiences

If you are looking to disconnect from the madding world outside, Marqués de Riscal offers the perfect respite. The property's patio terraces offer spectacular vantage views of the expansive estate grounds and vineyards and Elciego against the magnificent backdrop of the Sierra de Cantabria mountain range. Enjoy the best view of two regions– La Rioja on one side and the Basque Country to the other, only from the VIP Lounge.

For the bookworms, the cosy interiors of the well-stocked library, complete with a fire place and leather upholstered sofas is the perfect hideout. And if you tire of reading, you can always soak in the panoramic views from this room on the roof.

A mention about the stay at Marqués de Riscal would most certainly be incomplete without speaking about the hotel's restaurants. Enjoy a fusion of tradition and avant-garde style in a unique setting, as you experience the tastings of classic Marqués de Riscal vintages at the hotel's Michelin starred restaurant - Gastronómico. The restaurant Gastronómico tantalises taste buds with the most sophisticated dishes by the first Riojan chef to earn a Michelin star - Francis Paniego. If it's something more laidback and yet traditional that you prefer, head to 1860 Tradición. Enjoy a cuisine based on traditional recipes using some of the choicest of local produce. And, if there is still something more that you yearn, then a gastronomic evening in the Chef's Garden is most recommended. Take in the picturesque views of the vineyards as you inhale and savour the fragrance of the herbs and aroma of the chef's special tasting menu.







Discover a whole new world of spa therapy at the Marqués de Riscal. They call it wine therapy. The Spa Vinotherapie® Caudalie is the perfect haven for you to pamper your senses. The unique oils and their fragrances, relaxing music and fine art of soothing massages practiced by experienced masseurs are guaranteed to hit a sweet spot! The delicious body treatments at the spa are unique in every sense, based on the natural properties of grapes and wines and practiced by exceptionally talented vinotherapists.

The Hotel Marqués de Riscal also offers its guests relaxed spaces within the estate, such as the wine bar as well as other spaces for treats with more diners. The more modern part of the winery - Edificio San Vicente houses the Chirel Hall and the large banquet hall with capacity for 650 people seated.

You can shop for wine and products from Marqués de Riscal at the shop on the estate or taste some of the wines in the cafeteria here.

Winery Visit

The highlight of your stay at the Marqués de Riscal undoubtedly is a visit to the winery. Plan a visit to the heart of the winery and get a taste of the traditional heritage of this deep-rooted brand. Marvel at the technological processes the winery adopts, in producing fine wine. Marqués de Riscal offers guests, guided tours around the vast wine estate, Monday to Sunday including public holidays. Choose from a variety of cellar tours and savour some of the finest wines produced here - Marqués de Riscal Verdejo and Marques de Riscal Reserva.

If you prefer something more intimate and exclusive for your group of family and friends, choose from 3 types of Private Wine Tasting – Wine Farm, Inspiration and Selection. Each of these visits includes a visit to the winery with a selection of wines for tasting along with appetisers.

Along with planning your visit to the Marqués de Riscal winery, the reservation desk will also help you book a trip to the entrance of Valle Salado (Añana), or the Salt Valley of Añana located in the province of Alava, 75 kms from the City of Wine.

In the Vicinity

Logroño-Agoncillo Airport : 25 kms.
Dinastia Vivanco Wine Museum : 20 kms.
Santiago Pilgrims Way : 19 kms.
Valdezcaray Ski Resort : 50.0 kms.

For More Details: <http://www.marquesderiscal.com/>



POGGIO AL CASONE

Tuscany, Italy

The idyllic winding roads of Tuscany beckon every kind of visitor – visitors keen to soak in the history of the Renaissance period and others who wish to bathe themselves under the Tuscan sun or taste the local cuisine. And, then there are those who choose to meander through the expansive grounds of vineyards, for a taste of true Tuscan life.

What does one drink, when in Tuscany? Why, wine of course! And who better to tell you that than the Castellani Family. The Castellanis have been producing wine for over 5 generations now and control a staggering 1000 hectares of wine estates across the characteristic regions of Chianti, Chianti Classico and Maremma in addition to owning approximately 210 hectares of their own properties too, with immaculate wineries located across each of the estates.

ITALY

PL

A





Among the various estates that the Castellani Family owns, is Poggio al Casone that is situated on the hills that overlook the Tyrrhenian Sea within Crespina, in the province of Pisa. Much of the architecture at Poggio al Casone is reminiscent of the 1800s, and at the heart of it all are the main villa and old houses from a bygone era. The vineyard sprawls across 30 hectares of verdant landscape and is frequented by visitors looking for a relaxing and yet unconventional holiday.

The self-catering luxurious accommodation at Poggio al Casone is extremely elegant and comfortable. The estate allows visitors to choose from 2-person apartments to independent cottages for 6 people. The air around is clean and crisp, beautifully accentuated with much sought after peace and quiet and magnificent sunsets every evening. A Charming Getaway indeed!

Experiences

Poggio al Casone is quaint and due to its relatively smaller size, the services it offers are extremely customisable. Choose from an array of activities to help you unwind, from clay and painting classes to taking a tour around the countryside on Italy's legendary Vespa. If its complete tranquillity that you seek, participate in private yoga lessons, amidst the surrounding nature.





The cooking classes at Poggio al Casone are one-of-a-kind. Fancy cooking yourself a lovely Italian meal? Then, head out for a walk into the surrounding woods in the serene hills of the hamlet of Calci and get yourself acquainted with Maurizio, the man who knows all about herbs and Erika who delightfully teaches you the ropes of Italian cooking. Go olive and herb picking and when you tire of this, cook up a storm at Maurizio's quaint country house under Erika's able supervision and discover all that you can do with the herbs you picked through the morning. A perfect finale to your charming day is a dip in the estate's swimming pool or outdoor hot tub.

Visiting the winery in the summer season? Don't forget to gather with family and friends around the cosy candle-lit table at meal times.

Winery Visit

The wine that is produced at Poggio al Casone is all organic. Which means the grapes that grow on the estate are completely pesticide-free. The estate also organises guided wine tour and tasting sessions for guests staying with them. Discover the secrets of organic wine making and farming as you tour the mesmerising estate grounds. The enchanting colours of the marvellous vineyards will envelop you in a warm embrace. You are in for a treat, if you choose to visit the winery between September and October; this happens to be the harvesting season and a time when you can workers pick grapes directly from the vines.

There is virtually nothing that the good folks at Poggio al Casone will refuse you. From elaborate breakfasts to snug candle-lit dinners, cooking classes and private chefs, massages and a dip in the salt water pool, the staff at Poggio al Casone will ensure to go the extra mile for you. All you have to do is ask!

In the Vicinity

Pisa Airport	: 28 kms.
Livorno Cruise Harbour	: 25 km
Beach/ Seas-side	: 25 km

For More Details: <http://www.poggioalcasone.com/>



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¹²
LEVEL



Sula Vineyard

Where the Sun Never Sets



Just a few weeks after Thanksgiving, if you still find yourself indulging in the taste of wine, this might make you feel exhilarated. Picture yourself sitting in an art-filled tasting room, surrounded by pristine lakes, verdant mountains, sipping a delicate cuvée, taking in the panorama of charming villages and acres of vineyards.

No, it's not Champagne in France - it's the SulaFest in India.

SulaFest is a world gourmet, music, wine and spirits festival nestled atop the rolling hills of Nashik against a backdrop of lush green vineyards of Sula. Though only in its 10th edition, it should be on every wine lover's bucket list. And even if you are just getting started with the wine experience, it is one of the best places to start with.



Maheep Singh Rathore makes you stomp through the vineyards and indulging wines to land in the quintessential Gourmet-Music-Wine festival, SulaFest, in India's very own Napa Valley-Nashik.



With 120 performances and a stellar reputation for an eclectic line up of front-line artists like Nucleya, Loco & Jam, Dana Ruh, Igor Marijuan, Ernesto Altes and more, you are sure to groove until dawn.

SulaFest 2017

The SulaFest has immensely developed over the last decade, coming onto the radar of oenophiles who are touting the globe's unfortified wines and unusual varietals. Thanks to the pioneering winemakers - Sula Wines. More than 40 wines from Australia to France will present to you an impressive spread at SulaFest 2017.

Linger on the leather and liquorice of fleshy red Trapiche wine, with aromas of ripe berry fruits and blackberry with a smoky character. Experience the smooth tannins and a long-lasting finish. Or savour the richness of the finest terroirs of Burgundy in all their intensity and finesse, with wines from Bouchard Aine & Fils. With Hardys from Australia, Mud House from New Zealand, Kumala from South Africa, Ruffino from Italy, Cono Sur from Chile, Le Grand Noir from France, and Piper-Heidsieck from France, you can make a sensorial approach to wines at SulaFest and serve your wine senses. Among the nationally acclaimed beverage producers, look out for Raw Pressery for their refreshing ready-to-drink fruit juices.

Wines lure like nothing else. Add on a stellar

musical line up, an elite audience, incredible gourmet dining, and an intoxicating party mood; the result is as good as it gets. SulaFest is all about an unprecedented experience of an offbeat luxury gourmet-music-wine festival.

The gut busting 3-day wine and food marathon will not just be a regular wine-food affair and commandeers a chunk of Somerset of awe inspiring musical line ups, ranging from pop to reggae, rock to dubstep and metal to folk and techno. With 120 performances and a stellar reputation for an eclectic line up of front-line artists like Nucleya, Loco & Jam, Dana Ruh, Igor Marijuan, Ernesto Altes and more, you are sure to groove until dawn. Oh yes, there's some more music that goes on, which happens to be one of the strongest line ups at the SulaFest - Bloc Party and Infested Mushrooms. And don't forget to deck your cart with unexpected red, white and rose wines. Those who do not have a palette for wines, can grab holiday staples like tequila, vodka, craft beers, Bourbon, and whiskey.

Matching food with wine is a matter of personal preference. However, some wine-food matches cannot be overlooked as they



will vie to win over your senses. For the best of wine-food experiences the fest also woos top restaurants to serve up gourmet dining for discerning fest goers who like to tickle their taste buds. There's plenty of opportunity to satisfy your culinary curiosity - from calorific cakes and chocolates to sizzling barbecues and Italian cheesy affairs, all set up just next to the vineyard trails.

What's New at SulaFest This Year!

This year SulaFest is adding an exciting, new element to the now 3-day festival. Sula is all about having a great time, but they also want to make sure that you take care of yourself during the festival. If you feel like you're going to indulge in a little too much of wine and other drinks– and want a way to shake off the hangover so you can enjoy even more, they have just the things to get you moving and get those energy levels back up! Fest-goers can be a part of SulaFest's sunrise yoga sessions on the open grounds at Tent City on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Carry your own yoga mats and follow along and start the day with some light stretching and basic yoga, suitable to all levels, regardless of experience. If that's not enough for you, be a part of the first ever SulaFest Run, on Sunday morning! Carry your running shoes and join other runners (first

time or veteran – all are welcome) as you enjoy an easy scenic morning run together from the Sula gates up to the Gangapur dam and back. Runners will celebrate with a light breakfast, RAW Pressery cold pressed juices and bragging rights over all the sleepyheads on Sunday morning! From high altitude mountains to tasting rooms with some of the world's finest wines, and with vineyards wanting to absorb hangovers and offer respite from the microwave heat of the day, SulaFest is a great call to get out and about tucking in some indulgent wine and remarkable food. And there remains no reason to not take off to the SulaFest 2017-Where the Sun Never Sets.





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Ethereal dresses that appear to be woven out of fairy dust and gossamer – that is what each of these three designers have in common. The heavy-weights of Middle Eastern fashion, Elie Saab, Zuhair Murad, and Reem Acra have been dominating the Red Carpet for over two decades now.

Their designs leave audiences spell-bound, as they make their wearers seem as if they had just descended from the heavens.

Fairy Tales From

Beirut

Rashmi Alevoor loses herself to the impossibly beautiful art of the three most prolific designers from Lebanon.



A model presents a creation for Elie Saab during the 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show, Paris.
Photo credit : ALAIN JOCARD/AFP/GettyImages.

Fashion

Elie Saab

Mastery over Femininity



The trailblazer of Middle Eastern fashion, Elie Saab floated onto the world stage and captured the collective imagination through his feminine forms and delicate silhouettes. The much-adored Lebanese designer is a self-taught fashion prodigy. His passion for dressmaking started at the early age of 9 years, when he began making clothes for his sisters. At this time, the already enterprising Elie was also selling his creations to women in his neighbourhood.

In 1982, an 18-year-old Elie Saab opened his couture atelier in Beirut, managing over a dozen employees. And in the following months, the autodidact master of dressmaking presented his first collection to an audience of women who were instantly won over by his precocious talent.

Elie Saab is best known for his form-fitting gowns that are bejeweled with crystals, beads, and sequins - set in intricate patterns. His trademark style includes the most noble of materials - silks, chiffon, tulle - all set to flow off the feminine form in an impeccably graceful manner. Even though his designs are unmistakably telling of an Elie Saab creation, they are sufficiently original and independent in concept and imagination.

He has dressed royal personalities like Queen Rania of Jordan and Princess Stephanie of Monaco, glamorous Hollywood celebrities like Angelie Jolie and Catherine Zeta Jones, Queen Bey - Beyonce, and Bollywood royalty Aishwarya Rai and Sonam Kapoor. Elie Saab's princess-worthy dresses are every little girl's dream. And his latest Fall 2016 collection featured kiddie couture with little girls walking alongside their adult counterpart, wearing



Designer Elie Saab during the 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show, Paris.

miniature versions of their gowns. The girls were prettily and age-appropriately dressed in bejeweled headbands, beaded bracelets, and flat ballet shoes. The entire collection, meant to be an ode to New York City, was dramatic and edgier than the usual Elie Saab look. Luscious velvets and silks, Chantilly lace, bird figurines, crystal embroideries, and a burst of flowers came together to capture the city's gritty and edgy glamour.



Designing for the 'woman who we all want to be'

Reem Acra left her home in Lebanon during the height of the civil war in 1983. But her first memories of fashion were born in her hometown in Beirut. She grew up in a wealthy family, the only girl among three brothers. Her father was a prominent doctor at the American University of Beirut. Her mother who had a passion for luxurious fabrics, employed a stay-at-home seamstress to satisfy her appetite for glamorous gowns. Acra remembers being very well-dressed as a little girl. "Growing up in Beirut, I used to go to the souks with my mother to buy fabrics... I understood fashion at an early age and my first designs were when I was five," she told The Associated Press. Long before Lebanese designers were recognised on the world stage, Reem Acra was understanding the language and behaviour of fabric. She was drawn to the aesthetic of vintage garments, and it was then that her long love affair with beading and embroidery began. Her peers thought her to be "weird" but even as a little girl, the soft-spoken Reem Acra was quietly confident about her plans to learn everything there was to know about design.

Reem Acra





Having studied in New York and Paris, Reem Acra got her first job, straight at the top, immediately upon graduating, "I was very driven and secured my first job the next day after graduation as a head designer. I asked for a high salary in comparison to my classmates and received the offer immediately. A week later, I was offered double my salary. It is hard to believe but it's true." She launched her eponymous fashion business in the bridal market in New York in 1997. Since then, her company has expanded to include evening wear, ready-to-wear and her most sought-after couture.

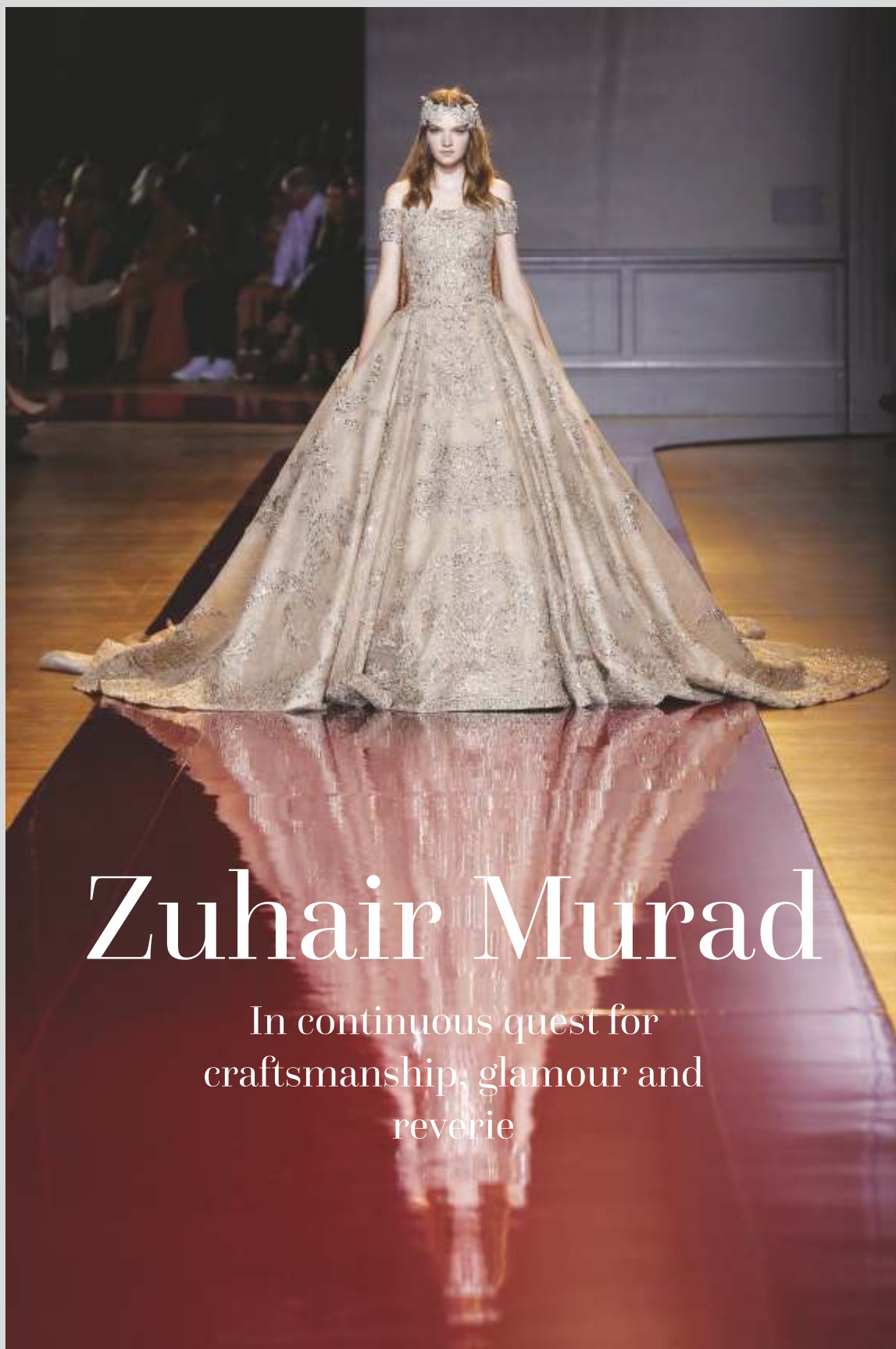
Her Fall 2016 collection – The Secret World of the Femme Fatale – was a series of lacy boudoir-inspired dresses that hinted at stunning lingerie. "It's the woman we all want to be," said Acra. "It's a very seductive collection." The entire collection was made up of body-skimming, second-skin, feathery dresses that exuded in equal parts, vamp and temptress. The dresses seemed to toy with the imagination of the audience, playing a game of hide and peek, almost revealing skin but then holding back with a thought-fully placed panel of sheer chiffon, dense beadwork, or sparkly embroidery.

The dresses had artfully employed embellishments like fringes that swayed and created fluid, sweeping movements – and in signature femme fatale fashion, each piece slayed.



Zuhair Murad

In continuous quest for
craftsmanship, glamour and
reverie





“Embroidery macramé, Chantilly lace, hand-painted fabrics, ostrich feathers, plumetis, sequins, beading” – techniques that sound as if they belonged to a different era and they do. These traditional methods of dressmaking are reinvented at Zuhair Murad's Atelier in Beirut and Paris to make delicate and beautiful evening wear and wedding gowns.

Haute Couturier Zuhair Murad grew up in Baalbek, Lebanon. “It [Baalbek] used to be called [Heliopolis, Greek for] the City of the Sun, and is known for its incredible nature, the starry skies in the mountains. I started designing at the age of three or four. My mother says I always had paper and crayons with me and would cut fabrics to use for curtains or whatever. My mother had a Singer sewing magazine so I started making things and mixing fabrics. I don't know where it comes from, maybe I was inspired by Greek women from the ancient ruins of my town, or the idea of mythological women,” the self-taught Lebanese designer is reported to have said. By his age of 10, Zuhair Murad knew he wanted to become a designer. “I was obsessed with all the big couturiers like Christian Dior, Cristobal Balenciaga, Hubert de Givenchy. There wasn't Internet at the time, but I spent all my time looking at magazines and books.” His pieces are painstakingly put together, each dress requiring 1,500 to 2,000 hours of embroidery. Among his clientele are Jennifer Lopez, Marion Cotillard, Ivanka Trump, Katy Perry, Blake Lively, and Princess al-Taweel of Saudi Arabia who wore one of his dresses at the royal wedding in London.

In his Fall 2016 collection, Zuhair Murad paid ode to the modern-day Bohemian gypsy queen. The bold and sexy collection features patterns from the Caucuses and Persia, Art Nouveau à la Klimt, jacquard and silk dupion, and Asian flora and fauna in velvet and crêpe, tulle and chiffon. The colours are rich and evocative – honeysuckle, imperial purple, amaranthine, rosewood, regal black, old gold, and iris. His collection oozed colour, opulence, and ornamentation.

Famed for his spectacular bridal gowns, the designer opted for a latte beige over the traditional white. “I wanted to make it a little bit vintage, like when you look at old photos,” he explained. “Boho gypsy chic is all about attitude.”



FITNESS FOREVER!

The curtains are down on 2016 and the new year brings with it all the customary resolutions – many that do not see often the light of day. While the reasons for this may vary, there is little doubt that year-end revelries and indulgence are almost always followed by a well-considered pause; a time to embrace change. Perhaps there is no better way to embrace change than by setting ourselves realistic fitness goals.

The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), the largest sports and exercise organisation in the world, has indicated in its 11th annual report (that surveyed over 1800 fitness professionals) the biggest trends in fitness for 2017. From wearable technology to body weight training and high intensity workouts, make 2017 count – make it a year of staying fit and healthy!

Chaitra Patel takes a look at some of the major trends that will help you achieve your fitness goals faster.





Exercise Apps

Whatever your fitness goals – to get into shape or live a healthier lifestyle, to build muscle and get in shape, exercise apps offer a gamut of solutions for every exercise regime. Your mobile phone now ceases to be just another phone and can help you set realistic goals and get fitter and healthier. From strength training to gym workouts, yoga and running, exercise apps support every form of workout while their popularity quotient seems to only be getting better each day. MyFitnessPal, Yoga Studio, Nike+ Training Club, Workout, Instant Heart Rate, Fitness Buddy, Sworkit are just some of the popular apps available on Android and iOS. Exercise apps are incredible workout partners and much recommended because they help you track your fitness levels at all times and help you achieve your fitness goals. These apps are great mood elevators and are known to boost motivation as they encourage you to complete virtual challenges and share your fitness achievements across social media platforms.



Wearable Technology

Smart watches, fitness and activity trackers are the rage right now, like never before. Wearable technology however first assumed popularity in the 1980s, with the introduction of the calculator watch. Through the years, manufacturers have tried to make wearable technology portable, in turn enabling users to record their activity at all times.

Apple, Fitbit, Garmin, Xiaomi's Mi Band are just some of the leading brands to watch out for today. To choose the right type of fitness tracker, make a note of your individual needs and how active a lifestyle you lead. Then, go ahead and choose between trackers that offer a whole gamut of services such as GPS tracking, monitoring your heart rate, footsteps or even set reminders. Wearable Technology has a little something for everybody and every body type too.

Fitness trackers don't just help you track information related to your body; they look great too and make a stunning style statement.



Body Weight Training

You don't always need a gym to get fit – body weight workouts are a great way to enhance fitness levels too. These are easy to adapt to and execute just about anywhere including at the workplace, ensuring you try and keep fit at all times. Body weight training is vital because it helps in maintaining lower body strength. The human body is capable of providing resistance against gravity, and these exercises are known to augment a variety of bio motor abilities such as strength, power, endurance, speed, flexibility, coordination and balance. Body weight workout ensures that you not just build muscle, but also go through an entire cardio workout. Squats, lunges, push-ups, planks, jumping jacks and such like are just some of the workouts that are a part of this routine and are immensely popular.



High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT)

Alternate quick bursts of high-intensity exercise with short periods of rest, and watch calories burn fast. Pilates to boot camp classes and CrossFit, are all forms of HIIT that lead to greater metabolism. HIIT is a form of cardiovascular workout and sessions may vary from four to thirty minutes. Typically, HIIT sessions comprise of a warm up period, followed by repetitions of high intensity exercises, which in turn are followed up with a set of medium intensity exercises, before entirely cooling down the body. What it does to your body in the process is outstanding - it improves cardiovascular fitness and helps burn more fat, build a healthier heart, effectively lose weight without losing muscle and substantially increase your metabolism. HIIT routines are also known to lower insulin resistance that invariably contributes to decreasing fasting blood glucose levels.

Circuit Training

In many ways, Circuit Training is similar to HIIT, and yet different in terms of the intensity levels it employs. While HIIT is a non-stop workout session, circuit training involves a small rest period between each exercise. Typically, circuit training consists of 10 exercises separated from one another by short intervals and are then repeated on completion of one circuit. Circuit training is recommended for those who wish to workout but find the HIIT routine extremely intense and intimidating. One circuit should ideally work each section of the body – the upper body, core and trunk, lower body and eventually the entire body. Research proves that circuit training is extremely efficient in enhancing cardiovascular fitness and muscle strength, and is known to be particularly beneficial to women.



Strength Training

Cardio is passé, Strength Training is the new fitness mantra. With lifestyle diseases on the rise, the trend has now shifted towards building muscle mass and protecting against ailments such as diabetes and chronic back pain. Strength training employs resistance to induce muscular contractions, which in turn build strength and endurance. If practiced regularly, strength training has proven benefits and holistically improves health and well-being by increasing metabolism, strengthening tendons and ligaments, improving joint movements and cardiac functions and increasing bone density.



Personal Training

With a growing number of fitness professionals choosing to formally educate themselves in kinesiology and the science of exercise, the number of quality trainers is gradually on the rise. The demand for certified personal trainers has been on the rise, ensuring superior training and supervision. Hiring a personal trainer has its perks – a personal trainer monitors your individual needs and goals closely and creates a customised workout plan and diet based on your physiological requirements. A personal trainer can help you lose fat and gain muscle better and faster with considerably lower chances of injury and along the way helps you set fitness oriented goals towards living a healthy life.

Group Training

The Group Training trend has been popular form of exercise for some time now and is a fun way to exercise. The idea of Group Training first emerged in 2008 when the Great Recession hit the American economy and people could no longer afford the luxury of a personal trainer. The trend has since then moved across continents and seems to be here to stay.

Greatly motivating, it has been scientifically proven that Group Training helps you work out for longer hours and builds accountability while you enjoy yourself. A group exercise session involves a bunch of people whose exercise regime is choreographed by the attending instructor. Group Personal Training, a blend of personal training and working out in a group is a trending variant that allows trainers to be more creative in the way they package their training sessions to suit the individual requirements of their clients.



Yoga

This one never seems to go out of fashion. Yoga has been around for thousands of years and has never been as relevant to fitness as it is in the modern age. Regular practice of yoga has been proven to lead to an upliftment of mood as well as body strengthening, especially strengthening of the core muscles. While for the serious practitioner, yoga helps achieve a 'higher state of being', there is no doubt that it certainly improves the quality of life at every level of practice by increasing flexibility, improving body posture, perfecting the heart rate, increasing blood flow, in addition to a multitude of other physiological as well as cerebral benefits.



Fitness Programmes for Seniors

With growing incidences of lifestyle diseases, Fitness Programmes for seniors have never been as relevant as they are today. Improving body balance, reducing the risk of falling and injury and the need to continue to perform vital everyday activities is pushing more and more seniors to seek lessons in fitness under professional guidance. Their frail bodies require strength training to counter the effects associated with aging. Seniors are most prone to ailments such as osteoporosis, arthritis, declining body balance, pulmonary conditions, diabetes and back related issues, amongst many others. A typical exercise routine for seniors comprises of warm up sessions both before and after. These programmes aim to equip seniors with an exercise routine that is a perfect fit with their physiological requirements.

Wellness Coaching

Wellness coaching focusses on an individual's mental wellbeing and helps in setting realistic goals. Wellness coaches serve as mentors who encourage their clients and help in achieving their goals. In the fitness sphere, often personal trainers may perform the dual role of trainers as well as wellness coaches, enabling their clients to achieve their goals more easily. Wellness coaches help bring about behavioural changes by adopting habits that eventually facilitate a higher quality of life.

Flexibility and Mobility Rollers

If enhancing muscle strength and endurance is your fitness goal, then using a foam or mobility roller is the way forward. While foam cylinders have been around for quite some time now, it is only recently that they have become immensely popular. Experts say "foam rolling is a form of self-myofascial release". What it means is that this form of exercise relaxes the body's contracted muscles and enables muscle mobility by improving blood and lymphatic circulation. The fascia is a thin tissue that wraps itself around and holds the muscles in our body that connect the kinetic chain. A constricted muscle fascia is most likely to be the cause of restricted movement, which is why reaching out touching your toes may be quite a gruelling task. While there is no proven research that backs the advantages of a foam roller, this form of exercise is a trend that is fast catching up and it is not uncommon to see fitness people rolling on gym floors, on top of foam cylinders.

Whatever form of exercise you choose for yourself, high intensity or otherwise, setting a goal to get fit and lead a better quality of life this



new year is certainly the way forward. Listen to your body and nurture it; don't ignore that muscle stiffness or the girth gain, and don't forget to provide your body with the correct nutrients. Make sure you work those muscles and remain active. Make 2017 all about you!

**Disclaimer: This article is based on a recent survey carried out by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). The intention of the article is to provide a consolidated round-up of fitness trends most likely to be seen in 2017. Meet the City and/ or the writer do not bear responsibility or vouch for the effectiveness of the exercises and recommend that these are carried out under professional supervision and advice.*

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EON Waterfront



Architectural rendition.



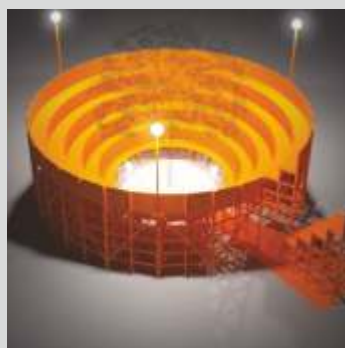
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A theatrical tribute to maverick Raja Ravi Verma by a group of young performers, bringing to life his spectacular painting "Galaxy of Musicians", opened the doors of Pune Biennale 2017 to the residents of the city on 5th January. Raja Ravi Verma in a way symbolises the inherent spirit of Pune Biennale – to bring ART closer to people. Verma was perhaps the only painter of his time, who made affordable lithographs of his paintings available to the



common public, developing their taste for fine arts. That is exactly what Pune Biennale, a predominant art movement organised by Pune Biennale Foundation in collaboration with Pune Municipal Corporation plans to achieve through its month-long activities, interactions and exhibitions between 5th to 29th January, at some of city's landmark locations, notable art galleries and vibrant public gardens. Its motto being to reimagine the city's public spaces in a creative way to enhance the aesthetic experience for the citizens.

Astha Dogra explores the thought-provoking artworks of some of the brightest artists in India and abroad.



Pune City has metamorphosed into a metropolis today, attracting professionals, students and other migrants from within the country and abroad. The flagship exhibition project of the Pune Biennale this year "Habit-Co-Habit" curated by Zasha Colah and Luca Cerizza, explores the consequences and potentialities of Migration, Cohabitation, Adaptation and Assimilation in the form of artistic interventions. Habit-Co-Habit is a "diffused" exhibition project providing an opportunity for surprise encounters with art at "Everyday Spaces", right from a museum to printing press to an archaeological site to bridges, underpasses and bustling roads!



As you enter the Phule Museum, you are greeted by the spellbinding audio-visual performative video "Impression" by artist Amol K Patil. The young artist "paints" a shirt of henna and synthetic resin adhesive on a model and in the end, makes him take it off intact! Changing one's skin i.e. changing one's habits are a prerequisite to "Co-Habit" with someone peacefully. No wonder, it is out of box thinking and experiences like these that have put Pune Biennale on the International Art map. This year the city will witness artworks by over two hundred Indian and International artists.

Heading to the first floor of the museum, one is greeted by artworks and paintings commenting poignantly on urban development and city life. Smita Rajmane's "Budhwar Peth - Missing Path" showcases the red-light area of the city, bringing us face to face with a concealed, hushed aspect of the growing Pune city. In the garden area of the museum, the mesmerising "Self-help housing" project created out of bamboos by Yona Friedman, along with students and faculty from architectural colleges in Pune, is set-up. At Sambhaji Park too, there is a similar installation by the artist, exploring bamboo as a versatile construction material. Looking at the artworks, it will be correct to assume that through the Biennale, artists get acquainted with the dynamic city of Pune and their art pieces get enriched with its passion-infused energy.

Moving "Art" spaces, an exhibition of junk sculptures, installations and shipping containers serving as mini museums, highlights the theme of Migration and is the innovative high point of Biennale this time. Tons of scrap metal in Pune Municipal Corporation's yards have been converted into stunning artworks by professional artists for this exhibition curated by Bina Sarkar Elias. "Boat People", a junk sculpture by Nikhil Rajendra Karoshi brings to the fore the plight of those people who lose their life while crossing borders on foot, on the back of animals or by train and boat. The installation "Missing" by Leena Kejriwal is heart-wrenching and moves you with its dark depiction of the reality of trafficked girls.

As containers represent movement and migration, they are the ideal spaces to showcase paintings, photographs and films on the theme "Migration". On display inside these containers are eloquent photographs by Indian and International photographers, resonating with myriad emotions that arise with migration. Two short films by Rafeeq Ellias bring forth the life of the Chinese community in Calcutta as well as the adversities they had to suffer as POW (Prisoners of War) in the aftermath of the 1962 Indo-China war. All Media – photographs, paintings, films, audio-visual, sculptures etc. has been creatively utilized at the Moving "Art" Spaces exhibition to chronicle the struggle, conflict, loss and the very rare occurrence of fulfilment in the lives of the refugees.

PUNE BIENNALE 2017



Pune Biennale 2017 not only gives an opportunity to bring art to the common man, but it also provides the platform to explore one's personality, beliefs and potential through a series of exhibitions and other activities on the theme "Identity and Self". At the Empress Garden, a tree of "self-discovery" representing the past, present and future has been set up. It utilizes mirrors as tools of self-analysis and discovery and asks spectators pertinent life-changing questions. Through this artistic endeavour, Pune Biennale aims to develop philosophical and spiritual questioning within common people. Ulhas Kagde's installation at the same venue showcasing sperms running towards the ovary, symbolizes "fight for survival" and is an

inspiration for everyone to be the best at whatever they do in life. The installations of human forms hugging trees make us wrestle with the idea that we are all a part of nature and hence protecting the environment is crucial to protect ourselves. Intellectual, inspirational and informative - Empress is "Not just a garden" anymore and has a lot to teach everyone.

"Identity and Self" theme is further explored by students of MIT Gurukul, who have put an exhibition, "This is me" at Gyaan Adab. "A view from within", a solo show by painter, musician Maitreya Yeshwant at the same venue explores his unconventional way of engaging with art. In his words, Maitreya paints without an end in mind, whenever he is at the peak of his emotions. He dances and plays with colours and considers his painting complete when the canvas starts speaking to him!

Touching on the current hot topic of demonetization, an installation at Monalisa Kalagram, depicting its aftereffects on the common people is an eye opener. The Prime Minister's sudden decision to ban high-end currency notes left the people bewildered and they didn't know how to react. No one could verbalize what they were actually feeling and the installation brings out

PUNE BIENNALE 2017





these feelings in a refreshingly frank manner. "Crawling hands" at the same venue depicts how we as humans always run after money, only to realize that peace is much more important. Greedy hands crawling after the feather, which symbolizes peace and calm, ultimately prioritize peace over money. While walking through the Biennale, one comes across numerous such art pieces conveying the complexity of self, offering an opportunity for self-analysis and exploration.

Pune Biennale was started with the belief that there is an artist hidden within each one of us. To make art "inclusive", a workshop for differently-abled children was conducted in collaboration with Bal Kalyan Sanstha and Let Art Work Gallery. Renowned artists like Veena Chandra, Ketki Pimplekhare, Kanchan Shelke, Manisha Ved Pathak and Dipali Darvatkar were at the helm of the workshop. The creations of the differently-abled children were publicly exhibited and later presented as mementos and tokens of appreciation to artists, sponsors and other dignitaries who graced the Biennale. An Art Camp "Young Expressions" was conducted for students from art schools at Monalisa Kalagram. "Accommodating the Melange: II", a street art initiative involving a wide range of activities like competitions, documentations, talk shows, etc. is being organized on Jungli Maharaj street for the entire duration of the biennale.

Pune Biennale has converted the city of Pune into one big museum with several art galleries hosting concurrent shows. What's incredible is that some of the local artists are opening their personal art galleries to the public for the first time ever! Pune Biennale has almost pulled off an impossible with the art scene stepping outside the white club, right into the public domain, embracing one and all. Pune Biennale is no longer just an art carnival, it has transformed itself into an instrument of social change towards an equitable society and a smart, global city.



The Pune Biennale Foundation inaugurated its 3rd edition in the city on January 5, 2017. Like every year, the festival this year too has sought to bring art closer to people from all walks of life and provide a platform to explore beliefs and potential through a series of exhibitions and installations across the city, centred around the theme "Identity and Self".

The 3rd edition of the much-awaited art festival will conclude on January 29, 2017 and has been curated by Zasha Colah and Luca Cerizza.

ROSTA

MARRIOTT SUITES



Design & Sensibility



The beauty and luxury emerge from their interiors just by their selection of materials, and the way they stay true to their design sensibility.

Neterwala and Aibara, for almost three decades, stands unique amongst a gamut of interior designers, by its confluence of changing trends with modern day luxury and artistry.

Every detail is a part of the big picture and you can admire the ultimate sophistication of the spaces; complacent and re-inventing designs. The firm's glamorous spaces embellished with contemporary accents, combine high style and thoughtful designs. Their approach to architecture is inspired by a multiplicity of perspectives. Their interiors make you revisit nostalgia of the classical French décor and make you paraphrase the unsaid of the traditional Indian style, provoking conversations on the contemporary style. A show flat for Mumbai's Imperial Towers and the restaurant Joss shout out sophistication, innovation, functionality and comfort. This is evident in the diversity of their involvement with their designs. Phiroza Neterwala, founder-partner and one half of Neterwala and Aibara, refers to her career as the love of her life. From commercial to residential projects, Neterwala, through her designs, entices the spaces with her warm, inviting, practical





and chic approach. With unique ventures through her journey of 26 years, she develops an approach of constant learning and focuses on painting the personality of the patron through her designs rather than implementing her own style on the spaces. After all, a space is nothing but a reflection of who you are!

While she was busy in creating lifestyle experiences for her clients, the celebrated designer managed to artistically weave through questions posed to her by Maheep Singh Rathore. And, she infused us with her warmth, just like the spaces! Phirosa Neterwala, in conversation with Meet the City.

Over 500 projects over 3 decades, each one eclectic and unique, how has the journey of transforming mere walled rooms into opulent spaces that marry chic, luxury and artistry been?

The journey is always more meaningful than the destination. There is a lot of learning and creativity on the way. Each project is a challenge that we truly enjoy overcoming. It is amazing to see our design executed differently each time.

In your words, "We do not create museum pieces, we create fully usable environments that are also aesthetically pleasing"... how does Neterwala & Aibara practice this?

We practice this by putting a lot of thought into our design to make it not only attractive but practical and long lasting. We choose materials which reflect quality to give our clients a home that is practical and durable. Most importantly, we challenge ourselves and design homes that reflect the client's personality.

Any stories – inspirational or otherwise related to the evolution of your design and spatial aesthetics over the years?

One of our early success stories was a 60,000 sq.ft. bungalow in Mumbai where we pushed ourselves in terms of material, technique, design, quality and timelines. We think we landed up surprising ourselves by how much was really possible in a very short time.

If you had to choose, which would you choose as your personal favourites, out of all the wonderful spaces you have designed over the years? And why?

Each project is special to us in different ways. We really enjoy a variety of styles and exploring new ideas. The project which I feel is closest to my heart is my own beach house in Alibag which was done by me in 1996, for which I was inspired by my visit to Santa Fe and the Architect Jeffrey Bava.



SPAZIO

Neterwala and Aibara for

Neterwala and Aibara on
SPAZIO
at Trump Towers
Pune

It's a beautifully planned store where we designers and our clients can experience the collection all under one roof.

Spazio is run by an efficient and knowledgeable team, and offers a mix of high end brands, which we use a lot in most of our projects.





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Praan:t

Praan:t - A Story of Soulful Designs.

Praan:t - A Story of Indigenous Crafts.

It is a tribute to ancient Indian artistry, And a salute to those carrying it forward.
It is the intricate pattern in ikkat, And the delicate sheen of chanderi.

It is a story made in the many pink lanes of Jaipur,
And one that survived when Bhuj shook.

Praan:t is an ode to the age-old, And a revelry of the new.

It is stylish, it is restrained.

It is bold, it is elegant.

It is imaginative, it is traditional.

It is as much a story of the looms as it is of the artist.

Praan:t, is a story of soulful designs.



Priyanka Chordia was left stunned by this inimitable store that not only houses some of the most incredible designs but is also a reminder of the lost art of Indian handiwork.



After dedicating a large portion of her life to her family and kids, Monika Chordia, an interior designer by profession pursued a Fashion Designing course in her late thirties. Little did she know that five years down the road, this amateur interest would blossom into a beautiful boutique showcasing some of her most remarkable designs.

While her mother's inclination towards clothes and design was a prevalent part of her early years, Monika was yet to explore the world of fashion. But come 2012, she decided to start from the basics. And after overcoming the many hurdles of being a middle-aged woman pursuing higher education, she successfully earned a diploma in Fashion Designing. A course that also pushed her to display her creations in front of friends and family and eventually gave her the idea and the courage to start a label of her own.

Before long, Monika launched her store 'Papillio', where she not only showcased her designs but often hosted other fashion and jewellery designers too. Monika started small, but her collection soon grew from a handful of garments to an eclectic mix of Indian and Western wear. While also focussing on designing highly customised clothes for her clients. Over the years, Monika's designs became her identity and the more she explored this vast world of fashion and art in India, the more she fell in love with it. And soon, she decided that it was time for a bigger change. A change called Praan:t.

Praan:t is a result of travelling extensively, exploring the hidden towns and villages across India, meeting local printers, vendors and a plethora of artisans and absorbing all the richness that they have to offer. On one hand Monika met artists that proudly showcased their work and flaunted its reach and on the other, she met few who kept their heads down and worked arduously to keep their family's ancient handicraft alive. Monika accurately articulates, "We're becoming a world run by machines where



everyone is more concerned about getting things made than about how these things are made. Fine hand embroideries and weaves take an immense amount of time, skill and patience, and so many of us are forgetting the value of this craft. We're slowly losing touch with the beauty, originality and intricacy of handiwork."

And hence, Praan:t was an effort to bring back the lost love for this artistry.

Set in an endearing bungalow in the many green lanes of Koregaon Park, this stunning boutique has a unique allure. When you step in, you're welcomed with a light breeze and swaying leaves that lead you to the store's entrance. And as soon as you enter, you're surrounded by art. Whether it is the Monika's phenomenal and rich collection, the impeccably designed interiors by the renowned designer, Ketan Jawdekar or the charming installations by Pune's leading design agency, Interics



Monika's work is the perfect blend of traditional and modern. She has used age-old weaves to create an exquisite collection of chic, elegant and in vogue Indian and Indo-western clothing.

Design, everything is as much a treat for the soul as it is for the eyes. The interiors are the perfect combination of rustic and chic. The dark wooden racks and furniture add a classy touch to the overall look of the store, the subtle grey walls help accentuate the already gorgeous clothes, and the artsy composition of embroidery hoops with a vibrant variety of fabrics that adorns one of the walls add to store's character.

In mid-October 2016, Monika launched Praan:t with 48 exclusive designs and styles for both, men and women. Along with her own designs, Monika also displayed a mesmerising range of hand-woven Chanderi sarees designed by Raavi More and an array of accessories and fabric slings by Praan:t.

Her first collection was a showcase of trendy traditional and western wear where she primarily used Chanderi, a weave from the heart of India, Madhya Pradesh, Ajrak- an enticing print from the great Rann of Kutch and block printing from Vadodara, the cultural capital of Gujarat.

Monika's work is the perfect blend of traditional and modern. She has used age-old weaves to create an exquisite collection of chic, elegant and in vogue Indian and Indo-western clothing. Some of her finest works include an asymmetrical royal blue and black Chanderi jacket paired with pencil-cut white and gold block-printed pants; a soft mushru jacket with mustard and green Ajrak print and fine mirror-

work on the neckline that looks staggering when paired with a pair of chic south-cotton dhoti pants; and a smart light orange, dabu-printed bandi for men detailed with light wooden buttons.

While some of Monika's designs are bold in their cuts and patterns, others have edgy colour combinations or unconventionally paired fabrics and prints. Each garment is anything but ordinary, and it is made with the utmost attention to detail and dexterity. She has maintained the respect of our traditional weaves and handiwork, but at the same time, hasn't refrained from pushing the boundaries and exploring offbeat styles with them.

Praan:t was born out of the love for everything artistic and the store is truly a reflection on Monika herself. Everything is not only conceptualised and created by her, but she also has a workshop in the premises where she overlooks the making of every garment. And while many of her styles are displayed, Monika continues to focus mainly on customisation. Making each outfit truly exclusive.

Staying true to its name, Monika's future collections in Praan:t will tap into other regions of India and explore their unique and mesmerising weaves, embroideries and stitches. Encouraging us to recognise and appreciate the abounding artistry in our country, one stitch at a time.

Praan:t was born out of the love for everything artistic and the store is truly a reflection on Monika herself.



The House of

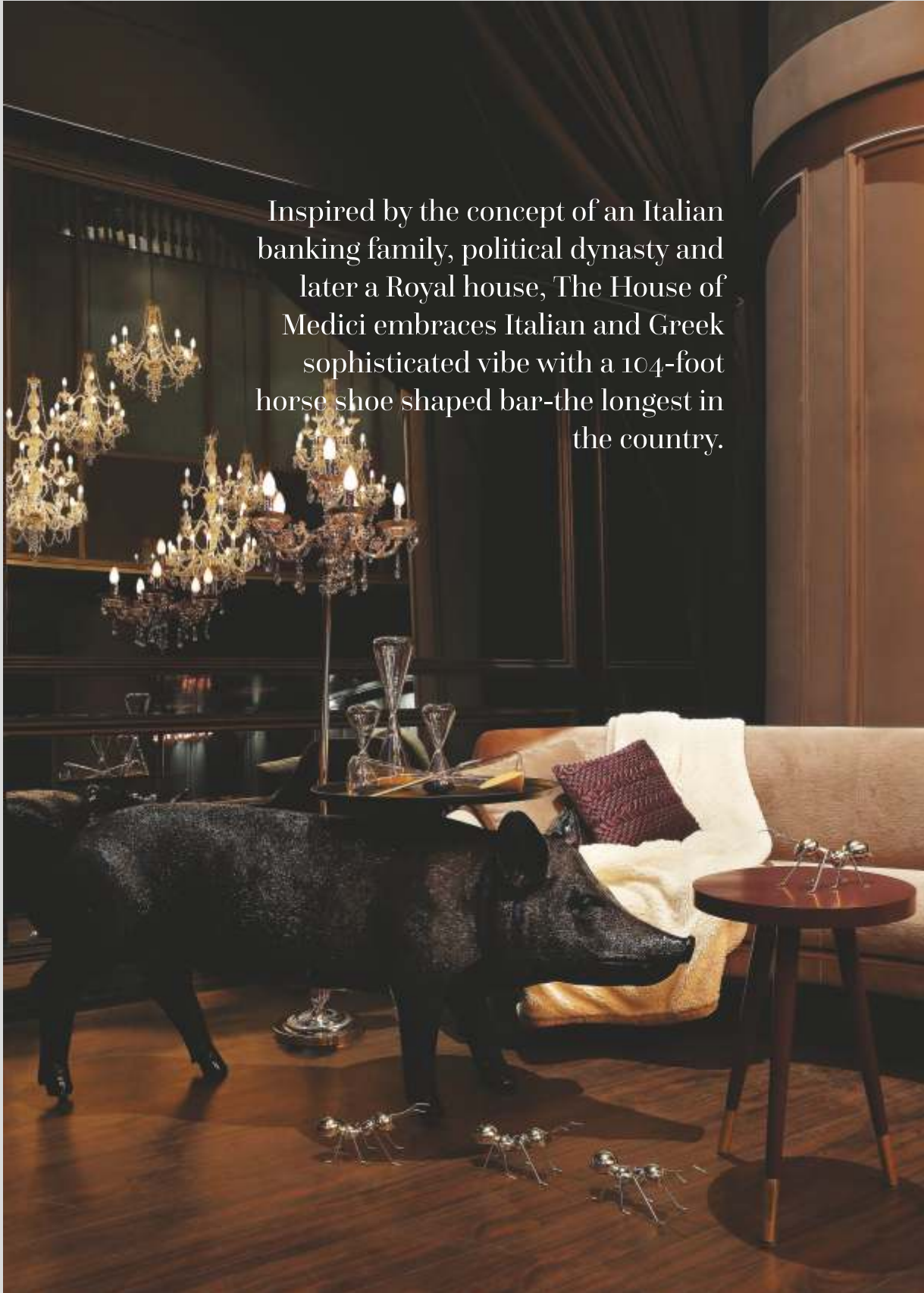


Medici

The best things to try at the new resto bars in the city are not on the menu now. It's a knit of the graffities on the walls or dimly lit nooks playing sensuously with everything at the venue, setting an ambience that allows a lavish experience to take centre stage.

From graffiti murals to Italian posh, décor in resto bars has evolved to give a choice of varied experiences.

Inspired by the concept of an Italian banking family, political dynasty and later a Royal house, The House of Medici embraces Italian and Greek sophisticated vibe with a 104-foot horse shoe shaped bar-the longest in the country.



Spelling the Italian charm, the famous Kue Bar at Pune's Westin got its makeover done to an all new culinary and bar - The House of Medici. Inspired by the concept of an Italian banking family, political dynasty and later a Royal house, The House of Medici embraces Italian and Greek sophisticated vibe with a 104-foot horse shoe shaped bar-the longest in the country. Sleek and sultry, suede furnishings, exquisitely carpeted wooden floors, and sparsely lit chandeliers make any evening at this Koregaon Park favourite, an exuberant one. You get the lush vacation vibes, as soon as you enter the place. Belly up to the long bar or relax on one of the low snacking sofas upholstered with posh Italian leather in an ideal setting dusting Greek charm. Treat your company on a community table or look for a sofa turned to swing while savouring the delectable concoctions, munching your way in an unprecedented experience.

The House of Medici has in its store more than the spirits on offer. The most exotic of all the experiences at THOM are the private suites elevated just above the bar area. The innovative décor in the suites mirrors the living space of the Italian family's House of Medici. The high ceilings, trendy décor and buzzing energy makes it a dining delight with your loved ones.

Apart from the meticulously designed space, The House of Medici offers an eclectic menu of conceptual cocktails, specially concocted combining beautiful flavours of fruits, spices, and herbs. The experience goes beyond the drinks when the innovative bartenders tell you stories behind the delectable concoctions, which you savour till the last drop. The basics and classics of single malts and whiskies, vodkas, beers and wines are always there at the bar, to suite all palates. The combination of flavours in the vodka based cocktail, Michelangelo, is not just great but an experience in itself. From a wonderful array of smoked cocktails on the menu, Aroteeno is sure to encapsulate your spirit and indulge you in the vibes of a posh setting.

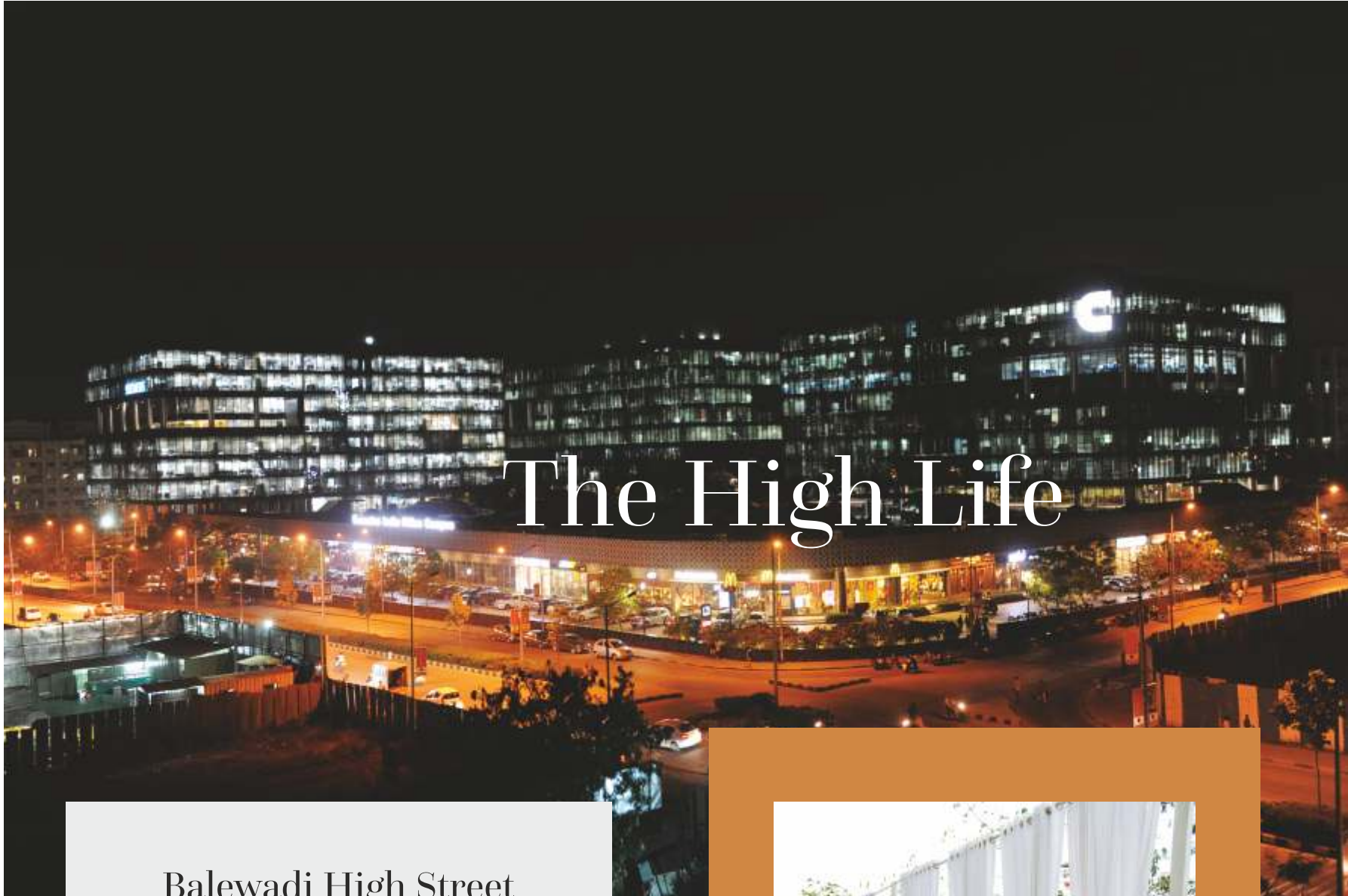
The promise of good times continues with a top range of spirit and even better music. With a state of the art sound system and perfect lighting to match, The House of Medici knows how to pair music with an experience to remember. With a super wide space to mosh, head bop, fist bump and swing, this place will surely give you your music fix.

Some outstanding food on the plate with a warm mulled wine or a drachm of whiskey is the perfect wrap for the day. The ravishing yet simple haute cuisine perfectly complements the drinks and setting at The House of Medici. With influences from French culture and a world novel cuisine philosophy, The House of Medici becomes one of those rare I've never



eaten like this before places. The Lemongrass prawns served with sweet chilli sauce and raw papaya salad suggest that there could be finesse at play here, too. It's with the taste of wasabi shrimp tickling your taste buds till the end that things get very interesting. If you have some serious vegan cravings, then look no further than Imli Karela or try the most recommended Fried Ravioli with Arabiatta dip. Attention to detail is given to each plate that goes out of the kitchen of The House of Medici.

And then, just when you think the food cannot get any more interesting, comes the Big Cheese Cake to influence your sweet tooth. Plate after plate of exquisite, precisely executed dishes, combining a cultural touch with depth of flavours, The House of Medici delivers a thrilling whack at its culinary end too. And though the chandeliers are lit low, it has a fire at its heart. There's a cigar and single malt section, delightful concoctions and food, music that's fun-loving, and a staff that care, first and foremost about you having a good time. The House of Medici is well worth a visit.



The High Life

Balewadi High Street

Not many years ago, the lines on Pune's party map were distinctly drawn based on which side of the river its denizens lived. The entertainment perks of living 'across the river', towards the north-east of the city were immense; the night life, the eateries, clubs and discotheques and much more. Neighbourhoods such as Koregaon Park and Kalyani Nagar were known for their vibrant night life. And, while they continue to be the epicenter of Pune's entertainment district, the party seems to be merrily moving to a newer and younger locale – Balewadi High Street.

Join Chaitra Patel on an evening out to Pune's newest entertainment and party destination!

As the sun sets each evening over the ever-burgeoning Pune skyline, the western suburbs of the city have been coming alive to the sound of pulsating music and clinking glasses, incessant chatter of revelers and aromatic platters of delicious food. A little less than a decade ago, Baner and Balewadi were areas that housed residential complexes, which for all practical purposes almost fell off the map because they were just 'so far out of town'. The farthest one ever drove to, upon crossing the University of Pune was the upmarket neighbourhood of Aundh, beyond which was considered 'wilderness'!



As the sun sets each evening over the ever-burgeoning Pune skyline, the western suburbs of the city have been coming alive to the sound of pulsating music and clinking glasses, incessant chatter of revelers and aromatic platters of delicious food.

But that's a story of the past; it's all changed now and we have the swanky Balewadi High Street to thank for that.

Balewadi High Street is an incredible destination, one that appeals to the young and the young at heart. A great mix of leisure and business, Balewadi High Street offers an eclectic blend of casual and fine dining, lounge bars as well as the expansive campuses of corporate giants - Cummins India and Siemens.

If it is cuisines from across the world that your cultured palette seeks, Balewadi High Street absolutely does not disappoint. The warm radiating yellow lights that emanate from Incognito - restaurant, bar & café are utterly welcoming to say the least, painstakingly complemented by its cheerful wooden decor. The culinary delicacies at



Incognito, from salads and soups to steaks and an impressive fare of European, Italian, Mexican, South East Asian and Indian cuisines, are all the right reasons to lose oneself within the restaurant's timeless and elegant décor.

For aficionados of European food, the extensive menu at Arthur's Theme is a 'not-to-miss'. Dishes quirkily named after distinctive characters from the pages of European history, greet diners on the menu here. Take your pick from the likes of Cleopatra, William III, Alexander I, Don Quixote and Da Vinci, and enjoy a meal with an innovative twist.

La Pizzeria is no stranger to lovers of Italian food in Pune. Specialising in vegetarian Italian and Mexican fare, the cosy pizzeria and its wooden furniture are incredibly welcoming. And the friendly and polite restaurant staff only make sure your evening out turns out to be delightful.

Balewadi High Street enjoys a distinctive reputation – one that caters to an emerging tribe of beer enthusiasts.

While you continue to weigh in the versatile options available, do hop into the Terttulia Bistro, an all-day café that dishes out European food. The creatively thought out menu makes you only want to head back for more.

Balewadi High Street enjoys a distinctive reputation – one that caters to an emerging tribe of beer enthusiasts. And taking this a notch higher, the High Street is now home to the Playboy Beer Garden – a first-of-its-kind brewery by the international lifestyle and entertainment brand Playboy. With an astounding capacity to seat almost 400 guests, Playboy Beer Garden serves freshly brewed beer, creatively concocted cocktails in addition to an innovative selection of Asian and American fare from grills to pizzas and the



Open all day long from morning to almost close to midnight, Balewadi High Street is a great place to pop by for some quick bites.

unmissable signature Hef Burger, named after Playboy's legendary founder Hugh Hefner. The beer garden is also pet-friendly; all the more reason for you to head there with friends and family, the furry ones included.

"Something old, something new" – that is what strikes you, from the moment you enter The Urban Foundry. Nestled cosily to one side of the High Street, TUF is an all-day bar and eatery with a 'foundry-esque' feel to it. The tastefully done up interiors never cease to amaze and aesthetically personify the toil of foundry workers. A heady mix of creative cocktails with a desi twist, food that pleases the soul, friendly staff and a resident DJ who belts out some of the best music tracks from over the years ensure that an evening out with the 'gang' is well spent!

If loud music and drinks is your idea of fun-time with friends, head to Apache High Street. The trendy and youthful ambience caters to youngsters that hang out here with friends, munching over scrumptious North Indian and Continental finger food. Apache High Street is the perfect place to unwind at, on a Saturday night.

A boisterous evening is best followed by a spread of Indian delicacies at Nawab Asia. Casually Royal as the brand chooses to call itself, Nawab serves a delectable spread of North Indian fare. The restaurant's bright red chandeliers and intricate wooden panelling lend it an air of style.

For those seeking something lighter, both on the pocket and the girth, Marrakesh serves a mix of Lebanese and Mughlai food.



Flavourful shawarmas and chicken tikkas make it an evening well spent.

Open all day long from morning to almost close to midnight, Balewadi High Street is a great place to pop by for some quick bites by international fast-food chains such as McDonalds and Subway. The latest entrant to this is Menchie's Frozen Yogurt that offers an 'indulgent world of health eating'.

With an array of dining options as available at Balewadi High Street, the restaurants here are also open for lunch, catering largely to the corporates in the vicinity. But, undoubtedly the next time you seek some fun and frolic, it's easy to guess where the party is headed to!

Luxury Comfort Food An Irresistible Oxymoron



French bistros, which came into trend in the 1980's, combine the elegance of traditional French cuisine with the aesthetics of a neighbourhood restaurant. An offshoot of this format, the American bistro offers a similar blend of formal yet cosy dining experience. The cuisine served in these upscale diners lies somewhere between home-style comfort food, and inventive haute cuisine – giving birth to the term 'luxury comfort food'.

Rashmi Alevloor sinks her teeth (quite literally) into the phenomenon of bistro food through an evening out at Indigo Delicatessen.

Launched in 2005, Indigo Delicatessen has delighted restaurant goers with the quintessential deli experience in India. They specialise in bistro fare that is simple, familiar, and intensely delicious classic dishes, made with fresh, sustainable produce. It was conceived by the house of deGustibus Hospitality, a forward-thinking company that gave us the iconic Indigo Restaurant in South Mumbai in the early 2000's. Jaydeep Mukherjee, fondly referred to as JD, became the Chef de Cuisine at the flagship Indigo and later moved on to head the kitchen at the first Indigo Delicatessen. Under his aegis, the



menu of Indigo Deli was carefully created, highlighting honest food, cooked straight from the heart. Today, Chef JD is the Executive Chef of Indigo Deli, and has overseen the brand's prominent rise over 7 restaurant launches across the country. Each Deli is accented with an undulating, cave-like plywood ceiling, along with colours and lighting that lends to the warmth of the space. The formality of the space is balanced by the service, which while informed and professional, is friendly and inclusive.

The restaurant features a food kitchen store with a bakery, patisserie, and gourmet retail that includes an in-house created range of artisanal jams, mustards, pasta, sauces and preserves, along with coffee and kitchen accessories, and glassware. The 92-seater Deli in Pune is spread across 3200 sq. ft. is well-portioned out towards the dining area, a bar, and the brand's signature feature, an open kitchen that adds an element of interactivity to the space, allowing diners to watch their food being prepared.

But at the heart of Indigo Deli is the unpretentious but entirely delicious classic comfort food. The menu is centred around the philosophy, 'Think Global, Eat Local', and is a celebration of local ingredients, seasonal vegetables and fruits, and homegrown produce. On offer is a variety of gourmet sandwiches, salads, soups and stews, pastas, French classics like terrines, desserts, fresh beverages, and a changing menu du jour. Some of the all-time favourites include the Rueben Sandwich, made from in-house prepared Pastrami that is cured for 21 days, the succulent BBQ Pork Ribs, and the rich and creamy homemade ice-creams. Some of the other stand-outs (they're all exceptional, really) are the roast chicken, eggs benedict, and the Deli crowd-puller – melt-in-your-mouth thin-crust pizzas. Indigo Deli is also known for its original cocktails – the Coastal Ride Martini, Guava and Sriracha Margarita, and Musk Melon and Kiwi Mojito are all exciting and experimental without going over the edge.

Talking about matters close to his heart, Chef JD says, "The



“Food at the Indigo Delis can be best described as contemporary western comfort food.”



food at the Indigo Delis can be best described as contemporary western comfort food. While we cook using a vast array of cooking techniques and practices – mostly European and American, we use a lot of local, sustainable agricultural produce in our kitchens. My favourite dishes on the menu are the Carbonara Pizza, our widely popular Eggs Benedict and of course the legendary Reuben Sandwich!" The Menu du Jour or the daily specials menu at Indigo Deli is designed by the head chef of each outlet. The sous-chef of the Pune Deli, Chef Tushar Deshpande studied from Le Cordon Bleu, London, where he learned the basic principles of French cuisine. Since then, he has trained under many Michelin-starred chefs and his love for authentic Provençal cuisine and techniques continues to grow. "It's an honour and a challenge to represent this heritage of Indigo Deli, which has been a culinary power house for over a decade, now in a city full of foodies," he says. "We invite all you Pune-kars to dig into our legendary recipes like the Grilled Pork Ribs, Risotto of Wild Mushrooms and melt in the mouth Crispy Chicken Burger. Finally finish off with a luxury dessert or our popular home-made ice creams. Absolutely excited about this journey commencing."

Equally excited about the new Indigo Deli launch in Pune is Anurag Katriar, Executive Director and CEO of deGustibus Hospitality, "Indigo Deli is currently our principle vehicle of growth. We opened two outposts of the brand in Gurgaon and Powai in the last two months and we are now excited to make our first foray into Pune.

Pune is a major economic hub for twin sectors of manufacturing and IT which continuously attracts a new-age experimental population into the city. We see a lot of potential in this market and believe that this is the best time for us to open here. Phoenix MarketCity being the biggest shopping and entertainment hub of Pune is our chosen location for the 'first' outpost in the city.

The mood and the ambience of the restaurant is enhanced by the warm material palette which is a combination of rustic browns with warm lighting, all making it a perfect break. This one will be seen in a new younger avatar. Known mainly for its delicious wholesome food, innovative beverages and warm and friendly hospitality, the Deli will now have a new dimension of a lively bar laced with weekend live entertainment. We are very excited about this venture and hope to become an important mile-post on Pune's culinary map."

One of the only places in Pune for luxury comfort food with an elegant bistro environment, Indigo Deli is well on its way to the top of every Pune foodie's weekend bucket list.

Nh7 Weekender - The “Happiest Music Festival”



The seventh edition of the NH7 Weekender opened at Life Republic in Marunji, Pune on 3rd November, promising fans unforgettable experiences with its divergent artistic lineup and dazzling visuals. This year, a massive crowd of 60,000 visited the venue over three days to enjoy over fifty artists in every known genre including legendary music producer DJ Premier, Swedish Indie folk singer Jose Gonzalez, Indie-electronic champion RAC (DJ Set), Indian/American prog metal band Skyharbor, global rock music proponent Steven Wilson, alt-rock trio The Joy Formidable, Canadian singer-songwriter Patrick Watson and English post-punk band Eagulls. The Indian lineup looked pretty interesting with star attractions like Anoushka Shankar, Shankar Mahadevan, bass producer Nucleya, global fusion music pioneer Karsh Kale, singer-composer Papon, Indian blues band Kanchan Daniel & The Beards, electronic music artist Dualist Inquiry and Chennai-based dance/punk band The F16s.

To enhance the overall festival experience, three informative videos were released and an official app was launched by the organizers to keep the fans updated on information like artist set timings, festival maps, emergency contact numbers, etc. Besides music, fans were floored by the scrumptious Indian, Chinese, American, Thai, Lebanese and Arabic delicacies available at the venue. The bazaar section featuring an assortment of creative products like crafted jewelry, dream catchers, official artist and festival merchandise, turned out to be a major crowd-puller!



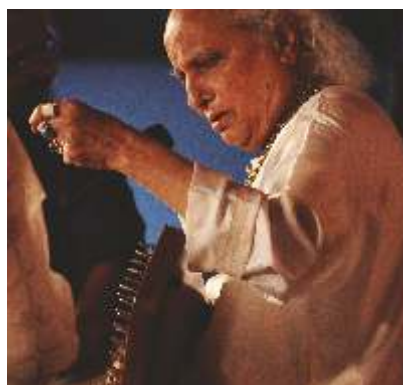
Rock On Concert, Pune

To promote the much-awaited musical drama film Rock On 2, it's star cast including actors Farhan Akhtar, Shraddha Kapoor and Arjun Rampal, performed live in major cities of India including Pune.

As the Rock On 2 band belted out melodious numbers one after another, the young audience matched the euphoria with loud cheering and applause, turning the evening into an epic one!



Sawai Gandharva Mahotsava 2016



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